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SAVING THE LAKE

Attempts to save lake ecosystem take shape



Despite being faced with falling water level in summer, Inle lake has attracted local and foreign tourists.

PHOTO: HTAY AUNG (MIRROR)

HIGH temperatures brought about by the El Niño have not impacted Inle Lake as much as expected this summer, though the lake is still facing dropping water levels characteristic of the summer season.

"The current water level is low compared to the days in our childhood, but the water level has not decreased as much as in previous years, I think, due to

our dredging of silt and sediment this year," said Ma Htway Nyo, who lives near the lake.

The drop in the water level this year affected several villages on the outskirts of the lake, making the lake inaccessible to them.

To reduce the falling water level in Inle Lake this summer, the Irrigation Department has controlled the flow of water from

the Lake into the Bilu Creek using two geo-tubes.

The department has also been dredging silt and sediment from the rivers that flow into the lake while carrying out conservation measures for the lake.

The Irrigation Department has refuted rumours that the lake is facing the threat of silting up.

"The main waterways such as the route between Phaung

Taw Oo and Nyaung Shwe, and the Alotawpauk Pagoda route are all-weather ways," an official of the department said.

"Inle Lake looks like a deep frying pan.

There is always water in its centre," he added.

Meanwhile, ministries have teamed up with UN agencies and foreign countries to step up efforts for the conservation of Inle

Lake, while adopting a five-year plan with short-term and long-term components.

Measures are being taken to dredge silt to make waterways in the lake deeper, to conserve the lake's watershed areas and birds, to reduce noise from the exhausts of boats and to limit the use of fertilisers on islands in the lake.

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Foreign investment expected to reach US\$8 billion this fiscal year

FOREIGN investment in Myanmar is expected to reach US\$8 billion in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, said U ThanAungKyaw, the deputy director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Foreign investment reached \$9.5 billion last fiscal year, ac-

cording to figures from DICA. The oil and natural gas sector stood first in attracting foreign direct investment(FDI). The energy and manufacturing sectors also attracted significant investments. The transport, communication, real estate, mines, and hotels and tourism sectors also attracted for-

eign investment, he added.

Foreign investments from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 have created over 350,000 job opportunities. The Myanmar Investment Commission has been encouraging more FDI in trade, agriculture and infrastructure in order to speed up the country's

economic development and create more job opportunities.

Companies in Asian countries such as South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Singapore and China have major investments in Myanmar. Many American companies have invested in Myanmar through branch offices in South

Korea and Singapore.

Myanmar received \$1.413 billion in foreign investment in 2012-2013; \$4.107billion in 2013-2014 and over \$5 billion in 2014-2015. Myanmar has attracted more attention from foreign investors after the Foreign Investment Law was enacted.—Zar Zar

JICA provides initial \$40 million for realization of MACCS

JAPAN International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided an initial \$40 million, together with technical assistance, for application of a Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS).

“We’ve provided technical assistance for application of this online system and for the drawing up of the system. We’ll also provide trainings related to usage of the system. Application of the system will initially be rolled out in the Yangon area. If it proves successful, the system will be expanded to the country’s boarder points and shipping ports,” said Shuhei Ueno, chief advisor of JICA.

The MACCS allows for the online application of the importation and transportation of goods into Myanmar.

The Internal Revenue Department has made it known the system will enable the Ministry of Commerce, together with other relevant departments, to apply for required proof online.

“Trainings are currently being given to those who will be utilizing the system once it’s up and running. The MACCS sys-



Container carrier cargo ship seen. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

tem will roll out firstly in Yangon this November after trainings have been completed.

After this, the whole country will need to use the system. Japan is the principal financial

backer of the system,” said U Maung Maung Htway Shwe, deputy director general of the Department of MACCS which falls under the Internal Revenue Department.

Training on the aforementioned system is being given to eight hundred people from the beginning of this month, while the system will start to be used by shipping ports, airports and

banks, together with the Thilawa Special Economic Zone. The online application system will provide a round-the-clock 24 hour service, it is known. — Myitmakha News Agency

Crime NEWS

Police seize yaba pills, heroin in Kengtung, Yangon



Drug dealer being seen with narcotics. PHOTO: POLICE

ACTING on a tip-off, a combined team comprising members of the police and an anti-drug squad searched the home of a couple in Kengtung on Saturday and discovered 27,800 yaba pills, 0.825 kilos of ice and 0.03 kilos of heroin.

Homeowner Zaw Zaw Win managed to flee the house, though police arrested his wife Ma Ar Mi along with Sai Lon, who was in the house during the search.

Meanwhile, police in Yangon discovered 1,994 yaba pills in the possession of Ma Nyo Nyo Thein and 161 from Thant Zin Lin in the Gandamar Wholesale compound at the corner of Waizayanda Road and Gandama Road on the same day.

Police searched a room in a hotel where Thant Zin Lin was staying and found another 4,827 yaba pills and 0.01 kilos of heroin. — GNLM

Young man found dead in Thonegwa Tsp

VILLAGERS on Sunday morning found a 23-year-old man dead in a creek located in western part of Thayawtaw Village,

Thonegwa Township, Yangon. According to a police investigation, Kyaw Swe Thein has been missing since 4 April.

His body was found badly injured.

Police are investigating the case as a homicide. — Ko Kyaw

Illegal teak found in Magwe

ABANDONED illegal logs and timber were discovered on Sunday by local authorities in Kanma Township in Thayet District, Magwe Region.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising police and members of the township’s forest department searched the western part of the Pathein-Monywa road near Alechaung Village, 15 miles from the town of Kanma.

The team found 15 teak logs weighing nearly two tonnes, 279 pieces of sawn timber weighing 33.3 tonnes and 68 pieces of hardwood weighing 8.87 tonnes.

Those confiscated forest products have been placed within the town’s garden.

Police are still searching for the owner of the illegal logs and timber. — Kyaw Zeya Win

Yaba tablets seized in Yangon, Shan State

A LOCAL anti-drug squad confiscated 40,000 yaba pills from a car driven by a man named Tha Din and carrying two passengers on board near mile post No 6/2 in Lashio, Shan State, on Saturday.

The authorities also seized 600 yaba tablets from Thura Aung in Nawngkhio Township and another 200 from U Nge in Taunggyi Township.

About 2,500 yaba pills and methamphetamines weighing 12.5 grams, along with K1.9 million in cash, were collected from drug dealers in Yangon on the same day.

People involved in the case have been charged by local police under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — Ko Ye

Wayward truck kills sleeping man

A 54-YEAR-OLD man died on the spot in a traffic accident on Sunday morning in Yedashe Township, Taungoo District, Bago Region, police reported yesterday.

A truck driven by Zaw Win Maung, 19, and carrying passenger Chan Myae Ko, 24, was heading northbound along the Yangon-Mandalay road when

it collided with a motorcycle workshop on the eastern side of the road. The driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle.

The collision killed U Aung Bi, a resident of Shwepyigone Village, who had fallen asleep in the workshop.

The truck driver has been charged by local police under the Criminal Law. — Ko Lwin



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits fortification used by Japanese troops during the WW-II on the Coco Island. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Military chief gives economic advice to Coco Island residents

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Coco Island yesterday, pledging to fulfil the development needs of local communities.

“Cows should be bred on a commercial basis, in addition to growing palm trees and manufacturing palm products,” said the commander-in-chief during his tour of Coco Kyun Township.

“The Tatmadaw will provide assistance to locals for their cultivation and livestock breeding,” he added.

He went on to say that the country is on its path to multi-party democracy and that local people must cooperate with their minds bent upon effectuating regional development in order to make the democratisation process a success.

In the afternoon, the senior

general was briefed by the director of military engineering and acting camp commander of the island’s naval base on the progress of building a jetty, the commercialisation of palm tree cultivation, the growing of substitution crops and palm-based cottage industries.

The senior general toured Coco Island and presented cash awards to war veterans.—*Myawady*

Eight minors trafficked in Upper Myanmar in 2016

THE child protection team under Mandalay’s anti-human trafficking unit said 38 people were trafficked in Upper Myanmar in the first four months of 2016, eight of whom were found to be under 18.

Police Col Hnin Aye said

the rate of human trafficking increased from 319 cases in 2014 to 617 in 2015. Last year, 20 children fell prey to human traffickers.

The police officer added that families and relatives were

involved in the trafficking of minors.

According to police records, there were 3,160 victims of human trafficking in Myanmar from 2008 to 2015.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Three Myanmar climbers to attempt Everest’s Camp 4

THREE Myanmar citizens are planning their advance to Mount Everest’s Camp 4, notoriously dubbed the ‘Dead Zone’, following their successful climb to Camp 3 on the world’s highest mountain, according to the Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation.

Nyi Nyi Aung, Win Ko Ko and Pyae Phyoe Aung reached Camp 3 at a height of 23,625 feet on 4 May, but descended to Base Camp for more training and necessary check-ups before attempting the climb to Camp 4, at 26,085 feet.

At this height, many climbers are contracted with altitude



Camp-3 of Myanmar climbers at Mt. Everest. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

sickness, an illness caused by ascent to high altitudes and characterised by hyperventilation, nausea and exhaustion resulting from a shortage of oxygen. Other symptoms include insomnia, headaches, dizziness, shortness of breath and cerebral oedema.

Camp 4 is referred to as the Dead Zone because of its ad-

verse weather conditions and remote location, making unlikely the chance of rescue in the case of an emergency. The Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation has announced that the climbers plan to reach the summit of Everest, which has a height of 29,029 feet above sea level.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Thai FM visits Myanmar to meet president, foreign minister

THAI Foreign Minister Mr Don Pramudwinai visited Myanmar as a special envoy of Thailand’s Prime Minister Mr Payut Chan-ocha yesterday.

The Thai delegation was welcomed at the airport in Nay Pyi Taw by officials from Myan-

mar’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by Thailand’s ambassador to Myanmar. Mr Don Pramudwinai will meet President U Htin Kyaw and State Counsellor Union Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during his visit.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Thai Foreign Minister Mr Don Pramudwinai is welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by an official of Foreign Affairs Ministry. PHOTO: MNA

Attempts to save lake ...

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Following separate meetings between the Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and ambassadors from the Netherlands and Norway and the Country Programme Manager of UN Habitat recently, the ministry announced that it has received technical assistance from UN agencies and the foreign countries in the drafting of plans for the sustainability of the Inle Lake.

Myanmar opened a new chapter in its commitment to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation by launching the country’s first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve at Inle Lake on 4 December.

Inle Lake was designated as Myanmar’s first Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme at the 27th Session of the MAB International Coordinating Council meeting at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in June 2015.

UNESCO has worked close-

ly with Myanmar’s Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MoECF) to provide technical assistance for the nomination process of Inle Lake in collaboration with the UNDP and with generous funding from the government of Norway under the framework of the Inle Lake Conservation and Rehabilitation Project.

“There are three main factors causing the degradation of Inle Lake: deforestation around the lake, increasing silt and sediment in the lake and degradation of the water quality of the lake,” said U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, who was previously well-known for his efforts to conserve the lake. “Strict enforcement of regulations on cutting trees in a 20-mile radius of Inle Lake should be made while revitalising afforestation in those areas. Meanwhile, efforts should be made to prevent the flow of silt and sediment from the four major rivers into the lake,” he added.—*Ko Thet with GNLM*

LOCAL Business



Thilawa Special Economic Zone.
PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG

Gas turbine in Thilawa SEZ to distribute power starting in May

THE construction of a natural gas turbine in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is over 89 per cent complete. The gas turbine is expected to distribute power starting in May.

"A power supply of 20 megawatts was received from the government. A 50-megawatt gas plant has been built with the assistance of a JICA loan.

The gas plant is located on a diagonal line to the SEZ. It will be a back-up generator for the Thilawa SEZ. The construction of the plant is slated

to be completed in the middle of 2016," said an official from the Thilawa SEZ.

Two 25-megawatt gas turbines involved in the project were manufactured by the Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Station (MHPS), and the generator in the project was manufactured by the Brush Company from the Netherlands.

The projects were launched in January 2015. The whole project is 78 per cent complete, and the installation of the first gas turbine is over 89 per cent finished. The project includes a

20-mile, 20-inch gas pipeline, which is 99 per cent complete. Japan-based Sumitomo Corporation has been providing technical advisory services in the installation of the gas turbines. The Ministry of Electric Power has been making an effort to distribute power from the turbine starting this May.

Industrial businesses in the Thilawa SEZ will get a sufficient supply of power after the 50-megawatt gas plant is built. This plant is expected to distribute electricity to Yangon, too.—Zar Zar

Four control centres to monitor labour conditions in Thailand

FOUR control centres will be opened in the border areas between Thailand and Myanmar near Ranong, Maesot, Mai Sai and Kanchanaburi after an MoU is signed at the end of May, according to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

"The main objective of opening these centres is to pro-

tect labourers against possible employment problems because labourers can be sent to workplaces with the poor working conditions. The centres will control inflated demand through co-operation with the Thai government. The two governments will exchange blacklist and watch list data. Blacklisted will not get permission," said U MyoAung,

the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

The centres will also serve as training centres where labourers will be able to attend classes. They will provide work permits and visas. The Thai government will take prompt action against those who forge demand letters.—Chanko

Late tomato growers flourish despite early losses

TOMATO growers who cultivated late in the season are not suffering heavy losses as expected because of the rise in tomato prices beginning in March 2016. The current price of tomatoes is between K1,500 and K2,000 per viss (1.6 kilos).

Tomatoes planted early in the season in November 2015

brought about a decline in prices down to between K60 and K100 per viss.

The growers suffered heavy losses at a time when they were producing 500 to 1,000 visses of tomatoes per day.

The tomato market has been on the decline year on year. Currently, growers sys-

tematically cultivate tomatoes with the support of poles and exclusively purchase pedigree seeds. The plants are irrigated once a month in winter and once a week in summer, and fertiliser is added at the same time.

The tomatoes are available to pluck after four months of cultivation.—Teintamen

Sturgeons to be exported to Asia, EU markets

STURGEON breeding in Myanmar will be expanded by over 50 per cent of its current capacity with a view to export sturgeons to Asian and European markets, said U Han Tun, the executive vice president of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

Sturgeons are receiving higher demand from European and Asian countries. Sturgeons must mature for three years before being suitable for sale. In order to meet market demand, sturgeon breeding is required to be boosted by over 50 per cent,

he said.

In sturgeon breeding, local sturgeon fingerlings will be kept for the domestic market, and those imported from Thailand and Viet Nam will be sent to the Europe export market when they mature.

Previously, rohu was mostly exported to Asian markets, and sliced rohu was sold in European markets. Now, sturgeon will be exported to both Asia and Europe, and the volume of fishery products exports is expected to rise.—Chanko

KBZ permitted to open representative office in Thailand

THE Central Bank of Thailand has granted permission to Kanbawza (KBZ) Bank, the largest domestic private bank in Myanmar, to open Myanmar's first representative office in Thailand, announced an official from KBZ.

KBZ (Bkk) will compile economic and monetary reports on local entrepreneurs and Thai businessmen and conduct negotiations with Thai businessmen who want to run businesses in Myanmar.

It will provide greater access to foreign banks.

Once KBZ opens the branch office in Thailand, it will offer services to Myanmar migrants working in Thailand. Beside the representative office, KBZ will continue to seek a branch banking licence to conduct banking services in Thailand.

The bank hopes to conduct banking services for entrepreneurs and legal migrant workers.—Union Daily

Myanmar gold price aligns with world price

IN May, the local gold price bounced back after a two-week slump, reaching nearly K 800,000 per tical (16.4 grams). The rise in local gold prices resulted from an increase in the world gold price, not from high local demand, according to gold entrepreneurs.

The rise in local gold prices is related to changes in the interest rates set by the US Federal Reserve. The local gold price is expected to rise this month, whereas the dollar exchange rate has begun to depreciate.

"With this situation, local gold prices will rise in parallel to the rise in the world gold price," said U Kyaw Win, owner of U Hton Goldsmith and Jewellery.

The world gold price rose to US\$1,300 per ounce, up from the falling price of \$1,230 per ounce in April. On 5 May, the local gold price was K789,000 per tical of pure gold, while the world gold price was \$1,275 per ounce, with a dollar exchange rate of K1,167 per dollar.

The instability of gold prices in April made price predictions difficult for gold entrepreneurs.

The drop in the dollar exchange rate is attributed to inflation, political instability, foreign direct investment, demand for local currency and foreign currency and other economic conditions, say some experts.—Union Daily

Malaysia's ruling party sweeps state polls despite scandals around PM Najib

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's ruling coalition secured a landslide victory in the Borneo state of Sarawak on Saturday after a campaign led by the prime minister, who is facing a financial scandal involving a state-owned fund. The Barisan Nasional (BN) alliance expanded its majority to 72 out of the 82-seat state legislative assembly, a result that Prime Minister Najib Razak is likely to use as an endorsement of his tumultuous leadership.

But the coalition's win is largely credited to the popularity of Sarawak's Chief Minister Adenan Satem, who took over the reins in 2014. Sarawakians have rallied behind Adenan, who is seen as a Najib's ally, after the state leader brokered greater autonomy for the resource-rich state and dealt with long standing issues such as recognition of native land rights.

"As BN chairman, I thank the voters for their trust," Najib said in a state-

ment after the poll results.

His party would not squander the mandate of the people, he said. Najib's critics have said that the Sarawak polls are not a measure of the support for Najib or the ruling party as they are fought on local issues.

Najib has for months faced calls for him to step down after news broke that \$681 million were deposited into his bank account before the 2013 national election, and over his handling of a multi-billion dollar scandal linked to state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

The prime minister has denied any wrongdoing and consolidated power by sacking dissenters within his party, the United Malay National Organisation (UMNO), and using a controversial sedition law to clamp down on other critics. The strong showing by the BN coalition was also helped by a breakdown in the opposition alliance, the Pakatan Harapan.—Reuters

Philippines readies for Monday presidential election



Election posters of Philippine candidates are seen on display in front of a polling station in Taft avenue, metro Manila in the Philippines on 8 May 2016, ahead of the election on Monday. PHOTO: REUTERS

MANILA — Taxi driver John Par was late last week still undecided about which of the five presidential candidates he would vote for in Monday's election in the Philippines.

The 35-year-old father is torn between Rodrigo Duterte, the 71-year-old mayor of Davao City in the southern Philippines who is leading in pre-election surveys, and Sen. Mary Grace Poe-Llamanzares, popularly known as Grace Poe, 47, the previous frontrunner.

"I hope corruption will be eradicated, if not lessened, so that all government projects will be finished and so that we, the people, can feel the benefits of the taxes we pay the government," Par told Kyodo News when asked on Friday about his expectations for the successor of President Benigno Aquino, who is barred from running for a second term.

"We need change," Par said, echoing an independent survey result early this year on what Filipinos want their preferred presidential candidate to address. According to the Pulse Asia polls, 30 per cent of voters want corruption in government addressed, apart from the need to raise workers' pay (38 per cent) and curbing widespread sale and use of illegal drugs (36 per cent).

The five-way presidential race includes former Interior Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas, 58; Vice President Jejomar Binay, 73; and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, 70.

"This 9 May election is important because what's at

stake is whether the current thrusts will continue or not. This is a choice for continuity, or possible change," political analyst Aries Arugay, a professor in political science at the University of the Philippines, told Kyodo News.

In addition to domestic issues, he cited "challenges outside the country, like US-China rivalry, ASEAN integration, South China Sea disputes, and the arms race in Southeast Asia."

Par, who lives in the Manila suburb of Tondo, is considering Duterte because of what he has done in Davao as its mayor for more than 20 years.

"Davao is peaceful. And he has proven he could deal with illegal drugs. I also approve of his push for federalism to spread development and government power to the provinces," Par said of Duterte.

Based on the most recent surveys, Duterte is likely to win despite criticism of his blunt manner of speaking and misogynistic utterances. Within the last two weeks, Duterte, whose campaign platform centres on pushing for decentralization while curbing criminality and corruption, was blasted with allegations of keeping ill-gotten wealth and other irregularities. Duterte's rivals, and Aquino no less, also labeled him as a dictator and portrayed him as a pro-communist.

The mayor has denied the allegations, with his camp dismissing them as desperate attempts to shave off his support base.

But in Davao City, many residents speak high-

ly of him, affirming how Duterte's leadership, foremost, make people feel safe there.

"I think, if he wins, the country will be safer. He managed Davao well. There is almost no trouble here. If there's any, he personally takes care of it," Jeffrey Rodriguez, 30, told Kyodo News.

"He has resolved the problem of illegal drugs here in Davao City. My husband used to be a drug user, but has since stopped," said shared market vendor Charlene Dabalos, 30.

Par, however, admitted he suddenly had second thoughts about Duterte when he learned of the accusations, so he has gone to consider the neophyte politician Poe.

"She's fresh so she's unlike our traditional politicians who have mastered the art of making a fool out of the Filipino people," Par said.

Poe was first elected in 2013 as a senator. In March, the Supreme Court overturned a ruling by the election commission to disqualify her candidacy on the grounds of nationality and residency requirements. She is running on a platform of inclusivity and compassionate governance.

The outgoing Aquino government boasts of having boosted the country's gross domestic product growth to an annual average of 6.2 per cent since 2010, improved the country's credit rating and competitive ranking, and brought down unemployment.

"Although systemic

problems remain to be addressed, the Aquino administration has done better than expected over the past six years. The Philippines is riding high in the eyes of the international community, and that most certainly matters," said voter Caroline Albarando from the Manila suburb of Quezon City.

"But, regardless of who wins on Monday, my expectation for the government is for it to surpass the gains of the previous administration, and for the country to once again unite in thought and in actions," she added.

In a television interview Saturday, university professor Julio Teehankee said the proof that the Philippines is a "real democracy" is if its people can "accept the process and the results of the process," despite many being bothered by Duterte's candidacy.

"Our being Filipino can be gauged if we can accept the decision of the people," he said. As for the still-undecided Par, the candidate who will usher in an environment where he could start a small business so he could adequately provide for his wife and 5-year-old son might just get his vote.

"Because of what ordinary Filipinos have experienced, a 'bright future' for them under the new leadership should only be very minimal — having security, a stable economy, food on the table, good roads, efficient transportation. They wouldn't be asking a lot," Arugay said.—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.

North Korea leader Kim says will not use nuclear arms unless threatened

PYONGYANG — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country will not use nuclear weapons unless its sovereignty is infringed by others with nuclear arms, and is willing to normalise ties with states that had been hostile towards it, state media said on Sunday.

Isolated North Korea has made similar statements in the past, although it has also frequently threatened to attack the United States and South Korea, and has defied United Nations resolutions in its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Kim also set out a five-year plan to boost economic growth, emphasizing the need to improve North Korea's electricity supply, the official *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper said.

The North "will faithfully fulfil its obligation for non-proliferation and strive for the global denuclearization," Kim said in a report to a rare congress of the ruling Workers' Party (WPK) that opened on Friday, the KCNA news agency reported.

The first congress in 36 years began amid anticipation by the South Korean government and experts that the young third-generation leader would use it to further consolidate power. Kim became leader in 2011 after his father's sudden death.

On Sunday morning, foreign journalists were told to dress presentably and were brought to the People's Palace of Culture, where dozens of black Mercedes-Benz E-class sedans, with the 727 number plates reserved for the highest government officials, were parked.

However, after a one-hour wait in a lobby outside large wooden doors with frosted glass, the journalists were taken back to their hotel without having met any officials.

While the North Korean capital has been tidied-up as part of a 70-day campaign of intensified labour ahead of the congress, the 128 members of the foreign media invited to Pyongyang to cover the event had yet to be granted access



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks during the Workers' Party Congress in Pyongyang on 7 May, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

to the proceedings.

Although Kim's economic plan was short on details, Michael Madden, an expert on the North Korean leadership, said it was significant that Kim had set out an economic plan at all.

"In stark contrast to his father, he is publicly taking responsibility for the economy and development as the originator of the

policy. His father never undertook that responsibility," Madden said.

Late on Saturday, North Korean state TV showed video of Kim addressing the congress which, according to state media, includes 3,467 voting delegates.

"As a responsible nuclear weapons state, our Republic will not use a nuclear weapon unless its sovereignty is encroached upon by any aggressive hostile forces with nukes," KCNA quoted Kim as saying on the second day of the meeting on Saturday.

"The WPK and the DPRK government will improve and normalise the relations with those countries which respect the sovereignty of the DPRK and are friendly towards it, though they had been hostile toward it in the past," KCNA quoted Kim as saying.

DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Kim, 33, also called for improved ties with the rival South by erasing misunderstanding and

mistrust, although he has made similar proposals in the past that led to talks by government officials that made little progress.

The two Koreas remain in a technical state of war since their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, and relations have been at a low since the North's January nuclear test, its fourth.

North Korea came under toughened new UN sanctions in March after its most recent nuclear test and the launch of a long-range rocket that put an object into space orbit in defiance of past Security Council resolutions.

Since then, it has continued to engage in nuclear and missile development activities and claimed that it had succeeded in miniaturising a nuclear warhead and launching a submarine-based ballistic missile. In March, Kim said the North would soon test a nuclear warhead, and South Korea has said Pyongyang may conduct its fifth nuclear test in conjunction with the party congress.—Reuters

Two-day strike in Bangladesh begins to protest Islamist party chief's death sentence

DHAKA — A two-day nationwide shutdown called by Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami began on Sunday morning in protest of an apex court verdict that upheld death penalty for the Islamist party's chief for 1971 war crimes.

Hours after the Appellate Division bench of Bangladesh Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday dismissed the final review petition of the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami party's Ameer (president) Motiur Rahman Nizami who is now behind the bar, the party called the 48-hour non-stop nationwide hartal for 8 and 9 May.

Nizami, who is Jamaat chief since November 2000, now only has the option of seeking the president's mercy to stall his imminent execution.

On account of the strike, the traffic on short routes in and around Dhaka was almost regular as almost no activities of pro-hartal activists were visible. Man-paddled cycle rickshaws were dominating the city streets while presence of private cars was thin due to fear of possible vandalism and arson attack.

In other parts of the country, the shutdown also reportedly have almost no impact on people's routine life.

Academic activities also

hampered to some extent to a number of educational institutions though attendance in the government and private offices was as usual. But businesses in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country opened as per schedule Sunday morning.

No major incidents have so far been reported.

Seventy-four year old Nizami served as the agriculture and industries minister in Khaleda Zia's 2001-2006 cabinet. Nizami's party says he was deprived of justice. But the government says the trial met proper standards.

Nizami is among the top Jamaat leaders who have been tried in two war crimes tribunals which Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Bangladesh Awami League-led government formed in 2010 to bring the perpetrators of 1971 to book.

Nizami was indicted in 2012 with 16 charges of crimes against humanity, including looting, mass killings, arson, rape and forcefully converting people to Muslims during the 1971 war.

The indictment order said Nizami was a key organiser of the Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of then Pakistani army which planned and executed the killing of Bengali intellectuals at the end of the war.—Xinhua

Viet Nam police break up protest against Taiwan firm over fish deaths



Demonstrators, holding signs of environmental-friendly messages, say they are demanding cleaner waters in the central regions after mass fish deaths in recent weeks, in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 1 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

HANOI — Vietnamese police broke up a demonstration in the capital, Hanoi, on Sunday when protesters gathered for the second time in a week to denounce a Taiwanese firm they accuse of causing mass fish deaths in central coastal provinces.

Hundreds took to the street in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam's second-largest city, last week to vent their anger at a unit of Taiwan's Formosa Plastics, even though an official investigation found no links between the fish deaths and Formosa's \$10.6 billion coastal steel plant.

A group of protesters sat on the bank of a big lake in Hanoi before police shepherded them on to a waiting bus, Reuters witnesses said. Demonstrators were also put on buses at a square in front of the nearby Hanoi Opera House.

Formosa denies any wrongdoing.

Demonstrations are rare in Viet Nam and are often quickly suppressed by uniformed and plain-clothes police. State-controlled media has not reported any of the demonstrations.

The fish mass deaths emerged a month ago in the central province of Ha Tinh, where

the Formosa unit runs the steel plant. Fish also washed ashore in three other provinces along a stretch of 200 km (125 miles).

The government has invited experts from Germany, Japan, the United States and Israel to inspect the Ha Tinh site in an attempt to find the cause that led to the fish deaths.

The inspectors have yet to announce their findings.

The government's initial investigation said the cause could be "red tide", when algae blooms and produces toxins, or a release of toxic chemicals by humans.—Reuters

Huge anti-government protest fills Warsaw's ceremonial boulevard

WARSAW — Tens of thousands of Poles waving national flags staged a huge protest march through Warsaw on Saturday, accusing the conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party that took power last year of undermining democracy and putting Poland's European future at risk.

The throng stretched at least 3 km (2 miles) along a ceremonial boulevard leading past the presidential palace, and Warsaw Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, a member of the opposition centrist Civic Platform (PO), put the number of demonstrators at 200,000.

Critics say the nationalist-minded administration is curbing democratic checks and balances and driving a wedge between Poland and its allies in the European Union, which it joined in 2004. They also say the PiS's euroscepticism could push Poland, a former Soviet satellite, back into the Russian

sphere of influence. PO leader Grzegorz Schetyna told the crowd it was the largest demonstration since Poland threw off communist rule in 1989. Some PiS actions, including attempts to take more direct control of the judiciary and public media, have prompted the EU's executive Commission to launch a "Rule of Law" procedure, which could result in a suspension of Poland's voting rights.—Reuters

Some PiS actions, including attempts to take more direct control of the judiciary and public media, have prompted the EU's executive Commission to launch a "Rule of Law" procedure, which could result in a suspension of Poland's voting rights.—Reuters



People march during an anti-government demonstration organised by main opposition parties in Warsaw, Poland on 7 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Turkey's Erdogan pours cold water on hopes of progress on EU deal

ANKARA — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday poured more cold water on hopes for progress with Europe on a deal to curb migration, suggesting Ankara would not change its anti-terrorism laws just to meet European Union requirements.

The EU has asked member states to grant visa-free travel to Turks in return for Ankara stopping migrants from reaching Europe, but said Turkey still had to change some legislation, including bringing its terrorism laws in line with EU standards.

The migrant deal between Brussels and Ankara was negotiated by Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who this week announced his decision to step down as premier, capping weeks of public tension with Erdogan.

"Those who ask Turkey to change its laws on terror should first remove the terrorists' tents that were erected outside the EU parliament," Erdogan said in a speech to supporters in the east-

ern Anatolian city of Matalya.

He was referring to Belgian authorities allowing supporters of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) to set up a protest site outside an EU-Turkey summit in March.

Visa-free travel is for many Turks the biggest benefit of Ankara's deal with the EU. Europe, meanwhile, is counting on Turkey to maintain an agreement that has helped stem the flow of refugees and migrants via Turkish shores.

Davutoglu's departure consolidates the power of Erdogan, who has been highly critical of the EU in the past and is seen in Brussels as a far tougher negotiating partner less closely wedded in recent years to Turkey's ambition of joining the EU.

To win visa-free travel for its citizens, Turkey must still meet five of 72 criteria the EU imposes on all states exempt from visas, one of which is narrowing its legal definition of terrorism.

Rights groups say Turkey has used broad anti-terrorism laws to silence dissent, including detaining journalists and academics critical of the government. But Ankara insists the laws are essential as it battles Kurdish militants at home and the threat from Islamic State in neighbouring Syria and Iraq.

Erdogan has frequently accused the West of not giving enough support to Turkey for sheltering more than 2.5 million refugees since the start of the Syrian civil war. He has also been infuriated by Western support for Syrian Kurdish militants in the fight against Islamic State.

Turkey, a NATO member and part of the US-led coalition against the militant Islamist group, regards the Washington-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters as an extension of the PKK, which has waged an armed struggle against the Turkish state that left more than 40,000 dead since 1984.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mexico rumbled by 5.9 magnitude quake, no damage reported

MEXICO CITY — A 5.9 magnitude earthquake shook southern Mexico before dawn on Sunday and was felt as far away as Mexico City, prompting buildings to sway and some people to rush into the streets, but there were no immediate reports of damage.

The quake struck 29 kilometres (18 miles) northeast of the town of Pinotepa de Don Luis, in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, at a depth of 24.4 kilometres.

Luis Felipe Puente, the national head of emergency services, said on Twitter that there were no immediate reports of damage in much of southern Mexico, including the states of Puebla, Chiapas and Guerrero.—Reuters

Five killed in village shooting near Moscow

MOSCOW — Five people were killed by an unidentified gunman in a village in the east of Russia's Moscow region, the RIA Novosti news agency reported on Sunday, quoting a local emergencies service source.

The gunman, about 30 years old and armed with a Saiga hunting carbine, attacked a group of bikers, RIA Novosti said without specifying when the shooting took place.

Local authorities have issued a search warrant for the attacker, and the regional investigation department has launched a criminal probe into the case.—Xinhua

Festival of Science and Education opens in Novi Sad

NOVI SAD — The Festival of Science and Education, which the University of Novi Sad traditionally organises on the campus, was declared open by Zorana Luzanin, state secretary at the ministry of education, science and technological development, on Saturday.

The opening ceremony brought together Novi Sad University Rector Dusan Nikolic, Provincial Secretary for Science and Technological Development Vladimir Pavlov, representatives of the Petroleum Industry of Serbia and Schneider Electric DMS that backed the festival.

The event is expected to welcome a large number of young visitors, as it promotes science in the most appealing way, Luzanin noted.—Tanjug

Afghanistan executes six prisoners in anti-Taliban crackdown

KABUL — Afghanistan hanged six prisoners convicted of terrorism offences, as President Ashraf Ghani carried out a threat to approve executions as part of a tougher new policy towards the Taliban.

The death sentences, carried out at the Pule Charkhi prison on the outskirts of Kabul on Sunday, underlined the harder line pursued by the government since a suicide attack claimed by the Taliban last month killed at least 64 people in Kabul.

A statement from Ghani's office on Sunday said the executions had been carried out after a fair and transparent legal process and in accordance with both the constitution and Islamic law.—Reuters

Democratic Party eyes pledge to lower age for eligibility

TOKYO — The Democratic Party, Japan's main opposition party, is considering pledging to lower the minimum age for eligibility to run for public office to 18 in its manifesto for the upcoming House of Councillors election this summer, party lawmakers said Saturday.

Currently a candidate must be at least 25 years old to run in elections for the House of Representatives, mayor and local assemblies, while one needs to be 30 years old or older to run for the upper house or prefectural governorship. The plan has emerged as the revised Public Offices Election Law, which lowers the voting age to 18 from 20 in an attempt to encourage political participation by youths, is scheduled to take effect 19 June. The upcoming upper house election is likely to be the first national election with youth aged 18 or 19 casting ballots.

The Democratic Party, formed in February through a merger of the Democratic Party of Japan and the smaller Japan Innovation Party, is expected to finalise its election pledge by late this month, the lawmakers said.

In the manifesto, the Democratic Party is likely to vow to introduce a new system to pick in turn male and female candidates from a party's candidate list in upper house elections, with an aim of boosting the number of female lawmakers, the lawmakers added.—Kyodo News

Opinion

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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.

Myanmar should bolster ties with IOM

Khin Maung Aye

ISSUES facing migrant workers threaten people and nations around the world, and Myanmar is not an exception. In recent years, Southeast Asia and Europe have undergone major challenges related to migration. As many as 120,000 migrants entered Greece and Italy in 2016 so far.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) was founded in 1951, indicating that the issue of migration is not new. The

IOM is an intergovernmental organization with its headquarters based in Geneva, Switzerland. A total of 157 countries are signatories to its charter, and another 10 nations are observers.

In addition, more than 80 global-level and regional-level intergovernmental organisations and nongovernmental organisations also hold observer status. The IOM has 8,400 employees around the world and had a budget of US\$ 1.675 billion in 2013.

The original objective at the time of the founding of IOM was to accommodate people displaced during World War II.

However, this objective has been expanded, and the IOM today is an international agency cooperating with governments, NGOs and civil society organisations around the world to promote awareness of migrant issues, to utilise the intellectual skills and physical labour of migrants and refugees for

the socioeconomic development of receiving countries, to respect the dignity of migrants as human beings and to provide welfare programmes for them.

Myanmar must strengthen its relations with the IOM in order to allow Myanmar to better accommodate migrants and refugees in such a way as not to harm the socio-economic development of the country while utilising the intellectual skills and physical labour of migrants.

Right to Life and Death Penalty

Dr. Khine Khine Win

Right to life is first and foremost of all human beings. It is a moral principle, the most fundamental of all rights and the most important for all and is relevant to all human beings. Indeed it protects the individual's ability to take all those actions necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of his life. If you are alive, there is hope for a better day and something good to happen. But in its absence, all other fundamental rights have no reason to exist. Here I would like to brief on Human Rights and Death Penalty.

According to Universal Declaration on Human Rights article (3), everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. Moreover, according to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) article 6.1 every human being has

the inherent right to life and it also provides that "nothing in this article shall be invoked to delay or to prevent the abolition of capital punishment by any State Party to the present Covenant." And also the aim of the Second Protocol of ICCPR is the abolition of death penalty. States Parties to the Protocol believe that abolition of the death penalty contributes to enhancement of human dignity and progressive development of human rights (Preamble). And also article 37 (a) of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) prohibits the death penalty for person under 18 at the time of crime. Death penalty breaches not only right to life but also right to live free from torture. Both rights are protected in Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UDHR adopted in 1948.

Historically, death penalty has been used in almost every part of the world. Currently, the

large majority of countries have either abolished or discontinued the practice. Despite some countries still using death penalty, in a last few decades it is generally understood to be human rights violation and this understanding has led to progress in the abolition of the death penalty worldwide.

According to Amnesty International, as of July 2015, 101 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes in law, while 140 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. At least 607 executions were carried out worldwide in 2014, a decrease of almost 22% compared to the figures recorded for 2013. Executions were recorded in 22 countries in 2014, the same number as 2013. This is a significant decrease from 20 years ago in 1995, when there were executions in 42 countries, highlighting the clear global trend of

states moving away from the death penalty. This information clearly shows that use of the death penalty worldwide has continued to shrink. The reasons why countries have abolished the death penalty in increasing numbers vary. Among them broader understanding of human rights is one of the reasons for some countries.

The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, has said that death penalty has no place in the 21st century. He called on all states to take concrete steps toward abolishing or stopping this form of punishment. "Together, we can finally end this cruel and inhumane practice everywhere around the world," he said. However in some conditions, some parts of the world are still using the death penalty in judicial system without considering right to life of human being. Some people still think that the world needs the death penalty

having their own reasons. Some people say that if a man has taken a life of another man then he must deserve death. On the other hand, some people do not support death penalty as they think it is not nearly humane at all. Everyone deserves a second chance.

From my perspective, death penalty violates the right not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment. Furthermore, it totally violates the right to life which is the most basic of all human rights. Being a human being, I want to totally abolish the death penalty all over the world in the near future. I strongly believe that regardless of age, gender, socio-economic or ethical background, health condition and any other reasons, every human being has the right to life. I am convinced that "worst of the worst is it ever justified to take a life".

Influx seen in amputees to National Rehabilitation Hospital

MYANMAR'S National Rehabilitation Hospital, located Yangon's northern Mayangone township, has reportedly seen an increase in the numbers of amputees coming through its doors, averaging sixteen a day.

Not one for turning away patients with disabilities, those seeking treatment are often put on waiting lists when all of the hospital's 65 beds become taken up. "The influx of amputees seeking prosthetic legs and arms has rendered the hospital unable to even provide these patients with beds. We're seeing a lot of patients from rural areas. A doctor can only han-

dle about four patients a day," said a doctor from the prosthetics workshop.

The current inflow of amputees to the hospital is not up on previous years, but time needed for rehabilitation has meant the hospital does not have the capacity to provide beds for all those seeking prosthetics limbs.

"Each patients requires a minimum of three weeks rehabilitation training. But there are some who take much longer to recover, not being in a position whereby they can walk even after a month of rehab," said the aforementioned doctor. The price of a prosthetic

leg used to fetch K20,000 circa 2007, but the increase in donors has meant that from 2012 about ten in a hundred patients can obtain their prosthetics free of charge.

"Donations collected are used for the running of electrical equipment. We don't request money from those who can't afford it," the doctor added. According to the prosthetics workshop at the aforementioned rehabilitation hospital, amputees seeking prosthetics are categorised as to whether they have been an amputee since birth, lost a limb because of disease, an accident or from stepping

on a landmine.

"We're from Nyaungdon township. My daughter was born without legs. We've come to get her prosthetic legs with assistance from donors. For now though, we haven't had to pay any money. We've found out it's free-of-charge," said Daw Mar Lar from Ayeyawady Region.

The National Rehabilitation Hospital and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) have been working together since 1986 providing prosthetic limbs to Myanmar citizens. The cooperation was severed in 2007 when the ICRC withdrew its activi-

ties from Myanmar amid a worsening political climate, before reconnecting in 2011 with the return of the ICRC to the country.

The hospital also began working with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the aid wing of the Japanese embassy, back in 2008 before projects between the two were halted in 2014. The Japanese Nippon Foundation is currently providing technical assistance, while foreign prosthetics experts are being called in to provide assistance to the rehabilitation hospital in the absence of sufficient numbers of local staff.—Myitmakha News Agency



Acrylic work by Ko Mg Kyaw Than. PHOTO: LOKANAT GALLERIES

Art exhibit celebrates post-retirement freedom

A RETIRED art instructor from the State School of Fine Arts in Yangon has exhibited works he created during the year after his retirement last April at the Lokanat Galleries on Pansodan Road from 9 to 13 May.

Ko Mg Kyaw Than has showcased more than 70 works using various media, including acrylic,

oil and watercolour, entitling his solo show “Free Breeze”, referring his free life after retirement.

“I was busy with my students, spending most of my time teaching them during my life as an art instructor. I have been free since my retirement last year, and I have toured parts of Myanmar, capturing scenes of different col-

ours on canvas and paper with use of different media,” said the retired art teacher.

The 61-year-old artist studied art under some of Myanmar’s most famous art masters, including U Thu Kha, U Mya Aye, U KyawHlaing and U Kyi.

This is his fifth solo show.—*Aye Min Soe*

Life Lessons

POEM:

- # Life lessons to crunch
Remember there’s no free lunch
Just set to work hard
- # Carpets of success
Luck and perseverance
For going ahead
- # Give and take concept
In spite of self-centredness
‘Give more’ is the best
- # A short life we live
With empathy and sweet words
Share and care we give
- # Ups and downs we face
Do not count the times you fail
Get up, join the race
- # Be responsible
Ready to take risk and act
Team work and success
- # From our family
To wider community
Extend your two hands
- # Colorful crayons
Each with own identity
Well placed in a box
- # Great diversity
Among Brethren in Myanmar
Strength from unity

Aye Phyu

Finance minister attends ADB’s 49th annual meeting in Frankfurt

UNION Planning and Finance Minister U Kyaw Win led a delegation to Frankfurt, Germany, to attend the 49th Annual Meeting

of the Asian Development Bank from 1 to 5 May.

The meeting, under the theme “Cooperation for Sustaina-

bility”, focused on the critical importance of sustainability, inclusive of development and the need for closer Asian-European links.

U Kyaw Win addressed the participants on second day of the meeting. The Union minister also met officials from international financial institutions to discuss prospects for cooperation.

Myanmar became a member of the Asian Development Bank in 1973 and has since strengthened ties with the bank in the areas of infrastructure development, human resources development, poverty reduction, employment and privatisation.—*Myanmar News Agency*



The ADB annual meeting in progress. PHOTO: MNA

Chicken prices drop in Yangon after Monywa bird flu

A RECENT bird flu epidemic in Monywa, Sagaing Region, has brought about a drop in the public consumption of chickens, resulting in lower chicken price in markets in Yangon, according to sources close to poultry sales centres in Mingala Taung Nyunt Township.

Chickens at poultry farms fetched K3,600 per head (US\$3) before the outbreak of the flu epidemic. Now, prices have dropped to K3,200 (\$2.70), and poultry farmers are worried about possible losses in the event that prices continue to drop.

Poultry farmers will incur losses when prices go below K2,800 (\$2.40), the average pro-

duction cost per chicken.

Bird flu hit poultry farms in Monywa on 31 March, the Ministry of Health reported, saying more than 86,000 chickens and quails were culled from 54 poultry farms up to 20 April.

The falling price of chicken has taken with it the price of chicken eggs. Duck eggs are now in high demand.

Yangon’s Mingala Taung Nyunt Township is the centre of the poultry market, attracting breeders from Ayeyawady and Bago regions. Recently, the township’s poultry centre has seen a drop in the sale of chickens from 70,000 to 50,000.—*Myanmar News Agency*

20 finalists chosen for Miss Myanmar World contest

MISS Myanmar World Organization Friday selected 20 finalists from 50 shortlisted applicants for the upcoming final contest.

The selected finalists are Khin Sanda Kyi, Bella, Shwe Eainsi, Moe Myint Thu Kham, M Jar Hsai, Ni Ni Min Thu, Poe Snada Khin, Thada Maria, LA Yeik Pyar, Trazy, Lu Lu Hsai Mai, Myat Mon Yyi (a) Pinky May, Shun Le Ya Ti, Thinza Kyaw, Zun Thazin Thae, Tun Pale Yadana, Seng Ja Htun, Le Yamin Oo, Jelly abd Shyn Yamon.

The finalists will receive necessary trainings under the arrangement of Event Director Mr Brain Jeremiah.

The organisation will select the talented one from those finalists who will have a chance to par-

ticipate in the 66th edition of Miss World pageant to be held later this year representing the country. Last year event, the 23-year-old Khin Yadana Thein Myint was crowned as the Miss Myanmar World 2015 where Mireia Lalaguna of Spain won the title of Miss World.

Since 2014, the organisation has held Miss Myanmar World contest for the purpose of turning out talent women and promoting their roles. A total of Women between 18 and 23 years of age applied to join this year contest, according to the organiser.

People wishing to vote for someone from those 20 finalists may visit www.facebook.com/missmyanmarworldofficial.—*Khin Zarli*



Selected finalists of Miss Myanmar World. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mexican drug boss 'Chapo' moved to jail on US border

MEXICO CITY— Mexican drug boss Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman was moved on Saturday from a jail in central Mexico to a prison in Ciudad Juarez on the US border, a development that appears to bring him closer to extradition to the United States.

Guzman, head of the Sinaloa drug cartel, was one of the world's most wanted drug kingpins until his capture in January, six months after he broke out of a high-security penitentiary in central Mexico through a mile-long tunnel.

Chapo, or "Shorty," faces charges ranging from money laundering to drug trafficking, kidnapping and murder in cities that include Chicago, Miami and both Brooklyn and Manhattan, New York.

His lawyer, Juan Pablo Badillo, said Guzman was moved early on Saturday, but he was not sure why. He said he feared for Guzman's life if he were extradited to the United States.

"President Obama is considered a just man, someone who respects human rights, but what if (likely Republican US presi-



Federal police officers stand guard near a prison in Ciudad Juarez where Mexican drug boss Joaquin 'Chapo' Guzman has been moved from his jail in central Mexico, on 7 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

dential nominee) Mister Donald Trump comes to power?" Badillo said. "He says he wants to take Chapo over there to kick his ass."

Guzman's lawyers will meet

to plot a course of action, Badillo added.

"At this moment, he can't be extradited," Badillo said, noting that the legal process is not yet

finished.

Eduardo Sanchez, a spokesman for Mexico's presidency, said Guzman's transfer to the state of Chihuahua was due to

upgrades at his previous location, the Altiplano jail in central Mexico, and not part of an effort to deport him to the United States.

However, a senior Mexican security official said Guzman should be extradited before July and would probably be housed initially in the US prison in Marion, Illinois, pending trial.

"I think they'll do it in the first half of this year," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A Chihuahua state official, who also asked to remain anonymous, said the presence of a US consulate in Ciudad Juarez meant Guzman's handover could be processed faster than through the US embassy. He said he believed Guzman would be moved to the United States in a matter of weeks.

Just across the border from Ciudad Juarez is the US Fort Bliss military base, where Guzman could be taken.

Earlier this year, Reuters reported that US attorneys' offices with cases against Guzman were planning to attempt to try him first after extradition.—Reuters

Eight policemen killed in attack on outskirts of Cairo: Interior Ministry

CAIRO — Unidentified gunmen killed eight policemen dressed in civilian clothes, including an officer, in an attack on a police vehicle in Helwan, just south of Cairo, the Egyptian Interior Ministry said on Sunday.

The ministry said in a state-

ment on its official Facebook page that four gunmen with automatic weapons got out of a small pick-up truck, stopped the police car, sprayed it with bullets and then fled.

Residents told Reuters the gunmen wore masks.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

Egypt is facing an insurgency, mainly based in North Sinai, that has killed hundreds of soldiers and policemen since mid-2013, when then-army chief Ab-

del Fattah al-Sisi ousted Islamist President Mohamed Mursi after protests against his rule.

While the deadliest attacks take place in Sinai, militants have targeted security forces and planted bombs in Cairo and other cities.—Reuters

Three Spanish journalists kidnapped in Syria freed

MADRID — Three Spanish freelance journalists who went missing in Syria last year and were believed to have been kidnapped have been released, the Spanish government said on Saturday.

The three men — Antonio Pampliega, Jose Manuel Lopez and Angel Sastre — disappeared last July. They were working on an investigative report in the northern city of Aleppo, where other journalists have been captured in the past, Spanish media reported at the time.

Spain's acting deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria had made contact and spoken with the three, a government spokesman said. *El Pais* newspaper reported the men were now in Turkey and waiting to be brought back to Spain.

No details were immediately available on how the three were released, but Qatar said it had helped.

Qatar's state news agency said Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad Martian had received a phone call from Spain's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ignacio Ispanaz Rebeo, in which he "thanked the State of Qatar for its efforts in the release of three Spanish prisoners who had been detained in Syria". —Reuters

Iran suffers losses in Syria, Aleppo truce extended

DUBAI — Thirteen Iranian soldiers were killed in a battle with Islamist militants over a village near the Syrian city of Aleppo, Tehran said on Saturday, in one of Iran's biggest single-day losses since it sent forces to support President Bashar al-Assad.

Russia meanwhile said that a truce in Aleppo itself had been extended until Monday.

Islamist forces seized Khan Touman village, about 15 km (9

miles) southwest of Aleppo, on Friday and dozens of people were reported to have been killed in the fighting. The attack was launched by an alliance of Islamist insurgents known as Jaish al-Fatah, including the al Qaeda-linked Nusra Front.

Iran's Fars news agency quoted a Revolutionary Guards official as saying that 13 Iranian military advisors had been killed and 21 wounded.

Jaish al-Fatah and affiliates posted videos and photos on social media of what appeared to be the bodies of Iranians or Shi'ite militiamen who were killed in Khan Touman. They included footage of wallets, personal documents and Iranian currency.

Iran, along with Russia, has been a principle ally of Assad in the five-year-old civil war, while Gulf Arab states and the West have supported various rebel factions. The Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah movement has also been operating in Syria against the rebels.

A senior advisor to Iran's Supreme Leader on Saturday reiterated Tehran's continued support of Assad in a meeting with the president in Damascus.

"Iran will use all its means to fight against terrorists who are committing crimes in the region," Ali Akbar Velayati, Ayatollah Khamenei's adviser on international affairs, was quoted as saying by Fars. Iranian proxies, including Afghans and Iraqis as well as Lebanese, have been involved in Syria from as early as 2012.

While Tehran previously said its support was limited to advisors,

it has been more open about the extent of its role since Russia intervened on Assad's side last year.

Iran has been particularly involved in campaigns around Aleppo in northwest Syria, which was the country's commercial and industrial centre before the war and is now divided between government and rebel forces.

Fighting in the countryside to the south of Aleppo has escalated in recent days despite a ceasefire in city itself since Wednesday.

The Russian defence ministry said a "regime of calm" truce in Aleppo and parts of Latakia province had been extended for 72 hours beginning at 1am on Saturday (2200 GMT on Friday), Syrian state news agency SANA reported.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based monitoring organisation, said Syrian and Russian warplanes had intensified their bombing of insurgent positions near Khan Touman. In northern Syria, US-led coalition airstrikes killed 48 Islamic State fighters on Saturday, Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency said, quoting the Turkish military.—Reuters



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad meets with Ali Akbar Velayati (L), Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's top adviser on international affairs, on 7 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Coffee, wine may be good for your gut bacteria

LOS ANGELES — Drinking coffee, tea and wine may be associated with a healthier and more diverse community of microbes living in the gut, a new study has claimed.

The opposite is true for drinking sugary beverages and whole milk, as well as for continually eating snacks and a lot of carbohydrates, researchers said.

Scientists from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands analysed the microbes inside the guts of more than 1,100 people.

They identified 126 factors that were correlated with changes in the makeup of an individual's microbial community — including 60 associated with diet, 12 re-

lated to diseases, 19 linked with drugs and four tied to smoking.

"In total we found 60 dietary factors that influence diversity. But there is good correlation between diversity and health — greater diversity is better," said Alexandra Zhernakova from University of Groningen.

Researchers studied stool samples of 1,135 Dutch participants. They collected their own stool samples at home and then immediately put them in the freezer.

After a few days, samples were transported to labs at the university, where they remained frozen until they were processed by researchers, *'Los Angeles Times'*



PHOTO: REUTERS

ported. This ensured that none of the bacteria had a chance to grow or change from the time the sample was collected and guaranteed that all samples were treated the same way, researchers said.

After analysing the samples and comparing them with other data, researchers found that consuming fruits, vegetables and yogurt positively influenced microbial diversity in the gut. Drinking tea, wine, coffee and buttermilk

had the same effect.

Sugary sodas and savoury snacks were associated with lower levels of diversity. Similarly, so was having irritable bowel syndrome and smoking during pregnancy, researchers said.

Women and older people tend to have more microbial diversity than men and younger people, they said.

The findings were published in the journal *Science*.—PTI

How Zika virus causes microcephaly decoded

LOS ANGELES — Scientists have for the first time found that Zika triggers cell suicide in the developing brain, a finding that may explain how the virus causes babies to be born with abnormally small heads, and also help develop new therapies against the infection.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention recently concluded that Zika virus infection in pregnant women can stunt neonatal brain development, leading to babies born with abnormally small heads, a condition known as microcephaly.

Now, researchers at University of California San Diego found one way Zika can damage developing brain cells.

They also found that inhibiting this mechanism reduces brain cell damage, hinting at a new therapeutic approach to mitigating the effects of prenatal Zika virus infection.

Using a 3D, stem cell-based model of a first-trimester brain, researchers found that Zika activates TLR3, a molecule human cells normally use to defend against invading viruses.

In turn, hyper-activated TLR3 turns off genes that stem cells need to specialise into brain cells and turns on genes that trigger cell suicide.

"We all have an innate immune system that evolved specifically to fight off viruses, but here the virus turns that very same defence mechanism against us," said Tariq Rana, professor at UC San Diego.

"By activating TLR3, the Zika virus blocks genes that tell stem cells to develop into the various parts of the brain. The good news is that we have TLR3 inhibitors that can stop this from happening," said Rana.

The researchers' model closely resembled foetal brain tissue at eight to nine weeks post-conception.

When the team added a prototype Zika virus strain to the 3D brain model, the organoid shrank. Five days after the infection, healthy, mock-infected brain organoids had grown an average of 22.6 per cent.

In contrast, the Zika-infected organoids had decreased in size by an average 16 per cent.

Researchers also noticed that the TLR3 gene was activated in the Zika virus-infected organoids. TLR3 acts as an antenna, sensing double-stranded RNA specific to viruses.—PTI

Ancient coins unearthed in Everest temple

LHASA — More than 5,500 coins believed to be more than 200 years old have been unearthed during renovation work in a monastery near the base of Mount Everest in Tibet.

The round coins, weighing 26.6 kg in total and bearing floral patterns, were found by workers digging a hole in Rongpo Monastery, Dingri County, on 27 April.

Wang Kun, head of Dingri,

told Xinhua that words on the coins suggested they were from the 18th century during the rule of the Ganden Phodrang regime.

An expert on coin studies with the People's Bank of China

said documented mintage in Tibet started in 1792, when the Chinese central government's minister to Tibet oversaw the creation of the first batch of standard coins.—Xinhua

Mobile phones don't increase brain cancer risk

MELBOURNE — There is no link between increasing mobile phone use and brain cancer, claims a new study that found no rise in tumours over 30 years in Australia despite widespread use of the devices.

Researchers from University of Sydney examined the association between age and gender-spe-

cific incidence rates of 19,858 men and 14,222 women diagnosed with brain cancer in Australia between 1982-2012, and national mobile phone usage data from 1987-2012.

With extremely high proportions of the population having used mobile phones across some 20-plus years (from about 9 per cent in 1993 to about 90 per cent today),

they found that age-adjusted brain cancer incidence rates (in those aged 20-84 years, per 100,000 people) had risen only slightly in males but were stable over 30 years in females.

There were significant increases in brain cancer incidence only in those aged 70 years or more, researchers said.

But the increase in incidence in this age group began from 1982, before the introduction of mobile phones in 1987 and so could not be explained by it. The most likely explanation of the rise in this older age group was improved diagnosis, they said.

Researchers also compared the actual incidence of brain cancer over this time with the numbers of new cases of brain cancer that would be expected if the "mobile phones cause brain cancer" hypothesis was true.

The testing model assumed a ten-year lag period from mobile phone use commencement to evidence of a rise in brain cancer cases.

The model assumed that mobile phones would cause a 50 per cent increase in incidence over the background incidence of brain cancer, researchers said.

The expected number of cases in 2012 (had the phone hypothesis been true) was 1,866 cases, while the number recorded was 1,435, they said.

"Mobile phones produce non-ionising radiation which is low energy, sufficient only to 'excite' the electrons enough to make them just heat up," said Simon Chapman from University of Sydney.

The findings were published in the journal *Cancer Epidemiology*.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS



Italian riot police wait for demonstrators during a protest against a plan to restrict access through the Brenner Pass between Italy and Austria, in Brenner, Italy, on 7 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Italian police, demonstrators clash in protest against Austrian fence

BRENNER — A demonstration against a plan to restrict access through the Brenner Pass between Italy and Austria turned violent on Saturday, with Italian police firing teargas at hundreds of protesters throwing stones and firecrackers.

Austria has said it plans to erect a fence at the Alpine crossing it shares with Italy to “channel” people. Part of Europe’s borderless Schengen zone, Brenner is one of the routes that migrants use as they head towards wealthy northern Europe.

Two police officers were injured in the clashes, the head of a local Italian police union, Fulvio Coslovi, told Reuters. He said around 10 demonstrators were being held by police.

Local police in Tyrol, Austria said over 600 protesters showed up to the third violent demonstration at the Brenner Pass in just over a month, meeting at the Brenner station in Italy.

TV footage showed clouds of smoke filling the Brenner railway station as groups of protesters, their faces masked against the fumes, hurled stones and smoke bombs as they faced off against lines of police in riot gear. Estimates on the number of demonstrators varied between 250 and 600.

Around 300 Austrian police officers were deployed but had not yet had to intervene, a spokesman said, since the protest had taken place exclusively on the Italian side of the border so far.

Italian newspaper *Corriera della Sera* reported earlier this week that the protest had been organised by an anarchist group from Trentino, northern Italy, and was expected to attract demonstrators from abroad. Austrian Interior Minister Wolfgang Sobotka said in Rome last month that as many as a million migrants were poised to cross the Mediterranean from Libya this year. Italy says the figure is much lower, though calm summer seas may well bring a surge. Italy and Germany are utterly opposed to Austria’s plan to build a fence at its border with Italy, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said on Thursday after talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.—Reuters

Far-right demonstrators march against Merkel in Berlin

BERLIN — Almost 2,000 far-right protesters marched through Berlin on Saturday to demand that Chancellor Angela Merkel step down for allowing more than a million migrants from the Middle East into Germany since last year.

Under the motto ‘Merkel must go’, demonstrators gathered outside Berlin’s central train station waving German flags and holding up posters reading “Islamists not welcome” and “Wir sind das Volk” (“We are the People”), a slogan coined by the protesters who ended communist rule in East Germany, adopted last year by the anti-Islam Pegida movement.

The rally drew around 1,800 participants, police said, less than half the number organisers had expected, and the protesters were outnumbered by around

7,500 left-wing counter-demonstrators who also marched through the capital.

A spokesman for the police said there had been scuffles when several left-wing demonstrators tried to break through barriers separating the two groups, and threw bottles at police.

Police used tear gas and made several arrests, the spokesman said, adding that the situation had quickly been brought under control.

While many Germans have welcomed the new arrivals, others say the country cannot cope with integrating them and risks losing its identity. Support for the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany party has risen sharply, while arson attacks on refugee centres and sometimes violent protests have become increasingly common.—Reuters



Right-wing protestors demonstrate against refugees, Islam and German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin, Germany, on 7 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

‘One Belt One Road’ seminar held in Afghan capital

KABUL — “One Belt One Road” seminar, jointly organised by Afghan foreign ministry and Chinese Embassy in Afghanistan, kicked off here on Sunday, discussing the opportunity of boosting connectivity and development along the ancient trade route.

Afghan deputy foreign minister Hekmat Karzai stressed that Afghanistan is a strategic hub along this ancient road as it connects the trade and investment through the east and west civilizations.

He said implementing “One Belt One Road” initiative in Afghanistan requires the innovative cooperation and strengthens communication of policies, transportation, trade, currencies and public investment.

The deputy foreign minister

reiterated that implementing the initiative could also help reduce the conflict in the region and promote peace and prosperity in Afghanistan.

Addressing the seminar, Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan Yao Jing said the belt and road initiative aims at integrating China and participating countries’ development strategies, facilitating trade and investment, boosting growth and bringing peoples and countries closer.

He reiterated that China would like to cooperate with Afghanistan on the implementation of the belt and road in various fields, including policy coordination, facilities connectivity, trade, financial integration and people-to-people exchanges.—Xinhua

Canada fire rages for seventh day, evacuees brace for long wait

GREGOIRE LAKE (Alberta) — A wildfire ripping through Canada’s oil sands region blazed for a seventh day on Sunday as officials warned almost 100,000 people who fled the area that they would not be returning home soon.

The fire, which started at 6 pm eastern (2200 GMT) last Sunday near the town of Fort McMurray in northern Alberta, spread so quickly that the town’s 88,000 inhabitants barely had time to leave. Large parts of the town no longer exist. Officials said that, even though the fire had largely pushed through Fort McMurray and was heading quickly northeast through dry boreal forests, the town was still too dangerous to enter.

“Within the community itself I expect over the next coming month or two that they’re going to be able to get a very good handle on the fire situation,” Alberta wildfire pre-

vention chief Chad Morrison told reporters on Saturday.

Thousands of evacuees are camped out in nearby towns but stand little chance of returning soon. Provincial officials said displaced people would be better off driving to cities like Calgary, 655 km (410 miles) to the south, where health and social services are better. Some residents are complaining about the lack of news from the town, fire chief Darby Allen said in a video posted online late on Saturday.

“We know from all the calls that you’re getting frustrated because you don’t have any information on your homes. We’re really working hard on that, it’s a complicated process,” he said. The inferno looks set to become the costliest natural disaster in Canada’s history. One analyst estimated insurance losses could exceed C\$9

billion (\$7 billion).

Fort McMurray is the centre of Canada’s oil sands region. About half of the crude output from the sands, or one million barrels per day (bpd), had been taken offline as of Friday, according to a Reuters estimate. An Alberta government statement issued on Saturday night said the fire had consumed 200,000 hectares (494,000 acres) — an area the size of Mexico City — and would continue to grow.

More than 500 firefighters are in and around Fort McMurray, along with 15 helicopters, 14 air tankers and 88 other pieces of equipment, officials said.

The strain was so intense that fire crews would be rotated more quickly than usual, Morrison said. One exhausted fireman told CBC television that members of his team were working up to 40 hours without sleep.—Reuters

Bollywood stars express gratitude to moms on Mother's Day

MUMBAI — Remembering their moms' selfless and unconditional love for them, B-town stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Alia Bhatt and Preity Zinta today wished all their fans Happy Mother's Day.

Bachchan wrote on Twitter that no success in Bollywood would have been possible had it not been for his late mother. "Mother's Day: 1 year of PIKU: 28 years of KHUDA GAWAH: but without Ma nothing of this would have happened!"

"Mommy Twitter doesn't have enough space for my words. I'll keep it simple. THANK YOU! @Soni_Razdan #happymothersday Happy #mothersday mummy-pooooo!!!" wrote Alia.

Her mother Soni Razdan wrote, "My 87 year young mother won't read Twitter so I will wish her in person. But for all who will read Happy Mothers Day."

Sharing two pictures of herself with her mother and mother-in-law, Genelia Deshmukh posted, Happy Mothers Day Mamma n Aai ... Thank u for being the best examples to follow... I love, wor-

ship, respect you'll the most."

Sidharth Malhotra posted a picture of himself with his mother and captioned it writing, "Men are what their mothers made them."-Ralph Waldo Emerson thank you Mom! #HappyMothersDay."

"Everyday is Mother's Day still today is special cuz I get to spend time with mom in Shimla," tweeted Preity.

Dia Mirza wrote an emotional post dedicated to her mother.

"Happy Mother's Day Mamma! I am because you are. Thank you for being my guiding light and thank you for every time you have scolded me hard."

"No one in this world can make me see sense and no one can make me REALISE things as powerfully as you can."

"Our roles may have reversed, but that does not mean that while I love playing mommy to you that I can ever do without you being my mamma."

"And you always seem to know when you need to be mamma again #MothersDay," the actress-producer tweeted. —PTI

Victoria Beckham won't do any more magazine cover shoots

LONDON — Singer-turned-fashion designer Victoria Beckham thinks she is too old to be on the front page of magazines.

Beckham, 42, however, says she made this claim earlier too but failed to adhere to it, reported Female First.

"When I hear another Vogue cover has come up, I always say, 'This is the last one, because I'm a bit of an old bag now. Surely this is the last one?' I'm 42, I've got four kids'. —PTI



Victoria Beckham. PHOTO: REUTERS

Stevie Wonder pays tribute to Prince at memorial concert



Singer Stevie Wonder. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Singer Stevie Wonder paid tribute to legendary musician friend Prince at a memorial concert in Los Angeles.

A memorial service was held for the late Prince on Friday night 6 May, where Wonder made a surprise appearance, reported Fe-

male First. The "I Just Called to Say I Love You" hitmaker was joined by Faith Hill, Eric Benet, Aloe Blacc and Deitrick Haddon as they performed for thousands of fans, all adorned in purple in honour of the fallen star, at the City Hall in California as a token

of remembrance for the 'Purple Rain' hitmaker.

The 65-year-old singer closed with show with his very own version of Prince's 1984 hit before telling the emotional concert-goers, "In the spirit of Prince, we gotta love one another. And we can't just talk about it, we gotta be about it."

Fans had tears rolling down their faces as Eric belted out the lyrics to Prince's "Wanna Be Your Lover" before teaming up with Deirick to sing 'Raspberry Beret'.

Although the three-hour long concert was mainly a celebration of Prince's life, the event did take an emotional turn when a flock of doves were released during a performance of "When Doves Cry" towards the end.

Prince passed away at the age of 57 on 21 April at his home in Minneapolis.—PTI

Didn't want celebrity friends on my tour: Selena Gomez

LOS ANGELES — Singer Selena Gomez says she did not want her celebrity friends to join on her "Revival" tour because she wants to be known for her solo music career rather than her association with them.

The 23-year-old songstress rejected the idea of being accompanied by her friends Cara Delevingne, Hailee Steinfeld, Gigi Hadid and the 'Bad Blood' hitmaker on stage, because she doesn't want her association with celebrity pals to detract from her as a musician, reported Entertainment Weekly.

Gomez spoke about Swift's "The 1989 Tour", which saw her and Lisa Kudrow emerge on stage during her LA performance for a duet.

"I made a joke about this [getting her friends to join her on tour], Taylor was in the room,

and she looked at me like, 'You should totally do that!' I was like, 'I can't have all those people come on my stage!' She's like, 'Why not?' 'Because I'm not Taylor Swift!'" she said.

"I've worked for my whole career, and I've always wanted it to be about that. I've been in so many situations where it's like, 'Oh, you're friends with this person? You're with that person?' All this credibility thing that drives me crazy.

The "Hands To Myself" hitmaker, however, said she does enjoy collaborating with other artists, although her solo career is her main priority for now.

"I love being able to work with other artists I admire."

"But I have a lot to do on my own before I am willing to make it all about embracing other people."—PTI



Selena Gomez. PHOTO: REUTERS

Doing 'Captain American' best decision of my life: Chris Evans

LONDON — Actor Chris Evans says though he was apprehensive while signing Marvel's "Captain America" franchise, it later turned out the best decision of his life.

The 34-year-old actor, who has reprised his superhero role in "Captain America:

Civil War", said starring in the Marvel Comic sequels has been the most life changing experience, reported Female First.

"When I first got the offer to be a part of this franchise, the thought of a multi-picture contract that could last eight

years of my life was stressful and scary. But doing these movies was the best decision of my life.

"The directors, the Russo brothers, have a way of making it feel extremely relatable and real amid flashes of superhero fanfare.—PTI

Daw Khin Yi (Danubyu)
Age 95 years
Sanchaung

Beloved wife of (U Kyaw Khin), Mother of U Soe Win (Myanma Railways) + Dr Khin Myo Myint (Myanma Railways), U Ye Myint + Daw Nwe Nwe Han, (U Zaw Win) + Daw Khin Myo Win (MRTV), Daw Khin San Aye (Brilliant Sun), Daw Khin Myo Thwe (Myo Nyunt Diamond), Daw Khin Nan Nwe (Bogyoke Market), Daw Thet Maw Htwe, grandmother of U Kyaw Zeya + Dr Phyu Pyar Soe (N.U.H), Dr Muiyar Soe (N.U.H), U Kyaw Lin Soe + Daw Chaw Chaw Su, Dr Thandar Soe (U.K), U Thuya Kyaw + Daw Barani Aung, Daw Nguwah Kyaw, Captain Myo Thiha Zaw (Thayet), Dr Su Yee Myo Zaw, Captain Su Yee Phyo Zaw (Myitkyina), Dr Su Yee Moe Zaw (Y.G.H), great grandmother of May Myat Noe Kyaw, Thet Htar Oo expired at 7:30 AM on 8-5-2016 and cremated at Yayway Cemetery on the same day.

One winning ticket sold in \$429 million Powerball lottery

LOS ANGELES — One winning ticket matched the numbers drawn on Saturday night for the multi-state Powerball jackpot for a payout estimated at \$429.6 million, the ninth-highest US lottery prize in history, officials said. The winning numbers selected just before 11 pm EDT were 25 66 44 5 26 with the Powerball 9. Lottery officials said one ticket, purchased in New Jersey, had the winning combination, according to media reports. The winner was not identified. Winners of huge lottery payouts sometimes do not come forward publicly for months.

It was the largest jackpot for any US lottery since January, when three Powerball tickets split a record \$1.6 billion.

The odds of winning at Powerball are one in 292 million. Statistics experts say that means an American is roughly 25 times more likely to become the next president of the United States than to win the game.

Kelly Cripe, a Texas-based lottery spokeswoman, said Saturday's Powerball followed 17 consecutive draws without a winner. A spate of late ticket-buying on Saturday increased the jackpot by some \$15 million, to an estimated \$429.6 million. Powerball is played in 44 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.—Reuters



The winning Powerball numbers are shown after being drawn at the Florida Lottery studio in Tallahassee, Florida on 13 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LED-lit pigeons illuminate New York skies in art exhibit



LED lights attached to pigeons leave light trails in the sky while they fly as part of the 'Fly By Night' art installation by Duke Riley above the Brooklyn borough of New York, US, on 5 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Thousands of pigeons with tiny LED lights strapped to their legs swooped through the darkening skies in a jaw-dropping display of beauty, but savvy New Yorkers gazing up at the performance art knew enough to keep their mouths shut.

As evening fell over the Brooklyn Navy Yard, once home to the nation's largest naval fleet of carrier pigeons, artist Duke Riley opened an enormous coop and released the homing pigeons of his "Fly by Night" project.

At the call of his whistle, the massive flock took off and circled for 30 minutes late Thursday over the deck of their temporary home on a decommissioned US Navy ship, following a bamboo pole waved in the air by Riley.

What resembled airborne embers swirling from a campfire were actually LED lights in the birds' leg bands, which historically were used to carry messages.

"It is a collaborative project between me and the pigeons," Riley said. "It's a performance or maybe it's just a drawing that they are doing in the sky."

The show will be repeated every weekend evening from 7 May through 12 June.

Riley's flock includes a variety of specially trained pigeons, some of which are his own, while others were purchased or borrowed from pigeon fanciers. After the project ends, Riley will keep many of them as his pets.

"Fly by Night," which was presented by the non-profit organisation Creative Time, comes three years after Riley's 2013 performance piece "Trading With the Enemy," in which trained pigeons carried cigars from Havana to Key West, Florida, to protest the US embargo of Cuba and challenge American spying capabilities since the birds evade surveillance equipment.

The New York City project pays homage to pigeon keeping, whether for sport, service or companionship. Once a popular pastime on city tenement rooftops, the hobby has dropped off amid escalating real estate prices.

While dubbed by some New Yorkers as "rats with wings," pigeons have been revered for thousands of years, dating back to the ancient Christians of Cappadocia in Turkey, who valued the birds for their excrement, a rich fertilizer.

Pigeon droppings were also at the top of the minds of wary art lovers on Thursday, as 2,000 birds flew overhead, threatening to anoint onlookers with what some superstitions define as good luck.

"It was not a concern of mine at all because most animals, including humans, usually don't like to defecate while they are exercising," Riley said. Evidence on a reporter's purse, however, proved otherwise.—Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(9- 5-2016, Monday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- Music Programme

6:20 pm

- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

8:40 pm

- Music Programme

9:00 pm

- National Literary Icon & Guiding Light of Myanmar

Literature: Sayar Zaw Gyi (Episode- 3) National Literary Icon in His Old Age

9:30 pm

- International Movie Songs

9:40 pm

- Music Programme

10:00 pm

- Myanmar Video

From 9-5-2016 (Monday) 6:00 Pm
To 10-5-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm



(9-5-2016 07:00am ~ 10-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	The Rising Glory of Myanmar Arts
07:54	Am	Human Right Human Dignity "International Film Festival"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Stories of The Great Souls (U Pyae Son)
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Travelogue: A Tour to Korea (Part-1)
09:43	Am	Myanmar Weaving
09:55	Am	Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Traditional Thatch Roof - Thet Nge

10:40	Am	Young Talent "Animator Swan Thura Htun"
10:46	Am	Village Belle

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-5) (Part-1)
07:45	Pm	"Moe Hnyin Than Buddha", The Unique Pagoda In Monywa
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste of Myanmar (Fried Flat Noodle)
08:48	Pm	Kayin Child Boxer

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

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

Champions Leicester and struggling Sunderland party



Jamie Vardy lifts the trophy as he celebrates and Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri lifts the trophy with Kasper Schmeichel, Christian Fuchs and Riyad Mahrez as they celebrate winning the Barclays Premier League during Barclays Premier League at King Power Stadium on 7 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Leicester City celebrated their gloriously unlikely Premier League triumph in a fitting manner with a 3-1 victory over Everton in front of their overjoyed, partying fans at the King Power Stadium on Saturday.

Jamie Vardy, with a double, and Andy King scored the goals that left the home supporters in raptures even before they could savour the almost unthinkable sight of captain Wes Morgan and manager Claudio Ranieri lifting the trophy after the final whistle.

There were more celebrations at the Stadium of Light where Jermain Defoe was again

the toast of Sunderland after his winner in a 3-2 victory over Chelsea lifted them out of the relegation zone, leaving Newcastle United and Norwich City on the verge of the drop.

Defoe scored his 15th league goal of the season to lead a stunning comeback victory against Chelsea who had captain John Terry sent off in added time for a second bookable offence.

With Norwich losing 1-0 at home to Manchester United and Newcastle only able to draw 0-0 at doomed Aston Villa, the victory means Sunderland, with two games remaining, will be safe if

they beat Everton on Wednesday.

Rafa Benitez's Newcastle, a point behind north-east neighbours Sunderland in 18th place having played a game more, would then be relegated along with Norwich who are second from bottom.

After the nerve-shredding drama at the other end of the table, Leicester were able to relax in the day's late game and revel in the triumph that has been making headlines all over the world.

Free pizzas and beer for the fans and a stirring rendition of Nessun Dorma by Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli in a Leicester

shirt was the order of a surreal day before the Foxes showed no ill-effects from their week's heady celebrations since being crowned champions on Monday.

The "Jamie Vardy's having a party" chant was belted out by the supporters as the England striker took his season's goal tally in the league to 24.

The only false note came when the forward blasted his second penalty of the day high over the bar in the 72nd minute with Leicester already cruising at 3-0.

It seemed perfect that the goals should arrive from Vardy, whose amazing rise from mi-

nor-league obscurity reflects City's own soaring journey, and King who has been a club stalwart through the thinnest of times.

Leicester's victory gave them a 10-point lead at the top of the table with the champions having one game to go, at Ranieri's former club Chelsea next weekend.

United's win at Norwich, courtesy of Juan Mata's fifth goal against the Canaries, left them in fifth place, one point behind neighbours Manchester City who occupy the fourth Champions League qualification spot and face fellow contenders Arsenal on Sunday.—Reuters

Thompson clocks sizzling 10.71 seconds in Kingston wind

KINGSTON — Elaine Thompson clocked a sizzling wind-assisted 10.71 seconds to win the 100 metres at the Jamaica International on Saturday, sending out a warning to her sprint rivals ahead of August's Rio Olympics.

The Jamaican got off to a blistering start with English Gardner before pulling away from her rival in the last 40 metres to win by 14 hundredths of a seconds.

American Gardner was sec-

ond in 10.85 with the fast-finishing Michelle-Lee Ahye of Trinidad and Tobago third in 10.98, both also aided by an illegal wind of +2.4 metres per seconds.

Thompson, who last summer logged 21.66 — the fifth fastest 200m of all time — to take silver at the Beijing world championships, told Reuters things were coming together nicely for what she hoped would be a twin sprint assault in Rio.

"It's a stepping stone, so I'm taking it one step at a time. Each

race that I run I'll see what I can correct with my coach and see what I have to do next," Thompson said. "I've been training really hard this year so I just went out there to execute and that's what I did and I came out victorious."

Thompson, third in the 60m at the world indoors in March, would have become the second fastest Jamaican woman behind reigning Olympic and world champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (10.70) had it not been for

the wind. "My start isn't the best, but I'm working on it and I've been getting better," the 23-year-old said.

There was also local success in the men's blue riband sprint when Kemar Bailey-Cole, who withdrew from last year's world championships with a hamstring injury, recovered from a poor start to edge American Mike Rodgers by two hundredths of a second in 10.01.

His compatriot Julian Forte, who faded in the last 20 metres,

was third in 10.06, while American former world champion Tyson Gay finished fifth in 10.08.

The wind also robbed American Brianna Rollins, the 2013 world champion, of the year's second fastest time in the 100m hurdles, as her 12.52 was aided by a trailing wind of +2.9 m/s.

World 400m silver medallist Shaunae Miller of the Bahamas ran a world leading 22.14 in the 200m but again the mark will not stand because of the +2.5 m/s wind.—Reuters