

Singaporean Foreign Affairs Minister arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE 3



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets European Parliament representative

PAGE 2



Analysis

BE PREPARED TO GIVE RATHER THAN TAKE

PAGE 8

## SOME SANCTIONS LIFTED

### US eases sanctions on Myanmar in bid to promote growth, reforms

THE United States eased some sanctions on Myanmar on Tuesday to support political reforms and economic growth in the country but retained other measures to discourage human rights abuses and military trade with North Korea, US officials said.

The moves include easing restrictions on the country's financial institutions, removing seven state-owned companies from the US blacklist and ex-

tending a measure allowing shipments to go through ports and airports, the Treasury Department said in a statement.

But the United States also strengthened measures targeting Steven Law, a man already blacklisted for alleged ties to Myanmar's military. The Treasury added to its blacklisted six companies owned 50 per cent or more by Law or the company he controls, Asia World.

The US moves followed a

landmark November election in which the party of Aung San Suu Kyi, the country's Nobel Peace Prize laureate, won a landslide victory. A constitution drafted by the country's former military rulers bars her from becoming president.

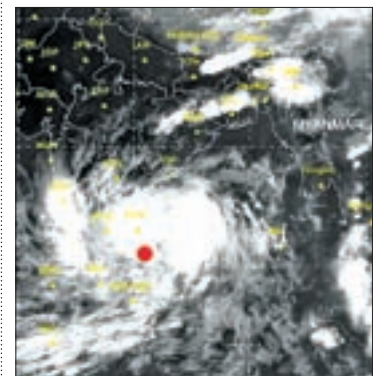
US officials began lifting trade and financial sanctions against the country after military leaders launched reforms that led to a civilian government being formed in 2011, beginning its

transformation from a half-century as an international pariah.

The sanctions decision, reported by Reuters on Friday, came before a visit to the Southeast Asian nation by Secretary of State John Kerry on May 22.

President Barack Obama's opening to Myanmar followed its peaceful transition to an elected government and is seen as one of his foreign policy achievements.

See page 3 >>



## Low-pressure in Bay of Bengal intensifies into depression

A LOW-PRESSURE area over the southwest Bay of Bengal off the Sri Lankan coast has intensified into a depression yesterday, and is expected to move in a north-north-west direction over the next 12 hours according to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department in its 4 pm announcement yesterday.

The first depression of the season in the Bay of Bengal currently persists at about 750 miles west-south-west of Coco Island.

The depression, currently, has produced winds of 32-48 km/h (20-30 mph). Gradual strengthening is expected over the next 24 hours.

Due to the depression, squalls are expected along the coasts, off-sea and in the sea of Myanmar with moderate to high waves.

The wind speed is expected to reach from 30 miles to 35 miles per hour when squall hits that area.

Rain is expected during the next 24 hours over most areas in Kachin State, upper areas of Sagaing Region, Taninthayi Region, northern and eastern parts of Shan State and Chin State, as well as parts of other regions and states, with an 80-per cent degree of certainty.—GNLM



Containers of world's famous brands are seen at Botahtaung Jetty in Yangon.  
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

### INSIDE



FMI shares plummet to below original value

PAGE 5

## Myanmar gold depreciates in value by K3,000 a tical

DUE to a depreciation in the value of gold on the world market by US\$10 an ounce, the price of Myanmar gold fell by K3,000 per tical (a tica is 0.0164 grams) yesterday, according to gold traders.

An ounce of world market gold declined in value from US\$1,280 on Monday to

US\$1,270 yesterday. As a result, the price of Myanmar gold followed suit, falling by K3,000 a tical from K795,000 on Monday to K792,000 yesterday.

"The price of Myanmar gold has fallen because of a decline in the value of the world market gold. The price of the US dollar, however, is normal. Business

also remains good," said U Zaw Aung, owner of the Taite gold shop.

The value of Myanmar gold is dependant upon that of the US dollar. While the price of world market gold is unstable, the exchange rate of K1,170 to the US\$1 has remained steady. A ounce of gold on the world

market peaked at US\$1,302 on 2 May before depreciating to just US\$1,264 for the same quantity during this third week of May.

Gold shopkeepers have estimated that the value of gold on the world market will decline but pricing proves difficult to predict as it regularly fluctuates.

See page 3 >>



## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets European Parliament representative



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than welcomes Ms. Judith Sargentini, representative from European Parliament. PHOTO: MNA

SPEAKER of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Ms. Judith Sargentini, representative from European Parliament, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two representatives discussed matters related to

processes for developing Hluttaw.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials from Amyotha Hluttaw Office. —*Myanmar News Agency*

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order No. 42/2016

11th Waxing of Kason, 1378 ME  
(Tuesday, 17 May, 2016)

#### Appointment of Union Minister

Under the provisions stated in Section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 12 of the Union Government Law, U Kyaw Tint Swe has been appointed as Union Minister for the Office of State Counsellor.

Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## Myanmar, Canada look to enhance cooperation in media sector

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint held talks with the Canadian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mark McDowell at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two held discussions on cooperation in the media sector and between Myanmar and Canada. Also present were Permanent Secretary U Tint Swe and officials. —*Myanmar News Agency*

### Corrections

Please read "Mr Jeremy Douglas is the UNODC Regional Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific" on Page 3 under UNODC news in yesterday's issue (17-03-2016).

Please read "The Criminal Investigation currently underway which will be led by the UNODC is scheduled to begin on 30 May" in the same news story.

Please ignore the last paragraph of that same story as the UNODC has stated that it has not made any comments as to funding or timeframe.—*Ed*

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves U Kyaw Tint Swe as Union Minister for State Counsellor's Office

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved U Kyaw Tint Swe as Union Minister for the Office of State Counsellor during its 22<sup>nd</sup> day session yesterday.

During yesterday's session the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also gave its approval to the ratifying of the 1992 Protocol of Civil Liability Convention for oil production damage following parliamentary discussions involving addresses from seven representatives on the matter.

Major AungPhyoKyaw, Defence Services personnel Hluttaw

representative, advocated Myanmar's plan to ratify the convention, pointing out that the country requires laws that meet international standards in dealing with possible oil spills in its waters as its deep-sea ports are expected to begin receiving oil tankers and cargo vessels in the future.

U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri Constituency also agreed to become a party to the convention, stating that oil spill compensation claims will be made possible by signing it.

In his discussion, U Ba Shein

of Kyaukpau Constituency called for public notice on charges set for ratification of the convention.

In his reply, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung stated that it is not required that fees be paid to ratify the convention.

Myanmar must sign the CLC 1992 Protocol, stated the Union minister, adding that the country is drafting laws that will enact systemisation, oversight and scrutiny of maritime compensation cases. —*Myanmar News Agency*

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets European Parliament representative

SPEAKER of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received Ms. Judith Sargentini, representative from

the European Parliament, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting the two

held comprehensive discussions on development of the Hluttaw. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker U Win Myint receives Ms. Judith Sargentini, representative from European Parliament. PHOTO: MNA

## Union Attorney-General holds talks with foreign guests to strengthen commercial laws

ATTORNEY-General of the Union U TunTunOo held separate talks with legal experts from the Gibson Dunn Firm and a consultant from the Asian Development Bank to strengthen laws, rules and regulations for the development of the country's commerce sector in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

While meeting with Legal

Expert Mr. Robert S Pe and party, the Union Attorney-General held talks with the legal experts on a wide range of matters including the Attorney-General Office's tasks of drafting and scrutinising laws and consultations between the Office and other ministries and ongoing works for realisation of the rule of law.

During the meeting with Ms. Patricia Rhee from ADB the two representatives discussed matters related to strengthening commercial laws, providing training to legal experts from the fields in connection with the laws and further cooperation between the Attorney-General's Office and the ADB. —*Myanmar News Agency*

## Wild elephants enter villages in Rakhine State

With destruction of forests and the drying up of water reserves in Rakhine State, wild elephants have begun to enter into villages in Minbya and Myebon townships, according to the Department of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

"Wild elephants are arriving in areas populated with humans. It's the second time our department has witnessed such events this year. It's mainly young elephants who have broken away from their families. The places these young elephants come to are areas with access to water," said U Thet Naing Oo, official

of the Minbya township Department of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

It is known that on 12 May wild elephants reached the Yangon — Sittwe highway to drink from the water filled gutters which line the sides of the road, while other elephants approached Myebon and Minbya township villages to feast on banana plants.

"There's little food left for wild elephants along the Rakhine mountain range.

The government needs to carry out effective conservation efforts most urgently," said

U Shwe Kyar Aung, a retired school teacher from Minbya.

Wild elephants are abundant across Rakhine State's mountain range which is linked with the Bago mountain range to the south, together with Chin State and Bangladesh mountain ranges to the north.

It is known that conservation welfare activities are being conducted on Myanmar's wild elephant population within nature reserves across the country, in such areas as Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, together with Kachin State. —*Myitmakha News Agency*





Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan (Right) arrives Nay Pyi Taw Airport. PHOTO: MNA

## Singaporean Foreign Affairs Minister arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

A SINGAPOREAN delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Director-General of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar welcomed the delegation at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

During his stay in Myanmar Singapore's Foreign Affairs Minister will hold talks with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services and he will visit the Singapore-Myanmar Vocation Training Institute in Yangon.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## US eases sanctions on Myanmar in bid to promote growth, reforms

>> From page 1

Obama, in a letter to Congress, said he was extending for one year the legal underpinnings for the sanctions that remain and provided his justification for doing so.

He said Myanmar had made significant progress on reforms since 2011, but that "concerns persist regarding continued obstacles to full civilian control of the government, the ongoing conflict and human rights abuses in the country, particularly in ethnic minority areas, and military trade with North Korea."

The US actions eased restrictions on Americans living in Myanmar, allowing them to conduct

everyday transactions like paying rent, which the Treasury said would make it easier for engagement between the two countries' citizens.

They also extended a measure that eases trade restrictions on Myanmar by allowing all shipments to go through its ports and airports indefinitely, even to ports and airports controlled by entities on the US sanctions blacklist. It had initially granted the easing for a six-month period in December 2015.

The Treasury is also allowing transactions related to moving goods inside the country, for instance from warehouses to retail outlets.

The United States removed from its blacklist three state-owned banks - Myanma Economic Bank, Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank - and is authorizing transactions with two other Myanmar banks that are still blacklisted, Innwa Bank and Myawaddy Bank.

That action means that most transactions with all Myanmar financial institutions will be allowed as of May 18, the Treasury said in a statement.

Also removed from the US blacklist are seven state-owned Myanmar business enterprises, including in timber, pearls and mining.—*Reuters*

## Myanmar gold depreciates in value by K3,000 a tical

>> From page 1

That said, it hasn't had a negative effect on business to date," said U Maw Maw, general manager of the Aungthamardi gold shop.

The price of a tical of Myanmar gold fell to K732,000 during January of this year but appreciated to K809,500 during the following month of February because of a rise in the value of gold on the world market.

In regard to the position of the markets yesterday afternoon, a tical of Myanmar gold valued at K792,000; a tical of 15 carat gold fetched K742,000; an ounce of gold on the world market priced US\$1,270 while the MMK - USD exchange rate valued K1,170 to US\$1.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Gold jewelries are displayed at a shop in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: AMS

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Union Election Commission  
Notification No. 8/2016  
11<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason, 1378 ME  
(17 May, 2016)

### Three Defense Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representatives substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law to substitute three Defense Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services in the second multi-party general elections held on 8 November 2015, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following three Pyithu Hluttaw representatives under Notification No. 1/2016 of the Commission dated 18-1-2016.

(1) BC 24857	BC 1753
Lt-Col Htein Oo	Col Ne Win
(2) BC 26723	BC 19768
Lt-Col Maung Maung Aye	Lt-Col Than Oo Lwin
(3) BC 28319	BC 17340
Lt-Col Zaw Naing Oo	Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Nyein

By order,  
(Tin Tun)  
Secretary

Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Union Election Commission  
Notification No. 9/2016  
11<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason, 1378 ME  
(17 May, 2016)

### Two Defense Services Personnel Amyotha Hluttaw representatives substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law to substitute two Defense Services Personnel Amyotha Hluttaw representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services in the second multi-party general elections held on 8 November 2015, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following two Amyotha Hluttaw representatives under Notification No. 2/2016 of the Commission dated 18-1-2016.

(1) BC 29372	BC 17278
Lt-Col Win Myint Tun	Brig-Gen Chit Oo
(2) BC 28274	BC 17073
Lt-Col Thein Lwin	Brig-Gen Thet Naing

By order,  
(Tin Tun)  
Secretary

Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Union Election Commission  
Notification No. 10/2016  
11<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason, 1378 ME  
(17 May, 2016)

### Four Defense Services Personnel Region/State Hluttaw representatives substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of Region/State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute four Defense Services Personnel Region/State Hluttaw representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services in the second multi-party general elections held on 8 November 2015, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following four Region/State Hluttaw representatives under Notification No. 3/2016 of the Commission dated 18-1-2016.

#### Mandalay Region Hluttaw

(1) BC 29595	BC 27401
Lt-Col Kyaw Naing	Lt-Col Myint Swe

#### Yangon Region Hluttaw

(2) BC 30563	BC 21473
Lt-Col Aye Shwe	Lt-Col Htay Aung
(3) Navy 3937	Navy 3983
Cdr Ko Ko Maung	Lt-Cdr Ye Htut

#### Shan State Hluttaw

(4) BC 29690	BC 24861
Lt-Col Than Lwin	Lt-Col Aye Zaw

By order,  
(Tin Tun)  
Secretary

Union Election Commission



# Russian naval fleet to visit Yangon, meet with MNR Navy, Chief Minister



Russian battle ships being seen. PHOTO: MYANMAR NAVY

A RUSSIAN naval fleet will arrive at Yangon and stay from 18 to 22 May for a five-day visit. The fleet previously visited Myanmar in November 2013 for the given reason of encouraging friendship between the two na-

tions.

The fleet comprises one Udaloy-class destroyer named the Admiral Vinogradov, a Sea Salvage Tug and an oil Tanker.

During the visit the Russia navy will conduct meetings

with the Myanmar Navy, make a study trip in downtown Yangon, meet with the Yangon Chief Minister and hold an open day for the public to visit and study the Russian battle ship.—*Myanmar Navy*

## Fire destroys car workshop warehouse in Mingaladon



Fire fighters seen extinguishing the blaze. Photo: Ko Gyi Tin

A FIRE destroyed a car repair station located at the corner of Padamyar and Myadar road in Pynmabin village, Mingaladon township on Monday.

The fire broke out at around 9am when a car engine was turned on inside the workshop. A loose engine plug apparently causes the fire. The fire quickly got out of control and spread to an oil container vehicle according to an official from the Fire Service Department. The fire was put down after an hour by over 600 firemen with 56 fire engines.

The police have taken action against one Thet Tun Naing.—*Ko Gyi Tin*

## Grenade and ammunition discovered in Kawhmu township

A MAN discovered two-grenades and ammunition at the Hnget Aw San youth training school compound in Kawhmu township, Yangon region on 5

May, according to local police yesterday. According to an investigation, Mg Phyto Linn was fishing when he discovered a plastic bag containing 129 rounds of am-

munition and two hand grenades. The gave the items to U Kyaw Oo, vice-headmaster. U Kaw Oo handed the bag over to local police.—*Kyaw Thura (Kawhmu)*

## Crime NEWS

### Yaba seized in Lashio, Mandalay and Mong Hsat

A COMBINED team comprising officers and staff from Lashio police station seized heroin weighing 3.38 kilograms from vehicle driver Hsan Min Aung at the Nawngkhio entrance gate at milepost 80/4 on 15 May.

Similarly, police from Mandalay police station discovered 3,800 yaba pills from motorcycle driver Soe Naing with one Zaw Min Latt on board near Shukhinthar park, Aungmyayathasan township in Mandalay.

Police from Lashio po-

lice station, acting on a tip-off, stopped a motorcycle being driven by one Kyaw Zin Latt. Upon the conducting a search police discovered 3,400 yabba pills on the driver.

Similarly, a combined team comprising officers and staff from Mong Hsat police station searched the field of Kya Li and Ma Nan Htway in Pan Hi village, Mong Hsat township. The police discovered 2,604 yaba pills. Kya Li fled the scene.—*The mirror*



Criminal posing with seizures. PHOTO: THE MIRROR

## Items used in gold mining seized in Tachilek

POLICE discovered two illegal engines and items relating to illegal gold mining near Nam Lon creek which is located between Hsom Pat village and Hsit Khaung village, Mong Phyat township, Shan State East on 13

May. A combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from Mong Phyat police station confiscated two rafts, two engines and 22 relevant items used in gold mining.—*Township IPRD*



Seized gold mining items being seen. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP (IPRD)



# LOCAL Business

## Drafting of sugar and sugarcane products law nears completion

It is required that a policy be formulated to allow for the emergence of rules and regulations on sugar and sugarcane products to ensure sustainable development in the country's sugar market and its sugar production, said Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win on Monday.

The deputy minister's call to have rules and regulations on sugar and sugarcane products in Myanmar introduced came at an annual conference of the Myanmar Sugar Cane & Sugar Related Products Producers Association for 2016 in Mandalay.

At the meeting, the draft Myanmar Sugarcane and Sugar Law was presented to those present.

He stressed the need of formulating a policy following discussions among all stakeholders of the country's sugar industry, pointing out that Myanmar has seen sudden rises and declines of sugarcane production.

According to sources, the

first draft of the Myanmar Sugarcane and Sugar Law is set to be revised by the ministry in cooperation with experts.

The draft law that will serve as the legal foundation for the industry will be finished through comprehensive discussions by all stakeholders, said U Soe Lin, chairman of the association.

Market analysts pointed out that it is impossible to stabilise the sugar market by increasing taxes on sugar and sugarcane products, saying that a lack of emphasis on the importance of the industry by authorities led a decline in sugar production in the country.

The imposition of taxes is not the answer to the sustainability of the country's sugar production sector, said vice-chairman U San Thein of the association.

He called for participation of all stakeholders including sugarcane growers and producers in the process of formulating a policy on sugar and sugarcane products. —Aung Thant Khaing



A worker cuts sugarcane to transport to sugar mill near Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

## FMI shares plummet to below original value

A CONTINUED decline in the value of First Myanmar Investment (FMI) company shares on the nascent Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) during this month of May have resulted in shares plummet to below their original value at the start of trading, according to a press release of the exchange.

FMI began selling shares on the YSX on 25 March this year with an initial price tag of K26,000 per share, but as of the middle of this month of May shares prices currently stand at K25,000 a thousand kyats lower than original trading value.

"Purchasers of stocks are looking for a bargain, some have sold off their stocks out of fear; it's a mixed bag. It's difficult in the absence of institutional investors. Institutional investors make investments based on systematic calculations of future values.

Without these actors, people just buy and sell as they like. Everything is concerned with the stock market: the country's economy, financial inflation; interest; exchange rates; it's all there," said U Thet Htun Oo, executive senior director of the YSX.

Trading on 2 May of FMI shares saw shares fetch K30,000 each with a total of 3,488 traded, while the market looked different on May 16 with shares selling for just K25,000 each with as many as 5,425 being traded.

Despite the price per FMI share on May 17 fetching K25,000, it didn't affect the trading of shares with more than 10,000 shares traded on the market floor that day.

"People from the countryside bought shares after hearing the prices had increased. But interest



has withered now with the complete depreciation in share prices. Profits aren't shown so it's not exactly known what activities are being conducted," said U Tin Ko, a businessmen from Pyawbwe township.

This coming May 20 will see Thilawa SEZ Holding commence sales of shares in its company on the YSX, joining FMI as the only two permitted companies of the six listed companies to trade shares. —Myit-makha News Agency

## Fish thievery rampant in Ayeyawady Region

FISH thievery is rampant these days in Ayeyawady Region, said U Win Kyaing, general secretary of the Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF).

The owners of fish farming lakes are being faced with difficulties because there has been a spate of robberies by a gang operating in and around fish farming lakes recently.

The security of fish farming has become worse for a lack of law enforcement during the period of the transition after the 2015 election. The fish thieves are so daring that they commit daylight robbery and even operate a form of organised crime. The farm owners can't help but to let them steal as they are outnumbered and

threatened by the thieves, he added.

Complaints have already been sent to the MFF which has submitted them to the government, said U Win Kyaing. "There are weaknesses in law enforcement, it will be hard to attract more foreign direct investments in fish farming lakes", said a businessman who is engaged in livestock breeding.

Only 0.56 per cent of the total investment in fish farming is foreign direct investment. The reason for having less than one per cent foreign investment is mainly because of the weaknesses in law enforcement and security, said Dr. Myint Sein, vice chairman of the MFF. —PTK/Union Daily

## Putao freshwater hatchery to breed new and peculiar fish

A FRESHWATER hatchery in Auk San Gong village, Putao District will breed an apparently as yet unnamed and peculiar local fish, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

This area is suitable for the breeding of rare fish species. Freshwater fish production has risen and the export of freshwater products has increased in volume as well. We have not managed to upgrade saltwater farming yet, said a re-

sponsible person from the Ministry.

It takes three months for the strange local fish to reproduce and the aquatic feedstuffs are exclusively prepared for the period of egg hatching and include protein.

The fish in question that is being bred on a commercial scale is reportedly totally unique to Putao, according to reports. Local authorities will make efforts to produce a greater number of the mystery

fish and introduce the species into rivers and creeks to prevent extinction. To maintain the fish resource, baby fingers and fingerlings will be cared for with extra delicacy.

The efforts to maintain fish resources will be in accordance with geological and weather conditions. The fingerlings of the as-yet unnamed fish will be distributed to fish farming businesses. All authorities concerned have said they will ensure they have a sufficient

supply of aquatic feedstuff which includes the prescribed quota of protein.

Putao District has been found to be home to strange, unique and hitherto unknown-to-western-science freshwater fish species which have never been recorded, according to a survey. The news of discoveries of previously unknown or unrecorded wildlife in Myanmar does not come as a surprise. A total of 139 new plants and animals

have been discovered and recorded since the opening of the country in 2011 including, famously, the scribbled arowana fish and the chocolate-spotted frog.

Over 70 per cent of the annual fish export volume traditionally came from the fish catching industry and over 20 per cent of fish export volume came from the fish farming business. Now that number is closer to 50-50, it has been reported. —Zar Zar



# Thailand bomb suspect breaks down, tells media, 'I'm not an animal'

BANGKOK — One of two ethnic Uighur Muslims from China accused of involvement in a deadly bombing in Thailand last year broke down and complained of mistreatment on Tuesday as he appeared in court.

Twenty people were killed and more than 120 injured in the bombing on 17 August at the Erawan Shrine in Bangkok when it was thronged with tourists. Five of the dead were from China and two from Hong Kong.

No group claimed responsibility.

Analysts, diplomats and even some officials suspected the attack was linked to sympathisers of the Uighur Muslim minority in western China angered by the Thai junta's deportation of more than 100 Uighurs to China the previous month.



**Suspects of last year's Bangkok blast Bilal Mohammed (front) (also known as Adem Karadag) and Yusufu Mieraili are escorted by prison officers as they arrive at the military court in Bangkok, Thailand, on 20 April, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS**

But Thai police ruled out "terrorism" as a motive and said the perpetrators were members of a network that trafficked Uighurs and launched the attack in anger at a Thai crackdown on the trade.

Police have arrested two suspects, Yusufu Mieraili and Adem Karadag, both of whom are Uighurs, and have issued arrest warrants for 15 other people, eight of whom are thought to be either Turkish or in Turkey, according to warrants and police statements.

Karadag and Mieraili have denied all charges

against them.

"I'm not an animal," a shaven, shackled and bare-foot Karadag told reporters, as two guards led him into a military court.

"I'm human, I'm human."

Inside the court, the tearful Karadag lifted his shirt, pointed to bruises and said through an interpreter that he had been beaten twice this month in custody, a Reuters witness said.

The judge said he would investigate and would consider a request by Karadag's lawyer for a transfer.

Karadag's lawyer, Schochart Kanpai, said earlier his client had been tortured into confessing.

A stony-faced Mieraili appealed for help.

"We're innocent, help us, help us, where are the human rights?" Mieraili

said as he emerged from a prison van outside the court.

Lawyers said more than 250 witnesses could be called for the prosecution and defence. Schochart said he hoped the trial would be over by the end of 2016, but it could drag on a year longer.

Police say Karadag was caught on CCTV footage at the shrine, sitting on a bench and slipping off a bulky backpack before walking away, just before the blast.

Most Uighurs, who speak a Turkic language, live in China's violence-plagued Xinjiang region. Exiles and human rights groups say Uighurs chafe under government policies that restrict their culture and religion.

China denies this and blames Islamists for rising violence.—Reuters

## India's ruling BJP to govern key NE state Assam

NEW DELHI — India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will govern the northeastern Indian state of Assam, a power base of the opposition Congress, after a local legislative election this month, according to exit polls on Monday.

The BJP-led alliance is set to win the Assam assembly elections, two exit polls predicted.

The India Today-Axis exit poll gave 79-93 seats to the Bharatiya Janata Party combine, 26-33 to the Congress and 6-10 to the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF).

The AB Nielsen predicted 81 seats to the BJP coalition, 33 to the Congress and 10 to the AIUDF.—Xinhua

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## New North Korean foreign minister was its disarmament negotiator

SEOUL — North Korea, diplomatically isolated and squeezed by UN sanctions, has appointed as foreign minister its negotiator at failed international talks aimed at getting it to disarm, according to a North Korean diplomatic note to Britain.

Ri Yong Ho, 59, replaces Ri Su Yong, who has been one of the highest-profile officials of a country whose current leader, Kim Jong Un, has not traveled abroad since taking power following the death of his father in 2011.

Ri Yong Ho, most recently vice foreign minister, represented North Korea at six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear programme, which fell apart after their last round in 2008.

China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States were the other parties to the talks.

Ri, a former ambassador to Britain, is likely to be responsible for making North Korea's case at the United Nations.

The UN Security Council in March imposed tough new sanctions against North Korea in response to its fourth nuclear test in January and the



**North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (R) exchanges smiles with Ri Yong-ho during a military parade to mark the birth anniversary of the North's late leader Kim Jong-Il in Pyongyang, in 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS**

launch of a long-range rocket the next month.

North Korean state media has not announced Ri's appointment but North Korea's embassy in Britain informed the British Foreign Office of his appointment in a note dated on 16 May, and seen by Reuters on Tuesday.

North Korea has been isolated for decades but recently even its main ally, China, has been growing increasingly frustrated

with it over its nuclear ambitions, which China disapproves of.

China backed the tighter UN sanctions in March.

The UN Human Rights Council has also adopted by consensus a resolution condemning North Korea's human rights record. Lee Ji-sue, a North Korea expert at South Korea's Myongji University, said the change at the ministry did not sig-

nal a North Korean change in approach. "Like Ri Su Yong who took orders from Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un, Ri Yong Ho won't have much say in foreign policies," he said. Kim Jong Il was the current leader's father.

Outgoing foreign minister Ri, 76, a well-traveled career diplomat, was named a member of the politburo during a recent congress of the ruling Workers' Party.—Reuters



## Death toll from Sri Lanka's flash floods rises to 12, four missing

COLOMBO — The death toll from Sri Lanka's flash floods rose to 12 on Tuesday after three bodies were recovered from a landslide which struck central Sri Lanka earlier Tuesday, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said.

Among the victims were a woman and two children while the body of a 10-month-old infant was recovered from a flooded house on Monday.

Four people were reported missing and search operations had been launched to locate them.

Rescue efforts have been hampered due to heavy rains and strong winds in many parts of the country over the past 36 hours.

Latest statistics from the DMC showed that over 200,000 people had been displaced and the number is expected to rise further.

A total of 134,466 people had been temporarily put in over 170 safe houses set up across the country and authorities had warned that water levels in several areas would rise.

Over 200 people were trapped in Puttalam in the North Western Province, and navy teams were trying to reach out to them.

Landslide warnings remained in at least nine districts as rains and winds continued and the DMC said spill gates of all major reservoirs had been opened.

The Finance Ministry an-



People take boat as the road was cut off from minor floods in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 16 May, 2016. Several roads in the country have been cut off from minor floods and fallen trees and many schools around the country remained closed on Monday. PHOTO: XINHUA

nounced Tuesday that those affected by the rains would be compensated and provided with immediate relief.

By Tuesday morning, at least 150 houses in Gampaha, just outside the capital, remained inundated, and the number is expected to rise. The DMC has also asked the Fisheries Ministry to send an im-

mediate alert, preventing fishermen from going to sea as the wind levels near the coastal areas had risen rapidly. Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena has called for immediate action to provide food supply and assistance to thousands of people affected by the extreme weather and has ordered the nations' armed forces to

provide assistance. Several roads in parts of the island remained cut off due to fallen trees and floods and public transport had come to a virtual standstill.

The Meteorology Department has warned that strong winds and heavy showers were expected to continue in Sri Lanka for another 36 hours.—Xinhua

## Death toll of Indonesia's flash floods rises to 14, seven missing

JAKARTA — Fourteen bodies have been recovered and seven people are still missing after flash floods struck a tourist resort in Deli Serdang District of North Sumatra Province, top official of local disaster agency said on Monday. Head of provincial disaster management agency, Saleh Ridwan Siregar, said six people suffered from injury. "We have recovered 15 persons, one of them still alive, but the rest are dead," he told Xinhua by phone from the province. "Search for the missing is halted this evening and we will resume it tomorrow (Tuesday)," he added. The flash floods affected 78 people and 56 of them survived, Siregar said. All of the casualties and the missing are university students, and two of the affected persons are tour guides, he added. The disaster occurred on Sunday afternoon when the affected persons were visiting a waterfall at Durin Sirugun village, said Darwin Surbakti, secretary of disaster agency at Deli Serdang District.—Xinhua

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# Opinion

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# Be prepared to give rather than take

Khin Maung Aye

**C**ONCERNING internal peace, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing vowed to co-operate with the incumbent government at a press briefing recently. People are believed to be heartened to hear such commitment on the part of military, which is a key player in Myanmar politics.

Retrospecting the history of Myanmar, people can see that country was prosperous and affluent when the top leaders were united. The First Myanmar Propre, the

Second Myanmar Propre and the Third Myanmar Propre were founded by Myanmar monarchs who could have mobilized their kingdom, seeking unity between and among the different factions with different racial, cultural and religious backgrounds.

It is a time now when effort is being exerted to achieve internal peace through building unity among national races i.e. national reconciliation process. In this regard, it is worth noting that compromise can be reached only when all the stakeholders are

willing to 'give' rather than take. In fact, the expression itself is 'give and take' policy not 'take and take' one.

It goes without saying that only when leaders of the political parties, leaders of the ethnic armed organizations and the military leaders can find a common ground in regard to establishment of a federal union under which power sharing, resource sharing and revenue sharing are fair and square, without allowing a party to take the lion's share, without letting a race dominate other ethnic

minorities, with fairness, justice, equality, human rights and democracy prevailing throughout the union, inhabited by a plethora of indigenous races.

In conclusion, the Global New Light of Myanmar would like to urge all stakeholders to be united, patient, willing to compromise, magnanimous, broadminded, forgiving and forgetting the bitter past experiences so that national reconciliation can be achieved and a federal democratic union can be established.

# Vesak Poya, Full Moon Day of Kason, Celebrated in Sri Lanka

Dr.NyanTun

**R**ELIGION plays a major role in human society. Every religion has its significant events for its followers to pay respect and commemorate. Buddhism is also one of the greatest religions in the world accepted today. Buddhism has many significant days in its calendar and Vesak Poya, full Moon day of Kason, is the greatest event out of them. It commemorates three significant events in the life of the Buddha, the founder of Buddhism.

The first event in the life of the Buddha commemorated by Vesak is His Birthday. The second occasion in the Buddha's life that Vesak celebrated is His attainment of Enlightenment and the last great in the Master's life commemorated at Vesak is His *Parinibbana*, final passing away. This triple anniversary occurred in May according to Buddhist tradition and so Buddhists all over the world celebrate annually this Vesak Full Moon festival to commemorate the important events in their respected countries in accordance with their culture, tradition and custom that falls on the month of May.

Although Myanmar and Sri Lanka have been practicing Theravada Buddhist tradition since 3rd century B.C, the festival such as Vesak, Poson and so on that they celebrate are in different due to their culture, custom, tradition and historical background of the country. In this article, I would like to shed light on the Vesak Poya celebrated by Sri Lankan people.

Sri Lanka is an island situated in South Asian Region and it is also known as 'the Pearl of Indian Ocean' and it has been embracing Buddhism since the 3rd century B.C. The population is about 20 million and majority of Buddhists

are Sinhalese ethnic and 76.7 percent of the populations are Buddhists. The Buddhist calendarical system included twelve lunar months and 'Visakha' is the second out of them. In Sri Lankan calendar this month is known as Vesak. The word 'Vesak' in Sinhalese derives from the Pali word 'Visakha', the second month mentioned in Pali literature that represents the month of the Buddhists. 'Poya' in Sinhalese also derives from the Pali term 'Uposatha', means observance religious significance on full moon days so 'Vesak Poya' means the Full Moon day of Vesak. Among the rite and ritual celebrated in Sri Lanka, Vesak Poya, Poson Poya, the day when Venerable *Mahinda*, son of Empire Asoka, came to the Island and introduced Buddhism to the king, *Devanampiyatissa* and his subjects and Esala Poya, the festival of Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha, are the greatest festivals and those events are participated the whole Island, Buddhists as well as non-Buddhists alike.

First of all, let me tell you how Sri Lankan Buddhists prepare and hail Vesak festival. You can see temporaries shops set up at the junctions and off roads in Colombo, commercial City and other big cities the whole Island. People are selling season's cards, Vesak Cards. This is the most popular custom in Sri Lanka like Christmas seasons and they commercialize greeting cards. Colorful attractive Vesak cards were issued in several sizes and designs by several groups for their customers and people mail greeting cards to their parents, brothers and sisters, friends, relatives, partners who are at home and abroad wishing them with the blessing of the Triple Gems. Vesak lanterns, Buddhist flags and raw materials

to make lanterns are available in the shops. Several sizes and shapes of lanterns come up practically in every corner of street and in front of Banks, supermarkets, hotels and government buildings. Lantern exhibition and competition also are held annually in front of Colombo Town Hall. They display the exhibition for one week and crowd flock to that spot participating days and nights.

The amazing decorations that we have never seen in our country, Myanmar are 'Pandals'. These pandals are decorated in major junctions in Colombo City and other big cities. They were sponsored by private company groups and big firms. It is difficult to translate in Myanmar what the term 'pandal' is so let me depict how they create and decorate it. The shape of pandals is up to the designers and some pandals are cycle shape but some are square. To construct the pandal they set up big and long areca tree on the ground and fix up with Masonite sheets. The artists painted sitting or standing posture of large picture of the Buddha at the center of the sheets and the posture is up to the designers. They illustrate Jataka stories, the past lives of the Buddha, section by section, around the picture of the Buddha. The colorful bulbs and lights are decorated the whole pandal. The pandals are inaugurated at the auspicious evening time on the full moon Poya day and they were displayed for a week. People come and have a look the pandals and listen to the Jataka stories narrated from recorded tapes that illustrated on it. After watching one pandal, they moved to another place where the other pandals are in and enjoyed it, thus, they spend their times the whole night moving from one place to another to take part in Vesak festival. They

celebrate that festival for one week. This is the real and purely religious activities performed by Sri Lankan.

Let us glance from media point how media supports to celebrate Vesak festival. Vesak magazine, booklets, and other Buddhist magazines were published before the event. Several Radio stations and TV channels telecast special Vesak programs both in Sinhalese and English. They transmit religious songs, discussion and debating on *Dhamma*, observance precepts, listen to the Dhamma Talk, perform role-play and some program are live on Radio as well as TV channels and they enlighten the knowledge to the people by running these programs.

Before the day falls on, the several sizes of six colored Buddhist Flags, are hoisted at every Buddhist temple, home, shop, and public building throughout the Island as a symbol of respect and gratitude to the Buddha, Teacher of God and Men. According to historical record, religious observances on Poya days had been introduced from the time of King *Devanampiyatissa*. Poya days were announced as public holidays by the king and even today Sri Lankan government is keeping on exercise that valuable religious tradition.

A unique feature of Buddhism that Buddhists around the world; Theravada, Mahayana or Tibetan had recognized is Buddhist Flag. Let me turn to the interested historical background of the Birth of the Six Colored Buddhist Flag. When invaders such as Portuguese, Dutch and British came to the Island they moved the people away from Buddhist values, customs and traditions. In November 1770 Dutch Governor Falk abolished the Poya holidays and made Sunday the weekly hol-

iday. The British introduced the Sunday holiday Act in 1817. The Poya holiday, a privilege enjoyed by Buddhists since the introduction to Buddhism in 247 B.C, was officially abolished. Buddhists did not have the freedom to observe Vesak from that time onwards.

Buddhist revivalist movement evolved with the arrival of Colonel Henry Steele Olcott, the American theosophist and his friend, a Russian Lady, Madame Helena Petrovna Blavatsky on 17, May 1880 in Ceylon (Then known as). A week later, both of them embraced Buddhism at *Vijayanandarama* temple, Galle, Southern City. Col.Olcott established Buddhist Theosophical Society in Galle and Colombo and gave leadership to the Buddhists uniting them and directing them on how their lost rights could be regained.

Buddhist Defence Committee (BDC) was organized under the patronage of Col.Olcott in January 28<sup>th</sup>, 1884. Carolis Pujiatha Gunawardene was appointed as its secretary. He was in the fore front of the Buddhist revival of Sri Lanka. The main objective of the committee was to get back the Vesak Poya holiday to the Buddhist revivalist movement but the British had not shown any interest in restoring the Vesak holiday. On a visit to London in February 1884, Col. Olcott handed over a memorandum to the Secretary of State for the colonies requesting the British Government to restore Vesak holiday to the Buddhists. Lord Derby, the Secretary of State gave an assurance that the Governor would be consulted on the matter. On 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1885, Governor Sir Arthur Hamiton Gordon issued a proclamation declaring Vesak Poya a public holiday.

See page 9 >>



## Advanced and Basic Navigation Courses held for youths



Trainees of Navigation Courses seen gathering. PHOTO: MYANMAR NAVY

THE Gathering Ceremony of Trainees from all camps of the Navigation Advanced Course and Navigation Basic Course for youths (group 1 for 2016) was held at the Bayintnaung accommodation camp in Yangon on Monday.

Following the gathering ceremony, the trainees and trainers studied warships of the Myanmar

Navy fleet sitting in dock at a navy jetty in Thanlyin Township. Officials gave educative talks on naval guns and other naval weapons and their operation, engines' systems on board serving navy vessels, communication systems, general knowledge concerned with sea navigation and the operational processes that are followed while the warships are on

active duty.

The trainees were taken on a tour of newly constructed warships and those that are undergoing repair in the dockyard after the Commander of the Headquarters of the Dockyard of the Myanmar Navy explained the history of the Myanmar Navy and common navy procedures to the trainees. —Myanmar Navy

## New anti-venom plant, warehouse to be opened within 100 days

A NEW plant with the capacity to produce 80,000 doses of anti-venom per annum will begin operations within 100 days, said U Ko Ko Aung, the manager of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein). Located within the compound of the Insein factory in Yangon, the new plant was built according to international standards

in the 2013-2014 financial year. Trial operations were carried out in January this year.

The Ministry of Industry also plans to build a warehouse build in accordance with GSP guidelines set by the World Health Organisation within three months. Snakebite death rates remain high in Myanmar. Around 15,000 snakebite inci-

dences occur every year across the country, mostly in rural areas, with a mortality of 10 per cent, doctors say. With the aim of bringing down the country's high rate of snakebite fatalities, the government-owned Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) plans to build a new plant to increase its anti-venom production. —Min Thit

## Drought-hit areas urged to contact KBZ for water relief



An ethnic woman fills plastic containers with water supplied by KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar foundation. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

AS part of its efforts in combating water scarcity problems currently affecting areas across the country, KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation has offered communities currently facing drought and/or a scarcity of fresh water to contact the foundation and arrange for fresh potable water to be delivered.

The foundation's fleet of 3000-gallon water bowsers supplied drinking water to the communities of several villages in Nyaungshwe Township last weekend and in Kalaw Township on Monday. Meanwhile, staff of the KBZ bank office in Sagaing and local volunteers are supplying fresh drinking water to monasteries and villages in Sagaing Township routinely by use of 4000-gallon water bowsers. KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation has drilled more than 100 tube wells in arid areas nationwide as well as building and maintaining water supply facilities, it has been learned. —GNLM

## Suggested Peoples' Hundred Day Plan

POEM:

With advent of the Summer and El Nino in spate one should take care, precious water not to waste. When brushing teeth and washing face in the morn not to waste water by keeping the tap turned on. Washing clothes with hand to wash them clean instead of repeatedly washing in the machine. Not to wash the car with a hose pipe every day but wipe it clean with a wet cloth if one may. As for electricity, summer is the short supply season not wasting electricity is the duty of every citizen. Switching off lights, fans and air-cons when not using will help lower electricity bills, increase electricity saving. Also not to let any one, 'fix' the electricity meter to help reduce the electricity bills in the future. Regarding disposal of household waste reducing, it starts at the source, like when going marketing. To go to the market with reusable bag for shopping not to accept plastic bags from sellers for any thing. Packing wastes in the 'recommended' bags to throw but not toss the bags through the backdoor window. To never with household waste, the pavement litter to always place it into the YCDC waste container. If there aren't sufficient YCDC waste containers perhaps request the YCDC's responsible officers. As for riding into town for business or shopping here are some rules one should be observing. Not to chew betel while riding on a car or a taxi and spit out betel juice to make the streets dirty. When eating snacks in the car or taxi not to throw packing material and used tissues out of the window. And not to park or double park the car near shops to eat or shop without concern about traffic blocks. Regarding suppression of crime, to inform promptly the Police of any crime, is every citizens civic duty. In the plan there may be included some other thing however the ones mentioned are good for beginning.

Lokethar

## Vesak Poya, Full Moon Day of Kason...

>> from page 8

The Buddhists thus regained a privilege they had lost for 115 years. The time when Vesak declared by the British, Col.Olcott was away at Adya, Madras, Southern India and the Buddhist Defence Committee informed him of the happy news. The Buddhist Defence Committee organized to celebrate the historic event at the same time.

With the announcement of restoration of Vesak holiday, the Buddhist Defence Committee decided to celebrate Vesak Poya on a ground scale which fell on 28<sup>th</sup> April that year. The committee felt the need for a Buddhist Flag to host as a unifying symbol of this memorable day. It would symbolize the unification of Buddhists and provide the Buddhists with a tool to display their reverence to the Buddha. The members of committee designed the flags that represent Buddhist community and they submitted the flags. The one submitted by C.P Gunawardene, secretary of BDC, was accepted. It represents the six rays of the Buddha: Nila, (sapphire-blue), Pita, (golden yellow), Lohita, (crimson), Odata, (white), Manjhiitha (scarlet), and Pabhasara (a hue composed of the others blended). The flag was hoisted at six places on that Poya day and from that year on it was hoisted every Buddhist temple, house, shop

and public building when Vesak Poya day falls on. Many of us believed that Col.Olcott designed the Buddhist Flag. In his diary, Col. Olcott admitted that he did not design Buddhist Flag. On Vesak Poya every Buddhist organization launches religious activity in their respective places the whole Island. The United Nation also declared gazette holiday on Vesak Poya.

Let me conclude this article with the comments of Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi, a renowned Theravada Buddhist monk, an American citizen, who has given his sermon titled "The Buddha and His Message" on the occasion of the first official United Nations celebration of Vesak in 2000. The Buddha states that of all things in the world, the one with most powerful influence for both good and bad is the mind. Genuine peace between peoples and nations grows out of peace and goodwill in the hearts of human beings. Such peace cannot be won merely by material progress, by economic development and technological innovation, but demands moral and mental development."

**Dr.Tun Tun @ Dr.Nyan Tun is a Tutor of Department of Nationalities Affairs, Nationalities Youth Resource College (NRDC) (Yangon).**



## Cuba and United States draw up roadmap for talks to deepen detente

HAVANA — Cuba and the United States aim to reach new agreements on cooperation in law enforcement, health and agriculture over the coming months, a senior Cuban official said on Monday, as part of the former Cold War foes' drive to normalise ties.

The Communist-ruled island and its northern neighbour re-established diplomatic relations a year ago after decades of hostility and have since signed deals on the environment, postal services and direct flights.

A bilateral commission met on Monday in Havana to establish a roadmap for talks over the rest of this year, which would include more high-ranking official visits, said Josefina Vidal, head of the Cuban delegation.

In March, Barack Obama became the first sitting US president

in 88 years to visit Cuba.

"The agenda is quite ambitious," Vidal told a news conference, adding that talks about intellectual property rights were also in the cards.

The two sides had discussed holding dialogues on human rights and claims, the US embassy in Cuba said in a statement.

They already outlined their respective claims late last year, with the US seeking upwards of \$10 billion (£6.9 billion) in compensation for nationalized properties and Cuba demanding at least \$121 billion in reparations for the US trade embargo and other acts it described as aggression.

"The United States looks forward to holding these meetings in the near future," the embassy said. "Tomorrow (we) will discuss specific steps related to



Josefina Vidal, director of US affairs at the Cuban foreign ministry, addresses the media during a conference in Havana on 16 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

bilateral security during the law enforcement dialogue."

Vidal, who is the Cuban Foreign Ministry's chief of US affairs, said the island was hopeful that whomever became next the

US president would continue to deepen the detente. The United States will hold a general election on 8 November.

"When you look at the polls, the majority of the American

population and the Cuban American community are in favour of the normalization of relations," she said. "So I expect their opinion will be taken into account."—

Reuters

## Pope criticises West for trying to export own brand of democracy to Iraq, Libya

VATICAN — Pope Francis criticised Western powers for trying to export their own brand of democracy to countries such as Iraq and Libya without respecting indigenous political cultures, according to an interview published on Monday.

Speaking to France's Roman Catholic newspaper, *La Croix*, Francis also said Europe should better integrate migrants and praised the election of the new Muslim mayor of London as an example of where this had been successful. "Faced with current Islamist terrorism, we should question the way a model of democracy that was too Western was exported to countries where there was a strong power, as in Iraq, or Libya, where there was a tribal structure," he said.

"We cannot advance without taking these cultures into account," the pope said.



Pope Francis celebrates a mass of Pentecost in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on 15 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

"As a Libyan said recently, 'We used to have one Gaddafi, now we have fifty', Francis said in reference to former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi who was deposed and killed in 2011.

Francis has frequently attacked what he calls "cultural colonialism", in which Western countries seek to impose their values on developing ones in return for financial aid.

The pope said that "ghettoising" migrants was not only wrong but was also misguided in the fight against terrorism.

He cited the militant attacks in Brussels in March when three suicide bombers killed 32 people, in which "the terrorists were Belgians, children of migrants, but they came from a ghetto".

By contrast, the pope praised this month's election of Sadiq Khan as the first Muslim mayor of London.

"In London, the new mayor was sworn in in a cathedral and will probably be received by the queen. This shows the importance for Europe to regain its ability to integrate," Francis said. Ten days ago, the pope lambasted Europe over what he sees as its inadequate response to the influx of migrants fleeing war and poverty in the Middle-East and Africa.—Reuters

## WB: EUR 69m loan for Serbia's public sector reform

BELGRADE — Finance Minister Dusan Vujovic and World Bank (WB) Country Manager for Serbia Tony Verheijen signed a EUR 69 million results-based loan (USD 75 million) on Monday to support Serbia in improving efficiency in public sector employment and finances.

The approval of the Program for Results on Modernisation and Optimisation of Public Administration demonstrates the Bank's strong commitment to support ongoing reforms in Serbia's public sector.

The Serbian government embarked on an ambitious administrative reform effort with the launch in 2014 of the Public Administration Reform Strategy and the Action Plan for its implementation, the WB noted.

"Along with improving business climate and restructuring of public companies, reforms in the public sector should clear the field for faster private sector development and new job creation, as well as ensure Serbia's readiness for EU accession," Verheijen said. "This programme supports the establishment of a merit based public service system and an efficient public administration. It will contribute to better use of scarce fiscal resources in order to create space for investments in important infrastructure," he added.—Tanjung

## Fire destroys historic restaurant used by naval heroes in Yokosuka

YOKOHAMA — A 130-year-old historic "ryotei" Japanese-style restaurant in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, used by many heroes of the Imperial Japanese Navy was destroyed by fire on Monday, a local fire department said.

Many naval officers including Adm. Heihachiro Togo and Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto used the restaurant Komatsu

for parties and guest receptions. The restaurant, which opened in 1885, possessed calligraphy works and mementos left by the two admirals and other historically famous naval officers, according to the Yokosuka city government and historical documents.

The restaurant was closed for a regular holiday when the fire broke out in the two-sto-

rey wooden building with floor space of about 1,320 square meters, the fire department said, adding it was reported by a male passerby at around 5:10pm.

No one was in the restaurant at the time but a 70-year-old woman at an adjacent condominium suffered minor injury from inhaling smoke from the fire.

Police are investigating the

cause of the blaze.

"It has a long history and was used by naval officers for parties and guest receptions. I had never imagined it would catch fire," said a 70-year-old female neighbor.

A 58-year-old worker at a used book store nearby regretfully noted that the restaurant had preserved the building for generations.—Kyodo News



# Germany's Steinmeier says Syria talks to focus on truce, aid

VIENNA — Major power talks on Syria aim to restore a truce across the country and get aid into besieged areas to encourage opposition groups to return to negotiations in Geneva, Germany's foreign minister said on Tuesday.

"We must find a way back into the political process ... It's about improving the conditions for the ceasefire and humanitarian aid so as to win the opposition over to negotiate with the regime in Geneva," Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in Vienna ahead of a meeting of 17 countries backing the talks.

Steinmeier spoke with journalists before the United States, Russia, European powers and Middle Eastern states opened talks aiming to revive a February "cessation of hostilities" agreement that managed to reduce fighting for almost two months.

A recent surge in bloodshed in Aleppo, Syria's largest city before the war, wrecked the partial truce sponsored by Washington and Moscow that had allowed UN-brokered peace talks to convene in



A general view shows damaged buildings in the rebel-controlled area of Maaret al-Numan town in Idlib province, Syria, on 15 May, 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

Geneva. The talks collapsed last month after the opposition walked away following an increase in violence. Diplomats say the UN special envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura hopes to launch a new round of negotiations by the end of May.

He is trying to meet an 1 August deadline to

establish a transitional authority for the country that would lead to elections in 18 months.

With humanitarian aid also only trickling through to besieged areas, the main Syrian opposition's High Negotiations Committee has said it would not resume talks until there is tangible

progress on the ground.

"We'll need to see the guarantors of the ceasefire — Russia and the US — putting something down that will really convince the opposition that this process is worthwhile," said a senior western diplomat involved in the talks.

"Sadly, I don't sense

that and fear the US will try to impose a text that is excessively optimistic, but for which its implementation will not be possible."

The Obama administration's failure to convince Moscow that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad must go is fuelling European frustration at being side-

lined in efforts to end the country's five-year civil war, diplomats say.

Some diplomats and analysts question whether the United States has misread Russia's desire to keep Assad in power.

A senior State Department official said the meeting would focus on areas where the truce was most under threat.

"It needs to be on a more solid foundation than it is right now," the official said, adding that the meeting would also focus on increased humanitarian access and on the political process.

Asked about the frustrations of US allies with the current approach, the official said: "Everybody's frustrated. It's not just the allies being frustrated."

"The political deal is going to be done by Syrians at the table ... it still is for Syrians to do. If we can help — all of us can help get the parties there, nudging on both sides to get the parties there, then fine. But they're ultimately going to be the ones that decide this." —Reuters

## Jordan hit hard in all aspects due to Syrian refugee crisis

AMMAN — The Syrian crisis placed heavy pressure on all aspects of life and economic sectors in Jordan, which forced Jordan to regulate and to some extent reduce the entry of Syrians into the country.

However, Jordan's Minister of State Mohammad Momani said there is no change in the kingdom's policy towards the Syrian refugees and stressed that the borders will remain open to those fleeing the conflict in their country.

"The entry of Syrian refugees is through the Jordan Armed Forces that conduct security screening on them to preserve Jordan's security. In addition, Jordan takes the humanitarian cases into account," the minister said in an interview with Xinhua.

Over the past few months, Jordan reduced the number of Syrians allowed in to around 60 refugees per day, especially after more than 23,000 refugees came to the no

man's land between Jordan and Syria and are still stranded on the borders. Jordan said the majority of those stranded came from areas that are under the control of the terrorist Islamic State (IS) group.

After the number of those stranded reached 60,000 recently, Jordan started to allow around 300 refugees to enter the Kingdom per day, especially after the sudden increase in number of Syrians seeking refuge in Jordan.

The minister said in earlier remarks that Jordan resorted to reducing the number of Syrians allowed in as many who came to Jordan were living in areas under the control of the IS.

The influx of Syrian refugees increased burden on several sectors including health, education, infrastructure and increased cost of renting houses and affected jobs available for Jordanians, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Imad Fakhoury told Xinhua.

The Syrians in Jordan

represent about 19 per cent of the population at present, according to Fakhoury who added that only 10 per cent of the Syrian refugees in Jordan live in camps, while the rest live in Jordanian cities and towns thus placing pressure on all resources.

He added that there are more than 143,000 Syrian students at the country's public schools and there are around 90,000 who are in the age of going to school but do not go to them. He added that the public schools will be able to accept 50,000 more students between 2016-2017 due to the support of several donor countries.

The government, he said, provided medical services for more than 611,000 Syrian refugees in 2015, which negatively affected the level of services and placed pressure on the budget. In addition, rents of houses rose by 200-300 per cent after the Syrian refugees influx, said Fakhoury, adding that the Syrians placed pressure on

the water sector in Jordan, which is one of the poorest countries in terms of water.

The influx of Syrians also affected the labor market in Jordan amidst high unemployment among Jordanians, said Fakhoury, referring to support donor countries pledged for Jordan at a donors conference in London early this year.

Jordan secured around 1.7 billion US dollars in grants and grant equivalents for its Syrian refugee response plan for 2016 and the coming two years at the London conference.

Jordan is home to around 1.3 million Syrians, according to official figures.

According to Saber Mahayreh, the commander of the Jordan Border Guard, the influx of Syrians was also coupled with increased attempts to infiltrate into Jordan in addition to attempts to smuggle drugs into the Kingdom.

Syrian refugees cost the army alone around 1.7 billion US dollars since 2011 to date. —Xinhua

## Senegal, Gambia agree to end highway blockade on border

DAKAR — Senegal has committed to prevail on its transporters to end a blockade that has lasted for over three months along Trans-Gambia route, whereas Gambia has suspended tariff increase for Senegalese transporters entering its territory, authorities said on Monday.

The decisions were announced after ten hours of negotiations in Dakar between the delegations of both countries.

The blockade of Trans-Gambia highway began following a decision by Gambian authorities to increase the tariff for each Senegalese truck crossing to Gambia from 4,000 CFA Francs (10 US dollars) to 400,000 CFA Francs.

Following the Gambian decision, Senegalese transporters blocked the entry point between the two countries, particularly along Trans-Gambia highway.

The blockade forced vehicles heading to or coming from Casamance in southern Senegal, to make a long trip to Gambia, where-

as Gambian vehicles could not be allowed to enter Senegalese territory.

The final statement indicated that out of 11 issues that were discussed by the two parties, three were not exhaustively tackled due to the absence of Gambian experts.

The three issues included the construction of a bridge on River Gambia, maritime fishing, and management of terrestrial borders. Speaking after the meeting, Gambia's Foreign Minister Neneh Macdouall Gaye hailed the cordial atmosphere that prevailed during talks.

"Many of the problems would not have been resolved today if we had not resorted to the path of dialogue. The meeting helped us to evaluate relations between the two countries. This helped us to discuss ways and means of ending the crisis," she said.

Her Senegalese counterpart Mankeur Ndiaye said continuous consultations between the two countries was fundamental. —Xinhua



## Former Trump girlfriend rebuts NY Times story on history with women

NEW YORK — A woman at the centre of a New York Times piece detailing Republican Donald Trump's history with women took issue with the story on Monday, saying she never had a negative experience with the billionaire and does not believe he ever mistreated women.

Rowanne Brewer Lane, a former model who dated Trump for several months starting in the late 1990, said her words were mischaracterized in the Times article, which used dozens of interviews to show what it said was a pattern of unsettling personal behavior by the presidential candidate with women. The Times story said Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for the 8 November election, asked Lane to change into a bikini shortly after meeting her at a pool party at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. According to the article, he then introduced her to the crowd outside, saying, "That is a stunning Trump girl, isn't it?"

On Monday, Lane told the same story in a series of television interviews but said she had been flattered by his comment.

"They spun it to where it



**Republican US presidential candidate and businessman Donald Trump.** PHOTO: REUTERS

appeared negative," Lane said on Fox News. "I did not have a negative experience with Donald Trump."

Lane said that during the time she and Trump were dating, he "never made me feel like I was being demeaned in any way."

She also said she supports Trump's presidential run.

*The New York Times* responded to Lane's accusations by saying she was quoted "fairly, accurately and at length."

"The story provides context for the reader including that the swimsuit scene was the 'start of a whirlwind romance' between Ms. Brewer Lane and Mr. Trump," Times spokeswoman Danielle Rhoades Ha said in a statement.

Trump has deflected criticism about his attitude toward women throughout his campaign. On Monday, he called the *New York Times* "so dishonest."

"Their hit piece cover story on me yesterday was just blown up by Rowanne Brewer, who said it was a lie!" Trump posted on Twitter.

*Times* reporters Michael Barbaro and Megan Twohey defended their story in several television interviews on Monday, saying it showed how Trump behaved privately with women and revealed common themes including unwelcome advances, aggression and commentary on their appearance. "People can evaluate the story ... on its own merits," Barbaro said on CBS "This Morning." —Reuters

## Truckers block roads in test week of protest for France's Hollande

PARIS — Truckers blocked motorways across France on Tuesday as opponents of proposed labour law reforms began a fresh wave of strikes and street marches.

This week has been billed by media as make or break for a protest movement that has appeared to lose steam after weeks of sometimes violent confrontation.

President Francois Hollande stood firm, saying on radio that the law — a flagship reform that would make hiring and firing easier — would not be scrapped, and warning that police would not tolerate violence.

"I will not give in," the Socialist leader, whose popularity rating is at rock bottom a year from an election, told Europe 1 radio.

The truckers are employees rather than owner drivers and so were not at the wheels of their lorries. However, they were able to slow or blocked traffic at strategic points in the north and west, most notably in the Bordeaux region, where they turned away

deliveries to a major supermarket supply hub and a fuel depot.

Marches in Paris and other French cities were scheduled for later in the day, when railworkers are set to join the fray with stoppages expected to cause major disruption for commuters through to Friday.

Hollande said over 1,000 people had been arrested during clashes with police over recent months, with more than 300 police and a number of protesters hurt in clashes where some, including foreigners, were coming just for the fight.

"People have a right to protest but rioting is an offence that will be punished," he said.

France's police chief said ahead of a week of tension that a small group of hardline protesters had been banned from the streets of Paris.

The hardline CGT labour union has called for rolling strikes by rail workers, dockers and airport staff as well as two days of street demonstrations, on Tuesday and Thursday. —Reuters

## Cities 'woefully unprepared' for rising disaster risk — World Bank

LONDON — Cities around the world are failing to plan for fast-increasing risks from extreme weather and other hazards, particularly as population growth and surging migration put more people in the path of those threats, the World Bank said on Monday.

By 2050, 1.3 billion people and \$158 trillion in assets will be menaced by worsening river and coastal floods alone, warned a new report from the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), managed by the World Bank.

"Cities and coastal areas are woefully unprepared for the kind of climate and disaster risk now facing our world," said John Roome, the World Bank Group's senior director for climate change.

But as cities expand and re-vamp, they have the opportunity to lower that risk by putting in place more resilient infrastructure and preventive policies, he said.

Those could include everything from restrictions on using too much groundwater — one of the reasons cities from Tokyo to Jakarta are sinking — to planning for more green space, and new schools and apartments set above flood-prone zones.

The problem is that many city officials have no clear idea of the range of disaster risks they face and how serious they could be.



**People travel on a boat as they move to safer places through a flooded road in Chennai, India in 2015.** PHOTO: REUTERS

Argentina, for instance, has no volcanoes but is affected at times by ash from eruptions in Chile.

And when Malawi was hit by an earthquake in 2009, it came as a surprise. "Not many people think about the African continent and its potential for earthquakes," said Alanna Simpson, a risk management specialist with the GFDRR.

A new open-source disaster risk management tool, called ThinkHazard!, aims to make

planning for such threats easier by pulling together information on all potential disaster risks in a country or region, and how they compare.

It looks at hazards including floods, cyclones, droughts, heat waves, fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and landslides. The tool, aimed at national and city planners, project developers and others, also offers advice on what might work to reduce the risks. While information

on disaster risks already exists, it tends to be in scattered locations and jargon-heavy language, Simpson said.

For an average planner, "you need a PhD to understand if a country has risk and how it might affect your project", she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The new tool, developed by the GFDRR, brings the information together and simplifies it, so that the developer of a road or school in Kenya, for instance, can

get a sense of the level of risks their project faces — including threats they may not know about.

Those can be substantial, the disaster experts noted. In Indonesia, the risk of flooding from overflowing rivers is expected to grow 166 per cent over the next 30 years, while coastal flooding risk could rise 445 per cent, the report said. Nepal's capital Kathmandu is expected to see a 50 per cent rise in earthquake risk by 2045 as more slums and informal buildings go up.

A combination of sea-level rise and sinking of coastal cities — including from excessive extraction of the groundwater beneath them — could drive disaster losses in 136 coastal cities from \$6 billion a year in 2010 to \$1 trillion a year by 2070, the report said. But planning now for more big typhoons in Manila, for example, by ensuring new homes are not built on flood plains and keeping drainage canals clear, will pay off, the experts said.

"The decisions we make today are defining the disasters of tomorrow," said Francis Ghesquiere, head of the GFDRR secretariat. "We have a huge challenge — but also a huge opportunity — to try to make sure the trillions of dollars that will go into new housing, new infrastructure, the extension of cities... do not increase risk exposure but rather reduce it." —Reuters



# Oil sand work camps evacuated as Alberta wildfire moves north

CALGARY, (Alberta) — A massive wildfire burning around the oil sands hub of Fort McMurray was growing and moving rapidly north late on Monday, forcing firefighters to shift their focus to protecting major oil sand facilities north of the city, officials said.

The sudden movement of the fire prompted the evacuation of some 4,000 people from work camps outside Fort McMurray, with all northbound traffic once again cut off at the city, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo said.

Suncor Energy Inc (SU.TO) and Syncrude Canada confirmed they had evacuated workers from the affected area. Their major facilities were under a precautionary notice with the fire still some 15 to 20 kms (10-12 miles) away, officials said.

A dozen work camps south of the major projects faced mandatory evacuation notices.

"The urgency we're looking at is with regards to the oil gas infrastructure," Scott Long, executive director of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, told reporters in Edmonton, adding Fort McMurray itself appeared



The devastated neighbourhood of Abasand is shown after being ravaged by a wildfire in Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada, on 13 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

to be safe for now.

The entire population of Fort McMurray, about 90,000 people, was forced to flee nearly two weeks ago as the uncontrolled wildfire raged through some neighborhoods and destroyed about 15 per cent of structures.

On Monday, the blaze continued to burn uncontrolled, now covering 285,000 hectares (704,000 acres), officials said. By Monday evening it was moving 30 to 40 meters (98 to 131 feet) every minute and had jumped a critical firebreak north of the city

to push into the oil sand camp areas. "When you have this type of extreme fire behavior, it doesn't matter what tankers you put in front of it, or how many helicopters, mother nature is going to continue to move that fire forward," wildfire manager Chad

Morrison said.

Morrison said the blaze was expected to slow into the evening and that it was unclear if it would reach the major oil sand facilities, though responders were preparing for that eventuality.

A Suncor spokeswoman

an said 120 people were evacuated from its MacKay River plant and camps as a precautionary measure Monday afternoon, adding the facilities were not at risk from the fire.

Syncrude, a joint venture among numerous energy companies operating in the region, said on Twitter that it was relocating its workers to safety.

The fire also threatened Enbridge Inc's (ENB.TO) Cheecham crude oil tank farm south of Fort McMurray. The blaze, about 1 km (1,094 yards) away from the tank farm, was under control with the wind cooperating as the company's industrial firefighters tackled the fire, officials said earlier in the day.

Enbridge said a fire-break around the terminal was being widened and that crews were assessing other fire suppression tactics like spraying down facilities. It said some pipelines in and out of the terminal were operating, and the situation was being monitored.

Roughly a million barrels per day of oil sands crude production was shut in as a precaution and because of disruptions to regional pipelines, and much of that production remains offline.—Reuters

## Red tuna crabs carpet Southern California beaches again

LOS ANGELES — Masses of tiny red crustaceans known as tuna crabs have washed up for a second straight year along stretches of the Southern California shoreline in a phenomenon marine scientists say is linked to warmer ocean currents flowing up the coast.

Waves of the dead or dying tuna crabs have been found carpeting the sand at various San Diego and Orange County spots, including Imperial, Huntington and Newport beaches, since the middle of last week.

The crabs are typically concentrated in Mexican waters off the southern and central Baja Peninsula, but warming currents periodically carry the crustaceans farther north and closer to shore, according to scientists.—Reuters

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA ILLER VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Contact person: Ko Thein Zaw (+95 943151701)



## The X-Men are back, this time fighting 'Apocalypse'



Actor Jennifer Lawrence arrives at a screening of X-Men: Apocalypse at a cinema in London, Britain, May 9, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood stars Jennifer Lawrence and James McAvoy reprise their roles as powerful mutants in “X-Men: Apocalypse”, this time joining forces against a new supervillain.

Oscar-winner Lawrence returns as the blue, shape-shifting Mystique, while McAvoy plays the younger, mind-reading Professor Charles Xavier, a role portrayed by Patrick Stewart in the franchise’s first films.

In the movie, the world’s first mutant Apocalypse (Oscar Isaac) awakes in 1980s Cairo after hibernation in ancient Egypt and embarks on a mission for global power with his new recruits, including Magneto (Michael Fassbender).

Professor Xavier seeks to defeat him with the help of Mystique and other mutant students from his school — characters introduced in the original “X-Men”

movies and brought to life here by a younger generation of actors.

“...none of these superheroes in these movies are that capable of winning the day on their own,” McAvoy told Reuters in a joint interview with Lawrence.

“They’re all fairly flawed... They need each other, and what I like about it is that it’s about community and it’s about society and it’s about family.”

The movie is the latest superhero action flick hitting screens as Hollywood continues to expand its comic book cinematic universe.

This month, Disney-Marvel’s “Captain America: Civil War” brought together Marvel characters such as Iron Man, Ant-Man, Black Widow and Scarlet Witch as well as a new Spider-Man on screen.

Asked if they could see their mutant characters joining forces with other superheroes in a franchise crossover, Lawrence said “no”.

“Maybe when people get really tired of superhero movies, they’ll do it as one last ditch desperate attempt to kind of milk the cow dry,” McAvoy said.

“I think there are so many characters in the X-Men universe that we could go and explore before we have to go and mash up with those guys,” he said. “X-Men: Apocalypse” hits cinemas worldwide from 18 May.

—Reuters

## Spoke to Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese on lack of female leads: Juliette Binoche

CANNES — Oscar-winning French star Juliette Binoche has revealed that she spoke to directors Steven Spielberg and Martin Scorsese over the lack of female-driven stories in their movies.

During a panel session at the Cannes film festival, “The English Patient” star recalled a conversation with Spielberg, a director she said she greatly admired, about why he rarely centers his films on female characters.

Binoche said he defended himself, reasoning that he had made “The Color Purple” in 1985. Since then, all of his films have featured male leads. The actress turned down a role in Spielberg’s “Jurassic Park” that went to Laura Dern, reported the *Guardian*.

“Saying no to certain films is as important as saying yes, because it really defines you,” Binoche said while speaking on behalf of We Do It Together, a newly launched not-for-profit

production company which aims to improve opportunities for women in Hollywood.

The actress, 52, said she had a similar conversation with Scorsese.

“He has a very feminine side of himself. But for me, he doesn’t explore it (in his work),” Binoche said of Scorsese.

Binoche said French director Olivier Assayas was more receptive to the criticism and following a conversation with her, he decided to make “Clouds of Sils Maria”.

The film played in the 2014 competition at Cannes and won Kristen Stewart a Cesar, making her the first American to be so honoured.

The actress said she has always looked for movies where women have a substantial parts.

“What I’ve been seeing is that I’ve been refusing roles, instinctively, out of the need to talk about the feminine. The feminine has to have its place. It needs space,

and we don’t have the space, so we have to take it,” she said.

Binoche stayed away from Hollywood despite winning an Oscar for “The English Patient” in 1997 as she was not ready to conform.

“... I never chose to live in Hollywood because I didn’t conform to a mold. American agents would sell me films to bolster my career, but I didn’t feel a connection. Staying in Europe was a way of resisting.

“I knew I had to step away from the system. Being independent is the most important thing. I think as a free spirit, you have to be smart enough to be able to go in and then get out. Don’t belong to a system that rules your spirit,” she said.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Love conquers all in film about historic civil rights case

CANNES, (France) — A story about banned inter-racial marriage might have been a golden opportunity for a tense courtroom drama, but US director Jeff Nichols opted for a heat-warming love film now vying for the top Palme d’Or prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

Nichols, who won critical acclaim for high-anxiety dramas like “Take Shelter” and “Midnight Special”, defies expectations in “Loving” by focusing on the power of love against all odds rather than clobbering viewers with racial politics.

It is based on the true story of a white man and a black woman from Virginia who get married in Washington D.C. in 1958. When they return home, they are first jailed then banished because inter-racial marriage is prohibited in Virginia at a time when racial segregation remains common in America. They relocate to Washington but struggle to adapt to city life.

Lawyers take their cause to the US Supreme Court, which rules in 1967 that interracial marriage is unconstitutional, a historic civil rights decision that ends all race-based limits on marriage in the United States. “It was very un-Hollywood in the sense that at certain moments, someone really drawn into the patina of Hollywood might have rearranged the truth in order to make it more Hollywood,” Australian actor Joel Edgerton, who plays Richard Loving, told a news conference on Monday.

“There was something so simple about the truth that allowed us ... a very nice guideline to find our way into the story,” Edgerton pairs up with Ethiopia-born Irish actress Ruth Negga playing Mildred Loving. Her subtle performance has triggered speculation in Cannes that Negga could be up for an Academy Award.

“I looked at the story and it seemed very very obvious to me that we just needed to talk about the people,” said Nichols, who previously presented “Mud” and “Take Shelter” in Cannes. “The court case is so fascinating in itself that it could be a movie. (But) I did not want to make a courtroom movie.

I wanted to make a movie about two people in love. I hope it’s the quiet film of the year.”—Reuters



## South Korean novelist Han wins Man Booker International Prize

SEOUL — South Korean author Han Kang won the Man Booker International Prize for fiction on Monday for her novel “The Vegetarian”, a dark, surreal story about a woman who gives up eating meat and seeks to become a tree.

The 45-year-old Han had been short-listed for the prize for fiction in translation to English along with Italian writer Elena Ferrante, Angola’s Jose Eduardo Agualusa, Chinese author Yan Lianke, Turkey’s Orhan Pamuk and Austrian Robert Seethaler.

“This compact, exquisite and disturbing book will linger long in the minds, and maybe the dreams, of its readers,” Boyd Tonkin, chairman of the 2016 judging panel, was cited by the foundation as saying.

The novel was translated by Deborah Smith, a 28-year-old Briton who only began learning Korean when she was 21. Han and Smith will split the 50,000 pound (\$72,000) prize equally, according to the



South Korean author Han Kang poses with her novel ‘The Vegetarian’, which is nominated for the Man Booker International Prize, during a media event in London, Britain, on 15 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Booker Foundation, which administers the prize as well as the original Man Booker Prize for works in English and published in the United Kingdom, a prestigious award that typically leads to a surge in sales for its winner.

In “The Vegetarian”, after struggling with gruesome recurring nightmares, Yeong-hye, a dutiful wife, rebels against societal norms, forsaking meat and stirring concern among her family that she is mentally ill.

Han, who was born in the South Korean city of Gwangju, teaches creative writing at the Seoul Institute of the Arts. “The Vegetarian” is her first novel translated into English.

The Man Booker International Prize was previously awarded every two years for an author’s overall contribution to global fiction, but beginning with this year’s prize it is awarded annually for a single work of fiction translated into English and published in the United Kingdom.—Reuters

## Therapy dogs help New York immigrant kids clear reading hurdles

NEW YORK — Izzy rested his chin on the knee of third grader Aelane Vasquez at Public School 57 in the Spanish Harlem section of New York City on Monday and hung on every word she easily read aloud from a book that would have stumped her months ago.

Therapy dogs like Izzy, a gray Havanese, are the heart, soul and wagging tail of a literacy programme in schools and libraries called Reading Education Assistance Dogs (READ) that encourages young readers.

“I love reading to Izzy because he listens to me and he doesn’t make fun of me when I make a mistake,” said Vasquez, 9, who read “Cam Jansen: The Mystery of the Circus Clown.”

Immigrant children face the added challenge of mastering English as a second language, a hurdle for many at P.S. 57, where families like Vasquez’s hail from countries like

Mexico, Dominican Republic and Ecuador, said officials from Intermountain Therapy Animals, which founded READ in 1999.

“New language, new environment, familiar friends and family out of the picture, the list of painful challenges goes on and on for them,” said ITA executive director Kathy Klotz.

Primarily geared toward students in kindergarten through third grade, READ serves 175 children in New York City schools alone, said Nancy George-Michalson, executive director of its affiliate New York Therapy Animals. READ is active in other US states and nine other countries.

A student who can’t read at grade level by the end of third grade is four times less likely to graduate high school by age 19, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In the United States, an estimated 45 million adults

are functionally illiterate, according to the Literacy Project Foundation.

At P.S. 57, third grade students were reading below grade level when they started working with Izzy in October, said teacher Bridget McElroy. By early May, nearly all of them had reached — or surpassed — their grade level.

New York’s myriad immigrant cultures create additional challenges, said McElroy, noting that in many Latino countries dogs are often strays and not kept as pets.

“Students at first were a little nervous and fearful. Flash forward, now there is a level of enthusiasm that’s really great about reading, also just an excitement to be with the dog. That’s phenomenal,” McElroy said.

Vasquez said she chooses books with Izzy in mind.

“It might get interesting for him too,” Vasquez said.—Reuters

## Divers find ancient Roman cargo from 1,600-yr old shipwreck in Israel

JERUSALEM — Archaeologists in Israel have recovered bronze statues and thousands of coins from a merchant ship that sank off the Mediterranean coast some 1,600 years ago during the late Roman period.

The Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) said two divers had made the discovery several weeks ago in the ancient harbour of Caesarea in the eastern Mediterranean. Successive dives recovered a haul including a bronze lamp depicting the image of sun god Sol, a figure of moon goddess Luna, fragments of life-size bronze cast statues as well as two lumps of thousands

of coins. The IAA said the remains of a ship were “left uncovered on the sea bottom” and included iron anchors and fragments of jars used for drinking water by the crew. The haul’s location and distribution suggested the “large merchant ship was carrying a cargo of metal slated (for) recycling”.

“A marine assemblage such as this has not been found in Israel in the past 30 years,” Jacob Sharvit and Dror Planer of the IAA’s Marine Archaeology Unit said in a statement.

“Metal statues are rare archaeological finds because they were always melted down and recycled

in antiquity.”

The IAA said the vessel had probably hit a storm as it entered the harbour and had drifted before hitting rocks and the seawall.

The IAA said the range of items reflected a “period of economic and commercial stability” in the late Roman Empire. It said past marine excavations in Caesarea had uncovered a small number of bronze statues but this haul was much bigger and the sand-protected statues were in “an amazing state” of preservation.

Last year divers found a haul of 1,000-year-old gold coins inscribed in Arabic on the sea bed off Israel.—Reuters



Items, which the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) estimate to be around 1600 years old, are displayed after they were recovered from a merchant ship in the ancient harbour of the Caesarea National Park, on 16 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



**Entertainment Channel**

(18- 5-2016, Wednesday)

**6:00 pm**

- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

**6:20 pm**

- Cartoon Programme “Cars” (Part- III)

**7:00 pm**

- International Drama Series

**7:40 pm**

- International Drama Series

**8:30 pm**

- Music Programme

**8:50 pm**

- Safari World

**9:00 pm**

- International Movie Songs

**9:10 pm**

- Music Programme

**9:30 pm**

- English Premier League (Review) (Part-I)

**9:50 pm**

- Myanmar Video

From 18-5-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm  
To 19-5-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm



**Myanmar International**

(18-5-2016 07:00am ~ 19-5-2016 7:00am) MST

**Today Fresh**

- |       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Am | News  |
| 07:26 | Am | Karaweik Palace- A Symbol of Glorious Myanma Culture        |
| 07:41 | Am | The Beauty In The North of Myanmar                          |
| 08:03 | Am | News  |
| 08:26 | Am | The Mountain with antique stone sculptures & Mural Painting |
| 08:43 | Am | Products of Myanmar - Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar               |
| 09:03 | Am | News  |
| 09:26 | Am | Hive Hunter   |
| 09:45 | Am | Cultural Shows: Theatrical Art                              |

- |       |    |  |
|-------|----|--|
| 09:54 | Am | Young Artist: Maw Thu Da Nu                  |
| 10:03 | Am | News   |
| 10:25 | Am | Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names (Part-1) |
| 10:43 | Am | Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names(Part-2)  |

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday 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 | Discovering Tribes: Akha- Their Life and Customs (Part-1) |
| 07:46 | Pm | The Iron Rider  |
| 08:03 | Pm | News  |
| 08:26 | Pm | Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations- Gem Stone Painting   |
| 08:44 | Pm | Living in Off-Season                                      |

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

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



# Leicester celebrate title triumph with victory parade

LONDON — Leicester City's players celebrated their Premier League title success with a victory parade on an open-top bus through the streets of the Midlands county town in front of about 250,000 ecstatic fans on Monday.

Supporters had begun lining the streets from midday to see their heroes and Italian manager Claudio Ranieri display the gleaming trophy that had seemed an unlikely prize at the start of the season when they were 5,000-1 outsiders.

The players waved and smiled as they passed the thousands thronging the streets on their way from Jubilee Square in the city centre to a special stage erected in Victoria Park where they lapped up the adulation of the adoring Foxes faithful.

The players were individually introduced to the crowd who cheered every name and the players re-enacted being presented with the trophy — which they



Leicester City celebrate with the trophy on the bus during the parade. PHOTO: REUTERS

had received officially after their final home game against Everton at the King Power Stadium.

"I enjoyed today in front of all our fans. I want to say thank

you to everybody because in all the season they pushed behind us and they believed in us," said Ranieri, who like Leicester, picked up his first top-flight league title.

Captain Wes Morgan said: "What we've achieved this season has been fantastic and the boys and the staff... and the fans, everyone has contributed to it

and it has been a fantastic season and you can't take that away from us."

Leicester finished 10 points ahead of Arsenal, with Tottenham Hotspur, the only team left chasing the Foxes in the final weeks of the season, finishing a further point back.

Algeria winger Riyad Mahrez added: "I'm very happy to be here with these fans and it's amazing, unbelievable. What we've done this season... we should be proud of ourselves. It's magnificent."

Highlights of the club's amazing season, including goals from striker Jamie Vardy, the Football Writers' Player of the Year, and PFA Player of the Year Mahrez, plus memorable quotes from Ranieri, were replayed on big screens to cheers.

Rock band Kasabian, who formed in Leicester in 1997 and are fans of the club, performed after the players left the stage. — Reuters

## Toppling Sevilla would rubber-stamp Klopp's red revolution

BARCELONA — Juergen Klopp, who has breathed new life into Liverpool in his seven months in charge, would seal his place in the hearts of the club's supporters if he pulls off victory over Sevilla in Wednesday's Europa League final.

It would bring Liverpool's first European trophy since the famous fightback against AC Milan in the Champions League final in Istanbul in 2005.

Klopp conjured up the spirit of that historic win in the extraordinary quarter-final performance over his former club Borussia Dortmund when the Reds turned a 3-1 halftime deficit in the second leg into a stunning 4-3 victory in stoppage time.

Sevilla, current holders, might be a different matter though. Klopp will be up against

coach Unai Emery, whose side have won the last two editions of the tournament and hold a record four UEFA Cup/Europa League triumphs, all in the last decade.

Sevilla had an easier path to the final, beating Shakhtar Donetsk 5-3 on aggregate in the semis, although they needed a penalty shootout to overcome fellow Spaniards Athletic Bilbao in the last eight.

Sevilla have endured a disappointing domestic campaign, finishing seventh in La Liga and failing to win a single away game, the only team in Europe's top five leagues to do so.

Liverpool's season has not been dissimilar.

Klopp's team have ended in eighth place in the Premier League, their lowest finish since 2012. —Reuters



Liverpool's manager Juergen Klopp. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Next generation in tennis ready to break out of the shadows

LONDON — Tennis fans should intoxicate themselves on the elixir still being served up by the best men's generation to grace the game before the well dries up and mere mortals take over, at least that's what the doom-mongers think.

They say when 17-times grand slam champion Roger Federer, claycourt king Rafael Nadal and Serbian winning-machine Novak Djokovic, not to mention the mercurial Andy Murray, hang up their rackets quality, and interest, will suffer. However, a hungry bunch of young lions are showing all the signs of keeping the flame burning long after the Fab Four settle down to a quiet life polishing their silverware.

At Indian Wells this year the men's Tour launched its ATP#NextGen campaign to promote rising stars aged 21 and under.

They were not short of names. Volatile but dazzling 21-year-old Australian Nick Kyrgios, Borna Coric, a Croatian teenager with uncanny similarities to a young Djokovic and Alexander Zverev, a German already being compared to Boris Becker, are already established in the top 50.

Throw teenagers Hyeon Chung (South Korea), Karen Khachanov (Russia) and Quentin Halys (France) into the mix alongside American 18-year-old Taylor Fritz, the youngest player in the top 100, Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka, Britain's Kyle Edmund and Swede Elias Ymer and



Alexander Zverev of Germany. PHOTO: REUTERS

there appears to be critical mass of youngsters boasting 'future grand slam champion' potential.

Five years ago there were seven players aged 21 and under in the top 150, today that figure has risen to 13.

That said, there are no guarantees, according to American Brad Gilbert, a former top-10 player and coach to the likes of Andre Agassi and Murray.

"To become a great player and world number one and grand slam winner, you already have to be great when you're a teenager," Gilbert told Reuters.

"But I believe that there will be someone in this current group who steps up."

Stepping up to join Federer, Djokovic and Nadal, winners of

17, 14 and 11 grand slam titles since 2003, has been notoriously difficult, not just for rising stars, but everyone else. Since 2010 Murray and Stanislas Wawrinka have won two apiece and Marin Cilic one while Juan Martin del Potro is the only other active player to have won a major.

"It's been tougher to make really big breakthroughs because the Big Four have sustained their excellence for an insane amount of time," Gilbert said.

Kyrgios, a Wimbledon quarter-finalist two years ago aged 19, is leading the charge having risen to a career-high 19th in the world heading to the French Open. He won his first ATP title this year and made semis in Dubai, Miami and Estoril. —Reuters