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The container barge service in the Ayeyawady River is expected to reduce transportation costs and traffic congestion. PHOTO: IWT

Multi-purpose container barge service starts

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications has started the Inland Water Transport (IWT), a multi-purpose container barge service to transport goods along the Ayeyarwady River and containers in the Yangon River. The service was started to reduce transportation costs and relieve congestion on the road.

Ten trips with 40 containers per trip were transported by container barges and tugboats along the river between Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa (MITT) and Shwe Me port, Shwepyitha Township from

March 9 to April 7 on a trial run beginning on 11 May. Riverine transport of containers greatly reduces traffic congestion on Yangon roads caused by the container cars and will reduce costs and transport time.

In the past, goods were packed in sacks and boxes of varying sizes and manually loaded and unloaded onto vessels in riverine transport. Using containers, barges and machinery are effective in reducing cost and time and the project to transport containers in barges is important work for IWT. The multi-purpose

container barge project was implemented with the support of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and IWT and SA Marine Company, which signed an agreement on 23 December 2014 to build the container barge. The SA Marine Company ordered the Myanmar Shipyards on 25 March 2015 to build the 60-metre long, 15-metre wide, 3-metre deep container barge with a draught of 1-1.7 metres that can carry up to 22 by 40-foot containers.

Myanmar Shipyard and Myanmar-Vietnam Shipyard

completed construction of the container barge using Japanese technology on 30 October 2015 and transferred the vessel to IWT on 31 October 2015 after obtaining a container barge license. The multi-purpose container barge cost Ks4,040 lakh.

A preliminary summer trial run was conducted by loading and unloading containers at Shwe Me port, Shwepyitha. Then 18 empty containers were transported along Ayeyarwady river to Semikhon Jetty in Mandalay Region and back in March 2016.

SEE PAGE-3



NATIONAL

Information minister inspects preparation for Children's Literature Festival

PAGE-3



NATIONAL

Yangon plans airport-downtown shuttle service

PAGE-9



LOCAL NEWS

Dive center to be opened in Thahtay Island in Kawthaung

PAGE-2



LOCAL BUSINESS

Sein Ta Lone mango expected to fetch Ks2.4million

PAGE-5



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Multipurpose stadium to emerge in Mandalay very soon

A MULTIPORPOSE stadium constructed in Mandalay City is 90 per cent complete and it is expected to be finalised at the end of this month, project implementers say.

The 253-ft long, 194-ft wide and 57-ft high stadium has been built within Mandalathiri Sports Stadium located at the corner of Ngushwewah Road and 68th Road, for the purpose of holding multiple types of sports events, including volleyball, basketball, table tennis and other indoor sports, on an international scale.

The new sports structure with a good air-conditioning system is able to receive up to 2,500 spectators. A public clinic, meeting room, VIP lounge, relaxing rooms



The multi-purpose stadium in Mandalay completes 90 per cent. **PHOTO: AYE MYA (MANDALAY)**

for athletes and coaches, media room, administrative office and room for food preparation will be included in the stadium.

The overall costs of con-

struction are allocated by the Union government. Upon completion of the project, the new sports facility will officially open by holding an international

tournament, said U Myo Myint Aung, principal of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Institute.—Aye Mya (Mandalay) ■

Almost Ks480 million to be spent on greening project in Mandalay

MANDALAY region authorities set to spend nearly Ks480 million budgets on implementation of dry zone greening project in the current fiscal year, according to the region's dry zone greening department.

The project includes con-

struction of tube-wells, reservoirs and related facilities, as well as establishment of forest plantations across the region. The funds will also be used for dry zone greening departments in every township to buy office equipment they need.

Under the plan, the department will spend Ks1.733 million on reservoirs development projects in Myittha, Myingyan, Yamethin, Natogyi, Kyaukpadaung and Thazi townships, Ks3.440 million on drilling an underground well in Pyawbwe

Township.

Of the total budgets, Ks460.059 million will go to the tree planting projects in Kyaukse, Meiktila, Myingyan, Nyaung-U and Yamethin districts, an official of the department said.—200 ■

Dive center to be opened in Thahtay Island in Kawthaung

A DIVE Center is planned to be opened in Thahtay Island situated within Myeik Archi-

pelago in the Andaman Sea, according to a spokesperson of Myanmar Dive Center.



Thahtay Island. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Situated in Kawthaung Township of Taninthayi Region, the small island which is directly adjacent to Ranong in southern Thailand, is suitable to establish a dive center as part of marine-based tourism development plan.

With the purpose of providing scuba diving experience for international travellers who tour to Myeik Archipelago, the Myanmar Dive Center has decided to establish a new dive center in Thahtay Island.

The decision is based on the development of a dive center in Ngwehsaung Beach, a popular beach resort in Ayeyawady Region, opened last year, with the organizer hoping to achieve a

successful outcome from the new project.

The new center will be opened in the designated area before high season this year, said an official of the Myanmar Dive Center, adding that negotiations for the project have already been made and the body is planning to give special trainings to dive guides.

A traveller wishing to get underwater diving experience has to pay between US\$120 and \$150 charges based on service plans.

There are so many untouched islands with beautiful sandbanks, clean water and sea creatures in Myeik Archipelago.—200 ■

Multi-purpose container ...

FROM PAGE-1

A rainy season trail run was conducted by transporting four loaded and 14 empty containers from Yangon to Mandalay and back in June 2016.

A lack of container handling facilities in the ports along the Ayeyarwady River prompted the requirement to prioritise ports development for the container transport system to succeed.

To exchange and share the experience of constructing the container barge using Japanese technology and the process of transporting containers, SA Ma-

rine Co., Ltd held a seminar at Park Royal Hotel on 16 July 2016 that was attended by Japanese businesses, transport businesses in Myanmar and representatives of government departments under the Ministry of Transport and Communication.

Construction of modern jetties and ports are important for the development of inland water transport and the flow of goods along the Ayeyarwady River. A coordinating meeting between JICA and the Ministry of Transport and Communication on a Mandalay port development project that is

to be implemented with the Japanese government's grant aid was held in 15 May 2017.

Matters relating to locations to construct jetties, works and cooperation on Ayeyarwady River Basin Management project, works on managing ports and upgrading performance of staffs were discussed and meeting minutes were signed.

The final result of all these activities will be reduction of cost and time, officials said. The sector of transporting goods by container is expected to develop quickly.—GNLM ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint assists in arrangements for holding the Children's Literature Festival in Taunggyi. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Information inspects preparation for Children's Literature Festival

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint inspected arrangements for holding the Children's Literature Festival at Taunggyi University in Shan State yesterday.

In his inspection tour of the university's buildings, where the festival will be held, Pro-rector Dr Yin Yin Nwe and

officials of the Taunggyi Township Information and Public Relations Department clarified the arrangements for the festival.

The Children's Literature Festival is slated to be held at the multi-purpose building of the university from 2 to 4 June. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Committee holds first meeting to ratify Myanmar Youth Policy

THE first meeting of the work committee to ratify the Myanmar Youth Policy was held in Mingala Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an opening speech by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye.

It was attended by members of the committee, officials and representatives of departments of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and related organisations.

The Union Minister said the Myanmar Youth Policy has been drafted for youths who will form the country's future to realise their valuable potential, show their ability, and obey and follow ethics. The Union Minister added that the drafting of the Myanmar Youth Policy was started on 9 May 2016 and is planned to be completed by June this year. The formulation of a Myanmar Youth Policy for today's youth



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye addresses the first meeting of the work committee to ratify the Myanmar Youth Policy. **PHOTO: MNA**

is one of the government's 100 days projects. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Health and Sports and Ministry of Education cooperated to lead youth representatives and formed the Youth Policy Drafting Committee and Youth Policy Drafting Work Committee.

This meeting is held for each

ministry to discuss and suggest by sectors in the completed draft guidelines to be used in coordination with current policies, work processes and programmes. The Union Minister urged members of the committee to ensure that the Youth Policy encompasses all youths, be realistic and be effectively implementable. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Free training to be held in Yangon by Myanmar Seamen's Federation

Myanmar Seamen's Federation will open free training at the end of this year for the seamen in Myanmar to be skillful in their field of work.

The main subjects in the training will be the related to seamanship.

"Some of the seamen could not afford to attend all necessary trainings for them as the trainings are very expensive.

As a result, they were facing many difficulties on the ship due to their insufficient

skills.

This is the main reason that we will open and lecture free training for them", said U KyawMyaOo, chair from Myanmar Seamen's Federation.

These trainings will be opened and conducted in the halls owned by Myanmar Seamen Federation in Yangon.

Every seaman who is interested in the training can join and attend by registration to the federation. —Myanma Alinn ■

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Softbank-Saudi tech fund becomes world's biggest with \$93 billion of capital

RIYADH — The world's largest private equity fund, backed by Japan's Softbank Group and Saudi Arabia's main sovereign wealth fund, said on Saturday it had raised over \$93 billion to invest in technology sectors such as artificial intelligence and robotics.

"The next stage of the Information Revolution is under way, and building the businesses that will make this possible will require unprecedented large-scale, long-term investment," the Softbank Vision Fund said in a statement.

Japanese billionaire Masayoshi Son, chairman of Softbank, a telecommunications and tech investment group, revealed plans for the fund last October and since then it has obtained commitments from some of the world's most deep-pocketed investors.

In addition to Softbank and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), the new fund's investors include Abu Dhabi's Mubadala Investment, which has committed \$15 billion, Apple Inc, Qualcomm, Taiwan's Foxconn Technology and Japan's Sharp

Corp. The new fund made its announcement during the visit of President Donald Trump to Riyadh and the signing of tens of billions of dollars worth of business deals between US and Saudi companies. Son was also in Riyadh on Saturday.

After meeting with Trump last December, Son pledged \$50 billion of investment in the United States that would create 50,000 jobs, a promise Trump claimed was a direct result of his election win. The fund may also serve the interests of Saudi Arabia by helping Riyadh obtain

access to foreign technology. The Saudi economy has been severely damaged by low oil prices, and policymakers are trying to diversify into new industries.

The PIF signaled an interest in the tech sector last year by investing \$3.5 billion in US ride-hailing firm Uber. Saturday's statement did not say how much the PIF had committed to the fund, but previously it has said it would invest up to \$45 billion over five years. Softbank is investing \$28 billion.

The new fund said it would seek to buy minority and majority

interests in both private and public companies, from emerging businesses to established, multi-billion-dollar firms. It expects to obtain preferred access to long-term investment opportunities worth \$100 million or more.

Other sectors in which the fund may invest include mobile computing, communications infrastructure, computational biology, consumer internet businesses and financial technology.

The fund aims for \$100 billion of committed capital and expects to complete its money-raising in six months, it added.—Reuters ■

Dollar has worst week in over a year amid political uncertainty

NEW YORK — The US dollar fell on Friday, adding to its worst week since April 2016 against a basket of major currencies, and having surrendered the gains made since Donald Trump was elected US president.

The dollar index, which tracks the greenback against a basket of six world currencies, has shed more than 2 per cent this week. On Friday, it fell 0.75 percent, hitting its lowest since 9 November, the day after the US election.

Uproar over Trump's recent firing of FBI Director James Comey, who was overseeing an investigation into possible links between the president's team and Russia, has pressured the dollar.

"The dollar overall, across the board, has been getting beat up this week and a lot of that has to do with the political risk here in DC," said John Doyle, director of markets at Tempus Inc in Washington. "While we saw a little bit of a reprieve yesterday, we're right back on that dollar weakness train."

The US currency has also suffered from a resurgent euro, which has the largest weighting in the dollar index. The single currency has gained more than 2.5 per cent this week, headed for its best performance since February 2016. It rose 0.95 per cent on Friday to a six-month

high of \$1.1205.

The advance of the euro was spurred by a possible winding down of the European Central Bank's expansive monetary stimulus programme, said analysts, with recent data pointing to a robust recovery in the euro zone.

Against the safe-haven Swiss franc, the dollar fell 0.65 per cent, touching a six-month low. It was on pace for its largest weekly percentage fall since February 2016.

The dollar fell 0.3 per cent against the yen to 111.14 and had its first weekly drop in five against the Japanese currency.

The dollar moved broadly lower after a report that a senior White House adviser is a person of interest in the investigation into possible coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia. The greenback also sank against emerging market currencies, which were dragged lower on Thursday by news that Brazilian President Michel Temer had been recorded offering bribes to silence testimony by a potential witness in the country's wide-ranging corruption probe.

The dollar fell 3.3 per cent against the Brazilian real.

Oil-linked emerging market currencies like the Mexican and Colombian pesos and the Russian rouble gained around 1 per cent versus the dollar, also boosted by a rise in oil prices.—Reuters ■



The Ford logo is pictured at the Ford Motor Co plant in Genk, Belgium on 17 December, 2014. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Ford using first over-the-air software updates to its 2016 cars

SAN FRANCISCO — Ford Motor Co said on Friday it would delve into the growing arena of "over-the-air" software updates, adding Android Auto and Apple CarPlay to its Sync 3-equipped 2016 vehicles for the first time via a wireless software update.

The latest upgrade to Sync 3, Ford's interactive touchscreen system, will be accomplished through an over-the-air (OTA) update using Wi-Fi, not unlike how new software gets uploaded to smartphones by manufacturers.

After Tesla Inc's early lead in 2015 introducing OTAs, tra-

ditional automakers are slowly beginning to embrace the new technology, within limits. Concerns about security and resistance from dealers worried about losing service revenue have hampered its adoption.

Thus far, established automakers have not used OTAs for safety systems, only for non-critical systems like infotainment.

Customers can also get the update via the traditional means of visiting their dealer or using a USB drive, Ford said.

Android Auto and Apple CarPlay are operating systems

from Alphabet's Google and Apple Inc that allow drivers to connect their smartphones to their vehicles' dashboard.

Ford's first use of OTAs comes about two months after it said it would hire 400 engineers to work on connectivity, mostly from BlackBerry Ltd's shuttered phone handset business. BlackBerry QNX powers Ford's Sync 3 system.

Besides being more convenient for customers, OTAs can bring automakers cost savings, as a substantial percentage of warranty repair issues and recalls can be corrected through OTAs.—Reuters ■

YGN needs 400,000 tonnes of feed stuffs per year

FEED requirements for animals in commercial livestock industry in Yangon Region are nearly 400,000 tonnes a year, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

U Win Sein, vice-chairman of the MLF, said that the region's commercial poultry farms yearly need 258,000 tonnes of feed stuffs for chicken, ducks and quails while pig breeders annu-

ally buy more than 60,000 tonnes of feedstuffs. He continued to say that feed requirements for other farm animals including sheep, goats and cattle are over 80,000 tonnes on a yearly basis.

Poultry units use 65 per cent of total feedstuffs in the region, said U Win Sein.

Feed manufacturers mainly use millet, broken rice, bran, oil mill byproducts and other kinds

of raw materials to produce finished feedstuffs. A spokesperson of the MLF said that authorities concerned are designing effective plans to promote the country's feedstuff industry to sufficiently fill local consumption.

Feedstuff requirement for farm animals has increased year after year. This is directly linked to the continuing population growth in the region.—200 ■



Sein Ta Lone mango expected to fetch Ks2.4million

A tonne of Sein Ta Lone (Diamond Solitaire) mango fetches about Ks2 million in the export market and the price is likely to increase as the mango yield this year possibly decreases, according to the Southern Shan State mango growers association.

This year, some of the Sein Ta Lone plant was in an immature state, resulting in a low yield. But the price offered was higher.

With a high US dollar exchange rate, a tonne of mango is likely to attain up to Ks2.4million, said U Myint Oo from the above said association.

A tonne of Sein Ta Lone was offered Ks1.2 to 1.5 million during the early mango season of last year.

However, this year the mango price hit a high of Ks1.7

million to Ks2 million per tonne.

China, Singapore and Thailand mostly purchase Myanmar's Sein Ta Lone. Russia is showing an interest in future purchases.

A box of packed Sein Ta Lone weighing 15 kilos fetched around 80-120 Yuan last year, whereas the price of an unpacked mango box was 50-70 Yuan.

The prevailing price of packed mango was 100-150 Yuan per box, while an unpacked mango box fetched about 60-80 Yuan.

There are about 200 local varieties in the country.

The marketable local mango varieties — Sein Ta Lone, Shwehintha, Yingwe, Padam-yar Ngamauk — are mainly exported to foreign countries.—200 ■

U.S. to purchase 72 tonnes of Myanmar coffee

A group of American coffee buyers has signed a contract with Myanmar Coffee Association to purchase 72 tonnes of coffee this year, according to this association.

It is the second time that Myanmar's coffee has been placed on the American market. Last year, 36 tonnes of arabica were exported to America. The coffee prices ranged from US\$4,400 to \$7,000 depending on quality.

Thirty six tonnes of coffee will be shipped to America this month while the remaining 36 tonnes will be exported next month.

Myanmar started to cultivate coffee seeds around 1885 and were able to produce the coffee on a commercial scale by 1930. Although Myanmar's coffee could not penetrate more into international market, 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 able to penetrate America, Europe, Japan and South Korea markets at a good price. In addition, Switzerland, England and China (Taiepi) also placed an order for Myanmar coffee, resulting in significant profits for growers. — Htet Myat ■

H&T Ministry to offer Green Season Promotion

In a bid to enhance both hotel and tourism businesses and the investment enterprises, Green Season Promotion will be offered with a reduced price of airline tickets, hotels and restaurants, said Daw Khin ThanWin, the deputy director general of the Hotels and Tourism Ministry. There are widespread criticisms of high

travel cost for inbound tour. The aforementioned ministry comes up with idea of Green Season Promotion. This promotion season is from June to September.

The Green Season Promotion which offers a reduced price of domestic air tickets to beaches, Yangon, Mandalay and Bagan might save about half of cost, said

an inbound tour operator.

There is a plan to create Golf Tourism activities in the country and international amateur golfers will be invited. As a step of Green Season Promotion, one package tour programme of Cambodia's Angkor Wat-Myanmar's Bagan region will kick off on 1st June, it is reported. —200 ■

5,200 jobs created from MIC-approved ventures

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) gave the green light to 20 enterprises to invest in the country, which will create 5,250 job opportunities.

There are six joint ventures, six Myanmar Citizen investment enterprises and eight foreign-owned companies which will be engaged in the production and marketing of coffee beans, manufacturing and distribution of instant cereal mix, color-sorting and grading of Cashew kernels, manufacturing of construction

materials, manufacturing of bags and garments on a cutting, making, packaging (CMP) basis, manufacturing and marketing of printed documents and electric wire, motorcycle sales, telecom services and developing and operating an offshore supply base.

New Myanmar Investment Law was enacted on 18th Oct 2016 and bylaws were passed on 30th March 2017. MIC has already announced the designation of specific investment zone areas, the sectors of which will be highlight-

ed for investment promotion and restricted investment businesses.

The foreign direct investment (FDI) flowing into the country in the previous FY 2016-2017 hit over US\$6.8billion, which exceeded the expectation of US\$6billion, mostly into industrial manufacturing and transport and communication sectors. Foreign direct investment (FDI) of over US\$6billion is likely to flow into the country this Fiscal Year 2017-2018, according to the DICA. — Ko Htet ■

Toyota Hino cars to enter Myanmar market

Hino cars produced by Toyota will reportedly be introduced into the Myanmar auto market.

Hino vehicles flowed into Myanmar starting from 1950 and over 20,000 vehicles were sold as of 1988, it is learnt. "We imported only the cars designated for Myanmar so that its specifications are highly suitable to the country", said an official from this company. Hino manufactured different cars designated

for each country where they will be imported their products. If the car designated for other countries is purchased, customers might be faced with unwanted problems like vehicle malfunction caused by weather condition and petrol quality. Hino Motors Company appointed Summit SPA Motors Company as a special representative to import and sell Hino products in local auto market. —MMAL ■

China highly appreciates Viet Nam's support, participation in Belt and Road Initiative: official

HANOI — China highly appreciates Viet Nam's active support and participation in the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held recently in Beijing, and the achievements gained at the summit, Chinese Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan has said.

Zhong Shan made the remarks on Saturday while meeting Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang on the sidelines of the 23rd APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting held in Hanoi from Saturday to Sunday.

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation attained comprehensive success and fruitful results, said Zhong.

The Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit has won applause and positive support from participants and the international community,

including Viet Nam, said Zhong.

As the largest trade partner of Viet Nam for years, China will further implement the consensus agreed by leaders of both sides, pushing forward the connectivity of the Belt and Road Initiative and Viet Nam's Two Corridors and One Circle plan, as well as the construction of cross-border economic zone, said Zhong, adding that China will fully support Viet Nam in hosting APEC's 2017 summit.

Tran Dai Quang, for his part, congratulated China's success in holding the Forum, adding that the country attaches great importance to broadening and deepening economic, trade and investment relations with China.

Viet Nam is willing to take all measures to strengthen and deepen the comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership with China, said Quang, wishing to coordinate with China further to host the APEC summit and its related meetings. —Xinhua ■



Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang (R) meets with Chinese Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan during the 23rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade in Hanoi, Viet Nam, on 20 May, 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

South Korean president names top ministers, security adviser

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae In on Sunday announced his choices for finance minister, foreign minister and top security adviser.

Moon named Kim Dong Yeon, a former vice finance minister and president of Ajou University, as vice prime minister and finance minister, and Kang Kyung Wha, a UN senior adviser on policy, as foreign minister.

Chung Eui Yong, Moon's top foreign policy adviser during the presidential election campaign, was appointed national security adviser.

The finance and foreign minister nominees are subject to parliamentary confirmation hearings, but parliamentary approval is not required for an appointment.

On 9 May, Moon won the election to choose the successor to former President Park Geun Hye, who was impeached in December on charges of bribery and abuse of power.—Kyodo News ■

American climber dies on Everest, Indian missing

KATHMANDU — An American climber on Mount Everest died on Sunday, officials said, the third death on the world's highest mountain in the past month and raising safety concerns for climbers.

Roland Yearwood, 50, from Alabama, perished at an altitude of about 8,400 metres (27,500 feet) in an area called "death zone" which is known for thin air, Murali Sharma of the Everest Parivas trekking company that sponsored his climb said. "We have confirmation of his death but no other details are known," Sharma told Reuters in Kathmandu. "It is also unclear if he was on his way up or down from the summit," he said.

Yearwood's death comes a day after 26-year-old Indian climber Ravi Kumar went missing in the same area during his descent from the peak. —Reuters ■

Abe Cabinet's support rate falls to 55%: Kyodo poll

TOKYO — The approval rating of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet has fallen 3.3 percentage points from April to 55.4 per cent amid Diet debate on a controversial bill to penalize the planning of serious crimes, a Kyodo News poll showed on Sunday.

Some 77.2 per cent of respondents in the nationwide telephone survey conducted on Saturday and Sunday said the government has not provided sufficient explanation of the "conspiracy bill."

On Prime Minister Shinzo

Abe's proposal to mention the existence of the Self-Defence Forces in the Constitution's war-renouncing Article 9, 56.0 per cent expressed support for the measure, surpassing 34.1 per cent who said it is unnecessary.

Asked whether they are in favour of revising the Constitution under the government of Abe, 44.5 per cent agreed but 43.4 per cent opposed. Respondents were divided over the contentious conspiracy bill, with supporters of the bill standing at 39.9 per cent and opponents 41.4 per cent. But

a majority of respondents, or 54.4 per cent, said it was not good for the ruling coalition to force the passage of the bill through a lower house committee Friday amid strong protests from opposition parties.

The poll also showed that 77.0 per cent of respondents remained unconvinced with the government's explanation that it could not confirm the existence of documents suggesting Abe was involved in the state decision to approve the subsidized construction of a new academic

department of a private university run by a friend of his.

Kake Educational Institution has been chosen to open a veterinary medicine department in a specially deregulated zone in Ehime Prefecture, western Japan. Looser regulation applies to such zones as part of the Abe administration's growth strategy.

The documents have been obtained by the main opposition Democratic Party and its leader Renho expressed the party's readiness to pursue the allegations. —Kyodo News ■

Two Chinese cities close poultry markets after H7N9 bird flu infections

BEIJING — China will shut poultry markets in certain districts of two cities after H7N9 bird flu infections were detected, state media reported on Sunday, the latest incidents in this year's more severe outbreak of the virus.

A 44-year-old man who sold

poultry at a farmers market in southwestern Sichuan province's Zigong city was diagnosed with H7N9, China News Service reported. Local authorities announced a one-month halt to poultry markets in the city's Ziliujing district from midnight on Monday.

Separately, a 74-year old man who had visited poultry markets in Shandong province's Binzhou city was also diagnosed with H7N9, China Central Television reported. Binzhou authorities will temporarily halt poultry markets in three of its districts.

Bird flu can jump from poul-

try to humans. Human cases of bird flu have been unusually high for China since last year, with three times more fatalities from H7N9 in the first four months of the year than in all of 2016. But deaths fell in April for the third consecutive month. —Reuters ■

North Korea fires missile into waters off east coast

SEOUL — North Korea fired a ballistic missile into waters off its east coast on Sunday, South Korea and Japan said, a week after it tested an intermediate-range missile which experts saw as an advancement in the reclusive state's weapons programme.

The missile was launched at 0759 GMT from a location near Pukchang, 60 km (36 miles) northeast of the capital Pyongyang, an area where North Korea attempted to test-launch another missile last month but failed, South Korea's Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

The missile flew about 500 km (310 miles), it said. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the missile landed outside Japan's exclusive economic zone and no damage to ships or airplanes was reported.



Japan Self-Defence Forces soldiers are seen in front of a unit of Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missiles at the Defense Ministry in Tokyo, Japan on 21 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

An official traveling with US President Donald Trump in Saudi Arabia said the White House was aware of the launch and noted that the missile had a shorter

range than the three previous tested by North Korea.

China had no immediate comment while both South Korea and Japan called emergency

meetings of top officials.

"The flight range was 500 km and South Korea and the United States are closely analysing additional information," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

It was the second missile test by North Korea since South Korean President Moon Jae-in took office 11 days ago. The two sides remain technically at war despite a truce ending their 1950-1953 conflict.

Last Sunday, the North test-fired an intermediate range missile that flew further and higher than those previously tested.

Moon won this month's election on a platform of a moderate approach to North Korea and has said he would be willing to go to Pyongyang under the right circumstances, arguing dialogue must be used in parallel with sanctions. North Korea has de-

fied all calls to rein in its nuclear and missile programmes, even from China, its lone major ally, calling them legitimate self-defence.

It has been working to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of striking the US mainland.

On Saturday, it said it had developed the capability to strike the US mainland, although Western missile experts say the claim is exaggerated.

"The US mainland and the Pacific operational theatre are within the strike range of the DPRK and the DPRK has all kinds of powerful means for annihilating retaliatory strike," North Korea's state KCNA news agency said in a commentary on Saturday. North Korea's official name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). —Reuters ■

Japan's Abe says wants to raise North Korea missile issue at G7 summit

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Sunday that he wants to raise the issue of North Korean missile launches at the Group of Seven leaders' summit in Italy this month.

"I would like to have a thorough discussion about this at the G7 summit," Abe told re-

porters after a meeting of the National Security Council.

North Korea launched a ballistic missile around 0759 GMT from its west coast towards the Sea of Japan, and it likely landed outside Japan's exclusive economic zone, Japan's top government spokesman said earlier. —Reuters ■



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks to reporters at his office in Tokyo on 21 May, 2017, following North Korea's latest missile launch. **PHOTO:REUTERS**

TPP trade deal members agree to seek way forward without US

HANOI — Countries remaining in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreed on Sunday to explore ways to move the trade deal forward after US President Donald Trump's pulled out in his switch to an "America First" policy.

The decision, which fell short of a wholehearted commitment to move ahead immediately, came on the sidelines of a meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries that has highlighted the turmoil in global trade negotiations.

Japan and New Zealand had been leading efforts to get the remaining 11 countries to continue with the agreement.

"The countries are going to put forward proposals on how to take TPP forward in November," New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay told reporters after the meeting of ministers, the highest level TPP discussion since Trump took office.

A statement from the group said this would address "concern about protectionism" and maintaining open markets.

Fears of protectionism have grown since Trump up-ended the old order.



New Zealand's Trade Minister Todd McClay listens during a joint press conference held on the sideline of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)'s 23rd Ministers responsible for Trade Meeting being held in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 21 May, 2017. **PHOTO:REUTERS**

That changed approach has been evident in Hanoi at the meeting among countries that account for over 40 per cent of world trade.

New US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has held one-on-one meetings with key partners, reflecting Trump's emphasis on bilateral trade deals that he argues can best protect American jobs.

China, putting itself forward as a global free trade champion in light of the US shift, is pushing a free trade agreement to encompass the

vast majority of Asian economies. The Asia trade deal it favours is called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

Officials said the United States was at odds with other APEC members over the contents of a statement due to follow the meeting on Sunday.

The grouping has consistently stated support for free trade, a point emphasised by the Vietnamese hosts on Saturday.

But a copy of edits to the draft statement seen by Reuters showed that the United States wanted to remove a reference to "reaffirm our commitment to achieving free and open trade" and another to the benefits of globalization.

It wanted to add that free trade and investment could only be achieved through the removal of barriers and other measures that distort trade as well as to add in the word "fair" in references to trade.

The wrangling is similar to what has been seen at gatherings of Group of 20 and Group of Seven financial leaders, where statements were toned down to fit with the new US agenda. —Reuters ■

Ancient cultural heritage and responsibility of every individual

Khin Maung Oo

Editorial from 12th May 2017 Kyemon

OUR ancient cultural heritage may be regarded as invaluable characteristics of our country, hence the need for all citizens to protect and prevent them from being changed or destroyed.

Cultural heritage include physical things, places, buildings, land, furniture and antiques that we can easily point out at, including books, records, manuscripts, films and magnetic tapes. Songs, music, dances and literature constitute our cultural heritage, which we cannot touch with our hands as they have intangible value.

Well-known heritage sites such as the Bagan cultural heritage site in

Myanmar have been conserved. Being entitled to be designated as cultural heritage sites, UNESCO has identified and acknowledged 3 ancient Myanmar urban areas as authentic World Cultural Heritage sites.

Furthermore, in 2013, to our great pride and honor, UNESCO has acknowledged the location of 729 stupas preserving stone inscriptions of the Tri-pitakas which were inscribed at the 5th Buddhist Synod in 1871 by King Mindon, known as the Lawka Marajein alias Kusodaw Stone Inscriptions, as a UNESCO World cultural heritage site. Other cultural artifacts and cultural heritage include the remarkably artistic gold parchment scroll sent to King George II in 1756, by King of Myanmar Alaung Mintayar in 2015; the historic

Bagan Mya Cedi Stone Inscription inscribed in 4 languages in circa AD 12th Century in 2015, and the Bell Inscriptions inscribed in 3 languages at the Bagan Shwe Zeegon Pagoda by King Bayintnaung in AD 1557. All these have been designated as World Cultural Heritage.

At the same time, we must try to protect and prevent many others from damage so that we can have the remaining ancient cultural heritage sites listed in the world heritage list. Being a land full of well-known cultural heritage sites, our nation still has plenty of ancient cultural heritage sites which are worth conserving, though they have not yet been included in the global list. Like these remarkable cultural heritage sites, our country, My-

anmar still abounds with other cultural heritage sites left to be listed. Places with cultural heritage attract globe trotters, earning money for the country and its people. Plus, they can create job opportunities for our locals. The most important thing is that they are likely to be subject to severe weather, rain, strong winds, floods and earth quakes. Being old edifices, they are very vulnerable with the passage of time.

After being recognized as a World Cultural Heritage site, we will get monetary and technical assistance, including cutting-edge technology to maintain our country's image. Our country with well-civilized cultures gives us pride. Accordingly, we are responsible to conserve our cultural heritage which depicts our status in olden times. ■

Myanmar shines with intact forest, but will this biodiversity be conserved?

By JW. Dowey/ The Earth Times Organization

TEJAS Bhagwat of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute is the lead author of a May 17th paper giving an astute picture of rainforest loss. While Myanmar undoubtedly provides more raw jungle than denuded Thailand, Vietnam or Malaysia, the entrepreneurs, often under official guise, are already in place, ready to log. This important paper, combined with news of tiger and other species surviving in parts of SE Asia, should give us insight into extreme conservation measures required in this area. While the Amazon often seems lost in unlicensed take-overs, depending on the nation involved, Africa and Asia's forests are also shrinking fast, whether primary or not.

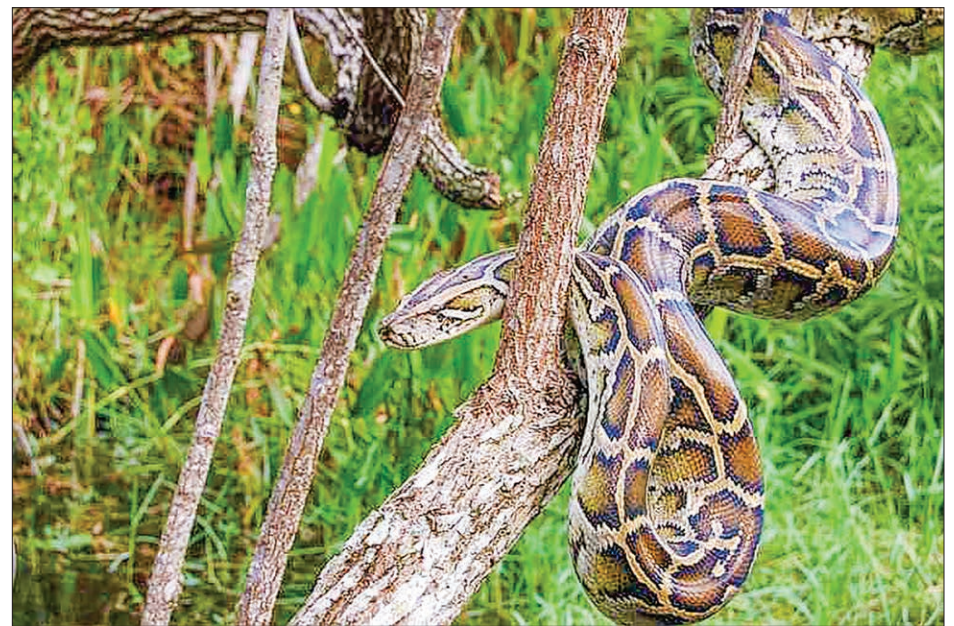
Losing a jewel—Rapid declines in Myanmar's intact forests from 2002-2014 is the title of this multi-author revelation from Myanmar in the open access journal, PLOS One.

The people involved hail from the University of Bayreuth, Germany, the American Museum of Natural History and Yangon as well as the Smithsonian (Virginia, US.) 6.1 million hectares of intact and forest with canopy cover are being protected within the 42 million ha of Myanmar forest, which remarkably still covers 63% of the country (in 2014.) This extent of forest is mainly in the north, near the Indian border, or near the Thai reserves near Tanintharyi. The threats at the moment consist of

loggers, plantations (the usual oil-palm, rubber and sugar cane, as well as betel nut and banana) and human degradation (using fuel, etc.) near settlements. 70% of the population live in forests and other rural areas, making them a major threat. More of the energy, illegal open-pit mining and construction industries are expected to have effects in the near future.

Isolation of both the nation and the forests is a major factor. Only Landsat satellite images give a neutral view of spectral changes in their image. This enabled studies from 2002 to the present, or at least 2014. The intact forest was revealed largely in Kachin, Sagaing, Tanintharyi, Shan, and Chin, all mountainous regions, but the losses here are quite considerable.

9 local hotspots, near towns, were identified where losses of this pristine forest were concentrated. In addition, the mangroves of the Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) Delta have suffered terribly from aquaculture projects. 26% of the loss was from plantations in places like Shan State. The Northern Forest Complex (in Hukuang and the Mountain Forest, Taungthonlon Mountains and Htamanhti Forests) and the Southern Forest Complex which has a further 1.7million ha. Loss of these forests has accelerated especially in the last 10 years, with an average of 11% loss. Currently the loss of even degraded forest is an annual 0.29%. The ribbon development followed in a pattern found in both the Amazon and the Congo, gives



Myanmar is often best remembered for the proliferating Burmese python, *Python bivittatus*, but new research has revealed many threatened species and lots of primary forest remaining in the isolated mountains. There are also great populations of elephant, tiger, deer and other giants, totally wiped out elsewhere in Asia! *Python bivittatus* image; Credit: © Shutterstock

drastic losses near new roads, rivers and commercial plantations. Access obviously leads to serious conservation losses, particularly along the river basins of the Uru and Chinwin in Sagaing and along the Thai border roads and pipelines.

Diversity is often touted as a prime quality of areas from South America to the Mediterranean. In Myanmar however, the extreme plant and small animal biodiversity is complemented by the remaining presence of large endangered populations of leaf deer, woolly bat, tapir, tiger, Panther tigris corbetti and the bird known as Gurneys pitta, *Hydornis*

gurneyi. Local endangered elephant populations have human conflict issues in Tanintharyi.

Newly discovered species include a cobra, *Naja mandalayensis* and amphibians like *Bufo crocus*. What becomes of this now-delicate set of ecosystems gives us a picture of a crossroads.

As a stronghold of Asian biodiversity, these primary forests are essential to conservation, but control here is almost non-existent. We have seen what happened when military men cut down much of Thailand's forests for pure profit.

SEE PAGE-9

Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Second Session)



Light-trucks and pickups no longer in school ferry service by 2018-2019 Academic Year



Dr. Maung Aung.

DR. MAUNG AUNG, secretary of Yangon Region's Transport Supervision Authority said during an interview that in the first stage light-trucks will be permitted for use as school ferries but light-trucks and pickups would not be allowed for school ferry service by 2018-2019 Academic Year.

When interviewed about school ferry arrangements for the forthcoming school season that will start on 1 June, Dr. Maung Aung said arrangements

were made to ease traffic congestions on main roads in front of schools and to provide safe and appropriate ferries for schools in stages starting from this education year.

According to a study conducted on 22 schools where there were more than 58,000 students of which 19,342 used ferry and 1899 used their own cars.

The ferry users were transported on 845 vehicles of which 340 are light-trucks on which around 10,000 students were transported. Plans are drawn in coordination with Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) to phase out the light-trucks and pickups from being used as school ferries.

Light-trucks will be allowed for the time being and will be phased out and replaced in stages. As a first stage, 30 per cent will be reduced by October and by 2018 January, light-trucks will no longer be allowed.

Yangon Region government had signed agreement on 10 May

with Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and Posco Daewoo Corporation to purchase 200 school buses. Current light-truck owners will be assisted to purchase or rent from YRTA and with the 200 school buses, will provide an appropriate school ferry system that is up to standard, ease traffic congestion and is safe.

A committee consisting of headmaster of the school, parents and teachers association and school bus operators will be formed to oversee the school ferry system.

The school buses purchased by the Yangon Region government are brand new 2017 model Hyundai Country Bus 28-seaters that cost US\$ 36,840.

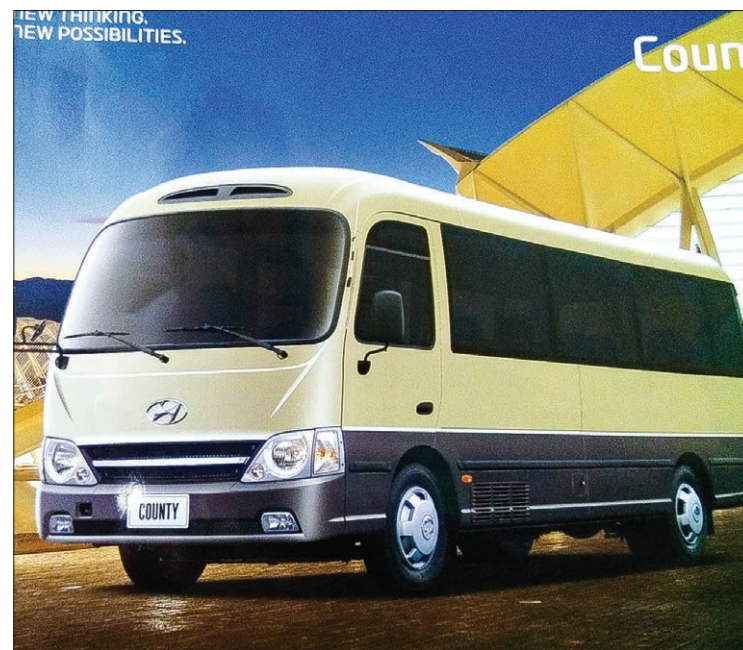
As the purchase was under a government to government system, there'll be after sales services as well as quality assurance.

There were schools that proposed to buy these cars in order to setup a school bus pro-

gram. If the current ferry service providers could not afford to replace their light-trucks with such buses, they are still allowed to provide it with cars like mini-bus and Toyota Super Custom. They'll need to propose to YRTA

with their car model, type, photo and specifications.

All school ferries will have CCTV and GPS that will provide a safe ferry operation as well as help in traffic control management. — Su Hnin Le ■



Yangon Region government allows new 2017 model Hyundai Country Bus 28-seater for the new ferry service system.

Yangon plans airport-downtown shuttle service

AUTHORITIES are working on setting routes for a shuttle service business between Yangon International Airport and downtown Yangon.

With new buses imported

from China, the service will be placed into operation soon, said Dr Maung Aung, Secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authorities.

An agreement to buy 1,000

new city buses for the roads of Yangon was signed in April between Yangon Bus Service and two Chinese companies.

The China Yutong Company and Ankai will sell 500 buses each to the YBS. Delivery of the buses are expected soon, officials said.

The YBS needed buses for their commuter service, for which the Yangon Region Government and Chinese Government ne-gotiated to supply city buses on a government-to-government (G-to-G) basis and finally entered into an agreement that would have the buses arrive in Yangon starting at the end of May, said Dr Maung Aung.— Su Hnin Le ■



The new buses from Ankai Company are seen. PHOTO: ANKAI

Myanmar shines with intact forest ...

FROM PAGE -8

The situation here is not a million miles away from that sad history. Reforms suggested in land ownership, environmental planning, and even government may be disregarded, unless NGOs and lots of money are ploughed into prevention of these exploiters actions as well as pure conservation. The process has indeed begun, but open data needs to provide

the necessary transparency. Maybe on this occasion, it is the grassroots that may provide the efforts within the regions that will be required. Danger exists both to the species involved and the people who take this mission in their hands.

We can only hope that enough international and national initiatives continue, as with this excellent review! ■

Correction

The last paragraph of the story headlined "Prime farm producing fruits using modern technology greenhouse system" on page 2 of the 21 May issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar was inadvertently included in the story but does not relate to the article.— GNLM

Trump seeks 'reset' with Islamic world amid political tumult at home

RIYADH — US President Donald Trump, struggling to shake a brewing scandal at home, will attempt a reset on Sunday with the Islamic world after frequently attacking Muslims on the campaign trail last year and trying to ban many from the United States.

Trump's afternoon speech at an Arab Islamic American Summit (4:20 pm local/9:20 am EDT) will include appeals for Muslims to unite against the threat of Islamist militants. Whether he would use his signature campaign phrase "radical Islamic terrorism" to describe the threat was unclear. His speech was still being worked on late on Saturday, and some advisers were cautioning him against using the term. Trump started his day in individual meetings with Arab leaders. He praised Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, telling him, "You have done a tremendous job under trying circumstances." Trump promised to schedule a trip to Egypt soon.

Separately he told Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani they would discuss "lots of beautiful military equipment because nobody makes it like the United States." In a meeting with Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, Trump declared that the two nations had a lot in common and that despite previous tensions, "there won't be strain with this administration." The king lauded the relationship and said it had led to "great stability in the region and prosperity."

Trump also has individual



US President Donald Trump sits down to a meeting with of Gulf Cooperation Council leaders, including Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, during their summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 21 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

meetings scheduled with the leaders of Kuwait and Oman.

The president on Sunday also will convene the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council as part of his effort to counter Iran with a NATO-like Arab force.

Trump and the leaders will establish a center aimed at cracking down on the ability of Islamic militants to spread their message. Trump's Riyadh visit kicks off his first presidential trip abroad, with Saudi Arabia the first stop on a nine-day journey through the Middle East and Europe.

Trump drew the ire of Muslims during his presidential cam-

paign by calling for a ban on them entering the United States. His attempt early in his presidency to ban people from seven Muslim-majority nations has been blocked by the courts.

The speech comes as Trump tries to escape the fallout from his 9 May firing of former FBI Director James Comey amid accusations he was trying to stop a federal investigation into his campaign's ties with Russia last year. The New York Times reported Trump called Comey a "nut job" in a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov last week. The Washington Post said the probe had reached

into the White House to include a Trump adviser, who was not named. Trump showed little sign of the pressure during a day of diplomacy on Saturday during which he was warmly welcomed by Saudi King Salman.

At a royal banquet on Saturday night, Trump walked into a colorful spectacle: Men in ceremonial dress and carrying swords chanted in unison to beating drums in a courtyard. Trump, clearly enjoying himself, smiled and swayed, even seeming to dance a little at the centre of the group. A strong wind later blew sand through the area. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Pope says will make new group of cardinals next month

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis said on Sunday he would elevate five Roman Catholic prelates to the high rank of cardinal, the elite group of churchmen who are his closest advisers and can enter a conclave to choose his successor if they are under 80.

The pope made the surprise announcement during his weekly Sunday address. He said the men came from Mali, Spain, Sweden, Laos and El Salvador and the ceremony to elevate them, known as a consistory, would take place on 28 June. —Reuters ■

N Korean missile flew about 500 km —S Korea

SEOUL — A missile launched by North Korea on Sunday flew about 500 kilometres (310 miles) and was believed to have landed in waters off its east coast, South Korea's military said.

South Korea's Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff said South Korea and the United States were conducting close-up analysis of the launch. —Reuters ■

Swiss voters set to approve energy policy law — TV projection

ZURICH — Swiss voters were set on Sunday to back the government's plan to provide billions of dollars in subsidies for renewable energy, ban new nuclear plants and help bail out struggling utilities, broadcaster SRG projected.

The level of support "will be above 55 per cent and thus far above any area of doubt," pollster Claude Longchamp said, basing the projection on partial results.

Advance polling had suggested the new energy law would be approved in the binding referendum, but support had slipped in the run-up to the vote. —Reuters ■

Poland's Kaczynski blames Merkel for EU's migration issues

WARSAW — Poland's ruling party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski again criticised the European Union's relocation scheme for refugees on Saturday, blaming Germany's Angela Merkel for causing the bloc's migration problems.

Kaczynski, leader of the conservative eurosceptic Law and Justice (PiS) party that

heads the government, has been quoted as saying previously that migrants could bring diseases and parasites to Poland.

"We have not opened Europe for refugees — Ms Merkel has. And it is Ms Merkel and Germany that have to bear the consequences, not Poland," Kaczynski said in an interview for public broadcaster TVP Info.

Under a plan agreed in 2015, the European Commission wants EU member states to each admit a quota of the 160,000 asylum seekers stuck in Italy and Greece. Most have fled conflicts and poverty in the Middle East and Africa.

The European Commission will decide next month on any legal cases against countries

failing to host asylum seekers as agreed in the bloc, taking a small step towards potential punishment for Poland and Hungary.

Poland refused on Thursday to yield to pressure from the EU to take in any asylum seekers under a relocation scheme despite the EU threat of legal action. —Reuters ■

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Islamic State kills villagers, captures fighters in Deir al-Zor - Syrian Observatory

BEIRUT — Islamic State militants killed nearly 20 people including two children in a village in Syria's eastern Deir al-Zor province, and captured fighters participating in a US-backed operation against the jihadists, a monitoring group said on Saturday.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the militants had raided the village of Jizrat al-Boushams, northwest of Deir al-Zor city and near the provincial boundary with Raqqa on Friday.

The Observatory posted a video showing the corpses of

around a dozen men who had apparently been shot. Reuters could not verify the video's authenticity.

Islamic State withdrew from the village after the attack taking the captured fighters, it said.

The ultra-hardline group has staged attacks on villages near areas it controls as it is being pushed back towards its strongholds of Raqqa and Deir al-Zor.

Separate forces are fighting the Islamists, who are enemies of all other sides in the Syrian conflict, including US-backed Kurdish and Arab fighters, and Russian-backed Syrian forces. —Reuters ■

At least 20 Afghan police killed in Taliban ambushes: officials

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — At least 20 Afghan policemen were killed in Taliban ambushes in south central Afghanistan, officials said on Sunday, as security forces sought to dislodge insurgents in multiple districts.

Fighting is ongoing in Zabul province, where the police were attacked in Shah Joi district, provincial governor Bismullah Afghanmal said. He said the Taliban had ambushed police in the areas of Chino and Ghulam Rabat.

"The report we have right now indicates that 20 policemen

are martyred and 10 others are wounded. The number may increase," Afghanmal told Reuters.

Dozens of Taliban, who have been waging a 16-year-long insurgency against the Western-backed government in Kabul, were also reported killed and wounded, Afghanmal said.

Reinforcements sent to the area where the police had been ambushed were also attacked, said Gul Islam Seyal, a spokesman for the Zabul governor.

Fighting was also ongoing in Zabul's Dai Chopan district,

but the extent of casualties was unknown, Afghanmal said.

In neighboring Ghazni province, Taliban fighters launched a three-pronged attack on parts of the provincial capital on Friday, driving a Humvee packed with explosives into the entrance of a district governor's compound during the assault.

Separately on Sunday, Taliban claimed responsibility for a deadly attack on Saturday on a bank in Paktia province, which left at least six people dead, including three attackers. —Reuters ■

Abducted South African prince of Mandela's clan found unharmed

JOHANNESBURG — A prince of the AbaThembu clan of South Africa's late anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela was found on Saturday unharmed after being abducted by four gunmen in the city of Mtata in Eastern Cape province, police said.

Prince Mankunku Dalindyebo is the brother of jailed King Buyelekhaya Dalindyebo, who began a 12-year sentence in December 2015 for arson, kidnapping and

assault.

"He was found this morning near Mtata and he's unharmed," police spokesman Mzukisi Fatyela said. The motive remains unknown.

The brothers are traditional leaders of Mandela's clan in a poor, rural region of the Eastern Cape. South Africa recognises several royal families, who command respect, especially in the countryside.

Local media reported the

family has been feuding over who should be acting king as the monarch — a self-proclaimed marijuana smoker, widely known as the "Dagga King", a name derived from local slang for the substance — serves his time.

Some back Prince Mankunku's claim to the throne but the provincial government in February officially recognised the king's son as the acting ruler of the nation. —Reuters ■

Israeli minister expresses concern over US-Saudi arms deal

JERUSALEM — Israel gave a muted response on Sunday to a major arms deal between the United States and Saudi Arabia announced a day earlier during the visit to the region by US President Donald Trump.

"This is a matter that really should trouble us," said Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz prior to the weekly cabinet meeting, although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made no mention of the deal in his customary public remarks.

Netanyahu has voiced his wish to improve ties with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states as part of an initiative that would draw the Palestinians into an eventual peace deal and as a broad front against Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Israel has always been

wary of maintaining its military edge and Steinitz said he hoped to hear details of the deal. Trump and his entourage touch down in Israel on Monday.

"We have also to make sure that those hundreds of billions of dollars of weapons to Saudi Arabia will not, by any means, erode Israel's qualitative edge, because Saudi Arabia is still a hostile country without any diplomatic relations and nobody knows what the future will be," he said.

In the 1980s, Israel expressed its concern at a US sale to Saudi Arabia of then-advanced F-15 fighter jets that were stationed at a Red Sea airfield but the desert kingdom has never threatened to use them against Israel. —Reuters ■



Israel's Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz poses for a photograph during an interview with Reuters, in Jerusalem, on 16 November 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Venezuela anti-government unrest marks 50th day with huge marches

CARACAS/SAN CRISTOBAL, Venezuela — Hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans took to the streets on Saturday to mark 50 days of protests against the unpopular government of President Nicolas Maduro, with unrest gaining momentum despite a rising death toll and chaotic scenes of nighttime looting.

At least 46 people have been killed in the worst turmoil faced by Maduro since he won the presidency in 2013. Venezuelans from civilians to police have been killed, sometimes during increasingly frequent spates of looting or street melees.

Many Venezuelans are furious with Maduro's government, blaming it for soaring inflation, shortages of everything from food to medicine, and a crackdown on human rights. They are demanding elections, freedom for jailed activists, foreign aid, and autonomy for the opposition-led legislature.

Major opposition marches took place across the oil-rich nation



Opposition supporters set up a burning barricade during clashes with security forces at a rally against Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, Venezuela on 20 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

of 30 million on Saturday, with protesters in Caracas brandishing placards that read "No More dictatorship in Venezuela" while in the volatile border city of San Cristobal masked youths threw rocks, and a Reuters witness saw two protesters wielding machetes.

The Andean area near Colombia suffered a week of mayhem that in-

cluded looting, prompting the government to send in 2,000 troops.

"We don't want more deaths. We want salaries that mean something, and medicines. The government invests more in bullets and weapons than in food and education for this country," said Maria Diaz, a 33-year-old lawyer standing in the torrential rain in front of security

forces with some 8,000 other protesters in San Cristobal.

Opposition protesters say the government is trying to maintain its grip on power despite the economic crisis. More than 2,600 protesters have been arrested across the country, more than a third of whom remain detained, according to a local rights group.—Reuters ■

Passenger jet collides with truck at Los Angeles airport, injuring eight

LOS ANGELES — An Aeromexico passenger jet collided with a utility truck on a taxiway of Los Angeles International Airport shortly after landing on Saturday, injuring eight employees who were aboard the truck, but no one on the plane was hurt, authorities said.

The cause of the mishap, which damaged the right wing of the Boeing 737 and left the large supply truck overturned on its side, remained under investigation, said Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey.

Six men and two women aboard the truck were taken to an area hospital for treatment of various unspecified injuries, none of them considered to be life-threatening, Humphreys said.

Airport officials said all eight were listed in stable condition.

No one among the approximately 150 passengers and crew aboard the plane, Aeromexico Flight 642 from Mexico City, required any medical attention, according to Humphreys.

But a statement from the airport said one passenger reported suffering some pain after leaving the aircraft.

The accident occurred at about 2:30 pm Pacific time. There was no fuel spill or fire, and the plane was able to finish taxiing to its gate, where the passengers disembarked.

Los Angeles International ranks as America's second-busiest airport, with nearly 700,000 takeoffs and landings a year.—Reuters ■

YANGON, Myanmar — Prime Rich Asia Pte Ltd together with BDCOM Shanghai successfully hosted their first "Connectivity" seminar at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel on 18th May, 2017 for participants from the telecom, broadcast and enterprise networking industry. This event also marked an important milestone with the appointment of Prime Rich Asia Pte Ltd as BDCOM Shanghai's exclusive distributor for the Myanmar market. BDCOM, one of China's leading provider of communications and networking solutions, views the growing Myanmar market as a strategic entry into the Indochina market. Both BDCOM and Prime Rich Asia see vast potential as Myanmar accelerates its infrastructural developments and are optimistic to see stable growth in Myanmar for many years to come.



French prosecutors investigate DCNS submarines sale to Brazil — Le Parisien

PARIS — French financial prosecutors have launched an investigation into a 6.7 billion euro (\$7.5 billion) 2008 contract between naval supplier DCNS and Brazil that included the sale of five submarines, French daily Le Parisien said on Sunday.

The investigation, started in October last year, concerns potential "corruption of foreign officials" and is linked to a Brazilian inquiry dubbed Lava Jato, or Car Wash, that was initiated in 2015 to investigate alleged bribery involving hundreds of politicians and public figures, the paper said without

citing sources.

DCNS said it could not confirm that a French inquiry had been opened and it denied being involved in the Brazilian investigation.

"We have nothing to do with the Lava Jato case. DCNS scrupulously respects the rules of law around the world," a spokesman told Reuters.

The French financial prosecutors' office did not respond immediately to a Reuters request for comment.

On its Twitter account on 12 May, it said that prosecutors had spoken to the head of Brazil's Supreme Court

and visited Brazil's central office against corruption but made no reference to the investigation reported by Le Parisien.

Newspaper Folha de S. Paulo reported in 2015 that Brazilian federal police were investigating potential irregularities in the military programme to build a nuclear-powered submarine in partnership with France by 2023.

The paper did not say if DCNS, which is 62 per cent owned by the French state and 35 per cent by French defence electronics group Thales SA, was being investigated.—Reuters ■

Poll lead falls, but British PM May to stick with elderly-care cuts

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative Party said on Sunday it would not ditch proposals to reduce support for elderly voters, as opinion polls showing their lead ahead of the 8 June national election falling.

Polls published late on Saturday showed the Conservative lead over the centre-left Labour Party has narrowed after both parties set out their policy offerings last week — the first real sign that an expected victory for May could be less emphatic than many had predicted.

May has faced criticism from political rivals and pressure groups over her planned social care reforms, which include a making elderly homeowners — a core voter group for the Conservatives — pay more towards their old-age care.

The criticism, including within the Sunday editions of usually friendly

right-leaning newspapers, prompted senior ministers to defend the reform package in a series of television interviews.

"This is necessary ... we have to do something about the huge costs of social care," Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson told ITV's Peston on Sunday show.

The growing cost of caring for the elderly as the population ages is a problem that has bedevilled successive governments, with the current system widely seen as inadequate.

"I do understand people's reservations and the questions that some people are asking about the detail of all this, but the broad thrust is right," Johnson said. Asked in a separate interview on the BBC Damian Green, pensions minister and a close May ally was asked whether the government would reconsider the planned changes. He said: "No".



British Prime Minister Theresa May is shown around Andrew Black Haulage in Edinburgh, Scotland, Britain on 19 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

One poll showed Labour had halved the Conservatives' lead to 9 percentage points; the first single-figure gap since May called the snap election hoping for a resounding victory that would strengthen her mandate to negotiate Britain's exit from the European Union.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, whose manifesto launch set out plans for higher state investment and nationalisation of some services, said the Conserv-

atives were betraying Britain's elderly.

"Theresa May and the Conservatives won't stand up for pensioners, their only concern is their billionaire friends," he said.

The Conservatives have framed their election campaign as a personality battle between May and Corbyn by asking voters who they trust more to get a good Brexit deal, banking on May's image as a tough negotiator to sway wavering voters.—Reuters ■

China killed CIA sources, hobbled US spying from 2010 to 2012 — NYT

WASHINGTON — China killed or imprisoned 18 to 20 CIA sources from 2010 to 2012, hobbling US spying operations in a massive intelligence breach whose origin has not been identified, the New York Times reported on Saturday.

Investigators remain divided over whether there was a spy within the Central Intelligence Agency who betrayed the sources or whether the Chinese hacked the CIA's covert communications system, the newspaper reported, citing current and former US officials.

The Chinese killed at least a dozen people providing information to the CIA from 2010 through 2012, dismantling a network that was years in the making, the newspaper reported.

One was shot and killed in front of a government building in China, three officials told the

Times, saying that was designed as a message to others about working with Washington.

The breach was considered particularly damaging, with the number of assets lost rivaling those in the Soviet Union and Russia who perished after information passed to Moscow by spies Aldrich Ames and Robert Hanssen, the report said. Ames was active as a spy in the 1980s and Hanssen from 1979 to 2001. The CIA declined to comment when asked about the Times report on Saturday.

The Chinese activities began to emerge in 2010, when the American spy agency had been getting high quality information about the Chinese government from sources deep inside the bureaucracy, including Chinese upset by the Beijing government's corruption, four former officials told the Times.—Reuters ■

Macron's popularity similar to predecessors as mandate kicks off

PARIS — The popularity of France's new president is around the same as his immediate predecessors when they took office, an Ifop poll showed on Sunday, in contrast to a survey that found Emmanuel Macron had the lowest confidence ratings in more than 20 years.

Some 62 per cent of the people polled said they were satisfied with Macron, just above his socialist predecessor Francois Hollande's 61 per cent rating in May 2012 but below conservative Nicolas Sarkozy in 2007 who stood at 65 per cent, the Ifop poll for the Journal du Dimanche showed.

By contrast, Jacques Chirac's rating was 51 per cent when re-elected in 2002 and 59 per cent when he was first elected in 1995.

An Elabe poll on Thursday found only 45 per cent of voters trusted centrist Macron's ability to tackle France's problems, and 36 per cent trusted his newly appointed prime minister, Edouard Philippe, a conservative.

In Sunday's Ifop poll, Philippe's approval ratings, at 55 per cent, were also around the average of previous prime ministers at the beginning of their mandates.

The Ifop poll of 973 people was conducted on 19-20 May.

Macron, who was elected on 7 May, designated Philippe, a conservative, to head a government gathering Socialists, Centrists, Republicans and political newcomers, smashing the traditional left-right divide.

Philippe has said he would campaign to help secure a majority for Macron's party Republic on the Move (REM) during next month's parliamentary election and implement his plans, which include corporate tax cuts, labour market reforms, and a 50 billion euro investment plan coupled with public spending savings.

In an interview with the Journal du Dimanche, Philippe repeated that he wanted to go move quickly on the labour reform but said he would first hold talks with unions.

"We cannot wait two years to finish this task. Emmanuel Macron has heard French people's anger. He also knows the urgency to transform the country," he said.—Reuters ■

ကွန်ပျူတာ စနစ်ဖြင့်ထိန်းသော
MECHANICAL CAR PARKING

Side View: 14'4" height, 18' width, 7'2" depth.
Front View: 7'2" width, 7'2" depth.
Plan View: 21'6" width, 14'4" depth, 7'2" depth.
Front View: 21'6" width, 14'4" depth, 7'2" depth.

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: 09.259.81.37.37
: 09.259.81.46.46

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Bourgeois art world skewered in Cannes movie “The Square”

CANNES, France — A sumptuous Stockholm museum filled with grotesquely pretentious conceptual art is at the centre of “The Square”, a Palme d’Or nominee at Cannes which switches between surrealism, comedy of manners, thriller and social commentary.

As the museum’s handsome and successful but flawed curator searches for his stolen mobile phone, the story goes off into wild directions that even the director admitted he struggled to make gel.

The film’s highlight is a dinner for the museum’s well-to-do patrons where a performance artist leaps from table to table impersonating an ape — a bizarre, tense and ultimately violent scene.

Variety’s Owen Gleiberman called “The Square” “a piece of high-wire sociological suspense” which outstays its welcome: “the more it goes on the less it hangs together”.

The Guardian’s Peter Bradshaw said it “brings some gobsmackingly weird and outrageous spectacle, with moments of pure show-stopping freakiness”. Both critics admired writer-director Ruben Ostlund’s ambition, calling the film a piece of



Director Ruben Ostlund, cast Members Christopher Laesso, Dominic West, Elisabeth Moss, Claes Bang and Terry Notary pose at 70th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, on 20 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

“high-wire” cinema.

Ostlund told reporters: “I was a little bit scared of how to deal with all these layers.

“I was super, super happy when I was reaching 75 per cent of the editing or something because then I realised: OK, this will work, it will actually fit together and make a solid film.”

The actors said Ostlund was an extremely demanding director, often shooting the same scene more than 70 times.

Lead actor Claes Bang said he performed one speech 100 times.

“Around take 95 he drags me down to the monitor and he points to the monitor and he

says: ‘Now this is gonna stop. I am not going to have any more of that shitty television acting that you’re doing. Now you pull yourself together and you do it for real!’”

“That was like a kick in the head.” “The Square” is in competition for the Palme d’Or at the festival which runs until 28 May. —Reuters ■

Johnny Depp sent Paul McCartney a text for ‘Pirates’ cameo

LOS ANGELES — “Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales” co-director Espen Sandberg has revealed Johnny Depp asked Paul McCartney to make a cameo in the latest installment of the popular franchise via text message.

The makers were initially keen to take Rolling Stones’ Keith Richards to play a pirate rocker in the new sea-adventure movie but when he was unable to do the part, the team were thrilled to secure the Beatles star, reported USA Today.

“So we needed another rocker and on top of our list was Paul McCartney. And Johnny said, ‘Well, I have his number.’ And of course Johnny has Paul McCartney’s number. So he started texting him. And it went back and forth. And then (Paul) said yes. So we were super happy,” Sandberg said.

Actor Orlando Bloom is also returning to the series as ‘Bootstrap’ Bill Turner, after leaving the franchise in 2011 “Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides”.—PTI ■

Salt-N-Pepa don’t want to collaborate with current artists

LONDON — Rap group Salt-N-Pepa don’t want to collaborate with any contemporary artists like Nicki Minaj as they don’t understand their rivalry.

The 90s rap group had a number of successful hits including “Push It”, “Shoop” and “Let’s Talk About Sex”, and even won a Grammy for Best Rap Performance in 1995.

But the girls — Cheryl ‘Salt’ James, Sandra Denton (Pepa) and Deidra Roper (DJ Spinderella) — have no interest in working with modern pop stars and would much rather team up with acts from their generation including Missy Elliot and Lil’ Kim,

reported Contactmusic.

“I love that when we were coming up in music there were so many women and we were all cool with each other. But I don’t understand this rivalry artists like Nicki Minaj and Remy Ma have with each other. It’s really brutal,” they said.

“There was Missy Elliot, Lil’ Kim and Warren Hill when we started and we all had different voices that represented all the people.

“We all got along. I think that if I was to do a collaboration I want to do it with one of those ladies. Someone from my era I think would be amazing.—PTI ■

Clint Eastwood does not rule out a return to Westerns

CANNES, France — Clint Eastwood does not rule out making another Western, he said on Saturday as he presented a 25th anniversary restored copy of “Unforgiven” at the Cannes Film Festival.

“When I read the (“Unforgiven”) script 25 years ago, I always thought that this would be a good last Western for me to do,” said the 86-year-old actor-director.

“And it was the last Western, because I have never read one that worked as well as this one since that.

“But who knows, maybe something will come up in the future,” said Eastwood, who made his name in the TV series “Rawhide” and the so-called spa-



Cannes Film Festival general delegate Thierry Fremaux (R) welcomes director Clint Eastwood as he arrives. PHOTO: REUTERS

ghetti Westerns of the 1960s, now considered classics.

“Unforgiven” won four Os-

cars including Best Picture and Best Director for Eastwood who also starred.—Reuters ■

Royal sister-in-law Pippa takes spotlight in star-studded British wedding

LONDON — Pippa Middleton, younger sister of Kate, Britain's Duchess of Cambridge, was married in a small English country church on Saturday surrounded by royals and celebrities but those hoping for a dash of Hollywood were left in the cold.

The event had been at risk of being overshadowed by the most high-profile appearance yet of Prince Harry's girlfriend, Meghan Markle. But the US actress failed to appear before cameras.

Three-year-old Prince George, third in line to the throne after grandfather

Charles and father William, took a starring role with his younger sister as attendants to the bride.

Middleton, 33, who married financier James Matthews, wore an elegant white lace gown with a cut-out in the back and a full long skirt. She arrived in an open-top car accompanied by her father, smiling broadly and waving to crowds gathered near St Mark's church in Englefield, about 50 miles west of London.

Matthews sported a three-piece morning suit with a pale waistcoat and tails.

Prince William walked up to the church accompanied by younger brother Harry. Celebrity guests included 18-times grand slam tennis champion Roger Federer and the fashion editor of British Vogue magazine.

Middleton took the spotlight by surprise when she acted as maid of honour at the 2011 wedding of her sister to William mainly due to her svelte figure, the back of which was captured by many a camera. "Rear comes the bride," joked the Daily Star newspaper. Security was tight amid a media

frenzy in which #Pippas-Wedding was trending on social media but guests were forbidden from sharing pictures there.

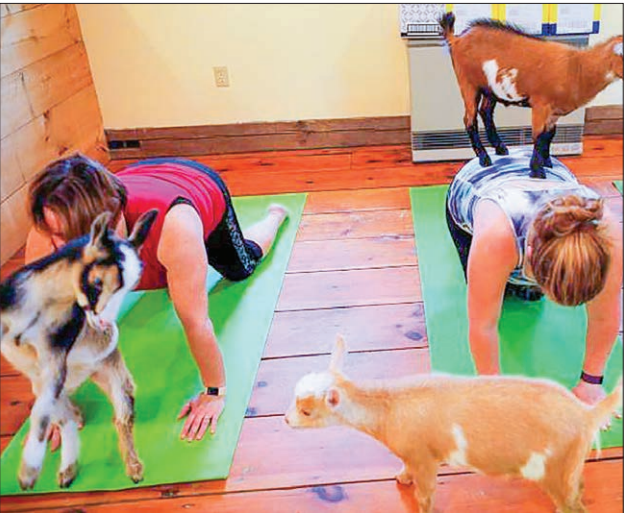
Tabloids have focused on details such as a rumoured Spitfire fly-past and a 100,000 pound (\$130,000) glass marquee erected specially for the reception at the Middleton's home in the nearby village of Bucklebury.

Ferocious interest also centred on Markle, star of the TV legal drama "Suits", whose relationship with Prince Harry was made public last November. —Reuters ■



Pippa Middleton and James Matthews smile after their wedding at St Mark's Church in Englefield, Britain on 20 May, 2017. Pippa Middleton is the sister of Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Downward-facing goat: Yoga trend draws flock to New Hampshire farm



Goats climb on students during a yoga class with eight students and five goats at Jenness Farm in Nottingham, New Hampshire, US on 18 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

NOTTINGHAM — Eight people dressed in bright-coloured athletic tops and soft pants sat on foam mats and stretched until five tiny Nigerian Dwarf goats, the size of small dogs, pranced into the studio and their goat yoga class began.

Tucked away in a wooded corner of southern New Hampshire, Jenness Farm is the latest small US agricultural operation to cash in on the social media-driven trend, in which yoga enthusiasts practice moves like the cat pose and bridge pose

while goats climb around and sometimes on them.

Peter Corriveau, who owns the 5-acre (2 hectare) farm in Nottingham, New Hampshire, about 60 miles (100 km) north of Boston, said he had toyed with the idea for several months before launching his first class in April. "This was really kind of a fluke," said Corriveau, who said that people who follow the farm on social media had been sending him videos of goat yoga for more than a year. "We did this dry run, posted some pictures and really hadn't

thought that far ahead. And it's just exploded. The phone is ringing continuously for people wanting to sign up for classes."

Corriveau readily admits that his is far from the first farm to offer goat yoga classes, which can be found from Oregon to Arizona to Massachusetts.

The farm is home to about 30 goats of different species and its main business is goat-milk soap, which it sells at wholesale and through a retail shop on the property, which is open for tours, said Corriveau,

who bought the property in 2001. Initially, its yoga teachers are conducting their classes in a side room off the store but Corriveau, 52, said he plans to renovate the upper floor of the milking barn into a dedicated studio space. That could allow it to double its class sizes to 16 people from the current cap of eight.

The farm's website advertises yoga classes with goats for \$22 per adult.

Instructor Janine Bibeau said the animals never fail to delight her students.—Reuters ■

Programme Schedule

(22-5-2017 07:00am ~ 23-5-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations - Lacquer Ware Making
07:52	Am	Great Minds of Myanmar - U Kyaw Win (Anthropologist)
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Conflict & Solution Between Man & Elephant
08:44	Am	Living Myanmar Glazed Ceramics
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	"Myanmar Traditions and Culture" Tea
09:54	Am	Myanmar Street Foods

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab
10:42	Am	A Chance to Change Their Future

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-10) (Part-1)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Unique Pattern of Myanma Ethnic Group: A Trend of Chin Traditional Dress

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

Programme Schedule
(22-5-2017, Monday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	2:00 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	2:45 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
7:35 Am	◆ MRTV Travelogue	3:45 Pm	◆ "Myanmar National League(NLM) (1) (2017) (LIVE Broadcast) (Yadanarbon FC Vs Ayeyawady United FC)
8:35 Am	◆ Women in Myanmar Society	6:15 Pm	◆ Football Magazine
9:10 Am	◆ Documentary	6:30 Pm	◆ Law Affairs
9:35 Am	◆ World Heritage (Angkor Wat, Cambodia)	7:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
10:30 Am	◆ Documentary (Agriculture)	8:00 Pm	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
11:10 Am	◆ Documentary (Asean)	8:35 Pm	◆ Documentary (Mandalay Palace)
11:35Am	◆ MRTV Youth's Programme	9:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
12:30 Am	◆ Teleplay	10:00 Pm	◆ UnityMelody
1:30 Pm	◆ Teleplay		



Chelsea celebrate with the trophy after winning the Premier League. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Chelsea score five against Sunderland in Terry's final league game



LONDON — Chelsea celebrated their title and captain John Terry's last game at Stamford Bridge with a 5-1 defeat of relegated Sunderland on Sunday, bringing their season's Premier League win tally to a record 30 games.

A third-minute goal on the rebound from Sunderland's Javier Manquillo did not mar the festivities and five minutes later

Willian equalised after sustained Chelsea pressure.

Most of the Chelsea players, as though warming up for the FA Cup final next Saturday, had a pop at the beleaguered Sunderland goal during the game.

Eden Hazard made it 2-1 with a classic low shot into the bottom corner, Pedro scored a third goal with a header in the 77th and Michy Batshuayi add-

ed two late goals before officials wheeled on a mobile stage for the trophy presentation. Antonio Conte, aiming for the double in his first season in charge, brought Terry off in the 26th minute — his shirt number — to a standing ovation. The former England captain wept as he hugged his team mates and brought to an end a 22-year career at Stamford Bridge. — Reuters ■

Myanmar to host four-nation U-22 invitational football contest next month

MYANMAR will host a four-nation invitational football tournament next month as part of preparation to for U-22 Myanmar national football team to successfully compete in the 29th Southeast Asian Games to be held in Malaysia.

The invitational contest is due to take place between 28 June and 2 July at Yangon's Thuwunna Stadium and four countries—Myanmar, Hong Kong, Cambodia and Japan—will participate in the round-robin contest.

According to schedules, Hong Kong U-22 will play against Japan team while Myanmar will meet with Cambodian counterparts on 28 June.

The Japan vs Cambodia and Hong Kong vs Myanmar will contest the round-robin competition on 30 June.

The tournament will be organised by Myanmar Football Federation and Kanbawza Bank, a leading private commercial bank, will be a major sponsor of the game.

Myanmar team will also take part in Asia U-23 championship qualification to be held from 19 to 23 July in Yangon prior to the 29th SEA Games.—Nyi Myat Thawda ■

Japanese judo experts demonstrate new techniques to Myanmar athletes

A delegation from Japan's Shinro Kodokan Judo Institute demonstrated modern martial arts to Myanmar athletes at Lewe Stadium near Nay Pyi Taw on 18 and 19 May. The delegation was led by Director of International Department Mr. Fujita Shinro of the Shinro Kodokan Judo Institute.

"The reason why we are here is to offer modern judo techniques to Myanmar athletes who will compete in 29th SEA Game in Malaysia," said Mr Fujita Shinro, Dan and Judo Grade 8.

Mr. Shinro also said he wanted to see Myanmar develop as a model for the practice of judo in the Southeast Asia region as he has been working to improve judo in Myanmar for more than 20 years.

The delegation arrived in Myanmar on 17 May at the invitation of the chairman of the Myanmar Judo Federation.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports, the delegation intends to upgrade the standards of judo in Myanmar in cooperation with the Myanmar Judo Federation.

Advance training would be conducted under the supervision of the Myanmar Judo Federation.

The Dan committee for Myanmar Judo will be formed under the federation in order to scrutinise the qualification of the athletes systematically and to present certificates to them as they progress in expertise.

The training and promotion of Dan, or the different levels of judo expertise, will be held for Myanmar judo athletes in Yangon today. —Saw Thein Win ■



Japanese Judo delegation inspects Myanmar Judo athletes at the Lewe Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN**