THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

■ NATIONAL
People protest against Koh Tao death sentences
▶ PAGE 3

■ NATIONAL
Four masked men attack civilian
▶ PAGE 3

■ NATIONAL
1 billion kyat jackpot of Myanmar state lottery attracts people's interest
▶ PAGE 3

■ NATIONAL
Transboundary Environmental Security in the Mekong River
▶ PAGE 8

Vol. III, No. 323, 8th Waxing of Taboung 1378 ME www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com Sunday, 5 March 2017

Tourists look at the photo entitled "Mogok Shan girl" at Yangon Photo Festival. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Yangon Photo Festival commences in downtown Yangon

YANGON Photo Festival kicked off yesterday at the Maha Bandoola Park in downtown Yangon for the first time, exhibiting a selection of the event's best photographs.

The exhibition also displays breathtaking portraits of Myanmar in the 1920s on March 4 and 5.

The exhibition includes three exhibitions celebrating Myanmar's diversity, including "Frontiers Photographs (1918-1935)" by James Henry Green, a series of photographs by Bellay Studio taken in 1979 and a series of portraits from the 1990s, taken by Günter Pfannmüller and Wilhelm Klein.

The World Press Photo Exhibition will also take place at Maha Bandoola Park and will include screenings from celebrated photographers Steve McCurry and Hans Silvester.

The Yangon Photo Festival was founded in the aftermath of the 2007 anti-government uprising known as the Saffron Revolution.

About 80 professional photographers from Myanmar and abroad participate in the festival.—*Phoe Khwar*

Malaysia's aid continuously supplied to Maungtaw's villages

LOCAL authorities delivered aid from Malaysia to the villages – Nwaryonetaung, Phasa, Sapaegone, Donepipe, Watkyain, Thetkyaingnya, Yaynautngathar, Tamanthar and Khamaukseik town in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

The aid included food, drinking water and utensils.

Stability is very important for regional development and can be achieved only if the local residents cooperated. "It is necessary to follow the instructions issued by the responsible persons", said U Ye Htut, Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner who explained the reason for providing assistance from UN and UNHCR, the list of assistances and delivery programs to the villages.

The relief assistance donated by Malaysia to the villages were 6000 bags of rice, 1846 noddle packets, 975 packs of drinking water, 100 packs of tooth paste, 36 packs of tooth brush, 94 packs of towels, 35 packs of balm, 562 packs of detergents, 22 packets of soap, 8 packs of combs, 139 packets of women's sanitary towels, 50 packets of shaving sticks, 9 packets of nail clippers and 50 packets of slippers.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Local authorities provide aid from Malaysia to the villagers in Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State. Photo: MNA

KIA/TNLA combined forces attack military outposts

ABOUT 70 members of a combined force from the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and Ta'ang National Liberation Army attacked the Panlot outpost in Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State where the Tatmadaw column, in cooperation with local people's militia, is stationed to provide security measures for Lashio-Muse Union Highway at 4:40 am yesterday.

Meanwhile, another group of government troops which provides security for the locals in Kutkai Township and nearby areas joined with the ambushed Tatmadaw column and exchanged fire. The KIA and TNLA combined force withdrew from the skirmish due to the coordinated counter-attack of the Tatmadaw columns.

Similarly, around 15 members consisting of KIA and TNLA ambushed the Yinkwetaung outpost and the Namtkhaing Bridge Checkpoint where the government forces are deployed for security, using heavy and light weapons. During the attack, some service personnel and people's militia members sacrificed their lives for the country and weapons and related items were taken away by armed assailants. Mortar shell fired by KIA/TNLA combined force hit the hut and seriously injured three innocent workers from the Oriental Highway Co Ltd.

The Tatmadaw columns are conducting area clearance operations in the region as KIA/TNLA's attacks on the Union Highway and military outposts can be harmful to peace, stability and the peace process.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Moderate quake hits northwestern Myanmar

A moderate earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale hit the northwestern part of Myanmar yesterday morning, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

With an epicenter 45 kilometers northwest of Homalin Township, Sagaing Region and near Myanmar-India border, the quake jolted at 8:41 a.m. local time (0211 GMT). No loss of life or property has been reported so far.— *GNLM*

Second day of the Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee's 47- member meeting in progress. PHOTO: MNA

Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds meeting

THE Second day of the 13th 47-member meeting of the Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was held yesterday at Wizaya Mingalar Dhamathabin in Thirimingalar Kabaraye Hill.

The meeting was chaired by Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Gunikabhivamsa acted as the master of the ceremonies.

Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, responsible persons from the Department of Religious Affairs and Region and State religious officers were also present at the meeting.

During the meeting, the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee members discussed on Vinnisara, religious affairs, educational matters being carried out by the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

The State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee made clarification regarding the discussed matters and the report on measures taken by the committee during its fifth term period and then the joint secretary Sayadaw got the approval for the report.

The meeting came to an end in the afternoon.

The member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee were offered lunch by Sayadaw Sadhama Jawtikadhama Bhaddanta Marnita and donors. —*MNA*

Dohtawaddy (Shwesayan) Bridge almost finished

ACCORDING to the source from Bridge Department, Ministry of Construction, construction of Dohtamaddy (Shwesayan) bridge which is on the district interconnection road between Kyaukse and Pyin Oo Lwin on Dohtawaddy river is completed by 90 percent.

The project to build the bridge across Dohtawaddy River in Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region, has started since last June. The department is putting forth concerted effort to reach the target at the end of this month.

The Mandalay Region government allotted Ks2.112 billion budgets to the project. The new RC concrete bridge will be 660 feet long and 30 feet wide.

The new facility will shorten the travelling distance about 40 miles and it also facilitates the trade between the two towns. People of Kyaukse and PyinOo Lwin can travel more conveniently by using this bridge.

U Ye Hsint, one of residents from Shwesayan Village near the project, said travelers face incoveninece to return home at night because of lack of bridge across the river.—*Min HtetAung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

A new concrete road bridge over Dohtawaddy River is under construction . PHOTO: MMAL

Mango growers likely to gain more profits due to appreciation of Chinese Yuan

LOCAL exporters estimate that mango growers are likely to receive a healthy profit from the export of their products to China this season as Chinese currency is rising in value.

Thanks to a good weather condition, several mango plantations in the country produce a large tonnes of fruits this harvest season, said a member of the Myanmar Mango Growers and Exporters Association. Marketable Myanmar mango, including Shwehintha, Seintalone (diamond solitaire mango) and Aungdin, mostly goes to neighbouring China especially through border trade. The local market sees buyers wishing to purchase a planation of mango at Ks4.7 million, an increase of Ks700,000 compared with last season, said U Nay Lynn Maung Maung, member of the MMGEA. Local growers got 170 Chinese yuans per mango package weighing 15 kilos, estimating that the value of export mango will increase this season between April and July.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

Crime NEWS

Over K1,800 million worth goods sold without paying customs duties seized

Photo shows custom duties unpaid items worth over Ks 1,800 million seized by Customs Department. PHOTO: THE MIRROR

CUSTOMS Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance seized custom duties unpaid items worth over Ks 1,800 million in February, according to the Customs Department.

The customs department searching the export/ import products at Yangon international airport, airport store, harbor and all customs areas seized the goods worth Ks 1876.60 million in February.

The customs department seized items worth Ks 466.594 million from Yangon harbor in four cases, items worth Ks 544.535 million from Mandalay region customs department office in 20 cases, items worth Ks 604.363 million from Yaypu checkpoint in 28 cases, items worth Ks 67.86 million from Mayang Chaung checkpoint in two cases, items worth Ks 76.9 million from Muse township customs department office in 26 cases, items worth Ks 42.750 million from Mawlamyine township customs department in three cases, items Ks 44.950 million from Bago township customs department office in four cases, items Ks 5.536 million from Myitkyina township customs office in four cases, items Ks 13.432 million from Bamauk township customs offices in three cases, items Ks 2.68 million from Kyaikdon township customs offices in one case, items Ks 1.2 million from Tachilek township customs office in one case and items Ks 5.8 million from Dawei township customs office in two cases.

Those seized items are jades, passenger vehicles, food and personal goods without any legal documents. —*The Mirror*

Heroin blocks, amphetamine pills seized in Lahio and Muse

AMPHETAMINE pills and opium blocks were seized in Lahio and Muse in Northern Shan State yesterday.

A local anti-drug squad in Lashio stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Aitekyar on the Lashio-Muse highway road near Yaypusan intersection, Ward 12, Lahio Township and seized 44 cans of heroin weighing 484 gram and 10,000 amphetamine pills respectively.

Similarly, on the same day, the police squad in Muse also discovered one opium block weighing 250 gram and 9,750 amphetamine pills on a vehicle driven by Kyauk Kyarpauk on the way from Hona Ward to Taung Ward in Muse.

These two men will face charges under the Anti- Narcotics Act. — *Myanmar Police Force*

Aite Kyar is seen together with opium blocks and amphetamine pills. PHOTO: MPF

People protest against Koh Tao death sentences

People protest against the decision by a Thai court's death sentence for the two workers.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

A group of people including Buddhist monks took to the street yesterday in downtown Yangon protesting against the recent decision by a Thai court that upheld death sentences for two Myanmar nationals.

Holding placards and banner, the protestors gathered at the downtown Yangon and demanded the Thai government to release the two Myanmar nationals.

The move comes two day after a special investigative team formed by the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand is planning to appeal the recent decision by a Thai court that upheld death sentences for two Myanmar nationals.

"Depending on instructions from authorities in Myanmar, we will make an appeal to the High Court of Thailand," said U Aung Myo Thant, a legal adviser from the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand, following the recent announcement from the presiding Thai court.

"Thailand's law allows us to make an appeal within a month. But we can request a one-month extension at least five times if our complaint is reasonable," he said.

A Thai appeals court upheld the death sentences for two Myanmar migrant workers convicted of the murder of two British backpackers on a vacation island in 2014, their lawyer said on Wednesday.

The bodies of backpackers Hannah Witheridge and David Miller were found on a beach on Koh Tao island in September 2014. Police said Witheridge, 23, had been raped and bludgeoned to death and Miller, 24, had suffered blows to his head. Thailand sentenced Myanmar migrant workers Zaw Lin and Win Zaw Htun to death after convicting them of the crime on 24 December 2015.—*Phoe Khwar*

1 billion kyat jackpot of Myanmar state lottery attracts people's interest

Mobile lottery shops attract people following the government begins to selling 1 billion kyat jackpot. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

THE Internal Revenue Department of Myanmar began selling tickets to state lottery of 1 billion kyat(about 736,919 US dollars) jackpot, which has attracted people' interest in the state lottery, according to market survey Saturday.

Not only the jackpot prize jumped from current one of 150 million kyat to 1 billion kyat but also the per ticket value jumped from 200 kyat to 500 kyat.

A lottery ticket sale-person said that 99 per cent of the customers were interested in 500 kyat ticket.

The Internal Revenue Department is planning to issue and sell more tickets till March 24 to meet the demand. The 40 per cent of the earning will go to government tax, said Daw Khin Myint Oo, assistant director of the department, told Xinhua.

The second prize of 500 kyat ticket will worth K500 million, while that of the third prize is 100 million kyat. Other prizes are in 10 million kyat, 5 million kyat and 1 million kyat.

U Myint Swe, a resident in Yangon, said that he did not have interest in the state lottery before the issuing of 500 kyat ticket as the prior prize was not enough to improve his life, comparing the living cost nowadays.

The government has expected to collect 30,000 million kyats tax from state lottery in this fiscal year 2016-2017.—*Xinhua*

Four masked men attack civilian

FOUR unidentified men wearing masks attacked a villager in Kutkai Township yesterday and the man is receiving treatment at a local hospital for injuries he sustained in the attack.

The four men arrived at the home of U Shi Chan Yi, 39, of Hoponsusi Village in Kutkai Township by motorbike around mid-night on 3 March. While U Shi Chan Yi froze with terror, a strange man hit his forehead with a pistol that they brought.

U Shi Chan Yi was wounded on his right hand and right theigh as one of the unidentified man shot at him when he ran away.

He was taken to the hospital, but not critical, according to local authorities.

Police are on hot pursuit of the attackers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Loikaw supplied 100 tonnes of maize daily to Muse market

ABOUT 100 tonnes of maize were daily sent to Muse market from Loikaw, Kayah State, from 17th to 22nd Feb, with a total of 599 tones of maize within a week, according to the sources of the Commerce Ministry.

The maize from Loikaw flows into Muse market through Mandalay-Muse Union Highway. Additionally, the maize produced from Linphonlay village, Loikaw are not added into the list. Including Linphonlay's produce adds over 150 tonnes of maize daily into the Muse market.

But the growers do not reap healthy profits, it is learnt.

The number of maize plantations is on the rise year by year. China is the main export market, but the market cooled due to confiscations on China's side at the end of 2016. The export of maize contributes to the agricultural products export, which fetched US$2.43 billion from 1st April to 17th Feb this fiscal year 2016-2017, which is up by about US$266 million compared to the same period last year, according to the statistics released by the Commerce Ministry. —*Mon Mon*

Japanese entrepreneurs to visit Myanmar for business meeting

JAPANESE entrepreneurs will visit Myanmar for a business meeting to be held on 6 March in Yangon, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Local owners of small-and medium-sized businesses have been invited to attend the half-day meeting that will help create new business links with Japanese businesspersons.

Twenty entrepreneurs from Japan side will assist Mr Noriyuki Yonemura, the director-general of the Japan-Myanmar Economy & Investment Center, as well as those manufacturing businesses covering EMS/transformer switching, inorganic chemical products, titanium dioxide pigments, high-quality metallic colourants, sealing products, lining equipment, and charter/warehouse service.

Those interested may get a registration form at https://goo.gl/aaiwRw and send it to the UMFCCI's international affairs department to confirm their participation.—*Shwe Khine*

Property prices skyrocket due to MraukU Myothit Project

HOUSE and land near the MraukU Myothit Project areas are selling well despite skyrocketing prices after the announcement of the development plan in the northern part of the town, residents say.

"The property prices around the project areas are significantly up. The prices of house and land in good places, especially structures and lands located beside the road, have increased to more than Ks30 million from Ks10 million because of the high demand," said U Kyaw Than Maung, one of the residents from Htanmarit Ward.

U Aung Thaung Tun from Oakphokan Village said property prices in the village were around Ks3 million, the most in the past three or four years. Houses and farmland in the area are currently being sold for over Ks10 million.

Businessmen are eyeing land in Htanmarit Ward because of its strategic location. The ward is situated near MraukU highway bus station, the general hospital and government office buildings.

The state government will implement the project on 2,700 acres of land.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

LOCAL Business

New Pathein Industrial City project to finalise next year

PATHEIN Industrial City project being developed in Ayeyawady Delta is planned to be finalised by 2018, according to Ayeyawady Development Public Co (ADC).

The Ayeyawady Development Public Co., Ltd. signed memorandum of understanding with Singapore-based Bok Seng Logistics Co., Ltd. which has about 40 years' experience in the logistics industry, to implement transport infrastructure that plays a crucial role in carrying out import and export businesses.

Mr Henry Ng, chairman of Bok Seng Logistics, pledged to share technology solutions for transportation and logistics sector.

The project implementer sets to spend approximately US$100 million for the new development scheme which has currently been established in designated place between Pathein and Kangyidaung townships.

Scale model of New Pathein Industrial City Project being implemented in Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

"Operational stage of the factories in the new industrial city after the completion of the project in 2018 will come up with more job opportunities for local resident of the region, said U Nay Nay Hlwan Moe, vice-chairman of the ADC.

The Pathein Industrial City Project aims to improve livelihood of the area's residents by attracting manufacturing companies to the region, to enhance the living standards of the local people and to enable investors to expand their manufacturing capacity in a new zone with ample labor supply.

Businesspersons from Taiwan, the U.S China and Thailand have been invited to invest in the new industrial port city.

The project will cover 2,200 acres of land in total. A new port which can handle cargo ship weighing 10,000 tonnes, two creek bridges, a waste water treatment plant, retaining walls and a power plant will be established within the project area under the new scheme. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar earns $0.641m from external trade through Maungtaw last month

MYANMAR exported more than US$600,000 worth goods to neighboring Bangladesh via Maungtaw border trade camp last month, according to an officer from the trade station.

The country predominantly exported a wide variety of dried fishes in February due to a high demand from Bangladesh, earning over $500,000 only from dried fish export and $30,000 from salt water shrimp export.

Currently, the trade between Myanmar and its neighbour is in a normal condition.

Myanmar normally exports dried fishes, salt water shrimps, packages of candy,dried plums and bamboos to Bangladesh, one of the world's most densely populated countries.

Export trade between Maungtaw border trade camp and Bangladesh side reached more than $870,000 in January.

The country is trading with its neighbor mainly through Sittway and Maungtaw border trade centers.

According to statistics of the Ministry of Commerce, total value of cross-border trade at Maungtaw hit US$8.5 million in the 2011-12 fiscalyear, $5.9 millionin FY2012-13, and over $2 million in FY2013-14.

The bilateral trade in FY2014-15 rebounded to $7.774 million.

The figure for FY2015-16 was $5.435 million. Between April and mid-February of this FY, the border trade reached $5.058million, including $0.027 million from the import sector.—*KhineKhant*

Trade value decreases despite increase in import value of re-exported sugar

ALTHOUGH the trade value of sugar imported through Myawady border trade camp has decreased, the sugar re-export to china has increased, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Sugar is mainly imported from Thailand through Myawady border trade camp, and Myanmar reexported them to China for a long time ago. Myanmar imported 5,548 tonnes of re-export sugar in the first week of February and imported 5,197 tonnes of re-export sugar worth US$ 2.858 million in the second week. The volume of the imported re-export sugar has decreased by 351 tonnes.

Myanmar exported 52,897 tonnes of re-export sugar worth US$ 32.239 million to China via the 105th Mile Muse border gate between 4 and 10 February.

Although the trade value through Myawady border trade has declined, over 12,912 tonnes were exported to China through Muse border gate.

Moreover, Myanmar exported 52 tonnes of white sugar worth US$ 0.034 million from Chin Shwe Haw.

Increase in re-export sugar to China vis Myawady border gate, has caused higher volume of sugar cane export to Thailand. Myanmar has imported more tea, sesame and green beans, corn and onions than last year. Myanmar mainly exported fishery products such as fish, shrimps, crabs and cuttlefish and, agricultural products.

Myanmar trade value via Thailand has increased after Myawady-Dawna mountain crossing road was opened. The trade value via the border gate amounted to US$723.732 million from 1 April 2016 to 17 February 2017.—*Min Min*

Action being taken against expired pesticide producers beginning from March

AGRICULTURAL Department is taking action for sale of expired pesticides and pesticides without market label starting from March, according to the crop protection branch under the department. Agricultural Department found that market label of some pesticides are different from that upon registration, the market labels are incomplete and pesticides are sold in advance while applying for registration. According to section 31 of the pesticides law, the pesticides are not allowed to be imported from abroad without registration.

"A combined team comprising staff from agricultural department is inspecting the pesticide shops in Tatkon township every month. They are checking that whether the shops are selling the legal fertilizer or pesticides or not, attending the CPA training or not and selling only the registered pesticides or not. There are over 38 pesticide shops in the town. We are sending back the expired pesticides and incomplete market label to the pesticide companies," said an official from Tatkon agricultural department.

"The agriculture pesticides companies are also allowed to send back the pesticide bottles which do not include registration number, manufacturing and expired dates, labels. Also, the companies have to pay the transportation costs when the shops send those kinds of pesticide bottles. The companies will not be responsible if the shop owners continue to sell such kind of pesticides," said an official from Golden Key Co.Ltd. The agricultural department is taking action against the owners of the pesticide companies beginning from March if they find the shops selling pesticides under registration process and those without market label. —*Myanmar Alinn*

A farmer sprays pesticides on a plantation. PHOTO-AYE MIN SOE

Mars astronaut radiation shield set for moon mission trial-developer

HAIFA, (Israel), — A vest designed to shield astronauts from deadly solar particles in deep space is set for trials on a lunar mission ready for deployment on any manned mission to Mars, its Israeli developers said.

The AstroRad Radiation Shield has been devised by Tel Aviv-based StemRad, which has already produced and marketed a belt to protect rescue workers from harmful gamma ray radiation emitted in nuclear disasters, such as Chernobyl and Fukushima.

The vest will protect vital human tissue, particularly stem cells, which could be devastated by solar radiation in deep space or on Mars, whose sparse atmosphere offers no protection, StemRad's CEO Oren Milstein said.

US space agency NASA has said it hopes to send astronauts to Mars in the mid-2030s.

The vest is made of layers that look like a contoured map and will be tailor-made for each astronaut. Non-metallic protective materials will be positioned on each shield to cover the organs of each astronaut.

"This product will enable human deep space exploration. Our breakthrough has come in creating the architecture of the multi-layered shield to accurately cover the most important organs," Milstein said.

Women wearing prototypes of Stemrad's new protective vest, Astrorad, stand near Russian spacecraft, Excalibur-Almaz Space Capsule, during a demonstration for Reuters, at Madatech, National Museum of Science Technology and Space in Haifa, Israel on 23 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

StemRad say it has proven the concept in the laboratory and in simulations, but testing will also take place on the Orion spacecraft, a joint project of Lockheed Martin, NASA and the European Space Agency.

Orion is set to orbit the moon unmanned during the debut flight of NASA's heavy-lift Space Launch System rocket, scheduled for late 2018 but it is also assessing the feasibility of flying two astronauts on that mission.

During the lunar flyby mission, the vest will be strapped to a "phantom" torso dummy, a device used to monitor radiation absorption. Another phantom will fly unprotected and the two will be analysed after they return to Earth.

NASA had no immediate comment on how the test could be affected if the agency decided to put astronauts on Orion.

Stemrad's chief technologist, Gideon Waterman, said the vest needed to combine density with flexibility to protect astronauts while enabling them to move about as freely as possible.

Mock-ups have been made, and the first protective vest is expected to be produced by the end of the year, Milstein said. "Based on our simulations, we're sure it works but to be 100 per cent sure, we're sending it up on EM-1," he said, referring to NASA's Exploration Mission-1, the first flight of the combined Space Launch System rocket and the Orion capsule.

The Orion will have its own small shelter for solar storms or flares that have dangerous bursts of radiation, and the vest, Milstein said, will offer the same degree of protection so astronauts can keep safe in other parts of the spacecraft.

Astronauts in Earth's orbit, such as those on the International Space Station, do not face the same risk because they are protected by the planet's magnetic field which acts as a shield, he added.—*Reuters*

Most older women don't get bone tests after hip fractures

WASHINGTON — When older women fracture a hip, they usually don't get bone density tests that might show whether they need treatment to help prevent more broken bones, a recent US study suggests.

"Osteoporosis screening after hip fracture is so important because there are a number of highly effective and relatively low-risk treatments available that can substantially reduce future fracture risk," said lead study author Catherine Gillespie of the AARP Public Policy Research Institute and George Washington University in Washington, DC.

For the study, researchers examined insurance data on medical care and prescription use for 8,359 women over 50 who had a hip fracture between 2008 and 2013.

None of the women had a prior history of osteoporosis, hip fracture, or taking medications to improve bone density.

More than half of the women in the study were at least 80 years old when they first fractured their hip. Most had multiple chronic medical problems.

Within six months of experiencing their first hip fracture, just 17 per cent of the women got tested for osteoporosis or received a treatment for the condition, researchers report in the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research.

After one year, only 23 per cent of the women had been screened or put on treatment for osteoporosis.

During the study period, use of bone mass measurement tests increased among women 65 and older but declined among women from 50 to 64.

Over the same timeframe, the rate of osteoporosis drug use remained constant for women aged 50 to 64 but declined among older women in the study.

Seeing a primary care doctor after fracture was the strongest and most consistent predictor of osteoporosis assessment or treatment, the study found. Women with private health insurance and higher income also appeared more likely to get screening and treatment.

One limitation of the study is that researchers lacked data on women who were uninsured or covered by Medicaid, the government health programme for the poor. They also lacked data on some interventions used to strengthen bones and help prevent future falls such as calcium and vitamin D supplements, counseling on exercise and fall prevention, or home repairs and modifications to make day-to-day life safer to navigate.

Even so, the study confirms a long recognized gap in routine osteoporosis care for patients with hip fractures, said Dr Matthew Drake, a researcher at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, who wasn't involved in the study.

"Almost all patients who have a hip fracture should be screened for osteoporosis as this will allow their provider to assess their bone mineral density, and will also establish a baseline so that if pharmacologic or other treatment approaches are chosen there is data against which to compare later in order to determine how the therapy is working," Drake said by email.

"If a woman or man has a hip fracture, she/he should speak with her/his doctor about getting screened for osteoporosis and strongly consider starting therapy," Drake added. "As this study clearly shows, this screening and treatment continues to occur at a rate which is abysmal."—*Reuters*

Ebola nurse's family want to sue Liberian hospital over her death

MONROVIA — The family of a Liberian Ebola nurse named Time magazine's "Person of the Year" in 2014 wants to sue a hospital whose staff they say were too scared to treat her when she died of complications around childbirth.

The hospital in the capital Monrovia rejected that claim, saying staff had done all they could save Salome Karwah, who died after giving birth by caesarian section last week. Liberian authorities said this week they are investigating her death. Karwah worked with charity Doctors Without Borders as a nurse after herself recovering from the often deadly hemorrhagic fever. She was one of five people featured on the Time magazine cover for their work in fighting Ebola.

"The ... family is going to take a lawsuit against the hospital," her brother Reginald Karwah told Reuters by telephone. "The mismanagement of our (sister's) condition was due to the fact that they had people on shift who did not handle her case professionally." Since her previous exposure — when Ebola ravaged her village and killed a number of her relatives — had rendered her immune, Karwah was able to make direct contact with sick patients that most carers could not. Time reported that she could even "spoon-feed elderly sufferers, and rock feverish babies to sleep".

In June last year the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Liberia free of active Ebola virus transmission, the last of four West African countries at the epicenter of the world's worst outbreak of the disease. Traces of Ebola can hide in survivors' bodies long after they have recovered, but health experts say the risk of Ebola re-emerging and being transmitted to others is extremely low. Despite that, there is a great deal of stigma around survivors of the virus in West Africa. Liberia's Chief Medical Officer Dr Francis Kateh told Reuters by telephone the family were "not looking at the reality".

"I don't think [stigmatization] is an issue. She stayed there for days before she was discharged, so if there was a stigma against someone with Ebola they would not have touched her or operated on her," when in fact they did, he said.

"Had ... no one touched her, no one looked at her, then you could say stigmatization (occurred)," he added, denying that this is what happened. But Karwah's husband James Harris said he had argued with doctors and nurses at the hospital for three hours to let her in while she lay unattended in an ambulance.

"I feel very bad and angry. My wife fought Ebola, saved other people's lives and now this was the time for the healthcare workers in Liberia to pay back but they refused."—*Reuters*

China's anti-corruption overhaul paves way for Xi to retain key ally

BEIJING — China's sweeping overhaul of its anti-corruption architecture could enable President Xi Jinping to justify retaining his key ally and top graft buster Wang Qishan beyond retirement age, sources with ties to the leadership say.

Breaking the unwritten retirement rule could also set a precedent for Xi, 63, to defy current expectations that he will step down as party and military chief in 2022 and as state president the following year, the sources said.

A new National Supervisory Commission will combine the powers of several graft-fighting bodies, including Wang's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), the principal vehicle for Xi's signature anti-corruption drive.

That drive has punished more than a million party members, jailing top military figures and retired security tsar Zhou Yongkang, the most senior official toppled for corruption since 1949.

Wang is likely to head the new commission, the three sources said, a role that would under normal circumstances make a strong case for him to remain at Xi's side on the party's Politburo Standing Committee (PSC) — the top table of power in China.

Xi Jinping (3rd L, front), Li Keqiang (3rd R, front), Zhang Dejiang (2nd L, front), Liu Yunshan (2nd R, front), Wang Qishan (1st L, front) and Zhang Gaoli (1st R, front) attend the opening meeting of the fifth session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 3 March 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

For almost two decades, however, an informal age ceiling has meant only politicians aged 67 or younger have been eligible to remain on or be promoted to the PSC at the five-yearly party congress.

Wang turns 69 this year ahead of the 19th party congress this autumn.

"Wang Qishan is very likely to head the National Supervisory Commission," one of the sources told Reuters, requesting anonymity because he is not authorised to speak to media.

Whether he will stay on the PSC, and for a full term, will to some extent depend "on Wang's intent and health", the source said.

"If Wang Qishan doesn't retire, it makes it reasonable and lends legitimacy for Xi Jinping not stepping down in 2022," said a separate source with leadership ties.

George G Chen, an expert on Chinese legal policy at the Berlin-based Mercator Institute for China Studies, said the formation of the new commission was a "clever, two-fold instrument", given criticism that the current anti-corruption campaign could be used as a political instrument.

"Xi Jinping could on one hand solve the problem of the legitimacy of the anti-corruption campaign, (while) also allowing Wang Qishan to (remain) in the Standing Committee," Chen told Reuters.

The CCDI and the State Council Information Office, which doubles as the spokesman's office for the government and Communist Party, did not respond to requests for comment.

The CCDI announced in January a plan to merge itself with the cabinet's Ministry of Supervision and the anti-corruption bureau of the top prosecutor's office and corruption prevention bodies to create a super ministry. Pilot programmes have been set up in Beijing and the provinces of Zhejiang and Shanxi. Currently, the CCDI can only investigate party members suspected of corruption. The Ministry of Supervision can interrogate civil servants, while the anti-corruption bureau of the prosecutor's office is not empowered to detain suspects it is investigating.

The commission will eliminate duplication, with the power to supervise, question and detain all civil servants, party cadres, military personnel, judges and prosecutors, executives of state-owned enterprises, university staff and doctors and nurses of state hospitals who are suspected of corruption.

It will most likely be placed under the jurisdiction of the National People's Congress (NPC), the country's rubberstamp parliament, but the sources said in reality the party leadership would have the final say.

Wang's current deputy, Li Shulei, 53, is the front-runner to eventually succeed Wang as head of the supervisory commission, and to secure a seat on the 25-member Politburo — one rung below the PSC — at the 19th congress, said the sources.

After a two-year stint as Fujian provincial propaganda chief, Li was the top graft buster in Beijing for a year before being named as Wang's deputy this January.

Since Xi declared war on corruption after taking office, 1.2 million of the party's 88 million members have been punished for violating discipline. —*Reuters*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

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

Malaysia rejects 'insinuation' it violated UN sanctions on N Korea

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia on Saturday rejected any suggestion it may have violated sanctions imposed by the United Nations on North Korea, after a Reuters report said North Korea-linked firms were running an arms network in the country.

Malaysia has for years been one of the few countries in the world to have strong ties with North Korea but their relationship has been damaged by the killing of the half-brother of the North Korean leader, at Kula Lumpur airport, on 13 February.

Reuters reported on Monday that North Korean intelligence agents used front companies to run an arms sales operation out of Malaysia under a brand called Glocom.

The foreign ministry issued a statement on Saturday rejecting any violation of UN sanctions.

"Malaysia categorically rejects any such insinuation," the ministry said.

Glocom, which was linked in website registration data to two Malaysian companies controlled by North Korean shareholders and directors, sells battlefield radio equipment in violation of UN sanctions, according to a UN report submitted to the Security Council and seen by Reuters.

Glocom is controlled by the Reconnaissance General Bureau, the North Korean intelligence agency tasked with overseas operations and weapons procurement, the UN report said, citing undisclosed information.

Reuters found that Glocom advertises more than 30 radio systems for "military and paramilitary" organisations on its Malaysian website, glocom.com.my.

The foreign ministry said Malaysia highly valued the work carried out by the UNSC Panel of Experts by ensuring the full implementation of all relevant resolutions.

A general view of the building housing Glocom's offices in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 7 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The ministry, which did not name Glocom in its statement, said Malaysia had provided required responses to queries raised by a UN Security Council (UNSC) Panel of Experts and will fully cooperate.

The United Nations panel said in its unreleased report that it had asked the Malaysian government if it would expel Glocom's North Korean representative in Malaysia and freeze the assets of the two Malaysian companies to comply with UN sanctions.

The UN did not say when it made the request. "The panel has yet to receive an answer," said the UN report, which is due to be released later this month.

Malaysia's investigation of the killing of Kim Jong Nam, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's estranged half-brother, has angered North Korea.

Malaysia deported a North Korean suspect in the murder on Friday, and police issued an arrest warrant for another North Korean wanted in connection with the killing.

The deported North Korean, Ri Jong Chol, said in Beijing that he was a victim of a conspiracy by Malaysian authorities attempting to damage the honour of North Korea. —*Reuters*

China to raise 2017 defense budget by around 7 pct: spokesperson

BEIJING — China's 2017 defence budget will expand by about 7 per cent, a spokesperson for the annual session of the country's top legislature said on Saturday.

Fu Ying, spokesperson for the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) annual session, said the increase is in line with China's economic development and defence needs.

The new increase could be the country's slowest defence budget rise in at least a decade, marking the second time for the defense budget increase to dip into the single digits since 2010. In 2009, the figure was about 15 per cent.

"China's military capacity building will be continued. This is the requirement for safeguarding our national sovereignty and security," Fu told a press conference.

Her words came as China's economic growth registered a nearly three-decade low of 6.7 per cent. However, the rate still outpaced most other major economies.

Premier Li Keqiang will unveil the government's 2017 GDP target on Sunday. The exact figure for this year's defense budget is also expected to be released in a budget report on Sunday.

According to the budget report of last year's session, China's defense budget in 2016 was set to grow 7.6 per cent to 954 billion yuan (about 138 billion US dollars).

Last month, US President Donald Trump pledged to further strengthen his country's military buildup.

In his first address to Congress after taking office, Trump proposed a huge 54-billion-US dollar surge in the country's military spending, up 10 per cent from the previous year.

Fu, meanwhile, noted that China's defense spending accounts for only about 1.3 per cent of the country's GDP, compared with NATO members' pledge to dedicate at least 2 per cent of GDP to defence.

"You should ask them what their intentions are," Fu told reporters, adding that China has "never inflicted harm on other countries."

"Of all the conflicts and wars in the world that have killed and displaced so many people and caused significant losses of property, which one is China to blame for?" she asked.

Concerning disputes between China and neighbouring countries, Fu said China advocates dialogue and peaceful solutions in addressing those issues.

"But in the meantime, we must also have the capability to defend our sovereignty, our rights and interests," she said.

"In particular, we must guard against outside forces from interfering with such issues," Fu said without elaborating.

"The enhancement of China's capabilities is conducive to safeguarding regional peace and stability, not the contrary," she continued. According to Fu, China and some ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries have already returned to dialogue and consultation, and tensions in the South China Sea have shown trends of easing.

Fu Ying, spokesperson for the fifth session of China's 12th National People's Congress (NPC), speaks during a press conference on the session at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 4 March 2017. The fifth session of the 12th NPC is scheduled to open in Beijing on 5 March. PHOTO: XINHUA

"As to the future development [of the settlement of these disputes], I think we also need to take into account the intentions on the US side," she said, calling the United States' actions in the South China Sea a "weather vane" for the region.

Fu went on to say that concerns over navigational freedom in the South China Sea are misleading and uncalled for.

"In essence ... Washington is perhaps concerned that China could catch up with or surpass the United States in terms of capability," she said, noting that there is still a huge gap between the two countries.

Fu said whether a military poses a threat rests on its "strategic intentions."

"Thus the key question we should really ask is whether we are pursuing common security or exclusive security," Fu said.

"China wants common security for all, and this is the shared consensus of many Asian countries as well," she said. —*Xinhua*

Released N Korean denies involvement in Kim's attack

BEIJING — The only North Korean detained over the fatal poisoning last month of Kim Jong Nam, estranged half-brother of the country's leader Kim Jong Un, on Saturday denied any role in the murder in Malaysia following his release from custody.

Ri Jong Chol told reporters in Beijing that Malaysian police attempted to make him admit to involvement in the 13 February murder at Kuala Lumpur International Airport with "fabricated evidence."

Claiming that he did not go to the airport on the day of the incident, Ri, speaking publicly for the first time since his detention, also said the police probe was a ploy to "impair" North Korea's dignity.

During the 13-minute press conference, Ri said police showed him mobile phone records and an envelope that they insisted had previously contained poison, telling him he could "live a nice life" in Malaysia if he admitted his guilt.

Ri added that he was engaged in the trading of soap ingredients in Kuala Lumpur, having attended a major university of science and technology in North Korea.

The 46-year-old North Korean man arrived in Beijing early Saturday after Malaysia deported him on Friday.

Ri Jong Chol, the only North Korean detained over the fatal poisoning of Kim Jong Nam in Kuala Lumpur, speaks to reporters inside the North Korean Embassy in Beijing on 4 March, 2017, following his release from custody. Ri denied any role and said Malaysian police attempted to make him admit to involvement with "fabricated evidence."
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

He is staying at the North Korean Embassy in the Chinese capital and is expected to head to North Korea after being reunited with his family who are now at the embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

Ri has so far been the only North Korean arrested over Kim's murder. He was freed due to lack of evidence, Malaysia's police chief said. His expulsion from Malaysia was due to visa violations.

With seven other North Korean men who were allegedly involved in the killing still at large, the release of Ri underscores the difficulty investigators face in piecing together the details of the attack, observers said.

The Malaysian police have sought the arrest of one of the seven North Korean men. But Kim Uk Il, an employee of North Korean national carrier Air Koryo, is believed to be inside his country's embassy in Kuala Lumpur and is unlikely to appear for questioning.

Malaysian authorities have acknowledged it may be difficult to catch Kim Uk Il if he has really taken refuge in the embassy.

The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations requires the hosting state to prevent any disturbance of the peace of a diplomatic mission or impairment of its dignity.

Kim Jong Nam, who was found with a diplomatic passport bearing the name Kim Chol, died some 15 to 20 minutes after having the lethal VX nerve agent smeared on his face by two women at the airport, Malaysian authorities said.

Ri had allegedly given the two women and others a ride to the airport, but he insisted his car was missing and he did not know the two women, local reports said, adding that the police had failed to locate the car.

The two women — one Indonesian and the other Vietnamese — were on Wednesday charged with the murder. Both women have denied any wrongdoing.

North Korea has rejected the view that the lethal nerve agent was used to kill one of its citizens, steering clear of naming him as Kim Jong Nam, and has requested samples taken by investigators be sent to an international chemical weapons body.

In return, Malaysia on Friday released a statement condemning the use of VX in the attack.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in the statement that Malaysia "strongly condemns the use of such a chemical weapon by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances. Its use at a public place could have endangered the general public."

Malaysia "is in close contact" with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to investigate the recent incident, the ministry said, adding that the country "does not produce, stockpile, import, export or use" such prohibited toxic chemicals as *VX*. —*Kyodo News*

Cambodia arrests Laotian man with 5 kg of illicit drugs

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian police arrested a Laotian man on suspicion of trafficking nearly 5 kg of crystal methamphetamine in the northeastern province of Stung Treng on Saturday.

The suspect, identified as Maison Saiyakham, 39, was arrested while smuggling the illicit drugs from Laos into Cambodia, the national police said on its website.

"Some 4.92 kg of crystal methamphetamine were seized from the suspect during the crackdown," it said. Cambodia has no death sentence for drug traffickers. Under its law, a person who trafficks more than 80 grams of illicit drug will face a life imprisonment.

The Southeast Asian country launched a six-month anti-drug campaign on 1 January, 2017.

According to an Interior Ministry report on Friday, the authorities have arrested 4,823 drug-related suspects in 2,065 cases in the first two months of the campaign. —*Xinhua*

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

What to Assess and How to Assess on the Achievement of a Student

Dr. Nu Nu Win

IT is natural that a teacher has to assess the achievement of his pupils after his teaching, so that he can decide what he should continue to do with his teaching and his pupils. In other words, a teacher should have feedback on his teaching and based on this feedback, he can decide what he should do next. Will he continue his teaching to the next lesson? Will he need to repeat his teaching again on what he has already taught? Will he need to explain more on some parts of his previous teaching, so that all his pupils can understand every part of what he has taught? Or will he give some practical work for his students so that they will learn well not only by listening but also by doing it themselves?

For all these decisions, a teacher needs to assess how much and in which way his students have learnt. That's why we need to do different kinds of assessments in different styles such as Tests, Examinations, Assessments, and Evaluations. Everyone of these have different amounts and different limits and different ways and different styles. And even in Tests, there are a lot of different Tests which have different values and different work they do. There are many more different kinds of tests, not only the popular Formative Tests and Summative Tests which are often mentioned during these days, especially by those who do not understand Educational Test and Measurement. All these are different according to their different functions.

Let us pause for a while, and let's discuss about what to test, how to test and to what extent.

In brief, we can say, we should test.. MUST, SHOULD and COULD.

MUST first! That is the achievement a student must have after a lesson or a chapter. If he cannot learn what he MUST know after the lesson he cannot continue to study the next lesson or a higher level. He needs to know these facts so that he can continue his study to the next higher level or for the next standard. That is MUST. If a student wants to continue his lessons to the next higher stage, he MUST know these facts .

We should put at least 50% of these facts in a Test Paper or an Exam Paper.

If he cannot answer or cannot know all these 50% of the paper, it is impossible for him to continue his study to the next higher level.

The next one is SHOULD.

These are not the basic level of the lesson, but these are the facts a student should know after studying a lesson. Not the basic, but a little higher than the MUST level in his achievement.

Maybe about 25 % of a Test or Exam Paper.

In this way we can differentiate the achievement level of a student from others. He's a good learner.

The last one, COULD.

This is for the student who works harder than others, who is bright, who has a deep thinking. This type of student has interest in the lesson and can use his own brain for critical thinking, creative thinking, application and so on up to the highest level of appreciating, evaluating and decision making, which is the highest level in learning.

This should be another 25% of the Test or Exam Paper for this COULD.

They will learn if they try their best, not only just doing rote-learning, but also thinking out from their own brains to gain all these highest levels of learning. If a student can reach up till this level, he's brilliant, he can create, he can criticize, he can make his own decision well, even for his life.

So , teachers should bear in mind these three words, MUST, SHOULD and COULD, so that they can plan how they are going to assess the achievement of their pupils to get the best results out of their teaching.

Transboundary Environmental Security in the Mekong River

R. Edward Grumbine

(Continued from 4-3-2017)

Human Development

Over the next decade, the human population in the five Mekong basin countries (excluding China) is projected to increase by 23.6 million with most of this growth in cities. However, except for Thailand and China, the Mekong countries rank low in their capacity to manage change. The Asian Development Bank has funded roads, railways, and pipelines across the Mekong to stimulate economic growth. But these efforts have been poorly coordinated with environmental and social planning.

Climate Change

Climate projections show mean temperature increases over 20C by 2050 for the Mekong region (Zomer et al., 2016). River flows will likely increase at least to midcentury, but runoff may interact with the greater likelihood of extreme events (i.e. flooding). Due to the high risk of sea level rise and salinization, the Mekong Delta is of particular concern as it is so important for global rice production.

Of course, there are many links between these six drivers of change. But one thing is certain — as was made clear in spring 2016 due to drought across the region, change is already causing alterations to the clean air, water, and hydrological and nutrient cycles that people in the Mekong depend on. Much can be done by the countries in the Mekong to strengthen environmental security. Here are some promising management strategies keyed to each stressor mentioned above.

To reverse ecosystem degradation, more transboundary environmental impact assessment would establish a strong basis to improve regional ecosystem conditions. Given the Mekong nations' commitment to economic development, various payments for ecosystem services schemes are obvious candidates for reducing loss of ecosystem functioning.

With demand growing and farmers shifting from subsistence to cash crops, increasing food security in the Mekong means using less water to produce more food. More emphasis should be placed on local water storage, not just large-scale plans to divert Mekong water for irrigation schemes. Projections of dam impacts leading to reduced food security must be explicitly factored in to policy decisions. And policy coordination between the food and water sectors needs to be improved throughout the region.

The dynamism in demand forecasts and supply options create great uncertainty in energy management. Some scenarios show that by 2025, 25 percent of Mekong energy could come from renewables. Meanwhile, the Greater Mekong Subregion program seeks to build traditional electricity grids spanning the region. New energy from hydropower development will require coordinated dam operations among and between countries but this cannot occur without more collaborative planning.

Because transboundary water resources are key to environmental security in the Mekong, there are abundant ideas about more cooperative ways to manage waters. All observers emphasize greater sharing of flow data and dam building/operations. New efforts are exploring how to allow sediments behind Mekong dams to pass on downstream. There is a Hydropower By Design planning framework being tested in Myanmar that holds great promise for public-private management.

Low development capacity and closed systems of governance make progress difficult in strengthening the human elements of environmental security in the Mekong. But security is about managing, not eliminating change. Recent studies show how China can better manage the costs and benefits of hydropower to support human livelihoods (Tilt and Gerkey, 2016). Links between improved land-use planning and reduced human livelihood vulnerability have been mapped in Laos and Myanmar. To manage urban human security, research from Vietnam has established ways to couple city planning with flood control measures. Many innovative practices to manage the social elements of environmental security are beginning to be tested in the Mekong.

To build climate change resilience, the Mekong states need to increase their capacity to do integrated planning. Studies from Thailand and Vietnam show that local governments can support peoples' climate adaptations through building farmers' technical capacity, subsidizing credit, and linking products with market demand. However, in the Mekong, solutions to climate issues are often less a matter of technical capacity and more an issue of governance choices and political will.

The problem-solving power of an environmental security framework threads together human and ecological issues to showcase the importance of coordinated action across multiple sectors. Environmental security focuses on managing ecosystem, political, economic, and social risks that can undermine state stability in the face of change. This may better capture the attention of regional governments intent on maintaining power. Other planning frameworks such as Integrated River Basin Management do not consider politics. Environmental security also situates the shifts that are occurring in the Mekong's natural and human resources within the shared economic growth and development goals of the transboundary neighbors. But environmental security is not a panacea and remains untested in the Mekong. And governance barriers in the region continue to act as strong constraints on transboundary cooperation.

R. Edward Grumbine directs the Land Program and oversees the North Rim Ranches at the Grand Canyon Trust, USA. He was a senior international scholar at the Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Yunnan, China. He is the author of multiple scientific papers and three books on biodiversity protection in the US and China.

R. Edward Grumbine directs the Land Program and oversees the North Rim Ranches at the Grand Canyon Trust, USA. He was a senior international scholar at the Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Yunnan, China. He is the author of multiple scientific papers and three books on biodiversity protection in the US and China.

Uber used secret tool to evade authorities

NEW YORK — Ride services company Uber Technologies Inc [UBER.UL] for years has used a secret tool to avoid authorities in markets where its service faced resistance by law enforcement or was banned, the company confirmed on Friday.

The New York Times first reported the existence of the programme, called Greyball, which uses data from the Uber app and other methods to identify and circumvent officials who aimed to ticket or apprehend drivers in cities that opposed its operations.

Rides hailed from a location near a city enforcement agency suspected of launching a sting to trap Uber drivers could be ignored or canceled, for instance, the Times report said. (nyti.ms/2mmTS88)

The tool allowed Uber to show images of "ghost" Uber cars on the app or show that no cars were available, according to the newspaper, in order to deceive authorities. Officials in certain cities without a legal framework for ride services have aimed to ticket, tow and impound the cars.

A spokeswoman for Uber said Greyball was still in use, though scaled back. It grew out of an effort to protect the app from disruption by competitors and drivers from abuse and, in more rare cases, was also used where there were enforcement stings, she said.

Meanwhile, Uber's best-known security researcher and vice president of product and growth resigned on Friday, without giving reasons. It was unclear if the departures were connected to Greyball.

Revelations about the Greyball programme come after a series of events bringing Uber's practices into doubt that has raised customer and investor concern.

Those include allegations of sexual harassment that prompted an internal investigation at the company, a video of Chief Executive Travis Kalanick arguing with an Uber driver that led him to make a public apology and pledge to "grow up", and a lawsuit by Alphabet Inc's (GOOGL.O) self-driving car unit, Waymo, accusing Uber of stealing designs for technology for autonomous cars. Uber has said Waymo's claims are false.

In an email, Uber said the Greyball programme "denies ride requests to fraudulent users who are violating our terms of service — whether that's people aiming to physically harm drivers, competitors looking to disrupt our operations, or opponents who collude with officials on secret 'stings' meant to entrap drivers."

The tactic had been scaled back considerably as the company won the right to operate in more places, a spokeswoman added.

She said that Uber's legal department had approved the practice in locations where Uber was not clearly banned, and that Uber's terms of use required riders use the ride hailing app for personal, not commercial, reasons and to not cause "nuisance" to drivers.

The programme is still being used when drivers are under threat of arrest or other legal punishment in some cities within 15 US states without clear ride-sharing laws, she said, adding that she did not know in which other countries the system is being used.

A source earlier on Friday had told Reuters that the programme had not been in use in the United States for more than a year.

The New York Times said Uber used the methods to evade authorities in cities including Boston, Paris and Las Vegas, and in countries such as Australia, China, Italy and South Korea.

Once the Greyball tool was put in place and tested, Uber engineers created a playbook with a list of tactics, which included looking up city officials on social media and obtaining phone numbers of cheap phones that Uber calculated enforcement officials were likely to buy, the Times said. Local officials on Friday expressed concern about Uber's practices but stopped short of saying they would take action.

"We take any effort to undermine our efforts to protect the public very seriously," Dylan Rivera, a spokesman for the Portland, Oregon transportation bureau, said in a statement. "We will closely examine the evidence presented in this investigation to see if it warrants changes in our approach to consumer protection."

A photo illustration shows the Uber app logo displayed on a mobile telephone, as it is held up for a posed photograph in central London, Britain, on 28 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Boston police Lieutenant Mike McCarthy said his department would also review the allegations and Philadelphia Parking Authority spokesman Martin O'Rourke said his agency was aware of Uber's attempts to evade local inspectors and the activity was covered by a settlement agreement that the authority and the company signed last year, in which Uber paid a $350,000 fine.

Greyball, which began as early as 2014, was part of a program called "Violation of terms of service" (VTOS), aimed at finding people the ride-hailing company thought were using the app improperly, the New York Times reported.

Two high-level departures on Friday added to Uber's woes. Ed Baker, Uber's vice president of product and growth, is leaving the company after nearly four years, an Uber spokeswoman said, declining to provide a reason.

Also announcing his departure Friday was the best-known security researcher at Uber. Charlie Miller, who won fame beyond the security industry for hacking into a Jeep as it was driving, said on Twitter that he was leaving after a year and a half of working on security for autonomous driving. He said he would announce where he was headed next week. —*Reuters*

UK government likely to refer Fox's Sky deal to regulator

LONDON — Rupert Murdoch's planned takeover of European pay-TV group Sky (SKYB.L) is likely to be investigated to see whether it is in the public interest, the British government warned on Friday.

Murdoch's US business Twenty-First Century Fox (FOXA.O), which owns 39 per cent of Sky, officially notified the European Commission of its 11.7 billion pounds ($14.3 billion) offer to buy the rest of Sky and kicked off what is likely to be a politically charged process.

Media Secretary Karen Bradley said she was likely to intervene to see if any one company would control too much of Britain's media, and whether the new owners would have a genuine commitment to broadcasting standards.

The deal, announced in December, came five years after a political and criminal scandal at Murdoch's British newspaper business derailed an earlier bid.

Shares in Sky were flat after the news.

Rupert Murdoch, Executive Chairman News Corp and Chairman and CEO 21st Century Fox speaks at the WSJD Live conference in Laguna Beach, California on 29 October, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fox said it had anticipated that regulators would undertake a thorough review of the transaction, and it looked forward to engaging with them.

"We believe the combination of 21st Century Fox and Sky will create a company best suited to compete in a rapidly evolving industry, and are confident that the transaction will be approved based on a compelling fact set," the US company said. —*Reuters*

Yellen points to March rate hike as Fed signals end of easy money

CHICAGO — The US Federal Reserve's long-stalled 'liftoff' of interest rates may finally get airborne this year as policymakers from Chair Janet Yellen on Friday to regional leaders across the United States signaled that the era of easy money is drawing to a close.

Yellen capped off a seemingly coordinated push from the central bank on Friday when she cemented the view that the Fed will raise interest rates at its next meeting on 14-15 March, and likely be able to move faster after that than it has in years.

It's a welcome turn for the Fed chair, who has hoped to get rates off the ground throughout her three-year tenure, and now sees the economy on track and investors aligned around the idea.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen addresses the Executives Club of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois, US, on 3 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"At our meeting later this month, the committee will evaluate whether employment and inflation are continuing to evolve in line with our expectations, in which case a further adjustment of the federal funds rate would likely be appropriate," Yellen said at a business luncheon in Chicago.

"The process of scaling back accommodation likely will not be as slow as it was in 2015 and 2016," she added.

Stocks were up slightly, and futures tied to rate-hike expectations moved little on Yellen's remarks. The comments from Fed speakers this week had already pushed market pricing of a March hike to 80 per cent.

The Fed has struggled for the past three years to raise interest rates off the zero lower bound as the US economy slowly healed after the Great Recession. Issues from sluggish inflation globally to the dampening effect of a strong dollar and low energy prices blew them off course.

By contrast, 2017 may be the year the Fed is able to follow through on its forecast of three rate hikes.

"For the first time in a long time I think the risk of more rate hikes is a bit higher than the risk of fewer rate hikes," said Roberto Perli, an economist with Cornerstone Macro LLC.—*Reuters*

PSA Group, GM announce Monday morning press conference

The logos of French car maker Peugeot and German car maker Opel are seen at a dealership in Villepinte, near Paris, France, on 20 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — General Motors and France's PSA Group will hold a press conference on Monday morning, they said on Saturday, with the subject expected to be the acquisition of the US carmaker's loss-making Opel unit.

On Friday, sources said PSA Group, which makes Peugeot and Citroen cars, had struck a deal with GM to buy Opel division.

The press conference will be on Monday at 0815 GMT, PSA and GM said, without specifying the subject. —*Reuters*

Macron gets presidential poll boost as Fillon crisis deepens

Emmanuel Macron, head of the political movement En Marche !, or Onwards !, and candidate for the 2017 French presidential election, attends a meeting about international affairs with former US Secretary of State John Kerry (not seen) in Paris, France on 3 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — Centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron cemented his status as favourite to win the French presidency on Friday as pressure mounted on his conservative rival, Francois Fillon, to pull out because of a deepening financial scandal.

For the first time since the line-up of candidates became clear, an Oxoda poll showed Macron finishing ahead of far-right leader Marine Le Pen in the opening round. That came a day after he promised a blend of fiscal discipline and stimulus to strengthen a feeble economic recovery.

As former investment banker Macron's campaign gained momentum, Fillon's camp was mired in a crisis of confidence after a string of resignations among his close advisers and backers.

His campaign chief, Patrick Stefanini, and his chief spokesman, Thierry Solere, both quit on Friday, while centre-right party UDI also withdrew its support.

The Odoxa poll also showed that if Fillon were to step down and be replaced by another former prime minister, Alain Juppe, it would be Juppe winning the first round, with Le Pen eliminated

A source in Juppe's entourage said the 71-year-old — who lost to Fillon in the November primaries — was "ready to take part in the search for a solution".

Juppe, himself convicted in 2004 for misuse of public funds, has until now ruled out a comeback. "No is no," he tweeted last month.

Veteran centrist Francois Bayrou, who initially backed Juppe before deciding last month to endorse Macron, told France 3 television he would stick with Macron if Juppe replaced Fillon, according to extracts of an interview to be shown on Sunday.

The euro climbed to a two-week high and the spread between French and German 10-year government bond yields fell to its lowest in a month after the Odoxa poll showed Macron pulling ahead of Le Pen, suggesting investors now saw a far-right victory as less likely.

Macron, 39, was economy minister in President Francois Hollande's Socialist government from 2014 to 2016 but has never run for elected office.

He was propelled to the front of the race in part by the scandal engulfing Fillon and on Thursday unveiled a manifesto that included plans to revamp the pension system.

Fillon, who turns 63 on Saturday, this week promised to fight "to the end" despite the scandal over his wife's pay, which he learned this week could see him placed under formal investigation for misuse of public funds later this month.

He has complained of judicial and media bias that amounted to a "political assassination". Several former supporters have since deserted him, saying they cannot support him given his attacks on the judiciary.

Two senior conservative politicians, Senate President Gerard Larcher and Republicans Secretary-General Bernard Accoyer, held talks on Friday with former President Nicolas Sarkozy to review the situation with Fillon, a source close to Accoyer told Reuters.

Some lawmakers said Larcher was among conservative politicians who earlier this week urged Fillon to step down in Juppe's favour, but Sarkozy loyalists balked at the idea.

Le Pen also faces legal problems. Her lawyer told Reuters on Friday she had refused to attend a summons by judges over allegations of misuse of European Union funds.

Lawyer Marcel Ceccaldi said Le Pen had told the judges she would not attend before the end of the presidential campaign.

European Union lawmakers on Thursday lifted Le Pen's EU parliamentary immunity in a separate case involving tweeting pictures of Islamic State violence.

The Odoxa poll put Macron on 27 per cent in the first round on 23 April with Le Pen on 25.5 per cent and Fillon on 19. Le Pen has consistently led first-round polls this year.

In a scenario where Juppe stood in Fillon's place, Odoxa put Juppe in front on 26.5, with Macron on 25 and Le Pen out of the contest on 24 per cent.

Daily voter surveys have consistently shown any candidate defeating Le Pen, who promises to pull France out of the euro and hold a referendum on European Union membership, in a 7 May runoff.

A separate poll by Opinionway maintained Le Pen's first-round lead.

Late on Friday, Fillon took to his Twitter feed to urge supporters to attend a rally he will speak at in Paris on Sunday. "Don't let anybody steal this choice from you, I ask you to resist," he said.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN sets agenda for next round of Syria talks, includes "terrorism"

GENEVA — The United Nations will include discussions about the strategy for fighting terrorism in an agenda of the next round of Syria peace talks, UN mediator Staffan de Mistura said on Friday, after a first eight-day round of talks in Geneva.

In an apparent gain for Syria's government, which had lobbied to put "terrorism" on the agenda, de Mistura said future rounds of Geneva talks would tackle "issues related to strategies of counter-terrorism, security governance and also medium-term confidence-building measures". Talks in Astana, convened by Russia, Turkey and Iran, would be complementary and deal with "maintenance of the ceasefire, immediate confidence-building measures and operational counter-terrorism issuees", he told a final press conference. He said he felt "comfortable" that all sides could "live with" the Geneva agenda.—*Reuters*

Erdogan says German journalist held in Turkey was agent and PKK member

ANKARA — President Tayyip Erdogan responded to Berlin's criticism of Turkey's arrest of a German journalist by saying on Friday Deniz Yucel was a "German agent" and a member of a militant Kurdish armed group.

"It isn't because a correspondent of Die Welt was arrested," Erdogan told an awards ceremony in Istanbul. "It is because this person hid in the German embassy as a member of the PKK and a German agent for one month. When we told them to hand him over to be tried, they refused."—*Reuters*

North Korean murder suspect says Malaysia in conspiracy to damage Pyongyang's honour

BEIJING — Ri Jong Chol, a suspect in the murder of the estranged half-brother of North Korea's leader, said in Beijing that he was a victim of a conspiracy by Malaysian authorities attempting to damage the honour of North Korea.

Ri accused Malaysia of using coercion to try to extract a confession from him, he told reporters outside the North Korea embassy in Beijing on Saturday.—*Reuters*

Syrian government says agenda agreed for next round

GENEVA — Syria's chief negotiator said on Saturday that the "only thing" achieved at 10-day talks in Geneva was an agreed agenda and that the government wanted a unified opposition delegation as its negotiating partner.

In his first remarks since talks ended on Friday, Bashar al-Ja'afari, Syria's ambassador to the UN in New York said that all four subjects in the agreed agenda reached through UN mediator Staffan de Mistura were equal, including fighting terrorism.—*Reuters*

British foreign minister to visit Russia to discuss differences

LONDON — Britain's foreign minister Boris Johnson will go to Moscow in the coming weeks to discuss the differences between the two countries over Syria and Ukraine, the Foreign Office said on Saturday, in the first such visit for five years.

Britain backed sanctions against Russia in response to its annexation of Crimea in 2014, and the countries have clashed on other issues, including Russia's support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in the civil war in his country.

However, Johnson has accepted the invitation from counterpart Sergei Lavrov and the British government said that it was "clear that the UK will engage with Russia where it is in our national interest to do so".

"Discussions will focus on the UK-Russia relationship and current international issues including Syria and Ukraine, where we continue to have significant differences," a Foreign and Commonwealth spokeswoman said.

"This is not a return to business as usual and the Foreign Secretary will continue to be robust on those issues where we differ."

As well as disagreement over Ukraine and Syria, Britain has accused Russia of hacking, with Britain's defence minister saying that Russia "weaponises misinformation".

The Kremlin calls the hacking allegations "baseless".

The last UK foreign minister to visit Moscow was William Hague in 2012, the Foreign Office said, adding that details of the exact timing of Johnson's trip would be confirmed in due course. —*Reuters*

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily
TG-302	15:00	16:55	Daily
TG-306	19:50	21:45	Daily
PG-706	6:00	8:15	Daily
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily
PG-708	15:30	17:25	Daily
PG-704	18:20	20:15	Daily
8M-335	7:30	9:15	Daily
8M-331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	17:45	19:15	Daily
UB-019	8:00	9:30	3,5,7
UB-019	8:55	10:25	1,6

BANGKOK TO YANGON

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-303	8:00	8:45	Daily
TG-301	13:15	14:00	Daily
TG-305	18:05	18:50	Daily
PG-701	8:45	9:40	Daily
PG-707	13:45	14:40	Daily
PG-703	16:45	17:35	Daily
PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily
8M-336	10:15	11:00	Daily
8M-332	19:20	20:05	Daily
UB-020	10:35	11:10	3,5
UB-018	21:05	21:35	Daily
UB-020	11:30	12:05	1,6

YGN TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:20	Daily
FD-256	12:55	14:40	Daily
FD-254	17:35	19:25	Daily
FD-258	21:40	23:30	Daily
DD-4231	08:00	9:45	Daily
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily
DD-4239	21:00	22:55	Daily
SL-201	11:00	13:35	Daily
SL-207	19:45	21:45	Daily

DMK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily
FD-255	11:35	12:25	Daily
FD-253	16:20	17:05	Daily
FD-257	20:15	21:10	Daily
DD-4234	10:30	11:15	Daily
DD-4230	6:30	7:15	Daily
DD-4238	19:25	20:15	Daily
SL-200	08:45	10:00	Daily
SL-206	17:10	18:35	Daily

YGN TO CAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-713	20;25	01:00+1	1
8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7
CZ-3056	11:35	15:50	3,6
CZ-3056	17:40	22:20	1,5

CAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-714	2:05	3:40	2
8M-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
CZ-3055	8:40	10:35	3,6
CZ-3055	14:40	16:40	1,5

YGN TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-231	8:20	12:40	Daily
SQ-997	10:25	15:10	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,3,5
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI-522	16:20	20:50	4,6
MI-533	13:35	20:50	2
3k-584	19:40	00:10	Daily
3K-582	11:35	16:05	Daily
TR-2823	9:25	13:55	1,2,4,5,7
UB-001	7:15	11:45	Daily

SIN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-232	13:45	15:15	Daily
SQ-998	07:55	09:20	Daily
MI-522	11:30	15:30	4,6
MI-518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI-516	12:00	13:25	1,3,5
MI-533	11:30	12:45	2
3K-583	17:30	19:00	Daily
3k-581	09:10	10:40	Daily
TR-2822	7:20	8:45	1,2,4,5,7
UB-002	13:00	14:30	Daily

YGN TO NRT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-814	22:10	06:45	Daily

NRT TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-813	11:00	16:30	Daily

YGN TO ICN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily

ICN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-471	18:30	22:30	Daily

YGN TO KUL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-505	8:30	12:45	Daily
AK-503	19:10	23:30	Daily
8M-501	16:10	20:10	2
8M-501	11:45	15:45	1
MH-741	11:15	15:40	Daily
MH-743	16:00	20:15	1,4,6,7

KUL TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-504	6:55	8:00	Daily
AK-502	17:20	18:30	Daily
8M-502	16:45	17:45	1
8M-502	21:10	22:10	2
MH-742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7
MH-740	09:10	10:15	Daily

YGN TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-416	12:30	16:00	Daily
MU-2032	15:30	18:50	Daily
MU-2012	12:55	19:55	3

KMG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-415	10:50	11:30	Daily
MU-2031	13:50	14:30	Daily
MU-2011	08:20	11:55	3

YGN TO TPE

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7916	10:50	16:10	Daily

TPE TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7915	7:00	9:50	Daily

YGN TO PEK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-906	23:50	0550+1	1,3,5,7

PEK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-905	19:30	22:50	1,3,5,7

YGN TO HAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-956	19:10	21:30	Daily

HAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-957	16:40	18:10	Daily

YGN TO SGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-942	12:10	14:55	2,3,4,5,7

SGN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-943	9:25	11:10	2,3,4,5,7

YGN TO HKG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA -251	1:05	5:25	Daily
UB-8027	09:00	13:30	1,3,5,7

HKG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-250	21:50	23:45	1,3,5,7
KA-252	22:20	00:10	2,4,6
UB-8028	14:50	16:20	1,3,5,7

YGN TO DOH

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-919	8:05	11:30	1,3,4,6,7

DOH TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-918	20:10	5:20	1,3,4,6,7

YGN TO CNX

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG -724	13:40	15:35	Daily

CNX TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-723	12:00	12:55	Daily

YGN TO DAC

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-061	16:45	18:30	1,3,6

DAC TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-060	13:30	16:00	1,3,6

MDL TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-245	12:55	15:15	Daily

DMK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-244	11:10	12:25	Daily

MDL TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-533	15:45	20:50	2
MI-522	14:15	20:15	4,6

SIN TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-522	11:30	13:20	4,6
MI-533	11:30	14:50	2

MDL TO BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-710	14:10	16:35	Daily

BKK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily

MDL TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2030	14:25	17:15	Daily

KMG TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily

NYT to BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-722	19:50	22:50	1,3,4,5,6,7

BKK TO NYT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-721	17:20	19:20	1,3,4,5,6,7

AIRLINE CODES

8M	=	Myanmar Airways International			
BG	=	Biman Bangladesh Airlines			
MH	=	Malaysia Airlines			
MU	=	China Eastern Airlines			
NH	=	All Nippon Airways			
SQ	=	Singapore Airways			
PG	=	Bangkok Airways			
UB	=	Myanmar National Airlines			
VN	=	Vietnam Airline			
3K	=	Jet Star	AK	=	Air Asia
AI	=	Air India	CA	=	Air China
CI	=	China Airlines	CZ	=	China Southern
DD	=	Nok Airline	FD	=	Air Asia
KA	=	Dragonair	KE	=	Korea Airlines
MI	=	Silk Air	QR	=	Qatar Airways
TG	=	Thai Airways	TR	=	Tiger Airline

DAY					
1	=	Monday	4	=	Thursday
2	=	Tuesday	5	=	Friday
3	=	Wednesday	6	=	Saturday
			7	=	Sunday

East Libyan forces target rival brigades with air strikes around oil ports

BENGHAZI — East Libyan forces carried out air strikes around major oil ports overnight as they sought to regain control of the area from a rival faction, a military spokesman said on Saturday.

The eastern-based Libyan National Army (LNA) and allied forces retreated on Friday from the oil ports of Es Sider and Ras Lanuf, two of Libya's largest export terminals, as a faction known as the Benghazi Defence Brigades (BDB) attacked.

The assault raised the prospect of a new escalation of violence around the ports, and put at risk a sharp boost to Libya's oil production achieved after the LNA took over four ports in September, ending a blockade at three of them.

Though Es Sider and Ras Lanuf have been reopened for exports, they were badly damaged in past fighting and are operating well below capacity. It was not clear to what extent the BDB had gained control over the ports, or whether operations at the terminals had been affected.

In response to the BDB advance, air strikes were carried out in Ras Lanuf, Es Sidra, Ben Jawad and Harawa, LNA spokesman Ahmed al-Mismari told Reuters.

A resident in Ras Lanuf said they heard war planes over the town at dawn on Saturday, followed by explosions. Residents posted pictures of fires and damage to buildings apparently caused by the strikes.

Libya's oil production has recently been fluctuating around 700,000 barrels per day (bpd), more than double its output last year but still well under the 1.6 million bpd the OPEC member was producing before a 2011 uprising.

The Benghazi Defence Brigades are composed partly of fighters who were ousted from Benghazi by the LNA, where LNA commander Khalifa Haftar has been waging a military campaign for nearly three years against Islamists and other opponents.

That battle is linked to a wider conflict between political and armed factions based in eastern and western Libya.—*Reuters*

Twelve treated for chemical weapons agents in Mosul since 1 March: UN

MOSUL — Twelve people, including women and children, are being treated for possible exposure to chemical weapons agents in Mosul, where Islamic State is fighting off an offensive by US-backed Iraqi forces, the United Nations said on Saturday.

The UN's World Health Organization has activated with partners and local health authorities "an emergency response plan to safely treat men, women and children who may be exposed to the highly toxic chemical," the agency said in a statement.

It said all 12 patients had been received since 1 March for treatment which they are undergoing in Erbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdish region, east of Mosul.

Four of them are showing "severe signs associated with exposure to a blister agent". The patients were exposed to the chemical agents in the eastern side of Mosul.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Friday that five children and two women were receiving treatment for exposure to chemical agents.

The ICRC statement did not say which side used the chemical agents that caused blisters, redness in the eyes, irritation, vomiting and coughing.

Iraqi forces captured the eastern side of Mosul in January after 100 days of fighting and launched their attack on the districts that lie west of the Tigris river on 19 February. The eastern side remains within reach of the militants' rockets and mortar shells.

Defeating Islamic State in Mosul would crush the Iraqi wing of the caliphate declared by the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, in 2014, over parts of Iraq and Syria.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq, Lise Grande, called for an investigation.

"This is horrible. If the alleged use of chemical weapons is confirmed, this is a serious violation of international humanitarian law and a war crime, regardless of who the targets or the victims of the attacks are," she said in a statement.—*Reuters*

An Iraqi Army officer (R) uses his mobile phone to film a rocket launched towards Islamic State militants during a battle with Islamic State militants in Mosul,Iraq on 3 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russian air defence troops to hold live-fire drills, using advanced S-400 systems

MOSCOW — Crews of S-300 and advanced S-400 antiaircraft missile systems from an air defence division of Russia's Western Military District will hold live-fire exercises at the Ashuluk training range in south Russia in April, the District's press office reported on Friday.

"The live-fire drills will be held in the second half of April. They will be performed both from the equipped positions and during marches to new positioning areas. Special attention will be paid to simulating real combat conditions, in particular, a notional enemy's aerospace attack," the press office said.

PHOTO: TASS

During the drills at the Ashuluk training range near Astrakhan, the combat crews will practice measures during a month to camouflage their positions and use antiaircraft missiles in the daytime and at night for engaging ten targets at a time.

The servicemen will also practice shooting down high- and low-flying maneuvering targets imitating fighter jets, cruise missiles and other armament of a simulated enemy.

The drills involve about 350 troops and over 200 pieces of the Western Military District's military and special hardware.

Now the combat crews of S-300 and S-400 air defense missile systems are being transported to the designated area by railway. This effort has required more than 170 rail platforms.

The troops will cover a distance of more than 2,000 km.—*TASS*

White House seeking sharp budget cut to climate agency -Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is seeking a 17 per cent cut to the budget of the government's meteorological agency that monitors the climate and issues daily weather forecasts, the Washington Post reported on Friday.

Citing a four-page budget memo, the Post said the proposed reductions in the budget of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would affect research and satellite programs and eliminate funding for some smaller programs.

The NOAA is part of the Commerce Department, whose overall budget "would be hit by an overall 18 per cent reduction from its current funding level," it said.

The paper did not give a total figure for the proposed cuts, but said the White House Office of Management and Budget outline for the Commerce Department's budget for fiscal year 2018 included sharp reductions for specific parts of the NOAA.

The agency's satellite data division would lose $513 million, or 22 per cent, of its current funding under the proposal, and its Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research would lose $126 million, or 26 per cent, the Post said. The paper said a spokesperson for the Commerce Department declined to comment, and that an unnamed White House official said the process was "evolving" and cautioned against specific numbers.—*Reuters*

Snap of Clinton reading Pence email headline goes viral

NEW YORK — A photo of former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton glancing at a newspaper headline about US Vice President Mike Pence using private email has gone viral on social media, with thousands of people commenting on it.

Pence and others involved in the Republican presidential campaign last year criticized Clinton's use of a private email server during her time as US Secretary of State.

Clinton was on an airplane traveling from Boston to New York on Friday when a fellow passenger snapped a photo of her glancing down at Friday's USA Today newspaper front page headline "Pence used personal email in office". Pence's use of an AOL email account was first reported by the Indianapolis Star on Thursday. It said Pence used the account, which was hacked last summer, at times to discuss sensitive matters and homeland security issues while he was governor of Indiana.

Pence said on Friday he had complied with Indiana laws in his use of the email account, and he had an outside attorney review his private email records and archive those related to state business.

During the campaign, US President Donald Trump and Pence said Clinton's use of a private server broke the law and endangered national security — complaints that led their supporters to chant "Lock her up!" at rallies.

The State Department's internal watchdog said Clinton's use of a private server broke department rules.

The FBI reviewed her emails for classified material, but it found that no criminal charges were warranted.—*Reuters*

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Wise Global Co., Ltd, a company incorporated in Myanmar, having its registered office at No. 27, Pyay Road, Nine Miles, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar, is the owner and proprietor of the following trademark (Mark):

Registration No. 4/1481-2017
All in respect of "advertising; business management; business administration; and office functions." in class 35.
Fraudulent or unauthorized use, or actual or colourable imitation or other infringements of the said Mark shall be dealt with according to the law.

U Ko Ko Myo
For and on behalf of
Wise Global Co., Ltd
No.27, Pyay Road, Nine Miles
Mayangone Township, Yangon
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Phone No.: +95 9 4312 4001, +95 9 9630 93000, +95 9 7363 1655
Email: kokomyo@royalkk.com
heinhtet@royalkk.com

France's Le Pen loses ground in poll after state employee comments

PARIS — An apparent threat by far-right leader Marine le Pen to punish state employees who "persecute" political opponents may have eroded her support, according to a poll which found her first-round lead in France's presidential election slipping.

The poll of voting intentions by research firm BVA found Le Pen garnering 26 per cent of the votes in April's first round, down 1.5 per cent from the last BVA poll on 23 February.

It found independent centrist Emmanuel Macron gaining momentum, rising three points to 24 per cent.

Conservative rival Francois Fillon remained at 19 per cent and would therefore be eliminated from a second-round runoff to be held in May, in which Macron was seen defeating Le Pen by 62 per cent to her 38.

Another poll, by Odoxa, on Friday showed Macron finishing ahead of Le Pen in the opening round.

BVA said Le Pen had likely lost support because of comments at a rally in Nantes last week in which she appeared to threaten to punish government employees who would "persecute" political opponents.

"I want to tell public sector workers who are asked by a desperate political staff to use the powers of the state to keep tabs on opponents, to organise persecution, low blows and state cabals against them, to keep out of participating in such excesses," she said.

"In a few weeks, this government will have been swept away by the election.

But these civil servants will have to take responsibility for these illegal methods, because they are illegal and are putting their own responsibility at stake," she added.

Le Pen refused to attend a summons for questioning by police last month over allegations that she made illegal EU payments to her staff and her lawyer said on Friday she had also refused to attend a summons by judges over the allegations. Some of her aides have been put under formal investigation over the affair.

The BVA poll was carried out between 28 February and 2 March, only partly after Fillon's announcement that he could be placed under formal investigation over allegations he paid his wife hundreds of thousands of euros of public money to do very little work. —*Reuters*

Top US diplomat eyes debut trip to Japan, S Korea, China

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson plans to visit Japan, South Korea and China later this month mainly for talks on North Korean issues, diplomatic sources said Friday.

In what will be his first trip to the region since becoming President Donald Trump's top diplomat on1 February, Tillerson is arranging a visit to Japan on 17 and 18 March for talks with Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, the sources said.

The planned trip comes as the Trump administration is reportedly reviewing the US policy toward North Korea, ranging from putting the country back on a list of state sponsors of terrorism to use of military force and regime change to curb a nuclear threat posed by Pyongyang.

During a visit to Beijing, Tillerson plans to meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and possibly with President Xi Jinping, according to the sources.

The two sides are expected to coordinate a meeting between Xi and Trump in the United States as early as April, they said.

(From L) Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se shake hands ahead of their talks in Bonn, Germany, on 16 February, 2017. The three foreign chiefs met on the sidelines of a two-day foreign ministerial session of the Group of 20 major economies in the western German city. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Tillerson is expected to urge China, which has considerable economic leverage on North Korea, to strengthen pressure on North Korea. Trump has complained Beijing was not doing enough to press Pyongyang to rein in its development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Tillerson also plans to seek China's approval of the planned deployment in South Korea of an advanced US missile defence system known as the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence system, or THAAD, as part of a greater deterrence effort against North Korea.

He is likely to raise trade issues between the world's two biggest economies and Washington's objection to Beijing's island construction and militarization of outposts in disputed areas of the South China Sea, as well.

In the planned meeting in Tokyo, Tillerson and Kishida are likely to discuss the specific timing of a visit to Japan by Trump this year, according to the sources.

In Seoul, Tillerson plans to hold talks with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se at which North Korea's weapons development as well as the 13 February killing of the half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Malaysia are likely to be on top of the agenda.

Trump administration officials have said "all options" are under consideration to deal with North Korea, a departure from a policy of so-called "strategic patience" pursued by Trump's predecessor Barack Obama.

Obama's policy of strategic patience — or waiting for North Korea to change its behavior under the pressure of sanctions -- has been widely regarded as ineffective in curbing its missile and nuclear weapon development.

Last year alone, North Korea launched more than 20 ballistic missiles as well as conducting two atomic tests, including its most powerful to date.

Last month, Pyongyang test-launched an intermediate-range ballistic missile in violation of UN Security Council resolutions that expressly prohibit the country's ballistic missile and nuclear programmes -- an act that many analysts see as a test of Trump's North Korea policy.

The 12 February launch was followed by the killing of Kim Jong Nam, in which Pyongyang's involvement is suspected. Malaysian police have determined that the highly toxic VX nerve agent was used in the incident at Kuala Lumpur International Airport.—*Kyodo News*

Bruised DUP edge buoyant Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland election

BELFAST— The pro-British Democratic Unionist Party narrowly remained Northern Ireland's largest party after edging Irish nationalists Sinn Fein by a single seat in snap elections ahead of arduous talks to resurrect their power-sharing government.

Voters turned out in their highest numbers in two decades on Thursday in the first regional election in the United Kingdom since its vote to leave the European Union as nationalists who favour a united Ireland and unionists who want the province to remain British jostle for influence.

The DUP won 28 of the 90 seats as a surging Sinn Fein almost wiped out the 10-seat advantage the DUP secured in elections a year ago. Just over 1,000 votes split the main parties from the 800,000 ballots cast in the closest ever assembly election.

"Let us now move forward with hope, hope that civility can return to our politics," outgoing first minister Arlene Foster of the DUP told supporters after her re-election on Friday. "There is work to be done to quickly mend the relationship which has been frayed by the discord of this election."

Foster's conciliatory tone after her party's disappointing result was in stark contrast from an acrimonious campaign where, despite pleas from Dublin and London to avoid a further souring of relations, the two parties rallied their sectarian bases.

Sinn Fein's leader Michelle O'Neill told journalists it was an "amazing day" as her party benefited from a jump in turnout to 65 per cent, the highest since the first elections immediately after the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement.

It was the closest nationalists, traditionally backed by Catholics, had ever come to becoming the largest party in the Protestant-majority province. Unionists candidates, who tend to be favoured by Protestants, captured less than half of the seats for the first time.

The DUP's failure to win at least 30 seats also means it no longer has the power to veto legislation on its own, something the conservative party has done to block extending gay marriage to the province. —*Reuters*

Newly elected Sinn Fein leader Michelle O'Neill speaks to media at the count centre in Ballymena, Northern Ireland on 3 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV PATHIEN STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHIEN STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Rod Stewart. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rocker Rod Stewart apologises after outcry over "execution" web clip

LONDON — British rocker Rod Stewart apologised on Friday after he appeared to mimic a desert execution by Islamic State militants, with critics saying it was disrespectful to victims of the group.

Stewart, 72, appeared in a clip posted on his wife's internet Instagram account in which he draws his finger across the throat of a man kneeling in front of him. It was filmed ahead of a concert he performed in Abu Dhabi.

Critics said the clip was reminiscent of Islamic State propaganda videos featuring the beheading of Western hostages.

Stewart, known for his 1970s hits "Maggie May" and "Da Ya Think I'm Sexy", apologised but said his actions had been misinterpreted and that he had been recreating fictional scenes from TV shows such as "Game of Thrones".

"From re-enacting The Beatles' Abbey Road crossing to spontaneously playing out Game Of Thrones, we were simply larking about pre-show," he said in a statement.

"Understandably this has been misinterpreted and I send my deepest apologies to those who have been offended." —*Reuters*

Schwarzenegger quits 'Celebrity Apprentice' over show's Trump ties

LOS ANGELES — Arnold Schwarzenegger said on Friday he will not be back for another season of NBC's reality show "The Celebrity Apprentice," blaming US President Donald Trump's ongoing role as executive producer for low ratings.

Action movie star Schwarzenegger took over as host of "Celebrity Apprentice" last year. His first season, which premiered in January, has been watched by around 4 million to 5 million viewers.

"Everyone — from the celebrities to the crew to the marketing department — was a straight 10, and I would absolutely work with all of them again on a show that doesn't have this baggage," Schwarzenegger said in a statement. The actor's representative said Schwarzenegger would not be returning for a second season.

NBC, a unit of Comcast Corp (CMCSA.O), did not comment on Schwarzenegger's decision not to return for another season, or the show's future. There was no immediate comment from Trump or the White House on Friday.

Schwarzenegger, a Republican who served two terms as California governor but said he did not vote for Trump as president, told British film magazine Empire in an interview published on Friday that he was leaving the show due to Trump's involvement.

News that Trump will retain an executive producer credit on the show, which usually involves a payment, caused a media furor in December about potential conflicts of interest. Schwarzenegger told Empire that the show was "a really great opportunity, but "under the circumstances I don't want to do it again."

"When people found out that Trump was still involved as executive producer and was still receiving money from the show, then half the people (started) boycotting it," Schwarzenegger said.

New York businessman Trump, who took office in January after winning November's presidential election, became a household name as the host of "The Apprentice" and "The Celebrity Apprentice" for 14 seasons, where contestants would compete in business challenges.

Trump mocked Schwarzenegger and the 43 per cent fall in the coveted 18-to-49-year-old audience for the show's January premiere, sparking a Twitter fight between America's two biggest celebrities-turned-politicians.

"Wow, the ratings are in and Arnold Schwarzenegger got 'swamped' (or destroyed) by comparison to the ratings machine, DJT," tweeted Trump.

"I wish you the best of luck and I hope you'll work for ALL of the American people as aggressively as you worked for your ratings," Schwarzenegger tweeted back.

Some 20 million Americans watched the first year of "The Apprentice" but viewership dropped to around 6 million in 2015 for Trump's final episode of "The Celebrity Apprentice."—*Reuters*

Film 'Trespass Against Us' sees Fassbender tackle family woes, crime

LONDON — Actors Brendan Gleeson and Michael Fassbender delve into the world of the travelers community in Britain in film "Trespass Against Us", playing a father and son at odds over the family's way of life.

"Macbeth", "Steve Jobs" and "X-Men" actor Fassbender portrays the fast-driving and illiterate Chad, who wants to break away from his father Colby's criminal ways. The movie, which hits British cinemas on Friday, is the feature film debut for director Adam Smith, who has previously worked in television and music with The Chemical Brothers.

"I was really drawn to the family aspect of the story and the relationships between fathers and sons that's described in the film over three generations," Smith said in an interview.

"And also this idea of this man that's trying to escape from the shackles of what he's been brought up to be and give his children opportunities that he's never had but the dilemma not being as simple as that because he also loves a lot of what he has been brought up to believe."

The film begins with Fassbender driving across a field with his son on his lap, chasing a rabbit. Chad also teases police in a town car chase and hides under a cow after a heist.

"(Fassbender) knew who he was and he understood the man and you completely believed Michael in this world," Smith said, adding special measures were taken for the cow scene.

"We actually had an animal handler who claimed to be a cow handling expert and was, when we did the shot ... holding onto ... the back legs of the cow and somehow this was the thing that was going to stop this huge cow crushing Michael Fassbender. Fortunately it worked." The film is set in rural western England, with the actors putting on thick accents, which some critics have said may prove difficult to understand for international audiences.

"It was very important to us as filmmakers to get the accents authentic and truthful and it is quite a difficult accent for people who don't know it," Smith said.

"And then there's a lot of slang in there as well which I think the audience, as the film goes on, they kind of catch up with it." —*Reuters*

Viola Davis's impoverished upbringing motivated her to succeed

Viola Davis. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning actress Viola Davis says poor upbringing motivated her to be a successful actress and value her possessions.

The 51-year-old actress has opened up about her childhood growing up in a one-bedroom cabin on her grandmother's farm in Rhode Island that was infested with rats, and how that experience of poverty gave her the incentive to change her world for the better, reported People magazine.

"It became motivation as opposed to something else — the thing about poverty is that it starts affecting your mind and your spirit because people don't see you.

"I chose from a very young age that I didn't want that for my life. And it very much has helped me appreciate and value the things that are in my life now because I never had it. A yard, a house, great plumbing, a full refrigerator, things that people take for granted, I don't," Davis says.

Last weekend the star won the best actress in a supporting role Oscar for her performance in "Fences" opposite Denzel Washington.—*Reuters*

Queen Elizabeth marks St David's day with leek gifts

LONDON — Britain's Queen Elizabeth handed out leeks on Friday to Welsh soldiers at Lucknow Barracks in the southwest English county of Wiltshire to mark St David's Day, which fell on Wednesday.

The 90-year-old monarch addressed the soldiers of The Royal Welsh, a lead infantry regiment of the British Army, and inspected their parade, which included a regimental goat, before handing out the vegetables and a traditional Welsh badge.

According to legend, Saint David, the patron saint of Wales whose feast day is celebrated on March 1, advised Welsh soldiers to identify themselves by wearing leeks in a battle fought against the Saxons in a leek field.

Ffion Williams, age 10, presents a bunch of daffodils to Britain's Queen Elizabeth following a visit to the Royal Welsh Regiment at Lucknow Barracks to mark St David's Day, in Tidworth, Britain, on 3 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Queen Elizabeth is Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Welsh, who were formed on St David's Day in 2006 following the restructuring of former regiments, the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the Royal Regiment of Wales.—*Reuters*

Welcome to the wall: artist Banksy opens Bethlehem hotel

BETHLEHEM (West Bank) — Under an army watchtower and across the street from the concrete wall Israel has built in parts of the occupied West Bank, street artist Banksy has opened a guesthouse in the Palestinian city of Bethlehem.

In the revered birth town of Jesus, the Walled Off hotel stands three storeys high. Its bedroom walls and hallways are decorated with the mysterious artist's stencil graffiti work — one shows an Israeli soldier and masked Palestinian youth having a pillow fight, and a statue of a chimpanzee bellboy stands at the entrance, clothes falling out of the suitcase he holds.

The hotel, converted from a pottery workshop, has been styled to resemble "an English gentlemen's club from colonial times", a statement from the artist said, in acknowledgement of the historical role Britain played in the Middle East.

But the decor has been spiced up with statues choking on tear gas, cherubs hanging from the ceiling, their faces covered by oxygen masks and oil paintings of refugee life jackets washed ashore.

The hotel was set up in secrecy over the last 14 months — Israeli military authorities in the West Bank did not immediately respond when asked if they had been aware in advance.

Banksy, whose real name is not known, described his guesthouse as having the worst view of any hotel in the world: Every room overlooks the barrier which is a symbol of oppression for the Palestinians.

Israel began building it in 2002 at the height of a Palestinian uprising in which Israeli cities were rocked by frequent Palestinian suicide bombings.

Palestinians dub it an "apartheid wall" and an Israeli attempt to grab land in the West Bank, which they want along with Gaza and East Jerusalem, for a future state.

The Banksy statement said the hotel "offers a warm welcome to people from all sides of the conflict and across the world" and was financed by the artist. Gentle music from a self-playing pianola fills the candle-lit dining room where a framed painting of Jesus looks up at three warplanes, stencilled on the wallpaper above.—*Reuters*

Installations are seen inside the Walled Off hotel, which was opened by street artist Banksy, in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, on 3 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dior sees blue, Issey Miyake looks to northern lights at Paris shows

PARIS — French fashion house Christian Dior is seeing blue for women's wardrobes next winter, with artistic director Maria Grazia Chiuri turning to one of the preferred colours of the luxury label's founding designer for her latest collection.

At Dior's autumn/winter 2017/2018 fashion show held at the Paris' Musee Rodin, models strutted down the catwalk in a colour palette of different shades of blue — navy, midnight, denim — as well as black and white.

There were navy belted jackets worn with cropped culotte trousers as well as taffeta pleated dresses, tops and skirts.

Chiuri paired blue chunky knits with see-through chiffon skirts, and also presented dark blue velvet dresses and trouser suits, loose denim trousers, dungarees and overalls. There were also some dark blue and black check outfits. For the evening, Chiuri, who joined Dior last year from Valentino, added sparkling sequins, floral embroidery and moon and star motifs on dark velvet and tulle dresses.

"The collection is a sequence of pieces that reconnect emotions, feelings and memories," show notes said, adding the colour blue was "among Monsieur Dior's great favourites".

A Christian Dior logo appeared on the bottom of jackets as well as on underwear seen underneath see-through black dresses.

Musician Alicia Keys poses during a photocall before the French fashion house Christian Dior Fall/Winter 2017-2018 women's ready-to-wear collection during Fashion Week in Paris, France, on 3 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

For accessories, models wore berets, choker necklaces and bags slung over their bodies. There were also simple stiletto heels, flat and knee-high boots.

Earlier, the northern lights, or aurora borealis, were the inspiration at the Issey Miyake show, with models wearing voluminous coats as well as plenty of the label's signature pleats. The first looks nodded to the striking dancing green sky lights phenomenon, with the outfits' fabric changing colour depending on the angle it was viewed, according to show notes.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(5-3-2017 07:00am ~ 6-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	An Ardent Aficionado of Traditional Design
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Creative Hands
08:48	Am	Welcome to Saga PreFecture
08:55	Am	Traditional Snacks
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Bagan: The Land of Pagoda
09:52	Am	Lines & Wash Painting
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Richly Blessed Gem Land
10:52	Am	Licuala Palm Leaf

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Saturday 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	Swan Hein Cave
07:45	Pm	Today Myanmar
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Architect: U Thaw
08:51	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Khin Maung Zaw

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

MRTV

Programme Schedule (5-3-2017, Sunday)

6:00 Am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:00 Am
- Breakfast News

7:30 Am
- Business News

8:35 Am
- Beautiful ASEAN

8:40 Am
- ASEAN Spotlight (Youth Volunteer)

9:30 Am
- MRTV Travelogue

9:50 Am
- Poem for Children

10:00 Am
- Sunday Talk

10:30 Am
- Women in Myanmar Society

11:15 Am
- 2017 Martriculation Examination Lessons (Maths)

12:30 Am
- This Week's Special Interest

12:45 Pm
- Myanmar Movie

3:15 Pm
- Myanmar National League MLN (1) (2017) (Live) Southern Myanmar FC Vs Ayeyawady United FC)

6:20 Pm
- Myamar Classical Songs

7:15 Pm
- TV Drama Series

8:00 Pm
- News/International News/ Weather Report

8:35 Pm
- Documentary

9:00 Pm
- Documentary (Sidagu Sayadaw) (Part-1)
- Teleplay

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

8th Waxing of Tabaung 1378 ME | Sunday, 5 March 2017

Murray to play Verdasco in Dubai final

DUBAI — World number one Andy Murray overpowered Lucas Pouille 7-5, 6-1 on Friday to reach the Dubai Championships final in which he will play Fernando Verdasco.

Briton Murray lost his serve twice to Pouille in the opening set but the top seed broke the seventh-seeded Frenchman for the third time to take it.

Murray, who played a marathon 31-minute tie-break in his quarter-final win over German Philipp Kohlschreiber, breezed through the second set to reach his second final in Dubai.

Spaniard Verdasco, 33, beat Dutchman Robin Haase 7-6(5), 5-7, 6-1 in a clash between two unseeded players to advance to Saturday's final.—*Reuters*

Andy Murray. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fourth substitute allowed for FA Cup quarter-finals

LONDON — This year's FA Cup quarter-finalists will be allowed to field a fourth substitute if ties go to extra time as part of a two-year trial approved by the International Football Association Board.

The trial, announced last year subject to approval by rules body IFAB, will be a first in England, although the format was used at last year's Copa America and then the Rio Olympics.

"With the Cup now adopting a straight knockout format from the quarter-finals onwards, the introduction of a fourth substitute in extra time will bring extra intrigue and interest," FA chief executive Martin Glenn said on Friday.

"Also, from a technical point of view, it will be interesting to see how managers use the chance to make an additional substitution in such high-profile games and the impact it has on the final result.

The quarter-finals are scheduled for 11-13 March with holders Manchester United visiting Chelsea in the standout tie.

Among other proposals agreed at IFAB's annual meeting at Wembley on Friday was for "sin bins" to be tested for yellow card offences in grassroots football.

Glenn, who hosted the meeting attended by FIFA president Gianni Infantino, said video-assisted referees are likely to be used from the FA Cup third round next season.—*Reuters*

Chief Executive Martin Glenn. PHOTO: REUTERS

In-form Moses hopes for better scoring return

LONDON — Chelsea wing-back Victor Moses is currently enjoying the best form of his career but the Nigerian admits he needs to take more of his goal-scoring opportunities after he was rewarded with a two-year contract extension earlier this week.

The 26-year-old Moses, who has scored three goals in 25 Premier League appearances for leaders Chelsea this season, spent last year on loan at West Ham and will line-up against the Hammers when the London rivals meet on Monday.

"I think this is the best football I've played in my career and to be doing it at a big club like Chelsea makes it mean even more," Moses told the Chelsea club website (www.chelseafc.com).

"I just want to keep learning more about the position and keep improving. Every game I play I feel more comfortable and have more belief in myself. I'm pleased to be scoring more goals this season but I think there are still more I could get.

"My year at West Ham was good, I did okay, but it's all about Chelsea now and I'm fully concentrated."

Shipped out on loan over the past three seasons, Moses has found a new lease of life under Chelsea manager Antonio Conte, flourishing as a right wing-back in the 3-4-3 formation favoured by the Italian.

West Ham manager Slaven Bilic has lauded Moses, who has played most of his career as an attacking wideman, for the ease with which he has adapted to his new role.

"He is playing in a position that is not basically his ideal position — or wasn't his ideal position," Bilic said.

"It makes his achievement even greater."—*Reuters*

Mourinho says Rooney to Everton talk is 'nonsense'

Mourinho. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho dismissed as "nonsense" media reports that captain Wayne Rooney is open to the idea of returning to his boyhood club Everton at the end of the season.

The 31-year-old striker's future was the subject of speculation last month, with British media reporting that a move to China was on the cards until Rooney released a statement reiterating his commitment to United.

Rooney, the all-time leading goalscorer for club and country, has started eight Premier League games this season and has not played since 1 February.

Mourinho said the striker was in the squad for Saturday's league clash with Bournemouth, "with possibilities to ...start or be on the bench."

Since he had decided to "help the team and to fight for Manchester United he's an important player for us," Mourinho told reporters on Friday.

"I think by giving you these two details I'm telling you all the talk about Everton for me makes nonsense."

Newspapers in London and Liverpool reported Rooney was open to a return, while Everton manager Ronald Koeman said he would welcome the striker back.

Mourinho would "100 percent" like Rooney to still be at United next season, "but I don't give you 100 per cent and I like the players to be happy and not just to be with me because I want them with me."

Rooney has been kept out of the team by Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who has scored 26 goals in all competitions this season, and Mourinho said he wanted the Swede to extend his current one-year contract.

"It's been an amazing successful year for him," the manager added.

"This team has a lot to grow up... So I think Zlatan will be fundamental in the second year of this team and I think he's willing to stay."

United Full back Luke Shaw is set for his first league appearance since the end of October when sixth-placed United host 14th-placed Bournemouth in Saturday's early kick off.—*Reuters*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

"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."