■ NATIONAL
Defence Service Commander in Chief leaves for Germany
▶ PAGE 9

■ NATIONAL
Vice President U Henry Van Thio tours Amsterdam water resources management center
▶ PAGE 3

■ LOCAL NEWS
Georgians Caught With US$90,000 Of Stolen Cash
▶ PAGE 4

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 6, 12th Waning of Tagu 1379 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Sunday, 23 April 2017

Gov't to ease restrictions, rules to create loan opportunities for private sector

THE government has a plan to relax restrictions and rules in order to develop opportunities for providing loans to the private sector.

Vice-President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, made the remark at a meeting between the committee and work committees on development of the private sector in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 April.

"As part of efforts for providing favourable investment environment to local and foreign investment, the government has enacted laws and issued necessary rules and notifications. At the same time, the government is forming institutions which will carry out the tasks," said the Vice-President.

Myanmar's fishery industry is one of the businesses which needs loans to switch over to a modern farming method from the traditional one.

Erratic weather adversely affects fisheries production and fish resources, and offshore fishing does not look very promising. As a result, to boost the export volume, the fish farming sector is required to prioritise and concerted efforts are needed to be exerted by all the stakeholders in the fisheries export supply chain, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF).

Myanmar's fishery industry needs loans to switch over to a modern farming technology and market access. File PHOTO: REUTERS/SOE ZEYA TUN

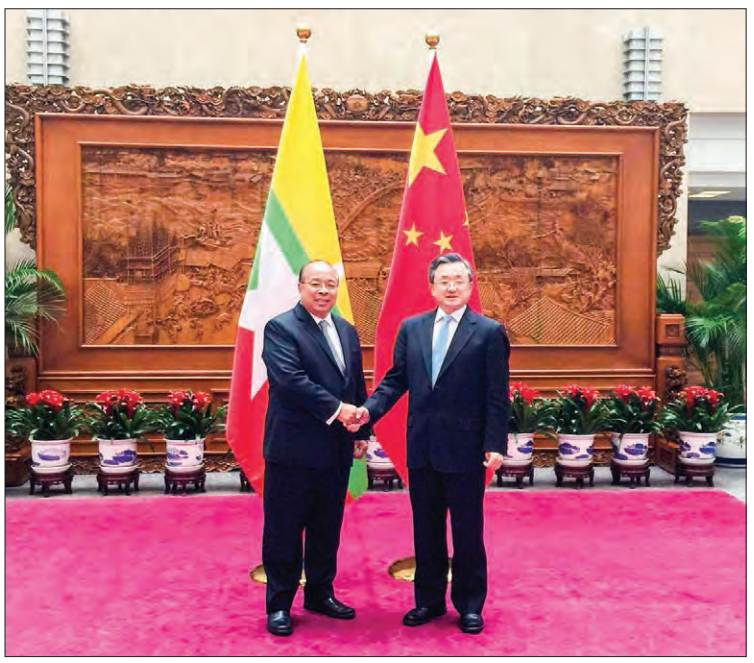
A workshop was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 April 2017 for international organizations to understand the work done by the government for private sector development and to participate and assist more, as well as for Private Sector Development Committee members and Work Committees to comprehensively understand and implement the work program of the 5 components of the private sector development framework.

Up to now, five monthly meetings with private sector business owner were held since December 2016 and difficulties faced by the business owners selected and grouped sector-wise were heard and assistance provided to help resolve their problems. A total of 83 suggestions were submitted by private business owners and the suggestions were being coordinated and resolved with 17 Ministries and work committees of the states and regions.

U Myint Swe has also urged relevant Ministries to respond effectively and efficiently to the submissions made by the business owners and there was a need for relevant Ministries to enthusiastically and effectively implement together the present work programs.

In the area of developing acts and rules, legal advice was provided to the committee for amending and enacting business related acts. Upon receiving reports of delays in loading and discharging exports and imports at ports, trade and investment support and development work committee conducted a site visit and coordinated with relevant

SEE PAGE 3 >>



National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun shakes hands with Vice Foreign Minister of China Mr. Liu Zhenmin in Beijing. PHOTO: MNA

National Security Advisor to Government visits China

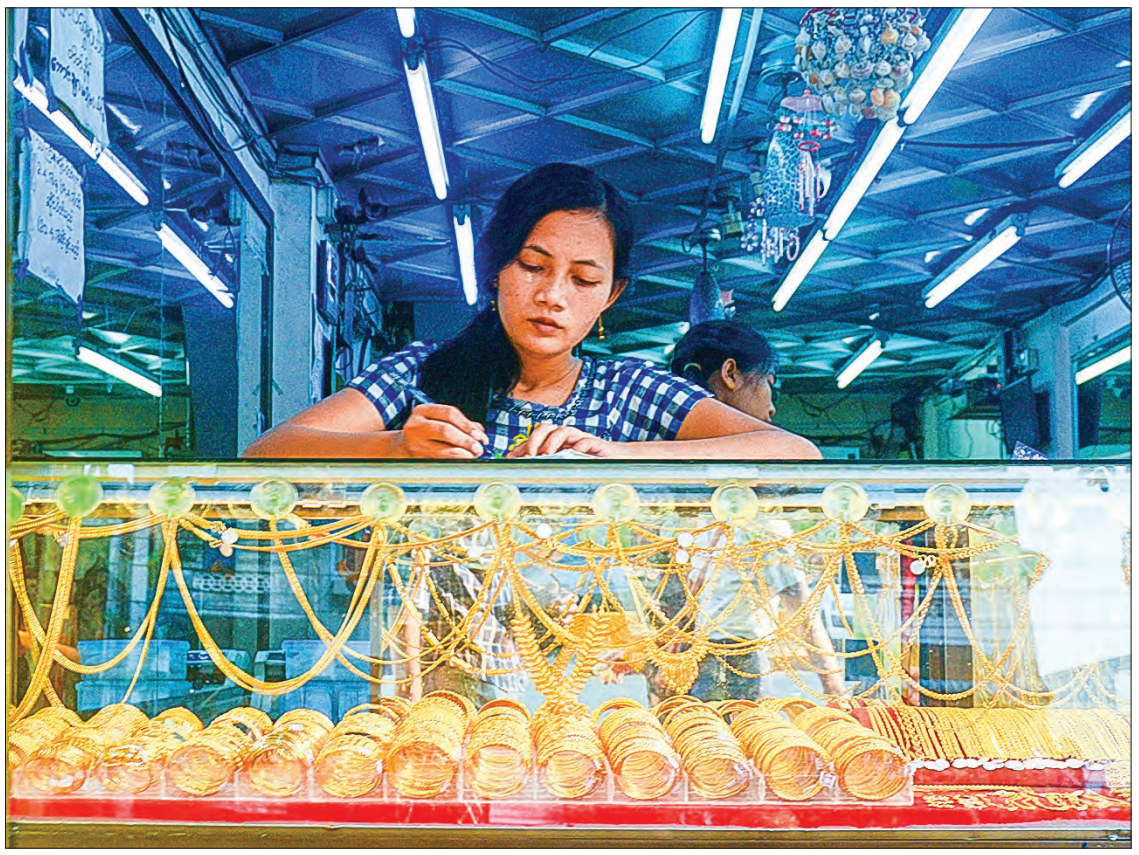
AT the invitation of the Chinese Government, U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor to the government of Myanmar, visited China from 17 to 22 April 2017.

In separate calls of the National Security Advisor with Minister for Foreign Affairs of China Mr. Wang Yi, Minister for State Security Mr. Chen Wenqing, and Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Liu Zhenmin in Beijing, the two sides discussed and exchanged views on matters to promote bilateral relations, cooperation in bilateral, regional and international levels, close contacts and communications between the two governments as well as the two peoples, and matters related to the China's supports for national reconciliation and peace process in Myanmar, peace and stability in border areas, China's initiative of "Belt and Road", and regional security.

In Kunming, National Security Advisor met with Deputy Party Secretary of the Yunnan Province Li Xiuling, and professors, scholars, and students from Institute of Myanmar Studies in Yunnan University respectively. The National Security Advisor discussed the bilateral relations existing in the context of comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and cooperation between the two countries, the efforts of the Myanmar government to build democracy federal union as well as achievements and challenges, contemporary traditional and non-traditional security issues.— *Myanmar News Agency*

LOCAL Business

Gold supply exceeds demand in Yangon market



Gold jewellery seen at shop in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

THE gold market in Yangon sees an excess in supply day-by-day, according to the owners of gold shops in downtown Yangon.

Starting in the second week of this month, the market sees an excess in supply than demand because of the rising value of the world gold price, gold sellers said.

For the time being, the gold prices in domestic market are over Ks910,000 per tical as the global gold price turned upward in mid-April, ranging from US$1,256 to 1,289 per ounce. The gold price in local market hit a high of about Ks912,000 per tical post-Thingyan period.

That is a key reason why people sold the bulk of their gold for profits. Some of them have an idea to raise funds from selling their gold to start a business, a gold trader said.

Roughly 80 per cent of gold owners sold their possessions at the gold shops in the city on a daily basis. An owner of gold and jewellery shop said only 20 per cent of customers came to the shop to purchase gold. The majority of customers bought the gold products worth no more than Ks150,000. Market experts estimate that the domestic gold prices not likely to decline from the current record price and it is also depends on the value of Myanmar kyat.—*200*

Border trade with China from Chinshwehaw gate decreases over $5 million

BORDER trade with China through Chinshwehaw gate totalled US$6.551 million in the first week of the current fiscal year, decreasing more than $5 million than that of last FY, the Commerce Ministry reported.

Over the first seven days of April, the country exported the marketable products amounted to $5.937 million to its largest nighbour and imported $0.614 million worth of goods. When compared with last April, the export value declined to $5.212 million from $11.149 million.

China is the largest trade partner for Myanmar. The cross-border trade camps with China include Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. The Muse border has the highest volume and value of total border trade than others.

Myanmar continues to export agriculture products, industrial finished goods, fisheries, forestry and minerals products predominantly to neighbouring countries.

It imports consumer products, intermediate goods, construction equipment, electronic devices, automobiles and capital goods mainly from China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Germany, France and Hong Kong.

Roughly 80 per cent of Myanmar's total external trade is through maritime routes.

According to the Ministry's official figures, the trade value of all borders reached $7.439 billion in FY2016-17, an increase of $285.660 million when compared to the FY2015-16.

The cross-border trade was $3.372 billion in FY2012-13. It annually increased to $4.588 billion in FY2013-14, $6.787 billion in FY2014-15 and $7.153 billion in FY2015-16.—*Shwe Khine*

Yangon authority to boost cooperation with international housing professionals

THE Yangon Region Government is putting forth concerted efforts to boost relations with foreign development partners to implement more housing projects in commercial hub Yangon, its spokesperson said.

The city authority will promote cooperation mainly with Japan, China and South Korea for the purpose of filling housing needs of Yangon residents by creating sufficient units of both residential and commercial housings.

At the present time, the regional government completed proposals to implement the project for the strategic urban development plan of the greater Yangon and urban transport project in collaboration with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

In cooperation with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the authority also continues its efforts to successfully develop the Hanthawaddy International Airport Project and project on establishment of master-plan on development in Yangon south-western region and along the Yangon-Hanthawaddy-Bago corridor.

The region authorities continue to promote the role of private sector in implementing some projected schemes to be commenced in the current fiscal year through public Private Partnership (PPP) approach.

A proposal to carry out urban development and Cultural Heritage Conservation Plan is planned to be submitted to the parliament soon, said U Myint Thaung, regional minister for planning and finance.—*200*

Onion price high in domestic market after Cyclone Maarutha

THE PRICES of onion went up in domestic market after the Cyclone Maarutha that made flooding in some parts of the country's agricultural regions, according to those in wholesale market in Pakokku Township.

Heavy rains caused by the Maarutha destroyed some plantations of the kitchen crop in flooded areas, resulting in the significant decrease of the flow of fresh onion into Yangon market, said U Moe Oo from the Pakokku Wholesale Centre.

The increase of the price of onion is directly linked to low production because of plant diseases that retard the growth of onion plant. That is the main reason why the prices of onion in the hands of merchants are pretty high in the market, he continued.

The prices of onion increased to around Ks800 per viss (one viss = 3.6 pounds) after the period of Thingyan New Year Festival. The onion price was between Ks550 and Ks650 per viss before Thingyan holidays.

Onion, one of most consumed fresh vegetable, was sold in the Ks550 to Ks625 range a viss on 20 March of this year. The price for one viss of onion now raises to Ks800 the most.

Roughly 120,000 visses of kitchen crop produced from Yesagyo and Pauk townships mainly enter the Pakokku market on a daily basis. Naturally, rainy-season onions are planted in July and August. The crop can be harvested in November and December. The winter onion is normally cultivated in November and December and harvested in March and April.—*200*

Onion price high in domestic market. PHOTO: 200

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses work coordination meeting on private sector development. PHOOT: MNA

Gov't to ease restrictions, rules to create loan opportunities for private sector

>> FROM PAGE 1

departments for matters that can be resolved immediately. Furthermore, responsible persons met and coordinated with export and import related business owners, relevant departments and authorities from the regional government in Myanmar Industrial Port to prevent the recurrence of container vehicles congestion in ports as in the previous year's Thingyan.

For private sector development, processes and rules are required in respective departments while Ministries need to continue cooperating for reform processes development. Open and frank discussions were requested on required situations..

Afterwards Private Sector Development Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint discussed about current and future works of the private sector development process.

Later, committee joint secretaries explained the sector-wise situations, relaxation requirements submitted by private businesses and future works of private sector development.

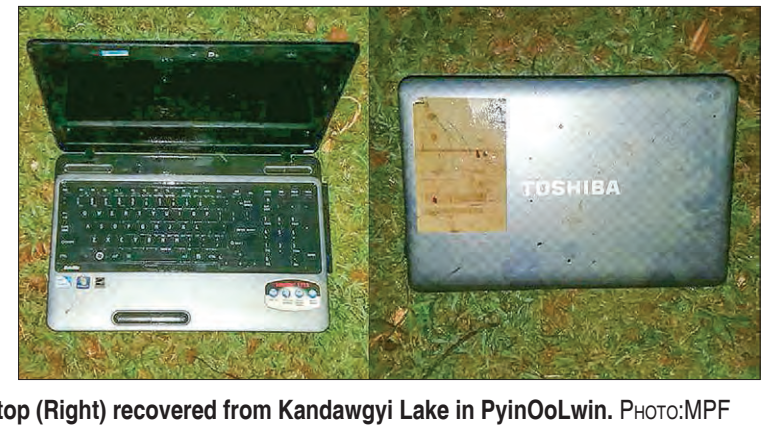
Next, Deputy Ministers who are chairmen of Financing work committee, Development of Acts and Rules work committee, Redefining Government involvement in the Economy and Services work committee, Encouraging Trade and Investment work committee, Permanent Secretaries and officials explained about present and future works of relevant sectors in the private sector development process. Union ministers who were members of the Private Sector Development Committee provided additional discussions.

Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe urged the work committees to successfully implement the works they were responsible for.

This meeting is the third coordinating meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee and Work Committees attended by the Private Sector Development Committee members Union Ministers, Work Committee Chairmen Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Director General, officials and responsible persons from UMFCCI and Myanmar Industries Association. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Police arrests one more suspect in publisher murder case, recovered victim's belongings

Suspect Pyei Thu Naing.



The mobile phone (left) and the laptop (Right) recovered from Kandawgyi Lake in PyinOoLwin. PHOTO:MPF

POLICE arrested a man yesterday on suspicion of involvement in murdering of Wai Yan Hein, the publisher of the Iron Rose weekly news journal, according to the Yangon Region Police.

The arrest of Pyei Thu Naing, also know as Phaya Pwe or Pyo Thaw, who is also a friend of the murder suspect Aung Ko Ko, came after a confession of suspect Aung Ko Ko who have been arrested on suspicion of the April 14 murder of the publisher.

Further investigation is being conducted, said the police source.

During earlier interrogation, Aung Ko Ko confessed of disposing off Wai Yan Hein's Toshiba laptop and iPhone SE into Kandawlay lake on circular road, Ward 6, Pyin Oo Lwin. Yangon Region police personnel and Aung Ko Ko went to Pyin Oo Lwin and with the help of divers, recovered the laptop on 20 April and iPhone SE on 22 April.

Strands of hairs found at the murder site were also sent to the crime lab together with the hair samples of the two suspects for testing and opinion.

Yangon Region police force is continuing the investigation according to the law and will release more information as it became available.—*GNLM*

Vice President U Henry Van Thio tours Amsterdam water resources management center

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who is on a working visit to the Netherlands, visited the Rijkwaterstaat Water Resources Management Center in Lelystad, Amsterdam yesterday morning.

The Vice President and entourage arrived at the Rijkwaterstaat Water Resources Management Center at 10:30 a.m. and were explained and showed them the water resources management processes .

The Lelystad Rijkswaterstaat Water Resources Management Center is Netherland's biggest water resources management research center where water resource management is conducted for prevention of flooding and inundation, acquisition of water for human, industrial and agricultural use. As 30% of the Netherlands is below sea level, prevention of flooding and inundation is a very important water resource management function.—*Myanmar News Agency*

VP U Henry Van Thio poses for photo at Lelystad Rijkswaterstaat Water Resources Management Center in Amsterdam. PHOTO: MNA

Union Information Minister inspects MRTV retransmission station, IPRD offices and library in Chin State

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visits IPRD office in Haka, Chin State. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, accompanied by Chief Minister of Chin State U Salai Lian Lwal inspected site chosen for construction of City Hall in Haka on 21 April morning.

First, the Union Minister and party visited site chosen for construction of staff housing and coordinated matters on broadcasting of MRTV, development of libraries, distribution of the newspapers and publishing of the bulletins in Chin State at Pyidaungsu Yeiktha. They then went to the office of the state's Information and Public Relations Department where they looked round the booths, collection of the books and reading room for the children and presented exercise books for the staff's children.

Afterward, the Union Minister together with State Minister for Social Affairs U Pau Lun Hming Than proceeded to U Ottamathara library in Lonpee/ Lonran Village which was built on self-reliance basis where they were briefed about the library by the library committee members. Next, the Union Minister donated the periodicals for the library. In the evening, they travelled to MRTV retransmission station, staff housing and office of district's Information and Public Relations Department in Falam. They also met with the staff and provided the stationery for their children, urging them to make concerted efforts for the ongoing works.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Locomotives manafactured by India are seen on a railway line. PHOTO: MMAL

MR's new locomotives to arrive on May Day

NEW locomotives which are bought by Myanma Railways (MR) from India will reach Thilawa port on 1st May (The Worker's Day), according to Myanma Railways under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

"MR is fulfilling the need to improve railway transportation in Myanmar for the passengers to be able to travel more conveniently. The new government has already bought five new locomotives for the first time from India. The new locomotives which will replace where necessary, will arrive on May Day," said U Zaw Lwin, divisional traffic manager of Division 7 of Myanma Railways.

The locomotives which are currently running are from Japan, India and China as well as Germany and French.

The new locomotives bought from India are not the reconditioned ones; they are the brand new ones recently manufactured in India. MR has bought the locomotives at a fair price. They are cheaper than the ones bought from China. The new coaches from China will also arrive in Myanmar very soon.—*MMAL*

All-weather roads for rural people by 2030

THERE will be all-weather roads for 80 per cent of rural people by 2030, according to Sagaing Region Rural Development Department.

The year 2020 will witness village roads in those villages in habited by 2,000 and above people whereas there will be intra-village inhabited by 500 and above by 2025, according to the second draft of rural roads development strategy.

The village roads will be built by the Rural Development Department. Six per cent of the village roads are concrete and asphalted roads while 66 per cent of the village roads are earthen roads.

The department will build 245 miles of concrete and asphalted roads and 5622 miles of earthen road in Sagaing Region. The Ministry of Border Affairs will also build 43 miles of concrete and asphalted roads and 646 miles of earthen roads in Sagaing Region.

The development strategy second draft also includes building 1,452 wooden bridges, 492 concrete bridges, 946 Box Culverts and 250 low water-crossing bridges in Sagaing Region. —*Myo Win Tun (Monywa)*

Holding of 4th Ayeyawady literary festival discussed

MATTERS realting to holding of the 4th Ayeyawady literary festival was discussed at a meeting held at Jefferson center in Mandalay USIS, Chanayetharzan township, Mandalay on 21 April.

The meeting was attended by the writers, journalists and media personnal from Mandalay. At the meeting, Professor Dr. Aung Myint explained the agenda of the festival while writer Saya Nyi Say Min discussed the sectors of the festival and the arrangements being made.

The 4th Ayeyawady literary festival will be held at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel, in Aungmyaythazan township, Mandalay between 3 and 5 November. At the literary festival, Myanmar arts, classic movie shows, sale of local and foreign books and paper-reading sections will be included.

There will be 39 papers of the local writers, journalists and researchers and 15 papers of the foreign literati and researchers. Those wishing to read the papers, are required to submit their papers to Professor Dr. Aung Myint (Hsay/ Mann), in charge of Ayeyawady literary festival holding committee.

The Ayeyawady literary festival will be held with an aim to promote the reading habits among the young generations.—*Maung Pyithu (Mandalay)*

Manageable catfish businesses suspended in Yedashe

MANAGEABLE catfish businesses were suspended in Yedashe Township, Bago Region. Although there are many manageable catfish businessmen in Yedashe, they are being faced with the losses because buyers are purchasing the catfish at a low price, said a catfish breeder from Ingyinngon village.

Photo shows a small pond for the catfish. PHOTO: MMAL

Although businessmen are breeding the catfish on a manageable scale, the death rate of catfish was rather high in the initial stage for lack of proper technology. Currently, the catfish businessmen have already invested Ks 0.4 million in the feed for the catfish for three months as well as the costs for buying the fingerling fishes. If we can buy the fingerling at competitive price, the catfish business will be good one, he added. Currently, the catfish depots are buying the catfish at a price of Ks 3,500 per vises and are selling them back for Ks 7,000 per viss.—*MMAL*

Crime NEWS

Georgians Caught With US$90,000 Of Stolen Cash

TWO Georgian men were busted in a Myanmar airport with US$90,000 of stolen cash hidden in their underwear which they had swiped from a local money changer, police said Saturday.

Officers said the middle-aged men, identified as Janjgava Revas, 64, and Narmania Malkhaz, 51, had made off with the money from a currency exchange office on Friday in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city.

The two men were arrested at Yangon International Airport together with USD 90,000 they stole from a local moneychanger, according to police sources.

When the airport police with the aid of CCTV records and other police members searched the two men they found the cash hidden in their underwear at about 00:45 am yesterday.

Further investigation revealed that they were Mr. Janjgava Revaz (64) and Mr. Narmania Malkhaz (51) each holding tourist visa permitting them nearly one-month stay in Myanmar from 8th of this month to 6th next month.

The two Georgians appeared at a moneychanger in downtown Yangon with the request to buy USD 90000 at about 4 pm on 21 April. U Zaw Win of the Pacific Moneychanger fixed the price at Ks 1350 per US dollar on which they both agreed. First the two foreigners put USD 30000 each in their three white plastic packages with red dots. They then opened their attaché case and placed the packages in it.

They told U Zaw Win that they would go back to take their kyats leaving their attaché case on the counter. As the two did not reappear, the moneychanger owner became nervous, opened the attaché case and found only three packets of one-dollar notes each sealed with two 100-dollar notes one at the top and the other at the bottom.

U Zaw Win filed a case against the two at the police station in Kyauktada where his moneychanger was located. —*Myanmar Police Force*

Suspects Mr. Janjgava Revaz (64) and Mr. Narmania Malkhaz (51) from Georgia together with the stolen US$90,000. PHOTO: MPF

Ygn-Mdy expressway accident kills one

A PASSENGER express bus namely Pyae Phyo Aung hit Doe Nyi Naung passenger bus driven by U Aung Kyaw Zan en route from Mandalay to Yangon on the Ygn-Mdy expressway yesterday, leaving one dead and injuring twenty five.

The accident occurred at the mile posts between 243/4 and 243/5 on the Ygn-Mdy expressway at about 1.30 am.

The crash killed one and injured the four passengers among 45 passengers on board of Pyae Phyo Aung express bus and 21 injured among 60 passengers on board of Doe Nyi Naung express bus. Doe Nyi Naung suffered K 5 million loss, while Pyae Phyo Aung suffered K 2.5 million loss. The body of the a dead person and the wounded were rushed to Nyaunkone station hospital by police vehicle.

Reckless driver Aung Myo Htet, was charged under the Law.—*Nyi Nyi Than (Nay Pyi Taw)*

China's first cargo spacecraft docks with orbiting space lab

SHANGHAI — China's first cargo spacecraft docked successfully with the Tiangong-2 space lab on Saturday, the official Xinhua news agency reported, marking a major step towards Beijing's goal of establishing a permanently manned space station by 2022.

President Xi Jinping has prioritised advancing China's space programme to strengthen national security.

The Tianzhou-1 cargo resupply spacecraft made the automated docking process with the orbiting space lab after it had taken off on Thursday evening from the Wenchang Satellite Launch Centre in the southern island province of Hainan.

The Tiangong-2 space laboratory, or "Heavenly Palace 2", was home to two astronauts for a month last October in China's longest ever manned space mission.

The cargo spacecraft mission provides an "important technological basis" to build a Chinese space station, state media have said. It can reportedly carry 6 tonnes of goods, 2 tonnes of fuel and can fly unmanned for three months.

Despite the advances in China's space programme for military, commercial and scientific purposes, China still lags behind the United States and Russia.

In late 2013, China's Jade Rabbit rover landed on the Moon to great national fanfare, but ran into severe technical difficulties.

The US Defence Department has highlighted China's increasing space capabilities, saying it was pursuing activities aimed at preventing other nations from using space-based assets in a crisis.

China insists it has only peaceful ambitions in space, but has tested anti-satellite missiles. —*Reuters*

Long March-7 rocket carrying Tianzhou-1 cargo spacecraft lifts off from the launching pad in Wenchang, Hainan province, China on 20 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russian scientists master using holograms to track microparticles

MOSCOW — Opticists from ITMO University have developed a rapid testing method that allows for evaluating the concentration and distribution of particles in transparent environments by using holograms, the ITMO's press office reported.

The technique is applicable in engineering construction for ferreting out metal shavings in machinery oil, in studying plankton in water, and in tracking viruses in living cells. The study was published in the prominent journal Scientific Reports.

"Our rapid testing method provides real-time information on surroundings with an arbitrary percentage of particles and is ready to be implemented for industrial purposes," said Tatiana Vovk, research assistant at the Department of Photonics and Optoinfomatics at ITMO.

The scientists note that existing tools for analyzing particle contents, for example, microscopes, are time-consuming and some of them are not capable of dealing with environments containing a high concentration of particles. This motivated the researchers from ITMO to create a new analysis technique to track the distribution of microscopic particles in transparent surroundings. The basic idea rests on Gabor's holography — the easiest and first-ever type of holography.

The biological applications this new technology holds are just as exciting. PHOTO: TASS

In order to retrieve the distribution of particles in a sample, scientists first take a digital Gabor inline digital holographic image followed by extracting two 2D shots from the 3D-picture and then by comparing the snapshots with each other. Depending on the rate of similarity between the two shots, one can derive a correlation function which can be extrapolated for the whole surrounding volume. The whole computation takes only a few seconds.

The researchers have approved the technique and the experiments' results have shown that this new approach is capable of rapid analysis of the concentration of particles in the surroundings, along with the distribution function of the particles and their transparency being defined as well.

Up till now, the researchers have shown only the method's principle operating capabilities but they believe that the instantaneous registration of particles might be relevant for many areas. For instance, the automatic analyzers based on the suggested approach might track in the real-time mode the suspensions and aerosols flow, in particular, define the concentration of solid particles in the machinery oil. "When the components of a device get in contact, the oil lubricant can be polluted with metal shavings which wear down the whole mechanism. The analyzing device might be very helpful in evaluating the extent of the contamination and consequently the level of a device's deterioration," Vovk added.

The biological applications this new technology holds are just as exciting. According to the researchers, the method will help study the purity of lake and river water by defining the rate of transparency of plankton. This feature is characteristic for the ecology of the whole basin as optical properties of microorganisms strongly depend on the state of the environment. Moreover, the technique might be used for counting viral particles in the living cells. —*Tass*

FDA approves Samsung Bioepis' copy of J&J's Remicade: company

SEOUL — South Korea's Samsung Bioepis Co Ltd said on Saturday the US Food and Drug Administration approved its copy of Johnson & Johnson's rheumatoid arthritis drug Remicade, the first drug developed by the Samsung Group unit approved in the United States.

The drug, called Renflexis, is a biosimilar — a copy of a biotech drug — and the second Remicade copy to be approved in the world's largest pharmaceutical market. Remicade is J&J's biggest selling drug with US sales of about $5 billion a year.

Established in 2012 as a relative latecomer to the industry, Samsung Bioepis has found early success by beating rivals to market on biosimilars of some of the world's top-selling drugs by so far investing $1.3 billion into biosimilar development.

It became the first company to launch a biosimilar version of Amgen's Enbrel, another rheumatoid arthritis drug, in Europe. It also submitted for approval its copy of Roche's blockbuster breast cancer drug Herceptin and its copy of AbbVie Inc's rheumatoid arthritis drug Humira, both in Europe.

Renflexis will be marketed and distributed in the United States by Merck & Co Inc, Samsung Bioepis said in a statement. It received European approval in May 2016.

The FDA approved the drug a little more than a year after the first Remicade biosimilar copy — Pfizer's Inflectra, developed by South Korea's Celltrion — was approved. Inflectra was introduced in the US in late 2016. Remicade accounted for about 9.7 per cent of Johnson & Johnson's total revenues for fiscal 2016, and biosimilar competition is expected to reduce US sales, J&J said in its annual report. —*Reuters*

A view shows the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland on 14 August, 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

Viet Nam land protesters free final hostages after city official visits

HANOI — Protesters involved in a land dispute near Viet Nam's capital, Hanoi, released the final 20 officials they had been holding as hostages for almost a week after a visit by a senior city official, Reuters witnesses said on Saturday.

Villagers in Dong Tam, 40 km (25 miles) from the centre of Hanoi, seized 38 officials, including police officers, last weekend after four people were arrested in retaliation for protests staged during the escalating land dispute.

Fifteen of the officials were released on Monday and another three escaped, while authorities also released the detained protesters.

Dong Tam villagers say they have received insufficient compensation by authorities who took over residential land for a telecommunications project.

Hostages, who were originally held by villagers in a land dispute, walk out after the villagers released them in Dong Tam, outside Hanoi, Vietnam on 22 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The release of the final 20 officials came after a visit to the village earlier on Saturday by Hanoi's People's Committee Chairman Nguyen Duc Chung, who spoke with villagers and listened to their complaints.

Chung said the city would begin a comprehensive investigation of the dispute and promised to respond within 45 days. He also said none of the protesters would be prosecuted for taking the officials hostage, who he also said had been treated well.

The released hostages shook hands and hugged villagers, who applauded loudly after hearing Chung's commitment.

"We are very happy. Dong Tam village is freed," Nguyen Thi Loan, a villager who was responsible for taking care of the hostages, told Reuters.

"Finally I can come home with my husband tonight," she said.

Another villager said: "We are really looking forward to the result of the inspection and that the authority will help bring justice to us."

Land disputes are common in Viet Nam but it is rare for residents to take officials hostage in the communist state, where there is little tolerance for dissent.—*Reuters*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Acting Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Expatriate Consultant Editor
Mark Angeles
markrangeles@gmail .com
Senior Translators
Khin Maung Oo
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Copy Writer Min Zaw
International News Editor
Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Local News Editors
Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)
Translators
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon
Chief Reporter
Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Computer Team
Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin,
Zu Zin Hnin
Circulation
San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114
Advertising inquiry
01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

Thai king's coronation likely by the end of 2017 — deputy PM

BANGKOK — The coronation of Thailand's new King Maha Vajiralongkorn is likely to take place at the end of the year, a deputy prime minister said on Friday. King Maha Vajiralongkorn ascended the throne in December, following the death in October of his father, the revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who had reigned for seven decades.

The king's coronation is widely expected to signal the resumption of politics following a year-long mourning period for King Bhumibol and a general election should follow soon after.

"Around the end of the year there might be a coronation," Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam told reporters on Friday, without specifying a month.

The king's coronation will take place after his father's cremation, set for 26 October. King Maha Vajiralongkorn endorsed Thailand's new military-backed constitution this month, an essential step towards democracy after the military seized power in a 2014 coup. But restrictions on political activities will remain in place until after King Bhumibol's cremation and the new king's coronation, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has said.

The new constitution is Thailand's 20th since the end of absolute monarchy in 1932 and critics say it will give the generals a powerful political say for years, if not decades.

A date has not yet been fixed for a general election, which had initially been promised by the junta for 2016.—*Reuters*

Islamic State-linked Abu Sayyaf leader killed on Philippine resort island — army

MANILA — A leader of the Islamic State-linked Abu Sayyaf group has been killed in a shootout with Philippine soldiers on the island of Bohol, where the military is hunting down insurgents planning to kidnap tourists, the military and officials said on Saturday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla said "one lawless element" was killed in the clash but he could not give the man's identity.

Bohol Governor Edgar Chatto identified him as Abu Sayyaf leader Joselito Melloria, who was among the militants involved in a kidnapping plot on the island.

The military said operations were continuing on Bohol where troops last week killed six Abu Sayyaf bandits in a clash, including their leader, who was directly involved in the kidnap and killing of Canadian and German nationals.

Abu Sayyaf, which has its roots in separatism, makes money from ransoms and piracy and has invested that in modern weapons and boats. Indonesian, Malaysian and Vietnamese vessels in the region are frequently targeted there and their crews abducted. —*Reuters*

Indonesian navy nabs 20 from illegal salvage ship

JAKARTA — The Indonesian navy said on Friday that 20 crew members were detained the previous day from a dredging ship that was illegally salvaging scrap metal from shipwrecks. The navy discovered the 8,352-ton grab hopper dredger vessel near the Anambas Islands, Riau Province, around 6:30 pm local time Thursday.

The ship was found to have scavenged 1,000 tons of metal from the MV Seven Skies, a Swedish supertanker that sank in 1969, and the Igara, an ore-oil carrier that sank in 1973. Both wrecks are located in Indonesian waters off the east coast of Malaysia and are popular dive spots. The 20 crew who were nabbed — 16 Chinese, three Indians, and one Malaysian — were brought to shore by the navy. But when the warship returned to the location at 11:30 pm, the dredger had slipped away, presumably piloted by crewmembers including the captain who had evaded capture. Indonesia has mobilized two airplanes and four warships to find the vessel. "If it has exited Indonesian territorial waters, we have no jurisdiction. So, we are asking for Interpol's help," the Indonesian navy's Deputy Chief of Staff Adm. Achmad Taufiqoerrochman said.

While the navy was unable to find any registration documents on the vessel when it was boarded, according to Taufiqoerrochman the detained Malaysian crewmember said it is called the MV Chuang Hong 68 and belongs to a Chinese company. Despite efforts by Indonesia to combat illegal fishing, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Susi Pudjiastuti admitted there are still many illegal boats entering Indonesian territorial waters. So far this year, Indonesia has caught 106 illegal boats.—*Kyodo News*

Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), meets with military officers during an inspection of the Southern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on 21 April, 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

Xi inspects PLA Southern Theater Command, vows to build strong army

NANNING — Chinese President Xi Jinping inspected the Southern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on Friday and stressed building a strong army.

Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), urged all military personnel to resolutely safeguard the authority of CPC Central Committee and unswervingly follow the Party's leadership.

He asked all military personnel to greet the 19th CPC National Congress scheduled for later this year with outstanding achievements.

Noting that 2017 is of great significance for the Party and the country, Xi urged the PLA to strengthen ideological building, combat preparation and reform implementation.

Xi urged PLA officers to eliminate the impact of Guo Boxiong and Xu Caihou, two corrupt former CMC vice chairmen, and strictly observe political discipline and rules.

"It must be ensured that the PLA resolutely follows the command of the CPC Central Committee and the CMC at any time, in any circumstances," Xi said.

A campaign, which focuses on the study of the Party Constitution and rules, as well as the speeches by Xi, and calls for being qualified Party members, is required to be further launched in the army.

He vowed to fight corruption and enhance the "sense of gain" among officers and soldiers.

Xi asked military personnel to strengthen their awareness in preparing for war, closely follow changes of situations and make unremitting efforts to enhance combat capabilities.

Xi required an accelerated building of the theater joint combat command system, vigorous development of a new-type fighting force and simultaneous improvement of national defence strength and economic development.

He asked for stronger military management, while caring for and loving officers and soldiers and ensuring the stability of troops. — *Xinhua*

Peaceful outcome for Korean peninsula still possible — Pence

SYDNEY— Denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula can still be achieved peacefully because of Washington's new engagement with China, US Vice President Mike Pence said on Saturday, despite growing fears North Korea could soon conduct a new nuclear test.

South Korea is on heightened alert ahead of another important anniversary in the reclusive North that could be the trigger for a new nuclear test or launch of ballistic missiles, with a large concentration of military hardware massed on both sides of the border.

Tensions have risen sharply in recent months after Pyongyang conducted two nuclear weapons tests last year and carried out a steady stream of ballistic missile tests in defiance of United Nations resolutions and sanctions.

US President Donald Trump has vowed to prevent North Korea from being able to hit the United States with a nuclear missile but his deputy said in Sydney on Saturday a peaceful outcome was still achievable because of warming ties between Beijing and Washington.

"We truly believe that, as our allies in the region and China bring that pressure to bear, there is a chance that we can achieve a historic objective of a nuclear-free Korea peninsula by peaceful means," Pence said.

"We are encouraged by the steps that China has taken so far," he said at a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Earlier this week, Trump praised Chinese efforts to rein in "the menace of North Korea" after North Korean state media warned the United States of a "super-mighty preemptive strike".

Trump hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping at his resort in Florida earlier this month and, while taking a hard line with North Korea, has focussed his efforts on trying to convince China to put more pressure on its ally and neighbour.

However, Trump has also ordered what he has described as an "armada" to waters off the Korean peninsula as a warning to North Korea. There was some confusion about the whereabouts of the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier strike group earlier this week.—*Reuters*

US Vice President Mike Pence (L) poses in front of the Sydney Opera House with Australia's Governor-General Peter Cosgrove at Admiralty House in Sydney, Australia on 22 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Laos actively supports China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative: official

VIENTIANE — Laos actively supports the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China, Vice President of Laos-China Cooperation Committee Vichit Sindavong told Xinhua in a recent interview, adding that Lao leaders highly appreciate the initiative.

"I think the Belt and Road Initiative is innovative. The scope of cooperation along the Belt and Road is wide. Interconnectivity and building a close and inseparable link are the importance of the initiative. As the major goals of the initiative, the policy coordination, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and people-to-people bonds will all bring back good development benefits for countries along the Belt and Road," he said.

"Laos always supports China's development policy, especially the Belt and Road Initiative. The two countries have recently set up blueprint for cooperation under the initiative and have been working together to achieve the goal," said Vichit, adding that Laos attaches great importance to the country's participation at the upcoming Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation slated for mid-May in China's Beijing.

"Laos will benefit from the cooperation with China within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. I think neighbouring countries in the region will also support the initiative," he said.

The cooperation between Laos and China under the Belt and Road Initiative covers a wide range with the most prominent projects Laos-China railway and the launching of Laos' first satellite.

"These are the biggest results of bilateral cooperation. We are actively discussing cooperation in other fields, especially those under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. It is believed that the future cooperation projects will yield better results as cooperation area will be further expanded," he said.

Talking about China-Laos railway, Vichit said the project is of great significance to Laos. "This is the biggest cooperation project between Laos and China, which will help Laos realize the target of turning from land-locked to land-linked country," he said.

The China-Laos railway has a total length of 414.332 km with over 62.7 per cent of bridges and tunnels, linking Mohan-Boten border gate in northern Laos and capital Vientiane. Operating speed on the route is designed at 160 km per hour. Construction of the project is scheduled for five years with investment of some 40 billion Chinese yuan (5.8 billion U.S. dollars), 70 per cent of which comes from Chinese investment and the rest 30 per cent from Lao side. China-Laos railway is the first overseas route connecting with the railway system in China, using Chinese technology, equipment and investment.

"The project plays a great role in promoting Laos' national economic development, facilitating transportation, promoting the exports of Lao products to other neighbouring countries, pushing forward the development of tourism sector, creating favourable conditions for trade exchanges between Laos and Asian countries, including China. The railway will benefit not only Laos, but also China and other neighbouring countries," he emphasized.

"The railway will not only connect China's border area and Lao capital Vientiane, but also link to other regional countries, thus playing a significant role in the development of Lao economy."

"There is a saying in Chinese that 'If you want to get rich, build a road first,' but for Laos, it would be 'If you want to get rich, build railway first.' Therefore, Laos will actively support the Belt and Road Initiative," he said, expressing his wish for the success of the upcoming Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will be held from 14 to 15 May in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said earlier this week. According to Wang, 28 heads of state and government leaders will attend the forum.—*Xinhua*

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

The Education Triangle

Dr. Nu Nu Win

WE used to say that Students, Parents and Teachers are the three sides of the Education Triangle. If all these three sides of the Education Triangle are in harmony, the level of education in the country will be high. But if all three are not in harmony, the standard of Education will go down.

This means that parents, students and teachers should know their respective duties. If all three perform their duties well, then we can get a beautiful Education triangle. So let us see what their duties are.

In our Myanmar society, it is not difficult to see what each side should do. In Myanmar tradition, all of us know the Duties of Pupils, Duties of Teachers, and Duties of Parents.

It is not difficult to do so when we were young and even up till the time when we became young teachers (i.e. in the days of 1970s and 1980s). We could teach our students to our heart's content and we could take care of them not only for their Education, but also their all-round development, i.e. their physical development, mental development, emotional development, social development and their character development.

In those days, when parents came to school to see the teachers, they used to say, " Teacher, teach them in any way you like, just make sure they do not become blind or lamed". That was how parents trusted teachers fully for the all-round development of their children. But nowadays, the situation is upside down. All teachers have to take care not to beat or punish a child no matter how much they may break the classroom discipline. Or else, they would be reported to the higher authority and it is sure that they would be punished in one way or the other.

In the Education Triangle, because the parent's side is broken, the teacher's side becomes broken too. Teachers have to take care of themselves and make sure not to lose their present job as a teacher. Thus they relax some of the school discipline. If they see children breaking school disciplines, they just ignore it, if it is not so serious. In this manner they encourage the children to adopt improper attitudes.

Thus the student may think "I can do whatever I like in school, no need to care about the teachers or the classroom disciplines. If something happens, I have my parents who will take care of me and these problems."

How can a child with such kind of attitude learn the lessons well?

Then another side of the Education triangle is broken again.

Let's see why all these things are happening at the present time.

Nowadays, the gap between rich and poor is becoming greater. Those who become so rich want to fulfill all the needs of their children as they love them so much; they use to be always on their children's side. It does not matter whether their children are right or wrong. They do not take care to discipline their children. They think they could solve all problems by using money. That is one kind of parents.

Then we have another kind of parents. They are so absorbed in their own business matters they think that if they can give enough money for their children, they are dutiful indeed. They never take any interest in what their children are doing or how they feel.

There are also parents who have to struggle for their living to make ends meet. They are on the other extreme. They have no time to take care of their children and they do not know whether their children go to school regularly or not. So, their children have the chance to do whatever they like.

In the opinion of the writer, the only way to move forward to improve the education sector is for the parents, students and teachers to understand their respective duties and work hand in hand to create a good learning environment. In fact, all three sides of the Education Triangle are equally important for the successful outcome of the learning process.

Kyauktwin Thuye: the Daredevil of the First Defile

Khin Maung Myint

The Burma Teak

In the past, Myanmar was famous for the best quality teak wood in the world. It was very popular among the wealthy and aristocratic Westerners, especially the British. Westerners honoured our teak wood by calling it the **Burma Teak** or the **Golden Teak.** They valued that wood so much that they would not hesitate to boast to the visitors, a piece of Burma Teak furniture among their prized possessions. Even labels that read **"Burma Teak"** are fixed on walls or floorings in some of their homes.

We used to be the largest producer of the best quality teak wood and other fine quality timbers in the world since the days of our Kings. Teak had played an important role in our history. It even provided the British with an excuse to annex our country. Under the British rule, the Burma Teak became more glorified. It was in high demand in most foreign countries. While their demands were being met, the teak forests were never in danger of depletion due to systematic conservations.

Those situations continued to exist well after we gained Independence, thanks to the proper conservations carried out by our forest department with the cooperations of other departments to prevent illegal loggings. However, lately, the glorious days of the famous Burma Teak had waned. According to a very distressful news, few months ago, our country was being listed in the third position behind the Amazons and Indonesia as the most forest-depleted region.

That was really regretful indeed. Nearly four decades ago I had an opportunity to witness, with my own eyes, the extent of our teak forests

Satellite image of the First Defile.

stretching for miles and miles on both sides of the Ayeyarwady River in her upper reaches. The distant mountains were densely covered with forests as we sailed up to Bhamo from Mandalay. As it was in the month of July, during the flowering season of the teak, almost the entire forest canopy was swathed in buff colour---the distinct colour of the teak flowers. Those awesome and breathtaking sights are still etched in my memory and thus the bad news struck me with regret.

However, I found some solace recently, in the news of the official banning of logging in the Bago region. I had been ardently advocating for the banning of logging and to curb illegal extractions in many of my articles. Also as the reforestations are being undertaken since many years ago, the future of our forests are a bit brighter. Although it may take a long time to be back to the previous conditions, those moves are laudable. With the participations of the authorities concerned and the public at large, we would definitely be able to restore the old glory of our Burma Teak. I hope the logging bans would be extended to other areas too.

The Kyauktwin Thuye

Here, I would like to narrate a very interesting story of the legendary **Kyauktwin Thuye**, who had played an important role in promoting the popularity of our world-famous Burma Teak. His name was U Pyar Gyi. As a teenager he left home in search of work and ended up becoming a rafts-man on the Ayeyarwady River. He was very skilled in handling timber rafts through the treacherous waters of the **First Defile**, north of Bhamo, locally known as the **Kyauktwin**. The defile being a very narrow gorge that cuts through a mountain range, it resembles a hole in the rock. His dearh-defying feat inside the First Defile earned him the nick name, **"The Kyauktwin Thuye".**

It was sometime around 1955, at a place called Sinbo, on the right bank of the Ayeyarwady, only a few miles upriver from the upper entrance to the First Defile. (The directions are customarily reckoned on a river by facing downstream and the right hand side is the right bank, while the opposite is the left bank.) U Pyar Gyi, the *Phaung thu gyi*, in-charge of the timber raft, and his crews were putting the finishing touches to the teak raft they were assembling, to be ready to float down to Rangoon at the end of the monsoons, from where the timber logs will be exported.

One day in July that year, U Pyar Gyi was unexpectedly summoned to report to the Commissioner of the Forest Department, who was in Myitkyina at that time. As soon as he arrived at the Myitkyina District Forest Department, he was ushered into the presence of the Commissioner. The latter asked whether he could float a timber raft through the First Defile.

He answered he had been doing it all along and that wouldn't be a problem. However, when the Commissioner told him it was to be done in a few days' time, he was shocked. He replied it wouldn't be possible during the monsoons as the conditions inside the defile would be very dangerous and the raft would surely be destroyed.

SEE PAGE 9 >>

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief leaves for Germany

At the invitation of General Volker Weiker, Chief of the General Staff of Germany, a Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, left for Germany yesterday morning to pay a goodwill visit.

The Senior General and party were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Lieutenant-General Nyo Saw from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Maj-Gen Myo Zaw Thein, Commander of Yangon Command and senior military officers, Mr Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch, German Ambassador to Myanmar and responsible personnel. Wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, General Mya Tun Oo, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and senior military officers from office of the Commander in Chief (Army) accompanied the senior general on the trip.

On its way to Germany, the delegation will stop over Austria for a working visit to meet Chief of the General Staff of Austria. The delegation will also observe industries and other places of prominence. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials. PHOTO: MNA

Tin Prices Start To Recover As Myanmar Shipments Fall

TIN prices have rebounded since March. Prices fell sharply earlier this year, but they have now found stability in Q2. As we pointed out in February, that month presented a good opportunity to buy tin. During bull markets, it's good to time your purchases after a price pullback.

Tin prices bounce off support levels. Source: MetalMiner analysis of LME data

Indonesian Exports Up

Indonesia is the world's largest tin-exporting nation. Indonesian tin exports for 2016 totaled 63,559 metric tons, down by 9.4% compared to 2015. The decline came as Indonesia tightened its rules for tin exports in a bid to crackdown on environmental degradation and smuggling.

However, the export permit process has been far smoother this year. For the first quarter, exports were up by 3.1% compared to the final quarter of 2016, and up 86% year on year. According to the International Tin Research Institute, many smelters in the country are operating on tight margins, with some understood to have paused production when prices dropped below US$19,000/mt in February before resuming when prices recovered above $20,000/mt. ITRI expects Indonesian refined shipments this year to remain broadly level with 2016. The next few months' figures will give us a clearer picture on how much metal Indonesia will export this year.

Myanmar Shipments Fall

According to the ITRI, Myanmar was the source of over 99% of China's reported tin ore and concentrate imports in January and February, which totaled exactly 40,000 mt, down 51% from 81,077 mt for the same period of 2016. While China's Spring Festival impacted Myanmar's February tin exports in both 2016 and 2017, the lower overall shipments can be explained by the large sales of local government concentrate stockpiles in January 2016. For that reason, it seems too early to tell whether exports will continue to decline or not but ITRI expects exports to be limited in 2017.—*Raul de Frutos/seeking alpha.com*

Non-transparent contracts in Yangon Region to be reviewed

YANGON Region Legislative Assembly legislator Kyaw Zeya from Dagon constituency told Mizzima that the assembly would review and point out the non-transparency of contracts given through nepotism by citing an Auditor-General's Report for Yangon Region.

"These agreements and contracts were made with companies. But these contracts and agreements are non-transparent and were signed without any tendering process, only through nepotism. These were done by the then government. We will review all these contracts and agreements. The contracts and agreements that need to be reviewed aren't many but we must point the mout," he said.

The assembly will focus primarily on agreements and contracts made by the then government in 2015-16 financial year based on Yangon Region Auditor General's report submitted on March 24. It is believed that the then government transferred these businesses due to nepotism during the transition period to the newly elected government. Legislator Kyaw Zeya responded to reporters that he would discuss and urge the assembly to review a contract in which a one-acre plot was rented at the paltry rate of one million per month.

The assembly would point out the lesser rate in comparison to the market rate of ground rent to the executive branch, he added.

Kyaw Zeya said, "Ground rent for some businesses are much less than the market price."— *Mizzima By Soe Thu Aung*

Kyauktwin Thuye: the Daredevil of the First Defile

>> **FROM PAGE 8**

The Commissioner was satisfied with the answer. He told the veteran rafts-man, that was what he had in mind and explained his intentions of making a documentary film to promote the sales of the Burma Teak in foreign countries. He wanted to show the world how difficult and dangerous it was to extract the teak. On hearing the desire of his superior, U Pyar Gyi gallantly replied: if that was what the Commissioner wanted, he wouldn't mind risking his life, but he couldn't gurantee for the participation of his crews. He added that just to crash the raft wouldn't need plenty men and volunteered to go at it alone if necessary.

Back in Sinbo, U Pyar Gyi immediately gathered his crews and told them of the task assigned to him. He said he didn't want to force them to go along with him, but he only want volunteers. There was none. He said he could understand their decisions and that he had no hard feelings towards them.

On the eve of the epic adventure he treated his crews to a farewell dinner. After dinner, U Pyar Gyi instructed his men to go to bed early and at dawn the next day to leave the raft and cut loose the mooring lines that held the raft to the shore and push it into the river current. Though the crews were drunk, their eyes welled up with tears on hearing their master's words. At that moment, one man stepped forward and told U Pyar Gyi, "If you, who is worth a Kyat don't mind to risk your life, why should I, worth only five Pyas be afraid to go along with you". U Pyar Gyi didn't take him seriously, and told him to go to bed adding that if he was still willing to go along when he woke up the next morning he should remain on the raft when the others leave.

Early the next day, all the crews except the man, whose name was (U) Nyo Gyi, left the raft. On U Pyar Gyi's orders, his men cut the mooring lines and pushed the raft away until it was caught by the current. The raft gradually gathered speed and was, in no time, racing towards the entrance to the First Defile. As there was nothing for them to do or could do, the two men sat on the last section of the long raft, which was made up of eight sections. They were calmly smoking and chatting to while away the time. Before long, the raft started humping and sacking as it neared the entrance, which was very narrow and thus the rushing water funneling through it caused the turbulences.

Once inside the Defile, the conditions became more ferocious as there were large whirlpools everywhere. By then, the long raft was wriggling, writhing, creaking and groaning, making it difficult for the two men to remain seated. Lest they be tossed off the bouncing raft they lied face down on the raft and clung to the cane twines that bound the large logs together. They were oblivious to the surroundings as they were desperately clinging onto the raft for their dear lives. Then all of a sudden there was a loud ear-splitting noise that sounded like a thunderbolt.

When he looked to the front, U Pyar Gyi knew straight away what had happened. The raft had crashed onto the rocky surface on the right side bank at a bend. According to his descriptions, the large logs were flying off in all directions like match sticks as one section of the raft after another crashed. The two men jumped off the raft in time and miraculously survived after a long ordeal in the turbulent waters, strewn with jagged rocks.

Conclusion

I had an opportunity to meet him in 1978, and learned first-hand, about that daring feat. At that time he was in his seventies and living in Bhamo. By now he may have passed on. May his soul rest in peace. In conclusion, I would like to urge the new generations, both the government employees and civilians, especially the business people alike, to be mindful of the endeavours, sacrifices, and the risks that your predecessors had taken. They had gone to the extremes, to promote the glory of **The Burma Teak**. So, now it's the new generations' turn and responsibility to uphold the glory of our national treasure—**The Burma Teak.**

****

Trump warming to EU trade deal with Britain behind in queue —Times

LONDON — The United States could strike a free-trade agreement with the European Union after President Donald Trump warmed to a deal with the bloc, the Times reported on Saturday, quoting sources from both sides of the discussion.

Post-Brexit Britain would be pushed behind Europe in the race to secure a US deal after Germany's Angela Merkel persuaded Trump that talks on a deal would be simpler than he thought, the newspaper said.

Britain will not be free to agree new trade deals until it has left the EU in 2019.

A source close to the White House was quoted as saying that there had been a "realisation" in the Trump administration that a trade deal with the EU — allowing the tariff-free exchange of goods and services — was more important to US interests than a post-Brexit deal with Britain.

"Ten times Trump asked her (Merkel) if he could negotiate a trade deal with Germany," the newspaper quoted a senior German politician as saying.

"Every time she replied, 'You can't do a trade deal with Germany, only the EU'," the politician said. "On the eleventh refusal, Trump finally got the message, 'Oh, we'll do a deal with Europe then.'"

Trump, who has repeatedly criticised the EU, had welcomed Britain's 2016 vote to leave the bloc and said he would work hard to get a quick bilateral trade deal done. But German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said on Friday he was optimistic a US-EU trade deal could be reached soon after he met his US counterpart in Washington.

He said he had seen a relaxation in the dispute with the US over trade and believed a "non-confrontational solution" would be reached when financial leaders of the world's 20 top economies meet in Hamburg in July under Germany's presidency.

US President Donald Trump speaks during a signing ceremony with Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin at the Treasury Department in Washington, US on 21 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Any quick deal between the US and Europe could come as a blow to British Prime Minister Theresa May who had hoped to win a promise of deeper trade ties when she became the first foreign leader to meet Trump in office in January. Trade became a major issue during the Brexit campaign when the then-president Barack Obama said Britain would go to "the back of the queue" for a deal if it voted to leave.

The comment was denounced as meddling by those campaigning to leave the bloc, who argued that Britain would be free to negotiate quick trade deals with major economies around the world once it had left the bloc. —*Reuters*

British PM May refuses to rule out personal tax hikes after election

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May refused on Saturday to rule out an increase in personal taxes if she wins a June 8 election after her finance minister said fiscal pledges had limited his ability to manage the economy.

May and her chancellor, Philip Hammond, were forced earlier this year to scrap a planned rise in an employment levy only days after it was announced following criticism that the measure breached 2015 party election promises.

May's surprise decision to call an election on June 8 has raised speculation that her Conservative 2017 manifesto will abandon commitments not to raise the rate of value-added tax, income tax or the national insurance payroll tax in order to help reduce the budget deficit.

Appearing at a campaign event in central England, May refused to say whether she could rule out higher taxes when asked three times by reporters.

"At this election people are going to have a very clear choice, between a Conservative Party which always has been, is and will continue to be a party that believes in lower taxes. "Or the choice is a Labour Party whose natural instinct is to always raise taxes.

That is the choice, lower taxes under the Conservatives or higher taxes under Labour."

Hammond raised the issue of higher taxes on Friday when he told reporters on a trip to Washington that he wanted Britain to be a "sensibly taxed" economy that did not run a budget deficit.

British Prime Minister Theresa May .PHOTO: REUTERS

"It's self-evidently clear that the commitments that were made in the 2015 manifesto did, and do today, strain the ability of the government to manage the economy flexibly," he said.

Polls give May's governing Conservative party a lead of around 20 percentage points, enough to give her a much bigger majority that she hopes will strengthen her hand when negotiating Britain's exit from the European Union over the next two years. —*Reuters*

Thousands of ex-Taliban fighters may have entered Germany — report

BERLIN — Thousands of former Taliban fighters may have entered Germany over the past two years among an influx of more than a million migrants and refugees, Der Spiegel magazine reported on Saturday.

Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) informed security officials that thousands of migrants had identified themselves as former Taliban insurgents during the asylum application process, the magazine said.

It added that at least 70 Afghan men were being investigated by Germany's over-stretched chief federal prosecutor, though it was not clear whether all of them were suspected of being active Taliban militants.

Six are being held in investigatory detention and preliminary court hearings involving several others are due to start next week, the magazine added.

No comment was immediately available from the migration office or federal prosecutors.

The government of Chancellor Angela Merkel, under fire for allowing in so many migrants, especially after several militant attacks linked to migrants last year, has been actively deporting groups of rejected Afghan asylum seekers.

Merkel, seeking a fourth term in a 24 September election, this month defended the increase deportations of rejected Afghan asylum seekers, saying all other European Union countries were doing the same.

She said about 55 per cent of Afghans were granted refugee status in Germany, while 45 percent were turned down.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pence says United States will honour refugee deal with Australia

SYDNEY — US Vice President Mike Pence said on Saturday the United States would honour a controversial refugee deal with Australia, under which the United States would resettle 1,250 asylum seekers, a deal President Donald Trump had described as "dumb".

Pence told a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in Sydney that the deal would be subject to vetting, and that honouring the deal "doesn't mean that we admire the agreement". Pence also said an aircraft carrier strike group, led by the USS Carl Vinson, heading for waters off the Korean peninsula would be in the Sea of Japan within days.—*Reuters*

Canary Islands battles two-mile oil slick after ferry crash

MADRID — Emergency teams in the Canary Islands raced on Saturday to contain a three-kilometre oil slick caused by a ferry crashing into underwater fuel pipes, the regional government said in a statement.

The regional government activated emergency plans to control and clean up the nearly two-mile spill around Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and Telde, the two main towns on the Spanish resort island of Gran Canaria, the regional government said.

No one at the emergency services or government could be reached for further comment on Saturday.

The ferry crashed into a pier where the pipes were located late on Friday after suffering a technical fault that caused a power cut, a spokesman for operating company Naviera Armas on Saturday. The 140 passengers were unhurt apart from some minor injuries, he said.—*Reuters*

Power restored to most San Francisco customers — PG&E

SAN FRANCISCO — Fewer that 3,000 customers remained without electricity in San Francisco on Friday after a fire in a utility substation earlier in the day knocked out power for much of the city, according to PG&E .

The fire, which left some 90,000 customers without power for hours, was caused by a failed circuit breaker, said PG&E spokesman Paul Doherty.—*Reuters*

US aircraft carrier to arrive in Sea of Japan by month end: Pence

SYDNEY — US Vice President Mike Pence said Saturday that the aircraft carrier Carl Vinson would be in the Sea of Japan before the end of April.

Pence was speaking in Sydney at a joint press conference with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, on the final leg of a 10-day trip to the Asia-Pacific region where the nuclear threat posed by North Korea has been high on the agenda.

Pence said the US government believed peaceful denuclearization of the Korean peninsula could be achieved because of the Trump administration's overtures to China. The credibility of US President Donald Trump in dealing with North Korea has been questioned in recent days due to ambiguity over the location of the Carl Vinson strike group.— *Kyodo News*

Man charged with threatening Jewish community centers in Florida

ORLANDO (Florida) — An 18-year-old man who holds dual US and Israeli citizenship was charged on Friday with making threatening calls to Jewish community centres in Florida, the US Justice Department said in a statement.

Michael Ron David Kadar is accused in a criminal complaint filed in Orlando, Florida, of making calls to the community centers from January to March involving bomb threats and active shooters, the statement said. Kadar was recently arrested in Israel, it said.—*Reuters*

Death toll in Afghan base attack rises to 140, officials say

MAZAR-I-SHARIF/KABUL, (Afghanistan) — As many as 140 Afghan soldiers were killed on Friday by Taliban attackers apparently disguised in military uniforms in what would be the deadliest attack ever on an Afghan military base, officials said.

The Defence Ministry said the toll was "over 100" Afghan soldiers killed and wounded.

One official in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, where the attack occurred, said on Saturday at least 140 soldiers were killed and many others wounded. Other officials said the toll was likely to be even higher.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because the government has yet to release exact casualty figures.

The attack starkly highlighted the struggle by the Afghan government and its international backers to defeat a potent Taliban insurgency that has gripped Afghanistan for more than a decade.

A US official in Washington on Friday had put the toll at more than 50 killed and wounded.

Afghan national Army (ANA) troops arrive near the site of an ongoing attack on an army headquarters in Mazar-i-Sharif northern Afghanistan on 21 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

As many as 10 Taliban fighters, dressed in Afghan army uniforms and driving military vehicles, made their way onto the base and opened fire on mostly unarmed soldiers eating a meal and leaving a mosque after Friday prayers, according to officials.

The attackers used rocket-propelled grenades and rifles, and several detonated suicide vests packed with explosive, they said.

Witnesses described a scene of confusion as soldiers were uncertain who the attackers were.

"It was a chaotic scene and I didn't know what to do," said one army officer wounded in the attack. "There was gunfire and explosions everywhere."

The base is the headquarters for the Afghan National Army's 209th Corps, responsible for much of northern Afghanistan, including Kunduz province where there has been heavy fighting.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement on Saturday the attack was retribution for the recent killing of several senior Taliban leaders in northern Afghanistan.

Four of the attackers were Taliban sympathisers who had infiltrated the army and served for some time, Mujahid said.

That claim has not been confirmed by the Afghan army.

The NATO-led military coalition deploys advisers to the base where the attack occurred to train and assist the Afghan forces but coalition officials said no international troops were involved in the attack.

"The attack on the 209th Corps today shows the barbaric nature of the Taliban," the commander of coalition forces, US General John Nicholson, said in a statement on Friday. —*Reuters*

Kenya's ruling coalition annuls party primaries after chaotic voting

NAIROBI — Kenya's ruling coalition annulled party primaries held on Friday, the organisation's secretary general said, and reports of widespread anger over chaotic voting raised fears that poorly organised national polls in August could spark violent protests.

"Today's have been cancelled, those on Monday and Tuesday could still go ahead," an official with the ruling Jubilee coalition told Reuters.

"The turnout was more than anticipated, we had anticipated it would be a party affair but it was more like a general election kind of turnout."

The coalition had tried to hold primaries in 21 of the country's 47 counties on Friday. Local media showed pictures of angry voters burning ballots amid complaints that voting had started late in some areas and that some candidates' names had been left off the ballot.

The party official said they were unable to comment on those reports because they were still unconfirmed by party officials.

Kenya is still haunted by violence that convulsed the country after a disputed presidential poll in 2007, when more than 1,200 people were killed in widespread ethnic violence.

In the most recent elections in 2013, electronic tallying equipment failed, stoking voter concerns of fraud. But this time the opposition took its complaints to the Supreme Court instead of the streets and there were only a handful of deaths in protests.

The opposition alliance, known as NASA, is also holding polls around the country this month but has staggered them over two weeks. It has also said a recount will be held in Busia county and a few local races amid concerns over the primaries. —*Reuters*

Lebanese army arrests 10 suspected militants in raid near Syrian border

BEIRUT — Lebanon's army said it arrested ten suspected members of militant groups on Saturday after they came over the northeastern border from Syria, and a security source said a local Islamic State leader was killed in the same raid.

No army personnel were reported injured or killed in the raid in Arsal, a town which militants briefly overran in 2014 before withdrawing to the hills around the border.

The army says it stages regular operations against Islamic State and former al Qaeda-linked militants in the mountainous region.

"An army unit carried out a swift raid at dawn today in Arsal, resulting in the arrest of 10 dangerous terrorists who had previously infiltrated it," the army statement said. A military source said the local Islamic State leader had ordered the killing of two Lebanese soldiers and the suspects were arrested on charges of smuggling weapons. Islamic State is still holding nine Lebanese soldiers taken hostage in the 2014 clashes.

A number of attacks in Lebanon in recent years have been linked to the war in Syria, where Lebanese Shi'ite group Hezbollah is fighting in support of President Bashar al-Assad. —*Reuters*

Hundreds more join Mosul exodus as Iraqi forces retake another western district

MOSUL (Iraq) — Pushing carts loaded with bags, babies and the elderly, hundreds of people fled Mosul on Saturday after Iraqi forces retook another district in the west of the city from Islamic State.

After walking for miles, families were taken by bus from a government checkpoint in the south of the city to camps housing more than 410,000 people displaced since the offensive to retake Mosul began in October.

"We left with no water, food or electricity," said 63-year-old Abu Qahtan, the elder of a group of 41 people from five families. "We left with the clothes on our backs."

Iraqi forces have taken much of Mosul from the militants who overran the city in June 2014.

The military now controls the eastern districts and are making advances in the west. Islamic State fighters are surrounded in the northwest and are using booby traps, sniper and mortar fire to defend themselves. Artillery and gun fire could be heard as families arrived from Hay al-Tanak district which they said was still half controlled by the militants.

The US-trained Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) has retaken the nearby al-Thaura district, a statement said. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are still trapped in western Mosul, where Iraqi forces are making slow progress against Islamic State in what is a labyrinth of narrow streets.

As of 20 April, some 503,000 people have been displaced from Mosul, of which 91,000 have returned, a spokeswoman for the UN refugee agency UNHCR said, citing government figures. Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, is the militants' last urban stronghold in the country.—*Reuters*

Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) fires towards Islamic State militants during a battle, west of Mosul,Iraq on 21 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Advanced frigate Admiral Gorshkov's trials underway in Russia

MOSCOW — The trials of all the assemblies of Russia's Project 22350 lead frigate Admiral Gorshkov are proceeding on schedule and are due to be completed in July, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said on Thursday.

"The works are not being delayed and are proceeding according to plan. Our plan is due to be completed in July this year. Now the trials of all the assemblies are underway, including air defense systems deployed on this ship. These are Poliment-Redut complexes," the vice-premier said.

The trials of the Admiral Gorshkov are complex as it is necessary to check the work of several dozen advanced systems at a time, including radio-electronics, artillery armament, various shipborne assemblies and air defense systems, the vice-premier said.

"Problems arise as to how to arrange the trials so that the test of one system does not impede the test of another complex," Rogozin said.

The Russian Navy is expected to receive six frigates of this type by 2025. PHOTO: TASS

The vice-premier added that the frigate's trials were proceeding under his personal control on the Russian president's instruction.

Deputy Prime Minister Rogozin oversees the work of the defence sector in the Russian government.

The frigate Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union Gorshkov is the Project 22350 lead warship. The frigate has been designed by the Severnoye Design Bureau.

The Project 22350 frigate Admiral Gorshkov was laid down in early 2006 and put afloat in the autumn of 2010.

The warship started undergoing trials in November 2014. The final stage of the frigate's state trials started on 20 March, 2017.

Project 22350 warships displace 4,500 tonnes and can develop a speed of 29 knots. They are specifically armed with Oniks and Kalibr cruise missiles and Poliment-Redut antiaircraft missile systems.

Overall, the Russian Navy is expected to receive six frigates of this type by 2025. —*Tass*

German intelligence spied on Interpol — Spiegel

BERLIN — Germany's BND foreign intelligence agency spied on the Interpol international police agency for years and on the group's country liaison offices in dozens of countries such as Austria, Greece and the United States, a German magazine said.

No comment was immediately available from the BND, Interpol or Europol. Der Spiegel magazine, citing documents it had seen, said the BND had added the email addresses, phone numbers and fax numbers of the police investigators to its sector surveillance list.

In addition, the German spy agency also monitored the Europol police agency Europol which is based in The Hague, the magazine said. Der Spiegel reported in February that the BND also spied on the phones, faxes and emails of several news organisations, including the New York Times and Reuters.

The BND's activities have come under intense scrutiny during a German parliamentary investigation into allegations that the US National Security Agency conducted mass surveillance outside of the United States, including a cellphone used by Chancellor Angela Merkel. Konstantin von Notz, a Greens party member who serves on the investigative committee, described the latest report about the BND's spying activities as "scandalous and unfathomable".

"We now know that parliaments, various companies and even journalists and publishers have been targeted, as well as allied countries," von Notz said in a statement.

He said the latest reports showed how ineffective parliamentary controls had been thus far, despite new legislation aimed at reforming the BND.

"It represents a danger to our rule of law," he said. —*Reuters*

G20 finance leaders discuss anti-terrorism efforts

WASHINGTON — Finance leaders from the Group of 20 major economies were expected to discuss\ ways to better combat the financing of terrorism on Friday, in part as a way to demonstrate the value of the group to the Trump administration.

The G20 session on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank spring meetings comes just over a month after the group dropped an explicit pledge to fight against protectionism from the communique of its meeting in Baden-Baden, Germany, at the insistence of US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

The G20 is not expected to issue a new statement after Friday's meeting, which comes amid tension between the Trump administration's plans to shrink US trade deficits and IMF warnings that increasing trade barriers will stunt economic growth.

British finance minister Philip Hammond told reporters that multilateral anti-terrorism initiatives were on the G20 agenda and that Britain supports them.

G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors pose for a family photo during the IMF/World Bank spring meetings in Washington, US on 21 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

US President Donald Trump has made efforts to stop the flow of money to terrorist groups and to sanctioned states such as North Korea a priority and has sought the help of other countries, including China.

Hammond said the anti-terrorism topic can help demonstrate to the Trump administration the value of co-operating through multilateral organizations.

"I think there is an appetite among G20, G7 partners to look for areas where we can demonstrate by our actions, rather than words, to the new US administration how these multilateral organizations can help the US administration to achieve its objectives," Hammond told reporters at the British Embassy in Washington.

He said that there was a "healthy and helpful" recognition in the international community that Trump may need some persuasion about multilateral co-operation.

"The new administration comes into office with, shall we say, a degree of skepticism about the value of the multilateral organizations," Hammond said. "It's for the multilateral organizations to demonstrate their value."—*Reuters*

UK election regulator investigates pro-Brexit campaign group

LONDON — Britain's Electoral Commission said on Friday it was investigating whether the influential pro-Brexit Leave. EU campaign group broke the law over donations it received during last year's European Union referendum. "The investigation is focused on whether one or more donations — including of services — accepted by Leave. EU was impermissible; and whether Leave. EU's spending return was complete," the electoral watchdog said in a statement. Leave. EU Chairman Arron Banks denied any wrongdoing.

The findings of the investigation could not put the result of the referendum itself in question.

The group did not lead the official campaign for Britain to quit the EU, but was credited with mobilising people who do not typically vote and helping influence regular voters. Britain voted 52 to 48 per cent in favour of 'leave'.

The Commission has the power to impose fines and other sanctions if it find rules were broken, and in some cases can refer matters to the police for criminal investigation. "We fully and correctly complied with the Electoral Commission rules on spending during the referendum. We have answered all of their questions," Banks said in a statement. He criticised the timing of the announcement, which comes as Britain prepares for a 8 June election, as politically motivated.

"We will not be co-operating any further with the Commission and we will see them in court," he said.—*Reuters*

Police injured in protests against right-wing AfD party congress

COLOGNE, Germany — Two police officers were injured and a police car was set ablaze during protests in Cologne on Saturday, police said, as some 600 delegates of the deeply divided anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) party met to discuss policy for September's national elections.

AfD co-chief Frauke Petry suffered a crushing blow at the start of the congress when delegates voted down her motion calling for efforts to forge alliances with other parties in future rather than seeking to be a long-term opposition force. Her critics deny any split along these lines in the party.

Petry announced on Wednesday after a months-long power struggle that she would not lead the national election campaign of the party, a pariah in the German political landscape that has seen its poll numbers wane over the past few months.

A spokesman for the Cologne police said the situation in the city was "very dynamic" and "fairly aggressive" in some areas.

Activists protest against Germany's anti-immigration party Alternative for Germany (AFD) before the AFD's party congress in Cologne, Germany on 22 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Over 4,000 police, many clad in riot gear and some on horseback, were braced for riots with as many 50,000 protesters expected, including about 1,000 hard left activists.

The spokesman said police stopped about 100 protesters early on Saturday for identity checks, but they were not detained.

Broadcaster n-tv showed a group of around 50 people clashing with police on horses, and a television correspondent said police used pepper spray against some of the demonstrators.

The AfD, which rails against Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision to welcome over a million migrants over the past two years, is polling between eight to 10 per cent support ahead of September's election.

That is enough to give the party seats in parliament for the first time, but well below peak support seen in late 2016.

In her opening speech, before which she received a standing ovation from some party members, Petry signalled she was willing to make compromises on her controversial motion for the party's future strategy.

Petry has upset many within the party by introducing a motion in which she said the AfD should aim to join coalitions in future and govern, instead of being a "fundamental" opposition party that only made provocative statements.

But a majority of delegates voted around mid-day on Saturday against discussing her motion.—*Reuters*

Gunman attacks regional Russian security service office, kills two

MOSCOW — Russia's Federal Security Service said on Friday that a gunman had burst into one of its regional offices in the far east of the country and opened fire, killing one of its employees and a visitor.

The region where the incident happened is close to China. The FSB, the successor organisation to the Soviet KGB, said the attacker had been killed and that another person had been injured in the incident. "An unknown person entered the reception of the FSB's Khabarovsk regional branch and started shooting at people inside," the FSB said in a statement.

The Site Intelligence Group, a US-based monitoring service, said that Islamic State had claimed responsibility for the attack. It said that the claim of responsibility had been made through the militant group's Amaq news agency.

That contradicted earlier media reports, which said the FSB believed the gunman was a nationalist. The TASS news agency cited an unnamed FSB official as saying that the gunman was a local resident and born in 1999.

The visitor who was killed and the one who was injured were from former Soviet states outside Russia, according to the security service. Russia was this month shaken by a suicide bombing of the St Petersburg metro, which killed 16 people. The suspected suicide bomber and his alleged accomplices were from Central Asia. The man Russian police believe was the suicide bomber had developed an interest in Islam and soon after travelled to Turkey, two people who knew him told Reuters.—*Reuters*

American Airlines' employee suspended after row with passengers

SAN FRANCISCO — American Airlines has suspended an employee after a video showed an altercation on one of its planes involving crew, several passengers and a crying woman carrying a young child.

An American Airlines employee violently took a stroller from the woman, hitting her with it and just missing her child, Facebook user Surain Adyanthaya said in a post accompanying the video he put on the site on Friday.

Less than two weeks ago, a 69-year-old doctor, David Dao, was hospitalised after Chicago aviation police dragged him from a United Airlines plane sparking international outrage and a public relations nightmare for the carrier.

American Airlines was investigating Friday's incident, which happened on Flight 591 from San Francisco to Dallas before the plane took off, Leslie Scott, an airline spokeswoman said.

The incident started over a dispute as to whether the woman could bring her stroller on the flight, Scott said.

Adyanthaya did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In his video, the woman with the child can be heard asking flight attendants for the stroller. A male passenger then walks towards the front of the plane and demands from the airline crew the name of the employee who took the stroller before he returns to his seat.

Moments later, another American employee, who Scott said was a flight attendant, enters the plane and the male passenger confronts him. "You do that to me and I'll knock you flat," the passenger can be heard saying to the flight attendant.

The two then confront each other in the aisle of the plane and the employee can be heard challenging the passenger to hit him. The passenger eventually returns to his seat and the flight attendant leaves the plane. "We are deeply sorry for the pain we have caused this passenger and her family and to any other customers affected by the incident," the airline said in a statement late on Friday.

The woman and her family were being upgraded to first class for the remainder of their international trip, it said. —*Reuters*

US forces kill Islamic State militant linked to Turkey nightclub attack

WASHINGTON — The United States disclosed on Friday a secret military ground operation that killed an Islamic State operative seen as a close associate of leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and linked to an attack on a Turkish nightclub that left 39 people dead.

Abdurakhmon Uzbeki, who was believed to be from Uzbekistan, was killed during the ground assault near Mayadin, Syria, on 6 April, said Colonel John Thomas, a spokesman for the US military's Central Command.

"It was a ground operation. I think that's all we're willing to say about that," Thomas said, declining further comment. He specified that Uzbeki did not die in an airstrike.

Thomas said Uzbeki helped facilitate the attack on the exclusive Istanbul nightclub Reina in Istanbul on New Year's Eve. Islamic State claimed credit for the attack, saying it was revenge for Turkish military involvement in Syria.

The attacker opened fire with an automatic rifle, throwing stun grenades to allow himself to reload and shooting the wounded on the ground. Among those killed in the attack were Turks and visitors from several Arab nations, India and Canada.

"We have clearly linked him with the New Year's Eve Istanbul bombing," Thomas said. —*Reuters*

US charges Russian arrested in Spain with operating spam botnet

WASHINGTON — A federal grand jury in Connecticut has returned an eight-count indictment charging a Russian national who was arrested earlier this month with operating the Kelihos botnet, a global network of tens of thousands of infected computers, the US Justice Department said on Friday.

Peter Yuryevich Levashov, 36, was indicted on Thursday by a grand jury in Bridgeport and charged with causing intentional damage to a protected computer and wire fraud, among other counts, the Justice Department said in a statement.

Last week the Justice Department announced it had launched an effort to take down the Kelihos botnet, a global network of tens of thousands of infected computers, after Spanish authorities arrested Levashov while he was on vacation with his family in Barcelona.

Levashov remains detained under an international arrest warrant. The Justice Department said it is seeking his extradition to the United States to face charges.

The Russian Embassy in Washington could not be reached for comment. It could not be determined if Levashov has retained a lawyer. Levashov, who has long been considered the likely identity of an online persona known as Peter Severa, spent years listed as among the world's 10 most prolific computer spammers by Spamhaus, a spam-tracking group.—*Reuters*

‘American Gods’ reflects real world issues in modern mythology saga

LOS ANGELES — A storm is brewing in Starz’s gritty new series “American Gods,” as deities old and new gear up for a battle that reverberates with topical issues in the real world.

Immigration, race, religion and sexuality are all examined in “American Gods” through the saga of Shadow Moon, a convict who is released to the news of his wife’s death. He is hired to be the bodyguard of an old grifter named Mr Wednesday, the disguise of the Norse god Odin.

“This show has become the most politically relevant show on TV without a doubt,” actor Ricky Whittle, who plays Shadow, told Reuters at the red carpet premiere on Thursday.

“American Gods,” which premieres on premium cable network Starz on 30 April, is based on British author Neil Gaiman’s 2001 novel of the same name, a surreal story of how the old gods of folklore struggle to be revered and remembered in an age of new gods like technology and media.

“Our goal with this project was really to give the audience our experience reading it, and we wanted to tell the story as vividly as we imagined it when we read Neil’s book,” said Bryan Fuller, who developed the show for TV.

“We are talking about what is America,” Gaiman added. “What is the soul of America, what makes it tick, what do people believe, what do they care about, and where do they put their attention, and all of those things are still every bit as relevant.”

To bring the story forward 16 years after the novel was published, Fuller and Green added a couple of new gods, such as Technical Boy, to reflect what people are currently “worshipping.”

“He is already one of the youngest and one of the most powerful gods in this whole universe,” said actor Bruce Langley, who plays Technical Boy.

“He is only getting stronger, so watch this space.” —*Reuters*

“Hannibal” executive producer Bryan Fuller takes part in a panel discussion at the NBC portion of the 2014 Winter Press Tour for the Television Critics Association (TCA) in Pasadena, California on 19 January, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Lively, Chastain, Chelsea Clinton honoured for philanthropic work

NEW YORK CITY — Hollywood actresses Blake Lively and Jessica Chastain were among the six women honoured on Friday for their philanthropic efforts with organizations helping women and children.

They joined singer-actress Audra McDonald, television personality Gayle King, Viacom media executive Shari Redstone and Chelsea Clinton, vice chair of the board of the Clinton Foundation, at Variety’s Power of Women lunch recognizing their charitable work.

Chastain backs women’s healthcare organization Planned Parenthood, which she credits for giving her “the career that I have today.”

“I’m the first person in my family ... not to have a baby when I was a teenager, first person to go to college and have a college education and to be able to have the choice in family planning,” she told Reuters.

Lively, who was recognized for her work with the Child Rescue Coalition to stop the spread of child pornography, said she felt “shy” about being at the star-studded luncheon.

“Just because of the company I’m in, and you never feel like you deserve to be there, you know?” she said.—*Reuters*

Chelsea Clinton arrives for Variety’s Power of Women luncheon in New York City, US on 21 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

‘Genius’ TV series shows drama of Albert Einstein’s life

NEW YORK — Philosopher, humanitarian and physicist Albert Einstein is the subject of new TV series “Genius,” which delves into the drama and passion of the man who developed the theory of relativity and helped initiate the US effort to build an atomic bomb.

Executive producer Ron Howard told reporters at the TV show’s launch at the Tribeca Film Festival that he had always been fascinated by Einstein.

“But I never realized how many twists and turns and, you know, there were in his life, and how much drama there was,” Howard said on Thursday.

The 10-part series for the National Geographic channel shows Einstein’s personal struggles and “how complicated, sexy, you know — kind of bohemian — a lot of his relationships were,” Howard said.

Australian Geoffrey Rush plays the older Einstein, with Britain’s Emily Watson and American actress Gwendolyn Ellis portraying older and younger versions of his second wife, Elsa.

“He wasn’t just a scientist,” Watson said of Einstein, who died in 1955. “He was a philosopher, a humanist. He was an immigrant. He was at the centre of so many political events in the 20th century, or close to the centre of them, and had incredibly complicated relationships in his life.”

“Genius” is based on Walter Isaacson’s 2007 biography of Einstein and premieres on the National Geographic channel on 25 April.—*Reuters*

Actress Selena Gomez.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Cast of ‘13 Reasons Why’ praise Selena Gomez for series

LOS ANGELES — The cast of “13 Reasons Why” have praised Selena Gomez for making sure the Netflix series was portrayed in the “correct way”.

Katherine Langford, who plays the role of Hannah who takes her own life in the television adaptation of Jay Asher’s novel of the same name, wants the 24-year-old singer and executive producer of the production to have so much credit for pulling off the series authentically, reported NME magazine.

“Selena and Mandy (Teefey, Gomez’s mother) bought the rights to this book and we give them so much credit and praise because it’s been a long time making this and making sure that it was told in the correct way.”

Meanwhile, Dylan Minnette, who plays the role of Clay Jensen, believes his co-star Katherine had the most “difficult scenes” in the season.

“Katherine had the really difficult scenes.—*PTI*

Margot Robbie to in talks to play Queen Elizabeth

LOS ANGELES — Actress Margot Robbie is in talks to play Queen Elizabeth in “Mary Queen of Scots”.

The Focus Features and Working Title project also stars Saoirse Ronan, reported Variety.

Directed by Josie Rourke, the film is based on the true story of Mary Stuart’s attempt to overthrow her cousin Elizabeth I, Queen of England, only to find herself condemned to years of imprisonment before facing execution.

“Mary Queen of Scots” has yet to be greenlit, but according to the sources things are headed in the right direction. If greenlit, the film would likely go sometime later this year.—*PTI*

Starbucks Unicorn Frappuccino sparks backlash from baristas

NEW YORK — Starbucks baristas have taken to social media to complain about the coffee chain's entry into the latest food craze: Unicorn Frappuccino.

The sparkly colour-changing new frozen beverage has become one of the top posts on photo-sharing platforms such as Instagram since its release on Wednesday.

But Starbucks baristas are not happy with the popularity.

Complaints have been rolling in on social media website Reddit Inc, with one barista calling the new beverage "Frap from hell" and others sharing the joy of running out of ingredients to make the drink.

A barista makes a Unicorn Frappuccino beverage at a Starbucks coffeehouse in Austin, Texas, US, on 21 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Another barista shared an image of 56 Unicorn Frappuccinos that constituted one order, and others gave thanks to customers with simple orders like a black coffee.

On Twitter, just hours after the release of the new drink, Starbucks barista Braden Burson shared a 100-second-long tirade, saying he had "never been so stressed out in his life." His post was shared more than 1,000 times.

"I have never made so many Frappuccinos in my entire life," he said in the clip.

"My hands are completely sticky. I have unicorn crap all in my hair, on my nose. I have never been so stressed out in my entire life."

A barista from Florida, Tina Lee, wrote: "As a barista, just know that every time you ask me to make this, a part of me dies #unicornfrappuccino."

The drink is available only until Sunday.

Starbucks was not immediately available for comment. Its shares were up 0.5 per cent at $60.39 on Friday.—*Reuters*

Havana walls brought to life with murals of wide-eyed children

HAVANA — The gigantic black and white portraits of children started appearing on walls around a suburban neighbourhood of Havana two years ago, the work of Cuban artist Maisel Lopez.

The sober, finely painted portraits contrast with Cuba's dilapidated buildings and pot-holed streets, colourful vintage cars and peeling pink, apricot and turquoise paint on eclectic architecture.

With nearly 30 murals completed, Lopez said he is only getting started on his "Colossi" series, a striking endeavor in the Communist-run country where street art is rare.

"I want to keep expanding further afield," said Lopez, 31, who started painting the walls of homes and shops in his home district of Playa and is now completing his first mural in neighbouring Marianao.

A chubby girl with wispy blond hair wistfully rests her chin on her hands, while a black boy with angular features peers at passersby with a slight air of defiance.

The murals are unusual in a country where public spaces are tightly controlled and posters and murals mainly have political themes or depict figures like Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

Only one other artist in Havana, Yulier Rodriguez, has an equally recognizable assortment of street art. His figures are alien, the murals colourful. Lopez's subjects are realistic and monochrome.

Lopez said in an interview last week that political art led him to paint murals. He helped with several celebrating the Bolivarian revolution during a cultural mission in 2009 to Cuba's socialist ally Venezuela.

"A mural is constantly in interaction with the public," said Lopez, whose work is inspired by Cuban independence hero Jose Marti, who said "children are the hope of the world".

"That's why I paint the children big, to mark their importance," he said.

Unlike many street artists, including Rodriguez, Lopez seeks permits to paint on walls. While initially hard to get, he gained trust as he developed the series, he said.

Each colossus is several metres tall and takes Lopez four days to a week to paint. Each depicts a child living in the vicinity. He does not charge to paint them.

Instead, he earns a living teaching art classes and selling canvas portraits that can fetch up to $1500.

Locals have declared themselves fans and guardians of his work, looking after it as people stop to take photographs.

"It's really striking and gives life to the street," said Vivian Herrera, 47, who runs a bakery next to one of the murals. "It's like the girl is really there, with her big, open eyes."—*Reuters*

Cuban artist Maisel Lopez paints the wall of a state art gallery in Havana, on 18 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(23-4-2017 07:00am ~ 24-4-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	An Ardent Aficionado of Traditional Design
07:56	Am	Dances of Myanmar: Enn Traditional Dance
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Hanthawddy U Win Tin: A Fearless Man (Ep-1)
08:48	Am	Art Students: Theatrical Art
08:54	Am	Sagaing: Gold Leaf
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Thached Roofs: IN-LEAF
09:43	Am	Egg Shell
09:52	Am	Chaung Tha Souvenir Business
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Reflected Glory
10:48	Am	Myanmar Railways City Circular Train

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	On the River
07:48	Pm	Today Myanmar: CBT in Kampetlet Township
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-II)
08:45	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Khin Zaw Latt

(09:00 Pm~11:00 Pm)-Today Repeat(09:00Am~11:00 Am)
(11:00Pm~03:00Am)-Saturday Repeat(07:00Am~1:00Am)
(03:00Am ~ 07:00Am)-Today Repeat(07:00Am~11:00 Am)

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

London bar mixes whisky cocktail with a virtual twist

LONDON — A London bar has devised a cocktail with an unusual twist, it allows the drinker to escape the city for the Scottish hills.

The whisky-based "Origin" cocktail comes with a virtual reality headset that transports you to the distillery where the spirit is from.

At 18 pounds ($23) a shot, the drink is made with 12-year-old Dalmore whisky, while the accompanying virtual reality experience aims to show guests at the bar in the One Aldwych hotel the origin of its ingredients.

Drinkers get a tour of sweeping Scottish fields and babbling brooks where the cereal and water used in the whisky is sourced.

"We get a lot of people saying 'oh I have goose bumps' because it is happening in front of you," bar manager Pedro Paulo, who came up with the idea, told Reuters.

"When you take (the headset) off and the drink is actually right in front of you it gives people that sense of uniqueness, they feel unique," he added. —*Reuters*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

12th Waning of Tagu 1379 ME | Sunday, 23 April 2017

Goffin downs Djokovic to set up Nadal showdown

Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a shot to David Goffin of Belgium at the Monte-Carlo Rolex Masters in Monaco on 21 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MONTE CARLO — David Goffin proved too hot to handle for Novak Djokovic as the Belgian 10th seed reached the Monte Carlo Masters semi-finals with a thrilling 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 victory on Friday.

Former world number one Djokovic saved four match points but cracked under his opponent's tremendous pressure on the fifth as Goffin set up a last-four meeting with claycourt king Rafa Nadal who beat Argentine Diego Schwartzman 6-4, 6-4.

Nadal is looking to clinch a record-extending 10th Monte Carlo title.

Earlier, Spanish claycourt specialist Albert Ramos followed up his victory over world number one Andy Murraywith a 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-2 defeat of Croatian fifth seed Marin Cilic.

France's Lucas Pouille made a fast start before being made to work harder by Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas, eventually winning 6-0, 3-6, 7-5.

In the first European claycourt tournament of the season, Serbian second seed Djokovic was overwhelmed in a one-sided opening set before playing more patiently in the second, but Goffin put on a gritty display in the decider.

Djokovic was serving at 4-3 but Goffin won the game to love to roar back into contention, taking every opportunity to unsettle the French Open champion.

In the 12th game, Goffin opened a 40-15 lead on Djokovic's serve but the 12-times grand slam champion saved four match points before netting a forehand to lose to the Belgian for the first time in six meetings.—*Reuters*

Top-four finish with Spurs better than La Liga title — Pochettino

LONDON — Sealing another top-four finish in the Premier League for Tottenham Hotspur would be more satisfying than winning La Liga with Barcelona, manager Mauricio Pochettino said on Friday.

With his vibrant young Tottenham side hunting down leaders Chelsea in the Premier League and facing them in Saturday's FA Cup semi-final, Pochettino's work is making waves.

It seems inevitable Pochettino's name will be linked to some of Europe's biggest clubs once the dust settles on the season, with Barcelona possibly eyeing the man who twice won the King's Cup with their humble neighbours Espanyol. The good news for Tottenham fans justifiably excited by club's inexorable rise under the Argentine is that the 45-year-old gives the impression of someone who has found the perfect environment in which to achieve his ambitions.—*Reuters*

Myanmar U-19 loses to HAGL in 3rd place of the 2017 U 19 Championship

MYANMAR U 19 football team lost to Vietnamese club HAGL U-19 in third place of the 2017 U 19 Championship held in Vietnam yesterday and is satisfied with the fourth place.

Myanmar U 19 and Vietnam Club Hong Angle Lai fought interchangeably until the last minutes as revenue (1-1) draw so both teams struggled for the penalty decisive play and HAGL defeated Myanmar U19 by 5-3 after the penalty time.

The two teams played with the opened striking style in the first half. Win Naing Tun scored an opener for Myanmar at 41 min but HAGL player, Tran Bao Toan scored an equalizer by the penalty at 60 min. In the second half, both teams showed best performances by creating many opportunities, but lacked to score the winning goal. Both teams played penalty shootouts and HAGL U-19 scored four goals, but Myanmar U 19 football team was able to score only two goals.—*Kyaw Zin Lin*

Myanmar U-19 player attempting to get ball from the competitor. PHOTO: MFF

Mourinho says no sense in Rashford playing for England Under-21s

MANCHESTER, (England), — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has said it makes no sense for his striker Marcus Rashford to play for England's Under-21 team in June's European Championship, as the teenager had risen above that level.

Despite Rashford breaking into the full England squad, national team manager Gareth Southgate has said he would like to have the 19-year-old at the youth tournament in Poland.

But faced with a growing injury list, Mourinho said he doesn't want to see Rashford playing at age-group level.

"I just feel that when a player reaches a certain level, it doesn't make a lot of sense to drop levels," he said. "It's like him going to play now in the (United) Under-23s to win, let's say, a derby against Man City. No. (Academy coach) Nicky Butt doesn't take him to play that game. He could, by age," added the United boss.

United lost striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic to a knee injury during Thursday's Europa League quarter-final win over Anderlecht but Mourinho said Rashford "cannot play every game".

French striker Anthony Martial, recently challenged to improve his approach by Mourinho, replaced Ibrahimovic for extra-time on Thursday and could now be given a bigger chance to stake his claim.

Mourinho used Jesse Lingard in attack with Rashford, to good effect, during Sunday's

Manchester United's Marcus Rashford. PHOTO: REUTERS

Premier League win over Chelsea at Old Trafford.

Wayne Rooney, who has been sidelined with various injury problems in recent weeks, could be ready to make a return for Sunday's visit to Burnley.

"He (Rooney) has a good mentality, he is a fighter, he is a strong man, even if he is not in the best condition, even if he is not in the level of sharpness that you need to play high-level football," Mourinho said.

"But he has the experience and character, so he has to. Now we need absolutely everyone," he added.

Mourinho has bigger problems at the back where a knee injury, also suffered against Anderlecht, to Argentine defender Marcos Rojo, leaves him with few options.

"We're in trouble. In this moment, Eric Bailly played six matches in a row, and we lost Marcos Rojo, we don't have (Phil) Jones or (Chris) Smalling. We are in trouble."

Daley Blind stepped in alongside Bailly on Thursday but Mourinho also urged English defenders Jones and Smalling to speed up their return from injuries.—*Reuters*

Editorial Section — (+95) (01)8604529, Fax — (01) 8604305
gnlmdaily@gmail.com www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com www.facebook.com/globalnewlightofmyanmar
Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

"Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629."