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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Htin Kyaw presents gifts to one of 115 elders representing the 1,514 elders of Thongwa Township who are above 80 years of age. PHOTO: MNA

## President U Htin Kyaw welcomes New Year with prayers, respect to the aged

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw, First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin and family held a ceremony for paritta recitation and for paying respects to the aged in Thongwa in the Yangon Southern District and welcomed the new year.

Paritta recitation is the an-

cient Buddhist tradition of reciting verses and scriptures in order to ward off evil fortune or dangerous conditions.

President U Htin Kyaw, family and congregation first received the Five Precepts admin-

istered by Thongwa Township Ovadaciriya Sitkone Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovida and then listened to the recitation of paritta by the Members of the Sangha. Afterward, the President and his family donated offertories to Thongwa Township Ovadaciriya Sitkone Sayadaw

Bhaddanta Kovida. The Yangon Region Chief Minister and wife, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker, Yangon Region government ministers, Hluttaw representatives and officials then donated offertories to the Sayadaw and monks.

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## Nay Pyi Taw doctors reattach severed hand

Myo Myint, Mi Mi Phyoo, Hmwe Kyu Zin

A man's hand that had been cut off at the wrist after a sword attack was successfully reattached by a medical team at Nay Pyi Taw 1,000-bed Hospital, only the fourth successful instance of limb reattachment in Myanmar history.

Professor Dr. Zaw Wei Soe of University of Medicine 1, numerous surgeons, and an anaesthesia team led by Professor Dr. Kyaw Aung Htun performed the multi-stage operation.

Ko Aye Htun, a farm worker from Thagaya, Yedashe Township, Bago Region, had his right wrist severed and his head injured on the morning of 3 March when he was attacked by a fellow farm worker armed with a sword.

"I put up my hand to protect myself and didn't even realise my hand was cut off at the wrist", Ko Aye Htun said.

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Ko Aye Htun and reattached hand. PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE



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# Nay Pyi Taw doctors reattach hand severed at the wrist

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"I wrapped my wrist stump in a cloth and went to Swa hospital. Swa hospital was not capable of providing proper treatment and I was sent to Nay Pyi Taw 1,000-bed hospital around 11am.

When the hospital discovered that Ko Aye Htun did not bring his severed hand, hospital officials had to send someone back to Yedashe Township to retrieve the hand, he said. By the time the limb was recovered and brought to the hospital in Nay Pyi Taw, it would be late in the evening when the reattachment surgery could begin. Ideally a severed limb must be reattached within six hours. It had already been over 10 hours by the time the operation began.

"It was already 4pm when I reached the hospital, and I was operated on at 11pm", Ko Aye Htun said. "I don't remember anything after that".

What occurred after that was a deliberate, focused effort by dozens of doctors and nurses who worked as a team for several hours.

"First, the cut-off hand was cleaned and cooled with ice while the patient's wrist, above the cut, was cleaned", said Dr. Kyaw Aung Htun, a surgeon at Nay Pyi Taw 1,000-bed hospital. "First the bone was reattached with a steel rod and then the arteries were reattached. The cut on the patient's head was also treated."

After the initial operation, the patient's wounds were treated with medicine every other day, Dr Kyaw Aung Htun said. Once the condition of Ko Aye Htun stabilised, reattaching of the nerves was made on 4 April.

"There were three stages in this treatment. First, we ensured that blood flowed through the arteries. Second, we attached the



The medical team at Nay Pyi Taw 1,000-bed Hospital that performed the reattachment surgery on 3 March.



Dr. Thida Hla, Medical Superintendent. PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE



The right hand of Ko Aye Htun after reattachment surgery.

nerves. Third, and finally, we covered the affected area with skin from the thigh", Dr. Kyaw Aung Htun said.

The successful reattachment of a limb was only the fourth in

Myanmar history, and a first for Nay Pyi Taw 1,000-bed Hospital.

"Around 1980-90, Professor U Myo Myint of University of Medicine 1 conducted the first successful hand reattaching op-

eration in Southeast Asia. Afterward, Professor U Khin Maung and team conducted many successful hand reattaching operations. It is the first successful operation in Nay Pyi Taw 1,000



Dr. Zaw Wei Soe.

bed hospital, and Ministry of Health and Sports is very happy and proud to announce this at the time of our New Year", said Dr. Zaw Wei Soe, Professor of Medicine at University of Medicine 1.

"Success in this operation is achieved through teamwork. Teamwork that involves the ambulance that took the cut-off hand, treatment provided at the emergency ward and operation to reattach the hand. It is important for us all to do it together", Dr Zaw Wei Soe said.

"It is a very proud time for the hospital", said Dr. Thida Hla, the Chief Medical Officer for Nay Pyi Taw 1,000-bed Hospital. "Nay Pyi Taw 1,000-bed Hospital provides treatment free of charge, and this patient was similarly provided."

Over a month later, Ko Aye Htun is recovering and is thankful to the talented medical professionals who were able to save his hand.

"Now I can move a little even though it still hurts a bit. I'm told it will be completely healed in about six months. I thank everyone. Except for my food, everything is provided free in this hospital", Ko Aye Htun said.

## U Hau Do Suan presents his credentials to United Mexican States President

U Hau Do Suan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Mexican States, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Enrique Pena Nieto, President of the United Mexican States on 11 April 2017, in Mexico City.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Accused killer found in Scotland, still not arrested

Mark Angeles

An accused killer has been located, but he remains a free man, for now.

News that the prime suspect in the November murder of a British man who taught English in Yangon is living in freedom with his girlfriend in Scotland is bringing more anguish and heartache to the already distraught family of the victim.

Gary Ferguson, 47, was found dead in a Kyauktada apartment with head and chest wounds on 6 November, two days after drinking and partying with a fellow teacher, Harris Binotti, 26, during which neighbours heard an argument among two men and a woman in the early morning hours of 4 November.

Yesterday, a British newspaper reported that Binotti was

discovered to be in Craigton, Scotland, a suburb of Glasgow, living with his girlfriend and drinking in local pubs, much to the distress of Gary Ferguson's grieving relatives.

"That's painful to see photos of him living his life in freedom", said Donna Ferguson, the victim's sister, referring to photos in the Scottish Sun showing Binotti and girlfriend Elsie Devolder living in a smart tenement and taking walks.

Binotti is believed to have been using a false name.

An onlooker in Glasgow told the Scottish Sun: "He's been coming and going as he pleases, though recently he's kept a lower profile."

"He has been checking out who is coming and going in the street."

It has been learnt that police in Scotland cannot arrest or detain Binotti until Myanmar authorities

request his detention.

"He has not been captured (because) the police still need a certain permission from the Crown", said Martin Ferguson yesterday, expressing frustration about how a man accused of killing his brother has been living comfortably.

"He is working and enjoying life", Martin Ferguson told the Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday.

"He was never hiding [in Glasgow]. He was out and about. He seems to have been enjoying himself, drinking in local bars", Martin Ferguson earlier told The Times in the UK.

Binotti fled Myanmar on the morning of Saturday, 5 November, the day before Ferguson's body was discovered by Binotti's girlfriend and Ferguson's wife. It

remains unknown how he travelled back to Scotland.

Binotti and Ferguson were colleagues at the Horizon International School in Yangon. Ferguson had worked there since 2013, but Binotti worked there for only a few months. Binotti's girlfriend Elsy Devolder was also a teacher in Yangon.

Last week, Interpol issued an international "red notice" alerting police forces around the world that Binotti was wanted for extradition.

As authorities in Myanmar and Scotland wind their way over legal hurdles, the prime suspect in the brutal beating death of Gary Ferguson remains a free man, prolonging the anguish of a grieving family.

"It is very, very painful", Donna Ferguson said. "We can not believe how this is possible."





The top tier of the pagoda was loosened as a result of the Tuesday earthquake. PHOTO: TACHILEK DISTRICT IPRD

## Earthquake damages pagoda in Talay

AN earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter Scale hit Talay, Tachilek District, on Tuesday afternoon, damaging a pagoda but no casualty is reported.

Talay was hit by a massive earthquake in 2011 and saw huge destruction and casualties.—*Tachilek District Information and Public Relations Department*

## RFID system to be installed in licensed vehicles to spot illegal cars

RADIO Frequency Identification (RFID) will be fixed in licensed vehicles next month to control illegal vehicles which are currently being operated in the Yangon region, it is learnt.

The RFID chips will be affixed in licensed vehicles with the arrangement of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in cooperation with Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

The RFID chips are being installed with an aim to reducing traffic congestion and car accidents, taking action against the vehicles that are involved in the commission of crimes and

cars fleeing from the scene of accident.

Authorities issue vehicle licenses yearly in Myanmar. Authorities have already issued a Yangon license to 1,003,588 vehicles and 5,122,701 motorbikes.

The National Road Safety Council (NRSC) is rendering supervision to prevent the outbreak of the vehicle accidents. Currently, the ministry of transport and communications is systematically managing licensed vehicles and implementing the RFID system across the country to take action against unlicensed vehicles.—*Min Thu*

### Correction

THE last paragraph of the article titled “1,200 crimes, 285 dead, 1,073 injured nationwide during Thingyan Festival” on page 6 of the 18 April issue of The Global News Light of Myanmar should read: “During the entire Thingyan period, there were 208 Thingyan-related crimes causing the death of 16, 194 injuries. There were also 992 crimes not related to Thingyan that causes 269 deaths and 879 injuries. There were a total of 1,200 crimes that resulted in 285 deaths and 1,037 injuries nationwide during the Thingyan festival.—*Than Oo (Layhmyatnar)*”

# President U Htin Kyaw welcomes New Year with prayers, respect to the aged

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State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Thongwa Myoma Yayle Monastery's presiding Sayadaw Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Bhaddanta Nandarlinkara then delivered a sermon to the congregation, followed by sharing the merits gained.

The President and his family then paid respect and presented cash and kind to 115 elders representing the 1,514 elders above 80 years old. Elder U Hla Tun expressed words of thanks on behalf of the elders. The President and family then shared merits of the donation.

After the ceremony, the President and First Lady cordially met with the elders.

The President and wife have been holding the New Year donation ceremony in Thongwa since 2012 and this was the fifth time.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin donating offertories to Thongwa Township Ovadaciriya Sitkone Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovida in Thongwa in the Yangon Southern District. PHOTO: MNA

## Union Minister for Information visits public library in Kalay

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint arrived in Kalay yesterday evening and inspected works of departments and enterprise under the ministry.

The Union Minister first visited the public library and reviewed the rate of people interested in borrowing books, then viewed Chin traditional handicrafts in the miniature museum and finally inspected the children's reading room in the community center.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met with staff members in the meeting hall and assigned tasks moving forward and then proceeded to present gifts and exercise books for the staff members' children. At 6pm, the Union Minister and entourage visited the sub-printing house in Kalay, where they were briefed by the in-charge on the newspaper's distribution. The Union Minister then gave necessary instructions and

provided cash assistance to the staff members.

Later, they arrived at the MRTV's retransmission station and were briefed by the in-charge on broadcasting conditions and relaying of channels by DVB, T-2 digital system from the Kennedy retransmission station.

The Union Minister asked for his knowledge and gave cash assistance to staff members.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint inspects sub-printing press of the NPE in Kalay. PHOTO: MNA



# LOCAL Business



File photo shows ariel view of Yangon's developing real estate, which draws in a considerable rate of investment from its citizens. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

## Real estate development is 20% of Myanmar citizen investments

REAL estate development accounted for over 20 per cent of investments by Myanmar citizens, followed by the manufacturing and transport sectors.

A total of 1,241 enterprises of Myanmar citizens were allowed in 11 sectors, with total investments of Ks13,191,116.485 million, according to the statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company

Administration (DICA).

Myanmar citizens' investments as of 31st March 2017 are over Ks2,767 billion in real estate development sector with 61 enterprises, over Ks2,438 billion in manufacturing with 746 enterprises, over Ks2,302 billion in transport with 43 enterprises, Ks1,415 billion in hotel and tourism with 104 enterprises, over Ks936 billion

in construction with 68 enterprises, over Ks575 billion in industrial estate with nine enterprises, over Ks456 billion in power with 10 enterprises, over Ks1,41 billion in mining with 64 enterprises, over Ks69 billion in livestock and fisheries with 70 enterprises, over Ks50 billion in agriculture with eight enterprises and Ks2,037 billion in other sectors with 58

enterprises respectively.

Citizen investments in the incumbent government period has reached over Ks1,567 billion.

Myanmar citizen investors have to submit a proposal in a prescribed format to Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) (Nay Pyi Taw) so as to enjoy exemptions and reliefs, it is learnt.—*Mon Mon*

## FDI hit over US\$70billion as of end of March; last FY saw over US\$6,649mil

PERMITTED foreign direct investments as of 31st March 2017 totalled over US\$70 billion and last Fiscal Year 2016-2017 witnessed FDI of US\$6,649.812 million, according to the statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The transport and communication sector topped the sector line-up of total FDI, followed by the manufacturing sector in second place. Foreign investors put US\$96.678 million into livestock and fisheries sector, US\$1,179.514 million into manufacturing, US\$909.883 million into power, US\$3,081.149 million into transport and communication, US\$403.646 million into hotel and tourism, US\$747.620 million into real estate and US\$231.322 million into other services.

During the last Fiscal Year, there was no FDI in these sectors — agriculture, mining, oil and gas, construction and industrial estate.

China stands at the top of the list of most countries with the most investment in Myanmar, with Singapore in second place followed by Thailand, Hong Kong and United Kingdom. The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) reviews the investment proposals on the basis of the opinions and assessments of the region and state governments concerned to scrutinise whether the proposal meets the criteria before approval.—*Mon Mon*

## YSX not fully awakened after Thingyan holiday with low stock trading

STOCK trading on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) hit an all-time low of 1,439 shares on 18th April 2017 after the Thingyan Festival holidays, according to market data released by YSX.

Currently, four companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thailawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and First Private Bank (FPB), are trading stocks on YSX.

YSX saw a decline in trading volume on 18th April 2017, with a steep drop to 1,439 shares. The stock trading volumes were 9,534 shares on 10th, 7,013 shares on 11th and 2,309 shares on 12th April.

FMI traded 63 shares while



1,256 shares of MTSh were traded on 12th April. On that day, only 120 shares of FPB were traded while MCB hit zero

trading. The share prices were Ks17,000 for FMI, Ks4,200 for MTSH, Ks8,700 for MCB and Ks30,000 for FPB.—*Ko Htet*

## Thai-Myanmar border trade value up by nearly US\$250million

THE trade value between Thailand and Myanmar in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 was found an increase of nearly US\$249.257 million when compared to that in the FY 2015-2016, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry. Thailand-Myanmar border trade from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 hit US\$1,369.022 million whereas that of FY 2015-2016 fetched only US\$1,119.765 million.

The border trade with the neighbouring countries during last FY totaled US\$ 7,439.534 million which is up from US\$ 7,153.874 million in FY 2015-2016.

The country is conducting the border trade with neigh-

bouring countries via border trade camps: trading with China through Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung, with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maese and Mawtaung border gates. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittwe and Maungtaung, while the country trades directly with India via the Tamu and Reed border gates.

Out of border trade camps between Thailand and Myanmar, only HteeKhee camp is found to have a slump in trade value. Myawady border trade performed the best among them with the largest trade value. — *Mon Mon*



# Performances in One-Year Period



Container ships dock in the Yangon River. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

## Economic Scenario In One Year Together With The People

Kyaw Saw Min

THE democracy government elected by the people had spent a period of one year endeavoring for political, economic and social development in line with changing political landscape and prevailing situations to keep abreast of the international community. Immediately after taking office, the new government has sought the best possible way to reduce budget deficit to a certain extent which incurred due to imbalanced budget and, with this it made cabinet reshuffle. Towards this end, it combined the ministries whose nature of works is nearly the same, and formed the new ministries according to the demand of time. Thus, the number of ministries has been reduced from 36 to 22.

To be in line with the number of ministries, the number of ministers has been reduced from 36 to 21 and that of deputy ministers from 56 to 45. As a result, a large amount of expenditures of ministers and deputy ministers were able to be reduced.

As the amount of expenditures including the salaries and facilities of ministers and deputy ministers have been able to be reduced, it cannot be denied that the new government is in a very frugal existence, thus saving millions of Kyats of public funds.

As part of its reforms, the new government reconstituted the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the Ministry of Cooperatives into the Ministry of Agriculture, Live-

stock and Irrigation, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Finance into the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Forestry into the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs into the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Energy into the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy.

Although there are different reviews and perspectives of scholars and experts over the size of government weighing its strengths and weaknesses in capacity and national development, it should be a government capable of serving the interests of the State and the people to its utmost. The most suitable government for the country is the one capable of bringing about sustainable development of political, economic and social sectors and long-lasting peace among national brethren on the basis of democratic practices, assessing the prevailing situations.

With sweeping reforms, the incumbent government is trying to be compact in its Cabinet, reducing the burden of expenditure of Cabinet. In the process, it formed a Cabinet that saved millions of Kyats in a country which is facing budget deficit.

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Labourers sorting at fish cold storage factory. PHOTO: MNA



## PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

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### Initiatives for anti-corruption

Corruption is a major obstacle to economic development of a country. Corruption is also a grave threat to a developing country or a country which is in the process of reforms. To totally wipe out corruption that had been deeply entrenched in the country in a short period of time is a great challenge. However, the new government since its inception has dealt with the corruption problems in a careful manner. On 4 April less than one month into the office, the ongoing government issued the guidance of the President Office on acceptance of gifts as part of its drive for anti-corruption. The State Counsellor Office on 1 November 2016 issued a notification titled "people may file a formal complaint about corruption" and launched anti-corruption campaigns extensively. As a result, Myanmar's position fell 136 out of 176 nations in 2016 from 147 out of 167 nations in 2015 in the Corruption Perceptions Index of Transparency International and it can be expected that the country will be free from corruption in the very near future.

### Economic policy based on national reconciliation

The future objectives of the State were issued on 29 July 2016 as follows:

1. to practice economic policy which contributes to the emergence of a united federal democratic Union based on national reconciliation.
2. to adopt economic platforms that are helpful to equitable development among regions and states.
3. to formulate economic policy capable of bringing about new generation youths of high capability.
4. to establish an economic system generating achievements by innovation and efforts.

### The 12 economic objectives are:

1. to boost financial resources through transparent public financial management.
2. to assist SMEs helpful to job opportunities and economic development while ensuring the success of State-owned enterprises and privatization.
3. to produce human resources capable of bringing about economic development and to generate professionals.
4. to ensure development of infrastructures such as roads, ports and power facilities and set up of Data ID Card System, Digital Government Strategy and e-Government System.
5. to create job opportunities for locals and expats and to adopt enterprises with higher employment.
6. to ensure parallel development of agriculture, livestock breeding and industrial sectors for all-round development, food security and increased export.
7. to create better environment for foreign investors and to encourage private sector development through free engagement of citizens in their business.
8. to ensure monetary and financial stability contributing to sustainable economic development.
9. to set up cities suited for environmental conservation, boost public services and engage in cultural

10. to protect the people's rights and property in accord with the law with the adoption of fair taxation system that contributes to increasing revenues.
11. to formulate procedures and systems for intellectual property that could spur innovation and development of advanced technology.
12. to establish economic platforms in the ASEAN region and beyond with great breadth of vision to keep pace with changes and developments.

Myanmar was subject to sanctions of major powers including the US and the EU in the time of the previous administration and there still remain some economic sanctions to date. In the time of the new government almost economic sanctions were eased and trade preferences retained through efforts of the State Counsellor. During her trip to the US, the State Counsellor on 14 September 2016 met with Obama who signed and issued the lifting of sanctions against Myanmar on 7 Octo-

ber 2016, terminating International Emergency Economy Power Act, Freedom and Democracy Act, Tom Lantos Block Burmese Jade Act, Foreign Operation, Export Financing and Related Programme Appropriation Act.

### New Myanmar Investment Commission

About two months into its office, the new government reconstituted the Myanmar Investment Commission with intellectuals and businessmen numbering 11, amending some investment laws in favour of foreign investors. It adopted and ratified the Myanmar Investment Law on 18-10-2016 as part of efforts for attracting more foreign investment. On 1-4-2017 when slightly more than one year into the office, it promulgated the Myanmar Investment Bylaws which could attract more foreign investments.

### Electric power

Construction of new power stations, repair and upgrading of stations in place, construction of substations and transmission lines in regions and states and clear-

ing of old service wires were conducted for more power supply. In the year 2016-2017, ten towns and 333 villages have access to power supply, benefiting 4.05 million people, representing 3.24 per cent. At present, the National Electrification Plan-NEP is being drawn with US\$ 310 million loan from the World Bank. Moreover, with loans from JICA and KFW (IDA) of German Government, steps are being taken to provide southern Shan State with electric power.

For economic infrastructure development, roads, bridges including the ASEAN Highway and highways linking India-Myanmar and China and public housing are being constructed through utilization of public funds, Public-Private Partnership, assistance of JICA, ADB, WB, KOICA and TICA and other donors. With the help of JICA and KOICA, city development plans for Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Patheingyi were adopted while City and Regional Development Law (draft) and National Housing Development Law (Draft) were formulated.

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Baluchaung Hydropower Plant in Kayah State. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH



Farmer ploughing the field with the use of tractor in Kachin State. PHOTO: MNA



# Pence reassures Japan of US resolve on North Korea, to work with China

TOKYO — US Vice President Mike Pence reassured Japan of American commitment to reining in North Korea's nuclear and missile ambitions on Tuesday, after warning that US strikes in Syria and Afghanistan showed the strength of its resolve.

Pence arrived in Tokyo from South Korea, where he assured leaders of an "iron-clad" alliance with the United States in the face of the reclusive North, which has conducted a series of missile and nuclear tests in defiance of UN sanctions.

"The era of strategic patience is over and while all options are on the table, President (Donald) Trump is determined to work closely with Japan, with South Korea, with all our allies in the region and with China to achieve a peaceable resolution and the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula," Pence said in Tokyo before lunch with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Pence and Abe agreed that they needed to persuade China to play a larger role in dealing with

North Korea, a Japanese government spokesman said.

North Korea regularly threatens to destroy Japan, South Korea and the United States and it showed no let-up in its belligerence after a failed missile test on Sunday, a day after putting on a huge display of missiles at a parade in Pyongyang.

North Korea's deputy representative to the United Nations, Kim In Ryong, accused the United States on Monday of creating "a situation where nuclear war could break out any time" and said the North's next nuclear test would take place "at a time and at a place where our headquarters deems necessary".

North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Han Song-Ryol told the BBC that missiles would be tested on "a weekly, monthly and yearly basis". The North has warned of a nuclear strike against the United States if provoked. It has said it has developed a missile that can strike the mainland United States, but officials and experts believe it



US Vice President Mike Pence (L) meets with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Abe's official residence in Tokyo, Japan on 18 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

is some time away from mastering the necessary technology, including miniaturising a nuclear warhead. Pence said on Monday the world had seen Trump's resolve in the past two weeks, with a US missile attack on a Syrian airfield and the dropping of a powerful non-nuclear bomb on Islamic

State fighters in Afghanistan.

The Trump administration has said military action remains an option for dealing with North Korea. But, mindful that this would likely trigger massive retaliation and casualties in South Korea and Japan, US officials say Trump's main focus is on tough-

er economic sanctions. US officials say tougher sanctions could include an oil embargo, a global ban on North Korea's airline, intercepting cargo ships and punishing Chinese banks doing business with Pyongyang. They also say greater Chinese cooperation is vital.—Reuters

## S Korea asks Japan leaders to refrain from provocative remarks

SEOUL — South Korea urged Japanese leaders on Tuesday to be careful in their remarks lest they arouse misunderstanding and fuel the already simmering tensions on the Korean Peninsula in the wake of North Korea's continued provocations. "It is necessary to refrain from mentioning anything on the assumption of a hypothetical situation that may lead to a misunderstanding or negatively affect peace and security on the Korean Peninsula," Cho June Hyuck, South Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesman, told a press briefing.

Cho's remarks were in response to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's remarks in a parliamentary committee in Tokyo, where he said his government is working on contingency plans for a potential crisis on the Korean Peninsula including an influx of refugees into Japan.

"We are envisioning a series of measures, consisting of landing procedures for refugees after they are picked up, the construction and operation of shelters and screening to determine whether or not we should give them asylum," Abe said.

Abe also said the government is looking at what preparations would be necessary to evacuate Japanese nationals from South Korea in the event of a crisis. During Tuesday's briefing, Cho said Japan has asked South Korea, through talks between their consular officials, about plans to evacuate foreigners in South Korea in a contingency, and called for bilateral talks to discuss evacuation plans for Japanese nationals. The remarks came as North Korea continued to carry out ballistic missile launches amid signs it could also conduct its sixth

nuclear test.

The United States has deployed an aircraft carrier and accompanying ships to waters near the Korean Peninsula in a display of force against North Korea.

US Vice President Mike Pence, who wrapped up his three-day visit to South Korea on Tuesday and is now visiting Japan, has warned that the "era of strategic patience is over," referring to the doctrine President Donald Trump's predecessor Barack Obama advocated in dealing with Pyongyang.—Kyodo News

## North Korean official says will continue missile tests — BBC

LONDON — North Korea will continue to test missiles regularly and any military action against it by the United States would prompt "all out war", a senior North Korean official has told the BBC.

North Korea has conducted several missile and nuclear tests in defiance of United Nations sanctions and has said it has developed a missile that can strike the US mainland. Its latest missile test on Sunday failed a few seconds after launch.

US Vice President Mike Pence warned North Korea on Monday that recent US strikes in Syria, one of Pyongyang's few close allies, and Afghanistan showed that the resolve of President Donald Trump should not be tested. "We'll be conducting more missile tests on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis," Vice Foreign Minister Han Song-Ryol said in an interview with the BBC released late on Monday.

"If the US is reckless enough to use military means it would mean from that very day, an all out war." North Korean state media last week warned of a nuclear attack on the United States at any sign of American aggression, but the White House said there was no evidence it possessed that capability.—Reuters

## Australia toughens foreign worker visas, says Australian jobs for Australian

SYDNEY — Australia will abolish a temporary work visa popular with foreigners and replace it with a new programme requiring better English-language and job skills, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said on Tuesday. Turnbull, struggling with poor voter approval ratings, rejected suggestions the visa policy change was in response to far-right wing political parties, such as One Nation, demanding more nationalistic policies. But in a Facebook announcement Turnbull said: "Our reforms will have a simple focus: Australian jobs and Australian values." In a similar vein, US President Donald Trump will sign an executive order on Tuesday directing changes to a temporary visa programme used to bring foreign workers to the United

States to fill highly skilled jobs. The order is an attempt by Trump to carry out his "America First" election campaign pledges. Turnbull said the visa change would attract better skilled workers and see Australians employed over cheap foreign workers brought in under the old 457 visa programme. "We are an immigration nation, but the fact remains- Australian workers must have priority for Australian jobs," he said. "We'll no longer allow 457 visas to be passports to jobs that could and should go to Australians."

The 457 visa was introduced in the 1990s to expedite the entry of business professionals and highly skilled migrants but over time it was opened up to include a broad suite of workers. The programme

has become mired in controversy with allegations the visa was being misused by employers to import workers on the cheap, not to fill genuine skill shortages. "We are bringing the 457 visa class to an end. It's lost its credibility," Turnbull said at a press conference in Canberra. Anyone now in Australia on a 457 visa will not be affected by the new arrangements.

The 457 visa, now used by about 95,000 foreign workers, will be replaced by a new temporary visa and the list of occupations that qualify for a visa will be reduced from more than 200. The new visa will be limited to a two-year period and a second four-year visa will require a higher standard of English language. From 1901 to around 1973, Australia restricted non-

white immigration under a White Australia policy, which required an English language test. The Australian Industry Group (Ai Group), which represents more than 60,000 businesses, said the changes would improve the integrity of Australia's visa programme. "The temporary skilled visa programme should now be considered as settled without the need for further reviews and disruptive policy change," said Ai Group Chief Executive Innes Willox. Some experts said the government should focus on boosting education and training systems to address Australia's skills needs.

The opposition was not impressed though. Labor leader Bill Shorten tweeted "the only job Malcolm Turnbull cares about saving is his own." —Reuters



# Opinion

## Write for us

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

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

## Only Peace is of Great Importance

**Khin Maung Oo**

THE New Year has come in. May the whole world be peaceful!

Padauk trees (Gum-Kino) are yellow with their flowers, covering the green leaves with a tapestry of golden filigree. Due to the slight breeze, not only flowers but also their leaves and upper parts of the branches are covering the streets. They are yellowish flowers and green leaves.

People could feel the whole surrounding become cool after suffering from the burning heat of previous days. The sweet scent of the earth welcomed the New Year. The downpour cleansed the dusty streets covered with dried leaves and made the leaves on trees turn green. The whole world seemed to be bright with the color of golden padauk flowers and it became cool as the

temperature climbed down.

The Thingyan Rains which brought about the atmosphere of the storm. The rain clouds rose gradually and poured down suddenly.

The world's political climate is showing signs of wars, with some nations proud of their possession of nuclear weapons. Although there is a slight possibility of a world war, it is difficult for anyone to predict with certainty whether it will actually take place or not.

Mr Donald Trump, President of the US ordered to bombard Syria, and dropped a huge bomb in Afghanistan. Now, North Korea and America are monitoring and watching each other's moves on a daily basis. Korea and Japan are on alert, preparing for imminent dangers, deploying their forces and getting their weapons ready. It can

be seen that China and Russia are assessing and deciding on which side they should stand.

All are getting ready for war, not standing at ease. People across the world have no alternative but to pray to the Gods of their respective religions for reason and caution to prevail, sighing slowly.

Generally speaking, no one is desirous of wars, except for those who benefit from wars and those who are filled with hatred and rage. They have no reason to like bellicose deeds. In such a time when cutting-edge technology develops enormously, it is more dreadful. Various kinds of weapons, weapons of mass-destruction, chemical weapons and bio-chemical weapons are so disgusting. Just a spark of flame can destroy the whole world.

At this time when the whole world is

greatly distressed, our Myanmar people have more reason to hope for peace. They have been living under the stress of internal conflicts, so they do not need more stress, especially the stress of an impending conflict in Asia.

Myanmar people have been longing for peace for years, still hoping for equality, unity and democratic rights.

We pray to Buddha for storms of war and danger to be blown away and for our people to have the opportunity to develop and live in peace and their desires to be fulfilled.

May the forces of peace gain success and may the leaders who are in possession of these powerful and deadly weapons be blessed with clarity of thought, compassion and the ability to make sound decisions in favor of peace for the whole world.

**W**HY is this Asian elephant wearing a collar? He's one of four pachyderms whose movements and behaviors are being tracked via satellite! This information helps SCBI scientist John McEvoy and partners understand the causes of human-elephant conflict and find solutions to help animals and people coexist.

### What can you learn from a satellite collar?

The main question we are trying to answer is how elephants use the landscape. How frequently do they use certain parts of the landscape? How do they move across it? Do males roam far and wide, or are they restricted? Do certain areas—ones with roads and developments—act as a barrier or bottleneck?

As tourism and development start to take off in Myanmar, this is a crucial time for scientists to learn how elephants use the land. Our research feeds into helping the government and local communities strike the right balance of how to live with elephants.

### How do you track the elephants?

The collar consists of a GPS satellite tracking unit, the collar itself, and a counterweight that ensures the tracking unit stays at the top. When you add all those elements together, the collar weighs just under 30 pounds (14 kilograms). The elephants can be tough on the collars; they tend to rub them on rocks and trees. The key for us is to create a collar that is sturdy enough to withstand wear and tear from an 11,000 pound elephant.

We returned from Myanmar only a few weeks ago, but I already see the elephants use quite a bit of the landscape, including forest corridors and various other



This elephant is one of four pachyderms whose movements and behaviors are being tracked via satellite! This information helps Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute scientist John McEvoy and partners understand the causes of human-elephant conflict and find solutions to help animals and people coexist.

## Earth Optimism: Helping Wild Elephants Where They Roam

places. Watching them move around in real time is really exciting!

### How do you select which elephants to collar?

We wanted to collar large, solitary males because they travel a lot farther than the female herds and tend to run into conflict with humans more frequently. We were looking for them in an area in the south of Myanmar, a place called Lenya, where elephants had come into contact with palm oil plantations and the surrounding villages.

During this trip, our team collared three males. We also found a large female—likely the matriarch of her group—and put a collar on her as well so we could get information about how and where her herd travels.

### How long does it take to find the elephants?

Locating the elephants takes a combination of vehicle and man power. About 60 percent of Myanmar is covered in forest, which is great habitat for the elephants but challenging for scientists who are trying to locate them. Luckily, we have a terrific partnership with the forestry department, and they connected us with a group of Mahouts who are expert trackers.

We go as far as we can by car but eventually get out and carry the 30-pound collars either over our shoulders or in a backpack. We could spend either a half day or full day hiking—it depends on the elephant and the day!

### What threats do Myanmar's elephants face?

There are a number of fac-

tors that are contributing to Asian elephant population decline in Myanmar. Access to critical elephant habitat is restricted by human development. As humans clear forest for agriculture plantations like palm oil, farmers and villagers experience elephants raiding their crops and destroying their property. New roads through elephant habitat have led to collisions with vehicles as well.

Poaching, too, remains a growing problem in Myanmar and other elephant range countries. There are more and more documented reports of poaching events, including some of the elephants we have collared in previous studies. Satellite tracking gives us and our partners real-time information about where elephants are moving in high risk areas and reveals the scale of the poaching problem. We

want to emulate our colleagues in Kenya who have had great success with anti-poaching programs in the past.

Based on our previous studies that looked at expert surveys, habitat availability and quality as well as interviews with local villagers and other people around the country, we estimate the Asian elephant population in Myanmar to be in the range of 1,500 to 2,000 individuals. That's down from the original estimate of 9,000 individuals.

### How does tracking elephants' movements increase their chance for survival?

SCBI's Conservation Ecology Center has been working on Asian elephant conservation in Myanmar for fifteen years. In that time, we've been able to learn where the elephants go and what resources they need in order to survive. But, we don't do it alone. We have a lot of great people who work with us on the ground—including the locals, government officials, and non-governmental organizations.

If we can keep this level of collaboration growing, I'm optimistic that we can develop programs that help mitigate the challenges elephants and humans face where humans and elephants interact.—*Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute*

*This story appears in the April 2017 issue of Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute News. Scientists and in-country partners involved in this project include Aung N. Chan, Christie Sampson, Melissa Songer, Peter Leimgruber, Aung Myo Chit, Christy Williams, Paing Soe, Mark Grindley, Naymyo Shwe, La Minn Yinyi, Zaw Min Oo, U Chay, and the Mahout tracking team.*



## Children to receive free surgery in China



Myanmar Ambassador and wife with parents and children who arrived for free heart surgery in Beijing. PHOTO: MNA

ON 17 April, twelve children arrived in Beijing with their parents to receive free cardiac surgery and were encouraged by Myanmar Ambassador U Thit Lin Ohn who pledged to provide assistance to them. The operation will be undergone at the An Han Hospital in Beijing.

The move is part of the China-Myanmar Friendship Program for free surgery treatment for 50 children, who received medical diagnosis out of 100 children between 28 to 31 March by a medical team from China at the Yankin Children's Hospital in Yangon.

The children and their parents were accompanied by Heart Specialist Dr Aung Thein Tun from the Yankin Children's Hospital, a nurse and Mrs. Meng Fen (alias) Daw Kyi Lin, an in-charge of Yunnan-based Mingalar Magazine.— *Saw Thein Win*

## Tourists enjoy visiting Innwa region

THE number of tourists coming to Myanmar is increasing year by year, with positive reactions from foreign visitors, according to interviews by television jour-

nalists.

"Myanmar is always a wonderful place to visit", said a tourist. "Myanmar people are very kind and are always wearing a

smile on their face. I am very proud to visit the Innwa region. When I arrived in the Innwa region, I chose to go round in a pony cart. There are many places to visit there. We can enjoy the beauty of the natural scenes undisturbed by the noise of the vehicles. Myanmar is a place of wonder".

Along with Mandalay, Innwa is perhaps Myanmar's most famous old capital and is situated 20 kilometres south of Mandalay. Innwa Bridge, also known as Sagaing Bridge, and the Ayeyawady river attract numerous visitors. There are over 200 pony carts welcoming visitors. Innwa was officially founded on 26 February 1365 (726 ME), and is home to many ancient pagodas.— *The mirror*



Tourist being interviewed near a pony cart as he enjoys scenic Innwa. PHOTO: MNA

## Stimulant pills seized in Kachin and Shan States

ACTING on a tip off, a combined team from the No.88 Light Infantry Division searched a vehicle driven by Lushinn Fa and Yan Kwan Kha and seized 13,444 stimulant pills worth K2.595 lakh near the power plant of Ward (8) in Tamoenye on 15 April.

The local police force in Pinlaung Township also seized 2.2 kilos of raw opium from a motorbike driven by Ko Nge on the road of Pinlaung-Nham Pham-moe Oo on 16 April.

Similarly, local Police Force in Myitkyina seized 24,000 stimulant pills and 2 mobile phones, also including K 31 lakh in the vehicle driven by Thein Aung at

a checkpoint on 17 April.

The suspects are charged

under the Anti-Narcotic Law.— *Myanmar Police Force*



Lushinn Fa and Yan Kwan Kha. PHOTO: MPF

## Villager injured by robbers

A villager was injured by robbers during his attempt to arrest them at Thawun chaung village, Maungtaw township, Rakhine State on Monday, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

Four men armed with guns approached Ahman's house on Monday. When villagers attempted to chase the robbers away, the men fired three shots and fled from the scene. Harmate, 30, a village resident, was wounded in his right leg. Border guard police are investigating the case.— *MNA*



Harmate, 30, who was wounded in the right leg after attempting to arrest the robbers. PHOTO: MNA

## Village-tract chief killed in Maungtaw

ARME Alie, who was in charge of the Tet Oo Chaung village-tract, was killed by a group of masked men at his house in Phway Yar village in Maungtaw township, Rakhine State on Monday. According to the initial investigation, Arme Alie, 38, was at his home when about 10 masked people arrived. Two of the men entered his house and attacked him with swords and then dragged out of the house. The rest

of the men also assailed him. At the same time, the neighbours came out from their homes. The 10 men fired five shots and fled from the scene. The victim was found dead with cuts on his arm, head and back. Border guard police found two shell casings from a gun near the victims' house.

The corpse was sent to Maungtaw Hospital. The border guard force opened a case according to law.— *MNA*

## Fire destroys a house in Maungtaw

A fire destroyed a house in Tharzay village in Maungtaw on Monday evening. The outbreak of fire was caused by the sparks in the kitchen of Ma Oo Sawna's house. The fire start-

ed at about 11:30 pm and destroyed house of Ma Oo Sawna, 30, with losses amounting to Ks 50,000. The police have filed charges against Ma Oo Sawna.— *Myanmar News Agency*



The fire in Tharzay village, Maungtaw engulfs a house. PHOTO: MNA

## Invitation to printing press vendors

News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, is planning to purchase 4 unit of high performance, long-life 4 Hi Tower color printing press. Local and foreign companies interested to sell the printing press are invited to contact to the following address from 18 April 2017 to 24 April 2017 in order to introduce and explain about their presses.

### Contact Address

Deputy Director (Admin)  
News and Periodicals Enterprise  
Ministry of Information, Minister Office  
Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw  
Phone 067-412123, 412828



# British PM May calls for early election on 8 June



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May speaks to the media outside 10 Downing Street, in central London, Britain on 18 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May called on Tuesday for an early election on 8 June, saying it was the only way to guarantee political stability for years ahead as Britain negotiates its way out of the European Union.

The pound strengthened by almost half a cent against the dollar as May spoke, reflecting investor relief that earlier rumours of a shock resignation did

not transpire. Ten-year British government bond yields rose slightly. "I have just chaired a meeting of the cabinet where we agreed that the government should call a General Election to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June," May said in a surprise statement outside her Downing Street office.

"It was with reluctance that I decided the country needs this election, but it is with strong conviction

that I say it is necessary to secure the strong and stable leadership the country needs to see us through Brexit and beyond."

She said she would introduce legislation on Wednesday to pave the way for the early election. Under current legislation, the next election was not scheduled to take place until 2020. May's Conservatives, who were split on the issue of European Union

membership ahead of last year's referendum, are currently far ahead of Labour, the main opposition party, according to opinion polls.

May said this was a one-off chance to get an election done while the EU was agreeing on its negotiating position.

She said the government had the right plan to negotiate Brexit, and there would be no change of course.—Reuters

## Germany to defend trade at G20 meeting in Washington

BERLIN — Germany will at G20 talks this week in Washington stress the importance of globalisation and free trade for growth as well as the need for reforms to increase resilience against future shocks, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

The official said Germany, which holds the

rotating presidency of the group of the world's 20 biggest economies, expects some G20 peers like the United States to demand that it take measures to reduce its high current account surplus.

The official added that Germany will publish a chairman's summary instead of a joint

communique after the meeting in Washington as G20 finance ministers had summarised their joint positions only five weeks ago during talks in Baden Baden.

"This time, that's not unusual at the G20, there won't be a communique", the official said ahead of the meeting of finance

ministers and central bank governors from the Group of 20 major economies, known as the G20. The G20 meeting will take place on the sidelines of the bi-annual conference of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington, which is from Thursday until Sunday.—Reuters

## Dutch, Danish and Irish leaders to hold Brexit meeting on Friday

DUBLIN — The leaders of the Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland are to hold a meeting to discuss Britain's exit from the European Union on Friday, the Irish government said, in a sign the three pro-trade powers plan to coordinate their strategy

on Brexit.

The three countries, which Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny has said are likely to be the most negatively impacted by Brexit, have a similar outlook on free trade and competition issues and in the past have

often allied with Britain.

The 27 EU members that will remain after Britain leaves have repeatedly pledged to maintain a united front in negotiations with Britain and avoid divisions that could be exploited by London. Kenny will meet

with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen in The Hague on Friday, an Irish government spokesman said. The meeting will underline the strength of the 27 to remain united, he said.—Reuters

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### South Korea to downgrade bird flu alert status from highest level

SEOUL — South Korea will downgrade its bird flu alert level by one notch from the highest level starting from Wednesday as no new cases have been reported for about two weeks, the country's agriculture ministry said on Tuesday.

South Korea has been grappling with its worst-ever bird flu epidemic since the first case was confirmed in November, prompting the country to cull over 37 million farm birds, or more than a fifth of its total poultry population.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs said in a statement that bird flu is likely to abate, with no new cases found since 4 April. The ministry said it will keep disinfecting farms and stay vigilant until the country becomes bird flu-free.—Reuters

#### Turkish PM says rumours of foul play an effort to undermine referendum result

ANKARA — Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said on Tuesday rumours of irregularities in a referendum over the weekend were a vain effort to cast doubt on the result, after the main opposition party vowed to apply for the vote to be annulled.

"The people's will has been reflected at the ballot box, and the debate is over," Yildirim told his parliamentary group. "Everyone should respect the outcome, especially the main opposition".—Reuters

#### Two held in France on suspicion of planning attack during election

PARIS — Two men have been arrested in Marseille, southern France, on suspicion of planning an attack during the forthcoming presidential election, judicial and police sources said on Tuesday.

Police had been hunting the pair since the end of last week and they were arrested a few minutes apart in the southeastern port city, the police source said.

The police source added that one of the two had turned to radical Islam during a term in prison. A search of a rented apartment was continuing.

France goes to the polls to choose a new president on 23 April, with a second round of voting due on 7 May. More than 230 people have died in Islamist militant attacks in the country over the past two years.—Reuters

#### Police helicopter carrying 12 crashes in eastern Turkey — security sources

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey — A Turkish police helicopter carrying 12 people crashed in the eastern province of Tunceli on Tuesday, the local governor's office said, adding that the crash may have been caused by poor weather conditions.

The helicopter was carrying a judge, seven police officers, one sergeant and three crew members, the Tunceli governor's office said in a statement.

Heavy fog in the region made the rescue operation difficult, Turkish media reports said.—Reuters

#### Spain's PM called as witness in PP slush fund trial — court

MADRID — Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has been called to stand as a witness in a trial of members of his ruling People's Party (PP) following a long investigation into an alleged party slush fund, a court spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

The court is at present trying PP members including the former party treasurer, Luis Barcenas, on charges of organised crime, falsifying accounts, influence-peddling and tax crimes as part of the so-called "Gurtel Case".—Reuters



## PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

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### Production sector

Steps are being taken for development of production sector, revitalization of industrial sector and sustainability of extractive industry without harming natural environment while striving for development of agriculture, livestock and fisheries sector with the technical assistance of the ADB, the UNFAO and others.

The Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank in cooperation with private banks was striving to provide farmers with more loans and the disbursement of loans has been increased to K 150,000 per acre from K 100,000 per acre in the time of the new government, amounting to K 1614.453 billion of subsidies. Meanwhile, the emerald green projects which contributed to improvement of the socio-economic status of 70 per cent of rural people have been extended to 8756 villages, with an increase of 2017 villages in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, benefiting over 5.8 million people.

Altogether 168 small financial institutions were given green light to run and as a result, K 2.268 million loans were disbursed to 2.45 million people from 15918 villages, fetching K 0.140 million as savings. The fisheries sector has been able to produce over 630 million viss of fresh water fishes and 328 million viss of sea water fishes.

In the industrial sector, factories and mills that are operated at a loss entered joint venture with local and foreign entrepreneurs and 59 factories out of 118 had already entered joint venture with private sector and 17 factories more are to follow suit. For SMES development, 679 SME businessmen in Mandalay Region were integrated into 88 SMEs Clusters and 23 entrepreneurs were funded by the CB Bank, Myanma Insurance and the SMBC of Japan whereas rice mills and salt plants in Ayeyawady Region were provided with technical assistance from overseas organizations. Moreover, Training and workshops were conducted for capacity building of SMEs entrepreneurs and a total of 360 private industries were registered.

Altogether 456 SME businessmen were funded through the government loans whereas 189 SME businessmen were funded through Two Step Loan of Japan for development of SMEs. Under the guidance of the State Counsellor, the Vice President-1 met with businessmen on a monthly basis and dealt with problems encountered by the latter, reducing company registration fees nearly by half.

### Energy sector

To meet local consumption and to export the surplus of energy, efforts are being made to explore more oil and gas. During one-year period, altogether 29 wells were drilled and, out of which 12 wells were successful. A total of 27 on-shore blocks were in partnership with foreign oil companies. This has been able to increase local consumption of gas to 233 cubic feet million from 150-200 cubic feet million per day as of January 2017, thereby contributing to facilitate 143 passenger vehicles with CNG which plays an important role in the public transport.

Licenses for export and distribution of Condensed Natural Gas were granted as of May 2016 and, so far B License was granted to 19 companies, D License to 68 companies and C License to 436 companies the length and breadth of the country.

At the same time, 156 domestic oil refineries, 256 private filling stations and other related businesses were granted licenses.

### Trade sector

The Ministry of Commerce has been adopting and implementing the Medium Term Programme-MTP under the 12 Economic Objectives for trade sector development. In order to boost trade volume and export volume, 14 categories of re-export items which have been banned in the past were allowed to export while controlling illegal trade. With a view to reducing trade deficit, means and ways have been sought for extended export of new items in cooperation with private sectors and traders.

Officials from the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Ministry of Commerce had a monthly meeting with those from the UMFCCI and touched upon matters on better trade activities. To prevent illegal trade and create job opportunities a new border trade camp Bawlakhe District, Kayah State was opened in October 2016. Meanwhile, Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System-MACCS was introduced on 12 November 2016 with the technical assistance of Japanese Government. The system has brought about better trade activities among government bodies, export & import businessmen, shipping lines, ports and customs service providers, and it is projected to be used extensively in future.

### Tourism sector

There has been a great deal of excellent potential for the development of tourism sector in Myanmar. As peace prevails in a vast area of the country, tourists were allowed to visit far-flung corners with the exception of some places in border areas due

## SMEs entrepreneurs and a total of 360 private industries were registered



Traditional clay pots on display in a village. PHOTO: MNA



Genetically modified tilapia fish at a fish farm. PHOTO: MNA

to security reasons. And this has contributed much to tourism development. During 11 month-period from April 2016 to February 2017, altogether 42 hotels and guest houses with 1992 rooms were allowed to be established while setting to start constructing the Hanthawady International Airport

in Bago Region in December 2017.

In the meanwhile, two hotels and four guest houses were granted licenses at Patheingyi, Ngazun, Chaungtha, Pyawbwe and Myittha regions for foreign tourists to stay.

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Booming tourism industry helps boost the economy of local villages. PHOTO: MNA



## PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD



A worker oversees the assembly of a vehicle at a factory under the Ministry of Industry.  
PHOTO: MNA



Aircraft fuelling service is now a joint-venture business. PHOTO: MNA



Sea of paddy plantations in Mon State. PHOTO: MNA

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#### Financial stability

In the time of the new government, the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Ministry of Commerce and the Central Bank of Myanmar are constantly engaged in ensuring the stability of dollar exchange rate, which rose to K 1400 in the third week of December. The CBM issued a new set of directives on 5-1-2017 and 9-1-2017 in that regard.

#### National Strategy for Development of Statistics-NDCS

The Committee for Ensuring Correct and Quality Data and Statistics was formed in April 2016 with the Vice President-2 as patron for the emergence of quality statistics which play a pivotal role in national development. And the Statistical Policy Brief and the National Strategy for Development of Statistics-NDCS are being initiated whereas striving for the emergence of the Myanmar National Statistics.

#### Financial sector

The new government amended the 2016 Union's Finance Law based on 3.91 per cent of the deficit-GDP ratio, which was 4.7 per cent in the past. And the State-owned enterprises which were being run at a loss were closed and service personnel transferred to other suitable departments and organizations. Meanwhile, the CBM sold treasury bonds and certificates to private banks and foreign bank branches to prevent deficits.

Under the 2016 Union's Tax Law, a five per cent levy was imposed on telephone subscribers in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and the taxes collecting in April 2016 totaled K 7.454 billion went to the education sector. In order to transform the commercial tax to good and service tax, the special commodity tax law was enacted and taxes were levied accordingly.

In the monetary sector also, the Central Bank of Myanmar invited tender on deposits for 20 times in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, each of which fetched K 333 billion and, it has been able to subtract the surplus from the market. In the year 2016-2017 alone, government treasury bonds to the value of K 1181 billion and the government treasury certificates to the value of K 3032 billion were sold. Meanwhile, 13 foreign bank branches, 24 private banks and 1475 branches of their, 16 private financial companies, 45 foreign banks' representative offices and two foreign financial companies were allowed to upgrade banking infrastructures.

Rules and regulations were issued on 30 March 2016 for international mobile network operators such as Telcel and Ooredoo and MPT to engage in mobile financial services. Beginning January 2017, banks were allowed to issue international cards such as Visa Card, Master Card, JCB Card, UPI Card as well as International Credit Card (Clean Card). And locally produced MPU cards were transformed to MPU-JCB, MPU-UPi to be used internationally. So as to prevent the loss in foreign currency exchange, Currency SWAP and Currency Forward were introduced starting from the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The new government was included in the Reserves Advisory and

Management Program-RAMP, which enables it to invest its foreign reserve funds internationally like central banks of other countries.

#### Insurance

Starting from August 2016, a premium has been increased from K 2000 to K 5000 along with an increase of from K 500,000 to K 1,000,000 in compensation and, 11 more categories of insurance were allowed to private insurance companies.

#### State Counsellor's interest in economic development

In the clarification of the State's economy policies at the MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw on 29-7-2016, the State Counsellor said that 70 per cent of Myanmar people solely depend on agriculture, which could not be ignored although the country is focusing on industrial development. Though food security is commonly mentioned, efforts for ensuring it are insignificant. Thus, steps need to be taken for equitable development of agriculture, livestock and industrial sectors. She also attended the meeting between entrepreneurs and development partners and the 1st Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2016 held at the MICC II on 22-10-2016 and touched upon long-term economic policy, cooperation among the people young and old for poverty alleviation to keep abreast of international community.

At the Myanmar Women Week Forum held at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, the State Counsellor said that there is no sustainable economic development in a nation without peace, adding we are engaged in economic development not for a person or an organization but for all the people.

In her address to mark the anniversary of the new government held on 30-3-2017, the State Counsellor said we are focusing on job creation, better transport and electric power supply. This exhibits her interest in national development.

#### Future Myanmar economic climate

In economic reforms, there are many obstacles ahead such as economic stagnation, lack of institutions and market machinery, twin deficit in the budget and macro economic weakness. However, the new government elected by the people will try its best to overcome all the obstacles, showing integrity, straight forwardness and thrift. It is also extensively in the fight against corruption, a major hurdle to development in every aspect. At the same time, it has to deal with fulfillment of economic institutions to obtain aid from international economic organizations, land confiscation, inflation, vendor and bus problems and others while initiating economy policy based on national reconciliation that would serve the interest of the entire national people during one-year period.

In the revitalization of economic sector of the country that has been in the list of least developed nations since 1987, it is hoped that the new government will be able to formulate economic policy which is in conformity with changes and developments and is making all-out efforts in the interest of the entire people including national brethren.



# Teenage girl killed in Australia shark attack

SYDNEY — A 17-year-old girl has died after being attacked by a shark as she surfed with her father off the Australian coast.

Laetia Brouwer was on holiday in Esperance, a tourist town on Australia's west coast, when she went for an afternoon surf on Monday at nearby Wylie Bay, while her mother and

siblings watched from the beach.

"Father and daughter were out surfing where the waves were breaking and that is when the attack occurred. He brought her to shore," West Australian police acting senior sergeant Ben Jeffes said.

Paramedics said Brouwer's injuries and blood

loss were too severe for her to survive. "We can take some comfort that Laetia died doing something that she loved," a family spokesman Steve Evans told a news conference.

"The ocean was her and her family's passion. Surfing was something that she treasured doing with her dad and her sisters."

The Kelp Beds break, which is popular with surfers and sits off the unpatrolled Wylie Bay beach, was also where a 23-year-old man lost part of both his arms in a non-fatal shark attack in 2014.

Brouwer's death is the first fatal shark attack in Australia this year after two fatal attacks last year,

both in Western Australia, according to a database.

Australia ranks behind only the United States in the number of unprovoked shark encounters with humans last year, the International Shark Attack File of the University of Florida shows. It is testing wider use of shark nets at the country's beaches while

surfers are being drawn to new technology like board implants and wet suits that repel sharks.

Authorities have closed Wylie Beach for the next 48 hours. Brouwer's broken surfboard was being examined to try to determine the species of the shark that attacked her, media reported.—Reuters



People protest near the venue of a campaign rally for Marine Le Pen, French National Front (FN) political party leader and candidate for French 2017 presidential election in Paris, France on 17 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Scuffles between police and protesters outside Le Pen rally in Paris

PARIS — Scuffles briefly broke out between about 60 to 80 anti-National Front protesters and police near the Zenith concert hall in north-east Paris ahead of a rally by far-right leader Marine Le Pen, a Reuters photographer saw.

Police fired teargas at the protesters, some of whom threw chunks of wood. The protesters then left, followed by a small

group of police.

French voters go to the polls on Sunday in the first round of the most unpredictable presidential election in decades.

Opinion polls have for months shown Le Pen and centrist Emmanuel Macron qualifying for the 7 May run-off, but the gap with conservative Francois Fillon and far-leftist Jean-Luc Melenchon has

been tightening.

FN lawmaker Gilbert Collard told reporters that on arriving at the concert hall he was hit on the neck by a beer bottle and other objects were targeted at him, before police intervened. Another FN official, Jean Messiha, said he saw a couple of molotov cocktails being thrown. Reuters could not verify either comments.—Reuters

## China jails official who bribed disgraced presidential aide

BEIJING — A court in northern China on Tuesday jailed for 20 years a former senior provincial government official who bribed a now disgraced former aide to retired president Hu Jintao, state news agency Xinhua reported.

The court in Tianjin found that Pan Yiyang abused his positions as vice governor of the northern region of Inner Mongolia and Communist Party boss of Ganzhou in the eastern province of Jiangxi and took bribes, the agency said.

Between 2000 and 2013, Xinhua said, Pan "many times" offered bribes

totalling 7.6 million yuan (\$1.10 million) to Ling Jihua, a close aide to former president Hu, who retired in 2013, to be succeeded by President Xi Jinping.

Ling was jailed for life last year after being found guilty of taking bribes, illegally obtaining state secrets and abuse of power, at a secret trial, where his wife testified against him.

The Tianjin court found that Pan had cooperated in the investigation against him, admitted his guilt and had repented, meaning he was given a lighter sentence, Xinhua added.

It was not possible to

reach a legal, or family, representative of Pan for comment. Courts are controlled by the party and generally do not challenge party accusations of corruption against senior former officials.

Xi has launched a sweeping war against deep-seated corruption since taking office more than four years ago, warning, like others before him, that the problem is so bad it could affect the party's grip on power.

Dozens of senior officials have been jailed, including the feared former state security chief, Zhou Yongkang.—Reuters

## Facebook murder suspect remains at large as police ask public for help

CLEVELAND, Ohio — A murder suspect who police said posted a video of himself on Facebook shooting an elderly man in Cleveland remained on the loose on Tuesday as authorities appealed to the public for help in the case.

Police said they have received "dozens and dozens" of tips and possible sightings of the suspect, Steve Stephens, and tried to persuade him to turn himself in when they spoke with him via his cellphone on Sunday after the shooting. But Stephens remained at large as the search for him expanded nationwide, police said.

The shooting marked the latest video clip of a violent crime to turn

up on Facebook, raising questions about how the world's biggest social media network moderates content.

The company on Monday said it would begin reviewing how it monitors violent footage and other objectionable material in response to the killing.

Police said Stephens used Facebook Inc's service to post video of him killing Robert Godwin Sr, 74. Stephens is not believed to have known Godwin, a retired foundry worker who media reports said spent Easter Sunday morning with his son and daughter-in-law before he was killed.

Facebook vice president Justin Osofsky said

the company was reviewing the procedure that users go through to report videos and other material that violates the social media platform's standards. The shooting video was visible on Facebook for nearly two hours before it was reported, the company said. Stephens, who has no prior criminal record, is not suspected in any other murders, police said.

The last confirmed sighting of Stephens was at the scene of the homicide. Police said he might be driving a white or cream-colored Ford Fusion, and asked anyone who spots him or his car to call police or a special FBI hotline (800-CALLFBI).—Reuters

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Singers Beyoncé  
PHOTO: REUTERS

## Beyonce shows off baby bump during Easter celebration

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Beyoncé Knowles spent her weekend by celebrating Easter with her family, including mom Tina Lawson, and BFF Kelly Rowland.

Tina took to Instagram to share a few photos from the party, one of them featuring her, Beyoncé and Kelly together.

“3/4th of my girls. Missing 1/4 at Coachella,” she captioned the photo.

The “missing 1/4” is her second daughter, Solange Knowles, who was at Coachella.

In the photo, Beyoncé wore a white outfit which emphasized her baby bump, completed with sunglasses.—PTI



Actress Amy Schumer.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

## Amy Schumer to star in ‘I Feel Pretty’

LOS ANGELES — Amy Schumer has been tapped to star in Wonderland Sound & Vision and Voltage Pictures upcoming comedy “I Feel Pretty”. The film’s script has been written by Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein. The duo will also direct the movie, reported Variety.

The movie, set to shoot this summer on the East Coast, marks Kohn and Silverstein’s directorial debuts. The plot is being kept under wraps. The comedienne, who is also a producer on “I Feel Pretty,” was last seen in “Trainwreck”.

Schumer will also appear alongside Miles Teller in the Universal drama “Thank You for Your Service” from filmmaker Jason Hall.—PTI

## Unique film festival hosted in LA for young Chinese talents

LOS ANGELES — The fourth annual AFMA Film Festival of Young Cinema unveiled Saturday to provide young Chinese film talents a platform to showcase their work and step into the industry.

The AFMA refers to Annenberg Film Marketing Association, a student organization of the University of Southern California.

More than 200 outstanding young filmmakers submitted their products for the film festival. The board of juries included experienced filmmakers such as Chinese director Wang Xiaobo, Zhou Tiedong and American Emmy Award-winning producer Mary Lou Belli.

A total of 12 short films, all student works or graduate thesis, were nominated as the best film of the year. After an intensive selection process, one received an award for best picture and one won a prize for best director Saturday.

“Film market today is more globalized. It involves more international cooperation,” Cui

Rui, winner of the Best Director Award, said. “I hope our generation can help further develop the potential of Chinese films, and accurately reflect cultural differences between the United State and China through our work.”

“Hollywood in China has been growing in the last few years. We see more attempts to understand the markets from both sides,” Ben Lee, a USC communications professor told Xinhua.

“For the Chinese filmmakers, they are trying to understand how to be effective across the globe. We regard this film festival as a moment when you can see this happen,” he added.

AFMA Film Festival of Young Cinema was founded in 2013 by students at USC’s Annenberg School of Journalism and Communications.

As it is organized by a student organization, the festival focuses on creating a platform for talented Chinese filmmakers, especially students or recent graduates, to showcase and promote their works.—Xinhua

## The Chainsmokers debut atop Billboard 200 chart with ‘Memories...’

LOS ANGELES — Dance-pop DJ duo The Chainsmokers ousted rapper Drake from the top spot on the weekly US Billboard 200 chart on Monday, scoring their first chart-topping album after a slew of hit singles.

“Memories ... Do Not Open,” the debut full-length album from The Chainsmokers, racked up the equivalent of 221,000 in sales, including 60 million streams of the album and 166,000 copies sold, according to figures from Nielsen

SoundScan.

The album includes the hit singles “Paris” and “Something Like This,” following up on the duo’s breakout success with “Closer” last summer.

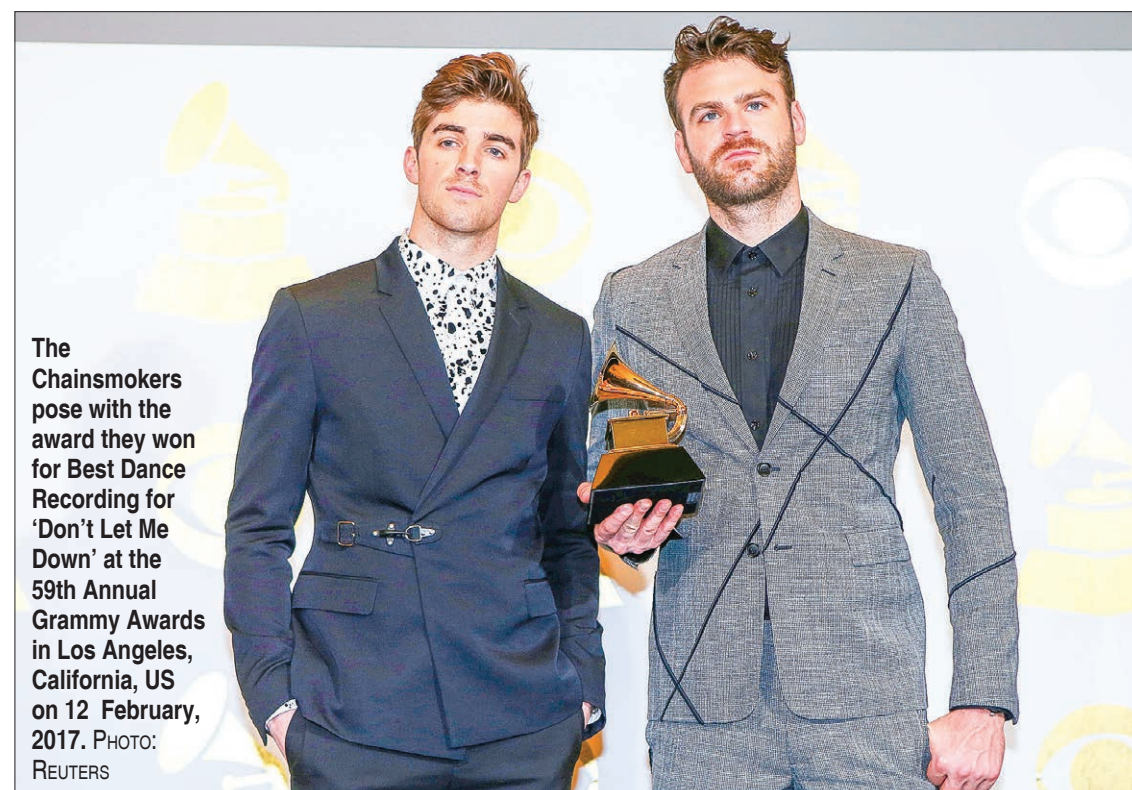
Drake’s “More Life” dropped one spot to No 2.

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).

New entries in the top 10 of

the Billboard 200 chart this week include a cappella group Pentatonix at No 4 with “PTX Vol IV: Classics,” rapper Joey Bada\$\$ at No 5 with “All-Amerikkkan Bada\$\$” and folk singer Father John Misty at No 10 with “Pure Comedy.”

In the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, former One Direction singer Harry Styles debuted at No 1 with his solo debut “Sign of the Times” selling 142,000 copies.—Reuters



The Chainsmokers pose with the award they won for Best Dance Recording for ‘Don’t Let Me Down’ at the 59th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, US on 12 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



# Japan's Muroya soars to his first US win in San Diego

SAN DIEGO — The second stop of the 2017 Red Bull Air Race World Championship was full of surprises on Sunday, as none of names on the podium matched those of February's season opener. Yoshihide Muroya of Japan claimed the win, while Slovenia's Peter Podlunšek was second, and defending World Champion Matthias Dolderer of Germany took third.

San Diego, California (USA) — As one upset followed another at the second stop of the 2017 Red Bull Air Race World Championship in San Diego, California on Sunday, Yoshihide "Yoshi" Muroya of Japan was the only pilot with the consistency to earn the triumph. Dazzling more than 40,000 fans across race

weekend, Muroya ended up dominating the Final 4 with a time of 58.529. While Peter Podlunšek was almost two seconds back at 1:00.454, the Slovenian nonetheless stunned the field by capturing second place in his first-ever Final 4. Reigning World Champion Matthias Dolderer was third after a pylon hit, and America's own Kirby Chambliss finished fourth.

Earning 15 World Championship points with the victory, Muroya jumped up 10 places in the overall standings, to third behind Martin Šonka of the Czech Republic (21 points) and Dolderer (16). The result was especially meaningful because the next stop of the season is in Muroya's home skies at Chiba, Japan

— where he earned his first race win just last year.

"I'm quite happy. We had a very hard time at the season opener in Abu Dhabi, and we've been working really hard for months," said Muroya, who had an over-G penalty at the 2017 kickoff. "My crew and my family have been helping a lot to help us get more stable and consistent, and I thank them. The next race in Japan is going to be a big one, and it's an important step forward to win here as I head to my home country. It's a huge crowd and pressure for me, but I will have fun there."

In the day's earlier action, 2016 Challenger Cup winner Florian Bergér of Germany earned his first Challenger Class win of the season.—Reuters



Martin Šonka the Czech Republic performs during the qualifying day at the second stage of the Red Bull Air Race World Championship in San Diego, United States on 15 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## As millions watch via webcam, giraffe gives birth in NY zoo

NEW YORK — After weeks of suspense, April the giraffe finally gave birth on Saturday to a baby boy, delighting of hundreds of thousands of people who have been monitoring a live cam feed from a New York zoo in anticipation of the long-overdue event.

April, who had been due to give birth in January or February at Animal Adventure Park in Harpursville, in western New York, was pregnant for at least 16 months, compared with the typical gestation period of 15 months, according to zoo officials.

April's celebrity and the public fascination with her unborn calf blossomed when the zoo began providing a live YouTube stream in February.

Hundreds of thousands of viewers have watched the 15-year-old April since then, and more than a mil-

lion people witnessed the birth on the livestream.

The YouTube page on Saturday showed April going into labor and the hooves of the baby first emerging from the standing mother. Afterwards, the spindly 6-foot-tall (1.83-metre) calf, estimated to weigh as much as 150 pounds (68 kg), was seen standing at its mother's side.

Zoo officials later announced on their Twitter page that the newborn giraffe was male and posted a photo of the still-unnamed calf and its mother with the message: "All is well." The zoo plans to hold a contest to name the baby.

Classed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species in 2016, giraffes are the world's tallest mammals. The species is usually found in dry savanna zones in sub-Saharan Africa.—Reuters



April helps her newly born unnamed baby giraffe stand at the Animal Adventure Park, in Harpursville, New York, US, on 15 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## China to feature at Cuba's int'l book fair in 2018

HAVANA — China will be the guest country at the 27<sup>th</sup> International Book Fair in Havana, Cuba, in 2018, the president of the Cuban Book Institute, Juan Rodriguez, announced on Sunday.

Rodriguez, who also chairs the fair's organizing committee, said it will be a great opportunity to showcase the cultural richness of the Asian nation, from its literature to music and other artistic expressions.

The Caribbean island is home to a sizable Chinese community of more than 162,000 residents of Chinese ancestry, and the fair will allow them and others to learn more about their Asian roots, Rodriguez told Xinhua.

The featured personality at the fair will be Cuban historian and writer Dr Eusebio Leal, who

received the National Award for Social Sciences in 2016, and is considered a "fervent guardian of the island's culture."

2017's edition of the international book fair featured Canada as guest country and paid tribute to the late revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, who passed away in November at the age of 90.

The fair brought together books from some 46 countries, representing more than 500 authors, including Canada's Margaret Atwood, the French Ignacio Ramonet, Ireland's Joseph O'Connor, and Brazilian intellectual Frei Betto.

The Havana book fair is considered the largest and most important annual cultural event in the Caribbean island.—Xinhua

## German town celebrates Easter with egg-throwing competition

BERLIN — While many Germans spent Easter Sunday engaged in a fun-filled hunts for chocolate eggs, residents of the western town of Horhausen passed their time throwing real eggs in a tradition that goes back several decades.

Local people braved the rain to stand in a field lobbing the brightly paint-

ed eggs as far as possible — without breaking them — to try to win a popular annual competition.

Each contestant was only allowed to throw one egg. Those that remained intact on impact were collected and handed out to participants, while the ones that broke were left for the birds to feast on.—Reuters

### mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(19-4-2017 07:00am ~ 20-4-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market
07:33	Am	Tour of national heritages and archeological sites
07:56	Am	Myanmar Street Foods
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Crocodiles of Meinmahla Island (Part-2)
08:39	Am	Oboist and His Life
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Chef Life: Myo Min Soe Oo
09:35	Am	A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritages
09:53	Am	Inspiration

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Fantastic Orchid Garden From The Flower City
10:36	Am	Memorable Yaw Region
10:53	Am	Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All
(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)		
<b>Prime Time</b>		
07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day In Bagan
07:47	Pm	The 110th Anniversary of Yangon Zoological Garden
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-1) The Culture of Pennant Pillar
08:41	Pm	Art Students: Their Dream
08:48	Pm	Myanmar Leading Woman: May Sabe Phyu @ L. Hkawn Htoi
(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 – <a href="http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule">www.myanmaritv.com/schedule</a> )		



# Myanmar U18 gets first win

MYANMAR defeated Chinese Taipei U-19 2-0 yesterday evening in the fourth day of 2017 Vietnam U 19 Challenge Cup held in Vietnam.

Myanmar could lead Chinese Taipei at the beginning of the match with some tricks and had great chances to pass the rival's penalty area but were caught offside. The striker, Winn Naing Tun scored the opener at

18 min and Hein Htet Aung created another goal by touching the ball straight into the net in 55min accordingly.

After the winning match, Myanmar got 3 marks and Chinese Taipei acquired just one mark and left the match. Myanmar will play against Hoang Anh Gia Lai FC, one of the Vietnamese Clubs on 20 April.—*Phoe Thaw Zin*



Myanmar U18 Football Team competing in 2017 Vietnam U 19 Challenge Cup. PHOTO: MFF



Middlesbrough's Fabio in action with Arsenal's Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain during the Premier League at the Riverside Stadium on 17 April, 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Arsenal keep Champions League hopes alive with Boro win

LONDON — Arsenal kept alive their slim hopes of securing a Champions League spot next season with a 2-1 Premier League victory at Middlesbrough on Monday that left the hosts in deep danger of relegation.

A superb Alexis Sanchez free kick put the Gunners ahead three minutes before the break but Spanish striker Alvaro Negredo brought Boro level four minutes after the interval. German midfielder Mesut Ozil grabbed a close-range winner for Arsenal in the 71<sup>st</sup> minute.

The result left Arsenal in sixth, seven points behind fourth-

placed Manchester City who have played one game more. Boro are second bottom, six points adrift of safety with six games left.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger made six changes to the team which had lost in humiliating fashion 3-0 to Crystal Palace last week and switched to a 3-4-3 formation, a new approach for the Gunners. "Sometimes when a team lacks confidence, changing the system helps the team to believe in something different," Wenger said.

A low-key first half ended with Arsenal getting ahead when

Sanchez showed great technique as he lifted the ball over a long wall and past motionless Boro keeper Brad Guzan.

Boro responded positively, though, and their equaliser was perfectly executed, Stewart Downing racing down the right flank and delivering a pinpoint cross which Negredo met with a side-foot finish after losing his marker Laurent Koscielny. Middlesbrough went close to a second with a stooping Daniel Ayala header which Arsenal keeper Petr Cech saved well, allowing his defence to scramble clear.—*Reuters*

## Zola resigns as Birmingham slip close to drop zone

LONDON — Former Italy international Gianfranco Zola has resigned as manager of English Championship Birmingham City after a 2-0 home defeat by Burton Albion left them three points off the relegation zone.

Zola was appointed in December after Birmingham sacked Gary Rowett with the club in seventh place in the league and well-positioned to make the promotion playoffs.

Birmingham announced the resignation on Twitter, shortly after their latest defeat.

City are in 20<sup>th</sup> place, three points above the relegation positions to the third-tier League One. Former Chelsea forward Zola previously managed West Ham United and Watford in England.—*Reuters*

## Terry to leave Chelsea at end of the season

LONDON — Long-serving Chelsea defender John Terry will leave Stamford Bridge at the end of the season, the English Premier League club said on Monday.

The 36-year-old former England international played more than 700 games for Chelsea and has been their most successful captain.

"John has given us more than two decades of dedicated and exceptional service," Chelsea said in a statement.

"In that time he has displayed the utmost pride at wearing the Chelsea shirt."

Terry made the third-highest number of appearances for Chelsea, captained them a record 578 times and scored 66 goals.

"After 22 years there is so much to say and so many people to thank at this great football club," Terry said.

"From coaches, team-mates and staff to the fans who have given me so much support down the years, I can't thank you enough," he added.

"I will decide on my future

in due course, but for now I am committed to helping the team achieve success this season."

Terry has made only four Premier League starts this season as Chelsea have moved to the top of the table, four points clear with six games remaining.

"I will, of course, always be a Blue and am desperate to end my final season as a Chelsea player with more silverware," Terry said. "I've always been conscious that I depart at the right time, in the right way, and I feel that the end of this season is the right time

for the club and I."

Terry, who made his Chelsea debut in 1998, won the 2012 Champions League, four Premier League titles, five FA Cups, three League Cups and the Europa League. He played 78 times for England.—*Reuters*



Chelsea's John Terry (L) watches teammates warm down with his children Summer (C) and Georgie after their English Premier League soccer match against Tottenham Hotspur at Stamford Bridge in London September 20, 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS