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Talks held over 300MW solar power facility for Ayeyawady Region

REPRESENTATIVES of the Ayeyawady Region government and the Thailand-based Won Toll Co have held talks over the establishment of a US\$100 million solar power facility, which would have the capacity to provide 300 megawatts of electricity per year.

During the talks, which were held on 20 May, it was planned

that a solar power project would be built on over 1,500 acres of land that would allow for the total power volume to be ready for use within 12 months.

The plan is for the electricity to be distributed to industrial zones in Ayeyawady and Yangon regions.

“We’ve yet to set a price

per unit of electricity that will be produced [by the solar facility]. That said, engine oil costs to power the production of electricity will be much alleviated; it will be an attractive price for investors. We’ve also planned to distribute [power] in accordance with a policy of pricing that is acceptable to customers,” explained U Kunn Zaw Htun, chair of Won Toll Co.

According to staff of the company, due diligence will be exercised to mitigate scandals in the confiscation of land for the construction of the project, while the project will have a mutual benefit for the company as well as for those within the country to

whom it will provide electricity.

The facility will have the capacity to produce between 50 to 100 megawatts of electricity during the first six months of the project implementation, with 200 to 250 megawatts to be produced during the second six months, according to Won Toll Co.

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Thai PTTEP Says Keen To Buy Chevron’s Stake In Myanmar Gas Field

PTT Exploration and Production Pcl (PTTEP), Thailand’s largest oil and gas explorer, said on May 24 it was keen to buy a stake in Yadana gas field in Myanmar from Chevron Corp. (NYSE: CVX).

PTTEP, the flagship in the upstream business of PTT Pcl, was in talks to buy stakes in several oil and gas fields in Thailand and Southeast Asia, and expected to conclude at least one deal this year, Pannalin Mahawongtikul, executive vice president for finance, told reporters.

PTTEP, which is also interested in buying a stake in Bongkot offshore gas field from BG Group, has cash of \$3.7 billion, enough for acquisitions, Pannalin said.

“We focus on projects which are operating, so that we can book revenue immediately after the purchase,” she said adding Myanmar will be the company’s major investment outside Thailand.

PTTEP has said it aimed to increase investments at home and Southeast Asia to secure long term energy supplies. It set production target of 600,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boe/d) by 2020.—Reuters

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French police break up refinery blockade in anti-reform showdown

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Miners search for jade stones at a mine dump in a Hpakant jade mine in Kachin state. PHOTO: THAUNG NYUNT



MINE WALL COLLAPSE KILLS 12

Jaiden Coonan

A second mine collapse this month has killed 12 and injured 11 in Kachin state’s Hpakant township on Monday night with relief efforts taking place yesterday. It is reported up to 50 people were in the deserted mine when a wall collapsed.

The first mine incident occurred on 8 May killing 13.

The company, Yadanar Star, reportedly ceased its mining operations on 22 May. Soon after, hopeful prospectors moved in to search for undiscovered gems.

Daw Nilar Myint, head of

Hpakant’s General Administrative Department told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* that rescue efforts ceased yesterday at around 4:30pm and were said to begin again this morning, she also confirmed the death toll.

“Some managed to escape unharmed as they saw the wall slowly come down,” said Daw Nilar Myint.

It was originally reported to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR) as a landslide from dumped soil, but later reconfirmed by the Ministry’s Relief Department (RD), under the MoSWRR,

that it was the collapse of a mine wall and not from dumped soil.

Director of the MoSWRR’s RD, Dr. Min Thein confirmed that the wall collapse occurred at 9:03pm Monday evening and that initial reports claimed to have been a landslide from dumped soil. The department has donated MMK100,000 (US\$85) for recovery efforts.

The recent depression from Cyclone Roanu that moved over the state is said to be a leading factor. Kachin also experienced severe weather last month.

Deputy Director of the Department of Meteorology and Hy-

drology, Hla Tun says that from Monday to Tuesday Kachin has seen rainfall, but not widespread heavy falls, today the state is to experience similar weather.

In November last year 116 people were killed when a landslide from a mound of dumped soil buried a camp in the same area. Hundreds were reported missing; the number of those living in the camp was unknown.

The newly appointed government has plans under its “100-day plan” to prevent similar disasters like the November 2015 event.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw continues with Q&A session

THE Pyithu Hluttaw entered its 31st day session with a question and answer session on the construction sector yesterday.

In his response to a question on road construction in Rakhine State, Union Minister U Win Khaing said that a motorway connecting Rambre Township to Laytaung station will be upgraded into an all-weather road at the

end of the 2018-2019 FY with the use of annual funds.

Likewise, the Union minister replied to a question regarding the Monywa-Thek-kalgyin-Phaungpyin-Homalin-Khamti motorway and said that YeU-Kalewa road section on the motorway will be upgraded into a 19-mile concrete road and 61-mile and three-furlong



Union Minister U Win Khaing. PHOTO: MNA

tarred road at the end of 2016-2017 FY.

Road upgrades including the construction of bridges and retaining walls on the 464-mile and three-furlong Monywa-Khamti



U Kyaw Shwe. PHOTO: MNA

motorway are being carried out with the use of the Union budget and regional government's fund, said the Union minister.

During the 31st day session of Pyithu Hluttaw, Speaker



U Myo Nyunt. PHOTO: MNA

U Win Myint announced that the Pyithu Hluttaw received a bill revoking the state protection law sent from Amyotha Hluttaw with no amendment. — Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw



U Thein Swe. PHOTO: MNA



Col Hla Win Aung. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw continues debate on ward or village-tract administration law

THE Amyotha Hluttaw continued debating a third revised bill to amend the ward or village-tract administration law during its 28th day parliamentary session yesterday.

In his discussion, Col Hla Win Aung, Defence Services personnel Hluttaw representative, disagreed on the proposed removal of sections 13 (g) and 17 from the law, pointing out that lawmakers are responsible for providing security to the people in accordance with article 357 of the Constitution.

He emphasised the importance of the reporting of overnight guests and inspections in order to ensure the rule of law, peace, tranquility and public safety, warning that there is the possibility of tragic incidents that can befall the people if the provisions that guarantee security were removed.

In her discussion, Daw Ei Ei Pyone of Ayeyawady Region Constituency 8 called for the formulation of rules regarding monthly allowances to ensure uncorrupted

administration.

U Thein Swe of Ayeyawady Region Constituency 10 stressed the need to enact a just law that can be retained for three successive parliamentary terms.

During the 28th day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw the revocation for submission of a bill to revoke the duties and powers of People's Councils and executive members at various levels and a bill to revoke the Mandalay City Development Committee Law were approved. — Myanmar News Agency

Yangon Region Hluttaw discusses health, education sectors and waste collection system

THE Yangon Region Hluttaw continued for its third day with the regional social affairs minister answering questions on the education and health sectors of the region and representatives holding a discussion on a motion yesterday.

Responding to a question on the benefits of free education, Minister for Social Affairs U Naing Ngan Lin said that notification regarding the government's free education system has been sent to all schools in Yangon Region, saying that schools shall not charge students

school fees, parent-teacher fees or sports fees.

In his response, the regional minister said that there is no plan to build hostels or housing for teachers in Twantay Township as the budget would not allow for it.

On a question about school ferries, he said that school buses will be allowed to park during the prescribed times and traffic police personnel are set to deal with school ferries to avoid traffic congestion. Moreover, the regional minister said that works are underway to provide more

health staff to public health centres in Shwepyitha and North Okkalapa Townships. It is required we provide firm information in applying land permits for hospitals, health centres and schools to the regional government, he added. During yesterday's regional parliamentary session, Hluttaw representatives held discussions on a motion calling on the regional government to introduce a better waste collection system in Yangon and to formulate a plan on the dredging of drains prior to monsoon season. — Ko Moe

Hluttaw Speakers meet Japanese parliamentary delegation



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than welcomes Mr Takumi Nemoto, MP of the House of Representatives of the parliament of Japan. PHOTO: MNA

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than met with a Japanese parliamentary delegation led by MP Takumi Nemoto yesterday at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting the speaker and Mr Takumi Nemoto, member of the House of Representatives of the parliament of Japan, discussed matters

related to friendship and co-operation between the two parliaments.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint also received Mr. Takumi Nemoto and party in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the call, the Speaker and the Japanese lawmaker exchanged views on bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Japan. — Myanmar News Agency

UMFCCI to host fully online licensing system workshop

A WORKSHOP on a fully online licensing system is scheduled to be held at Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Yangon on 30 May.

The workshop is aimed at providing information to businesspeople that the import and

export online licensing system is fully operational, said a public relations officer from the UMFCCI.

According to sources, the Ministry of Commerce has issued import-export permits manually since 2014. It was required to go to the office of the Ministry of Commerce in

person to pay duties and obtain permits, though registration could be made through the Myanmar TradeNet Website.

With the establishment of the fully online licensing system, online applications for import and export licenses will be available next month. — Soe Soe Yu

Mandalay to launch own fibre optic network

Aung Thant Khaing

THE Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) is scheduled to launch its own metro fibre network to help the e-government system in cooperation with EAGER Communication Group Co Ltd according to an information officer of the committee.

Installation works kicked off on the Mandalay Metro Fibre Network on 28 March following the signing of an agreement between the committee and the company on 9 March, said U Kyaw Lin Nyein, MCDC's chief information officer, adding that 40km of optical fibre has been deployed for the network.

Aiming at launching its own fibre optic network, the MCDC studied Korea's e-government system in 2014, said the informa-

tion office.

According to the MCDC, micro trenching system and manual trenching system are being used to install more than 750-km network. Upon completion, triple play service offering Internet system, traffic light control and CCTV services through fibre cable will be available, said an expert from the company.

According to the three-year Mandalay metro fibre network installation project, the installation of 250km of fibre is set for completion each year.

Under the terms and conditions of the 30-year contract between the MCDC and the company, the committee will see no profit from the project for 20 years but will receive 40 per cent of the profit for the remaining 10-year period.

International Safeguards Regulatory Workshop held in Yangon

THE Atomic Energy Department of the Ministry of Education and the National Nuclear Security Administration of the Department of Energy of the United States jointly organised a two-day International Safeguards Regulatory Workshop in Yangon that ran 22 May until yesterday.

The workshop was aimed at focusing coordination on the formulation of regulations for the Nuclear Safety Law currently

being drafted by the Atomic Energy Department for implementation of an additional protocol to Myanmar's comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

It was attended by four experts from the US and Myanmar officials from the ministries concerned led by Director-General Dr Khin Maung Latt of the department.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Bill to Revoke Mandalay City Development Law published for public notice

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has made public the Law Revoking Mandalay City Development Law.

The Mandalay City Development Law (2002 State Peace

and Development Council Law No.8) will be revoked with the introduction of this Law.

The bill is covered in the state-run dailies today.—*Myanmar News Agency*

No date set in compensation plan for seized farmlands in Khayan Township

NO date has been given for the planned compensation for farmers whose farmlands were seized for the Kinpunchon sluice gate construction in Khayan Township, Yangon Region, said U Han Tun, regional minister for agriculture, livestock, forestry and energy.

It is because scrutiny of the some ministries' compensation cases for the seized lands is underway, added the regional minister while answering a question posed by U Thein Zaw Latt of Khayan Township Constituency 2 at the Yangon Region Hluttaw session yesterday.

According to the regional minister, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation confiscated a 32.40-acre plot of land owned by 14 farmers for the sluice gate construction with a pledge to pay

K800,000 per acre for the land.

Farmers received only one-third of the compensation they agreed to be paid up until June last year, said the Khayan Township Hluttaw representative.

Construction of the sluice gate, that cost K1,048 million was completed in January 2013.

According to local sources, several local farming plots are annually submerged by flood waters due to sluice gate leaks.

Dredging operations for Kinpunchon creek are underway to prevent farmlands in the township from flooding with the use of the regional fund for the 2016-2017 FY said Minister U Han Tun, adding that it is necessary to seek more funds from the regional government for the dredging operations to be completed.—*Ko Moe*



Visitors are seen outside Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in Yangon on 20 May. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Daiwa and ACE team up to provide security and technology for YSX

JAPANESE technology company Daiwa Securities Group will team up with the Myanmar-based ACE Data Systems in providing security and technological assistance to the nascent Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX), the exchange has announced.

"Daiwa and ACE are collaborating to implement a security system for the exchange high-standard technology," said U Thet Htun Oo, executive senior manager of the Yangon Stock Exchange.

Only First Myanmar Investment (FMI) and Myanmar Thilawa have thus far been permitted to trade shares on the exchange from among six originally listed companies, while trading on the exchange is limited to the hours

of 11am-1pm, unlike exchanges of foreign countries, which practice a system of continuous trading.

"We're still focusing on online trading, but it's not up to a high standard yet. We're still waiting on permission from the regulator, so we're not at the juncture whereby we're able to offer such a service," said U Thauang Han, managing director of CB Securities.

Those wishing to buy and sell shares on the YSX can currently only do so by visiting a securities company in person and making trade requests over the telephone.

"Once trading transactions can be made online, the need for many people to waste their time

to visit the securities companies will be rendered redundant. It's much more convenient if shares can be traded remotely from one's home," said U Kyaw Oo, a trader.

An American IT company has taken responsibility for providing technological support for CB Securities, while all other securities companies apply fully secure security systems.

The YSX was established by the Myanmar Economic Bank, which owns a 51 per cent stake in the exchange, and the Japanese Daiwa Institute of Research, which owns 30.25 per cent, while it is known the exchange has a working capital of K32 billion.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Talks held over 300MW solar power facility for Ayeyawady Region

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However, the Ayeyawady Region Department of Electricity, Industry and Communications has announced that no agreements have yet been made between the government and Won Toll Co, with talks only held after it was announced that the Won Toll Co applied to carry out studies for the potential im-

plementation of a solar power facility within the region.

"It's said that solar power is being used in neighbouring countries, but there's a need to consider their political contexts. I also believe preliminary studies should be conducted in regions that receive heavy rainfall, where solar panelling has been earmarked for," said U Myint

Aung of Beautiful Land, an environmental conservation group.

Myanmar's electricity consumption requirements annually rise by fifteen percent, while according to a recently published report, the entire country currently needs approximately 2,700 megawatts of electricity per year to meet demand.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Mine Wall Collapse Kills 12

>> From page 1

"This year, height restrictions have been placed on dumping soil, changing our previous practice so as to ensure landslides do not occur," Daw Nilar Myint, told The Global New Light of Myanmar on 18 May.

It was reported on 12 May that Union Minister for Natural

Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win said that no more jade mining blocks will be allowed and restrictions will be placed in Hpakant and Lonekhin mining blocks.

Yet, attempts to protect people from danger continue.

Mining began in Hpakant during the 90's when the State

Law and Order Restoration Council started handing out commissions, according to a Global Witness Report from December 2015. The same report estimated that Myanmar's jade mining operations were worth an estimated US\$31 billion in 2014.—*Additional Reporting Aye Min Soe*

Traditional Indian Dances performed in Mandalay



Traditional Indian Dances being performed in Mandalay. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

JOINTLY organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Indian Embassy to Myanmar under the Myanmar-India cultural cooperation programme, the Festival of Indian Culture took place at the National Theatre in Mandalay on 22 May with a greeting speech made by Dr. Nadakuma of the Indian consulate general based in Mandalay.

The Festival of Indian Culture encapsulates for a new audience the experience of Indian dance as it has evolved in various parts of the country. Six dance forms representing the diversity of

India's culture have been chosen: Bharatanatyam of Tamil Nadu; Kathak of northern India; Odissi, from Odisha in eastern India; Manipuri from the north-eastern India; Kathakali of Kerala; and Chhau which covers a wide swathe of territory in the eastern states of India. Nrityarupa has been crafted under the artistic direction of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance, and Drama, for the Festival of India.

Students led by Professor Daw Aye Sanda Aung of the Department of Drama Arts at the Mandalay University of National

Culture and Arts performed dances and held a fashion show of Myanmar Traditional Dress Designs, popular in three separate Myanmar eras. Present at the concert were deputy speaker of the Mandalay Region Hluttaw Dr. U Khin Maung Htay and Hluttaw Representatives, Region Minister for National Races U Sai Kyaw Zaw and region-level Departmental officials, Indian Councilor General Dr. Nadakuma, rector U Nyunt Win of the University of National Culture and Arts and faculty members, students and guests.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

Green environmental campaign to be launched to grow trees in water catchment areas

A GREEN environmental campaign will be launched in the rainy season to grow as many as 57.93 million trees in water catchment areas, according to the Department of Forestry.

"We'll grow trees in public places like hospitals, dispensaries, schools and religious precincts to keep our environment green, to preserve the natural environment and to instill in the people the spirit to love trees," said Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, director-general of the Forestry Department.

Forestation coverage reports are being conducted every ten years under the

district forest management project. Altogether 16 forest preservation measures will be taken between the 2016-2017 fiscal year and the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

In this function, awareness promotion talks are being given along with the development of public plantations.

The forest coverage percentage throughout the country was 57.97 in 1990, 51.54 in 2000, 49.25 in 2005, 46.96 in 2010 and 42.92 in 2015, with forest depletion sitting at 0.55 per cent between 1990 and 2010 compared to 1.73 per cent between 2010 and 2015.—*200*

Crime NEWS

Car accident kills one, injures another in Nattalin Township

A MOTORCYCLE collided head on with a car near Thanatkwin village, Nattalin township, Bago region on Monday leaving one person dead and another injured.

The motorcycle being driven by one Kyaw Htay, 58, collided with a car being driven by Than Aye, 62, with Kaung Myat Thu alias Moedi, 21, Daw Aye Han, 62, and Daw Tin Nwe, 52, on board. The reason for the collision is not yet known.

The accident killed the motorcycle driver on the spot while Kaung Myat Thu alias Moedi was seriously injured and is currently undergoing medical treatment



The car seen after accident. PHOTO: 062

at Nattalin general hospital. The police have opened a case and charged both drivers with reckless driving.—*(062)*

Cluster collision of four vehicles occurred in Kyimyindine



Cluster collision of four vehicles being seen. PHOTO: KO GYI TIN

A CLUSTER collision of four vehicles occurred in front of the Shwe Leikpyar Housing Estate on Lower Kyimyindine Road on Sunday at around midnight.

According to a witness, a vehicle driven by one Myo Zaw Oo, 21, crashed into three vehicles which were parked in front of the Shwe Leikpyar Housing Estate when the driver attempted to overtake another vehicle. Residents of the estate came to the assistance of the driver who became trapped due to the damage to his vehicle.

The driver has been charged by the police.—*Ko Gyi Tin*

Four men charged with motorcycle thefts

POLICE have charged four men on suspicion of stealing 13 motorcycles as they failed to prove to police that the bikes belonged to them.

The police stopped Aung Hlaing Oo, 19, and Thiha Tun alias Ashaygyi, 18, in Yae Nge village, Pyin Oo Lwin township on 22 May. The two admitted that they had committed theft together with Min Thu Aung

and Ko Khant alias Khant Zaw Phyoo.

Further investigation led to discovery of a string of motorcycle thefts, 13 in total, the gang had committed in Aung Myay Thasan, Maha Aung Myay, Amarapura and Chan Mya Thazi Townships, Mandalay region. Police are still pursuing the two suspects at large.—*Ko Ye*



Min Thu Aung and Ko Khant alias Khant Zaw Phyoo. PHOTO: KO YE

Man arrested for murder in Kyimyindine

POLICE filed charges against a man on suspicion of murder in Kyimyindine township on 22 May.

According to an investigation, the suspect, Myo Zaw Oo, 30, following a quarrel with one Daw Than Than Win, his mother-in-law, stabbed Ma Nwe Nwe Win, 42, daughter of Daw

Than Than Win. The assailant then fled the scene.

The victim succumbed to her injuries on the way to Yangon General Hospital. Police arrested the suspect on Min Mahaw road in Set Hsan ward, Kyimyindine. Police have filed charges against Myo Zaw Oo.—*Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)*

LOCAL Business

KBZ Gateway launches VSAT satellite system

KBZ Gateway Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Myanmar's KBZ Group of Companies Ltd, launched the new generation Very Small Aperture Terminal-VSAT today to provide high-speed satellite services to customers in the country and to link with international communication systems.

Speaking on the occasion, U Nyo Myint, Senior Executive Director of KBZ Group of Companies Ltd said KBZ Gateway Co Ltd, in cooperation with Hughes Network Systems and AsiaSat, would make for better and faster banking and financial services with the KBZ Group of Companies using the high-speed satellite services as a first step as part of its efforts to meet international standards.

In the second step, KBZ will provide its VSAT satellite services to telecommunication companies and business companies, applying the telecommunication technology as part of its efforts to



U Nyo Myint, Senior Executive Director of KBZ Group of Companies Ltd deliveries address at launching of VSAT system. PHOTO: KBZ

aid an emerging generation of satellite system in the country, he added.

KBZ Gateway, which established its base in Bago, lo-

cated about 50 miles north-east of Yangon, has offered to provide VSAT satellite services to customers across the country, promising safe and speedy ser-

vices for domestic and international telecommunication at competitive prices.

Also present at the launching ceremony at Strand Square were Yangon Region Economic and Finance Minister U Myint Thaung, US Ambassador to Myanmar H E Mr Scot Marciel, Executive Directors of KBZ Group of companies Ltd Nang Lang Kham and Daw Nan Kham Naung and President of Hughes Networks Systems Mr Pranav Roach.

Hughes Network Systems LLC (Hughes) is the global leader in satellite broadband for home and office use, delivering HughesON™ managed services for enterprises and governments worldwide.

The Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited (AsiaSat) has been Asia's premier satellite operator and providing satellite services to the world since it was established in 1988.—GNLM

IFC to invest US\$30 million in IGT

INTERNATIONAL Finance Corporation (IFC) is expected to invest US\$30 million in Irrawaddy Green Towers Ltd (IGT), which builds mobile telecommunication towers in Myanmar.

There are currently three telecommunication operators in Myanmar: Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (MPT); Telenor and Ooredoo. Viettel has been selected as the fourth mobile network operator. IGT has already built over 2,000 mobile towers across the country and has planned to build more 5,000 towers by 2018, with an estimated cost of \$490 million.

IGT mainly installs mobile towers in Myanmar. IGT received a loan of \$122 million from European Development Finance Institutions to build mobile communication infrastructure across Myanmar.—200

Rice export volume expected to reach over 1.5 million tonnes

THE volume of rice export is expected to reach over 1.5 million tonnes in this fiscal year 2016-2017, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar exported about 1.5 million tonnes of rice in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, earning US\$500 million, which has declined by 0.3 million tonnes compared to the export volume of rice in 2014-2015, according to the Department of Trade Promotion.

The department said this fiscal year is expected to meet the

estimated export volume of rice, although 2015-2016 did not meet the estimated export volume of rice. Last fiscal year, Myanmar exported \$2.5 billion worth agricultural products, amounting to \$300,000 million less than the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Myanmar produces about 13 million tonnes of rice per year. Local consumption is about 8 million tonnes, and five million tonnes are surplus, according to statistics from the Ministry of Commerce.—200

Dawei rice entrepreneurs call for free trade of rice

THE Dawei District Rice Association has called for the free trade of rice without permits as rice production in Dawei District is not self-sufficient.

Sending rice to Dawei by sea requires permits from both the Taninthayi and Yangon regional governments. Approval from the Yangon government usually takes between two weeks and one month, said some rice merchants from Dawei.

Rice can be loaded at the port only after receiving a permit from the Yangon Region government. Trading rice by road does

not require any permits but costs more in transportation charges, not to mention the low volume of trade. Besides, road transport faces a scarcity of trucks, said U Naing Lwin Lat, the chairman of the Dawei District Rice Association.

"The permit from Yangon takes a long time, and the permitted volume of rice does not meet the local consumption of Dawei. Sea trade is not easy in the rainy season, rendering an insufficient supply. It is usual that prices rise when the supply has declined," he added.

"Free trade is required to create a stable market for locals. It is local consumers who suffer when the supply does not meet demand," said a rice dealer.

Transporting one 112lb bag of rice from Yangon to Dawei costs K2,000 by road and K1,600 by sea.

A total of 2,500 tonnes of rice (around 50,000 rice bags) are sent to Dawei every month, according to the Dawei District Rice Association. The demand from Dawei has risen starting sharply since last year.—Union Daily

Fish farming survey to be conducted in Yangon and Ayeyawady

A FISH farming survey will be conducted in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions this year, according to the Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF).

We will organise young locals to join awareness courses to conduct surveys. Surveys will start to be conducted in the last week of May, said U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of MFF.

The survey will be funded by USAID and LIFT. A socio-economic consultant council organised by the President's office con-

ducted field trips with 250 people for fish farming in Myanmar in cooperation with an American university.

"We have studied how changes effect the Myanmar fishery value chain and national food security in areas, starting from fish farming, to the export market," said U Naung Lat, a fish and prawn entrepreneur.

There are over 200,000 fish lakes throughout the country, with the total of over 800 fish lakes in Taikkyi and Okkan townships.—200



Workers use a fishing net during harvesting at a fish farm in Htantapin township, outside Yangon on 18 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

US, Viet Nam agree to allow Peace Corps into Viet Nam for first time

HANOI — The United States and Viet Nam on Tuesday signed an agreement allowing the US Peace Corps to work in the country for the first time.

The signing, which comes amid a historic three-day visit by President Barack Obama, follows more than a decade of negotiations between the two countries to establish a Peace Corps operation in Viet Nam. The programme, which is expected to begin over the next two years, allows Peace Corps volunteers to teach English in schools in the country's two largest cities, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, said Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet, who signed the agreement with Viet Nam's ambassador to the United States, Pham Quang Vinh. US Secretary of State John Kerry, who was present for the signing, said the agreement marked a further nor-



US Peace Corps Director Carolyn Hessler Radelet (L) and Vietnamese ambassador to the US Pham Quang Vinh sign a document on Peace Corps Operation in Viet Nam as US Secretary of State John Kerry (C), US ambassador to Viet Nam Ted Osius (L, standing) and Viet Nam's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh (R, standing) witness at the Government Guesthouse as part of the visit by US President Barack Obama in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 24 May, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

malizing of relations between the United States and Viet Nam. "For 20 years now we have had what we call a normal relationship," said Kerry, who in 1968 served as a young US naval officer in the Viet Nam War.

"This is normal, having the Peace Corps being able to move forward, having young Americans come here, not always young, to be able to teach English in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh is the next step forward to

building the relationship between the United States and Viet Nam," he added. After the signing, Hessler-Radelet turned to Kerry saying: "You've waited for this for a long time." —Reuters

Cambodia holds ceremony predicting this year's crops

PHNOM PENH — King Norodom Sihamoni presided over a traditional astrology ceremony on Tuesday near Angkor Wat Temple, using a pair of royal oxen to divine this year's crops.

The annual ceremony, held this year in the northern province of Siem Reap, hometown of Angkor Wat, marks the start of the rainy season, a harbinger of farm yields in the largely agricultural nation.

Watched by King Sihamoni and other royals, as well as senior government officials, royal astrologer Korng Keng read signs from the oxen based on the food the animals chose from a selection of seven golden trays contained rice, corn, bean, grass, sesame, water and

rice wine.

From his observation, Korng Keng concluded that Cambodian farmers this year will see very good crops of rice, corn and beans, the choice this year for the royal oxen.

According to Cambodian astrology, if the oxen only pick grass for their meal, the country may face livestock disease or attacks by insects on crops.

If the oxen drink the rice wine, political turmoil, warfare and violence awaits the nation.

Cambodia's rainy season lasts from May through October.

Farmers account for about 75 per cent of the Cambodian population of 15 million. —Kyodo News

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South Korea says more North Korean restaurant workers defect from third country



North Korea's surveillance cameras sit on the top of a steel tower to overlook the south, near the truce village of Panmunjom, South Korea, on 30 March, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — Several more North Korean workers have fled their jobs in an overseas restaurant run by the isolated North, South Korea's Unification Ministry said on Tuesday after a media report said three people had escaped from China and were claiming asylum.

New Focus, a Seoul-based website run by North Korean defectors with sources in the North, said three workers from an unidentified restaurant in Shanghai had fled to a third country, citing an unidentified source.

South Korea's *Mun-*

hwa Ilbo newspaper reported earlier on Tuesday that the workers were in Thailand. It also cited an unidentified source.

The latest reports follow the defection of 13 North Korean workers from a restaurant run by the secretive North in China in April, a case South Korea described as unprecedented.

North Korea has accused South Korea of a "hideous abduction" and released interviews on state media with the families of some of the workers who arrived in the South in the April incident. In the latest

case, South Korea's Unification Ministry confirmed that some North Koreans working in a restaurant overseas had recently "broken away".

An official said the ministry could not confirm whether they had entered South Korea, how many workers had defected, and where they currently were.

The two Koreas have remained in a technical state of war since their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. In recent years they have been locked in a prolonged period of rhetoric and heightened ten-

sion. North Korea has adopted a different strategy on defectors under leader Kim Jong Un, displaying those who later defect back to the North on state television and bringing the families of others to Panmunjom on the border between the two states. Seven of other restaurant workers who did not join the 13 in defecting in April returned to Pyongyang and were later shown to a CNN reporter on a trip to North Korea.

The families of some of the defectors were also interviewed by CNN in May.—Reuters

North Korean envoy rejects Trump overture to meet leader

GENEVA — US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's proposal to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is a "kind of propaganda or advertisement" in his election race, a senior North Korean official said on Monday.

Trump, in a wide-ranging interview with Reuters in New York last week, said he is willing to talk to the North Korean leader to try to stop Pyongyang's nuclear programme, proposing a major shift in US policy toward the isolated nation.

"It is up to the decision of my Supreme Leader whether he decides to meet or not, but I think his (Trump's) idea or talk is nonsense," So Se Pyong, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, told Reuters on return from Pyongyang after attending the first ruling party congress in 36 years.

"It's for utilization of the presidential election, that's all. A kind of a propaganda or advertisement," he said. "This is useless, just a gesture for the presidential election."

"There is no meaning, no sincerity," So added.

As a candidate, US President Barack Obama made unfulfilled campaign promises to meet the leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), he said.

North Korea conducted a fourth nuclear test in January and



A combination photo shows a Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) handout of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un released on 10 May 2016, and Republican US presidential candidate Donald Trump posing for a photo after an interview with Reuters in his office in Trump Tower, in the Manhattan borough of New York City, US, on 17 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

launched a long-range rocket in February, triggering tougher international sanctions and the adoption of a more hardline position by South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

So, who is also North Korea's ambassador to the UN-backed Conference on Disarmament, reiterated that his country was prepared to return to stalled six-party talks on its nuclear programme. China and Russia backed the idea, but the United States and its allies

South Korea and Japan reject it, he said. "As a responsible nuclear state ... we will never use them first," So said. "If the United States use their nuclear weapons first, then we have to use also that one."

"If the United States gives up their hostile policies and changes their attitude, then we also (can) have relations as a normal country," So said. "To South Korea, we proposed high-level military talks but South Korea refused now."

South Korea dismissed on Monday a North Korean proposal for military talks as "a bogus peace offensive" and said it was formally rejecting the overture because it lacked a plan to end the North's nuclear programme.

So said that North Korea would not share nuclear technology with other countries. "As a responsible nuclear state, we keep and observe the obligations of non-proliferation of nuclear technology".—Reuters

Japan to give \$3.5m to drought-hit Papua New Guinea, Viet Nam

TOKYO — Japan will donate a total of \$3.5 million in emergency assistance to Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam, hit by severe droughts due to the El Niño phenomenon, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

Japan will disburse \$1 million to Papua New Guinea via the World Food Programme, a UN body, to help with food shortages, while \$2.5 million will be given to Viet Nam through the UN Children's Fund to assist local people in need of water and nutrition.

Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam are among countries that will join an outreach session of the Group of Seven summit to be held in central Japan for two days from Thursday.

The latest El Niño, a warming of sea-surface temperatures in the eastern part of the Pacific, started in summer 2014, according to the Japanese weather agency. It has triggered heavy rainfall, droughts and other abnormal weather patterns around the world, hitting the production of agricultural products. —Kyodo News

Thai blaze victim, 10, 'called for her mum and dad until voice was gone'

WIANG PA PAO, (Thailand) — A 10-year-old Thai girl called out for her mother and father as a blaze swept through her school dormitory "until her voice was gone", her mother said on Tuesday.

The fire broke out late on Sunday as the girls, aged between five and 12, slept at a Christian

school for children of hill-tribe families in the northern province of Chiang Rai. Seventeen girls died.

Investigators are looking at the possibility of faulty lighting on the ground floor below the dormitory.

Malawian Saw-wa's daughter,

May, died in hospital. Her elder daughter survived by jumping from a second-floor window, she said.

"My eldest daughter said she heard May calling for mum and dad to help until her voice was gone," Malawian said.

"Never in my lifetime will I let my daughter out of my sight. The school must be held responsible for this. My daughter was my heart and soul."

Five of the victims have been identified and police were seeking to identify the others through DNA tests.

Police questioned witnesses on Tuesday, and said they had not yet reached a conclusion on the cause of the fire.

"We still need to gather evidence from the scene first on what caused this and whether this was due to negligence," said district police chief Prayad Singasin.

A forensics officer told Reuters evidence pointed to a loose light bulb melting on the ground floor of the two-storey building, causing the fire that killed the girls

in the dormitory above.

Around 10 of the 19 girls that survived slept on the school grounds on Monday night as their parents had yet to arrive from far-flung areas to pick them up, said Tuenjai Tanachakant a local who volunteered to help at the school after the fire.

Some of the parents also slept at the school where they lit incense sticks and prayed.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha sent his condolences to the families of the victims and the school.

"The prime minister wanted to send a message to all the teachers and students that the fire may burn down the school buildings but don't let it burn away their hopes," government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd told reporters.

Prayuth said he had ordered government agencies to work to reduce the number of deadly accidents in Thailand. In Bangkok on Tuesday, a blaze at a restaurant and bar killed two people, police said.—Reuters

A-bomb attacks caused regrettable humanitarian effect: Kishida

TOKYO — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Tuesday the outcome of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 was "extremely regrettable" and at odds with the notion of humanitarianism as the basis of international law.

Kishida's comments came ahead of US President Barack Obama's planned visit to Hiroshima on Friday as the first sitting US president to do so.

"Due to the atomic bombings, many lives have been lost and an extremely regrettable humanitarian situation was brought about," Kishida, a House of Representative member from a constituency in Hiroshima, told reporters.

"The stance of the Japanese government has always been that the atomic bombings do not conform to humanitarianism, which constitutes a philosophical basis of international law," he added.

Obama is not expected to apologize for the nuclear attacks when he visits the western Japan city devastated by the atomic bombing in the final stages of World War II.—Kyodo News



Malawian Saw-wa, 33, (L) and Yupin Saw-wa, 28 who lost their daughters, cry near a burnt building at the Pitakiat Wittaya School in the northern province of Chiang Rai, Thailand, on 23 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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

Mete out deterrent punishment for corruption

Khin Maung Aye

WHAT people expect most of the incumbent government is to uproot corrupt practices. In fact, successive governments have taken anti-corruption measures but all their effort came to naught for various reasons. One reason is that they were very lenient in giving punishment. Another reason is that they have taken action against the people in the lower or lowest positions, sparing the top-ranking public officials, or those who have close relation with the important persons. Last but not the

least, authorities are very forgiving, holding the wrong belief that the public service personnel are corrupt merely because they cannot make ends meet with the meagre amount of salary. In fact, this assumption is only partially true because there are a lot of corrupt service personnel who are insincere in their performance of duties not because of insufficient salary but because of their avarice – their extreme greed for wealth or material gain. These avaricious public officials should not be spared if the administrative machin-

ery is wanted to run effectively and efficiently.

In this regard, the incumbent government has already submitted a bill amending anti-corruption law enacted by U Thein Sein regime to Pyithu Hluttaw very recently to more effectively implement anti-graft and corruption measures. This is a welcoming action as bribery, graft and corruption pose threat to national interests. In addition, no corrupt government is wanted by the people. The ruling party's loss in 2015 election can be chiefly attributed to cases of

graft and corruption on the part of public officials high and low in rank.

Such being the case, the new government has been determined to eradicate bribery and corruption. It is believed that the government has a very strong political will to keep itself clean. This will is reflected by cabinet members and the people's representatives. The Global New Light of Myanmar would like to earnestly request the government to mete out deterrent punishment in cases of graft and corruption.

To Promote Human Rights is to Promote Peace

Dr. Khine Khine Win

SINCE 1945, the scope of human rights has been elaborated and the concept now permeates the fabric of international society. However, until today there is no real definition or articulation of human rights. Different people see human rights in different ways. The UNOHCHR define human rights as "Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination". Vienna Declaration and Program of Action (1993) states human rights as "Human Rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human being". Here we must acknowledge that all human beings are entitled to human rights and fundamental freedom. No matter who you are, where you are from and what you do, you have rights because you are human being. Universally agreed four characteristics of Human Rights are Universal, Inalienable, Indivisible and Interdependent.

Human Rights and fundamental freedoms allow us to develop fully and use our human qualities, our intelligence, our talents and our conscience and to satisfy our spiritual and other needs. However, without support and encouragement from government for promotion and protection of human rights nothing can happen. Returning once more to the Vienna Declaration adopted by the World Conference on Human

Rights; the first responsibility of Governments is to promote and protect human rights for their peoples.

The Charter of the United Nations is a guiding beacon along the way to the achievement of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world. The United Nations goal is to keep peace in the world through international unity and collective security. In order to fulfill this goal, the international community must

Generally Assembly in 1948 and he said "now we have learned that no matter how much we love peace and hate war, we cannot avoid having war brought upon us if there are convulsions in other parts of the world". The fact is peace is hard. But our people demand it. Over nearly seven decades, even as the United Nations helped avert a third world war, we still live in a world scarred by conflict and plagued by poverty. Even as we proclaim our love for

of United Nations, in 1948 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UDHR was come out which is the important document in the history of human rights and is the world's first declaration that recognizes that all human being must enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Indubitably, it provides a value framework of human rights which many subsequent documents expand into legally binding texts. However, until today people in

a breeding ground for mass human rights violations too. If there is conflict, it is hard to bring human rights and freedom.

Germany Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier made a speech on 28th Session on UN Human Rights Council in 2015 and in his speech he said "We cannot have human rights without peace and conflict resolution. But the reverse also holds true: peace can never be assured without respect for human rights." Again Mr. Steinmeier said how impossible it was to talk about the global human rights situation without mentioning the key trouble spots in world politics.

To date, there are many people who fight for their rights in all over the world. Here, bear in mind that human Rights is not a political tool pushing to the corner, the Human Rights situation should be improved by the people themselves, through a bottom up approach. Third parties can only facilitate a peaceful atmosphere and occasions, so that respective Nations are willing to engage themselves to improve their own human rights situation. In order to become a peaceful world, we must cultivate peace, reduce and combat violence and insecurity, encourage government to improve human rights situation of their own country are essential. As global citizens, it is the responsibility of all of us, to do our part to make the world a better place.

To promote human rights is to promote peace. Work for human rights is inextricably linked with work for peace and security, no doubt.

“ It provides a value framework of human rights which many subsequent documents expand into legally binding texts. However, until today people in all over the world have not always had their basic rights due to many reasons: political, impunity, conflicts, poverty and culture etc. In recent decades, armed conflicts have blighted the lives of millions of civilians. Without doubt, conflicts weigh heavily on men, women, child, old-person, disable person and they suffer negative impacts on economically and socially. Conflict is not just violation of right to life; it is a breeding ground for mass human rights violations too. If there is conflict, it is hard to bring human rights and freedom.

treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis. Without peace there is no human rights and no peace. Peace and freedom cannot be ensured as long as fundamental human rights are violated. Similarly, there cannot be peace and stability as long as there are oppression and suppression.

U.S President Mr. Obama made remarks at United Nations

peace and our hatred of war, there are still convulsions in our world that endanger us all. Although this remark was made since five years ago, my personal view is that it is true till now. Based on his remark, if getting peace is hard, it is hard to bring human rights and freedom, too. There is a role of human rights here. Lasting peace cannot be realized without respect for human rights.

Three years after the forming

all over the world have not always had their basic rights due to many reasons: political, impunity, conflicts, poverty and culture etc. In recent decades, armed conflicts have blighted the lives of millions of civilians. Without doubt, conflicts weigh heavily on men, women, child, old-person, disable person and they suffer negative impacts on economically and socially. Conflict is not just violation of right to life; it is

Can Myanmar's cement industry contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in limestone karst areas?

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and Myanmar's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation are developing policies to mainstream biodiversity conservation into plans and practices for the cement industry.



Sin Minn Cement Industry Co. Ltd. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY SIN MINN CEMENT INDUSTRY CO. LTD.

ON 11 May, the first 'karst (limestone) ecosystem conservation' stakeholder workshop, including forestry, environmental conservation, mining and heavy industry departments, cement companies and civil society organisations convened to ensure that policies, plans and practices for limestone quarrying by the cement industry include appropriate safeguards for karst ecosystems.

Limestone is a key raw material for the cement industry. Considering Myanmar's rapid urban growth and the growing demand for cement to feed road and building construction, the development of quarries and cement companies is expected to accelerate, with foreign investment in the sector increasing.

The environmental impact of quarrying limestone has rarely been adequately assessed, not only in Myanmar, but across the world. The special nature and concerns of limestone areas have not been taken into account. The biodiversity of limestone ecosystems, both surface and cave systems, is highly characteristic and restricted, comprising species able to cope with the extremely alkaline environment, species that can endure dry soil and rock conditions, and species confined to caves. Some species are confined to a single limestone hill or cave system, the quarrying of which can lead rapidly to global species extinction.

Some of the cave species have significant economic value and provide outstanding environmental services. For example, swiftlets found on the limestone islands of the Myeik archipelago produce edible nests, while large colonies of cave bats feed on millions of insects every night in the surrounding agricultural landscapes, thus helping to control pests in thousands of hectares of paddy fields.

The extraordinary bumblebee bat, the smallest bat in the world weighing no more than two grams, occurs in very few caves in Mon and Kayin states, as well as adjacent sites in Thailand.

Myanmar's caves also have tremendous archaeological and cultural value; the Padah Lin harbours remnants of Neolithic culture, including 13,000-year-old rock paintings of human hands and animals. Other caves host important historic Buddhist temples such as the Pindaya caves temple with Buddha images dating back to the late 18th century. The caves remain an important pilgrimage site even today. Without doubt there are unknown and hidden caves in Myanmar that could hold enormous interest related to Myanmar's rich heritage.

Important limestone and cave areas in Myanmar are located mainly in Shan, Kayah, Kayin states, and in Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions.

In the workshop, participants

identified several recommendations and actions for mainstreaming karst biodiversity conservation into the cement sector:

1. Develop guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessments for limestone quarries;
2. Designate and protect key limestone biodiversity areas for protected area designation (e.g. Wildlife Sanctuary) or management as local nature monuments (e.g. cave management by local monastery);
3. Develop best practices for biodiversity conservation for limestone quarry plans and operations;
4. Pilot best practices for limestone ecosystem conservation at private sector and state-owned cement company quarries.

Cement companies can completely destroy limestone ecosystems and cause global species extinction. However, if the government develops adequate EIA and planning procedures that identify and avoid areas of high limestone biodiversity for the development of limestone quarries, and if the cement industry applies best practices in limestone quarrying, Myanmar can still safeguard the outstanding natural and cultural heritage of its unique limestone landscapes,' says Fauna & Flora International's Myanmar Programme Director, Frank Momberg.—GNLM

Unless You Want to Follow the Right Path at the Right Moment

POEM:

If you devote the whole day heedlessly,
To indulging the Five Senses insatiably,
You will miss the Nibbana surely.
Then you will just be adrift aimlessly,
In the Four Woeful Planes blindfoldedly.

And you will sink deep in the Hell disastrously,
Without the chance of bobbing your head up momentarily.
You yourself should shun sensibly,
The way to such a lengthy plunge mindfully.
Your folly grows in the light of the Desana constantly.

If you discard your innate greed totally,
And mend your way really,
Eternal bliss will accrue to you with certainty.
Alas! If you don't want to follow the Right Path at the right moment,
Will there be anyone else more foolish than you?

If you don't want to strive hard at the right moment,
Will there be anyone else more fallible than you?
If you don't want to wriggle free at the right moment,
Will there be anyone else more losing than you?

Translated by Dr. Saw Mra Aung

ခွင့်သာခိုက်မှ မလိုက်ချင်လျှင်

(လယ်တီဆရာတော်)

ငါးအာရုံအင်အစု-ခင်မှုနှင့် နေ့ကုန်။
နှင်ယခုမေ့ပုံ-တွေ့မကြုံစခန်း။
ပယ်လေးဝသောကဘုံမှာ-မြောရရှိတော့ခမန်း။ ။

အောက်အဂီဝိသောင်အငူမှာ-ခေါင်းမပြုစတန်း။
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ဒေသနာထင်အလင်း-နှင့်အဖျင်း ပိုထက်သာပို။ ။

သည်လောဘ စရိုက်အိုကို- မလိုက်လိုရှောင်ပစ်မှ။
နောင်အသစ်တကယ်ပင်-ဇလိမ်အစဉ်။
ခွင့်သာခိုက်ကမှ မလိုက်ချင်လျှင်။ အမိုက်နှင့်ပြင်ရှိသေးလိမ့်လား။ ။

ခွင့်သာတိုးကမှ -မရုံးချင်လျှင်။ အရှုံးနှင့်ပြင်ရှိသေးလိမ့်လား။ ။
ခွင့်သာထဲကမှမခဲချင်လျှင်-အလွဲနှင့်ပြင်ရှိသေးလိမ့်လား။ ။

BFM funds Kyaw Thu Parahita Network to carry out further social welfare activities

KANBAWZA Brighter Future Myanmar (BFM) donated K500 million to the Kyaw Thu Parahita Network yesterday to speed up effective social welfare activities in the country.

At a ceremony held at the Jasmine Palace Hotel in Yangon yesterday, Daw Nang Leng Kham, Chairperson of the foundation, donated K50 million each to the Free Funeral Service Society (Yangon) and Maha Panita Parahita Pagoda, K20 million

each to the Home for the Aged Artists and parahita societies of the Kyawthu Parahita Network and K15 million each to the other 24 Parahita societies to aid their social welfare activities.

"Today's donations are aimed at assisting social welfare societies across the country to be able to carry out their activities effectively," said U Nyo Myint, Senior Executive Director of the KBZ Group of Companies Ltd.

Since its establishment in

2007, BFM has funded social welfare activities in the religion, education, health and sports sectors.

Currently BFM is implementing the water supply project, supplying drinking water to people facing water scarcity nationwide with the use of 43 water tankers, digging tube wells and building water supply facilities.

BFM has spent more than K1 billion so far on social welfare activities to date.—GNLM



Daw Nang Lang Kham presents cash donation to Kyaw Thu Parahita Network through \ U Kyaw Thu. PHOTO: KBZ

Greece starts clearing makeshift migrant camp on border



A refugee family carry their belongings during a police operation at a refugee camp at the border between Greece and Macedonia, near the village of Idomeni, Greece, on 24 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

IDOMENI, (Greece) — Greek police started moving migrants and refugees out of a sprawling tent camp on the sealed northern border with Macedonia on Tuesday where thousands have been stranded for months trying to get into western Europe.

Reuters witnesses saw several bus loads of migrants leaving the makeshift camp of Idomeni early on Tuesday morning, with about another dozen buses lined up. It appeared to be mainly families who were on the move.

Greek authorities said they planned to move individuals gradually to state-supervised facilities further south in an operation expected to last several days.

"The evacuation is progressing without any problem," said

Giorgos Kyritsis, a government spokesman for the migrant crisis.

A Reuters witness on the Macedonian side of the border said there was a heavy police presence in the area but no problems were reported as people with young children packed up huge bags with their belongings.

Media on the Greek side of the border were kept at a distance and a group of people dressed as clowns waved balloon hearts and animals as the buses drove past.

"Those who pack their belongings will leave, because we want this issue over with. Ideally by the end of the week. We haven't put a strict deadline on it, but more or less that is what we estimate," Kyritsis told Reuters.

At the latest tally, 8,199 people

were camped at Idomeni after a cascade of border shutdowns throughout the Balkans in February barred migrants and refugees from central and northern Europe. More than 12,000 lived in the camp at one point.

The International Rescue Committee's country director, Panos Navrozidis, said that on-site pre-registration had proved a good incentive for refugees to leave Idomeni although the asylum process remained "inadequate and slow".

Railway tracks between Greece and Macedonia have been blocked by migrants for weeks, forcing trains to switch routes through Bulgaria further to the east. Some goods wagons have been stranded on the tracks for weeks.—Reuters

Russia, Ukraine commit to Minsk accords in call with France, Germany

BERLIN — The leaders of Russia and Ukraine discussed with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the French President preparations to hold elections in an eastern Ukrainian area hit by a pro-Russian insurrection, according to the German government.

Progress on implementing the Minsk peace accords, negotiated by Berlin and Paris, has stalled. The elections are a key step in the agreement designed to end a conflict that has killed more than 9,000 people since April, 2014. Moscow and Kiev accuse each other of failing to stick to the deal, which also includes restoring Kiev's control over the whole border with Russia and the withdrawal of heavy weaponry from the conflict zone.

"In the centre of the consultations were security questions and the preparations for local elections in the conflict areas in eastern Ukraine," said German government spokesman Steffen Seibert in a statement.



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko gestures during a news conference in Kiev, Ukraine, in 14 January, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"The participants on the call agreed to intensify their cooperation in both areas to swiftly achieve progress."

The EU imposed sanctions on Russia after Moscow annexed Crimea from Ukraine in March 2014 and stepped them up later that year when pro-Russian rebels seized territory and fought Ukrainian troops in eastern Ukraine. Russia denies Western accusations it has supplied equip-

ment and troops to the rebels.

The conference call, including Merkel, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and France's Francois Hollande took place late on Monday.

In a constellation called the Normandy Format, Germany and France have repeatedly tried to push Russia and Ukraine towards resolving the conflict.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clinton turns down Fox News offer to debate Sanders again

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton, the front-runner in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, turned down on Monday an invitation by Fox News to debate rival Bernie Sanders in California, despite having agreed previously to a debate in May.

"We believe that Hillary Clinton's time is best spent campaigning and meeting directly with voters across California and preparing for a general election campaign that will ensure the White House remains in Democratic hands," her campaign said in a statement.

Sanders had already agreed to participate in the event to be hosted by Fox News, following a series of heated exchanges during their fifth debate in April in New York.

"I am disappointed but not surprised by Secretary Clinton's unwillingness to debate before the largest and most important primary in the presidential nominating process," Sanders said in a statement.

The US senator from Vermont has remained steadfast in his long-shot battle with Clinton for the Democratic nomination for the 8 November presidential election, although he lags her in the delegate count with only a few state contests remaining.

"Naturally, Fox News is disappointed that Secretary Clinton has declined our debate invitation," Bill Sammon, Fox News vice president and Washington managing editor, said in a statement, "especially given that the race is still contested and she had previously agreed to a final debate before the California primary." California holds its primary on 7 June.—Reuters

Italy helps rescue 2,600 migrants from sea in 24 hours

ROME — Italian vessels have helped rescue more than 2,600 migrants from boats trying to reach Europe from North Africa in the last 24 hours, the coastguard said on Monday, indicating that numbers are rising as the weather warms up.

Some 2,000 migrants were rescued off the Libyan coast from 14 rubber dinghies and one larger boat in salvage operations by the Italian navy and coastguard, the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres and an Irish navy vessel, the coastguard said.

Another 636 migrants were rescued from two boats in Maltese waters, in operations involving Maltese and Italian vessels, it said. It gave no information about the nationalities of those saved.

More than 31,000 migrants have reached Italy by boat so far this year, slightly fewer than in the same period of 2015.

Humanitarian organisations say the sea route between Libya and Italy is now the main route for asylum seekers heading for Europe, after an EU deal on migrants with Turkey dramatically slowed the flow of people reaching Greece.—Reuters

Quake shakes southern Mexico, no immediate reports of damage

MEXICO CITY — An earthquake struck on land near the southwestern coast of Mexico on Monday, earthquake monitoring institutes said, but there were no immediate reports of major damages or injuries.

The quake was centred 36 kilometres (22 miles) northwest of Arriaga, a city in the southern state of Chiapas.

Mexico's Seismological Institute reported the quake with a magnitude of 5.7, while the US Geological Survey put it at 5.2 and at a depth of 120.5 km (74.9 miles).—Reuters

Thailand produces less longan due to severe droughts

BANGKOK — Thailand is producing less longan either for export or domestic market this year, primarily due to severe droughts, said a government official on Tuesday.

Several northern provinces of the country are expected to yield a combined 473,000 tons of longan throughout this year, accounting for a 13 per cent drop from last year, said Anusorn Pornchai, head of the Office of Agricultural Economics' Chiang Mai provincial branch.

The decline in total longan volume is largely caused by droughts throughout northern Thailand, especially in Chiang Mai province where about 4,500 acres of longan plantations have been found critically damaged by droughts, the official said.

That included a large number of longan trees which have already dried up standing due to severe lack of water for several weeks.

Harvest season on an estimated 320,000 acres of longan plantations in Chiang Mai and other northern provinces is not expected until August, he said.—Xinhua

Syrian Kurds point finger at Western-backed opposition

PARIS — The main Western-backed Syrian opposition has gained little by demanding the fall of President Bashar al-Assad other than fuelling killings and the refugee crisis, a senior official from Syrian's northern Kurdish region said on Monday.

Syrian Kurds and their allies are finalizing plans for an autonomous political federation in the northern part of the country. They are pressing ahead despite the objections of foreign governments which fear Syria's disintegration and alarm from neighboring Turkey, which fears a growing Kurdish sway in Syria is fuelling separatism among its own minority Kurds.

While talks to end the five-year conflict in Syria struggle, the plans are taking shape independently of United Nations-led diplomacy and creating facts on the ground in an area of the country known in Kurdish as Rojava.

"The problem is not the fall of Assad or people that are ruling, but changing (the) system," Sinam Mohamed, a member of the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union (PYD) told reporters in Paris.



Participants pose for a picture during a ceremony opening a representative office of Syrian Kurdistan in Moscow, Russia, on 10 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"It's not matter of fighting Assad or not. It's how do you change the system from a dictatorship into a democratic system in Syria. Look at the other opposition, they called for the fall of Assad, but they have gained nothing but killing and many refugees," she said.

The PYD has been left out of the faltering Geneva peace process, where the main Western, Arab and Turkish-backed

High Negotiations Committee (HNC) opposition group has suspended its participation after it accused the government of breaking a fragile truce and blocking aid to besieged areas.

The HNC, which does include Kurdish groups, has accused the PYD and its allies of tacitly supporting Assad.

Sinam Mohamed is co-chair of the alliance led by the PYD. It controls an uninterupt-

ed stretch of 400 km (250 miles) along the Syrian-Turkish border from the Euphrates River to the frontier with Iraq, where Iraqi Kurds have enjoyed autonomy since the early 1990s. They also hold a separate section of the northwestern border in the Afrin area.

She was speaking after opening a fourth overseas representative office for Rojava following similar moves in Moscow, Berlin and Stockholm. She said they aimed at giving the Syrian Kurds a voice overseas and promoting them as the best military force to defeat Islamic State militants in Syria.

"Our priority is to defeat terrorism and build stability in Syria," Mohamed said.

The French foreign ministry said it did not recognize the legitimacy of the Kurdish representative office. However, France is part of the US-led coalition that is carrying out air strikes in support of the PYD's military wing, the YPG, and groups fighting with it as they make advances toward Islamic State's bastion of Raqqa.—*Reuters*

Hardliner elected as head of Iran's top clerical body

TEHRAN — A powerful anti-Western cleric was chosen on Tuesday as the head of Iran's new Assembly of Experts, in a sign that hardliners are still in firm control of the body in charge of choosing the next supreme leader.

Ahmad Jannati, 90, is an outspoken critic of President Hassan Rouhani and his attempts to end Iran's global isolation by normalising ties with the West.

The 88-member assembly, consisting mostly of elderly clerics, is expected to choose the successor to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is 77 and rumoured to be in frail health. The supreme leader has the final say on all state matters, including foreign policy. He is commander-in-chief of the armed forces and appoints the heads of the judiciary, state broadcasting and major economic conglomerates. By comparison, the president has little power.—*Reuters*

Iraq forces shell Falluja for second day; UN concerned for civilians

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces shelled Islamic State targets in Falluja on Tuesday, the second day of an assault to retake the militant stronghold just west of Baghdad.

As the government sought to ease international concerns about the risk to civilians, residents in the city, 50 km (30 miles) west of the capital, reported sporadic shelling around the city centre, but said it was less intense than on Monday.

"No one can leave. It's dangerous. There are snipers everywhere along the exit routes," one resident told Reuters by internet.

Some 100,000 civilians are estimated to be in Falluja which, in January 2014, became the first Iraqi city to be captured by Islamic State, six months before the group declared its caliphate. The population was three times bigger before the war.

The Iraqi military said it had dislodged the militants from Garmah, a village east of the city, overnight. No casualties were reported

by the army or the city's main hospital. On Monday, eight civilians and three militants were killed, and 25 people wounded, 20 of them civilians, according to the hospital.

The United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross issued statements on Monday evening appealing for the warring parties to protect civilians, who have limited access to food, water and healthcare.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi told Iraqi TV that the armed forces had been "instructed to preserve the lives of citizens in Falluja and protect public and private property." Abadi ordered the offensive despite concerns that it could divert resources from a push later this year to retake Mosul, Islamic State's de facto capital, and in the face of months of political chaos since his plan to appoint a cabinet of independent ministers — in a bid to fight corruption and patronage — was blocked by parliament.—*Reuters*

Syrian army soldiers inspect the damage after explosions hit the Syrian city of Tartous, on 23 May, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Russia has special responsibility to push Syria to stop attacks — US

WASHINGTON — The United States said it was not discussing joint air strikes with Russia on Monday and called on Moscow to press Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government to cease air strikes against opposition forces in Aleppo and the Damascus suburbs.

"We're not looking at joint operations," said State Department spokesman Mark Toner. "We're discussing with them proposals for sustainable mechanisms to better monitor and enforce the cessation of hostilities — we're not talking about joint operations."

Toner said the United States was concerned about an uptick

in violence in Syria — by both Islamic State and Assad's forces — and said Russia had a special responsibility to press the Syrian leader to end attacks and strikes that kill civilians.

The Syrian government needs to recognise that "if this keeps up, we may be looking at a complete breakdown" of the cessation of hostilities, Toner said. A truce brokered by the United States and Russia in February has been unravelling for weeks.

Washington urged the Assad regime to end its escalating attacks on Aleppo and Daraya, as well as besieging towns and obstructing humanitarian access,

the department said.

"Secretary Kerry raised these concerns in a call with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov earlier today and urged him to press the regime to cease at once airstrikes against opposition forces and innocent civilians in Aleppo and the Damascus suburbs," the State Department said in a statement.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for bombs that killed nearly 150 people and wounded at least 200 in Jableh and Tartous on Syria's Mediterranean coast on Monday in the government-controlled territory that hosts a Russian military base.—*Reuters*



Members of the Iraqi security forces load a machine gun near Falluja, Iraq, on 23 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

French police break up refinery blockade in anti-reform showdown

MARSEILLE/PARIS — French police using water cannon and tear gas broke up a strike picket that was blocking access to a large oil refinery in the southern port area of Marseille on Tuesday in a government versus union showdown over contested labor law reforms.

The police operation outside the Fos-sur-Mer refinery, which belongs to US-based Exxon Mobil Corp, took place as scores of fuel stations ran dry and the government warned the industrial action would not be tolerated.

"Enough is enough," said Prime Minister Manuel Valls, who warned the hardline CGT labour union behind other pickets attempting to choke off fuel supply sites would also be dealt with "extremely firmly".

The pre-dawn police operation marked an escalation in the standoff between President Francois Hollande's government and the CGT, which is organizing rolling strikes at oil refineries, ports and railways.

"We'll see this through to the finish, to withdrawal of the labor law," said CGT leader boss Philippe Martinez. "This is a government which has turned its back on its promises and we are now seeing the consequences."



French gendarmes remove tyres and branches after striking workers blockaded roads near the oil terminal at Fos-sur-Mer, near Marseille, France, on 24 May 2016 with France's hardline CGT and FO unions toughening their stance against labour market reforms. PHOTO: REUTERS

At issue a year from presidential and legislative elections is a reform Hollande hopes will encourage new jobs and help tackle an unemployment rate stuck near 10 per cent.

Opponents, including the CGT and a youth protest movement, say the reform will unravel some of the

most protective labor regulations in the euro zone, allowing firms to lay off staff more easily in hard economic times and by providing further exemptions from national rules on pay and working conditions.

The dispute has shone a spotlight on the battle for influence within the CGT,

once France's biggest trade union group but an organisation whose power has shown signs of waning.

Martinez has little choice but to pursue a strategy of brinkmanship and high-profile protests, industrial relations analysts say, due to internal upheavals in which hardliners have got

the upper hand at the union.

The pickets around fuel supply depots started to bite last weekend, sparking rationing at many of the roughly 12,000 petrol stations nationwide in response to delivery problems and a surge in demand due to panic-buying by motorists.

As of Monday, more

than 500 of oil firm Total S.A.'s 2,200 petrol stations had either partly or completely run out of fuel.

Emergency stocks are sufficient to keep the country's fuel stations in operation for up to two months if the government chose to tap into those supplies, but Valls had already warned that the pickets would not be tolerated for long.

Emmanuel Lepine of the CGT union said about 40 busloads of riot police took part in an operation "of unprecedented violence" outside the Fos-sur-Mer refinery. The CGT announced that strikes had now spread to all eight of France's refineries. "Output is going to fall by at least 50 percent," said Lepine.

The CGT has also called weekly strikes on the SNCF state railways and an open-ended strike on the Paris underground and suburban commuter train networks from June 2, a week before the Euro 2016 soccer tournament opens. The CGT's Martinez accused the government of "playing a dangerous game" by refusing to back down on a reform that has triggered waves of street protests by hundreds of thousands of opponents in the three months since it was hatched.—Reuters

Far right narrowly defeated in Austrian presidential election

VIENNA — Austria came close to becoming the first European Union country to elect a far-right head of state as postal ballots on Monday decided a knife-edge presidential vote in favor of the anti-immigration candidate's environmentalist opponent.

The results were awaited nervously by governments across Europe, where populist anti-immigration parties have surged over the past year on concerns over a refugee influx, continued weak economic growth and high unemployment.

After the election was too close to call on Sunday, a count of absentee votes on Monday thrust 72-year-old Alexander van der Bellen past anti-immigration Freedom Party rival Norbert Hofer and into the largely ceremonial post of president.

The Freedom Party and its European allies expressed disappointment at the defeat but delight at the record support from Austrian voters, while traditional parties of government breathed a sigh of relief.

"Fifty per cent confidence in Norbert Hofer is a gigantic showing," his campaign manager Herbert Kickl told public broadcaster ORF, toning down comments before the election that suggested the Freedom Party (FPO) might contest the count.

"One thing is clear: there are many Norbert Hofers in the Freedom Party and we are very, very well placed for parliamentary elections — whenever they come," he added.

The Interior Ministry

count gave van der Bellen, a former Greens party leader, 50.3 per cent of the vote, compared to 49.7 per cent for Hofer. The margin of victory was just over 31,000 out of nearly 4.5 million valid votes cast.

One factor behind the strong FPO showing was dissatisfaction with the two centrist parties that have dominated politics in Austria, often by governing in coalition, as they do now, and carving up top institutions between them over the decades.—Reuters



Alexander Van der Bellen, a former leader of the leftist Greens party now running as an independent, waves to supporters as he arrives for his final election rally ahead of Austrian presidential election in Vienna, Austria, May 20, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

South Africa's Zuma appeals against corruption charges ruling

PRETORIA — South African President Jacob Zuma is appealing against a court ruling that corruption charges against him should be reinstated, his office said.

"The President believes that the decision of the Court affects him directly and is of a strong view that the Court erred in several respects in its decision," it said in a

statement released late on Monday.

The Pretoria High Court last month ordered a review of a 2009 decision by the National Prosecuting Authority to set aside hundreds of charges against Zuma, terming it "irrational".

Zuma's office said the court made a mistake in saying the National Director

of Public Prosecutions was not entitled to terminate a prosecution on the basis of misconduct and abuse of the process.

"President Zuma believes that the appeal raises important issues of law and fact and also believes that the appeal has reasonable prospects of success," the Presidency said.—Reuters

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| (2) | IFB-009(16-17) | 4" ERW Steel Line Pipe, API 5 L, Grade A 10,000 MTR | US\$ |
| (3) | DMP/L-007(16-17) | Server Computer (DAQ) and UPS (2 KW) (2) Items | Ks |

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EgyptAir remains point to blast, no explosives traces so far — forensics

CAIRO — Human remains retrieved from the crashed EgyptAir flight suggest that there was an explosion on board the plane, although no traces of explosives have been detected, an Egyptian forensics official and investigation sources said on Tuesday.

The official based his assessment on the small size of body parts so far recovered from the Mediterranean Sea, where EgyptAir flight 804 crashed on Thursday.

“The size of the remains points towards an explosion, the biggest part was the size of a palm,” the forensics official said, adding that about 23 bags of body parts had been collected since Sunday.

However, another senior forensics official said only a tiny number of remains had arrived so far and it was too early to specify whether there had been an explosion aboard.



Recovered debris of the EgyptAir jet that crashed in the Mediterranean Sea is seen in this handout image released on 21 May 2016 by Egypt's military. PHOTO: REUTERS

French investigators say the plane sent a series of warnings indicating that smoke had been detected on board as well as other possible computer faults shortly before it disappeared.

The signals did not indicate what may have caused smoke, and aviation experts have said that neither deliberate sabotage nor a technical fault could be ruled out.

Investigators rely on

debris, bags and clothes as well as chemical analysis to detect the imprints of an explosion, according to people involved in two previous probes where deliberate blasts were involved.—Reuters

Chinese peacekeeping contingent ends its mission in Mali

BAMAKO — China's contribution to peace and stability in Mali has been hailed at the end of the mission of its third contingent of 395 peacekeepers that it deployed to the West African nation.

“Chinese peacekeepers have boarded a plane back to China, happy that they have accomplished their mission of supporting Mali in restoring peace,” a statement from the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) said on Monday.

They have been replaced by peacekeepers of the fourth contingent.

Mohamed El-Amine Souef, head of the UN mission in northern Mali town of Gao, gave each of the departing peacekeepers a “certificate

of appreciation” for the contribution they made in the last 12 months in Gao region, the statement revealed.

The statement added that Souef had not only hailed China's support for peace and stabilization in Mali, but also its important role at the UN Security Council.

Prior to the departure of the contingent, a high level Chinese military delegation led by Col. Li Xinhua visited MINUSMA offices to evaluate the contribution and work accomplished by the said contingent in Mali.

“On behalf of the Chinese government, we thank you for the recognition of the contribution made by Chinese peacekeepers,” Li said after receiving the certificate of appreciation.—Xinhua

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

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

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

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

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

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Philippine actress's win at Cannes 'providential' for Duterte's drug fight

MANILA — Philippine President-elect Rodrigo Duterte's vow to root out crime and drug abuse will get a boost from the country's first-time acting win at the Cannes Film Festival for a drama on a small-time drug dealer, a senator and anti-crime advocate said.

Filipino actress Jaclyn Jose won Best Actress for her role in "Ma' Rosa", a brutal dive into the Manila underworld directed by Brillante Mendoza.

"It will strengthen the fight," Senator Vicente Sotto III, who used to head the policymaking Dangerous Drugs Board under the Office of the president, told Reuters.

"It's not only coincidental, but it's providential," said Dante Jimenez, head of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, of Jose's win in a film that tackles drugs and how to eradicate them.

Set in Manila's slums, "Ma' Rosa" tells the story of Rosa Reyes, portrayed by the 52-year-old Jose, who owns a small store and sells drugs with her husband to make ends meet.

Both are detained at a police station after their home is raided, leaving their three children to find the money needed to pay off corrupt police officers in order to free their parents.

It was the first acting honour for the Philippines at Cannes, and



Actress Jaclyn Jose (L), Best Actress award winner for her role in the film "Ma' Rosa", reacts on stage next to her daughter actress Andi Eigenmann during the closing ceremony of the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, on 22 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

also the first international win for Jose. Mendoza, 55, won the Best Director award at Cannes in 2009 for "Kinatay".

Jose's victory comes weeks before Duterte is sworn as the Philippines' 16th president. Duterte, who vowed to crush crime, corruption and drug abuse, has a huge lead over his rivals in an unofficial vote count

by an election commission-credited watchdog of the 9 May election.

Citing a government report, Jimenez, whose own brother was killed by a drug syndicate in 1990, said 93 percent of the Philippines' 42,000 villages were "drug-infested".

Duterte, who is pushing to reimpose the death penalty by

hanging, promised to wipe out drugs and criminality within six months of taking office.

Duterte's often outrageous comments have won him huge support and his tirades about killing criminals and a joke about a murdered rape victim do not appear to have dented his popularity in the largely Roman Catholic country.—Reuters

Drake holds off Beyonce for top spot on Billboard album chart

LOS ANGELES — R&B artist Drake held his spot atop the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday, keeping Beyonce from the coveted No 1 position.

"Views," Drake's fourth studio record, sold another 234,000 units from album and song sales and was streamed more than 186 million times, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

"Views" debuted at the top of the chart with more than 1 million units in sales after its April 28 release, the biggest opening week so far in 2016.

Drake has managed to keep the top spot from Beyonce's hit "Lemonade" album, which remained steady at No 2 with 128,000 units sold in the week ended on 19 May.

Beyonce has not made "Lemonade" available for streaming except on premium platform Tidal, limiting its consumption.

Drake, on the other hand, made "Views" available on streaming platforms such as Spotify, which has made up a major portion of weekly sales.—Reuters

Angelina Jolie to teach at London School of Economics on women in conflict

LONDON — Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie is to join the London School of Economics (LSE) as a visiting professor on a new masters course on women, peace and security, the school announced on Monday.

The LSE said the course, which starts next year, is the first of its kind globally and will be run by the LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security which was

launched last year by Jolie and Britain's former foreign secretary, William Hague.

"It is vital that we broaden the discussion on how to advance women's rights and end impunity for crimes that disproportionately affect women, such as sexual violence in conflict," Jolie, a special envoy for the U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR), said in a statement.

"I am looking forward to teaching and to learning from the students, as well as to sharing my own experiences of work-

ing alongside governments and the United Nations."

Hague will also be joining LSE as a visiting professor.

The Oscar-winning actress and Hague have become an unlikely double-act on campaigning to end sexual violence against women in conflict.

The partnership was sparked by Jolie's 2011 directorial debut "In the Land of Blood and Honey" that was set against the backdrop of the 1992-95 Bosnian war in which an estimated 20,000 women were believed to have been raped.

The pair co-founded the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative in 2012 to rally global action on such crimes, increase the numbers of perpetrators brought to justice and ensure better support for survivors.

They co-hosted the first global conference on the issue in London in 2014. Hague said the new course would help underpin their work by developing research to help tackle the culture of impunity.—Reuters

Japanese pop star critical after being stabbed by male fan



Japanese pop star Mayu Tomita is in critical condition after being stabbed nearly two dozen times by a male fan. PHOTO: PTI

TOKYO — Japanese pop star Mayu Tomita is in critical condition after being stabbed nearly two dozen times by a male fan.

A man, Tomohiro Iwazaki, 27, was arrested after witnesses said he attacked Tomita with a knife during an event at around 5 pm on Saturday in Koganei, Western Tokyo. The suspect admitted attacking her, reported Kyodo.

Tomita, 20, was attacked for apparently refusing a gift from the man. She was stabbed in the neck, chest and back and was

found unconscious. Her condition is said to be still critical.

According to the Metropolitan Police Department, Tomita had told them earlier this month that a man named Iwazaki had been persistently sending her messages via her blog and Twitter account.

This is not the first time that a female Japanese musician has been attacked.

In May 2014, girl group AKB48 were attacked by a man wielding a saw at one of the group's meet-and-greet events.—PTI



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Special Envoy Angelina Jolie. PHOTO: REUTERS

Booker International Prize winner urges fellow Koreans to read more

SEOUL — South Korean author Han Kang, whose novel “The Vegetarian” had sold just 20,000 copies in her home country before it became a candidate for Britain’s prestigious Man Booker International Prize, urged Koreans on Tuesday to read more.

Han won the prize for fiction last week with the novel, a dark, surreal story about a woman who gives up eating meat and seeks to become a tree.

“There are many writers whom I like and respect, who are quietly, silently writing in their rooms. I hope that you read them as well,” the soft-spoken Han, 45, told a news conference, her first back home since winning the award in London.

Han, a creative writing instructor in Seoul who shared the prize with the British woman who translated the book, Deborah Smith, has been catapulted to literary stardom with the win.

While relatively few Kore-

an novels have been big sellers overseas, the country’s cultural exports, from music and movies to cosmetics and food, are creating a global buzz.

“The Vegetarian” sold about 20,000 copies in Korean from its 2007 publication to early this year, before its inclusion on the long list for the Booker International Prize, awarded to a work of fiction translated into English and published in Britain.

A total of 462,000 copies in Korean had been printed as of Tuesday, Changbi Publishers said.

“I am overwhelmed. I had thought the previous 20,000 copies sold was good enough. I am thankful to everyone who is reading my books,” said Han.

In “The Vegetarian”, Yeong-hye, a dutiful wife, rebels against societal norms after struggling with gruesome recurring nightmares. She forsakes meat and stirs worry in her fami-



Winner of the Man Booker International Prize for fiction, South Korean author Han Kang, attends a news conference in Seoul, South Korea, on 24 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ly that she is mentally ill.

Han comes from a literary family. Her father wrote the best-selling novel “Aje Aje Bara Aje”, which was made into a movie. Her brother is also a novelist, and her husband is a liter-

ary critic.

“I was raised enveloped in Korean literature. I read works from Korean and foreign writers, so I have affection as well as debt towards literature,” she told the more than 100 journalists at

a cafe in a Seoul district popular with students and artists.

“I feel, and hope, that Korean pieces can be read widely. I feel that Korean literature is starting to become a trend, now is just the beginning.” —Reuters

Famed Italian photographer Berengo Gardin looks back on his changing world

ROME — Italy’s most famous photo reporter, Gianni Berengo Gardin, has spent more than half a century documenting a disappearing world and now recognises that even his own profes-

sion is fading fast.

In a major retrospective of his work at Rome’s Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Berengo Gardin’s black-and-white photographs capture Italy’s shift from

a largely rural economy to its rapid industrialisation following World War II.

The most recent reportage, dating from 2013-15, shows huge cruise liners docking in Venice, dwarfing the city’s delicate architecture, unleashing hordes of tourists on the lagoon city.

The pictures stand in stark contrast to Berengo Gardin’s early images of Venice, from the 1950s and 60s, where a lone girl runs through St. Mark’s Square and lovers kiss in an otherwise empty, colonnaded street.

“You can no longer do photographs like that,” 85-year-old Berengo Gardin told Reuters. “Venice is totally different to what it once was. It is full of tourists. It has all changed.”

Born near the city of Genoa in 1930, Berengo Gardin moved to Venice after the war. Photography was just a hobby until

an uncle sent him books by the US greats Walker Evans and Dorothea Lange, and he realised the camera’s potential.

He himself has now published more than 250 books and, despite his age, he still wanders around with a Leica camera hanging from his shoulder, ready to capture a fleeting moment.

Although he has travelled widely, his most famous images were taken in Italy — psychiatric patients imprisoned in dilapidated hospitals, youngsters dancing on a beach to music from a wind-up gramophone, workers in an Olivetti factory.

“People go round the world to photograph places like Hawaii. Then they realise there is so much more beauty here,” he said.

The exhibition, which runs until 28 August, is called “True Photography”, with Berengo

Gardin arguing that unlike much of today’s digital photography, his work is free of artefact.

“There are a mountain of false photographs out there that pretend to be genuine, but that have in fact been manipulated in Photoshop. It is a type of fraud,” he says.

“I am an old photographer, born into an age of real photography, and I still want to defend it,” he says.

However, in a time when everyone uses their smartphones to capture every aspect of life, and with newspapers struggling to survive, Berengo Gardin fears he is defending a dying art.

“You still have fashion photographers, but photo reportage as a career is over. I have friends who used to make a living out of this, people who were famous and successful but are now dying of hunger,” he said.—Reuters



A man holds the catalogue of the exhibition titled “True photography” by Italian photographer Gianni Berengo Gardin in Rome, on 23 May.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Entertainment Channel

(25- 5-2016, Wednesday)

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>6:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather Report • Pyi Thu Ni Ti <p>6:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartoon Programme “The Prince of Egypt” (Part- 2) <p>7:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>7:40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>8:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Programme <p>9:00 pm</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Myanmar Music Icon” Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-2) <p>9:20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Movie Songs <p>9:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part- I) <p>9:40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Programme <p>10:10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Video |
|---|---|

From 25-5-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm
To 26-5-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm

Myanmar International

(25-5-2016 07:00am ~ 26-5-2016 7:00am) MST

| Today Fresh | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| 07:03 Am | | News |
| 07:25 Am | | Wet Markets in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market |
| 07:34 Am | | A Real Dream of Accidental Gift |
| 08:03 Am | | News |
| 08:26 Am | | Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-3) His Public Service & Literary World |
| 08:50 Am | | Black Gold (Part - I) |
| 09:03 Am | | News |
| 09:26 Am | | Bollywood Actress “Laila Khan” (Born & Raised in Myanmar) (Part-I) |

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| 09:45 Am | | Bollywood Actress “Laila Khan” (Born & Raised in Myanmar) (Part-II) |
| 10:03 Am | | News |
| 10:26 Am | | The World’s Largest Book |
| 10:50 Am | | Sagaing: Gold Leaf |

(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 | | Cruising to Precious Islands (Part-1) |
| 08:03 Pm | | News |
| 08:26 Pm | | Exquisite Myanmar Silk |
| 08:45 Pm | | Chef Life “Thanakrit Chamnongbutr” |

(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)



Rafael Nadal.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Flawless Nadal races into French Open second round

PARIS — Rafael Nadal started his quest for a record-breaking 10th French Open title in merciless fashion, demolishing Australian Sam Groth 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 on Tuesday.

The fourth-seeded Spaniard, who will play either Argentine Facundo Bagnis or French qualifier Kenny de Schepper in the second round, played flawless tennis

throughout, making only three unforced errors in a one-sided match.

Nadal, who turns 30 next week, has won two titles on clay this season, including the Monte Carlo Masters in April.

He ended his opponent's misery with a trademark cross-court forehand winner on his second match point on Court Suzanne Lenglen.—Reuters

Australian Open champion Kerber falls in Paris first round

PARIS — Angelique Kerber discovered that being the newest member of the grand slam winner's club did not earn her any free points as the Australian Open champion succumbed to a 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 first-round defeat by Kiki Bertens at the French Open on Tuesday.

The German third seed's first grand slam match since triumphing at Melbourne Park in January ended in pain and despair as a shoulder injury prevented her from making much impact against hard-hitting Dutchwoman Bertens.

Kerber stepped on court wearing a striking black and white outfit but over the course of the next hour and 41 minutes, her mood had turned as grey as the dark clouds hovering over Roland Garros.

"I'm disappointed that I lost the first round here...that was for sure not my best tennis I played today," the dejected 28-year-old, who took a medical time out in the third set, told reporters.

"I tried to fight but she played good then in the important moments."—Reuters

Pogba 'the Pickaxe' ready to carve out more French glory

PARIS — France built their greatest triumphs on midfield and in Paul Pogba they may have what it takes to win a third European Championship title on home soil.

The Juventus midfielder has been a key element of Didier Deschamps's squad since winning the first of his 29 caps three years ago.

Nicknamed "the Pickaxe", the 23-year-old, who has scored five goals with Les Bleus and was named the 2014 World Cup's best young player, left Manchester United for Juventus in 2012, feeling he had been snubbed by Alex Ferguson at the age of 19.

With Juve, he matured into a versatile midfielder with an elegant way of shielding the ball, whose ability to score long-shot goals can prove devastating.

This season, he scored eight goals from 35 Serie A games as he inspired the club to a fourth successive Serie A title.

"I have played with some great young players but Pogba was the

Football Soccer - Juventus v Milan Juventus' Paul Pogba reacts during the match against AC Milan at Olympic Stadium, Rome, on 21 May.

PHOTO: REUTERS



best

young

player I

have ever seen,"

said former team

mate and Italy mid-

fielder Andrea Pirlo.

"We saw from his first training session with Juventus that he was special. You can build a team around him." France coach Didier Deschamps has perfectly understood that and has been doing his best both to protect Pogba and keep his feet on the ground.

"He's been doing very well but he can improve, like everyone. I can

be tough on him if needed, that's for his own good," Deschamps said in March. "I have great faith in him." France prevailed at Euro 1984 at home with their 'Carre Magique' (Magic Square) of Michel Platini, Alain Giresse, Luis Fernandez and Jean Tigana. Thirty-two years on, Pogba could well lead Les Bleus to another European title.—Reuters

Van Gaal deserved more respect, better treatment — Blind

LAGOS — Netherlands international Daley Blind believes sacked Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal deserved more respect, better treatment and faced unfair speculation over his future before being dismissed on Monday.

"I always worked well with him and would have been keen that the co-operation lasted longer. The manager of a top club in England is naturally under much more pressure but over the last six months he has not been treated fairly," Defender Blind told reporters at the Dutch team's training camp in Portugal.

"I think a manager like Louis van Gaal, who has achieved so much already, deserved more respect," added Blind from the Netherlands' base for three

post-season internationals over the next fortnight.

"Even though there was so much being written about him losing his job over the last months, he always looked to protect and shelter us. It is not easy for a coach if you are repeatedly being fired in the newspapers.

"Still, we as a squad kept believing in the manager and showed that with our FA Cup win (over Crystal Palace on Saturday).

"That we did together for the supporters, the manager and for ourselves. It was in the end, a good finish to the season," added the 26-year-old Blind, who Van Gaal brought across from Ajax Amsterdam when he took over at Old Trafford two years ago.

"If it is true that Jose Mourinho is coming, then it is also a



Louis Van Gaal. PHOTO: REUTERS

manager who has achieved much. I... will have to show what I can do. Personally I can look back on a good season in which I played 57 matches plus a few internationals," he said. Team mate Memphis Depay said he believed

his future at the club was safe despite Van Gaal's departure.

"I don't know why it wouldn't be. I am happy to be there and the management know I'm happy to be there," said the 22-year-old forward, who was left

out of the FA Cup final squad.

"A love-hate relationship? I'm not sure about that. But him leaving is part of life in football and you learn from that and it makes you stronger."

Finishing the season with the Dutch national team, added Depay, would be a chance "to train at a high level and hopefully play some internationals, a fine way to end the season".

"Of course, I want to show here that I can play football. It is a good opportunity to play again after being on the bench for a lot of games," he said.

The Netherlands are scheduled to play friendlies against three Euro 2016 qualifiers starting with Ireland on Friday, before matches against Poland (1 June) and Austria (4 June).—Reuters