THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. III, No. 10, 4th Waning of Tagu 1378 ME | Tuesday, 26 April, 2016

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MADB privatisation will bring more loans to farmers: MRF

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) submitted a recommendation to the Ministry of Commerce for the privatisation of the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) in order to allow for more loans to cover the agricultural expenses of Myanmar farmers.

"The MADB has said it doesn't currently have sufficient funds to issue loans to farmers. Therefore, we have suggested that the bank be privatised," said Dr Soe Htun, vice chair of the MRF.

The privatisation of the bank would see many shareholders purchasing shares, allowing for more loans to be issued to farmers.

"If the bank was privatised, farmers would be able to borrow money to cover agricultural expenses, using their Form 7 [land entitlement document] as collateral. The availability of loans from private banks within the country is currently problematic," said U Soe Kyaw, a farmer from Twante Township.

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Farmers work on a rice field in Bago Region. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Yangon chief minister seeks solution to squatter issue

Ko Moe

NEGOTIATIONS are underway to settle the squatter issue in Yangon Region, and the process will take time, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

It is essential to get an appropriate site to settle the squatters, and in case of factory workers, they should not be settled far from their worksites, he said.

In his meeting with officials from industrial zones, the chief minister also pledged to coordinate with employers for the sheltering of employees.

According to an official from the Hlaingthayar Industrial Zone Management Committee, over 600,000 people reside in Hlaingthayar Township, which is also home to over 8,000 squatter huts.

While the numbers of squatters are being collected, the number of new comers has increased in the industrial zones, said an official from the Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone. There has also emerged a an opportunistic class of people that builds huts in the industrial zone and rents them to squatters for K20,000 or K30,000 [per month], the official said.

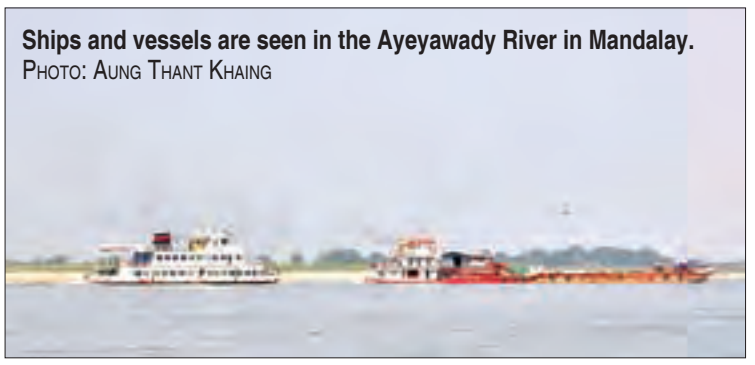
After Cyclone Nargis in 2008, the number of migrant workers who moved into Yangon has increased significantly.

Sailors cautioned on Ayeyawady River transport

AS monsoon season nears, the Water Resources and River System Development Department is urging vessels plying along Myanmar's rivers to exercise caution while travelling.

In its warning issued on Monday, the department said mariners should abide by the rules of sailing and should not take risks while travelling in the river system. According to the department's assistant director U Myat Min Tun, vessels should take note of signs erected in the river and take great care while travelling under big bridges by taking the appropriate routes.

He explained that as there may some signs missing due to weather conditions, sailors should take additional precautions and follow the directives of the department.—*Aung Thant Khaing*



Ships and vessels are seen in the Ayeyawady River in Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

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Myingyan Degree College offers literacy training to rural communities

LITERACY campaigns are being carried out in 75 villages in 15 village-tracts in Kyaupadaung Township, Mandalay Region.

"Organised by 15 faculty members and 103 students from Myingyan Degree College, we have offered free education services to the villagers since 1 April and will continue until 15 May," said Daw KyuKyu San, a faculty member of the college's Geography Department. The major purpose of the 1.5-month-long campaign is to provide children and families access to basic literacy skills.

"We want our college students to understand the challenges the locals face and to attempt to fulfil the needs of rural communities through this campaign,"said Daw KyuKyu San.—*200*

Myingyan Degree College students and faculty provide literacy services to rural children. PHOTO: 200

Crime NEWS

Suspects pose with the stolen Buddha icons. PHOTO: KYEMON

Men charged for stealing Buddha icons

THREE men were charged on Saturday for stealing Buddha icons by local police in Mandalay.

Police officers from Amarapura Township Police Station inspected a car that was stopped near Yayyu Creek, east of Pyilonekyaw Village. They found six Buddha icons made of marble, including one 25-foot-high image. Win Aning Oo, 41, Aung Myint Htwe, 29, and Aung Chan, 33, were arrested after they were unable to procure documents proving their ownership of the icons.—*Kyemon*

Alcohol-related violence occurred in Nay Pyi Taw

A 20-YEAR-OLD man sustained serious injuries in a fight with his colleague in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

The injured man was found by Daw Thanda near her shop located in a construction workers' housing compound in Thukhatheikdi Ward in the capital.

According to the police investigation, the injured person threw the first punch against his colleague ZawTun during an argument. ZawTun then struck the victim with a five-foot-long bamboo stick,inflicting serious injuries to the back of the latter's head.

Police have arrested ZawTun, and he will face charges under the Criminal Law.—*Ko Pouk*

Five tonnes of illegal timber seized in Magwe

ILLEGAL timber worth K1.5 million (US$1,284) was confiscated by local authorities from three smugglers using a six-wheel vehicle on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising members the forestry department and police searched a vehicle driven by MyoZawHtike, 28, with two others on board near the Bankon-Forest Reserve in Hsinpaungwe Township, Magwe Region.

Local authorities discovered 5.3374 tonnes of illegal timber in the vehicle.

The three suspects have been charged by the police under Section 6(1) of the Public Property Protection Act.—*Police Information*

Gas explosion starts blaze in downtown Yangon

A GAS explosion in Kantawkalay Ward in Mingalataungnyunt Township, Yangon, caused a fire that destroyed at least five apartments on Sunday evening.

According to the police investigation, the flame started at a clinic called Piti on Thein Phyu Road. The blaze spread quickly to the adjacent apartments, including a restaurant called ShwePyiSoe.

With the assistance of over 120 Red Cross members, the fire was brought under control by about 300 firefighters with 38 fire engines and 19 auxiliary vehicles within 50 minutes.

One firefighter was reportedly injured while trying to extinguish the fire. Police are still investigating the owner of the clinic.—*KoGyi Tin*

The fire spread from Piti Clinic to several adjacent apartments. PHOTO: KOGYI TIN

20-wheel cargo truck overturns in Bago

The truck overturned when the driver lost control while driving on the Yangon-Mandalay highway. PHOTO: REUTERS

A DRIVER was injured Sunday morning when his 20-wheel vehicle skidded off the road and overturned between mile post No 106/5 and No 106/6 on the Yangon-Mandalay road.

The accident happened near Htawhnwar Village in Nyaunglaybin Township, Bago Region. The cargo truck was driven by NaingSoe Win, and one passenger was on board. The two were en route from Mandalay to Yangon when the driver lost control of the truck. The driver sustained minor injuries, while the passenger escaped without injuries.

Action is being taken against the driver by local police.—*Nay Lin*

Heroin, yaba tablets seized in Hpakant

A CACHE of heroin weighing 147 grams and 2,600 yaba pills were seized by local police from a drug dealer in Hpakant Township, Kachin State,on Saturday.

Police searched a motorbike driven by MaungMaung Toe beside Uru Creek near Nanmaphyit Village and discovered 39 grams of heroin and 600 yaba tablets on the bike. Police then collected 108 grams of heroin and 2,000 yaba pills from the suspect's home in Ward 3 of the village.

The drug dealer has been charged by local police under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Ko Ye*

Union Minister for Information receives Indian Ambassador, OECD director

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint holds talk with Indian Ambassador Mr Gautam Mukhopadhaya. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint held separate meetings yesterday with the Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Gautam Mukhopadhaya and with the director of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Mr Pete Silvester.

During their meeting, the Union minister and the Indian ambassador discussed cooperation in the media sector between the two countries.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and Mr Pete Silvester held talks over cooperation between the two sides to develop media under the Ministry of Information with accountability and transparency.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Summer courses offer maritime, aviation training to students

Students learn maritime skills during their summer course.
PHOTO: MYAWADY

TO broaden the knowledge of students, summer courses on maritime and aviation skills have been opened by Myanmar's navy and air force under the Ministry of Defence.

The Ayeyawady Naval Base opened a basic maritime course with 63 students and an upgrading course with 27 students.

Meanwhile, a total of 300 students are participating in the same maritime courses in Kyaukphyu, Pathein, Mawlamyine, Myeik, Kyunsu and Heinze.

A basic course on aviation and an upgrading course were opened at Mingaladon Airbase yesterday.

Forty students each are attending the aviation course for youths and the upgrading course.

Similar courses were opened on the same day in Myitkyina, Namsam, Myeik, Pathein, Homelin, Meikhtila, Magwe and Toungoo, attracting a total of 320 students.

The four-week courses will end on 20 May.—*Myanmar News Agency*

UEC hears election complaints

THE Union Election Commission yesterday heard seven cases following the submission of complaints to the election tribunal. Cases 10/2015, 11/2015, 39/2015, 40/2015, 42/2015, 43/2015 and 44/2015 were heard by Election Tribunal No 4, chaired by U Hla Tint with U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu as members.

The tribunal fixed dates for next hearing for all seven cases.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Bill committee to resume meetings today

THE Union parliament bill committee will resume its meetings today to discuss important bills.

"We will determine what bills will receive priority after holding meetings," said U Aung Kyi Nyunt, a member of the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) Bill Committee.

Members of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Bill Committee and the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee will discuss the bills in order of priority.

"The Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission has sent 142 laws to the committee, of which 81 must be assessed urgently," said U Aung Kyi Nyunt, an Upper House MP and a member of the bill committee.

The committee will invite legal experts to discuss the bills and laws in order to submit them to the parliamentary meetings, which will resume early next month.

"Committees between the current parliaments should work closely together as it was found that committees in the previous parliament cooperated weakly," said Dr Myat Nyanna Soe, a member of the bill committee.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Myitkyina water level at safe level

IT is not true that the water level of the Ayeyawady River in Myitkyina has risen to 24 feet, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology in Mandalay.

An official from the department quoted news published in the Myanma Alinn Daily on 24 April saying the water level is not at a dangerous level based on data collected from 19 to 25 April.

"The approaching of the monsoon and heavy rains in the upper reaches of the Ayeyawady River have brought the water level up, but Myitkyina is not experiencing a particularly dangerous April," said department official U Than Zaw.—*GNLM*

Gov't bans cabinet members from appointing relatives as personal assistants

MYANMAR government has banned its cabinet members from appointing their own relatives as personal assistants, according to an announcement of the Minister of the President's Office Aung San Suu Kyi Monday.

The targets of the ban include cabinet members' own spouses, children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren.

Only public servants are allowed to take up such posts in accordance with public servant rules, the announcement added. The new government of the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD), which took office on April 1, was formed with 18 ministers to run 21 ministries.—*Xinhua*

USDP purge violates party rules: Thura U Shwe Mann

FORMER Union parliament speaker and party chairman Thura U Shwe Mann has called for an investigation into the legality of his ouster from the Union Solidarity and Development Party four days ago at the hands of former president U Thein Sein.

It has been reported that 17 other USDP members were also purged, including the current Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, allegedly for violating the USDP charter.

"Although the dismissal of party members is the internal business of the USDP, it can have an indirect impact in one way or another upon the interests of the country and the people," said former party chief Thura U Shwe Mann.

The former Union parliament speaker suggested that party members, the public and qualified organisations review whether the party's actions are in line with its own rules and regulations.

He spoke on the issue at the meeting of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, to which he was appointed chairman by NLD leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on 25 April.

"The letters of dismissal were sent on 22 April. This is an act that neglects the party's basic principles," said Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Zaw Myint Pe.

Thura U Shwe Mann plans to hold a press conference tomorrow on the premises of the Union parliament, where he will respond to questions about the USDP purge against him and his allies.—*GNLM*

LOCAL Business

Woman workers triple in minced fish processing plants

Women workers process fish at a seafood export factory in Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone, Yangon, Myanmar on 19 February, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

THE number of woman workers at minced fish processing plants at the fish markets in Yangon has risen threefold because the jobs allow them to earn better income.

Women can earn more than K20,000 per day for mincing around 33 kilos of fish. They have to work nights from 5pm to 8am. The workers sometimes may need to continue to work until the afternoon, depending on the demand.

Previously, there were only male workers in the minced fish business, but they were later replaced with women. These days, the more work they do, the higher incomes they can earn because of high demand.

The prevailing market price of minced fish is between K6,500 to K7,000 per viss (1.63 kilos) at Yangon markets, while it sells for over K10,000 per viss in other towns because of the transportation, packaging and refrigeration costs.

Minced fish from Yangon is mainly sent to Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Taunggyi. The minced fish processing industry was established just six years ago. Demand has steadily risen since then.—*200*

MADB privatisation will bring more loans to farmers: MRF

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Farmers have been able to secure loans of K100,000 per acre to cover agricultural expenses. However, a combination of irregular weather fronts and a shortage of farmhands has forced farmers to use costly machinery in their agricultural practices, incurring expenses of between K200,000-300,000 per acre. The MRF has made submissions to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, in addition to the Ministry of Commerce, concerning the need to make loans more available to farmers; the development of the MADB; cooperation with the government and private organisations in the production of agricultural crop seeds; assistance from the government in landscaping farmland; and enacting laws to benefit farmers.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Trade between Myanmar, Bangladesh drops by $2 million

THE value of trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh has slumped $2 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year down from the previous fiscal year.

The decline in trade value can be attributed to transportation restrictions at the border areas that were implemented after Rakhine State was hit by floods and the landslides during the rainy season. As a result, transportation is difficult, said an official from the Maungtaw Border Trade Point.

The trade value at the Maungtaw Border Trade Point this fiscal year is just $5 million, which is down from $7 million from last year.

Fishery products and dried fish are mainly exported to Bangladesh via the Mauntaw Border Trade Point, and plastic commodities and the household materials Myanmar's main imports from Bangladesh.

Political instability at the border between the two countries forced the suspension of bilateral border trade for some time.—*200*

MPU Card reaches 1.8 million users

THE number of MPU credit card users has reached 1.8 million people in Myanmar.

The Myanmar Payment Union credit card can be used to make direct payments from a Myanmar bank account.

"Electronic bill payment systems appear more often in the financial matters of local enterprises and can contribute to economic development," said U Zaw Lin Htut, the CEO of MPU. There are between 2.5 million and three million bank users in the country, followed by 1.5 million MPU users in 2015, he added.

"A total of 23 banks were listed as members of MPU in late 2015. Expanding banking services can be attributed to the rising number of users. There are just about three million people who have opened a bank accounts in Myanmar out of 30 million people aged 18 and above. Therefore, banking services must be enhanced. Awareness campaigns must be conducted in order to promote the use of banking service," said an official from the International Monetary Fund.

There are many points of sale where people can make payment using MPU cards and can withdraw money. The Central Bank of Myanmar is making efforts to establish an international payment system with the assistance of JICA. Currently, however, payment in cash is still preferred. The increase in the number of MPU card users can be attributed to rising freedom from the need to pay in cash, leading to a rise in safer financial behaviour.—*KMK/Union Daily*

Thai investments promote tourism in Taninthayi

THAI investments are expected to promote tourism in Taninthayi Region, according to Thai media.

A Thai company called Pongpipat has been building an international standard hotel in Taninthayi with an investment of US$125 million in an effort to capitalize on the promising tourism industry in the region.

The hotel is being built on 50 acres of land and is slated to take five years. Pongpipat has conducted mining operations in the Heinda Mine since 1999.

Investment is now pouring into Taninthayi Region's tourism industry, mainly on Shidomel Island in Myeik District. Domel Island Development Co, with an investment of $25 million, plans to enter the resort business there. The company has already received approval from the Myanmar Investment Commission.

"Thai investors are keen on investing in Taninthayi Region. Hotels and resorts might develop on the beaches and the islands in Myanmar," said U Maung Maung Swe, vice chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Federation.

Similar investments will be made by Thai entrepreneurs in hotel businesses in the Myeik archipelago. Thai companies are reported to be seeking approval from the Myanmar Investment Commission.—*PPN/Union Daily*

Japanese sushi chef says he met Kim Jong Un again in North Korea

BEIJING — The Japanese sushi chef who worked for the late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il said on Monday he met current leader Kim Jong Un during a visit this month to Pyongyang.

When asked at Beijing's international airport, before leaving for Japan, if he had met with the current leader while he was in North Korea, the chef, known by the alias Kenji Fujimoto, simply replied "Of course."

Fujimoto, who arrived in Beijing from Pyongyang on Saturday, said his visit had been timed to coincide with the birthday of North Korea's late founder Kim Il Sung on 15 April.

He declined to provide any other information. Japan and North Korea have no diplomatic relations, and Fujimoto's trip was made at a delicate time. Since the beginning of this year, North Korea has been ratcheting up regional tensions with a series of nuclear threats.

For its fourth nuclear test in January and the launch of a rocket launch using banned missile technology a month later, the UN Security Council has imposed its toughest-ever sanctions on North Korea.

While serving as a sushi chef for Kim Jong Il from 1989 to 2001, Fujimoto also befriended Kim Jong Un, who inherited power following the death of his father in December 2011.

Fujimoto was reunited with the current leader in July 2012 when he made his first trip to North Korea following an 11-year absence.—*Kyodo News*

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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.

Nepal launches reconstruction of monuments a year after quakes

A view of Bashantapur Durbar Square, a UNESCO world heritage site, is pictured after the April 2015 earthquake debris had been cleared in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 16 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

KATHMANDU — Nepal on Monday officially launched efforts to reconstruct cultural monuments damaged or destroyed by last year's earthquakes, in which 8,961 people died and 753 monuments were lost.

The reconstruction was launched simultaneously at four UNESCO world heritage sites — Kathmandu Durbar Square, Patan Durbar Square, Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Kathmandu's Swayambhunath temple — at 9 am local time on the day of the first anniversary of the first quake.

At Kathmandu Durbar Square, reconstruction of the 17th century Krishna temple, built by then King Pratap Malla in memory of his two dead queens, was launched by Ram Chandra Poudel, senior leader of the Nepali Congress party, the main opposition in parliament.

All that remains of the octagonal temple, an architectural rarity in the Square, is its base. Despite launching some of the work, Poudel was critical of its timing. "A year has been wasted. Reconstruction should have moved ahead at war-footing.

There are worries now that reconstruction that is being launched today may not move ahead speedily," he said.

Saraswati Singh, chief of Kathmandu Durbar Square Maintenance Office of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, said 90 per cent of monuments at the Square were either damaged or destroyed by the quakes.

Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli launched the reconstruction of Anantapur temple at Swayambhunath. At Patan Durbar Square and Bhaktapur Durbar Square, the reconstruction of Mani Mandap pavilion and Fasidega temple, respectively, was launched.

The country's Department of Archaeology says it has received government approval to reconstruct 104 monuments, for which the tender process for 49 monuments has been completed. "The tender process for reconstructing (the remaining) 55 monuments will be completed in the next fiscal year (beginning mid-July)," said Bhesh Narayan Dahal, director general of the department.

He said the Japanese government has shown interest in supporting the reconstruction of Hanumandhoka Palace at Kathmandu Durbar Square, and the department welcomes this.

Dahal said reconstructing all of the lost cultural monuments would cost around 20 billion rupees ($188 million). Nepal has been criticized for tardy reconstruction, which officials blame on the delay in the formation of the National Reconstruction Authority and the four-and-a-half months of partial trade and fuel blockade by India that ended in February.

The National Reconstruction Authority was formed in December, and has so far finalized projects to mobilize half of the $4.1 billion that foreign nations have pledged to help Nepal rebuild. Meanwhile only 700 families have received the first installment of their 200,000 rupee ($1,887) housing grant that the government has pledged to give affected households.

As well as toppling monuments, the quakes damaged or destroyed over a million houses. The first quake, which had a magnitude of 7.8, struck on April 25, with a 7.3 magnitude temblor following on 12 May.—*Kyodo News*

Indonesia to set up 'crisis centre' after Philippine kidnappings — minister

JAKARTA — Indonesia will set up a crisis centre, headed by President Joko Widodo, to handle security situations involving its citizens overseas, a senior minister said on Monday, following recent abductions of Indonesian sailors in Philippine waters.

The centre will include senior ministers and military and police chiefs and will be designed to respond quickly to situations that could have a "strategic impact", chief security minister Luhut Pandjaitan told reporters.

"We hope this will be (operational) as soon as possible," he said.

Since coming to power in 2014, Widodo has placed maritime security for the Indonesian archipelago high on his government's agenda. Indonesia has voiced fears that a surge in piracy in the waters between Indonesia and the Philippines could reach Somalian levels and has told vessels to avoid danger areas. Up to 18 Indonesians and Malaysians have been kidnapped in three attacks in recent weeks on tugboats in Philippine waters by groups suspected of ties to the Abu Sayyaf militant network. Abu Sayyaf, which has posted videos on social media pledging allegiance to Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, has demanded 50 million pesos (£762,089) to free the hostages, but the Indonesian government has said it does not intend to pay the ransom.—*Reuters*

Cambodia's Royal Turtle facing increased threat to survival

Undated supplied photo shows conservation workers on Cambodia's Sre Ambel River carrying out work to save the endangered Royal Turtle. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's Royal Turtle, one of the world's most endangered turtles, is now facing threats to its survival due to habitat loss caused by increased sand dredging and illegal clearance of flooded forests, according to a statement released by the Wildlife Conservation Society on Monday.

The statement said that for several years the small remaining population of Royal Turtles (Batagur affinis), also known as the Southern River Terrapin, which numbers fewer than 10, has been successfully protected from extinction by Cambodia's Fisheries Administration in partnership with the WCS and local communities.

"A recent increase in disturbance along the Sre Ambel River System in Koh Kong Province, the only place the species is still found in Cambodia, is putting this species at great risk," the statement said. The Royal Turtle is on the list of the world's 25 most endangered tortoises and freshwater turtles. The Royal Turtle is so named because in historical times only the Royal Family were allowed to consume its eggs.

"This year our team has observed a decline in nesting of the Royal Turtle. We believe this is caused by increased sand dredging, wood transportation along the nesting habitat, and illegal clearance of flooded forest disturbing the females during the breeding season," said In Hul, an official from the Fisheries Administration.

"Only one nest has been located this year, compared to four nests last year. This is very worrying and, if it continues, it will be potentially putting the species at high risk of extinction," In Hul added. The Royal Turtle was believed extinct in Cambodia until 2000, when a small population was discovered by the Fisheries Administration and the WCS in the Sre Ambel River, about 150 kilometres southwest of Phnom Penh. In 2001, the two bodies began a community-based protection programme on the river, hiring former nest collectors to search for and protect nests, instead of harvesting the eggs.

Long Sman, a former egg collector, said, "We used to collect turtles and their eggs for food. After undertaking awareness training we now understand how important these turtles are and that there are only a few left, so we got involved in protection."

"We recently observed a decline in the Royal Turtle's population. Cutting the trees along the river and sand dredging mean there are fewer places for them to nest. We are afraid the turtle will be lost forever if we do not do something," he added. —*Kyodo News*

UN Security Council condemns North Korea submarine missile test

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations Security Council on Sunday condemned North Korea's submarine-launched ballistic missile test and expressed serious concern that such activities contributed to Pyongyang's development of nuclear weapons delivery systems.

North Korea (DPRK) said the missile test it conducted on Saturday under the supervision of leader Kim Jong Un had been a "great success" that provided "one more means for powerful nuclear attack."

"The members of the Security Council agreed that the Security Council would continue to closely monitor the situation and take further significant measures in line with the council's previously expressed determination," the council said in a statement.

The submarine-launched ballistic missile test is the latest in a string of recent demonstrations of military might that began in January with Pyongyang's fourth nuclear test and included the launch of a long-range rocket in February.

The tests have increased tension on the Korean peninsula and angered ally China. In March, the 15-member Security Council imposed harsh new sanctions on North Korea to starve it of money for its nuclear weapons programme.—*Reuters*

Massive fire breaks out in Indian capital

NEW DELHI — A massive fire broke out Sunday in a multi-storied building in Indian capital city New Delhi, officials said.

However, no loss of life or injury to any person was reported so far in the inferno.

The fire broke out during evening at Netaji Subhash Place in West Delhi.

According to officials, more than 25 fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the flames and contain it from spreading.

Reports said the fire broke out in a office building's generator compartment.

The security guards posted in the building saw smoke billowing from the tenth floor of the building and raised an alarm, locals said.

"Soon after we received a call about fire, we dispatched over two dozen fire tenders to douse the fire," a fire department official said. "There are no reports of any casualty and fire has been completely doused."

The official said the firefighters were still monitoring the situation. The multi-storied building houses many offices, which were closed in wake of the Sunday being a public holiday.—*Xinhua*

Police charge Australian teenager with planning ANZAC terror attack

SYDNEY — Australian police have arrested and charged a teenager with a terrorism offence related to planning an attack at Monday's commemorations of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli during World War I.

The 16-year-old boy was arrested near his Sydney home on Sunday and will appear before a children's court on Monday, police said. The offence carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

ANZAC Day, 25 April, is a major annual holiday in Australia and New Zealand marking the date of the first Gallipoli landings in 1915, in which large numbers of Australian and New Zealand troops fought and died.

Dawn services and military parades are held around the country, with the largest drawing crowds of tens of thousands in Sydney and Melbourne.

"We have taken swift action to ensure community safety on the eve of a sacred day on the Australian calendar," New South Wales state Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione said in a statement.

"The age of the individual is obviously a concern for us, and it remains a measure of the ongoing task facing law enforcement and the community."

Scipione later told a press conference police believed the boy was acting alone.

"The risk from this particular threat has been thwarted," he said.

Several teenagers have been arrested in Australia in recent years and charged with terrorism offences, including five young men who police alleged were planning an attack at last year's centenary ANZAC day celebrations. Police said those planning the attack last year clearly took inspiration from the Islamic State movement, also known as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS.—*Reuters*

Nearly 100,000 people affected by floods in India's Assam

NEW DELHI — Flooding in India's northeastern state of Assam has affected nearly 100,000 people, officials said on Monday.

On Sunday officials said two people died in the state.

"One person died in Tinsukia District due to hailstorm, while as another person was swept away in Charaideo," an official said.

Surging waters have also damaged 2,000 hectares of crop land, officials said.

India's official broadcaster - All India Radio (AIR) said state's chief secretary has reviewed the flood situation in Guwahati and instructed the Deputy Commissioners to help the flood-hit people.

Downpour in the state over the past week has been among the highest in several decades and has severely affected the normal life.

Reports said this month, the state received 344.1 mm rainfall, which is 225.8 mm above normal.

Floodwater have submerged large parts of the state forcing authorities to order closure of schools.

The army, teams of disaster response have been pressed into service in the flood-affected areas to help people and intensify rescue operations.

The rainfall at several places has triggered landslides on rail tracks, thereby affecting rail traffic.

Contrary to the situation in Assam, several states in India are reeling under intense heat wave and are facing drought-like situations.—*Xinhua*

Migrants seek new routes into Balkans after formal borders sealed

People make their way at a makeshift camp for migrants and refugees at the Greek-Macedonian border near the village of Idomeni, Greece, on 23 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

IDOMENI, (Greece) — After weeks stranded at a closed border in northern Greece, migrants and refugees are seeking out new, irregular routes to get into Macedonia, clambering through forests and over hills under the cover of darkness.

As dusk fell on Saturday evening, a Reuters witness saw a group of up to 70 people crossing into Macedonia from Greece, at a point where there is no razor wire fence between the two countries. They darted in and out of a forest, hiding from authorities.

It was roughly a 20 km (12 mile), or four hour walk from Idomeni, a sprawling tent city hosting thousands of refugees and migrants stranded by a cascade of border shutdowns throughout the Balkans in February.

Others at the campsite were also mulling their options to leave Idomeni and find vulnerable points along the border to cross into the Balkans, the preferred route to western Europe.

"There is no other solution," said Moutaz, a Syrian from Aleppo.

"Let him (others) put himself in my position, what would he do with this life we are living? Will he be ok with it, what is happening and what he is seeing?" Human rights organisations say the living conditions at Idomeni are appalling.

Fellow Syrian Eyas from Damascus said he would attempt to cross the Albanian border further west. "There is a chance you will get there through the Macedonia route but the Macedonian military will send you back," he told Reuters.

Some people chance the trek on their own. Others use traffickers, who charge anything between $350 and $600 per person to smuggle people across the border.

A million migrants, many fleeing Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries in conflict in the Middle East, Asia and Africa have poured into Europe through Greece since last year.

There are more than 10,200 people camped out in tents in the fields of Idomeni. Greek authorities have repeatedly urged refugees and migrants to move to organised reception centres elsewhere in the country.

Last month, Turkey and the EU sealed a controversial deal intended to halt the flow of illegal migrants into Greece from Turkey in return for financial and political rewards for Ankara.

There is now growing concern that migrants will increasingly use Italy as their conduit into Europe after the EU-Turkey pact, with more boats coming from North Africa — or even across the Adriatic Sea from the Balkans after the border closures there.—*Reuters*

There's no place like home, even in the Chernobyl disaster zone

CHERNOBYL, (Ukraine)— Some people found life away from home so unbearable they decided to return, even when home was the site of the world's worst nuclear disaster.

Maria Lozbin was one of tens of thousands of people to be evacuated from their homes after the Chernobyl accident in April 1986, but returned with her family six years ago, to live off the land inside a 30 km (19 mile) exclusion zone where the risk of radiation poisoning remains.

A 69-year-old with a ready laugh and a green shawl wrapped round her, Lobzin said the village to which she had been evacuated was full of drunks and drug addicts.

The house into which she was moved was so shoddily constructed, with a huge crack running from the roof to the basement, that she was afraid of being killed or maimed by a falling object.

"Living there was like waiting for death," she said.

Now she lives with her son and his family back in Chernobyl, in a zone that can only be reached by crossing a checkpoint and where guides accompany curious tourists with radiation meters.

By contrast, a deathly silence hangs over the nearby abandoned town of Prypyat, where a rusting fairground wheel, and a kindergarten with toys, dolls and small beds are a grim testimony to the scale and speed of the disaster.

Lozbin keeps chickens, geese and ducks, grows potatoes and tomatoes, and goes foraging for mushrooms in nearby woods.

"There is no radiation here. I'm not afraid of anything," she said. "And when it's time for me to die, it won't happen because of radiation."—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Austrian police clash with Italians protesting Brenner border checks

BRENNER, (Italy) — Austrian police used batons and pepper spray to repel Italian marchers who were protesting on Sunday against plans for tighter anti-migrant checks at the Alpine Brenner Pass border. Scuffles broke out when several hundred protesters, including some leftist politicians, tried to breach police barriers at the border where Austria has said it will toughen controls in response to unprecedented migrant flows into Europe.

The marchers wore orange life jackets in a sign of solidarity with the thousands of African and Asian migrants who have drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean, and brandished a large banner with the slogan 'People Over Borders.'

One demonstrator was arrested, prompting a sit-down protest in front of the police lines by fellow marchers demanding his release, but no injuries were reported.

Austria said this month it would introduce tougher controls at the pass from June 1 at the latest. Italy says the plan breaches EU rules on the free movement of people. The EU said last week it was assessing the complaint. The Brenner Pass is the most important Alpine crossing for heavy goods traffic and the controls, if introduced, would slow Italy's main transport link to Germany, its top trading partner.—*Reuters*

Two Britons, one Indian held in Hungary for illegally transporting migrants

BUDAPEST (Hungary) — Two Britons and an Indian were arrested in Hungary on Saturday night accused of trying to transport more than a dozen migrants illegally to Austria, Hungarian police said.

Until it sealed its southern border last autumn, Hungary was the main gateway to northern Europe, predominantly Germany, for hundreds of thousands of migrants fleeing poverty and violence in the Middle East and Africa. The flow slowed to a trickle as the Hungarian border fence forced migrants south to Croatia and Slovenia, which early this year effectively sealed their frontiers too.

But migrants have continued to cross the fence in small numbers, and police still regularly detain people who try to transport migrants to the West, according to police reports.

The two Britons — a 26-year-old man identified as A. S. and 31-year-old S. M. S. — were carrying 11 Syrian and Afghani citizens when stopped in their Nissan along the motorway that leads to the border, police said.

In a separate arrest, 34 year-old Indian national S. M. was driving an unspecified number of Somalis and Pakistanis toward Austria when his BMW was pulled over.—*Reuters*

Two killed, 34 injured in clashes between locals in eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA — Two people were killed and 34 others wounded as local residents clashed in Indonesia's easternmost Papua Province on Sunday, an official of the local disaster agency said on Sunday.

Eighteen out of the injured have been suffering from serious wounds in the clashes which erupted on 9 April, head of operation at local disaster agency Feri Kagoya said.

"The conflict was triggered by an allegation of discrimination in distribution of government financial assistance," Kagoya told Xinhua. Nearly 100 houses were burnt and agricultural areas damaged in the conflict between people from Gika and Panaga districts in the province. Fresh clashes could break out despite a cessation of hostility initiated by military and police, according to Kagoya."We think that both sides still have intention to take revenge," the official said.

Papua is home to dozens of ethnic groups who have often been involved in deadly conflicts and tribal wars.—*Xinhua*

Quake hits off southern Mexico coast, no damage reported

MEXICO CITY —An earthquake struck off the southern coast of Mexico early on Monday but there were no immediate reports of damage. The quake, around 100 km (60 miles) southwest of Suchiate in the state of Chiapas, was originally registered as a magnitude 5.9 tremor by the US Geological Service. It later revised that to 5.6. Luis Felipe Puente, head of Mexico's emergency services, said via his Twitter account that the earthquake was felt lightly in parts of Chiapas. There had not yet been reports of damage, he said.—*Reuters*

OPINION

Good citizens make good state

Khin Maung Aye

IT is a popular belief that rights imply duties because rights and duties are inter-related. They are, in fact, the two sides of the same coin, both arising from the social nature of human beings.

The state must guarantee certain basic rights to citizens, who are expected to perform certain duties or obligations in return. A duty implies an obligation to do or not to do something. It should be noted that rights are not absolute in nature; they are limited in the sense that they impose the duty upon the individual to see that she does not interfere in any way with the enjoyment of similar rights of others. Every right involves an obligation to use it appropriately.

On the other hand, duties may be moral and legal. A moral duty is recognised and enforced not by law enforcement agencies but by our sense of morality and justice. As for legal duties, violations entail punishment by the state.

The supreme duty of a citizen is to be loyal to the state. As citizens, we ought to identify our own interests with those of our states. We must not betray our country's respective interests. We should defend our country against alien aggression. We should help the authorities during internal disturbances in order to maintain law and order. And what is more, we must exert our utmost efforts to become law-abiding citizens. This is necessary in the interest of the general welfare and maintenance of law and order.

Another important duty is to pay taxes because there is no government in this world that can run without money, which must come from the people through the imposition of taxes and duties. The revenue collected from the citizens is spent by the government to promote public welfare. This being so, citizens ought to pay their taxes honestly and willingly. Tax evasion is an offence in every country.

Last but not the least, every citizen has a duty to render public service when called upon to do so. He should take an active part in the civic affairs of the village, town and local governing bodies. In the same vein, those who are elected or appointed to public offices should render their services effectively and efficiently without fear or favour.

The Global New Light of Myanmar would like to provide an aide-memoire to all citizens that good citizens make good states because a state is what its citizens make it. Be careful, please, because we can make it or mar it.

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.

Areas where India needs to do more in Myanmar

NehginpaoKipgen

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister SushmaSwaraj will travel to Nay Pyi Taw on May 1. The visit will be India's first high-level engagement with Myanmar since the National League for Democracy (NLD) government officially took office on April 1. The minister will meet both President HtinKyaw and the State Counsellor Aung San SuuKyi, who also holds the post of foreign minister.

The larger goal of the mission is to strengthen Prime Minister NarendraModi's vision of India's Act East Policy, which was initially introduced by the Congress government as Look East Policy.

As the largest democracy and an immediate neighbor, many had expected the visit to have happened sooner. Swaraj's visit comes three weeks after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the first foreign dignitary to visit Myanmar after regime change, who met SuuKyi and Kyaw on April 5 and 6 respectively.

In recent years, India and Myanmar have improved their bilateral ties on several fronts. And now the three specific areas where India needs to improve are the education sector, democratic institution building, and people-to-people relation.

In the education sector, the Indian government has taken up some initiatives, including the establishment of Language Laboratories and Resource Centre, Myanmar Institute of Information Technology, Agricultural Research and Educational Centre, and the enhancement of India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills.

While the dividends of these initiatives may come slowly, the Indian government and educational institutions across India should attract students from Myanmar, perhaps by offering scholarships or through exchange programs. At the moment, the number of students studying in Indian universities is almost non-existent. In addition, civil society groups and other private sectors should engage in providing vocational trainings that could generate concrete results in the short-term.

The second area is democratic institution building which can be done in a number of ways. First, the Indian government should invite Myanmar politicians, who are new to democratic institutions and its practices, to give them a first-hand experience as to how democracy works in a diverse and pluralistic society.

Such program could be organized under different settings. One possibility is that Myanmar politicians should be allowed to observe parliament proceedings when all parliamentarians across India are present. The other possibility is for the Indian universities and think tanks to organize intensive courses on theory and practices of democracy and on other important issues, both in India and Myanmar. The geographical proximity of the two countries is an advantage point in this regard.

People-to-people relation is another essential element crucial for improving bilateral relations. Not only do India and Myanmar have a shared border, but also the two countries are home to millions of people from the same ethnic community, separated during the creation of India and Myanmar in 1947 and 1948. Examples are the Kachins, the Kukis, the Nagas and the Shans, who live side by side along the India-Myanmar border region.

The two countries also share about 1,624 kilometers boundary in four Northeast Indian states - Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland, which are geographically contiguous to Myanmar.

Despite the geographical proximity, there is not much people-to-people contacts at the level of the common people. During Prime Minister Modi's visit to Myanmar in 2014, India agreed to construct 71 bridges along the road where the Indian buses would ply.

Bus service between Imphal and Mandalay, a distance of about 580 kilometers, which initially was planned to start in 2012-13, was only able to see its first trial run on December 9, 2015, which was flagged off by Manipur Chief Minister OkramIbobi Singh. But the service has not continued.

Similarly, the first flight service between Myanmar and Manipur was introduced in November 2013 but it did not continue either, due to immigration rules for incoming passengers, among others.

Though weekly direct Air India flight on the Delhi-Gaya-Yangon route and Golden Myanma charter flights to India were launched in November 2014, the connectivity between the two countries still remain very poor.

Reliable road connectivity between the two countries, such as bus and train services, introduction of visa-on-arrival facility at the border areas, regular flight services, and improvement of people-to-people relation are also essential for the success of India's broader Act East Policy as Myanmar is the gateway.

While China is India's natural competitor in Myanmar, the degree of influence India can have on Myanmar and the region largely depends on how she maintains people-to-people relation and its investment in education sector. This is, however, not to downplay the importance of other sectors, including economic and security cooperation.

On its part, Myanmar should not only cooperate with India but also needs to implement measures and policies that would enhance bilateral ties. Among others, the NLD government, particularly its Foreign Minister Aung San SuuKyi, should advise the Burmese diplomats in New Delhi to be more open and accessible to people outside of the embassy staff.

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Magic Bus Myanmar to educate 2,500 low-income youths

MAGIC Bus Myanmar, an INGO monitoring needy children, plans to educate 2,500 Myanmar children from poor backgrounds in a two-year project.

The organisation recently launched a US$400,000 programme to support underprivileged children from Hlaingthaya and Thanlyin, both located on the outskirts of Yangon.

The programme covers social education as well as vocational training in order to help the children improve their socioeconomic status.

Since the programme was implemented in India, the organisation has helped over 400,000 children in both rural and urban areas.

"The programme in Myanmar is expected to produce successful outcomes as Magic Bus moves children out of poverty by nurturing them on a journey from childhood to livelihood," said one Magic Bus member.—*200*

Young people congregate in the canals to cool off. PHOTO: AUNG KYAWTUN

Mandalay youths crowd canals to cool off

CANALS that make up the Sedawgyi irrigation network in Mandalay Region are crowded with urban residents during the summer, locals say.

In order to prevent heat-related illness and reduce sweating during the hot weather, people from downtown Mandalay visit the canals in Zeechogon, Yehwet, Yekyi, Shintawgon and Igyi villages in Patheingyi Township,especially at night. Most of the canal bathers are young adults.

"We normally visit the canal in Zechogon Village at around 5pm every weekend to swim," a visitor said. Villagers have begun renting swimming equipment to the canal visitors, doubling some villagers' incomes.

Summer temperatures can reach 43 degrees centigrade in Mandalay, according to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—*Aung KyawTun*

Blackleg disease kills cattle in Kyaukphyu

OVER 30 heads of cattle have died from blackleg disease in villages in Kyaukphyu Township, Rakhine State,over the last few days, said an official from the township's Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

Members of the department inspected the death of cattle in Karpichaung and Thaechaung villages on 22 April and found that 33 cows were killed by the disease.

"Villagers abandoned the bodies of the dead livestock in the field without burying them. That is why the disease quickly spread to the remaining cattle," said a veterinary physician.

According to an international study, blackleg is an acute, infectious disease caused by Clostridium chauvoei—a Gram-positive, anaerobic organism. The disease is characterised by inflammation and blackening flesh as tissue in the body dies. The remaining farm animals in the area have been immunised against blackleg.—*Saw Moe Kyaw*

Kawthaung authorities supply water to locals

A TEAM from the Department of Relief and Resettlement and the Fire Services Department and ward administrators helped provide water for drinking and bathing to the residents of KawthaungTownship, who are facing a water shortage.

Due to rising temperatures accompanied by El Niño, communities around the country have been facing scarcity of drinking water.

The water shortage in Kawthaung, located at the southernmost tip of Myanmar,has been exacerbated by its proximity to the coast and influxes of saltwater into its water supply.

Local people collect water supplied by authorities in Kawthaung. PHOTO: KYAW SOE

Officials from the Department of Relief and Resettlement and the ward administrators in Kawthaung Township,with the help of the Fire Services Department, supplied the 1,400 litres of drinking water and 6,000 gallons of water for bathing and washing to the residents of Bayintnaung Ward and Thirimyaing Ward.

"I fell sympathetic toward people who are suffering from the water crisis. There are some water tankers to use for putting out fires. I try to make sure they are strong enough not to break, as our department does have the funds to repair fire engines and water tankers," said an official from the Fire Services Department.

"But we did used the water tankers to help the people in crisis," he added.—*Kyaw Soe*

CHANGE

Myat Ko Ko

MID-APRIL marks Thingyan Water Festival for the people of Myanmar. Thingyan is derived from the Pali word, sankanta, which means 'gone over to'. Everybody including foreigners took part in this year Thingyan Festival in one way or another. The young and the revellers took delight in throwing water and watching live concerts at Thingyan pavillions. The elderly took Eight Precepts and went to meditation centres to practise Vipassana Insight meditation. The old year was left behind and the new one comes ahead.

In the polical landscape, NLD government came into office on April 1 after gaining a landslide victory in 2015 November election with a campaign slogan ' Time for Change'. The people of Myanmar have been anticipating change for decades. They want a change for a better life.

The NLD government have tasks in plenty to undertake for a significant change in Myanmar. They prioritise anti-graft campaign and rule of law to strengthen law enforcement. To be a clean and good government, they need tons of government employees who are responsible, accountable and uncorrupt. They shift their focus towards people's well-being. Therefore, government employees would definitely be people's servants.

While I am writing about change, a book came across my mind I read it in my university days. It is ' Who Moved My Cheese' , a book written by Dr. Spencer Johnson, advising how to deal with change in work and life.

Verily, everything is changing. So we should not be afraid of change. We have to anticipate and embrace it instead. But we must make sure that it will be 'change for growth' and not 'change for devastation'.

Animal species experience a long series of changes in order to adapt to the environments and avoid being extinct. It is termed as evolution. Likewise, we, homo sapiens, had to , have to and will have to make numerous changes in marching towards the civilised world.

There have been some incidents of extreme weather conditions throughout Myanmar these days. Deforestation is one of the key factors influencing climate change. We must change the patterns of life damaging our invaluable environment. We must plant more trees and save our planet.

Personal change for growth is the first and foremost we have to deal with. Old habits of negative qualities should be forsaken and replaced with new ones of positive qualities. We must displine ourselves to make our society safer and better place to live. We must treat each other out of respect and with fairness. We must force ourselves change of heart and change of behaviour for the better. Let us live with loving-kindness and integrity to make our motherland, Myanmar, peaceful and prosperous forever!

Water distributed to villages in drought-stricken Myan Aung Township

A girl carring water containers filled with water in a village in Myan Aung Township. PHOTO: WIN BO

GROUNDWATER resources are facing depletion throughout the country as the effect of El Niño set in across the country.

Residents of Nuttaung Village in the Teabo Village-Tract, Myan Aung Township, are facing scarcity of water as tube wells in their villages dry up.

On 24 April, a team from the Myan Aung Township Administrative Department, the Rural Development Department and the Township Fire Service Department distributed drinking water to the villagers and filled water storage tanks in villagers' homes. The administrator of the Myan Aung Township Administrative Department and the deputy director of the Rural Development Department met with villagers and to assess the needs of the residents in the villages with regard to roads, bridges and water. The departments made arrangement to ensure that the villagers can get water from alternative resources.—*Win Bo*

US volunteers seek adventure fighting Islamic State alongside Kurds

MAKHMOUR, (Iraq) — Towering over his Kurdish partner at a checkpoint in northern Iraq, US volunteer John Cole cuts an unusual figure on the road to the newest front in the war against Islamic State.

Seven feet (2.1 metres) tall and holding his assault rifle upside down, Cole is among a relatively small band of Westerners who have made their own way to Iraq to take up arms against the militant group — even though Kurdish authorities say they need foreign money and weapons more than men.

Exactly how much fighting Cole has done is unclear, but the 23-year-old said that — unlike most regular US soldiers stationed nearby — he has participated in offensives against Islamic State that involved artillery fire and airstrikes.

"You can feel the explosions in your teeth. It's kind of cool actually," he told Reuters, nervously pulling on a cigarette.

Cole, from Charlotte, North Carolina, said he had come for more than excitement after quitting his job transporting biohazardous materials such as medical waste. For all the violence, his fascination with northern Iraq - a mosaic of ethnic and religious groups - was a strong draw too.

"Some people take a year off before they go to college, other people just do this," he said. "I'd like to spend time here and learn more about the culture, the people, the history of this land and then go home."

Thousands of foreigners have flocked to Iraq and Syria in the past three years, mostly to join Islamic State. But smaller numbers — estimated now at several dozen — are with groups fighting the radicals.

Cole fell in with Kurdish fighters in neighbouring Syria last July and a few months later went to Iraq, where he plans to stay until at least October.

He says he had been inspired to come after Islamic State overran the northern town of Sinjar, slaughtering, enslaving and raping thousands of people from the Yazidi minority. Peshmerga forces of the autonomous Kurdish region, backed by US-led coalition airstrikes, retook Sinjar in November while he was back in the United States for a break.

Last week, Cole was manning a roadblock near the town of Makhmour and just outside Camp Swift, a base for US forces helping the Iraqi army and peshmerga in a slow-going offensive aimed at eventually recapturing the northern city of Mosul.

Unlike many of the volunteers, Cole is no seasoned ex-serviceman. He said he had received training on field artillery at a base in Oklahoma but quit due to a hip injury and flagging motivation.

The US troops that remain in Iraq are largely on a mission to train and support Iraqi government and peshmerga forces, with those at Camp Swift restricted to their base several kilometers (miles) from the front line.

While the volunteers are less restricted, their roles can appear routine. Cole insisted he had no regrets about coming to Iraq, where his chores involve checkpoint duty, helping internally-displaced people, and "prisoners" - a task he declined to detail.—*Reuters*

US volunteer John Cole (L), 23, sits next to a Kurdish fighter at a checkpoint in Makhmour, Iraq on 17 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

People inspect damage at a site hit by Saudi-led air strikes in the al Qaeda-held port of Mukalla city in southern Yemen, on 24 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mukalla offensive kills 800-plus militants: Saudi Yemen coalition

CAIRO — Yemeni government forces and their allies killed more than 800 al Qaeda fighters when they advanced into the port city of Mukalla, the Saudi-led pro-government coalition said.

Yemeni and Emirati soldiers seized the seaport on Sunday, depriving the group of the stronghold that has enabled it to amass a fortune during the country's civil war.

"In its first hours, the operation resulted in killing more than 800 members of al Qaeda and a number of their leaders while the rest fled," the coalition said in a statement carried by Saudi state news agency SPA late on Sunday.

Local Yemeni officials and residents said on Sunday that some 2,000 Yemeni and Emirati troops advanced into Mukalla, taking control of its maritime port and airport and setting up checkpoints throughout the southern coastal city.

They also said they had witnessed little fighting during the offensive.—*Reuters*

Iraqi military freezes civilians' return to Ramadi over mine deaths

BAGHDAD — Iraq's military called for civilians displaced from Ramadi to stop returning home after dozens of them were killed by Islamic State mines planted in the western city's streets and buildings, officials said on Sunday.

Tens of thousands of residents have moved back to the Anbar Provincial capital in the past two months, mostly from camps east of the city where they took refuge prior to the army's advance late last year.

A shortage of experts trained in dismantling explosives has slowed efforts to restore security in Ramadi, but that has not stopped people from responding to calls from local religious and government leaders to go back home.

A spokesman for the Anbar governor's office, which is overseeing much of the effort to restore Ramadi, confirmed the military had issued the directive because "they felt the need to stop the return to ensure that the areas are safe".—*Reuters*

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Date **26 April 2016**

Teens most drawn to e-cigarettes by online ads

WASHINGTON — While many forms of e-cigarette advertising increase the odds that teens will try the devices, a new US study suggests that this generation of digital natives is most enticed by promotions they see online.

Big US tobacco companies are all developing e-cigarettes. The battery-powered gadgets feature a glowing tip and a heating element that turns liquid nicotine and other flavourings into a cloud of vapor that users inhale.

To see which e-cigarette ad formats were most persuasive to teens, researchers analyzed data from a recent nationwide survey of about 22,000 middle school and high school students from grades 6 through 12, when youth are typically about 12 to 18 years old.

When middle school kids said they routinely viewed e-cigarette ads online, they were almost three times more likely to use the devices than their peers who never saw ads. High schoolers who frequently watched online ads were about two times more likely to use e-cigarettes.

"E-cigarette ads use many of the same themes used to sell cigarettes and other conventional tobacco products, such as independence, rebellion and sex," said lead study author Dr. Tushar Singh of the Office on Smoking and Health at the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

"The situation is compounded by the fact that e-cigarette online vendors are using social network services to market their products — and many online vendor websites are very easy for youth to enter and make purchases," Singh added by email.

Three million middle and high school students said they were current users of e-cigarettes in a CDC survey last year, up from about 2.5 million in 2014, according to a report released this month.

Adolescents who try e-cigarettes may be more than twice as likely to move on to smoking conventional cigarettes than teens who have never tried the devices, previous research has found. For the current study, Singh and colleagues analyzed data from the 2014 National Youth Tobacco Survey, which asked teens about how often they used different types of tobacco products as well as how frequently they encountered ads for these items. Compared with youth who never viewed ads, middle school students who said they saw newspaper ads for e-cigarettes "most of the time" or "always" were 87 percent more likely to use e-cigarettes. High school students that routinely saw newspaper ads were 71 per cent more likely to use the devices.

Always seeing e-cigarette promotions on television shows and movies was associated with 80 per cent greater odds that middle school students used e-cigarettes and 54 percent higher likelihood for high school students, when compared with teens who never saw these ads.

Advertisements in retail settings were more effective than print or movie promotions.

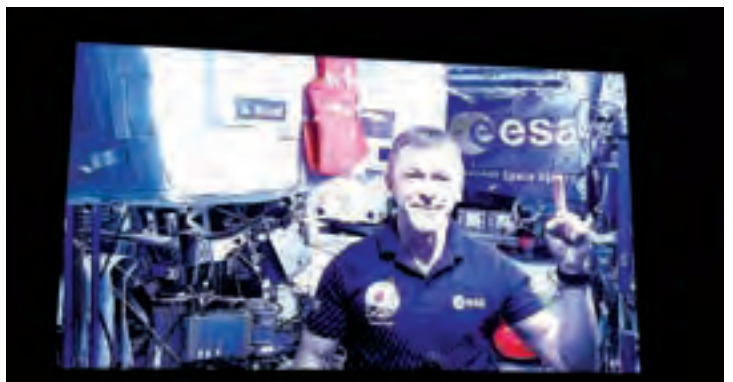
When middle school students saw ads in stores, they were more than twice as likely to try e-cigarettes as their peers who reported rarely or never seeing these ads. High school students were 91 per cent more likely to use e-cigarettes when they regularly saw ads in stores.

Since students were surveyed at a single point in time, the study can't prove that seeing e-cigarette advertising preceded, and therefore might have caused, kids to take up e-cigarettes.

Another limitation of the study, the authors note in the journal Pediatrics, is its reliance on teens to accurately recall and report how often they viewed ads and used e-cigarettes.

Even so, the findings from this e-cigarette study mirror previous research showing how ads for traditional cigarettes encourage smoking, said William Shadel, a senior behavioral scientist at RAND in Pittsburgh, who wasn't involved in the study.—*Reuters*

Astronaut runs marathon in space — but slower than on earth



British European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Tim Peake. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — British astronaut Tim Peake became the first man to complete a marathon in space on Sunday, running the classic 26.2 mile distance while strapped to a treadmill aboard the International Space Station.

As part of the London Marathon, Britain's biggest mass participation race, the 44-year-old spaceman saw London's roads under his feet in real time on an iPad as, 250 miles below him, more than 37,000 runners simultaneously pounded the streets.

Peake covered the distance in three hours 35 minutes 21 seconds, which was a world away from the time recorded by the real race winner, Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge, whose 2:03:05 was the second fastest ever recorded.

Peake's zero gravity effort, while out of this world, was still more than a quarter of an hour slower than the 3:18:50 he had clocked on earth as a keen, ultra-fit fun runner back in 1999.

On a six-month stint on the ISS, the astronaut had been the official starter too, sending the runners a good luck video message from the station in the 10-second countdown to the race that concluded: "I hope to see you all at the finish line."

He also tweeted a photograph of England's capital from space accompanied by the message: "Hello #London! Fancy a run? :)".

Then, it was down to business, using elastic straps over his shoulders and around his waist to keep him in contact with the running belt in weightless conditions as he ran.—*Reuters*

China open to Sino-US space cooperation

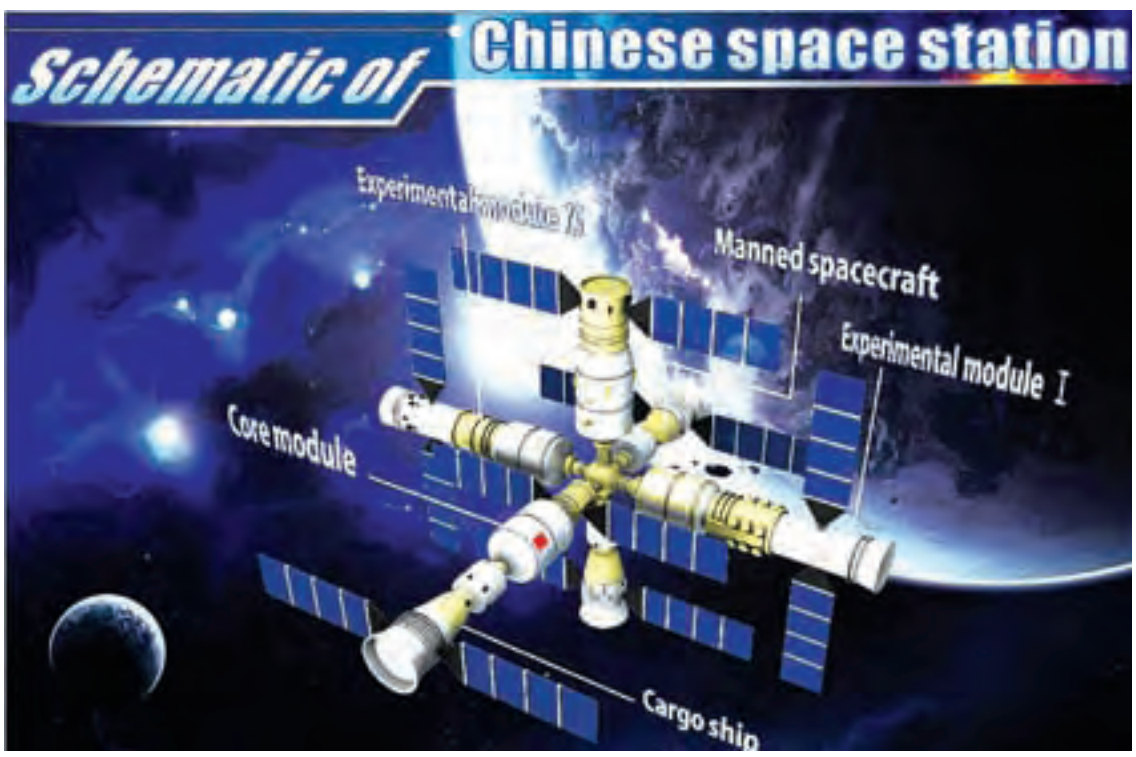
BEIJING — China is open to space cooperation with all nations including the United States, the heavyweights of China's space programme said on Sunday, the anniversary of China's first satellite launch 46 years ago.

"China will not rule out cooperating with any country, and that includes the United States," said Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut.

Payload has been reserved in the Chinese space station, due to enter service around 2022, for international projects and foreign astronauts, said Yang on the occasion of the first China Space Day, an annual celebration newly designated by the government.

Upon request, China will also train astronauts for other countries, and jointly train astronauts with the European space station, Yang said.

"The future of space exploration lies in international cooperation. It's true for us, and for the United States too," according to the senior astronaut.



The graphic shows the schematic image of Chinese space station. PHOTO: XINHUA

His words were echoed by Zhou Jianping, chief engineer of China's manned space programme. Zhou said, "It is well understood that the United States is a global leader in space technology. But China is no less ambitious in contributing to human development."

"Cooperation between major space players will be conducive to the development of all mankind," Zhou added.

Citing security reasons, the US Congress passed a law in 2011 to prohibit NASA from hosting Chinese visitors at its facilities and working with researchers affiliated to any Chinese government entity or enterprise.

The ban remains in effect. The US-dominated International Space Station, which unsurprisingly blocks China, is scheduled to end its service in 2024. China's space station could be the only operational one in outer space, at least for a while.

Commenting on Sino-US space relations earlier this week, Xu Dazhe, the head of China's National Space Administration, cites Hollywood sci-fi blockbuster "The Martian," in which a US astronaut gets stranded on Mars and is eventually brought back to Earth by NASA, with help from China.

Xu Dazhe noted that China and the United States established a special dialogue mechanism last year and talks would continue this year.

For chief engineer Zhou, the movie simply reflects what most people want. "Many American astronauts and scientists that I have met said they would like to work with us, if given the freedom of choice." The China Space Day was designated to mark the launch of China's first satellite on 24 April, 1970. —*Xinhua*

Mexico hampered probe into apparent student massacre, panel says

Relatives hold banners with images of some of the 43 missing students of Ayotzinapa College Raul Isidro Burgos as they attend a news conference after meeting with Attorney General Arely Gomez Gonzalez in Mexico City, on 17 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

MEXICO CITY — A panel of international experts on Sunday accused Mexico's government of undermining their probe into the fate of 43 trainee teachers apparently massacred in 2014, the most notorious human rights case in Mexico in recent years.

The independent panel said the government's stonewalling stopped them from reaching the truth as they wrap up their work and prepare to leave Mexico.

The attorney general's office, they said, did not let them re-interview detainees accused of the crime or obtain other information in a timely fashion. Prosecutors did not pursue investigative angles that the experts suggested.

"The delays in obtaining evidence that could be used to figure out possible lines of investigation translates into a decision (to allow) impunity," the report by the experts, commissioned by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), said.

The case has drawn international attention and stirred protests and outrage in Mexico, where violence has surged in a decade-long drug war. Lawlessness reigns in parts of the country and has tarnished President Enrique Pena Nieto's reputation.

At a 2-1/2-hour news conference on Sunday attended by more than 1,000 people, the experts cast doubt on aspects of the government's version of events.

They said in the report they had been repeatedly blocked in their efforts to obtain evidence from Mexican authorities.

"We feel that from January there was someone giving instructions to halt everything," one of the experts, Angela Buitrago, told Reuters in an interview on Sunday night.

As the experts finished their remarks at the news conference, audience members yelled, "Don't leave!"

Mexico's government says that corrupt police in late 2014 handed the student teachers in the southwestern city of Iguala over to drug gang henchmen, who believed the trainees had been infiltrated by a rival gang. They then incinerated them at a garbage dump in the southwestern Mexican state of Guerrero.

While the experts' probe showed the municipal police were mainly responsible for the disappearance of the students, they said the federal police should also be investigated.

The remains of just one of the 43 students has been identified from a charred bone fragment. The government said it was found in the Rio San Juan, a river by the town of Cocula, near Iguala where the students disappeared.

The experts say that the government's theory the students had been burned is scientifically impossible given the heat needed to reduce human remains to ash, and the experts raised further questions in the report about the government's story of finding the bone fragment in the river.

One of the experts, Carlos Beristain, also said detainees in the case showed signs of torture. The experts´ report notes that medical exams of detainees who said they were tortured were inadequate and did not meet international standards.

IACHR has said it will not renew the experts' term because the government was opposed to an extension. Mexico's government authorized the group´s investigation, vowing to cooperate fully, but at times actively blocked them.—*Reuters*

Republicans Cruz, Kasich reach 'stop-Trump' deal

WASHINGTON — Republican White House rivals Ted Cruz and John Kasich announced a deal on Sunday to stay out of each other's way in some upcoming state primaries in hopes of blocking front-runner Donald Trump from winning the party's presidential nomination.

Cruz's campaign said in a statement he would focus on the Indiana and give Kasich a clearer shot in Oregon and New Mexico, states where the Ohio governor expects to do well. Kasich, in turn, agreed to shift resources west and away from Indiana.

The Indiana primary is on 3 May, Oregon's is 17 May and New Mexico's 7 June.

Trump has won the most state nominating contests, but he has a tough path to earn the 1,237 delegates needed to secure the nomination. The Cruz and Kasich campaigns believe their agreement to cede states where the other candidate appears strong could help limit Trump's ability to win more delegates.

Some Republican strategists who oppose Trump have been calling for such a deal for weeks. The question for Cruz and Kasich is whether their agreement is too late.

If no candidate has enough support by the first vote at the Republican National Convention in July, many delegates will be allowed to switch sides on subsequent ballots.

Cruz campaign manager Jeff Roe said Trump, who has offended women, Hispanics and other groups with controversial statements, would lose a general election contest against the eventual Democratic nominee in the 8 November election.

"Our goal is to have an open convention in Cleveland, where we are confident a candidate capable of uniting the party and winning in November will emerge as the nominee," Kasich chief strategist John Weaver said in a statement.

Late Sunday, Trump tweeted his reaction to the deal: "Wow, just announced that Lyin' Ted and Kasich are going to collude in order to keep me from getting the Republican nomination.—*Reuters*

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A man walks past a street memorial outside Maelbeek metro station, a week after bomb attacks took place in the metro and at the Belgian international airport of Zaventem, in Brussels, Belgium, on 29 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

Maelbeek station, scene of Brussels attack, reopens under high security

BRUSSELS — Brussels' Maelbeek metro station, a target in the attacks last month that killed 32 people, reopened on Monday under high security.

Standing guard outside and on the platforms, armed soldiers and security from Brussels' transport network patrolled the station near European Commission headquarters, where on 22 March a bomb was detonated on a rush-hour train, killing 16 people.

The blast came after suicide bombers had earlier struck Zaventem airport departure lounge in attacks claimed by Islamic State.

Commuters who returned to Maelbeek for the first time since the attacks on Monday morning were visibly moved.

"My heart is beating fast, I'm not feeling okay," said passenger Hanane Attar, who felt the blast in her office above the station on the day of the attacks. "It's quite emotional, very emotional."

Many stopped to read messages such as "All together" and "The greatest of all is love" written on a wall left by victims' families and survivors, who had visited the station in private.

The attacks in Brussels, home to the European Union and NATO headquarters, came four months after attacks in Paris killed 130 people. Links have been identified between the suspects in the two attacks.—*Reuters*

Thai durian drops in output due to drastic droughts

BANGKOK — Thai durian is yielding less due to severe droughts this year, said a government official on Monday.

Thailand's durian plantations in Chantaburi, Rayong and Trat provinces are estimated to produce about 316,000 tons of durian fruit this year, compared to some 337,000 tons last year, said Ardchaicharn Liangprayoon, head of the Chantaburi provincial agricultural office.

That accounts for a six percent drop in the combined volume of fresh durian from those eastern plantations — the country's largest — currently severely affected by droughts and hot weather, Ardchaicharn said.

Harvest season for most of the durian, dubbed king of the fruit, in those eastern plantations will likely be postponed from May to June due to the disastrous droughts.

Given such decline in production, the highly-demanded fruit would sell for an average price of 2.8 US dollars per kilogram in the domestic market this year, compared to 1.7 US dollars a kilo last year, accounting for a 40 per cent rise, he commented. Most of the durian from eastern Thailand were exported to China.—*Xinhua*

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

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Advertisement for extending the Dead-Line for Bids Submission of Tender ICBNo.S&I-1 Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV Systems for Households and Public Facilities

As Department of Rural Development had already announced the dead-line for bids submission on February 8, 2016 in the Global New Light of Myanmar and February 9, 2016 in Myanmar Anlinn Newspaper, the dead-line for the above tender was April 26, 2016 at 1:00 PM, has been extended to May 12, 2016 at 10:00 AM.

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Director keen to make 'Princess Diaries 3'

"Princess Diaries" director Garry Marshall has revealed that he has spoken to its star Anne Hathaway and Julie Andrews for another sequel of the franchise. PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES — "Princess Diaries" director Garry Marshall has revealed that he has spoken to its star Anne Hathaway and Julie Andrews for another sequel of the franchise.

The director said Disney is yet to move ahead but they have already met and discussed the possibility, Marshall told Larry King.

"Well, they talk about it. Disney always likes to announce things, so they tell Garry, 'Shut up, we'll announce it'" he joked on the show.

"(Anne Hathaway) came to my office, she was quite pregnant… she puts her computer on the table, pushes three buttons, there's Julie Andrews on Skype in Long Island. And we have a meeting." "This is how we work. So I hope they do it."

The first film featured an awkward teenager who finds out that she is the heir to a throne while the second movie saw her as a royal in the middle of an arranged marriage.

Actor Chris Pine, who played Hathaway's love interest in the sequel, has already expressed a desire to be part of the third movie, if it is ever made.—*PTI*

Jessica Chastain struggled in heels on 'The Huntsman'

LONDON — Actress Jessica Chastain says she was constantly stumbling on the set of "The Huntsman: Winter's War" because she had to fight in shoes with hidden high heels.

The star portrays Chris Hemsworth's wife in the "Snow White and the Huntsman" prequel, and the all-action role required Chastain, who is best known for her dramatic work, to undergo weeks of intense fight training.

However, the 39-year-old actress was thrown off when she arrived on set for her first day and learned she would have to pull off all of her stunts wearing heels, so she wouldn't look too short next to her leading man, who towers over her at six feet, three inches, reported Contactmusic.

"I had worked in New York with someone Universal (studio bosses) had sent (to learn how to fight onscreen), then I went to London for three weeks to work with the stunt team, and I was feeling confident," she said.—*PTI*

I am terrified of my death on Game of Thrones: Sophie Turner

Sophie Turner. PHOTO: PTI

LONDON — Actress Sophie Turner is constantly "terrified" of being killed off on "Game of Thrones", the HBO drama in which she plays Sansa Stark.

The 20-year-old actress has portrayed Sansa Stark in all six series of the fantasy drama and admits she is constantly anxious about the fate of her alter ego, reported Femalefirst.

"Oh my God, I'm so terrified Sansa will die," she said. And her fears are shared by all her co-stars.

Asked if it is a concern for everyone, she said, "Yes, oh my God. Yeah. It's crazy. Almost every day we're on set we're like, 'Who do you think is gonna go next?'

"It's almost like living in the 'Blair Witch Project'."—*PTI*

'Jungle Book' Rules Over 'The Huntsman: Winter's War'

LOS ANGELES — Disney's "The Jungle Book" showed serious traction at the North American box office, dominating moviegoing for a second straight weekend with $60.8 million at 4,028 locations.

The family-friendly tentpole declined only 41% from its opening frame and left Universal's launch of "The Huntsman: Winter's War" in the dust with $20 million at 3,791 locations.

"The Jungle Book" posted the best second weekend of 2016, topping the $56.5 million second frame for "Deadpool," and will wind up the weekend with $191.5 million after ten days — already the fourth-largest 2016 title behind "Deadpool" at $361 million, "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" at $319 million and "Zootopia" at $316.4 million.

Internationally, the results are equally impressive with an additional $96 million and a decline of only 32% from the prior weekend for an international total of $337 million and global cume to date of $528 million. "The Jungle Book" is the highest-grossing Hollywood release in India with $28.8 million and is less than $3 million short of the $100 million mark in China.

"The Huntsman: Winter's War," starring Chris Hemsworth, Jessica Chastain and Charlize Theron, debuted at the low end of forecasts in North America with $20.1 million amid mostly downbeat reviews and a B+ CinemaScore. The audience was 61% female and 53% under 30.

The prequel to 2012's "Snow White and the Huntsman" carries a price tag of $115 million, so the studio will need a strong international performance to break even. "The Huntsman: Winter's War" had already opened in 27 foreign territories last weekend and added 37 more for a weekend of $32.1 million in 64 territories for an international total of $80.2 million. In China, "The Huntsman" opened in third place with $11.1 million at 5,932 sites behind the second week of "The Jungle Book" and a local film. The first "Huntsman," starring Kristen Stewart as Snow White, was a solid box office performer with a $56.2 million opening weekend in the US on its way to a $155 million domestic total, plus another $241 million overseas.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst with ComScore, noted that the new "Huntsman" had been hit by tough reviews while the original benefited from Stewart's participation while she was starring in the "Twilight" franchise.

He added that the sterling performance by "The Jungle Book" signals strong continued moviegoing in the upcoming weeks with Disney-Marvel's "Captain America: Civil War" launching on May 6. "You could not ask for a better lead in for the upcoming start of the summer movie season of 2016 than 'The Jungle Book,'" Dergarabedian said. "Its incredible (and somewhat unexpected) success is stoking the fires of box office momentum and is loading up multiplexes with herds of film fans of all ages who are getting pumped up and ready for the official start on 6 May with the incredible 'Captain America: Civil War' and then the onslaught of blockbuster hopefuls from every studio week after week."—*Reuters*

Japan's top court apologises to ex-leprosy patients over segregation

TOKYO — The Supreme Court on Monday offered a rare apology to former leprosy patients over the past practice of trying them outside of standard courtrooms due to unfounded fears of infection, acknowledging that the procedure taken was unlawful.

Japan's Court Law says trials should be held at courts or their branches, but also allows them to be held outside court buildings if the top court finds it necessary.

Such special courts were convened in 95 cases between 1948 and 1972 at isolated sanatoriums and other facilities for patients with Hansen's disease, according to the Supreme Court.

The top court's apology was issued following investigations that began in May 2014 at the request of a group of former leprosy patients.

The court conducted hearings from former patients and also held discussions with a panel of experts from last September.

The state acknowledged in May 2001 that its segregation policy against leprosy patients was wrong and apologised for it.

Although the disease is only mildly contagious, Japan's leprosy patients were discriminated against and confined to sanatoriums for decades under a 1931 law on prevention of the disease until its abolition in 1996.—*Kyodo News*

Families, survivors mark 11 yrs since fatal JR West derailment

KOBE (Japan) — Survivors and bereaved families of victims on Monday marked the 11th anniversary of a train derailment in western Japan that killed 107 people.

West Japan Railway Co, better known as JR West, held a memorial ceremony in Amagasaki, Hyogo Prefecture, pledging to continue efforts to ensure the safety of its train service, with roughly 900 people attending the ceremony held at a municipal facility not far from the accident site.

"Each and every one of our employees will participate in the continued efforts to maintain a safe service," said JR West President Seiji Manabe at the ceremony.

A rush-hour commuter train on the Fukuchiyama Line derailed after entering a curve at a speed far beyond its maximum permitted limit and crashed into a condominium building at around 9:18 am on 25 April, 2005, killing 106 passengers, the driver and injuring 562 others. The nine-story building the train crashed into has been undergoing construction work since January to preserve the accident damage, but work has been suspended for the day to accommodate people offering flowers and prayers.

Although the preservation work covering only the bottom four stories began after the railway operator took input from bereaved families, some have called for entire building to be preserved, while others sought for it to be demolished entirely.

The anniversary followed JR West's introduction of a new system earlier this month that made human error no longer punishable.

After the accident, the company had been criticized for its corporate culture which was said to be closed and punitive to those who made mistakes, leading to risk taking by its staff.

The anniversary also came two days after some of the bereaved families launched a group to lobby for legislation making corporate bodies criminally punishable.

Among individuals indicted over the case, former President Masao Yamazaki's acquittal was finalized in 2012 after he was charged with professional negligence resulting in death and injury. Three other former chiefs were also found not guilty following mandatory indictment under the prosecution inquest system, prompting a team of court-appointed lawyers acting as prosecutors to appeal at the Supreme Court.—*Kyodo News*

West Japan Railway Co President Seiji Manabe lays flowers in Amagasaki, Hyogo Prefecture, on 25 April, 2016, the 11th anniversary of a train derailment on the Fukuchiyama Line that claimed 107 lives. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Etruscan stone could help unravel enigma of one of Italy's first civilisations

FLORENCE, (Italy) — A rare inscription found on a stone unearthed near Florence is exciting archaeologists who say it may help reveal the secrets of the Etruscans, one of Italy's earliest and most enigmatic civilisations.

The Etruscans flourished in central Italy 2,500 years ago but their culture and language were assimilated into the Roman empire. They left behind lavish tombs, pottery and statues but tantalizingly few written documents and patchy evidence of their daily lives.

Etruscans usually wrote longer texts on perishable linen or wax, so archaeologists excavating in Tuscany's Mugello Valley were delighted when they found a 200-kilogram sandstone slab, inscribed with more than 100 characters, in the foundations of a buried temple.

The stone has been painstakingly cleaned and, although the inscription is yet to be formally deciphered, experts are starting to understand its full significance.

"It's an Etruscologist's dream to find something like this," said Gregory Warden, an archaeology professor whose team had been excavating for 20 years before the find. It seems to be "a sacred text that may reveal to us parts of the belief system of the Etruscans".

The stone could yield a new perspective because it was found in a religious sanctuary rather than one of the burial sites from which archaeologists have gathered most of their understanding of Etruscan life.

It lay flat in the temple's foundations but appears to have stood upright previously, leaving unanswered questions about its original function. A careful cleanup, applying paper pulp and distilled water, seems to have already revealed the names of the two most important gods in the Etruscan pantheon: Tina and Uni, equivalent to the Roman Jupiter and Juno or Greek Zeus and Hera.

It would be "just wonderfully exciting" if the presence of the names is confirmed, Warden said, adding, "I don't know anything like that anywhere."

Unlike many ancient relics which are found out of context, having been illegally dug up or moved from Italy's archaeological sites, the researchers hope the stone can document local history in the tract of land between modern Fiesole and Bologna, once major Etruscan cities.

"Acquiring new knowledge and an asset for the area is as good as it gets for us, for the state," said Susanna Sarti, an official at the regional archaeological authority.

"When you tell a story about a little-known territory, you illustrate something new about the society."—*Reuters*

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(26- 4-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 pm
- Weather Report
- Music Programme

6:40 pm
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

7:00 pm
- Myanmar Classical Songs

7:20 pm
- International Drama Series

7:50 pm
- International Drama Series

8:30 pm
- Cartoon Programme " Flushed Away " (Part-I)

9:10 pm
- Music Programme

9:20 pm
- U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-II)

9:40 pm
- International Movie Songs

10:00 pm
- Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw

10:10 pm
- Music Programme

10:30 pm
- Myanmar Movie

Midnight
- Close Down.

From 26-4-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm
To 27-4-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm

mitv Myanmar International

(26-4-2016 07:00am ~ 27-4-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Insight Myanmar "Role of MNHRC" (Episode-II)
07:43	Am	Living Myanmar Glazed Ceramics
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Marvelous Solo Cane Ball Playing
08:43	Am	Atuladhipati Mahamunisacca Koe Htat Kyee Pagoda
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw
09:42	Am	Kayah Style
09:51	Am	Today Myanmar: El Niño Impacts On Fish Breeding
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Style of Mro and Thet
10:32	Am	The Man and The Elephant (Part- 1)
10:47	Am	The Man and The Elephant (Part- 2)

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)
07:53	Pm	Tea
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes "MUUN (Episode - II)"
08:50	Pm	Chef Life: Cho Wut Yee

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

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

4th Waning of Tagu 1378 ME | Tuesday, 26 April, 2016

Resurgent Nadal beats Nishikori to reclaim Barcelona crown

BARCELONA — Rafael Nadal maintained his ominous claycourt form by seizing back the Barcelona Open title from Japan's Kei Nishikori with a 6-4, 7-5 victory on Sunday, matching Guillermo Vilas's record title haul on the surface.

A week after reclaiming the Monte Carlo crown, the 29-year-old Spaniard returned to another of his favourite hunting grounds to end Nishikori's two-year hold on the trophy and take his tally in the Catalan capital to nine.

"I have been working so hard to enjoy moments like this," Nadal said. "The fact that I'm playing at home is always even more special. I'm very happy and I feel lucky to enjoy this again."

Playing with the kind of authority that once made him almost unplayable on European clay, Nadal looked poised for a comfortable victory when he led 4-1 in the second set but Nishikori broke back to make Nadal dig deep.

The Spaniard would not be denied, though, sealing victory after two hours when Nishikori slapped a forehand into the net.

"It was a very close match," Nadal said. "There were a lot of chances for both of us but I think I have been solid."

Nadal, who will target a 10th French Open title next month, had not won back-to-back titles since 2013. He and former Argentine great Vilas have both won 49 claycourt titles and Nadal will be confident of edging ahead when he moves on to Madrid and Rome before Roland Garros.—*Reuters*

Rafael Nadal of Spain jumps after winning the Barcelona Open tennis tournament against Kei Nishikori of Japan in Barcelona, Spain, on 24 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

Liverpool's Toure backs Sakho after failed dope test

LONDON — Liverpool defender Kolo Toure has voiced his support for team mate Mamadou Sakho after the France international allegedly failed a drugs test before Saturday's 2-2 Premier League draw against struggling Newcastle United.

France's RMC radio reported that Sakho, who is currently not subject to any suspension as the result of a investigation by UEFA was pending, had failed a dope test following the use of a fat-burning drug as an aid to weight loss.

Toure was banned for six months in 2011 while at former club Manchester City for a similar failed drugs test.

"I don't want to remember that because it has been tough for me. I don't even want to talk about that because it is very hard," Toure told British media.

"Right now I haven't spoken with Mama, to be honest. I've been in there and it has been really difficult, definitely. This is private but he knows what I think about him." The 35-year-old Toure is out of contract in the summer but British media reported that manager Juergen Klopp was positive about his prospects of staying on.

"The future is bright for me and it was good news from the manager, so I'm looking forward to it," the former Arsenal defender said. "Bringing something off the pitch is natural for me. I'm doing that because I want to help my team-mates. I want to fight on the pitch. That is what I bring. I will keep doing that. It doesn't matter what happens, anywhere I go."—*Reuters*

Tokyo picks navy checkered design as official logo

TOKYO — The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic organising committee decided on their official emblem on Monday, a navy-coloured check design with its roots in feudal Japan's Edo period.

The logo, chosen by a selection panel, was picked from a shortlist of four announced on 8 April after more than 14,599 entries were publicly accepted. It was designed by Tokyo-based artist Asao Tokolo.

"I was only told a little while ago so my mind's a blank," Tokolo said. "The committee met 15 times since last September," said Yoshiro Mori, chief of the 2020 organising committee. "Hopefully this emblem will be embraced by many as the symbol of the 2020 Games."—*Kyodo News*

Tokyo 2020 Emblems Selection Committee Chairperson Ryohei Miyata (R) and committee member Sadaharu Oh present the winning design of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games during its unveiling ceremony in Tokyo, Japan, on 25 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

Champions League is the Real deal—Madrid's Bale

MADRID — The Champions League is part of Real Madrid's folklore and it is the nature of the Spanish side to always set their sights on Europe's most prestigious club tournament, having won it more times than any other team, winger Gareth Bale has said.

The 10-time winners take on Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium in the first leg of the Champions League semi-final on Tuesday and Bale felt the tournament was just that "extra bit special" to the Merengues.

"The Champions League means everything to the club. It's the main priority every year... It's just in the club's nature, they want to win the European Cup every year. It's instilled in you and you go for it every year," Bale told the *Times* newspaper.

"It's special to the club. Even when you play on European nights the atmosphere's that bit better, everyone in the stands is kicking every ball for you. It's always more intense for Champions League games, because it means so much for the club.

"All the players know how much it means. That's not to say the league titles don't mean as much but it's just that extra bit special."

With sections of the media claiming Bale suffers a fractious relationship with Cristiano Ronaldo, the Wales international was quick to dismiss such notions, saying the Portuguese three-time Ballon d'Or winner's will to win was often misinterpreted. —*Reuters*

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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."