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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (back, left) talks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (back, right) during a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. The documents signed included an agreement on a China-Myanmar economic zone. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

China's Xi offers help for Myanmar peace process

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping told State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on Tuesday that China would continue to help the country achieve peace, and called for both sides to maintain stability on their shared border, state media said.

Fighting in March in Myanmar pushed thousands of people into China to seek refuge, prompting Beijing to call for a ceasefire between ethnic militias and the security forces there and carry out military drills along the border.

Xi met Nobel laureate Daw

Aung San Suu Kyi — who also serves as Myanmar's foreign minister — following China's Belt and Road Forum held on Sunday and Monday.

"China is willing to continue to provide necessary assistance for Myanmar's internal peace process," China's official

Xinhua news agency cited Xi as saying.

"The two sides must jointly work to safeguard China-Myanmar border security and stability," Xi said. The news agency did not elaborate on what assistance China would provide.

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects disaster preparedness in Ayeyawady Region

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspected disaster preparedness undertakings in Ayeyawady Region yesterday, urging local people to be alert to the possibility of natural disasters in the region.

Before making inspection tours, the Vice President held a meeting with local authorities at Maubin Township General Administration Office, stressing the importance of coordinated efforts between the authorities and local people in carrying out disaster preparedness undertakings.

“Natural disasters hardly hit Myanmar in the past, but we all should be aware of the

natural disasters today as it hit the country frequently,” said the Vice President.

Myanmar has a high fatality rate from disasters compared to other Southeast Asian nations, with over 12 million people in the country affected with nearly 140,000 fatalities.

He also stressed the importance of correct statistics in implementing the development tasks in the country.

Following the meeting, Vice President U Henry Van Thio began his tour of inspection by visiting Nyaungdon and inspecting maintenance of the bank of the Ayeyawady River that will prevent erosion.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects reinforcement of the bank of the Ayeyawady River during his tour of inspection in Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

The preventive measures against erosion were also carried out on the banks of the river near Bo Myat Tun Bridge at a cost of more than Ks3 billion.

About 98 per cent of the work has completed.

Meanwhile, the government injected more than Ks986

million into maintaining the Mayan Chaung embankment at Mayan Chaung Village in Danubyu Township.

During his tour, the Vice President also inspected erosion along the river and presented Ks100,000 each to 50 families who lost their homes

due to erosion.

The government has spent more than Ks935 million on building cyclone shelters and school cum shelters and digging lakes and wells in the region from the beginning of the 2016-2017 fiscal year to up to date. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is seen as he arrives at the Yangon International Airport to leave for the Philippines. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing leaves for the Philippines

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, left Yangon for the Philippines to attend 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting to be held in Manila, Philippines, at 9:50 am yesterday. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party were seen off at the airport by Brig-Gen Thet Pon, Commander of Yangon Region Command, and senior military officers, Ms Stephnie Alexis A.Cruz, Charge d' affaires from Philippine Embassy to Myanmar and responsible officials.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party arrived at the

Ninoy Aquino airport, in Philippines at 7 pm LST, and welcomed by Brig-Gen Pedro A Sumayo, of Philippine Army, Colonel Vincete Mark P Blanco III and military officers from Philippines Army, U Win Naing, Myanmar ambassador to Philippines, Col Win Myat, military attaché (Army, Navy and Air) and responsible officials.

14th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting will be held from 17 to 19 May. During the meetings, C-in-C of Defense Services and ASEAN Chiefs will discuss separately. — Myanmar News Agency ■

American clinical professor talks on oral cancer

Professor Alexender Ross Kerr of the United States' New York University College of Dentistry and President of the American Academy of Oral Medicine gave a talk under the heading

“Emerging techniques for the early detection of oral cancer” at the University of Dental Medicine in Yangon yesterday morning.

Members of the teach-

ing faculty, final year students, post-graduate trainees and house surgeons of Yangon University of Dental Medicine attended the talk.

— GNLM ■

Union Ministers meet with Chinese companies

THE Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing and Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo met separately with representatives of Chinese companies yesterday morning in Diaoyutai State Guest House. The Myanmar officials had accompanied State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to China during the One Belt, One Road forum held on Sunday and Monday.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung met with State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC) chairman Mr. Wang Binghua yesterday at 9am, followed by a meeting with ZTE Corporation founder Mr. Hou Weigui at 9:45am. The Union



Union Minister U Win Khaing (Right) shakes hands with China Communication Construction Company (CCCC) Vice President Mr. Sun Ziyu. **PHOTO: MNA**

Minister for Construction U Win Khaing met with China Communication Construction Company (CCCC) Vice Chairman Mr. Sun Ziyu and party at 10:30 am and First Myanmar Construction Company Chairman

Dr. Sone Han and party at local standard time 11:15 a.m. Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo met with Anhui Easy Business Digital Technology vice chairman and party at 8am. — Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor meets with Chinese president and premier

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met the President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping in Dongdang Hall, Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday afternoon after spending time with the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Mr. Li Keqiang.

At the two meetings, matters relating to increasing the two countries' strategic cooperation based on the pauk-phaw (fraternal) relationship existing between the two countries, co-operating for stability and development in the border regions, exchanging high level goodwill visits and increasing the people-to-people relationship and cooperation in all sectors were discussed.

The Chinese president told Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday that China would continue to help the country achieve peace, and called for both sides to maintain stability on their shared border.

President Xi met the State Counsellor following China's Belt and Road Forum on Sunday and Monday.

"China is willing to continue to provide necessary assistance for Myanmar's internal peace process," China's official Xinhua news agency cited Xi as saying. "The two sides must jointly work to safeguard China-Myanmar border security and stability," Xi said.

In addition, wide-ranging views were exchanged on projects jointly implemented by the two countries. Present at the meetings at the Great Hall of the People were Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing, Minister of State for For-

eign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and officials.

After their meeting, the State Counsellor and the Premier witnessed the signing of five agreements between Myanmar and China. The agreements were signed by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn, Commerce Minister of the People's Republic of China H. E. Mr. Zhong Shan, National Development and Reform Commission Vice Chairman H.E. Mr. Zhang Yong, National Health and Family Planning Commission Chairperson H.E. Ms. Li Bin and Head of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China Mr. Liu Yuzhu.

The documents signed were "Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of China", "Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Commerce of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China on the Establishment of China-Myanmar Border Economic Cooperation Zone", "Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation within the Framework of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative", "Memorandum



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping as they meet at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor visits Myanmar children from Yankin Children's Hospital who are receiving free heart surgery at Anzhen Hospital in Beijing. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor meets Mr. Wang Jiarui of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. **PHOTO: MNA**

of Understanding on Health Cooperation between the Ministry of Health and Sports of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the National Health and Family Planning Commission of the People's Republic of China" and "Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of the Religious Affairs and Culture of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Post-quake Restoration and Protection of Historic Monuments of Bagan".

In the evening, State Coun-

sellor and entourage visited Anzhen Hospital in Beijing to encourage Myanmar children who recently underwent cardiac surgery.

The cardiac surgeries were part of the "Treatment without limitation of borders on Myanmar children with cardiac problems from birth" programme implemented after the meeting between State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping on 19 August 2016. Fifty-four patients were selected from Yankin Children's Hospital in Yangon to be treated in

Beijing.

To date, 12 patients are undergoing treatment in Beijing and eight have already undergone successful operations.

Later in the evening, the State Counsellor attended a dinner hosted by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference vice chairman Mr. Wang Jiarui.

Earlier in the day, the State Counsellor attended a working breakfast hosted by the head of the International Liaison Department of the Communist Party of China Mr. Song Tao.—Myanmar News Agency ■



China's Xi offers help for Myanmar peace process

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China has repeatedly expressed concern about fighting along the border that has occasionally spilled into its territory, for instance in 2015, when five people died in China.

Xi also said China would work to enhance cooperation

with Myanmar on his Belt and Road development plan, which aims to bolster China's global leadership by expanding infrastructure between Asia, Africa, Europe and beyond.

The president promised US\$124 billion on Sunday to expand the reach of the initiative

during the two day summit of world leaders in Beijing.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told Xi that Myanmar was grateful for Chinese help and that it would work with China to safeguard stability in the border region, Xinhua said. —Reuters ■

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North Okkalapa hospital to be upgraded to 1500-bed hospital

NORTH Okkalapa General Hospital in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region will be upgraded to a 1500-bed hospital, said a hospital official.

Currently, North Okkalapa General Hospital has an 800-bed capacity.

In order to make the upgrade, a proposal will be submitted to the relevant authority with a request to provide more required doctors, nurses, health care staff, buildings, medicine and other medical

necessities.

North Okkalapa needs to be upgraded into a 1500-bed hospital because there are an average of 50,000 inpatients and 200,000 outpatients a year. Most of the patients are from Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago, Magway regions, and Mon and Rakhine states. North Okkalapa General Hospital was constructed on a 29.37-acre plot of land. The hospital opened as an 800-bed facility in February, 2016.— 200 ■



The 800-bed North Okkalapa General Hospital in Yangon.

Fungicide in farming will be reduced

ACCORDING to the announcement from Myanmar Rice Federation on 12 May, involvement of Tricyclazole fungicides in rice and other farming crops will be reduced from 1 mg/kg to 0.01mg/kg-3ppm to 0.01ppm effective from 1 July.

"The European Union (EU) alerted from 2008 for the involvement of Tricyclazole fungicides in Myanmar farming

crops exported to their countries," said U Ye Min Aung, general secretary of Rice Federation.

"We are experiencing difficulties to export our agriculture crops to foreign countries due to the involvement of Tricyclazole in the agriculture products. The involvement of this chemical substance was examined and tested in the lab.

After receiving the results from the lab, farmers and merchants will be informed and educated to control the involvement of Tricyclazole in their crops," said U Ye Min Aung.

Farmers are currently using the Tricyclazole for the fungus diseases of paddy plants by dipping the paddy plants in the Tricyclazole liquid or spraying the paddy plants with Tricyclazole.

13 trademarks involving Tricyclazole fungicides were sold locally. Tricyclazole fungicides will be replaced with natural fungicides and distributed to the farmers with cooperation with the Department of Agriculture.

Myanmar rice was prevented from entering Cambodia last year due to the involvement of fungicides in the rice.—Myanma Alinn ■

Winner of public housing chosen with lottery system

SAGAING regional government held an event to choose recipients who can rent much-needed public housing with a lottery drawing system at the Yangyi Aung Sports Ground on 14 May. Public housing has been constructed in Mya Taung ward, Shwebo Township, according to the Saging Regional government.

At the ceremony, U Than

Nyunt Win, the minister of regional government for Electricity, Industry and Transport delivered the speech.

Then, U Kyaw Kyaw Lin, deputy director from regional Urban and Housing Development Department rented two 5-storey buildings consisting of twelve rooms in Monywa and two in Shwebo to the public. Four-storey 12-room buildings

are being constructed — two in Sagaing, two in Katha and one in Monywa.

Daw Aye Su Myint, the assistant director from district Urban and Housing Development Department explained the rules and regulations on the lease of the apartments.

Sagaing Regional government will check the drawing system in May and making ar-

rangements for the people who win the draw to be able to begin occupancy of the apartment in June. The regional government has announced the winners in front of the public with transparency. A total of 331 people applied for the apartments, but the government will allow only 100 people to stay at the public housing, said Daw Aye Su Myint.—Min Min ■

Myanmar Lab Expo 2017 will take place on 5-7 July

MYANMAR Lab Expo 2017, an international trade fair, will take place in Yangon on 5-7 July, planning to showcase laboratory, scientific, analytical and biotechnology instruments and technology.

Rose Garden Hotel on upper Pansodan Road in downtown Yangon will host the trade

exhibition, which will help companies create business links, and meet directly with distributors, buyers and scientists, a spokesperson of the event said.

A wide variety of pharmaceutical products and state-of-the-art medical equipment from participating companies from Hong Kong, South Korea, the

US, China (Taipei), Malaysia, Italy and China will be displayed for sale in more than 70 booths during the three-day expo.

The event will be organised by Minh Vi Exhibition and Advertisement Services Co, Ltd (Veas), in partnership with the Myanmar Private Hospitals' Association, the Myanmar

Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association, and Dental Health Care Foundation.

Business matching programmes and technical professional seminars are also included in the three-day event, said event organiser Daw Thet Thet Mar.—200 ■

Nearly US\$540 million in trade deficit in first month of this FY

The trade value as of 5th May in the current Fiscal Year 2017-2018 was in deficit of US\$538.966million when imports surpassed exports.

From 1st April to 5th May of this FY, external trade value amounted to over US\$2.4billion, with an export value of US\$950.533mil and an import value of US\$1.49 billion, according to statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

Exports through normal trade performed better than that of last FY, with an increase of over US\$109million. Meanwhile, exports through border trade showed a decrease of over US\$63million against that of last year.

Out of 16 border trade camps, seven border gates — Muse, Chinshwehaw, Kengtung,

Htee Khee, Sittway, Maungtaw and Tamu — were found to have declining export value.

Last FY 2016-2017 witnessed a trade deficit of over US\$5.5billion, with the export values of US\$11,620.876million and import values of US\$17,180.780million.

There were trade deficits of US\$91.9million in 2012-2013, US\$2,555.5million in 2013-2014, US\$4,912.559million in 2014-2015 and US\$5,407.464million in 2015-2016 respectively, according to the statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO).

Therefore, the government is making efforts to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items.

Myanmar exported agricultural products, animal products,



A truck drives past a cargo container yard at a port in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods whereas capital goods, raw industrial materials and personal goods were imported into the country.

The concerted efforts are

being made by the State to enhance the export sector by establishing a public-private-partnership with the businessmen.

The country's export sector is depending more on the

agriculture and industrial products of small and medium sized enterprises, while lessening its reliance on natural resources such as natural gas, jade.—Mon Mon ■



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An Employee works at the Myanmar Central Bank's headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw. **FILE PHOTO: REUTERS**

100,000 bank staff to be hired in next decade

OVER 100,000 bank staff will be hired during the next 10 years as the Myanmar finance sector develops rapidly, according to an official from KBZ Bank.

"There were over 50,000 bank staff in 2015", said the bank official. "We expected that the banks can create the job opportunities for over 120,000 people in 2025. So KBZ will provide the highest levels

of customer service and will foster new creations in financial services in cooperation with foreign and local markets professional experts".

To aid in the expected expansion, Mr. Mike DeNoma was recently appointed by KBZ as the Special Advisor to the Chairman and CEO. He has managed operations across North America, Asia, Africa,

Europe and the Middle East.

Mr. DeNoma previously served as the CEO and Chairman of Britain's Standard Chartered Bank and Chinatrust Commercial Bank in China (Taipei) and has extensive experience in emerging markets.

Mr. DeNoma joined KBZ Bank from the GLH Chain of Hotels in the UK, where he was CEO.—200 ■

Myanmar agarwood prepped for export

MYANMAR agarwood products will soon be exported to foreign countries, said U Thaung Nyunt, the chairperson of the Myanmar Agarwood Entrepreneurs Association.

Agarwood has been cultivated over the past decade and products are ready to be produced. The agarwood association and the Forest Department have already negotiated to put the agarwood products on the export market.

"The agarwood products have been given the green light

for export", said U Thaung Nyunt at the Myanmar Forest Product Exhibition. "The tax rate is also set for this product. Concerted efforts are being exerted for the agarwood products to be exported abroad this year".

The Myanmar Agarwood Entrepreneurs Association has already opened a branch in Dubai so as to widely distribute the agarwood products in the market. There are over 10,000 acres of agarwood farms across the country, with about 50 mil-

lion plants.

Agarwood is mainly utilised in medical products and also used in cosmetics and perfume. Fragrance sticks made of agarwood are widely used in Japan. The Myanmar Agarwood Entrepreneurs Association was founded on 21st Jan 2013 and the association has over 700 members. The agarwood entrepreneurs are gearing up to distribute their agarwood products in both domestic and foreign markets.—Myint Maung Soe (MMAL) ■

High global gold price hikes domestic gold price

THE domestic gold price reached a record high of about Ks899,500 per tical as the global gold price has risen, according to the local gold market.

The local gold price settled at Ks895,000 per tical on 15 May as global gold prices increased to about US\$1,232 per ounce.

The global gold price had been increasing since the beginning of April and hit US\$1,291 on 19 April.

The global gold price began to decline slightly starting on 21 April and reached US\$ 1,266 per ounce on 28 April.

The prices of the global gold market declined from US\$1,261 on 1 May, US\$1,255 on 2 May and US\$1,246 on 3 May, US\$ 1,234 on 4 May, US\$1,233 on 5 May, US\$1,225 on 8 May and US\$1,214

on 9 May, US\$1,221 on 10 May. However, the price of the global gold market has increased again to US\$1,232 on 15 May. The lowest local gold price had been reached Ks894,700 per tical on 3 April while the highest local gold price had been reached Ks911,800 per tical on 18 April.

The price of local gold market was only Ks898,900 per tical on 31 March. The local gold price reached a record high of Ks809,800 per tical on 12 April before the water festival. The local gold price stayed above Ks900,000 per tical from 4 April to 3 May.

The gold price on 10 May was Ks891,400 per tical in the local market, whereas it jumped to Ks895,000 per tical on 15 May, it is learnt.—Min Thu ■

18 tonnes of Myanmar coffee seeds to ship to America

A TOTAL of 18 tonnes of Myanmar coffee seeds will be exported to the American market by the first week of June, said a chairperson of the Myanmar Coffee Association.

It is the second time that Myanmar's coffee has been placed on the American market. About 300 tonnes of coffee seeds are expected to be exported to international markets in the coming months. The two groups have already signed a contract to export three containers with full loads of coffee seeds. A container has a capacity to hold 18 tonnes of coffee seeds.

Last year, 36 tonnes of coffee seeds were exported to America. This year a higher export volume of Myanmar coffee is expected.

But since they now have a firm coffee market, coffee growers need to bolster the produc-

tion of high-quality coffee, the association said. The State needs to lay down a firm policy while the growers are upgrading the cultivation methods.

Myanmar started to cultivate coffee seeds around 1885 and could produce the coffee on a commercial scale in 1930. Although Myanmar's coffee could not penetrate more international countries back then, the country was able to export its coffee to neighbouring countries, it is learnt. With the assistance of US-AID and Winrock International, Myanmar's coffee was recently able to penetrate the US, European, Japanese and South Korean markets at a good price. In addition, Switzerland, England and China (Taipei) also placed an order for Myanmar coffee, reaping growers handsome profits.—200 ■

Volume of marine Hilsa fish landings increased by seven times last FY

THE volume of hilsa fish landings during last Fiscal Year 2016-2017 was up by about seven times that of the previous year, said U Kyaw Naing, it is reported.

Hilsa is listed on the top ten of the highest fish export. Pri-

or to 2000, the hilsa fish was the main fishery export item with the largest number of export. The export volume was found to decline later on.

The export volume is less than those from India and Bang-

ladesh in the highly competitive market. Around 7 million viss of hilsa fish were exported this year so far. With the high number of fish caught, a viss of hilsa sold for over Ks5,200 in the domestic market this year whereas hilsa

fish fetched around Ks7,000 a viss in the previous years.

Fisheries exports last year fetched nearly US\$600million, while that as of 28th April in the current fiscal year 2017-2018 earned over US\$40million, ac-

cording to the Commerce Ministry. Hilsa are mostly hunted from September to November. Sea fish are usually exported to foreign countries via Yangon after being kept in cold storage factories in Pyapon Township. —Ko Htet ■



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than (Left) meeting with H.E Mr Nguyen Phu Trong, Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary, at the Office of the Communist Party. **PHOTO: MNA**

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw in Vietnam

Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw who has been in Vietnam on an official visit, met with the prime minister, the chairman of the national assembly of Vietnam and visited Vietnam's parliament.

On Monday, the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw and party went to the Mausoleum of Vietnamese National Leader Ho Chi Minh to pay tribute.

They also visited the home in which Ho Chi Minh resided, signing the record guest book and posing for a documentary

photo. The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw then went to Vietnam National Parliament to meet H.E Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, chairman of the national assembly of Vietnam. In the meeting, matters on inter-exchange of friendship trips, cooperation in multiple sectors on politics, economy, agriculture and livestock breeding, strengthening friendship between the two countries and making bilateral cooperation more successful were discussed.

Later in the afternoon, the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw

met with H.E Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Vietnamese Prime Minister, and discussed bilateral friendship and cooperation.

The Speaker also met with H.E Mr Nguyen Phu Trong, Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary, at the Office of Communist Party. Afterward touring the Vietnamese Parliament, Mahn Win Khaing Than and party were hosted with a dinner in their honour by H.E Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan at the Vietnam National Parliament. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Peace Music Festival competition to be held

A nationwide, months-long Peace Music Festival in which contestants will compete for prizes for the best peace-related songs will be held starting next month.

The event is being held in honour of the peace process effort and the country's advance toward democracy, officials said.

"We have been arranging to hold the singing competition with the intention of national reconciliation, internal peace, successful build-up a federal democratic union nationwide", a responsible official from MRTV said. "There will be competitions held at three stages in 10 cities. Three preliminary winners each will be selected from each township and 5 others who are referees' favourites—35 in total. Among them ten will be selected and then seven of them will be given consolation prizes. The first, second and third place prizes will go to the remaining three." The first stage of PMF will be held in 10 cities—Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyaing, Patheingyi, Taunggyi, Lashio, Myitkyina, Sittway and Kalay from June to August at a city every week.

During the second stage of the competition, 35 contestants



who pass audition tests — three each from 10 cities and five of the audition test board members' favourites — will be allowed to compete in the final stage.

During the final stage, 10 selected songs for 10 contestants to sing will be composed by well-known composers. A Music Live Show will be held featuring famous vocalists performing solos, duets and group entertainment. The last three winners will receive the largest prizes.

It has been targeted to award 300 lakhs for the first prize winner, 200 lakhs to the second prize winner and 100 lakhs to the third prize winner, with seven consolation prize winners to be awarded at 30 lakhs each.

The final selection will be held in Yangon and events of competitions will be broadcast live.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Osaka chamber of commerce to help attract SMEs to Japan-backed Thilawa

Japan's Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry has agreed to help attract small and medium-sized companies to the Japanese-backed Thilawa Special Economic Zone near Yangon, in addition to the multinational companies already present there, by establishing small rental factory spaces, the zone's operator said Tuesday.

The OCCI comprising businesses in western Japan around Osaka and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish rental factory spaces of 500 to 750 square meters in rental factories in the zone, Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Ltd. said in a statement.

The 2,400-hectare economic zone already has nine rental

factory spaces of 1,500 square meters, of which seven are now occupied.

The latest move "adds diversity to the tenant base" and is "expected to further boost Thilawa SEZ's contribution to Myanmar's economy," MJTD said.

The economic zone, located southeast of Yangon, has proven to be successful since it officially opened for business in 2015, with more than 95 percent of its Zone A already occupied.

A total of 78 companies, of which 39 are from Japan, have opted to locate their production, assembly or logistic facilities in Thilawa, with total investment amounting to over \$1 billion, according to earlier release from MJTD. Of the 78 companies, 24 have already started their operations. The expansion of Zone B is slated for completion by the

middle of next year and is expected to create up to 40,000 new jobs.

Thilawa SEZ is a joint-venture involving major Japanese trading firms Mitsubishi Corp., Marubeni Corp. and Sumitomo Corp., which jointly hold a 49 percent stake. The rest is held by the Myanmar government and nine local companies.

MJTD President Takashi Yanai said in the statement that the OCCI and its members "were impressed with efficient governmental procedures, quality of infrastructure and robust pollution control measures at Thilawa SEZ." "Indeed, many interested parties have asked for flexibility in the amount of space they could lease in Thilawa SEZ," he said, adding that the MoU "provides the flexibility that will benefit all small and medium-size companies."—Kyodo News ■

Illegal immigrant and human trafficker caught in An Township

An illegal immigrant and a human trafficker were caught yesterday morning in Pepadon Combined Inspection gate in An Township, Rakhine State.

A motorcycle heading toward Minbu was stopped and inspected at Pepadon combined Inspection Gate in An Town-

ship, Rakhine State. The driver Thiha Phone Myint of Sittway was found to be transporting Ma Bu Tu of Thechaung village, Sittway Township illegally to Yangon and both were arrested and action was taken under the immigration act.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Thailand's Nation TV to film Myanmar Puppetry

Thailand's 24-hour news television channel, Nation TV is set to film and broadcast a documentary on Myanmar's Yoke the' puppets, and will feature Htwe Oo Myanmar puppet group in Yangon. The documentary will include interviews, a history on the refined art of puppetry and a puppet show. Puppets lovers all over the world have shown much

interest in Myanmar puppets for a few years now. "We are very proud that a foreign media will be studying and documenting about Myanmar puppets," said U Khin Mg Htwe from Htwe Oo Myanmar puppet group. Htwe Oo Myanmar puppet group regularly conducts puppet shows in the country as well as tours abroad.—200 ■

Let Us Green Our Arid Region Urgently!

Khin Maung Oo

TODAY, we are hearing people saying the words—global warming, thinning of ozone layer and climate changes. Being born in the arid zone, Central Myanmar, we had ever had a severe weather, scorching heat and drought, more than those living in other areas. A scarcity of water resources had been dreadful. There seems to be an element of hyperbole in such a claim that it was very difficult to extinguish a fire outbreak in a village of our township due to lack of water once in the past, to be exact some 50 years ago. Under these circumstances they would not even have imagined to grow trees and plants. To put it simply, any ideas would not have occurred to them that they should have grown and planted to make their environment green.

After a 13-year hiatus, I happened to pay a visit to my native town. On my way to my native land, I had a chance to glance at the environment along the route, as if I am watching a drive-in movie. Though we felt cool in the air-con bus, the scenes before us make dull, making us feel pitiful for their living on the dry and open land. Just before my thinking ended that I would indulge myself in taking a luxurious relax in my rural homeland we arrived at the destination, receiving a welcome with a burning heat. I came to notice there have been tube wells each in their bare yards. Compared to previous situations, they have developed in everything, but sorrowfully enough, they have not yet conceived an idea they have been required to create their areas with trees and plants.

Greening our land is not the task the government alone must implement. The government has provided necessary subsidies for the acquisition of water across the nation. At the time when the whole world including Myanmar is calling for greening the world, our environment, we should not condone it.

Through TVs and websites, we can see some parts of the world facing threatening challenges of severe weather changes. Nowadays, civil societies in the country, NGOs & INGOs are helping the government's activities for fighting against natural disasters. We must avert our attention to individually grow a plant to save our world, without blaming any longer that these were attributed to ultra-opportunists' excessive greed, that is, uncontrolled cutting down of all forests in the country. We

ourselves must know the values of tree and simultaneously educate our people by sharing knowledge on environment and greening our environment. Trees can give shade, keep rains and help to provide water for drinking and for other uses. Mangroves can also hinder the impact of natural disasters, especially storms. And, we have known that excessive use of plastic can cause global warming.

So, we should take part in the campaigns for reduction of plastic use. Provided that greening our environment goes uncared knowingly that it is of great importance, it will be tantamount to self-destruction of our world. In answer to our acquisition of knowledge on trees, let us turn our minds to green our environment and our arid zone, from now on! ■

Your Rights, Your Responsibilities

Dr. Khine Khine Win

YOU have human rights because you are human being. The human person is the central subject of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Here what you should know is all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

You are human being. Being human being, you must be able to enjoy and exercise your human rights on the basis of equality, free from discrimination of any kind, such as race, religious, colour, sex, language, political or other opinion, property, birth or other status or on the basis of disability etc. All human beings are equally entitled to human rights.

Rights and responsibilities stand as two sides of a same coin. Both go side by sides and are inseparable. There can be no rights without responsibilities. If you invoke a right, you imply a responsibility.

So what is human rights? The answer is, until today the definition of human rights is controversial and the UN has no internationally agreed definition of human rights. What my understanding is human rights is the right that is believed to belong justifiably to every human being. They are moral principles and norms which describe certain standards of human behavior and regularly protected. Here are the some of your rights and fundamental freedoms, Right to Education, Right to Health, Right to Safety, Right to Freedom of Expression,

sion, Right to Vote, Right to Live, Right to Healthy Environment, Right to Culture and Language etc.

Let me say again, you have human rights and you have right to enjoy all human rights. And also you have responsibilities. Every right has a corresponding responsibility. You have responsibility to obey the law at home, at school and at community, to respect the rights of others.

So what is responsibilities? Responsibility is a duty something you should do. If you want your rights then you have to understand your responsibility and act on responsible way so that everyone around you can have rights too and they can enjoy their rights. Let me give some examples of rights and responsibilities.

Dignity: You have dignity because you are human being and your dignity must be respected and protected. This is your right. Do respect another person is your responsibility. Human dignity can be protected only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met.

Freedom of expression: Some-time called freedom of speech. Of cause, you have right to expression. Everyone, including the press, may say, write or print photographs of whatever they want, this is right but no one is allowed to spread propaganda for hate speech, war or encourage people to use violence. Here you have to make sure that you have responsibility not to violate another person's right and break the privacy of others.

Education: You have right to

education. Your responsibility is to study, to pass the exam, to obey the rules of school and university.

Healthy environment: You have the right to healthy environment. This is your right. Your responsibilities are use only what you need, don't waste food and energy. Leave the earth cleaner than you found it, don't throw garbage anywhere coz it causes land pollution, which effect human health.

Language and culture: You can use the language and follow the culture you choose. This is your right. But you must respect other peoples' rights when you do so. This is your responsibility.

Culture and religious: You can enjoy your culture, practice your own religion. This is your right. Your responsibility is you must respect other's human rights when you do so. They have their rights too.

Health: You have right to health. But your responsibility is to take care of your own body as best you can.

Privacy: Privacy is the fundamental human rights and it has become one of the most important issues of the modern age. You have right to privacy and your responsibility is you must respect privacy of others.

If you want your rights to be respected, you must not do anything that violates another person's rights. On the other hand you have to aware that these rights do not replace the laws you already have and so you must respect these laws as well. This

fact is the very basic responsible for all human being.

If people only know their rights and without knowing responsibilities or taking on responsibilities, other people feel unsafe, treated unfairly or abused. If you do not accept your responsibilities or if you fail to take your responsibilities, you will fail in your community, you will fail your team, people around you feel unhappy and unsafe.

State also has the prime responsibilities to protect, promote and respect human rights. State has responsibility to implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms to his citizen. In deed there are fundamental rights and duties of citizens too. For instance, according to Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008) every citizen has the duty to pay taxes to be leived according to the law and also every citizen has the duty for the emergence of a modern developed Nation.

It is interesting to note that voting is your rights and your responsibility as well. It is important to exercise your rights and responsibilities not just for your own sake but for the future sake of others. Remember, humans everywhere have the right and of course responsibility.

Let me conclude the article by sharing quote by Stephen Cadiz "The time is come for us, as citizens, to demand our rights, to stand up and demand accountability and responsibility". ■

Applications to attend Union Peace Conference as observers

Applications are being accepted to attend Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Second Session) as an observer. The application form and the rules the observer needs to follow is posted on the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Second Session) Facebook page.

The application form is to be sent to 21stcenturypanglong@gmail.com by 19 May.—Myanmar News Agency ■



<div>Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw Notification 8/2017 6th Waning of Kason, 1379 ME (16 May 2017)</div> <div>Twelve Defence Services Personnel representatives from Pyithu Hluttaw substituted</div> <div>ACCORDING to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law to substitute twelve representatives of the Armed forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following twelve Pyithu Hluttaw representatives shown on the left column under the Notification 1/2016 of the commission dated</div>	<div>18-1-2016 with those shown on the right column. The Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second multi-party general election held on 8 November 2015.</div> <div><div>(1) Air 1781 Brig-Gen Than Lwin</div><div>BC 18804 Brig-Gen Kyaw San Lin</div></div> <div><div>(2) BC 23158 Col Min Than</div><div>BC 24348 Maj San Win Khaing</div></div> <div><div>(3) Air 2127 Col Maung Maung Oo</div><div>BC 18645 Brig-Gen Naing Win</div></div> <div><div>(4) BC 27978 Lt-Col Than Hlaing Win</div><div>BC 26204 Maj Ye Tun</div></div> <div><div>(5) BC 30371 Lt-Col Ye Tun Naing</div><div>BC 20313 Maj Than Win</div></div> <div><div>(6) BC 31225</div><div>BC 25233</div></div>	<div>Lt-Col Aung Zin Min (7) BC 29772 Maj Tin Aung Win (8) BC 30539 Maj Myat Thein (9) BC 33261 Maj Han Soe Htut (10) Air 2464 Maj Ye Myint Lwin (11) Air 2599 Maj Soe Min Aye (12) Air 2609 Maj Kyaw Lin</div> <div>By order, (Tin Tun) Secretary Union Election Commission</div>
<div>Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw Notification 9/2017 6th Waning of Kason, 1379 ME (16 May 2017)</div> <div>Ten Defence Services Personnel representatives from Amyotha Hluttaw substituted</div> <div>ACCORDING to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law to substitute ten representatives of the Armed forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following ten Amyotha Hluttaw representatives shown on the left column</div>	<div>under the Notification 2/2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016 with those shown on the right column. The Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second multi-party general election held on 8 November 2015.</div> <div><div>(1) BC 20331 Brig-Gen Thet Tun Aung</div><div>BC 21868 Brig-GenZawZawNaing</div></div> <div><div>(2) BC 31314 Lt-Col Myo Tun Aung</div><div>BC 21934 Col Aung Kyaw Moe</div></div> <div><div>(3) BC 30566 Maj Nay Myo Kyaw</div><div>BC 18078 Lt-Col Khin Maung Ohn</div></div> <div><div>(4) BC 30274 Maj Maung Maung Nyein</div><div>BC 19404 Brig-Gen Tin Swe</div></div> <div><div>(5) BC 29209 Maj Kyaw Naing Htay</div><div>BC 28488 Capt Tun Tun Htay</div></div>	<div><div>(6) BC 32475 Maj Zaw Lin Aung</div><div>BC 26876 Maj Ye Aung Saw</div></div> <div><div>(7) BC 33509 Maj Ye Wint Soe</div><div>N 928 CaptDawThazinHlaing</div></div> <div><div>(8) BC 33510 Maj Ye Min Htwe</div><div>BC 19027 Col Kaung Kyaw</div></div> <div><div>(9) BC 33518 Maj Myo Maung Thein</div><div>N 850 Capt Daw Than Than Win</div></div> <div><div>(10) Navy 4146 Lt-Cmdr Aung Phyo Kyaw</div><div>Navy 3779 Cmdr Soe Naing</div></div> <div>By order, (Tin Tun) Secretary Union Election Commission</div>
<div>Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw Notification 10/2017 6th Waning of Kason, 1379 ME (16 May 2017)</div> <div>Twelve Defence Services Personnel representatives from Region and State Hluttaw substituted</div> <div>According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute twelve representatives of the Armed forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following twelve Region Hluttaw and State Hluttaw representatives shown on the left column under the Notification 3/2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016 and Notification 28/2016 of the commission dated 14-11-2016 with those shown on the right column. The Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Represent-</div>	<div>atives to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second multi-party general election held on 8 November 2015.</div> <div><div>Kachin State Hluttaw</div><div><div>(1) BC 36914 Maj Win Myo Aung</div><div>BC 28656 Capt Yan Naung Myint</div></div></div> <div><div>Kayah State Hluttaw</div><div><div>(2) BC 22582 Col Zaw Myo Tin</div><div>BC 28570 Capt Shwe Toe</div></div></div> <div><div>Kayin State Hluttaw</div><div><div>(3) BC 30745 Capt/Maj U Kyaw Aye</div><div>BC 27384 Capt Aung Myint Tun</div></div></div> <div><div>Bago Region Hluttaw</div><div><div>(4) BC 25174 Maj Saw Sein Kyaw</div><div>BC 24935 Maj Myo Hein</div></div></div> <div><div>Magway Region Hluttaw</div><div><div>(5) BC 32571 Maj Myint Naing</div><div>BC 28576 Capt Tun Myint Latt</div></div></div> <div><div>Mandalay Region Hluttaw</div><div><div>(6) BC 29518 Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Aung</div><div>BC 28807 Capt Toe Aung Myint</div></div></div>	<div><div>(7) BC 31166 Lt-Col Aung Si Myo</div><div>BC 29037 Capt Soe Naing</div></div> <div><div>Rakhine State Hluttaw</div><div><div>(8) Navy 4062 Lt-Cmdr Kaung Myat Soe</div><div>BC 28698 Capt Thein Swe Myint</div></div></div> <div><div>Yangon Region Hluttaw</div><div><div>(9) Navy 4012 Cmdr Than Naing</div><div>BC 30681 Capt Ye Aung</div></div></div> <div><div>Shan State Hluttaw</div><div><div>(10) BC 29699 Lt-Col Tin Myo Naung</div><div>BC 19035 Lt-Col Maung Maung Ko</div></div></div> <div><div><div>(11) BC 30545 Lt-Col Nyi Nyi Tin</div><div>BC 23814 Lt-Col Kyaw Thura</div></div><div><div>(12) N 564 Maj Daw Hnin Yu Kyaw</div><div>BC 23821 Lt-Col Hlaing Tun Aung</div></div></div> <div>By order, (Tin Tun) Secretary Union Election Commission</div>



President Donald Trump speaks with Attorney General Jeff Sessions as they attend the National Peace Officers Memorial Service on the West Lawn of the US Capitol in Washington, US on 15 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

WORLD BRIEFS

Kremlin says reports Trump disclosed intelligence are “nonsense”

MOSCOW — The Kremlin described as “complete nonsense” on Tuesday media reports that US President Donald Trump had disclosed classified intelligence during a meeting with Russian officials.

“It’s not a subject for us, it’s the latest piece of nonsense. We don’t want to have anything do to with this nonsense. It’s complete nonsense, not a subject to be denied or confirmed,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on a conference call with reporters. —Reuters ■

UK May’s Conservatives on 47 pct, lead narrows slightly — Panelbase

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May’s Conservatives have seen their large lead over the Labour opposition narrow slightly after details of Labour’s policy programme were published last week, an opinion poll from Panelbase showed on Tuesday. Ahead of a 8 June national election, market research firm Panelbase said support for the Conservatives fell by 1 percentage point to 47 per cent compared with a poll it conducted last week, while backing for Labour rose 2 points to 33 per cent.

Support for the Liberal Democrats edged down by 1 percentage point to 7 per cent, and the UK Independence Party’s support remained unchanged at 5 per cent. —Reuters ■

Parliament elects new war crimes prosecutor, approves loans

BELGRADE — The Serbian parliament has elected a new war crimes prosecutor and approved two loan agreements.

Voting on a total of 44 items on the agenda on Monday, the parliament elected Snezana Stanojkovic as chief prosecutor at the Office of the Prosecutor for War Crimes. —Tanjug ■

Trump, in tweets, defends his sharing of information with Russians

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Tuesday defended his decision to disclose information to Russian officials during a White House meeting last week, saying he had an “absolute right” to share “facts pertaining to terrorism and airline flight safety.”

The president took to Twitter to counter a torrent of criticism, including from his fellow Republicans, after reports that he had revealed highly classified information about a planned Islamic State operation.

Two US officials said Trump shared the intelligence, supplied by a US ally in the fight against the militant group, with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov

and Russian Ambassador Sergei Kislyak during a meeting last Wednesday.

The disclosures late on Monday roiled the administration as it struggled to move past the backlash over Trump’s abrupt firing of FBI Director James Comey, who was investigating the president’s ties to Russia. The turmoil overshadowed Republican legislative priorities such as healthcare and tax reform and laid bare sharp divisions between the White House and US intelligence agencies, which concluded late last year that Russia had tried to influence the 2016 presidential election in Trump’s favour.

Russia has denied such

meddling, and Trump bristles at any suggestion he owed his 8 November victory to Moscow.

“As President I wanted to share with Russia (at an openly scheduled WH meeting) which I have the absolute right to do, facts pertaining to terrorism and airline flight safety,” Trump said on Twitter. “Humanitarian reasons, plus I want Russia to greatly step up their fight against ISIS & terrorism.”

Trump weighed in personally the morning after his secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, and national security adviser, HR McMaster, issued statements saying no sources, methods or military operations were discussed at the Russian meeting.

McMaster said the story, initially reported by the Washington Post, was false.

The US officials told Reuters that while the president has the authority to disclose even the most highly classified information at will, in this case he did so without consulting the ally that provided it, which threatens to jeopardize a long-standing intelligence-sharing agreement.

Bob Corker, the Republican head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called the allegations “very, very troubling.”

“Obviously, they’re in a downward spiral right now,” he said on Monday, “and they’ve got to come to grips with all that’s happening.” —Reuters ■

Poland’s commitment to rule of law gets EU member state scrutiny

BRUSSELS — Poland’s alleged slide from democracy came under scrutiny from fellow European Union states on Tuesday, with some openly questioning the nationalist government in Warsaw’s commitment to EU values. The Law and Justice government has rejected criticism from Brussels and decried

what it says is an unacceptable interference in domestic affairs.

The party promotes a mix of conservative social values, high social spending and active state engagement in the economy, with euroscepticism and deep mistrust of its two powerful neighbours — Germany and Russia.

Since coming to power, it has put the judiciary and public media under more political control, triggering alarm from political opponents and rights groups that it is infringing on basic rights and liberties.

“The issue of the rule of law is extremely important for all of us in the EU and therefore I

don’t think it should be a taboo (to discuss it),” Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders said as he arrived for a meeting of all 28 ministers to talk about Poland.

“We are a community of values, when there is an issue, as we have at the moment with Poland, we should have a serious dialogue.” —Reuters ■

Iraq says battle for Mosul nearly won as forces close in on Old City

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces have dislodged Islamic State from all but 12 square km of Mosul, a military spokesman said on Tuesday, after planes dropped leaflets into the city telling civilians the battle was nearly won.

Seven months into the US-backed campaign, the militants now control only a few districts in the western half of Mosul including the Old City, where Islamic State is expected to make its last stand.

The Iraqi government is pushing to declare victory by the holy month of Ramadan, expected to begin on 27 May, even if pockets of resistance remain in the Old City, according to military commanders.

A spokesman for the US-led coalition backing Iraqi forces said the enemy was completely surrounded in the city and its fighters and resources were being destroyed.

"The enemy is on the brink of total defeat in Mosul," US Air Force Colonel John Dorrian told a news conference in Baghdad.

With the help of advisers and air strikes by the coalition, Iraqi forces have made rapid gains



Displaced Iraqis flee during clashes between Iraqi forces and Islamic State militants in western Mosul, Iraq on 16 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

since opening a new front in the northwest of Mosul earlier this month, closing in on the Old City.

The Old City's warren of densely packed houses and alleys is the most complex battleground and home to the al-Nuri mosque from which Islamic State leader Abu Bakr

al-Baghdadi proclaimed a caliphate spanning Iraq and Syria in 2014.

"We reassure everyone that ... in a very short time, God willing, we will declare the liberation and clearing of west Mosul and raise the Iraqi flag over ... the Old City," said

spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Rasool.

Outnumbered, the militants have snipers embedded among the hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped in west Mosul. Many people have been killed by militants or heavy bombardments.—Reuters ■

Would-be IS girl recruit planned school bombings, Danish court finds

COPENHAGEN — A 17-year-old Danish girl who offered to fight for Islamic State was found guilty on Tuesday of planning bomb attacks at two schools, one of them Jewish, court documents showed.

The girl was arrested at her home in January last year, when she was aged 15, and charged with planning the attacks after acquiring chemicals for making bombs, police said.

Police who searched the residence found a handwritten note with the words "Allahu Akbar!" (God is greatest), a date, and the address of the Jewish school in Copenhagen. A second note was marked "bomb attack on the infidels" and gave the address of her own school near Holbaek, a town west of the capital. Police said they also found chemicals, a list of ingredients for making a bomb and a container marked "Tatp" — a common abbreviation for the explosive triacetone triperoxide.

A jury in the Holbaek district court found the girl — who is white European and was not named — guilty of attempted terrorism, the court said in a statement. Sentencing was deferred to Thursday.—Reuters ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပို (၈) ပျက်နာပါစင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာတိုင်းအား အခမဲ့ ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ



Hit the stands



မန္တလေး၊ ကရင်ပြည်နယ်၊ ကချင်ပြည်နယ်၊ ဗမာပြည်၊ ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်၊ တနင်္သာရီ၊ မကွေး၊ မန္တလေး၊ ဗမာပြည်၊ ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်၊ တနင်္သာရီ၊ မကွေး၊ မန္တလေး

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နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တက်ကန်း)
နေပြည်တော်၊ မြောက်ဦးလမ်း၊
နေပြည်တော်၊
ဝန် - ၀၈၇ ၃၆၀၄၀၊ ၀၈၇ ၃၆၀၂၂

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊
အမှတ် ၁၇၀၊ ငါးတန်းကြီးလမ်း၊
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ပန္နလေး
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ကရင်ပြည်
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ကလေး
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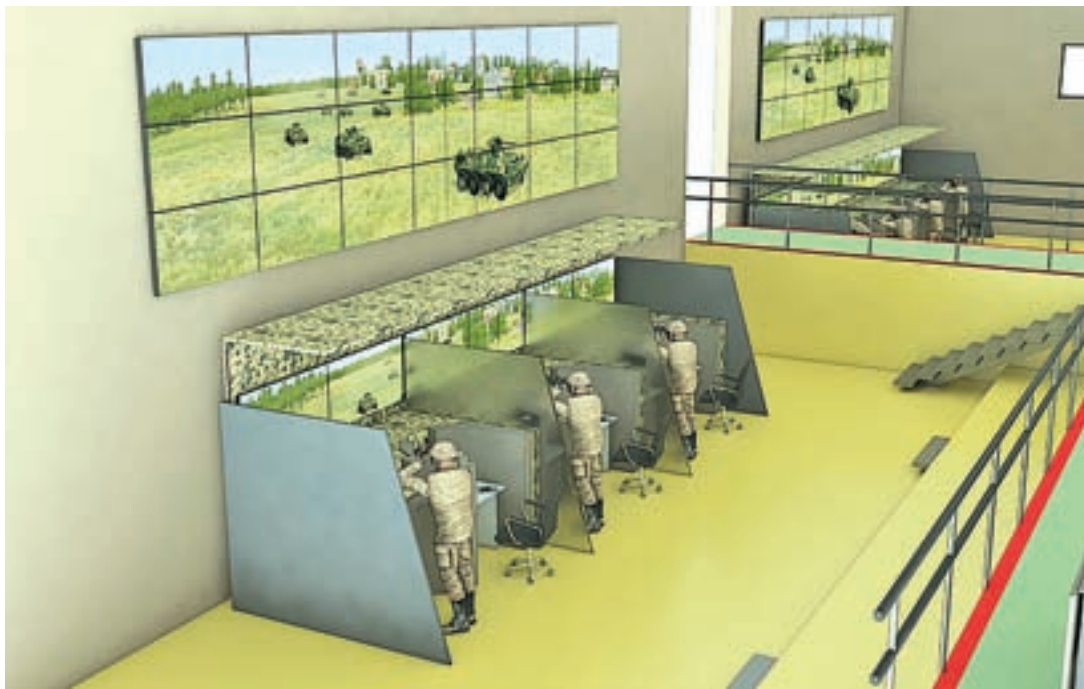
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A sole virtual battlefield that provides the means for testing robots and drones has been developed for the Russian Army. **PHOTO: TASS**

Virtual battlefield for robots and drones developed in Russia

MOSCOW — A sole virtual battlefield that provides the means for testing robots and drones has been developed for the Russian Army, Kronstadt Group CEO, Armen Isaakyan, told TASS in an interview.

“We have developed a new version of the Combat virtual trainer that now includes drones and robots and is more flexible and able to integrate with other developers’ synthetic trainers,” he said.

The virtual battlefield includes the Combat virtual train-

er and a tool for integrating other trainers with the virtual models of any objects. The Kronstadt Group is now working on 3D visualization and a virtual map for the trainer.

“Combining mathematical models with the visual display system in a sole virtual 3D space with a realistic environment makes it possible to model and optimize the operation of joint force groups, including manpower and any equipment such as helicopters, tanks, armored personnel carriers, drones, and

robots,” Isaakyan explained.

The virtual battleground provides the means for fine-tuning robot functions and detecting errors right at the design or pilot stage. “This, no doubt, cannot fully replace field testing, but is very important for developing new technologies and products,” he stressed.

Any vehicles — land, sea and air — can be integrated into the virtual battlefield. It can be effectively used for a joint force group, for instance, a brigade. —Tass ■

Britain’s Labour launches “radical, responsible” election manifesto

LONDON — Britain’s opposition Labour Party launched a “radical and responsible” election manifesto on Tuesday, showing a shift to the left to try to capitalise on voters’ concerns over education and health before next month’s vote.

In what its leader Jeremy Corbyn called “a blueprint of what Britain could be”, Labour promised to renationalise rail and mail services and water utilities and take some of the energy sector into public hands to better control prices.

Labour also said if it wins the election on 8 June it would increase taxes on Britain’s highest earners, introduce a levy on financial transactions and impose an “excessive pay levy” on companies with staff earning more than 330,000 pounds.

Critics say the move leftwards stirs memories of the party’s 1983 manifesto, described then by a Labour lawmaker as “the longest suicide note in history” for helping the Conservatives, and some have questioned how the party can fund its programme.

Corbyn said his manifesto, which also included scrapping university tuition fees and ending cuts to the much-loved National Health Service, was fully costed and would reverse what he called “a Britain run for the rich, the elite and the vested interests” under Prime Minister Theresa May.

“This manifesto is the first draft of a better future for the people of our country. A blueprint of what Britain could be and a pledge of the difference a Labour government can make,” he told party supporters at a university in northern England.

“Our country will only work for the many not the few if opportunity is in the hands of the many. So our manifesto is a plan for everyone to have a fair chance to get on in life, because our country will only succeed when everyone succeeds.”

The governing Conservatives, which have a runaway lead in opinion polls, called the manifesto “a shambles”, again attacking veteran peace campaigner, Corbyn.—Reuters ■

US allies seen cooperating despite alleged Trump secrets leak

SYDNEY/WELLINGTON — President Donald Trump’s alleged disclosure of highly classified information to Russia’s foreign minister is unlikely to stop allies who share intelligence with Washington from cooperating, officials said on Tuesday.

Some experts added, however, that the reports could undermine trust between partners.

In a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Russian ambassador Sergei Kislyak, Trump disclosed intelligence about a planned Islamic State operation, which was supplied by a US ally, two officials with knowledge of the situation said.

The name of the ally or intelligence-sharing operation was not disclosed.

The White House declared the allegations, first reported by

the Washington Post, incorrect. Interfax news agency quoted the Russian foreign ministry saying they were “fake”.

Two of Washington’s allies in the intelligence sharing network known as “Five Eyes” — which groups the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand — played down the impact on their relationship with Washington.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull told a radio station in Adelaide he would maintain “my normal circumspection and discretion” on classified matters, adding the alliance with the United States “is the bedrock of our national security”.

Trump and Turnbull met last week aboard a decommissioned aircraft carrier in New York City after beginning their

relations with a testy phone call in February.

New Zealand Foreign Minister Gerry Brownlee noted the story had been denied.

“The media reports have been rejected by senior US officials who were in the meeting,” he said in an email via his spokeswoman. “If there is ever to be a resolution of the dreadful situation in Syria, it will require concerted efforts from both the US and Russia.”

A Japanese government official said it was simply not possible to stop cooperating with Washington on intelligence matters.

“If the report is true and Mr Trump is an untrustworthy person, it doesn’t necessarily mean that we don’t share information with the US anymore,” said the official, speaking on condition of

anonymity.

While the president has the authority to disclose even the most highly classified information at will, in this case he did so without consulting the ally that provided it, which threatens to jeopardize a long-standing intelligence-sharing agreement, the two US officials said.

‘SERIOUS JEOPARDY’

National security analysts said relations could be damaged.

“Effectively, Trump’s actions have thrown world’s most important intel sharing relationship into doubt at best, serious jeopardy at worst,” Stephanie Carvin, a former national security analyst for the Canadian government, said on Twitter, referring to the “Five Eyes” arrangement.

James Curran, professor of

foreign policy at the University of Sydney, said the intelligence relationships were too important and productive to be damaged by Trump’s alleged disclosures to the Russians.

“No real practical impact, but I do think it will raise more eyebrows about this president’s style and his cavalier attitude to this type of thing, said Curran.

Over the long term, however, such behaviour “can potentially have very serious consequences for America’s intelligence relationships across the world”, Curran said.

Rhys Ball, who formerly worked for New Zealand’s intelligence service and is now a Massey University security and defence analyst, said he thought it would be “business as usual” for the “Five Eyes” community. —Reuters ■

Abe, US commander affirm cooperation to counter North Korea threat

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the commander of the US Pacific Command agreed on Tuesday to continue to closely cooperate in addressing North Korea, which went ahead with yet another ballistic missile test on Sunday.

In a speech in Tokyo the same day, Abe repeated his concerns over Pyongyang's missile technology aimed at developing intercontinental ballistic missiles, while calling on China, the main economic benefactor of North Korea, to apply more pressure. Beijing has suspended imports of coal from Pyongyang as part of economic sanctions.

"North Korea's ballistic missile launch on the 14th is a grave threat to both Japan and the United States and is absolutely unacceptable," Abe said at the outset of his meeting with Adm. Harry Harris at the prime minister's office.

"Now is the time to put pressure on North Korea and I believe Japan and the United States have to firmly cooperate to do so," Abe said during the meeting, part of which was open to the media.

The missile flew for 30 minutes and reached an altitude of over 2,000 kilometres before coming down in the Sea of Japan and North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency touted it as a new type of ground-to-ground intermediate-range ballistic missile.

Referring to the joint drill between the two allies conducted in the Sea of Japan near the



Admiral Harry Harris (L), Commander of the US Pacific Command (USPACOM), shakes hands with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Abe's official residence in Tokyo, on 16 May, 2017. **PHOTO:**

Korean Peninsula last month involving the US aircraft carrier Carl Vinson strike group, Abe said the two countries showed determination to secure peace in the Asia region.

Harris echoed the view and said Pyongyang's provocative actions "underscore the importance of the Japan-US alliance."

Abe and Harris also exchanged views on the East and South China seas, where China

has become increasingly assertive. Harris also had separate meetings with Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Defence Minister Tomomi Inada.

Earlier Tuesday, Kishida conversed with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson over the telephone and agreed on the need for the two countries to take a "resolute stance" in dealing with Pyongyang.

They will call on China and Russia, two of the five ve-

to-holding members of the UN Security Council, to play roles in pressuring North Korea to abandon its pursuit of nuclear and missile development programs, a senior Japanese official said.

"Dialogue for dialogue's sake is meaningless. For now, it's important that pressure is exerted on North Korea," Kishida told a House of Councillors committee the same day.—Kyodo News ■

French right torn apart as Macron, PM prepare to name government

PARIS — A senior member of France's main conservative party disowned his colleague Edouard Philippe on Tuesday for taking up the job of prime minister under centrist President Emmanuel Macron.

Speaking as the new president prepared to name the rest of his government later in the day, Francois Baroin, election campaign leader of The Republicans (LR) party which is being torn apart by Macron's divide and conquer tactics, said on BFM TV Philippe had "made a choice which is not ours."

Macron appointed Philippe, a lawmaker from the moderate wing of The Republicans party, on Monday to head his first government in a move aimed at broadening his political appeal and weakening opponents before parliamentary elections in June.

Several Socialist members of parliament have also joined Macron's cause and 21 LR members of parliament, including some party heavyweights and former ministers, issued a joint statement on Monday urging the party to positively respond to the "hand extended by the president".

"It will be up to him to struggle with this element of schizophrenia," Baroin added.

Macron is looking to the June elections to give him and his own start-up Republic on the Move (REM) party the majority in parliament needed to push through his plans to cut state spending, boost investment and create jobs, after years of economic malaise.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (172)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (172) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV PACITA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACITA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GLODEN SEA

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Shakira's new album to release on 26 May

LOS ANGELES — Share to FacebookShare to TwitterShare to Google+Share to LinkedInShare to More

Shakira has announced her new album 'El Dorado' will be out on 26 May.

The 40-year-old songstress took to Twitter to break the news.

"So happy to announce my new album 'El Dorado' — out 26th of May! Shak #ShakiraELDorado," wrote Shakira, alongside the cover of her LP.

The upcoming album follows the chart-topping singer's 2014 self-titled album, 'Me Enamore'.

The track of the same name arrived at number 11 on Bill-



Colombian singer Shakira.
PHOTO: REUTERS

board's Hot Latin Songs, charted on 29 April, according to Billboard. Recently, Shakira also won the 2017 Billboard Latin Music Award for hot Latin song artist of the year.—PTI ■

'New Girl' renewed for seventh and final season

LOS ANGELES — "New Girl" has been renewed for another season, which will be the show's last installment.

The Fox show will return for a shortened eight-episode run for its final season, sources told Variety.

The sitcom, which stars actress Zooey Deschanel in the lead, received low ratings in its past season.

It is the network's longest-running live-action comedy



Actress Zooey Deschanel.
PHOTO: REUTERS

on the air, having debuted in 2011. The renewal was in the cards but the network and studio want more episodes. Created by Liz Meriwether, "New Girl" also stars Jake Johnson, Max Greenfield, Lamorne Morris and Hannah Simone.—PTI ■



Actor Johnny Depp arrives on the red carpet for the global premiere of the film "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales", in Shanghai, China on 11 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Johnny Depp to star in King of the Jungle

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Johnny Depp will play a cyber mogul in dark comedy "King of the Jungle".

The 53-year old actor is on board to portray McAfee anti-virus creator John McAfee in the based-on-true-story movie.

The film will be directed by Glenn Ficarra and John Requa from a script written by Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski, reported Ace Showbiz.

An adaptation of a "Wired"

article titled "John McAfee's Last Stand" by Joshua Davis, "King of the Jungle" will see a "Wired" magazine investigator who "accepts what he thinks is a run-of-the-mill assignment to interview McAfee, but once he arrives in Belize, he finds himself pulled into McAfee's escalating paranoia, slippery reality and murder."

Depp will next be seen in "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell no Tales", re-

prising his role as Captain Jack Sparrow. He will also star in Agatha Christies "Murder on the Orient Express" and crime drama "Labyrinth".

Depps other upcoming movies include "The Libertine" and "The Invisible Man", in which he will portray the titular character. He will reprise his role as evil wizard Gellert Grindelwald in the upcoming "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them 2".—PTI ■

Don't be disappointed if I don't join politics: Rajinikanth

CHENNAI — Tamil superstar Rajinikanth today said he had no desire to joins politics, but if he did, he would show the door to all "money-minded" people.

The actor said he had no political ambition, but was often dragged into political debates despite stressing that he was "neither an influential political leader nor a social activist."

"My life is in the hands of God. I'm not sure what he has in store for me. But I'll always perform the duty that he bestows on me. So, don't feel disappointed if I don't enter politics," he told fans at a gathering here.

But if he did join politics, he would ensure that there would

be no place for those seeking material gain. "Money-minded people will be shunned. So, I warn you now itself to stay away," he said.

In 1996, the 66-year-old actor had supported the DMK-TMC alliance in Tamil Nadu, which swept the polls that year. But he has not been involved in any political activity since then, he said. "(But) my name has been dragged into politics for the past two decades. I am pushed to clarify during every election that I'm not affiliated to any political party," he said.

Rajinikanth regretted that he had not been able to meet fans as regularly as he wished to. "I

was supposed to meet you all two months ago but had to postpone it to accommodate more fans. So, I cancelled the previous meet-and-greet session. Later, I was supposed to go to Sri Lanka for an event. Again I had to cancel it for various reasons. A lot of media reports followed saying, 'Rajinikanth doesn't stick to his decision. He is apprehensive' and so on."

He said he thought "wisely" before he took a decision. "If you step into the water and later realise that there are crocodiles in it, you shouldn't brave them and refuse to step out of the water. Such blind courage will take you nowhere," he said.



The Tamil superstar Rajinikanth. **PHOTO: PTI**

He shrugged off allegations that he did "certain stunts" before a film's release to ensure its success at the box office.

"With the blessings of my fans and Tamils intact, I don't need to do that. My fans are

not fools to be deceived by this. A film will succeed only if it is good. Even if you do somersaults, bad content will flunk," he said.

The actor had some advice to give his fans — not to touch alcohol and cigarettes. "Please take care of your families and children. Give up drinking and smoking. Even wealthy people in business have lost their empires because of alcohol addiction, which not only spoils one's physical health but mental well-being, too.

It will diminish your decision-making skills and your crucial decisions in life will eventually go wrong," he warned.—PTI ■



Ana Ros, a chef at restaurant Hisa Franko poses with staff in the kitchen in Kobarid, Slovenia on 12 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Recipe for success: discipline and diplomacy, says top Slovenian chef

KOBARID, Slovenia — Nestled in a valley just a few miles from the Italian border, Ana Ros’ restaurant lures food-lovers from around the world with her quirky dishes: eel with pomegranate, foie gras and field chicory and tripe with fava beans and fried nettles.

Ros, 44, starred on Netflix’s Chef’s Table last year, since when her Hisa Franko restaurant has been packed.

In April, she picked up her award for the World’s Best Female Chef by the World’s 50 Best Restaurants.

The former sportswoman, who was a member of the national youth skiing team and had studied to become a diplomat before she began helping her husband Valter Kramar run the family business, says those skills helped her become a successful chef. “Gastronomy is a sort of art, it is very exact and you need a lot of discipline that comes from sports,” she said, adding that diplomacy comes in handy when trying to avoid “nervous breakdowns and screaming” in the kitchen. She fell into her cooking career by accident, having canceled a job interview in Brussels to help Kramar with Hisa Franko, and learnt to cook with the help of her mother-in-law.

The couple were already food tourists, traveling the world to eat at top restaurants and leaving behind Slovenian traditional staples such as sausages, sauerkraut and dumplings.

“The food was always fascinating to me but I could not imagine that I would ever make it,” Ros said.—Reuters ■

London exhibition celebrates 50 years of Pink Floyd

LONDON — A new exhibition celebrating the career of Pink Floyd, featuring a raft of memorabilia and tributes to the rock group’s famously surreal iconography, opens in London on Sunday.

The Victoria and Albert Museum hosts “The Pink Floyd Exhibition: Their Mortal Remains”, to mark the 50th anniversary of the release of the British band’s debut album, “The Piper at the Gates of Dawn”.

“It’s not just about nostalgia,” said Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason, who worked with the designers behind some of the band’s most legendary album artwork, Aubrey “Po” Powell and Storm Thorgerson, to conceive and develop the exhibition.

“Fifty years always seems like a good moment, and the truth of the matter is that we’re not all here forever. We’ve lost two of the band over the years,” he said, referring to original lead guitarist and main songwriter Syd Barrett and keyboardist Rick Wright, “and it’s so important...if you want to tell these stories to do it when people are still around to tell them.”

The exhibition is an audio-visual chronicle of Pink Floyd’s rise from the darlings of London’s underground music scene in the late 1960s to global stardom and a career that saw them sell over 250 million albums.

Visitors enter through an oversized recreation of the van that carried Pink Floyd to their early gigs, and can view over 350 artifacts ranging from original concert posters to guitars from the band’s career in addition to unreleased footage of the group at work.—Reuters ■



Visitors are silhouetted at The Pink Floyd Exhibition: Their Mortal Remains at the V&A Museum in London, Britain on 9 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MRTV

Programme Schedule
(17-5-2017, Wednesday)

6:00 Am	Competition
◆ Paritta by Hilly	2:10 Pm
◆ Reagion Missionary	◆ TV Drama Series
◆ Sayadaw	3:15 Pm
7:00 Am	◆ TV Drama Series
◆ Breakfast News	4:35 Pm
7:35 Am	◆ Monthly Weather Report (May)
◆ Money Talk Myanmar	4:05 Pm
8:35 Am	◆ Documentary
◆ Documentary	5:35 Pm
9:10 Am	◆ MRTV Travelogue
◆ Life Struggles	6:15 Pm
9:45 Am	◆ Football Magazine
◆ Kyaewint Myayee Yin	6:30 Pm
◆ Khone Than	◆ Real Story Raaal Movies
10:30 Am	7:15 Pm
◆ Pyi Thu Ni Ti	◆ TV Drama Series
11:15 Am	◆ TV Drama Series
◆ Teleplay	8:00 Pm
11:25Am	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
◆ “Colour of ASEAN”	8:35 Pm
◆ (4) (Cambodia & Myanmar)	◆ Documentary
12:30 Am	8:55 Pm
◆ TV Drama Series	◆ Pyi Thu Ni Ti
1:00 Pm	9:15 Pm
◆ Myanmar Tradition-	◆ TV Drama Series
al Performing Arts	

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Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(17-5-2017 07:00am ~ 18-5-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News	09:48	Am	Philatelic Pleasure
07:25	Am	Myanmar Charitable Labour Association	10:03	Am	News
07:37	Am	Myanmar Traditional Toys	10:27	Am	An Ardent Aficionado Of Traditional Design
07:52	Am	Orchid Lover			
08:03	Am	News			
08:26	Am	Hanthawaddy U Win Tin: A Fearless Man (Ep-1)			
08:48	Am	Will you feed the pigeons?			
08:53	Am	A Nun’s Creation in Fruit Carving			
09:03	Am	News			
09:26	Am	Chef Life. Zin Minn Htun			
09:35	Am	Product Of Myanmar - Myanmar Circular Stone Slab			

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-1)
07:47	Pm	Grow Back For Posterity “The Dawn of Development”
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Exquisite Myanmar Silk
08:46	Pm	The Art of Sand Painting And Its Creator’s life

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

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

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

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Arsenal failure to make top four would be "frustrating", Wenger says

LONDON — Arsenal will be "frustrated" if they fail to secure a top four finish in the Premier League this season and can only blame themselves for their inconsistent performances, manager Arsene Wenger has said.

Arsenal were third in the table after 19 league games but have since won just nine out of 17 matches to fall to fifth, on course to lose out on a Champions League spot for the first time in 20 years under Wenger.

Arsenal must win their two remaining games and rely on third-placed Liverpool or fourth-placed Manchester City slipping up. If both their immediate rivals manage to get wins, then Wenger's side will miss the top four by one point.

"It will be frustrating," Wenger told reporters on Mon-

day. "I still think we just have to give our best to get to 75 points, and if it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen. At least we have done our job well to the end.

"I would say we would be a victim of a lack of consistency that we have shown through the season...

"We are a victim of nobody. If we make 75 points, we can only be beaten by one point. That point can happen in the season one side or the other. You will always have regrets because you could have one point more ..."

Arsenal will host already-relegated Sunderland in their penultimate league game on Wednesday followed by seventh-placed Everton on Sunday before facing champions Chelsea in the FA Cup final on 27 May.

—Reuters ■



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. PHOTO: REUTERS

Federer to miss French Open



Roger Federer returns a shot against Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic during their third-round match at the Australian Open in Melbourne on 20 January, 2017. Federer won 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 to play Kei Nishikori next. PHOTO: KYODO

NEW YORK — Eighteen-time Grand Slam winner Roger Federer said on Monday he will skip the French Open, which starts this month, as well as the rest of the clay court season.

"Regrettably, I've decided not to participate in the French Open," the 35-year-old Swiss, who is currently No 5 in the world rankings, said on his website.

Federer said he will sit out the clay court season this year and focus on preparing for the grass and hard court seasons, which begin in June.

"The start to the year has been magical for me but I need to recognize that scheduling will be the key to my longevity moving forward," Federer said. "Thus, my team and I concluded today that playing just one event on clay was not in the best interest of my tennis and physical preparation for the remainder of the season," he said. Federer has already won three titles so far this year, including the Australian Open. He also claimed the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells and the Miami Open. —Kyodo News ■

Terry mulls retirement after Sunderland match

LONDON — Chelsea captain John Terry is assessing whether to retire from football after the Premier League champions' final game of the season against Sunderland on Sunday.

The 36-year-old has watched most of Chelsea's title-winning campaign from the bench this season, but opened the scoring in the 4-3 win over Watford on Monday night — his eighth league appearance of the season.

"I know I said I wanted to play regular football, but I have not ruled out Sunday being my last game and retiring," Terry told British media after the game.

"It depends if the right offer comes... but I haven't made any decisions yet and I am just evaluating my options.

"I never wanted to be that



Chelsea's John Terry. PHOTO: REUTERS

player just hanging about that people can't wait to get rid of or stopping the progress of a younger player coming through." Terry, who has played more than 700 times for Chelsea — the club he joined as a 14-year-old schoolboy — said adjusting to a bit-part role this season had been hard, but credited manager Antonio Conte with helping to ease the transition.

"He has been brilliant with me," Terry added. "Leaving me out of the side was probably a tough decision, but... the honesty, the respect and the communication has been fantastic. As a player that's all you want.

"The transition for me being on the bench and seeing it from a different aspect this year has served me well and will do if I go into management in the future." —Reuters ■