■ NATIONAL
Temporary suspension of Yangon Saturday-Sunday Book Street
▶ PAGE 3

■ NATIONAL
Voices of the 2017 by-elections winners
▶ PAGE 2

■ OPINION
Be a good loser and never be a born loser!
▶ PAGE 8

■ LOCAL BUSINESS
Myanmar's trade deficit reaches over $5.27 billion before end of FY2016-17
▶ PAGE 5

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE

Results of 2017 by-elections

THE National League for Democracy won almost half of the seats that were contested in by-elections on Sunday, the first vote since it dominated elections a year ago and an early indication of continued support for State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her administration.

U Hla Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission in Nay Pyi Taw, announced the results of the 2017 by-elections yesterday. The National League for Democracy won five seats for Pyithu Hluttaw, three seats for Amyotha Hluttaw, and one seat for Regional Hluttaw; the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy won two seats for Pyithu Hluttaw, and four seats for Regional Hluttaw; the Union Solidarity and Development Party won one seat for Pyithu Hluttaw and one seat for Regional Hluttaw; the Arakan National Party won one seat for Pyithu Hluttaw; the All Nationalities Democratic Party (Kayah) won one seat for Regional Hluttaw.

U Hla Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, announces the results of the 2017- by-elections. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

For Dagon Myothit (East) Township in Yangon Region, five hluttaw candidates competed in the election for Pyithu Hluttaw. U Nay Kyaw from the National League for Democracy won with 67.85 per cent (27,357) of the votes.

For Hlinethaya Township in Yangon Region, eight hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Pyithu Hluttaw. U Win Min from the National League for Democracy won with 69.73 per cent (31,369) of the votes.

For Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township in Yangon Region, five hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Pyithu Hluttaw. U Mya Sein from the National League for Democracy won with 62.35 per cent (15,756) of the votes.

For Kawhmu Township in Yangon Region, nine hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Pyithu Hluttaw. U Kyaw Swe Win (alias) U Arloo from the National League for Democracy won with 69.97 per cent (38,028) of the votes.

For Monywa Township in Sagaing Region, five hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Pyithu Hluttaw. U Nyunt Aung from the National League for Democracy won with 81.69 per cent (95,923) of the votes.

For Chaungzon Township in Mon State, five hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Pyithu Hluttaw. U Aung Kyi Thein from the Union Solidarity and Development Party won with 41.70 per cent (19,667) of the votes.

For An Township in Rakhine State, four hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Pyithu Hluttaw. Dr Aye Maung from the Arakan National Party won with 49.19 per cent (21,794) of the votes.

For Mongshu Township in Shan State, four hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Pyithu Hluttaw. Sai Win Aye (alias) Sai Htun Aye from the Shan Nationalities Democracy Party won with 57.53 per cent (10,216) of the votes.

For Kyaythe Township in Shan State, four hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Pyithu Hluttaw. Sai Aung Kyaw from the Shan Nationalities Democracy Party won with 77 per cent (18,882) of the votes.

Amyotha Hluttaw

For Chin State constituency three, three hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Amyotha Hluttaw. Pu Bawi Khing from the National League for Democracy won with 44.70 per cent (9,242) of the votes.

For Bago Region constituency 4, six hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Amyotha Hluttaw. Daw San San Myint from the National League for Democracy won with 57.31 per cent (71,042) of the votes.

For Yangon Region constituency 6, six hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Amyotha Hluttaw. Dr Maung Maung from the National League for Democracy won with 81.70 per cent (75,299) of the votes.

Regional Hluttaw

For Kayah State, Phruso Township constituency 1, three hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Regional Hluttaw. U The Yel from the All Nationalities Democratic Party (Kayah) won with 53.31 per cent (3,351) of the votes.

SEE PAGE 9 >>

U Thae Rae.

U Sai Lin Myat.

U Sai Win Aye (a) U Sai Tun Aye.

Dr Aye Maung.

U Khin Maung Win.

Voices of the 2017 by-elections winners

HLUTTAW representatives who were elected in the April 1 2017 by-election talk on future progress and development efforts.

Dr Maung Maung.

U Nay Kyaw.

U Mya Sein.

Daw Nan Kaung Kham.

U Nyunt Aung

(Monywa constituency, Sagaing Region, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, National League for Democracy)

I feel elated that I can now perform the duties and aims of the National League for Democracy. I am able to fulfill the wishes of the people of Monywa and protect their national rights too, and for that I am happy.

U Aung Kyi Thein

(Chaungzon constituency, Mon State, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, Union Solidarity and Development Party)

I have made a promise for farmer, peasants and employment opportunities. Emphasis will be put on development for Chongzon moving forward, and I will strive to the best of my ability for all the people who supported me, and I will use all resources available either from the party or where I can get it best in the road towards peace.

Dr Aye Maung

(An constituency, Rakhine State, Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency, Arakan National Party)

A Hluttaw Representative has certain rights and duties and I will act accordingly to it. The current government needs to show their opinion on the constitution discussed during the previous government. In the previous Hluttaw, the National League for Democracy declared constitutional reform, rule of law and national peace efforts. We will have to see how they plan to carry this out. There are plans to inquire deeply into security plans in Rakhine, especially in Buthidaung and Maungtaw. I also plan to point out unequal distribution of the national budget to ethnic regions. I will emphasize regional development as it is an important goal to pursue.

U Mya Sein

(Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency, Yangon Region, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, National League for Democracy)

As a Hluttaw Representative I will discuss, advise and submit on legal matters in the Hluttaw. On the government's side there are some laws that are out of practice and some laws in practice in most ministries need to be reviewed and drawn according to international convention standards. In my constituency there are lots of wild and free lands so we have our share of land–rights problems. I want to have a systematic collection of the land's mapping and history. I also want to hold classes for youths who have not received Law Degrees yet. I will try my best to fulfill the wishes of the people with compassion while listening to their voices.

U Nay Kyaw

(Dagon Myothit (East) constituency, Yangon Region, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, National League for Democracy)

I will prioritize the party's aims for rule of law, national reconciliation, and amending the 2008 constitution as well as carry out what was written in the electoral announcement which is focusing on health, education, social, economic, and employment related developments. I will try hard to fulfill the needs and wants of the region and its people. We have already discovered some issues and I will utilize the first opportunity I get to submit them to the Hluttaw for review and discussions.

The people have chosen me to be their servant and that is why I will try my best to fulfill their wants and needs.

U Kyaw Swe Win (alias) U Arloo

(Kawhmu constituency, Yangon Region, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, National League for Democracy)

About 70 per cent of the inhabitants of Kawhmhu work in the agrarian business. My dream is for them to become modernized. We need the technology because the majority of the inhabitants only plant crops once a year, while a small minority plants twice a year. We also need to maintain our creeks and waterways. The current hluttaw representatives are also working hard for that. I want to collaborate with them to enable farmers to plant year-round crops and dig up more irrigation canals while preventing salt water from seeping in. The people from my constituency have entrusted me with the responsibility. The voters have competed their duty so it is up to me to listen carefully to their needs and wants while working to fulfill them to the best that I can.

U Sai Win Aye (alias) U Sai Tun Aye

(Mongshu constituency, Shan State, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, Shan Nationalities League Democracy Party)

I will fulfill the needs of the voters. I will submit reports on the voters' difficulties, obstacles and hindrances they face. I will protect the economy of the people starting from the moment I take office. The main task of a hluttaw representative is to draft laws and submit the people's difficulties in the Hluttaw as well as abolish what needs to be removed.

My constituency is one that is at constant war. I will fulfill my role in the Hluttaw to realize national reconciliation so that its effects can reach this constituency.

Pu Bawi Khing

(Member of Parliament, Amyotha Hluttaw, Chin State constituency no. 3, National League for Democracy)

The election was transparent. I thank the people for being elected. I am very happy. I will strive to do what is good for the State. I thank the voters who voted enthusiastically. I will do what is truly required for the people as well as do the utmost to meet the request of the people. I want to say that I will do my utmost for regional development, for the livelihood, health and education of the people.

Daw San San Myint

(Member of Parliament Amyotha Hluttaw, Bago Region constituency no. 4, National League for Democracy)

I will especially work on women's life security and violence against women. I am a legal expert. Together with Legal Affairs Committee members who preceded me, I want to work on enacting laws for the good of the people as well as remove laws that are detrimental to the people. I plan not to serve the people of my constituency, Nyaunglebin and Kyaukdaga, only but to serve for the good of all voters as well as all the people.

Dr. Maung Maung

(Member of Parliament, Amyotha Hluttaw, Yangon Region constituency no. 6, National League for Democracy)

I want to participate in the peace process that our leader, the people's leader is doing. We could not develop the country nor improve the life of the people without peace. That is why I want to participate in the peace process. In addition to actively taking up duties assigned by the Amyotha Hluttaw, I will actively participate in enacting laws for the good of the people. I being elected mean receiving the trust of the people. I will undertake all the duties assigned to me for the good of the people.

U Thae Rae

[Member of Parliament, Pyithu Hluttaw, Prusho constituency no. 1, Kayah State, All Nationals Democracy Party (Kayah State)]

I will do what I can for the constituency and the State. I thank to know the trust that people had in me. As per the trust and support placed on me by the people, I will conduct regional development matters.

I will do the best I can accordingly to the rights granted to me by the Hluttaw. Peace is a big matter in Kayah State. I plan to take part the best I can in the 21st Pinlon for the sake of the State. I aim to attain peace between the current government, Tatmadaw and the ethnic armed groups.

SEE PAGE 9 >>

President to visit People's Republic of China

U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Su Su Lwin will pay a State Visit to the People's Republic of China in the near future at the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification No (5/2017)
6th Waxing of Tague, 1378 ME
2nd April,2017

Announcement for the list of Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives

The following lists are the elected persons at the by election held in 1 April, 2017, according to the announcements by respective Regions and States Election Sub-Commissions in accordance with section 49 (B) of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law. The elected are announced as Pyithu Hluttaw representatives for their constituencies.

No	Name	NRC No.	constituency	Representative party/ Individual
	Sagaing Region			
(1)	U Nyunt Aung	5/ArYa Ta (Naing) 003206	Monywa	National League for Democracy
	Mon State			
(2)	U Aung Kyi Thein	12/MaYaKa(Naing)018150	Chaungzon	Union Solidarity and Development Party
	Rakhine State			
(3)	Dr Aye Maung	13/NaKhaNa(Naing)009999	An	Arakan National Party
	Yangon Region			
(4)	U Mya Sein	12/DaPaNa(Naing)015629	Dagon Myothit (Seikkan)	National League for Democracy
(5)	U Nay Kyaw	12/TaMaNa(Naing)045818	Dagon Myothit (Eastern)	National League for Democracy
(6)	U Kyaw Win Swe (also known as) U Arr Lu	12/KaMaNa(Naing)002569	Kawhmu	National League for Democracy
(7)	U Win Min	12/KaMaTa(Naing)040736	Hlaingtharyar	National League for Democracy
	Shan State			
(8)	Sai Win Aye (also known as) Sai Tun Aye	9/MaKaNa(Naing)000001	Mongshu	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy
(9)	Sai Aung Kyaw	13/KaThaNa(Naing)000563	Kehsi	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy

Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification No (6/2017)
6th Waxing of Tague, 1378 ME
2nd April,2017

Announcement for the list of Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives

The following lists are the elected persons at the by election held in 1 April, 2017, according to the announcements by respective Regions and States Election Sub-Commissions in accordance with section 49 (B) of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law. The elected are announced as Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives for their constituencies.

No	Name	NRC No.	constituency	Representative party/Individaul
	Chin State			
(1)	U Pu Bawi Khing	4/HtaTaLa (Naing) 001842	No.3	National League for Democracy
	Bago Region			
(2)	Daw San San Myint	7/NyaLaPa(Naing)123501	No.4	National League for Democracy
	Yangon Region			
(5)	Dr Maung Maung	9/KaPaTa(Naing)031727	No.6	National League for Democracy

Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification No (7/2017)
6th Waxing of Tague, 1378 ME
2nd April,2017

Announcement for the list of State Hluttaw Representatives

The following lists are the elected persons at the by election held in 1 April, 2017, according to the announcements by respective Regions and States Election Sub-Commissions in accordance with section 49 (B) of Region Hluttaw Election Law or State Hluttaw Election Law. The elected are announced as State Hluttaw representatives for their constituencies.

No	Name	NRC No.	constituency	Representative party/Individual
	Kayah State			
(1)	U Thae Rae	2/Pha Ya Sa (Naing) 012924	Pharuso(1)	All Nationals' Democracy Party (Kayha State)
	Shan State			
(2)	Sai San Mine	13/kaThaNa(Naing)017376	Kehsi(1)	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy
(3)	U Khin Maung Nyunt	12/YaKaNa(Naing)025107	Kehsi(2)	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy
(4)	Sai Lin Myat	13/TaKaNa(Naing)000927	Mongshu(1)	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy
(5)	Daw Nan Kaung Khan	13/TaYaNa(Naing)001139	Mongshu(2)	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy
(6)	U Shar Mwe Lashan	13/MaKhaNa(Naing)000119	Kengtung(2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Chairman
Union Election Commission

Temporary suspension of Yangon Saturday-Sunday Book Street

A ceremony to temporarily suspend the Yangon Saturday-Sunday Book Street organised by the Ministry of Information was held this afternoon at Yangon Saturday-Sunday Book Street in Theinbyu Street, Yangon.

The event will be temporarily closed because of the upcoming rainy season.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said there are many people who are interested in books in Yangon. He believed that a special place is needed for such people, which resulted in this "Street" being organised. The minister said he was happy to see that the Yangon Saturday-Sunday Book Street was more popular than expected and hoped that the place will become known as book lovers' hangout. He thanked everyone who helped make the effort a success.

Myanmar Publishers and Distributors Association Chairman Dr. Tha Tun Oo then explained about Yangon Saturday-Sunday Book Street and Ko Nay (Mann) of Ko Nay (Mann) Bookstore gave words of thanks on behalf of all who set up bookshops on Yangon Saturday-Sunday Book Street.

Afterward the Chairman gave thanks and presented gifts to Pyithu A Yay journal Chief Reporter U Kyaw Kyaw Oo on behalf of Hlyat Ta Pyet journal Chief Editor U Myat Khaing, Idea Magazine Chief Editor Maung Myo and U Myint Naing of Lion Co., Ltd, who helped organise the "Actors from the Book" event.

Yangon Saturday-Sunday Book Street managing committee chairman U Nay Myo Nyunt said this "Street" is something that book lovers wanted — a place where books from many varied publishers were available.

Yangon Saturday-Sunday Book Street was started on 7 and 8 January 2017 (Saturday andSunday) and was held for 13 weeks (26 days). It is now temporarily suspended due to the forthcoming raining season. It is planned to be re-opened in October.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visits a book stall on Theinbyu Street. PHOTO: MNA

China says US trade orders should respect international rules

BEIJING — China called on the United States to respect international trade rules and improve cooperation and dialogue in reaction to two new orders by US President Donald Trump calling for an investigation into trade abuses.

Any US trade enforcement measures should comply with generally accepted international trade rules and differences between the two countries should be handled properly, an unidentified spokesperson for China's Ministry of Commerce said in a speech on Saturday.

"China is willing to cooperate with the United States on a basis of equality and mutual benefit," the spokesperson said in the speech released on the ministry's website.

Trump signed executive orders on Friday aimed at investigating possible abuses causing large US trade deficits and stopping import duty evasion.

He will host Chinese President Xi Jinping this Thursday and Friday at his Mar-a-Lago retreat in Florida, where trade is expected to be a central talking point as well as North Korea and China's ambitions in the South China Sea.

Trump, who has taken a harsh stance on China's trade practices, last week tweeted that the meeting "will be a very difficult one", citing massive trade deficits and American job losses.

China maintains that the China-US trade imbalance is mostly the result of differences between the economic structures and development stages of the two countries.—*Reuters*

New York Post apologizes after app apparently hacked

NEW YORK — The New York Post apologized early on Sunday hours after its app was apparently hacked with what was reported to be alerts about President Donald Trump.

"The push alert system for our mobile app was compromised this evening. Please accept our apologies," the newspaper said on Twitter several hours after the alerts went out.

The tabloid newspaper did not provide details of the alerts from its app, but screen grabs posted online by Twitter users included an alert reading "Heil President Donald Trump!" among a series that ran on Saturday, which was April Fool's Day. Other posts were more cryptic, vague or seemingly religious in nature, with the final one reading "with Lucid Love, Selah," according to media reports and screen shots posted on Twitter. The Post is owned by News Corp.—*Reuters*

Major internet providers say will not sell customer browsing histories

WASHINGTON — Comcast Corp, Verizon Communications Inc and AT&T Inc said on Friday they would not sell customers' individual internet browsing information, days after the US Congress approved legislation reversing Obama administration era internet privacy rules.

The bill would repeal regulations adopted in October by the Federal Communications Commission under former President Barack Obama requiring internet service providers to do more to protect customers' privacy than websites like Alphabet Inc's Google or Facebook Inc.

The easing of restrictions has sparked growing anger on social media sites.

"We do not sell our broadband customers' individual web browsing history. We did not do it before the FCC's rules were adopted, and we have no plans to do so," said Gerard Lewis, Comcast's chief privacy officer.

He added Comcast is revising its privacy policy to make more clear that "we do not sell our customers' individual web browsing information to third parties."

Verizon does not sell personal web browsing histories and has no plans to do so in the future, said spokesman Richard Young.

Verizon privacy officer Karen Zacharia said in a blog post Friday the company has two programs that use customer browsing data. One allows marketers to access "de-identified information to determine which customers fit into groups that advertisers are trying to reach" while the other "provides aggregate insights that might be useful for advertisers and other businesses."

Republicans in Congress on Tuesday narrowly passed the repeal of the rules with no Democratic support and over the objections of privacy advocates.

The vote was a win for internet providers such as AT&T Inc, Comcast and Verizon. Websites are governed by a less restrictive set of privacy rules.

The White House said on Wednesday that President Donald Trump plans to sign the repeal of the rules, which had not taken effect.

Under the rules, internet providers would have needed to obtain consumer consent before using precise geolocation, financial information, health information, children's information and web browsing history for advertising and marketing. Websites do not need the same affirmative consent.

Some in Congress suggested providers would begin selling personal data to the highest bidder, while others vowed to raise money to buy browsing histories of Republicans.

AT&T says in its privacy statement it "will not sell your personal information to anyone, for any purpose. Period." In a blog post Friday, AT&T said it would not change those policies after Trump signs the repeal.

Websites and internet service providers do use and sell aggregated customer data to advertisers. Republicans say the rules unfairly would give websites the ability to harvest more data than internet providers.

Trade group USTelecom CEO Jonathan Spalter said in an op-ed Friday for website Axios that individual "browser history is already being aggregated and sold to advertising networks — by virtually every site you visit on the internet."

This week, 46 Senate Democrats urged Trump not to sign the bill, arguing most Americans "believe that their private information should be just that."
—*Reuters*

Toshiba likely to miss quarterly earnings deadline for 3rd time — sources

TOKYO — Toshiba Corp will likely miss a third deadline to report its quarterly business results, two sources told Reuters, forcing the Japanese conglomerate to ask for a fresh extension or face a possible delisting from the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

A third postponement of the October-December earnings, past the latest deadline of 11 April, looks necessary because Toshiba's auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers Aarata LLC, has questions about results for the business year through March 2016, said the sources. One of the sources has direct knowledge of the delay and the other was briefed on the matter.

Toshiba also may not be able to decide the favored bidder or group for its semiconductor business by its general shareholder meeting in late June, said another person with direct knowledge of the matter. He had previously said the decision would be made in May, or at least before the shareholder meeting.

Toshiba and PwC officials could not be reached for comment in Tokyo outside business hours.

The Japanese conglomerate, which only recently emerged from a huge accounting scandal, has been dragged down by billions of dollars of cost overruns at its former US nuclear unit, Westinghouse Electric Co. Disagreements with auditors forced the company to postpone its earnings release in February and again in March. After April 11, Toshiba will have eight working days to publish its results for the three months that ended 31 December unless it can persuade regulators at the Ministry of Finance to give it more time.

The logo of Toshiba Corp is seen behind a traffic light at the company's headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, on 29 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Despite some progress in tackling writedowns at Westinghouse, a new delay to the Japanese parent's earnings announcement would underscore the seriousness of the financial crisis that threatens the 144-year old company. For the business year ended Friday, Toshiba forecasts a net loss of 1 trillion yen ($9 billion).

Westinghouse on Wednesday filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection from creditors in New York, a move by Toshiba to fence off losses at the unit it bought in 2006 for $5.4 billion. The filing marks the start of what will likely be lengthy and complex negotiations with creditors and customers that could embroil the US and Japanese governments.

Toshiba's shareholders at an extraordinary meeting in Japan on Thursday agreed to split off the company's profitable NAND flash memory unit, green-lighting a plan to sell most or all of the business to raise at least 1 trillion yen to cover charges at Westinghouse.

The company received about 10 bidders in the first round, which ended Wednesday, with bids as high as 2 trillion yen, the semiconductor business source said.

A source earlier said Western Digital Corp and Micron Technology Inc in the United States, South Korea's SK Hynix Inc and financial investors were among those expressing interest. The Japanese government-backed Innovation Network of Japan Corp and the Development Bank of Japan [DBJPN.UL] are also expected to submit bids as part of a consortium, sources have said.—*Reuters*

LOCAL Business

Myanmar's trade deficit reaches over $5.27 billion before end of FY2016-17

THE country's trade deficit before the end of 2016-2017 fiscal year reached US$5.27 billion, according to the official figures of the Commerce Ministry.

The total external trade value between Myanmar and foreign trade partners from 1 April of last year and 17 March of this year hit US$27.03 billion, while the county has racked up a trade deficit of over $5 billion. Over the past 11.5 months of this FY, over $10.88 billion from the export sector and $16.15 billion from the import sector that occurred the trade deficit of $5.27 billion.

According to the ministry, the country suffered a trade deficit of over $91 million in FY2012-2013.

The trade deficit rose to $2.555 billion in FY2013-2014. It continues to increase to $4.109 billion in FY2014-2015, $5.441 billion in FY2015-2016.

Efforts are being made by the authorities to reduce import of goods especially luxury products to decrease the country's trade deficit.

Under the second five-year National Development Plan between 2016-2017 and 2020-2021 FY, the ministry continues to promote the country's export sector by shipping new valued-added products from manufacturing sector within the next five year.—*Swe Nyein*

Viet Nam ranks seventh in list of top ten investors in Myanmar

VIET NAM ranked seventh in the list of top ten foreign investors in Myanmar, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

According to the DICA's statistics related to foreign investment of permitted enterprises by country as of February, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam invested $2.079 billion in 14 projects in Myanmar.

China stands at the top of the list with investments of $18.534 billion in 163 projects, followed by Singapore with $16.649 billion from nearly 230 projects, Thailand with $10.606 billion from 100 projects, Hong Kong with $7.557 billion from 141 projects, the United Kingdom with $4.122 billion from 85 projects, and the Republic of Korea with $3.551 billion from 136 projects.

The majority of foreign direct investment (FDI) went to the oil and gas sector, followed by power, transport and communication, manufacturing, real estate, mining, hotels and tourism, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, industrial estate, construction and other services, according to the figures of the DICA.

Before the end of 2016-17 FY, Viet Nam's total trade with Myanmar amounted to $428.261 million in total, including $74.984 million from export sector and $353.277 million in import sector.—*Wah Wah*

Import value up by $240 million since April

THE total value of imports before the end of the 2016-17 fiscal year hit US$16.150 billion, increasing nearly $240 million when compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 April of 2015 to 17 March of this year, Myanmar bought $6.540 billion worth of capital goods, $5.748 billion worth of industrial raw materials and $3.862 billion worth of personal goods, mainly from its neighbours.

Over the first 11.5 months of this fiscal year, the government sector bought capital goods, raw materials and personal goods that amounted to over $907.778 million from international trade partners, while the private sector imported $15.242 billion worth of products.

The import value over the same time last financial year totalled $15.509 billion, including $2.516 billion from the government sector and $13.393 billion from the private sector, with the country importing $7.978 billion worth of capital goods, $4.621 billion worth of industrial raw materials and $3.309 billion worth of personal goods.

Myanmar normally imports luxury products, personal goods, construction materials, agricultural machinery, raw materials, household goods, foodstuff and electronic devices predominately from neighbouring countries.—*Shwe Khine*

Over 1 million S Koreans to travel abroad in early May: Yonhap

SEOUL — More than a million South Koreans are expected to travel abroad in early May "when a string of holidays could allow people to take upwards of nine days off from work," Yonhap reported Sunday, quoting travel industry sources.

Yonhap said many South Koreans take off 1 May, International Workers Day, which is followed by two national holidays — Buddha's Birthday, which falls on 3 May this year under the lunar calendar, and Children's Day on 5 May. By also taking off 2 May and 4 May, South Korean workers could take off nine consecutive days from 29 April through 7 May by including weekends.

Yonhap quoted an unnamed official at Hana Tour Co, the nation's top travel agency, as saying it may be booking travel for "three times the 23,000 people that it helped go abroad in early May 2016."

At Mode Tour, another travel agency, bookings for package tours are up 63 per cent from last May, Yonhap reported.

"If individual visits and group tours being arranged by smaller travel-related firms are counted, the actual number could surpass the 1 million mark," Yonhap reported.

And that, it added, would be a record not only for early May, but for any holiday period including the Lunar New Year and Chuseok, a three-day holiday viewed as the Korean equivalent of the Thanksgiving Day weekend in the United States. —*Kyodo News*

Philippine government, communist rebels restart peace talks without truce

A protester is silhouetted behind a Communist sickle and hammer banner as members and supporters of an underground Communist movement march along a street in Manila, Philippines on 31 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MANILA — Peace negotiations between the Philippine government and Maoist rebels started anew on Sunday in Oslo, but without any ceasefire and with both parties warning of continuing violence.

The conflict between the government and the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), has raged since 1968 and killed more than 40,000 people.

The government could not agree to a unilateral ceasefire because the NPA had taken advantage of the truce to extort businesses and citizens, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief General Eduardo Ano said in a statement.

In a separate statement, the communist rebels said they expected intensified operations by the military. The CPP added that it did not declare a unilateral ceasefire because of the government's refusal to declare its own truce. Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte scrapped the truce with the communist rebels in February.

Angered by the deaths and abduction of soldiers since the NPA halted its unilateral ceasefire, Duterte ordered soldiers to prepare to fight. General Ano appealed to the public to report all attempts at extortion. The military said it had recorded more than 60 incidents of arson related to extortion since the breakdown of the truce in February. Duterte wants to end guerrilla wars with both communist and Muslim rebels that have been hampering economic development. The 3,000-strong NPA operates mainly in the east and south.—*Reuters*

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Blast caused by illegal explosives kills at least 9 in China — Xinhua

BEIJING — An explosion in northern China's Shanxi province on Saturday evening killed at least nine and injured six, state news agency Xinhua reported.

The blast occurred in a residential building and was believed to have been caused by illegally stored explosives, Xinhua said. An investigation was underway.

A number of buildings collapsed and search and rescue work continued on Sunday afternoon, said state broadcaster CCTV.

China has a poor record of industrial explosive accidents in residential areas.

In October 14 people were killed in neighbouring Shaanxi province when a blast caused by illegally stored explosives destroyed a block of prefabricated houses. A province-wide investigation into explosive production and storage was launched following the incident. Both Shanxi and Shaanxi have large coal mining industries, where explosives are regularly used.—*Reuters*

Indonesian rescuers fear nearly 30 people buried in Java landslide

JAKARTA — Indonesian rescuers, joined by police and soldiers, found one body and continued to look for 28 other people feared to be buried after a landslide triggered by heavy rain on Indonesia's Java island, a spokesman for the national disaster agency said.

The mud and debris from Saturday's landslide in a village in the Ponorogo area of East Java had engulfed more than 20 houses after sliding 800 metres (875 yards) down a hillside, National Disaster Management Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said.

Some of the victims were believed to include a group harvesting a crop of ginger in fields around the village, he said. Seventeen people had been injured and were being treated at a community health centre.

Rescuers look for people feared to be buried after a landslide triggered by heavy rain hit Banaran village in Ponorogo, East Java province, Indonesia on 2 April 2017 in this photo taken by Antara Foto. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rescue efforts were hampered by people flocking to the area to see the landslide and causing traffic jams, he said earlier.

The local disaster mitigation agency had warned of the risk of a landslide due to recent rain, and some people had only returned to the village on Saturday after staying the night in a shelter, said the official. —*Reuters*

India, Malaysia ink seven pacts to boost partnership

EW DELHI — India and Malaysia signed seven agreements as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with his visiting Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak here on Saturday to bolster partnership in a range of areas, including fighting terrorism.

The pacts that Indian and Malaysia inked included one on air services. Other agreements were on sports, techonlogy development in the field of palm oil and recognition of academic degrees of the two countries.

Ahead of signing of the agreements, Modi and Razak held one-to-one as well as delegation-level talks at the iconic Hyderabad House in the heart of the Indian capital on cultural, trade and strategic issues.

In a joint statement on terrorism, both Modi and Razak stressed that "there can be no justification for acts of terror on any ground whatsoever" and condemned in strongest terms the recent barbaric terror attacks in the region.

Later, addressing a joint press conference, Modi said: "To secure our societies, and for the greater regional good, we have agreed to further strengthen our strategic partnership to shape an effective response to our common concerns and challenges."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) welcomes Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak during a ceremonial reception held at the Indian Presidential Palace in New Delhi, India on 1 April, 2017. Najib Razak is on his five-day visit to India. PHOTO: XINHUA

On his part, the Malaysian prime minister said that "defense and strategic partnership will be very important to us to fight global terrorism, militancy, extremism and that includes our fight against Islamic State and against any form of extremism."

"For this, we will enhance our cooperation," Razak asserted.

"We are willing to work closely together with the Indian government for a special conference that will be held in near future and we will provide our experience and with our partners to make sure Malaysia and other parts of the world will never be a place in which militancy and extremism will take root," Razak added.

On trade relations, Modi said the two countries have built a thriving economic partnership.

"We are ready to expand trade and capital flows between our two economies," he added.

Earlier in the day, the Malaysian prime minister was received by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Hamid Ansari and Modi.

He later met Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

The Malaysian prime minister, who is on a six-day official visit to India, arrived in southern state of Tamil Nadu's capital Chennai on Thursday, where he met, apart from political leaders, Tamil film industry's superstar Latha Rajnikanth.

He came to Delhi on Friday and will go to the western state of Rajasthan Sunday, where he is slated to hold talks with state Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia.—*Xinhua*

Death penalty upheld for two Bangladeshi militants over blogger murder

DHAKA — Death sentences awarded to two Bangladeshi militants were upheld on Sunday over a blogger murder in 2013.

The High Court Division bench also ordered life imprisonment to six others including Mufti Jashimuddin Rahmani, chief of the banned Islamist outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team.

All the militants were reportedly affiliated with the banned Islamist outfit.

A special tribunal in Bangladesh capital Dhaka in December 2015 handed death penalty to two and various jail terms to six others for killing the secular blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider, 35, in February 2013. One of the death row convict is on the run. According to case details, Haider was hacked to death on 15 February, 2013 and his body was brutally mutilated. The brutality also irked protests from various quarters across the country. Razib was the first of six bloggers killed in Bangladesh in a series of deadly attacks against writers in the country.—*Xinhua*

China reports six new bird flu cases, one death

BEIJING — China reported six new cases of H7N9 bird flu including one death in Hunan after live poultry markets in the province were shuttered last month.

The infections were reported in the last week of March by the provincial centre for disease control and prevention, according to a report by Xinhua news agency on Sunday.

A total ban on live poultry trading in the provincial capital of Changsha has been in effect since 17 March and will continue for another five days, the agency said. In March authorities reported an outbreak of the virus in the province originating from a farm with about 29,760 infected birds. Over 170,000 birds were culled as a result. The number of human infections this season has surged to the highest level since 2009. At least 162 deaths have been reported since October. Health authorities said that cold and wet weather in Hunan played a role in the recent spread of the virus. —*Reuters*

Japan IT agency cautions businesses about fake e-mail scam

TOKYO — Japan's information technology agency has detailed a new cybercrime scheme aiming to swindle businesses of money via e-mails that appear to have been sent from partner companies, sources close to the matter said Sunday.

The Information-Technology Promotion Agency looked into four cases in which domestic companies' e-mail systems were compromised, a threat that has emerged on a global scale. Money was stolen in two cases, although the agency withheld the amount and the name of the companies.

According to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, about 22,000 such cases were reported in the United States and elsewhere between October 2013 and June 2016 causing a combined loss of about $3.1 billion. The average amount stolen in each case was approximately 16 million yen.

The FBI defines the scheme as a type of payment fraud that involves the compromise of legitimate business e-mail accounts, such as those belonging to the chief executive officer, for the purpose of conducting unauthorized wire transfers.

After compromising a company's e-mail account — usually through manipulation of an individual or malware — the criminals are then able to send wire transfer instructions using the victim's or a fake e-mail account.

In the Japanese cases, the agency found that companies' e-mail communications were likely intercepted by hackers. Some e-mail scams were sent from an address almost identical to the legitimate one, except for having one letter removed or replaced.

The agency conducted an analysis based on information provided by businesses taking part in a seven-industry information-sharing initiative which includes critical infrastructure such as electricity and gas with the aim to counter cyberattacks on those sectors.

All four cases were related to business deals involving foreign companies and e-mails requesting the illegal money transfer were all written in English.

In one case, a hacker sent an e-mail notifying of a change in the account to which money should be sent after legitimate exchanges between Japanese and US companies reached the final stage. But the Japanese company noticed an irregularity and canceled the transfer.

The agency plans to release a report about cases involving the scheme in the near future, the sources said.—*Kyodo News*

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.

Be a good loser and never be a born loser!

Khin Maung Oo

GENERALLY speaking, in the world, we—worldly beings have to work for our survival. In doing so, sometimes our efforts to achieve our aims may be harsh, but sometimes we find it easy to fulfill our needs. When we experience success and failure, usually we only have results or fruits of our contributions directly whereas spirits of emulation, pleasure and annoyance may spread to others in our surrounding. The period of our effort may last long and during this period they pay little attention to our endeavors and excitement. That is because it is generally thought that we have no contestants or rivals. In fact, we have rivals in such conditions. These are difficulties or hindrances, trials and tribulations which are faced in our efforts. Really, we compete with these difficulties or tribulations. If we win, we are said to be successful. If difficulties overwhelm us, our attempt is said to be a failed one. But they are not our foes.

Contrariwise, in a situation in which people or organizations compete with each other for something that not everyone can have, we must vie with each other. The period of competition is short, so outsiders or viewers nearby may be excited. Vicarious happiness, joy, excitement and anger may spread to others in the surrounding. We see many kinds of competitions almost everywhere and every time, especially in sports, games and events. Contestants vie with each other for the first position. But they are not enemies. They have the same goal, to get the first prize or trophy. Only one has the right to become a champion. Another kind of competition is the 2015 November General Elections and the 2017 April by-elections which we have had very recently. Election means the process of choosing a person or a group of people for a position for something, especially a political position, by voting. And, a general election means an election in which all the people of a state or country vote to choose a government. Being the events in which candidates try to compete for parliamentary seats, elections attract people's attentions mostly. Candidates can achieve success when the majority of eligible voters cast their votes for them. Although all candidates wish to win, there can be only one winner. Elected ones are winners with defeated ones regarded to be losers. Here, a loser should not be depressed. So long as he does not yet lose his hope, he may become a winner, on one condition that he needs to try hard to be qualified with abilities of a trust-worthy candidate for the people in the next elections and by-elections which are to come. A loser is not an enemy of the people or vice versa. Trying to get Metta - - Loving kindness of the people is a wholesome deed. Loving-kindness reflects a similar effect and we cannot achieve it by cruel or dubious ways. To sum it up, we should be good losers and we should not be born losers.

Reverting Back to 'Percentage System' in Evaluating Students' Performance in Myanmar Universities

Dr. Myint Zan

The National Education Strategic Plan was launched at Nay Pyi Taw on 23 February 2017. It is heartening to learn the plan.

In this brief note I would write on one particular aspect of evaluation of performance of students in all University courses in Myanmar at the undergraduate level. To the best of this writer's knowledge since the then 'New Education system' was adopted in the year 1964, all evaluation of performance of students in all Myanmar Universities in all disciplines and subjects is through the 'Grade System': that is Grade 1 being the lowest and Grade 5 being the highest.

From this writer's firm memory 'Grade 1' is considered to be a bad failure. 'Grade 2' is a bare pass for minor subjects (i.e. subjects in which the student does not major) but it is a failure for a subject a student "majors" or specializes in. Say, a student majors or specializes in law. He or she needs to get a 'Grade 3' to pass in all law subjects but for minor subjects like logic and economics a 'Grade 2' would suffice to pass. (At least that was the situation a few decades ago though I am not sure about now).

Ostensibly the use of the Grading system as well as the majoring system adopted in what was then touted as the 'New Education system' in 1964 was taken in whole or in part from the then Soviet Union or former 'socialist democracies' of Eastern Europe.

Since 1990 until recently the writer has taught mainly law subjects and also a few law-related subjects in nine Universities in Australia, Malaysia and the South Pacific. None of the Universities uses the (shall we say) anomalous Grade 1 to Grade 5 system which I understand is still used in most undergraduate courses in Universities in Myanmar after more than 50 years.

Instead they use the percentage system out of 100 and then give alphabetical numeric to indicate the 'Grade'.

For example, in a University in Malaysia where the writer had taught until recently marks that can be given on students' performance range from alpha-numeric F (bad failure; below 40 marks to C minus (46 to 49 marks) B minus, B and B plus (60 to 74 marks) to A minus to A to A plus (75 to 79 marks A minus, 80 to 89 A and 90 and above A plus).

The writer believes that this system of initially marking out of 100 marks and then giving alphabetical (instead of the number Grade 1 to Grade 5) is less arbitrary (when and how does Grade 3 pass 'transform" into Grade 4 'credit'?) gives more nuanced if not exactly precise evaluation of the students' course work and exam performances.

The writer realizes that changing the entrenched system of 'Grading' to alpha-numeric percentile system could not perhaps be that easily implemented but as a few of my former students said after answering my exam questions it is 'doable'.

To directly quote and paraphrase from a slogan during the 2015 elections, it is time to change or revert back to the pre-1964 percentile-based student evaluation system of old with some innovations during the implementation phase of the National Strategic Education plan.

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"To directly quote and paraphrase from a slogan during the 2015 elections, it is time to change or revert back to the pre-1964 percentile-based student evaluation system of old with some innovations during the implementation phase of the National Strategic Education plan".

Voices of the 2017 by-elections winners

>> FROM PAGE 2

U Aung Kyi Thein.

U Kyaw Swe Win.

Pu Bawi Khing.

U Nyunt Aung.

Sai San Mai

(Member of Parliament, Pyithu Hluttaw, Kehsi constituency no. 1, Shan State, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy)

There are very few educated people in Kehsi Township. I want to help increase the number of educated people. For being elected with trust by the people, I will strive to achieve what the people wishes. When I'm in the Hluttaw, I will submit the requirement of our Township.

U Sai Lin Myat

(Member of Parliament, Pyithu Hluttaw, Mongshu constituency no. 2, Shan State, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy)

Our region lags behind much in the health and education sector. To improve these sectors is my major work. I will work by standing on the side of the people. I will submit the people's requirements to the Hluttaw. I will listen to the people's voices. I will do the utmost to meet the requirements of the people.

The primary objective is the appearance of a federal union that is true and equal. That is the target of the party as well as mine.

Daw Nan Kaung Kham

(Member of Parliament, Mineshu constituency no. 2, Shan State, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy)

As a member of parliament, I will do things that will contribute to the region's well being and development.

I will increasingly do what is good for the people. I will work together with the people for the development of the State. I will mainly listen to the people's inner voice and work in cooperation.

U Shamuel Shen

(Member of Parliament, Kengtung constituency no. 2, Shan State, Union Solidarity and Development Party)

I was Deputy Township Education officer since 2008. In 2010, I served as State Lahu Affairs minister. I already served twice but there are a lot that left to be done. There are things that I want to do. There are so many things that need to be done for the voters and the people. That is why I chose to participate in this election. I will strive to do the best to upgrade the livelihood, education and health. This is what I always wanted to do.

U Khin Maung Win

(Member of Parliament, Nyaungshwe constituency 1, Shan State, National League for Democracy)

I will strive to get the roads, electricity, bridges and potable water that the people need. Priority will be given to getting electricity. Now the government is working to get electricity to 167 locations with a German loan. As people want better roads I will ask the Hluttaw whether budgets are allocated for this. It is learnt that 10 acre land was bought in Nanpan village to construct an incinerator to burn the trash from the lake. People need to participate in order to clean the water in the lake. I think there is a need to set up a good waste disposal system.First is to submit proposals and questions to the Hluttaw for the need of the region. At the union level, I plan to work in cooperation with the members of parliament of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. There are relevant departments and civil societies for the long term existence and maintenance of Inlay Lake. But instead of all doing things on their own, all need to cooperate for the long term existence of Inlay Lake.—*Myanmar News Agency*

15th Dr. Tin Shwe Literary Award ceremony held

THE 15th Dr. Tin Shwe Literary Award ceremony to honour writers and promote literacy was held in the Novotel Hotel, Kamayut Township, Yangon yesterday.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said there were increases in literature-related events and programmes this year. Dr. Pe Myint, himself an author, is striving to develop and advance the literary circle. Those in the literary circle have been able to fully utilise creative freedom and expand their literary work, the minister said. The Ministry of Information holds talks and hosts book selling events and children literature events.

Those from the literary circle thanked the donors of the award, Sayagyis and Sayamagyis who selected the award winners and expressed hope that donors could provide more donations for the award while more outstanding literature is produced.

U Kyaw Win (Manoktha Kyaw Win), a Dr. Tin Shwe Literary Award selection committee member and Myanmar Writers Association Chairman explained the history of the award while selection committee member Saya Maung Khin Min (Danuphyu) explained the process of selection of the award winners.

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint then awarded the Life Long Literary Award to Sayagyi U Win Maung (Min Yu Wei), the literary award to Ma Khin Nu (Dathana), who wrote "Bagan Pagoda, Bagan Speech, Bagan People", the translation book award to U Win Nyein who translated "The King In Exile", the book award to Dr. Khin San Maw who wrote "Home Grown Love", and the translation book award to Sun Thit Aung (KMA), who translated "A Study of the Leadership Skills of Ancient Myanmar Monarchs."

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presents award to Sun Thit Aung (KMA).
PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

On behalf of the award donors, Dr. Tin Shwe's daughter Daw Tin Tin Aye, Managing Director of KMD Group of Companies presented a gift of honor to the Award Selection Committee, which was accepted by the committee member Saya U Kyi Min. Son U Thet Lwin then donated Kyat 5 lakhs to honour aged writers, which was accepted by the Myanmar Writers Association Joint Secretary Myat Wei Toe (University of Education).

Award winners and Dr. Tin Shwe's daughter Daw Thet Thet Shwe then give speeches of thanks.

Afterward the Union Minister, award winners and the donor family posed for commemorative photos. The Dr. Tin Shwe Literary Award has been given since 2001. —*Yi Yi Myint, Ohn Mar Thant*

Results of 2017 by-elections

>> FROM PAGE 1

For Shan State, Nyaungshwe Township constituency 1, three hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Regional Hluttaw. U Khin Maung Win from the National League for Democracy won with 51.14 per cent (17,204) of the votes.

For Shan State, Kengtung Township constituency 2, six hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Regional Hluttaw. U Sha Mwe La Shan from the Union Solidarity and Development Party won with 34.16 per cent (7,126) of the votes.

For Shan State, Mongshu Township constituency 1, four hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Regional Hluttaw. Sai Linn Myat from the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy Party won with 57.84 per cent (4,764) of the votes. For Shan State, Mongshu Township constituency 2, five hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Regional Hluttaw. Daw Nan Kaung Kham from the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy Party won with 66.86 per cent (5,753) of the votes.

For Shan State, Kehsi Township constituency 1, four hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Regional Hluttaw. Sai San Mai from the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy Party won with 86.10 per cent (11,542) of the votes.

For Shan State, Kehsi Township constituency 2, five hluttaw candidates participated in the election for Regional Hluttaw. U Khin Maung Nyunt from the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy Party won with 66.17 per cent (7,832) of the votes.The Chairman of the Union Election Commission then congratulated all participants for making it a success and announced the conclusion of the 2017 by-elections.

In the 1 April 2017 by-elections, 94 hluttaw candidates from 24 political parties and seven independent hluttaw candidates participated for nine Pyithu Hluttaw seats, three Amyotha Hluttaw seats, and seven Regional Hluttaw seats, a total of 19 Hluttaw seats, of which the NLD won nine seats.

The by-elections fill seats vacated by incumbents who left to accept ministerial posts and some seats that were excluded from previous elections due to fighting with ethnic armed groups were also contested. —*Thura Zaw, Mhwe Kyu Zin*

Serbian PM the runaway favourite to become president

BELGRADE — Serbians voted for a new president on Sunday with conservative Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic the runaway favourite despite opposition warnings about the extent of his domination over the Balkan country, balanced between the West and Russia.

Most polls see Vucic, 47, winning in the first round with more than 50 per cent of the vote, trailed in the low teens by a former rights advocate and a white-suited student whose satirical portrayal of a sleazy political fraudster has struck a chord with some disillusioned voters.

The role of president is largely ceremonial, but Vucic is expected to retain real power through his control of Serbia's ruling Progressive Party.

As such, the election is unlikely to alter the country's delicate balancing act between the European Union, which Vucic wants Serbia to join, and Russia, with which Serbs share their Orthodox Christian faith and Slavic heritage.

During the campaign, the studio backdrop of one popular television talkshow on which Vucic was a guest featured a photograph of him flanked by pictures of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

To his supporters, Vucic is a cool head and a firm hand in a troubled region.

"There were no real proposals or ideas in the programmes of the other candidates, so I voted for the only one who actually produced something and that was Vucic," said 28-year-old Nebojsa Tomic, an unemployed pharmacist, shortly after polls opened.

Serbian Prime Minister and presidential candidate Aleksandar Vucic arrives at a polling station during the presidential election in Belgrade, Serbia, on 2 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Vucic's opponents, however, say he has an authoritarian streak that has led him to take control over the media in Serbia since his party rose to power in 2012 and he became prime minister three years ago.

He denies the charge but has struggled to shake it given his record when last in government in the dying days of Yugoslavia; then, in his late 20s, Vucic was Serbia's feared information minister behind draconian legislation designed to muzzle criticism of the government during the 1998-99 Kosovo war.

"The state of the media reflects the way Aleksandar Vucic rules Serbia — using pressure, abuse and often false statements," Sasa Jankovic, Serbia's former human rights ombudsman who was polling a distant second or third before Sunday's vote, told N1 television.

Jankovic and a host of opposition candidates risk being embarrassed by 25-year-old communications student Luka Maksimovic, whose alter ego Ljubisa 'Beli' Preletacevic has come from almost nowhere to challenge them for second place.

Dressed in a white suit and loafers, the pony-tailed Maksimovic plays on a widely-held perception of Balkan politicians as out to line their own pockets at the expense of the downtrodden masses. Despite economic growth and greater fiscal stability, Serbia remains mired in poverty and corruption.

"I voted for Beli," said 30-year-old Dejan Markovic, an unemployed metal worker. "The so-called opposition candidates have betrayed us in the past and Vucic is lying to us all now, so Beli is the only way to mock all this hypocrisy."

Pollsters said a high turnout among Serbia's 6.7 million eligible voters may yet force a run-off on 16 April Easter weekend.

"I am hoping these elections will facilitate stability and the continuation of economic reforms," Vucic said after voting.

As president, Vucic would have few formal powers, among them the right return legislation to parliament for reconsideration.

But he is widely expected to appoint a loyal ally as prime minister and try to keep a tight rein on policy, as former President Boris Tadic, then of the Democratic Party, did between 2004 and 2012. Some analysts said that could yet prove difficult.

"Vucic will now be distanced from everyday policy-making and executive affairs and will have to rely on a proxy," Eurasia Group wrote in on 30 March.

"This will likely generate some tensions in the chain of command." —*Reuters*

Spain would not 'initially' block Scotland from joining the EU after Brexit

MADRID — Spain has said it would not "initially" veto an attempt by an independent Scotland to join the European Union after Britain has left the bloc, its foreign minister said in interview with Spanish newspaper El Pais.

Spain has long been seen as an obstacle to an independent Scotland joining the EU to deter separatists in some of its own regions.

"Initially, I don't think we would block it," Alfonso Dastis said in an interview published on Sunday.

However, he added Scotland would leave the EU with Britain, "the rest we will see."

He also said Spain did not welcome fragmentation of the European family.

"Having said that, if, in application of its laws, the outcome of that process is a division of the United Kingdom, any part of the United Kingdom that becomes a state and wants to join the EU will have to apply. And follow the steps that are stipulated". —*Reuters*

Britain 'steadfastly committed' to Gibraltar — PM May

LONDON — Britain is "steadfast" in its commitment to Gibraltar and will work with the territory on the southern tip of Spain to secure the best possible outcome from Brexit talks, Prime Minister Theresa May said on Sunday.

The European Union on Friday offered Spain a right of veto over Gibraltar's future relations with the bloc, giving Madrid sway over the fate of the enclave once the territory is no longer an internal EU matter. Spain ceded Gibraltar to Britain in 1713, but has long called for it to be returned.

Downing Street said May reiterated that Britain "remains steadfastly committed" to its support for Gibraltar, its people and its economy, in a call with Gibraltar's Chief Minister Fabian Picardo.

"The Prime Minister said we will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their freely and democratically expressed wishes, nor will we ever enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar is not content," a spokeswoman said.

"The Prime Minister said we remain absolutely dedicated to working with Gibraltar for the best possible outcome on Brexit, and will continue to involve them fully in the process."

Spain's foreign minister Alfonso Dastis refused to talk about veto rights when it comes to Gibraltar in an interview on Sunday, but said he viewed the EU's stance very positively. "When the United Kingdom leaves the EU, the EU partner is Spain, and in the case of Gibraltar the EU is therefore obliged to take the side of Spain," he told El Pais.

"I do not think it's necessary to talk about vetoes". —*Reuters*

British Prime Minister Theresa May. Photo: Reuters

Flynn did not disclose income from Russian companies — White House

WASHINGTON — Michael Flynn, President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, failed to disclose payments from a Russian television network and a second firm linked to Russia in a February financial disclosure form, according to documents released by the White House on Saturday.

In a financial disclosure form signed by Flynn on 31 March the former White House official listed speaking engagements to Russian entities, including the Kremlin-funded RT TV and Volga-Dnepr Airlines.

The form does not say how much Flynn was paid but the speeches are in a section titled "sources of compensation exceeding $5,000 in a year."

The speeches were not included in a form that Flynn signed electronically on 11 February, which the White House also released on Saturday.

The discrepancy on reporting income linked to Russia could add to Flynn's legal woes. The retired general, who was forced to resign after only 24 days, is under scrutiny for his contacts with Russian officials in a wider investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential election.

He has requested immunity if he testifies before the intelligence committees of the US-Senate and the House of Representatives, his lawyer, Robert Kelner, said on Thursday.

Flynn was forced out on 13 February for failing to disclose talks with Russian Ambassador Sergei Kislyak about US sanctions on Moscow and misleading Vice President Mike Pence about the conversations, which occurred before Trump took office.

Trump, a Republican, said in a tweet that Democrats were pursuing investigations because they were upset about his 8 November victory over their party's candidate, Hillary Clinton.

Congressional committees and the FBI are looking into allegations by US intelligence agencies that Russia meddled in the election campaign.

The Russian government has denied the allegations and denied that it hacked emails of Democratic groups and released information to tip the election toward Trump, who has called for better US relations with Moscow. —*Reuters*

Fire engulfs Dubai tower in city's Downtown district

DUBAI — Firefighters brought a fire under control at a tower being built in Dubai's Downtown district, authorities said on Sunday, the latest in a spate of fires to hit tall buildings in the emirate.

The blaze, which started in the early hours of Sunday morning and sent flames and black smoke into the air, engulfed Address Residences Fountain Views, a 60-storey tower being developed by Emaar Properties.

Roads around the building, located in an area popular with shoppers and tourists, were closed as firefighters tackled the blaze.

The Dubai Media Office Twitter account said later that the fire was under control, with cooling operations underway and no injuries reported.

It is the second fire to hit an Emaar building after the developer's Address Downtown hotel was gutted by a blaze on New Year's Eve 2015.

That building, which is due to reopen before the end of 2017, is located close to Fountain Views.

Emaar did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Several tall buildings, including residential compounds and hotels, have been hit by fire in Dubai over the past two years or so. The spate of blazes has prompted the authorities to tighten safety regulations on new buildings. —*Reuters*

A fire is seen at a tower under construction in Dubai's Downtown district, United Arab Emirates on 2 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Leader in Egyptian Islamic State affiliate killed in air raid

CAIRO — A leader in Islamic State's Egyptian affiliate was killed in an air raid last month, the Egyptian military said on Sunday.

"Following the results of the air raid on March 18... and upon the security apparatus's investigation, it was revealed that Salem Salmy al-Hamadeen, Aka Abu Anas al-Ansari, was killed," the military spokesman said in a statement.

Hamadeen was one of the founders of the group which was formerly called Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, now called Egypt's Sinai Province, and was responsible for arming and training militants. He died after being wounded in the air raid, the statement said.

The group announced in their latest weekly newsletter that he was killed by shrapnel from a missile that fell beside him. The militant group staging the insurgency pledged allegiance to Islamic State in 2014 and adopted the name Sinai Province. It is blamed for killing hundreds of Egyptian soldiers and police since then. —*Reuters*

Egypt court says decision to block Red Sea islands transfer to Saudi Arabia is void

CAIRO — Egypt's Court of Urgent Matters ruled on Sunday that a judicial decision to block the transfer of two Red Sea Islands to Saudi Arabia is void, judicial sources told Reuters, potentially reviving a deal which had triggered protests in Egypt.

A court in January rejected a government plan to transfer two uninhabited Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia after a maritime demarcation accord was announced in April. The accord awarded sovereignty of the islands to Saudi Arabia, even though most Egyptians believe they belong to Egypt.

The latest judicial decision is subject to appeal, and any final transfer agreement must be approved by parliament, but the latest twist comes as relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia appear to be warming after months of tension.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi accepted last week an invitation from Saudi Arabia's King Salman to visit his country in April, a move that came on the heels of the kingdom's decision to restore oil aid shipments to Egypt after a roughly six-month halt.

The ongoing island litigation had previously been a source of unease between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which showered its ally with tens of billions of dollars in aid in recent years.

Saudi and Egyptian officials had argued that the islands belonged to Saudi Arabia and were only under Egyptian control because Riyadh asked Cairo in 1950 to protect them. But lawyers who had opposed the accord said Egypt's sovereignty over the islands dated back to a treaty in 1906, before Saudi Arabia was founded.—*Reuters*

South Africa's parliament speaker to consider Zuma no-confidence vote request

JOHANNESBURG — The speaker of South Africa's parliament said on Sunday she would consider a request from opposition parties to hold a no confidence vote on President Jacob Zuma.

Baleka Mbete, who is also the national chairperson of the ruling African National Congress (ANC), made the remarks in a televised news conference after she cut short a trip abroad.

Zuma's sacking of his finance minister last week shook South African markets, undermining his authority and threatening to split the ANC which has governed since the end of apartheid.

The main opposition parties, the centrist Democratic Alliance (DA) and the ultra-left Economic Freedom Fighters Party (EFF), both wrote Mbete asking that she reconvene parliament and hold an urgent sitting on the issue. Previous no-confidence motions against Zuma have failed as the ANC has a commanding majority, but there is a growing backlash against him from within his own party and its allies after a string of missteps and scandals. Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa said he disagreed with the decision to sack Pravin Gordhan, a widely respected finance minister whose ousting could trigger damaging credit ratings downgrades. The South African Communist Party, a key political ally of the ANC, said on Friday that "Zuma must now resign", while Gordhan on Saturday called for mass mobilisation at a memorial for anti-apartheid activist Ahmed Kathrada where the crowd, which included many ANC supporters, chanted for Zuma's removal.—*Reuters*

Jets hit Syrian rebel outpost near Turkish border — rebels

AMMAN — Jets believed to be Russian hit an outpost run by moderate rebel forces in northwestern Syria near a major border crossing with Turkey, killing at least one fighter and wounding several people, two rebel sources said on Sunday.

They said several raids overnight hit Babeska, a village in Idlib province that has become a haven for several moderate Free Syrian Army (FSA) groups, mainly Jaish al Islam, a major insurgent group that controls the last major rebel stronghold on the doorstep of the Syrian capital.

Jaish al Islam is a signatory to a fragile ceasefire brokered by Russia and Turkey at the end of last year. Rebels say Russia has failed to put pressure on the Syrian government to ensure the ceasefire holds.

The Syrian government considers Jaish al Islam a terrorist group and blames it alongside other insurgents for waging recent attacks on the government-held areas in the capital.

The village also houses hundreds of families and fighters from the Damascus suburb of Daraya which was evacuated by rebels and surrendered to government control last year.

War jets also believed to be Russian also struck Urum al Kubra town in rebel-held western Aleppo countryside where five civilians were killed, in an area that witnessed fighting between rebels and the Syrian army, rebels said.—*Reuters*

Filipino youth stage musical against Duterte's deadly drugs war

MANILA — A Philippine youth theatre club staged a musical at a Manila park on Sunday, challenging President Rodrigo Duterte's bloody war on drugs.

The 20-minute show features a casket salesman whose funeral parlour is doing brisk business as corpses pile up. But the salesman and his friends end up as statistics, falling to vigilante-style killings that have gripped the Southeast Asian nation and alarmed the international community.

"The play talks about the problem in the community with the war on drugs and the irony of it, that a few earn money amid this war and all the killings," artistic director Jessie Villabrille told Reuters.

More than 8,000 suspected drug addicts and dealers have been killed since Duterte took office on June 30, some in police operations but many others in mysterious circumstances.

The authorities vehemently deny wrongdoing and blame vigilantes and drug gangs for the killings. Criticism of the war on drugs does not sit with Duterte or his supporters. The brash leader chastised the United Nations and former US president Barack Obama numerous times or criticising his anti-drugs programme.

Duterte won the presidency by a wide margin on the promise of wiping out drugs and criminality. The theatre group plans to take the musical to schools and stage a longer version next month.—*Reuters*

One missing after Chinese fishing boat collides with Panama-registered cargo vessel

FUZHOU — A fishing boat carrying 10 people sank off eastern China's Fujian Province after colliding with a Panama-registered cargo vessel late Saturday, provincial marine authorities said on Sunday.

The Panama vessel "KF PROSPERITY" was heading to Republic of Korea from Taiwan when the crash occurred around midnight Saturday near Kemen Port in the provincial capital of Fuzhou, said a statement issued by the Fujian Maritime Safety Administration. The foreign vessel was requested to rescue the fishermen at the site. A helicopter and four other vessels, including two from Taiwan, joined the rescue Sunday morning. As of Sunday noon, nine of the fishermen had been saved with one still missing.—*Xinhua*

Russia to upgrade helicopter protection system based on Syrian experience

Mi-24 attack helicopter is a low-capacity troop transport with room for eight passengers. Mi-24 helicopter of the Berkuts aerobatic display team. The helicopter protection system Vitebsk will be upgraded by 2018. PHOTO: TASS

MOSCOW — The helicopter protection system Vitebsk will be upgraded by next year on the basis of its performance in Syria, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

"The Defence Ministry has made a decision to further upgrade the army aviation's protection system Vitebsk. The counter-terrorist campaign in Syria has allowed for accumulating the necessary experience of using this onboard protection system in real action. A decision has been made in favour of a profound upgrade of the Vitebsk system to make it capable of protecting helicopters from any current or future anti-aircraft systems of foreign manufacture," the Defence Ministry said.

Research and development will be completed by 2018. The upgraded system will begin to be installed on army helicopters after government certification tests.

"The Vitebsk system has vast room for improvement. It will be upgraded, its range of frequencies expanded and range enhanced to guarantee better protection for all aircraft from guided missiles and shoulder-launched rockets," he said.

The digitalized individual protection system Vitebsk creates optical and radio-electronic jamming. Its first consignments were delivered in 2015.—*TASS*

Colombia landslide kills 154 on city outskirts, scores injured

BOGOTA — A landslide in Colombia's southwestern border province of Putumayo sent mud and debris crashing onto houses overnight, killing at least 154 people and injuring scores, officials said on Saturday.

Heavy rains caused several rivers to overflow, pushing sediment and rocks onto buildings and roads in the provincial capital of Mocoa and immobilizing cars in several feet of mud.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos flew to Mocoa, population 345,000, to oversee rescue efforts on the city outskirts and speak with affected families.

"We will do everything possible to help them," Santos said after confirming the death toll. "It breaks my heart."

Officials were working to determine the number of missing, Santos said. Nearly 200 people were injured, the defense ministry said, and more than 1,100 soldiers and police officers were called in to dig people out.

"We have sent a team of 150 people to make our response effective and machinery began work immediately," Carlos Ivan Marquez, head of the national disaster unit, said in a statement.

Even in a country where heavy rains, a mountainous landscape and informal construction of homes combine to make landslides a common occurrence, the scale of the Mocoa disaster was daunting. By comparison, a 2015 landslide killed nearly 80 people in Salgar, Antioquia.

"It's a big area," Mocoa Mayor Jose Antonio Castro, who lost his house, told Caracol radio on Saturday. "A big portion of the many houses were just taken by the avalanche." He said that people were warned ahead of time and many were able to get out, but several neighborhoods and two bridges had been destroyed.

Photos posted on Twitter by the air force showed neighborhood streets filled with mud and damaged houses, while videos on social media showed residents searching for survivors in the debris and struggling to move through waist-high water during the night.—*Reuters*

An aerial view shows a flooded area after heavy rains caused several rivers to overflow, pushing sediment and rocks into buildings and roads in Mocoa, Colombia, on 1 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Twenty tortured, then murdered in Pakistan Sufi shrine- police

LAHORE, Pakistan — Twenty people were tortured and then murdered with clubs and knives at a Pakistani Sufi shrine, the police said on Sunday, in an attack purportedly carried out by the shrine's custodian and several accomplices.

Four others were wounded during the attack on Sunday morning at the shrine on the edge of Sargodha, a remote town in the Punjab region.

The custodian of the shrine, Abdul Waheed, called on the disciples to visit the shrine and then attacked them with his accomplices, said Liaqat Ali Chattha, deputy commissioner for the area.

"As they kept arriving, they were torturing and murdering them," Chattha told Geo TV.—*Reuters*

Singapore International Robo Expo kicks off, aimed at boosting robotics solutions

Photo taken on 1 November, 2016 shows a robot demonstrating autonomous movement at the Singapore International Robo Expo (SIRE). PHOTO: REUTERS

SINGAPORE — Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) S Iswaran on Tuesday launched the first edition of Singapore International Robo Expo (SIRE), which converges exhibitors, government officials, and researchers in the robotics sector.

Themed "Forging the Future of Robotics Solutions," SIRE comprises an exhibition, product demonstrations, networking sessions and conferences, functioning as a platform for governments, private sector and the academia to engage in dialogues, share industry practices, forge partnerships, as well as explore funding opportunities for the adoption of robotics solutions.

In his opening remarks, S Iswaran said technological trends such as robotics are creating new opportunities for the economy, such as in areas of manufacturing and services. Robotics will help address Singapore's manpower constraints and boost productivity amidst a tight labor market.

The minister said under the Research, Innovation and Enterprise 2020 (RIE 2020) plan, Singapore government has set aside 3.2 billion Singapore dollars (2.3 billion US dollars) to invest in Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME), with a focus on robotics and automation, additive manufacturing, digital manufacturing and advanced materials.

Supported by RIE, a 450 million-Singapore dollar (324 million-US dollar) initiative, called National Robotics Programme, will support public-private partnerships among research performers, companies and public agencies to undertake R&D and pilot relevant technologies in targeted areas.

"The government will continue to support our companies and workforce to adopt new technologies as part of our industry transformation efforts," S Iswaran said. Meanwhile, he also urged companies to adopt an open mind-set and embrace the need for change.

Oliver Tian, President of Singapore Industrial Automation Association (SIAA), noted that robotics is a core discipline in Industry 4.0, and it is also a multi-platform enabling tool that is particularly useful to drive Industry Transformation Roadmaps, to enhance productivity, create new jobs and skillsets and empower business innovation.

"As an association, we are constantly looking for ways to bring together robotic adoption, collaboration among partners, and providing support with funding for our members. SIRE is precisely the strategic platform for this," said Tian.

Co-organized by SIAA and Experia Events, the two-day event also offers opportunities for visitors to view "live" demonstrations and come up close with the latest innovations and technologies.

Students can immerse themselves in developments of the robotics industry and get a sampling of how robotics can be applied to real-world settings on the second day of the event.—*Reuters*

S-300 missiles strike simulated enemy's ground air defences in East Siberian drills

VLADIVOSTOK — Russia's S-300 surface-to-air missile systems hit a simulated enemy's ground air defence objects during drills in eastern Siberia's Republic of Buryatia, a spokesman for the Eastern Military District told TASS on Friday.

The launches were conducted as part of large-scale exercises at the Telemba training ground.

"Crews of the S-300 missile systems performed rocket strikes at ground air defense objects of a simulated enemy," the head of the Eastern Military District's press service, Col Alexander Gordeyev, said.

As part of the exercises, Buk missile systems and the latest Tor-M2U air defence missile systems hit small high-speed targets that simulated drones, while about 20 simulated aircraft were downed by the Strela-10 short-range air defense missile system, the Igla man-portable infrared homing surface-to-air missile and the Shilka self-propelled, radar guided anti-aircraft weapon.

"The district's aviation and air defence grouping continues its combat duty and is ready for any changes in the air situation," Gordeyev said. —*TASS*

Invitation for Bids

Date:4th April 2017
Bid No. MR/BD/108

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received ODA Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (**JICA**). The Bids are invited by Myanma Railways for Electric Power Works.

Sr. No.	Invitation for Bids	Description	Issuing Date	Closing Date and Time	Non-refundable Document Fee
1	Bid No. MR/BD/108	CP 108: Electric Power Supply Works for 37 stations between Mahlwagon and Taungoo, Mahlwagon & Ywathagyi Substations and HT Lines.	4.4.2017	5.6.2017 (2:00 PM)	1,350,000 Kyats

2. The Eligible Bidders who has good working record in Myanmar for Electric Power Works.
3. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain the documents on the submission of a written application to the Tender Office in the head office of Myanma Railways at Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, Pobba Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, during office hour from 09:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except holidays)
4. Bid must be delivered to the address above mentioned on or before the closing date and time.
5. Technical Bids will be opened on 5th June 2017 at 2:00 p.m at the office as stated above.

Managing Director
Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications
Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound,
Pobba Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: +95-67-77024,
Facsimile number: +95-67-77164
Electronic mail address: gmrailgen.mil@mort.gov.mm, dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm (not for submission but for clarification)

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation(MOALI)
Department of Rural Development (DRD)
Emergency Support for Chin State Livelihoods Restoration Project (ESCSLRP)
JFPR 9185-MYA(ADB)
NATIONAL CONSULTANCY POSITION

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar received a USD 10 million grant from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) to implement ESCSLRP with DRD as primary Implementing Agency (IA) of MOALI, the Executing Agency (EA). The Government will apply part of the Grant proceeds to engage one (1) national consultant which is :

(a)National Project Advisor (30 person- months)

The consultant shall provide project management support, capacity development and technical assistance to DRD Grant Management Unit (GMU) at Union level and the seven project townships covered under the project. The intermittent services for both positions are expected to start in mid May 2017.

DRD now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from qualified and experienced national individual consultant. In submitting EOI, consultant may wish to apply with the enclosed updated curriculum vitae (CV) along with the name/s of at least one reference with contact information. EOI must be submitted in written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by email) on or before 28,April 2017.

Additional information and a copy of Terms of Reference (TOR) for this position may be obtained from the DRD webpage: http;//www.drdmyanmar.org, http;//www.cms.adb.org or the address below during from 09:00 to 16:00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays.

Attention to :	Contact to:
U Myint Oo	Daw Tin Moe Myint(Director)
(Deputy Director General)	U Kyaw Swar Aung (Director)
Department of Rural Development	Tel&Fax:-067-409410, 409446
Office No.14, Nay Pyi Taw	Email address: rbbdrd@gmail.com

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Dated **3 April 2017** lmm@kcyangon.com

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Prince Jackson honours father Michael Jackson with new tattoo

LOS ANGELES — Prince Jackson has honoured his father Michael Jackson with a tribute tattoo that captures the King of Pop in one of his signature dance moves.

"Thanks @dermagraphink for sitting 9hrs with me for such an incredible and beautiful tattoo," Prince wrote on Instagram, alongside a video of his new ink which features the late singer in black suspenders, a matching jacket, a red shirt, a black and red fedora and his signature white sparkling glove, as well as wings.

Both Prince, who was 11 when Michael died in 2009, and his sister Paris Jackson have many tattoos.

In 2016, she got two honoring their dad. One reads "Queen of My Heart" in his handwriting and other one is the cover art for his 1991 album Dangerous.

They recently got matching Yin and Yang symbols inked on their ankles.—*PTI*

Rob Kardashian, Blac Chyna reunite with a sweet kiss

LOS ANGELES — Reality TV stars Rob Kardashian and Blac Chyna are back together.

The on-again, off-again couple reunited on Saturday for a few PDA-filled videos shared to Chyna's Snapchat.

Rob and Chyna pulled the plug on their engagement earlier this year and were successfully co-parenting their nearly five-month-old daughter Dream Kardashian, but it appears they have put their differences aside.

In the video Chyna sits on Rob's lap as he cuddles her from behind.—*PTI*

Mariah Carey pays a heartfelt tribute to George Michael

LOS ANGELES — Pop diva Mariah Carey paid a touching tribute to George Michael with a cover of his song "One More Try."

The singer performed the tune, off Michael's 1987 album Faith, at her concert in Dubai, reported Us magazine.

Dressed in a sequined black gown, Carey called the balled "one of his greatest records."

"I always loved it, I always loved him. He was a really great person," she said.

The Grammy winner asked the audience to shine their cell-phone lights in honor of Michael. She took a deep sigh before singing, saying, "We'll make it through this."

"We miss you, George Michael" Carey wrote on Facebook, captioning video of the cover which she called "my heartfelt tribute. —*PTI*

Nobel saga all over now as Dylan finally gets prize

US musician Bob Dylan performs during on day 2 of The Hop Festival in Paddock Wood, Kent on 30th June 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

SLOCKHOLM — Bob Dylan got the Nobel Literature prize-giving he wished for on Saturday, a Swedish broadcaster reported, finally receiving his diploma and medal in a private ceremony in Stockholm a world away from the media storm the award has generated.

The Swedish Academy that hands out the Nobels said on Wednesday the media-shy singer-songwriter would get the prize in the "small and intimate setting" he requested while in the city on a two-concert tour.

Swedish TV channel SVT said Academy members confirmed it was handed over to Dylan on Saturday. "It happened in great secrecy," the channel said on its website.

The award divided opinion when it was announced, drawing more mixed publicity when Dylan first stayed silent about it for weeks and then declined to attend December's annual Nobel banquet.

Swedish Academy secretary Sara Danius said earlier this week that Dylan would not give the traditional Nobel lecture this weekend, but that a taped version would probably be sent later. In order to receive the 8 million Swedish crown ($900,000) prize, Dylan needs to give a lecture within six months of 10 December.—*Reuters*

Russian poet Yevtushenko dies in USA — TASS

MOSCOW — Russian poet Evgeny Yevtushenko, a leading force in the brief post-Stalinist Soviet literary "thaw" of the 1960s, has died in the United States at the age of 85, TASS news agency reported on Saturday, citing a close friend.

"Five minutes ago, Evgeny Aleksandrovich (Yevtushenko) departed into eternity," TASS said, quoting Mikhail Morgulis, a friend of Yevtushenko's who said he had spoken to his son.

Born in 1932, Yevtushenko went on to publish more than 150 collections of poems.

His first book, "The Prospects of the Future", was published in 1952 when he was the youngest member of the Union of Soviet Writers. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1963.

He was especially prominent during the brief literary thaw under Communist Party leader Nikita Khrushchev, but had an often ambivalent relationship with Communist authorities. In one of his most famous poems, The Heirs of Stalin, from 1961, he wrote that though dictator Josef Stalin had died, his legacy lived on, "he was scheming, had merely dozed off".

"Double and treble the sentries guarding this slab And stop Stalin from ever rising again."

In the same year he published Babi Yar, about a massacre of Jews by Nazi occupiers at a ravine in Kiev — a criticism of what he saw as the Soviet Union's own anti-semitism in its fashioning of history.

TASS reported on Friday that Yevtushenko, who had moved to the United States in 1991, had been admitted to hospital in a critical condition.—*Reuters*

Melissa Joan Hart regrets not dating Ryan Reynolds

LOS ANGELES — Actress Melissa Joan Hart says that she and Ryan Reynolds, who was her co-star in 1996 TV series "Sabrina the Teenage Witch", enjoyed a momentary fling.

In an interview with Australian morning show "Studio 10", the 40-year-old actress reveals she almost dated the Canadian actor, reported People magazine.

"We were smitten and cute. He was adorable. He was a really nice guy."

"He wasn't like, the Ryan Reynolds everybody knows these days. He was very sweet," Melissa says."

She further adds Reynolds "probably would have been a great boyfriend and I didn't end up with the other guy, so maybe I should have taken a chance".

Melissa has been married to musician Mark Wilkerson since 2003. They share three sons together. Reynolds, meanwhile, has been married to actress Blake Lively since 2012. They have two daughters.—*PTI*

Melissa Joan Hart. PHOTO: REUTERS

British robot helping autistic children with their social skills

LONDON — "This is nice, it tickles me," Kaspar the social robot tells four-year-old Finn as they play together at an autism school north of London.

Kaspar, developed by the University of Hertfordshire, also sings song, imitates eating, plays the tambourine and combs his hair during their sessions aimed at helping Finn with his social interaction and communication.

If Finn gets too rough, the similarly sized Kaspar cries: "Ouch, that hurt me." A therapist is on hand to encourage the child to rectify his behaviour by tickling the robot's feet.

Finn is one of around 170 autistic children that Kaspar has helped in a handful of schools and hospitals over the last 10 years.

But with approximately 700,000 people in Britain on the autism spectrum, according to the National Autistic Society who will mark World Autism Day on Sunday, the university want Kaspar to help more people.

"Our vision is that every child in a school or a home or in a hospital could get a Kaspar if they wanted to," Kerstin Dautenhahn, professor of artificial intelligence at the University of Hertfordshire, told Reuters.

Achieving that goal will largely depend on the results of a two-year clinical trial with the Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, which, if successful, could see Kaspar working in hospitals nationwide.

TRACKS, an independent charity and specialist early years centre for children with autism in Stevenage, have seen positive results from working with Kaspar, who sports a blue cap and plaid shirt for play sessions.

"We were trying to teach a little boy how to eat with his peers. He usually struggled with it because of his anxiety issues," said deputy principal Alice Lynch.

"We started doing it with Kaspar and he really, really enjoyed feeding Kaspar, making him eat when he was hungry, things like that. Now he's started to integrate into the classroom and eat alongside his peers. So things like that are just a massive progression."

Many children with autism find it hard to decipher basic human communication and emotion so Kaspar's designers avoided making him too lifelike and instead opted for simplified, easy to process features.

Harrison, 5, who is autistic, plays with Kaspar, a child-sized humanoid robot developed at the University of Hertfordshire to interact and help improve the lives of children with autism, in Stevenage, Britain on 30 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Autism support groups have been impressed.

"Many autistic people are drawn to technology, particularly the predictability it provides, which means it can be a very useful means of engaging children, and adults too," Carol Povey, director of the National Autistic Society's Centre for Autism, told Reuters.

"This robot is one of a number of emerging technologies which have the potential to make a huge difference to people on the autism spectrum." —*Reuters*

People enjoy cherry blossoms from boats in Chidorigafuchi, a moat in central Tokyo, in this photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 2 April 2017, as the weather agency announced cherry trees had reached full bloom in Tokyo. KYODO NEWS

Cherry blossoms burst into bloom across Tokyo, 2 days later than 2016

TOKYO — Cherry trees reached full bloom in central Tokyo on Sunday, a day earlier than normal but two days later than last year, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The weather agency said about 80 per cent of the ubiquitous "someiyoshino" variety cherry trees at Yasukuni Shrine in central Tokyo were in bloom on Sunday morning.

The cherry blossoms' spectacular arrival had been delayed due to a cold snap in mid- to late-March but will be at their best during this week.

The trees will come into full bloom in wide areas of eastern and western Japan, according to a forecast by commercial weather services.

In northern Japan, flowering will begin in early April in Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures while other northeastern prefectures will have to wait until mid-April.

Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island, will see blooming between late April and early May, according to the forecast. —*Kyodo News*

Prized 1804 US dollar sells for $3.3 million at auction

A 1804 Draped Bust Silver Dollar coin which sold at auction for $3.29 million. PHOTO: REUTERS

BALTIMORE — An 1804 US silver dollar sold for $3.3 million in one of a series of auctions that brought in a record total of more than $100 million for a renowned private coin collection, organizers said on Saturday.

The silver dollar, one of only eight of its kind, was snapped up at auction on Friday in Baltimore. It was one of more than 200 coins sold at the event.

The auction series, beginning in 2015, generated a total of nearly $107 million in sales, according to Stack's Bowers Galleries, which conducted the auctions along with Sotheby's. The collection belonged to Dallas real estate developer Mack Pogue and his son Brent, who had collected coins since the 1970s. Coin dealers Kevin Lipton of California and John Albanese of New Jersey jointly bought the prized silver dollar, Donn Pearlman, a spokesman for the two men, said in an email.

"In coins, everybody's heard of the 1804 dollar, it's what I call the ultimate trophy coin," said Q. David Bowers, co-founder of Stack's Bowers Galleries.

The coin is emblazoned with the bust of a woman with flowing hair who represents liberty. Minted by the US government, it was intended as a gift for foreign heads of state.

Brent Pogue began collecting coins in 1974 when he was a teenager and later brought his father into the enterprise.

The first coin the younger Pogue bought was at an auction of the trove that belonged to railroad scion T Harrison Garrett. In a fitting finale of the Pogue Collection auctions, the last sale was held at the Garrett family's former mansion at Johns Hopkins University, Bowers said by phone.

Mack and Brent Pogue's collection consisted of more than 650 pieces. The father and son sold them because "the thrill of the chase" of being collectors had passed and they wanted to move on, Bowers said. Even before Friday's sale, the Pogue auctions had already surpassed the value of what had been the record-setting sale of the collection amassed by late dealer and collector John J Ford. —*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(3-4-2017 07:00am ~ 4-4-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations - The Making Procedure of Goldsmith
07:43	Am	Myanmar Traditional Toys
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Geographic Center of Myanmar
08:46	Am	Thingyan Songs & Dances
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Ashin Thitzana or Martyr of Buddha's Sasana
09:39	Am	Interesting Features of Rakhine
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Natural Lake: Fish Breeding Business
10:39	Am	Oboist and His Life

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

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-3) (Part-1)
07:50	Pm	Yangon Markets: Da Nyin Gone Market
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	Discovering Tribes: Akha- Their Life and Customs (Part-1)
08:46	Pm	Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part-II)

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

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

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

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 3 April 2017

Konta beats Wozniacki in straight sets in Miami final

KEY BISCAYNE — Late-blooming Johanna Konta won the biggest title of her career when she beat Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-3 in the women's final at the Miami Open on Saturday.

British 10th seed Konta used an aggressive game plan to overcome Danish 12th seed Wozniacki on the Crandon Park hardcourt.

Konta stuck to her hard-hitting tactics, despite a few hiccups, before clinching victory with a perfectly-weighted lob that landed on the baseline for her second title of the year, after winning in Sydney in January.

"I couldn't believe it was over because I was so focused, just trying on every single point," Konta, who hit 33 winners, said in a courtside interview.

"Having opportunities like these to almost get a pat on the back for all that hard work is very rewarding."

Wozniacki used all of her vaunted endurance to run tirelessly after every ball, but was undone by a weak serve. She was broken six times and won only 30 per cent of her second serves, which Konta picked off relentlessly.

Konta, 25, is somewhat of a late bloomer. She was ranked 150th in the world at the end of 2014 and improved to 47th in 2015, but her biggest improvement came last year.

It has been barely eight months since she clinched her first career title by beating Venus Williams in the Stanford, California final, before adding in the city of her birth the Sydney International in January.

"I think the belief has been there since I was a little girl," said Konta, who will rise to seventh on Monday. "Everybody's journey is different. I needed a little more time and a little more experience to accumulate the knowledge that I have and re-use it in my matches. "I play smart tennis and calmer tennis I think. It just took time. On paper it looks like a quick turnaround but it's been a long time coming." Asked how high she could go in the rankings, and whether a grand slam victory was in her sights, she said: "I think the belief has been there since I was a little girl.

I'd like to be the best player in the world but there's a lot of work to be done between now and then." —*Reuters*

Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark serves against Johanna Konta of Great Britain (not pictured) in the women's singles championship of the 2017 Miami Open at Crandon Park Tennis Centre in Key Biscayne, FL, USA on 1 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mourinho laments lack of killer instinct as United stumble

LONDON — Jose Mourinho could not hide his displeasure at his side's lack of cutting edge as Manchester United failed to make significant ground on their Champions League-chasing rivals in a 0-0 draw against West Bromwich Albion at Old Trafford on Saturday.

The draw — their 11th of the season — extended their undefeated Premier League streak to 19 matches.

United last lost a league game in October when they were humbled 4-0 by Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, and Mourinho is enjoying his longest unbeaten run in the top flight since October 2005 when his own Chelsea side went 40 games without defeat.

But his side are still four points short of the fourth Champions League spot, having won only four and drawn eight of their last 12 league games at Old Trafford.

And the United coach was left lamenting his side's inability to kill off opponents.

"We have a lot of draws this season," Mourinho told BBC Sport. "Teams come here just to defend, goalkeepers come here to be man of the match.

"We cannot score a goal even when we are one-on-one. We beat everyone on quality of play and direction of the game, possession, creation and ambition but we drew too many matches."

United enjoyed 75 per cent of the possession against Tony Pulis's disciplined Albion, but while they took 18 shots to the visitors' three, they failed to break down their opponents' back line.

Their reliance on summer signing Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who has scored 15 of United's 43 goals this season, was again evident in his absence.

With the striker suspended, a front four of Marcus Rashford, Anthony Martial, Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Jesse Lingard had no solution to Albion's rugged defensive display.

"One team had the ball, one team didn't. One team tried to win, the other tried to draw," Mourinho concluded in a tetchy interview.

Pulis, whose West Bromwich team remain eighth, with 44 points, praised his side's resolve.

"If we won at the end, it would have been unjust," he acknowledged. "We're really pleased with the effort and commitment they put in today. United have some really good players. No matter how well set up you are, you'll always be on your back foot.

"It's a fabulous point to get at Old Trafford." The group plays very well together. They play very compact but we had opportunities to spring out of it, like against Arsenal (a 3-1 victory for West Bromwich on 18 March).

"Their resilience and commitment was fantastic." —*Reuters*

West Bromwich Albion's Darren Fletcher in action with Manchester United's Marouane Fellaini during the Premier League match between West Bromwich and Manchester United at the Old Trafford on 1 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Spurs up for title fight after Chelsea shock, says Pochettino

LONDON — There was a new air of defiance and optimism in Mauricio Pochettino's voice as the Tottenham Hotspur manager promised his side were ready to fight for the Premier League title after they had learned of a Saturday sensation back in London.

After his injury-hit team had displayed real character to win 2-0 at Burnley, Pochettino revealed how they had trooped back to the dressing room at Turf Moor to discover that leaders Chelsea had lost 2-1 at home to Crystal Palace.

It meant that what had increasingly been presumed to be a straightforward voyage for the Blues towards regaining the title had hit the most unlikely of road blocks.

That left Pochettino feeling very different about his side's task with Chelsea's lead now reduced to seven points.

"This was massive for us — we heard after the game Chelsea had lost," Pochettino told the BBC. "When you reduce the gap to seven, it's completely different to 10.

"It was important for us to be there if Chelsea failed — and we are there. We're there fighting for the Premier League. We must be very proud today.

"There's still a lot of work to do. It depends on whether Chelsea fail and the moment they do, if we do our job, we can be there at the end of the season trying to fight for the title."

The next chapter in the scrap comes on Wednesday as Spurs are expected to win at struggling Swansea City while Manchester City will present a formidable obstacle for Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

So, perhaps Pochettino really does sense that Chelsea's lead could be reduced to just four by the middle of the week.

The win at Turf Moor, never the easiest place from which to pinch three points, certainly suggested to him that he now has a team with the character to take the battle all the way to the wire. "It was a really tough game for us, a really difficult game to play. We showed really good character, and I feel very proud and pleased," he said.—*Reuters*

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