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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Rakhine committee discusses recommendations

A committee chaired by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday discussed plans recommended by the commission headed by former UN head Dr. Kofi Annan.

The work coordination meeting 2/2017 of the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State was held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered an opening speech and was briefed on the progress of work regarding the decisions made at the previous meeting 1/2017 by the secretary of the committee. The vice chairman of the committee and the Union Minister for Border Affairs then clarified matters on implementation of the reports presented by Rakhine State and recommendations made in the interim report submitted by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State and the Chief Minister of Rakhine State.

The chairmen of several committees on immigration, citizenship, resettlement, and socio-economic development, along with the committee on cooperation with UN agencies and international organisations presented work progress reports and the participants took part in discussions.

The participants also discussed plans regarding the interim report of the commission led by former UN Chief Dr. Kofi Annan in an effective manner, related work procedures which were in conformity with the actual situation of the region and preventive measures for addressing the killing and threatening of the people who had given interviews to the media and cooperated with the government. —*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at yesterday's meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Aid from the US Agency for International Development are delivered to villagers in Maungtaw. PHOTO: MNA

Aid still flowing into Maungtaw villages

Flow of food, water and supplies continues into Maungtaw

THE government and international organisations continued humanitarian aid to communities in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, delivering food and cash to the people from 18 February to 5 April.

The aid, which includes more than Ks439 million, 1,831 bags of rice, 1,496 viss of edible oil, 3,117 viss of salt and more than 3,734 viss of peas and beans, were arranged by the Ministry of Border Affairs, the Rakhine State Government and international organisations including the World Food Programme.

The total amount of aid from 4 October to 5 April has reached more than Ks736.62 million, more than 29,380 bags of rice, 7,669 viss of dried fish, 14,757 gallons of fuel, 22,826 viss of cooking oil, more than 16,861 viss of salt, more than 45,191 viss of peas and beans, 34,800 cans of fish, snacks including biscuits, 968 viss of onion, 5,659 viss of dried noodles, 77 packages of clothes, 322 packs of dried chili powder, 142 bags of seasonal powders, 56 bags of potatoes, dried vegetables, fish paste, 165 bags of dried chillies, 500 eggs, 88 mosquito nets, 30 harvesters, five generators, more than 57 tons of nutrition powder, 2,222 bags of flour, 12 tents, 3,000 radios, 465 solar panels and one vehicle.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar, UN representatives meet in Nay Pyi Taw

YESTERDAY morning, representatives of the Myanmar Government and the United Nations met in Nay Pyi Taw's Park Royal Hotel to discuss plans for drafting a United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2018-2022) between the government and the United Nations Country Team in Myanmar.

The meeting was held in order to be inclusive of all viewpoints and to focus on the five sectors of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals agenda (People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnership) by drafting a UNDAF that is in accord with the Myanmar Government's priorities and the UN's system.

This is the first time Myanmar has collaborated with the UNCT in developing a framework that covers all sectors of administration. In attendance were concerned ministry officials, representatives from the UN, INGOs, and NGOs, all discussing the expected results in their respective sectors.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Yangon Region Hluttaw: Squatters list almost complete

IN compiling a list of squatters in the Yangon Region, over 70,000 households in 13 townships were surveyed, said Colonel Tin Aung Htun, the Minister for Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs.

"We have conducted surveys in thirteen townships and reviewed around 79,246 households. We are about 70.54 per cent complete," he said.

The colonel's remarks were in response to a question raised by U Tin Win from Coco Island constituency (1) during the 2nd Yangon Region Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting on 5 April. The Yangon Region Government began collecting lists of squatters in September 2016 and have surveyed Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North), Thakayta, Kyauktan, North Okkalapa among the thirteen townships. Currently they are surveying Dala, Dagon Seikkan, and Mayangon townships.

The surveys were conducted with aid from local and foreign experts and NGOs, and it was found that some have trespassed for business reasons. The Regional Government has stated it will carefully scrutinise the list after completion of the survey and if the trespassing for personal benefits is found to be true, severe action will be taken by the Regional Government, said Colonel Tin Aung Htun. Plans for constructing housing for resettlement of squatters has been discussed with various organisations. Later during the Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting, various officials answered questions raised by Hluttaw representatives. —*Ko Moe*

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talks with the Czech Republic Ambassador H.E. Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Czech ambassador

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received the Czech Republic Ambassador Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek at the hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During their meeting, they discussed matters concerning promoting friendship and development of the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw office. —*Myanmar News Agency*

We want youths to have a good time in simplest way during Myanmar traditional Thingyan Festival

MYANMAR traditional Thingyan festival, one of the Myanmar 12-season festivals is coming soon, so Myanmar Police Force is performing tasks of reducing crimes, anti-drug suppression for the people to merrily participate during the festival and arrangements for people to safely travel in Thingyan period.

Here is the interview with the responsible officials of Myanmar Police Force concerning the performances of traffic control board.

Police Col Shwe Nyar Maung.

Police Lt-Col Tin Win.

Police Major Kathy Tun.

Police Colonel Shwe Nyar Maung (Head of Anti-drug Police Force)

Since early March this year, nationwide knowledge-sharing talks are being held in respective regions. Concurrently these performances are being described in social media pages.

And, anti-drug suppression troops will be deployed at Thingyan pandals and crowded places to keep drug-abuses and pushing drugs under surveillance. Dangers of the drug are spreading not only in Thingyan Festival but also all the time in Myanmar and across the world.

As an operation to increase the momentum of suppressing drugs, anti-drug suppression police force has been formed as of 8th August, 2013, expanding from 26 anti-drug suppression police forces to 50 forces.

During 2016 Thingyan Festival, there were 94 cases of seizure of narcotic drugs and 130 culprits arrested. Totally, 2.18 kilo of opium, 0.127 kilo of heroin, 33100 amphetamine tablets, "Ice" brand 31.1649 kilo and other kinds of narcotic drugs were seized.

Various kinds of drugs including sex stimulant drugs are being smuggled into the country from neighboring countries in many types—liquid, tablet and powder and in many brands.

These drugs are colorless and tasteless. So these are very dangerous. Provided that females happen to take it mixed with food, those girls' lives are likely to be completely ruined, hence the need to protect them from danger from the side of youths, parents and guardians.

During the festival, young girls should visit about the town together with guardians and brethren.

Police Lt-Col Tin Win (Acting Director of the Department of Administration, Myanmar Police Force)

Myanmar Police Force has drawn up the security plan for the Thingyan Festival from Pre-festival day to the Myanmar New Year Day. Security forces are to be deployed at the religious edifices, pagodas and stupas, theme parks and amusement parks, shopping centers, market places, airport, railway-stations and crowded places. CCTVs will be installed at Thingyan pandals and important places. Besides, security work will be increased at the international airport, harbors, the entrance and exit gates at border line.

Performances of prevention, arrests, holding educational talks for reducing crimes and rule of law in 15 regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw will be made. And, after receiving the approvals of Thingyan Festival supervision committees of different levels at regional, state, district and township police stations, instructions for the public to follow at pandals will be issued. As for parents and brethren, they need to control their offspring not to wear indecent costumes which are not suitable for Myanma Culture. In 2016 Thingyan's 5-day period, there were 967 cases of accidents and crimes including 272 casualties and 1086 injured. Of them, 359 car accidents topped the chart, followed by 119 assaults and batteries. Most were found to be attributed to intoxication and excessive joy. In 2017, prevention works are being carried out for reducing crimes during Thingyan Festivals in Nay Pyi Taw, Regions and States, taking actions against one case of arresting sexual stimulant drugs, 34 cases of drug-abuse, 366 excise cases, 170 cases of holding arms illegally and 20 cases of piracy of videos, 902 cases in all. Those are being to be arrested.

Police Major Daw Kathy Tun, (Myanmar Police Force) (traffic control board)

Generally, people are excessively overjoyed during these days they especially drivers need to drive vehicles with great care. They need not to be intoxicated while driving, assuming that they are taking responsibilities of ensuring safety of those on board. Regarding motor-cycle driving, I want to say that motor cycles are two-wheeled vehicles without any cover and protection against danger. Oil which leaks on roads and water can make a vehicle turn over, so it needs to avoid driving over-speed, driving with more than two on motor cycles, driving without helmets on, drunk driving and driving motor cycles with exhaust unfastened to the extent of making public nuisances. Next, pedestrians need to pay attention to dangers of traffic which can cause unexpectedly on roads and at pandals. They had better to walk on roadside pavement. Actions will be taken against those who violate the traffic rules, since prior to 2 weeks ahead of the festival. — *Aung Ye Thwin & Myo Thu Hein*

TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE

Workshop held to setup framework and process for private sector development

PRIVATE Sector Development Committee held its first workshop in Nay Pyi Taw Park Royal Hotel on April 5.

The Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe said the workshop was held to set up a framework and successfully implement programs for the systematic development of the private sector that will have a huge impact on the development of the national economy. The Private Sector is the main economic engine that would drive the national economy and it must be developed for the national economy to develop. With the consensus of the majority, only the five most important components of private sector was included in the development framework for the first 5 years program because the private sector was very wide and it was not possible to include all its components in the framework. The 5 components included were, development of laws and procedures, sourcing of financing, encouraging trade and investment, redefining government involvement in the economy and services and human resources development. He added that requests submitted to include additional components would be considered.

Furthermore, Vice President said monthly meetings were held with business owners selected and grouped by sector to resolve the difficulties they were facing. While the government was doing its part, related work committees would continuously and systematically record, review, co-ordinate and resolve short and long term works. Short and long term priority works included in the work program would be implemented according to a scheduled timetable. As the duration of the program was 5 years, yearly priority works would be identified and coordinated. Government's conducts on private sector development would be explained to the attending donors at the workshop. Areas for public involvement and donor participation would be discussed and identified.

Moving onto the second part, the Vice President said that discussions, explanations and exchange of views would be held for the committee members to understand and implement the framework and program in addition to discussing future works. This would greatly support the future works. A very important step for the economic development of the country would be taken if the work committees, private business owners, associations and donor organizations jointly implemented the properly drawn up private sector development framework and programs.

Afterwards, a partner association for private sector development, Da Na Facility group leader Mr. Peter Brimble and Private Sector Development Committee joint secretary, Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization Director General U Aung Soe explained about matters relating to the framework and program.

Then, each component was discussed by responsible personnel from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanma Economic Forum and Young Entrepreneurs Association.

It is learnt that at the workshop, the role of the partner associations helping the workshop, laws and procedures component, sourcing of financing component, encouraging trade and investment component, redefining government involvement in the economy and services component and human resources development component would be discussed.

Private Sector Development Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister Dr. Than Myint, committee members Union Ministers Dr. Aung Thu, U Thein Swe, U Khin Maung Cho, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Ministers Dr. Tun Naing, and U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung, Private Sector Development committee members, members of Entrepreneur Association, representatives of international organizations helping and supporting private sector development, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General and responsible persons attended the workshop.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the workshop on Private Sector Development Committee. PHOTO: MNA

Internet connectivity boost in Maungtaw

INTERNET connectivity in Maungtaw has slowed down because of the increasing number of mobile phone users in Maungtaw, but the Ministry for Transport and Communications, Myanma Post and Telecommunications (Maungtaw) says the problem will be solved this coming May.

"There is only one GSM mobile tower in Maungtaw Township, and with the number of mobile users increasing, the internet line is getting slower. Starting from the second week of February this year one GSM mobile tower is being constructed in MaungNi, ShweSar and Myoma East villages each and after completion they will be able to provide reliable, 24-hour internet connectivity in May," said U Aung Zaw, the in-charge of Myanma Post and Telecommunications (Maungtaw).

"The towers in MaungNi and ShweSar are completed with only installation of the machinery left. We are trying to complete the tower in Myoma East on time too, and hope to have all three towers in operation by May," he added. The improvement are welcome, local residents said. "We used to have good internet connectivity before and it wasn't this bad. But now you have to get up at 3 or 4 am in the morning when there aren't many people using it to get good connectivity", said Ko Hla Myint, a local resident. "In the afternoon, the signal disappears most of the time, but I think after operation of the new towers begin we will have good connectivity again."

The mobile tower currently in use was constructed in 2011 and began operation in 2012. After Sittway, Buthidaung and Maungtaw have the most internet users, said an official from MPT.—*Ramanya, Tin Soe*

Newspapers to be distributed in turns this Thingyan

THE Ministry of Information, News and Periodicals Enterprise announced that daily newspapers will be printed during the Thingyan Festival.

The Mirror and The Global New Light of Myanmar will print on 13, 14, 15 April and the Myanma Alinn newspaper will temporarily cease printing during this period.

The Myanma Alinn will resume publication on 16,17 April and The Mirror and The Global New Light of Myanmar will temporarily cease printing on those days.

Similarly the Mandalay News Sector from the Sub-Printing House (Mandalay) will temporarily cease printing on April 15, the extra page in ethnic languages from the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) will temporarily cease printing on April 16, and will resume normal production after the Thingyan holidays. Advertisements can be received by the newspapers offices, which will remain open during Thingyan. All newspapers will resume normal production starting April 18.—*News and Periodicals Enterprise*

Gale destroys houses

BUILDINGS and houses in Kwan Chan Kone village tract, Laymyethna Township, Hinthada District were destroyed or damaged by a strong gale at 5 pmon 4th April.

There were no reported deaths or injuries, but about 20 homes were reported to be destroyed. An additional 250 houses had damaged to roofs or walls. The roof of the dining hall of the monastery in Phayagone village was also damaged.

The ceiling and roof of a one-storey school measuring 30 by 60 feet in Gwedauk Kwin Village was blown off. Also, the corrugated zinc roof of Basic Education Middle School (affiliated) in west Kwan Chan Kone Village was similarly blown off. There was also damaged to the roof of a latrine of the village dispensary.

Regional Hluttaw representative U Soe Than, Head of District Police Force, Police Lt.Col. Tint Wai, Township Administrator, U Htoo Htet Aung, Head of Township Fire Services Department and its permanent firefighters were went to the site at 5am on Wednesday and helped in clearance works.—*IPRD*

New lamp posts being installed along road in Mandalay.
PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

Installation of new lamp posts aim to reduce crime in Mandalay City

SINCE early April, a project to install new lamp posts around the famous Mandalay moat has been implemented by Mandalay City Development Committee, one of its members said.

With the aim of decreasing criminal activity and preventing crimes by focusing on lowering potential opportunities, city authorities target to put around 150 LED light bulbs at 75 lump posts along 66th, 12th and 26th streets, and the eastern part of the moat.

In collaboration with Mandalay Region Electricity Supply Cooperation, the MCDC puts forth concerted efforts to place new concrete lamp posts on 66th Street and between 12th and 26th streets before the Thingyan New Year Water Festival.

A lamp post will cover two 115-watt LED light bulbs.

In addition, the corporation will replace the old electric wire ropes installed around the moat with quality high-voltage wire.

Authorities also installed lamp posts along the roads in the capital Nay Pyi Taw.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Container transport company to be formed

A public company for container transportation will be formed for sustainable development, according to Myanmar Container Trucks Association (MCTA).

The public company will provide service in both road and water transportation. Cargo from the associated business organisations of the MCTA, the Trucks Association, the Port Clearance association and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) will be handled through one stop service similar to foreign companies. A public company needs to be formed to be able to provide this service, said U Than Lwin, chairman of the MCTA.

There are more than 2,400 vehicles at the 72 gates where cargo transport services are being provided by Myanmar Container Trucks Association.—*200*

Dried fish baked in the sun. A scarcity of raw materials is leading to their suspension. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Dried fish business could be suspended

ALTHOUGH dried fish sell well starting in April, dried fish businessmen are faced with the problem of scarcity of dried fish supply, thereby having a need to suspend their business, according to sellers.

"The dried fish are selling well in our region these days. But we don't have raw materials starting from the last two days. Now, we have to suspend our business for lack of raw materials", said U Hsan Lin, a fish paste and dried fish seller.

Although the dried fish are selling well in Mawlamyinegyun township because it is mostly used in charities held during water festival, the fish supply has become scarce because of high temperatures.

Previously, fishermen caught between 8 and 10 visses of fish per day. But starting from the first week of April, the fishermen could catch only three visses of fish per day.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

e-Government coordination for development of IT sector

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications, U Thant Sin Maung delivered the opening speech at the e-Government Coordination Meeting held at the meeting hall of Inland Water Transport in Yangon.

In the meeting Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo , responsible officials from the Union Minister's office, Information and Technology and Cyber security Department and Directorate of Telecommunications met with Myanmar Computer Association and discussed the matters relating to making concerted effort for the development of Information and Communication Technology sector which is the basic requirement of successful implementation of e-Government in Myanmar.

Moreover, they discussed about using Myanmar Unicode in all government departments starting from 1st April in implementing the e-Government Program and to try to include people in this program through the government service departments.

Then, the Union Minister gave the guidance and instruction on the policy and work programs that can help in the development of IT industry postulated by Myanmar computer Association.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pre-Thingyan real estate sale to be held in Golden Valley

A pre-Thingyan real estate sale will be held by Naing Group at which apartments from nine projects in Bahan, Kyauktada, Sangyoung, Botahtaung, Kamayut, Tamwe, Dagon and Mingala Taungnyunt will be sold at a special discount from Ks30 million to Ks300 million, depending on the quality and space of the apartments.

The real estate sale festival will be held at Golden Valley Cluster House, near Dhammazedi Road market place, Shwe Taung Gyar road, Bahan township on 7 and 8 April.

The real estate sale festival will be jointly hosted by iMyanmarHouse.com and Naing Group. The apartments can be bought in installments with bank loans.

"To buy the apartments with a special discount, the buyers have to make a down payment of Ks 1 million. The real estate sale festival will be held from 9 am to 5 pm, said an official from iMyanmarHouse.com.

The apartments are at Cluster House (Golden Valley) from Shwe Taung Gyar, Naing Group Tower II near Sule, KBZ tower near Dagon Center, Merchant Suite Condominium near Botahtaung Pagoda, 92 Semi Condominium in Mingala Taungnyunt township, ERC condominium near Kyaikkasan Super One, Blossom Garden Condominium in Yawmingyi Road, San Yeik Nyein Condominium near Hledan Market and My Condo in Tamwe Township.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Children in upper Myanmar get free cleft lip and palate repair surgery

LED by Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara, a free surgical care programme for children with cleft lips and palates has been occurring in Sagaing Region since 2 April, for the purpose of bringing a better future for patients with congenital deformities.

A total of 88 children from Mandalay, Sagaing and upper Myanmar have successfully undergone cleft lip and palate repair surgery as a result of this programme, which will last until 8 April.

Under the arrangement of Dr Khin Maung Zaw, medical superintendent of the Sitagu Ayudana Hospital, foreign specialists from the US-based Alliance for Smiles Mission performed the surgical operations with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Yangon founded by Dr Than Win.

The US-based Alliance for Smiles Mission also offers free eye care to people with different eye diseases free of charge.

This is the fourth time a free surgical care programme for persons affected by cleft lips and palates has been conducted in the hospital under the guideline of the Sitagu Sayadaw.

Cleft lips and cleft palates are congenital defects affecting one in 700 people. More than 170,000 children worldwide are born with cleft lips, palates or both each year. The condition causes difficulty in eating, breathing and speaking.

According to the estimation based on the Central Women's Hospital records, between 6,000 and 8,000 children in the country are born with a cleft lip and/or a cleft palate every year, local physicians said.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

LOCAL Business

Export value up by over US$650 million

THE value of exports from 1st April 2016 to 24th March 2017 in the current fiscal year is up by over US$650.243million against that in the similar period of last year, according to official statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

The country's exports are mainly from the mineral, natural gas, agriculture and fishery sectors. Despite the drop in exports of natural gas, minerals and finished industrial goods, other export products managed to bolster production.

Export as of 24th March this fiscal year fetched US$11.32 billion, earning US$6.86 billion through normal trade and US$4.46 billion through border trade.

Export values are US$2.81 billion from agricultural products, US$10.06 million from animal products, US$556.476million from fisheries products, US$892.97million from minerals, US$237.86million from forest products, US$ 5.32 billion from finished industrial products and US$1.5 billion from other products.

The agro industry plays a key role in the export sector and this year saw the value of agro exports go up by nearly US$300million when compared to that of last year. The country exported 500million tonnes of rice and broken rice worth US$1.57million to foreign countries. The volume is about 120,000 tonnes higher than that of last year.

Similarly, the export volume of mung bean increased by over 80,000 tonnes, whereas that of peanuts is up by over 50,000 tonnes. Sesame was up by over 10,000 tonnes and green grams was up by over 70,000 tonnes, it is learnt.

Fruit exports earned over US$7million higher than last year, while the earnings from rubber exports rose by US$80million because of the jump in the rubber price this year.

External trade with foreign partners as of 24th March in the current FY totaled US$27.97 billion, with export values of US$11.31 billion and import values of US$16.65 billion, according to the Commerce Ministry.—*GNLM*

US dollar exchange rate slips a bit near Thingyan Festival

THE exchange rate of the US dollar fell slightly in April with the Thingyan Festival approaching and as the export volume rose, according to the external currency market.

The dollar price is decreasing in the local exchange market starting from the last week of March. The US dollar price declined a bit from Ks1,365 to about Ks1,350 in the external currency market. The Central Bank of Myanmar set the exchange rate at Ks1,360 on 4th April 2017 and then, it scaled down the rate at Ks1,358 on 5th April, in keeping with the fall of greenback's value in local currency exchange market.

The exchange rate usually rises as the businessmen highly import the goods because of the long public holiday of Myanmar New Year.

During this time of the year, a slight depreciation of the US dollar is found in the local currency market when the Thingyan holiday gets nearer, resulted from the high earnings of various pea export.

The gold price declined a bit with the depreciation of dollar and a decrease in global gold price. However, with the increase in global gold price, the gold price raised its head again at above Ks900,000 per tical on 4th April.—*Ko Khant*

New Hope Singapore invests US$10mil in Bago poultry farming

SINGAPORE based New Hope Singapore Co., Ltd is preparing for poultry farming in Bago Region, putting an initial investment of US$10 million into hatchery and breeder farms, according to Dealstreetasia.

The company will mainly focus on hatchery and meat production, which is backed by China's agribusiness New Hope Group, which works on production of animal feed, breeding, meat products and financial investment.

Myanmar New Hope Agrotechnique Co Ltd, a joint venture already established in Myanmar in the past five years, produces animal feedstuff and meat production, with a capacity of about 100,000 tonnes of feed per month.

Gou Huayin, executive director of Myanmar New Hope Agrotechnique Co, said that the phase 1 project of the poultry sector is focused on the southern part of Myanmar and that phase 2 will target Mandalay, covering the northern part of Myanmar.

The company is making long-term investments in poultry farming, providing a one-stop solution to the market's demand. Agriculture and livestock play a crucial role in implementation of the country's development activities, experts said.

Singapore ranked in second place in the line-up of the largest foreign investment countries in Myanmar, according to the statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—*Mon Mon*

Over a million of containers expected to ship abroad

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

OVER a million containers are likely to be transported to foreign countries this year, said U Thaung Myint, Minister for Yangon Region Planning and Finance.

Efforts are being exerted in order to have a smooth flow of trade. In 2016, up to 1,044,500 containers were transported to foreign countries. Over a million containers will possibly be sent abroad this year.

Myanmar Container Trucks Association (MCTA) is attempting to facilitate trade flow, reduce commodity price, support the country's economic development, conduct cross-border trade beyond container ports and border gates, compete with the foreign countries including those in ASEAN region, buy and operate with modern container trucks for its members and make an easier way to transport, it is learnt.

There is a trade deficit when imports surpass the export. Cooperation is required from both sea route and road transport to meet a target, said U Than Lwin, the chairman of MCTA.

Currently, the number of port terminals handling ocean containers has risen; Bo Aung Kyaw port, Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa (MIT), Asia World Port, Htee Tan Port Terminal, Myanmar Industrial Port etc, providing service with over 2,400 container trucks at 72 gates.—*200*

Indonesian capital, outskirt areas overwhelmed by bad air quality: Greenpeace

JAKARTA — The Indonesian capital of Jakarta and its outskirt areas are overwhelmed by bad air quality as harmful pollutant in the air, Particulate Matter (PM 2.5), have exceeded limits in the areas, international environmentalist organization Greenpeace said.

Citing results of air quality monitoring carried out in 19 locations in Jakarta and its outskirt areas from February to March, Greenpeace learned that the air quality in these areas were heavily polluted.

According to Greenpeace, the average PM 2.5 level in eastern Jakarta suburb area of Cibubur during the period was recorded at 103.2 µg/m3, far above the maximum standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO) and national air quality standard at 25 µg/m3 and 65 µg/m3 respectively.

In suburb areas in southern Jakarta, the PM 2.5 levels showed concerning levels of 65.9µg/m3 and 71.5 µg/m3.

"All these times we never realized how bad the air quality in Jakarta is due to the absence of data related to it," Greenpeace Indonesia Climate and Energy campaigner Bondan Andriyanu said in a recent statement. He said that the availability of data is essential to help the authorities and people in anticipating several diseases caused by bad air quality.

Some diseases in the society are closely related to the air that people breathe every day, he said.—*Reuters*

Xi says China, Finland to increase cooperation under China-EU framework

HELSINKI — China and Finland will increase cooperation under the China-European Union framework, President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday after arriving in Finland for his first visit as head of state.

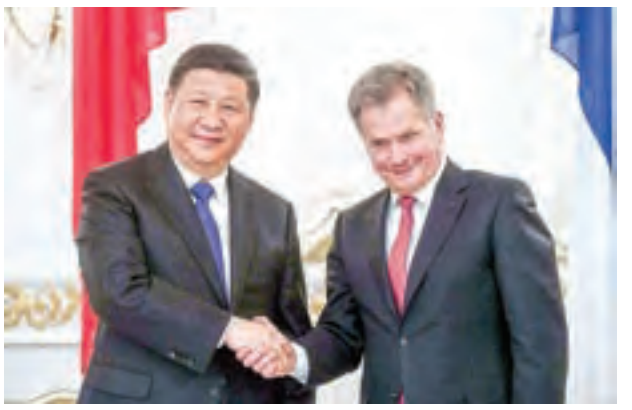
Xi is due to meet US President Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida later this week.

Like China, the Nordics, home to blue chips like Finnish telecom equipment maker Nokia and Swedish truck maker Volvo, stand to lose out if Trump's pledge to put "America first" increases global protectionism.

For China, the visit to eurozone member Finland is a chance to shore up support in Europe, its biggest trading partner. European diplomats have said China has launched a charm offensive with the European Union since Trump took office, shifting its stance on trade negotiations and signaling closer cooperation on a range of other issues.

After meeting Finnish President Sauli Niinisto, Xi said China and Finland will "seize the opportunity of Finland's rotating chairmanship of the Arctic Council to enhance cooperation in Arctic affairs and promote environmental protection and sustainable development of the Arctic."

The countries also said they would support the launch of a joint feasibility study on an EU-China free trade agreement when conditions were right and step up high-tech trade cooperation. "China continues to raise its profile as a defender of free trade," said Jyrki Kallio, researcher at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs.



China's President Xi Jinping and Finland's President Sauli Niinisto shake hands during the signing ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki, Finland on 5 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"Both Finland and China share the same concern about the negative effects on the global economy if Trump's action ignites a trade war between China and the United States."

Niinisto said the two heads of state also discussed North Korea, which test-fired a ballistic missile into the sea on Wednesday.—*Reuters*

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Japan condemns N Korea missile, lodges stern protest

TOKYO — Japan has lodged a protest with North Korea over its test-firing of a ballistic missile Wednesday, calling the launch "intolerable" and a "clear violation" of UN Security Council resolutions that ban the reclusive state from testing ballistic missile technology.

"Japan resolutely will not tolerate these repeated provocative acts by North Korea. Japan has lodged a stern protest with North Korea and strongly condemns the act," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, the government's top spokesman, told an emergency press conference.

Foreign Ministry Fumio Kishida told reporters that the test-firing poses a "new level of threat" and is "a clear provocation toward the security of the international community and region, including Japan."

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks to reporters at his office in Tokyo on 5 April, 2017, following North Korea's latest ballistic missile launch. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

North Korea launched a ballistic missile from its eastern coast at around 6:42 am Tokyo time that flew "several tens of kilometers" before falling into the Sea of Japan, the Japanese government said.

While the missile is estimated to have fallen outside Japan's exclusive economic zone around its territorial waters, the launch was "an extremely problematic act from the perspective of the safety of aircraft and maritime vessels," the spokesman said.

He said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has issued instructions to gather and analyze information, keep the public informed, confirm the safety of aircraft and vessels and prepare for any eventuality.

Defence Minister Tomomi Inada also instructed her ministry and the Self-Defence Forces to continue their information-gathering and surveillance efforts.

North Korea conducted two nuclear tests and test-launched more than 20 ballistic missiles last year.

In early March, North Korea launched four ballistic missiles almost simultaneously, which fell into the Sea of Japan around 300 to 350 kilometers off Akita Prefecture in northeastern Japan.—*Kyodo News*

Malaysia keen to learn about nuclear power from Japan

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia wants to learn from Japan about atomic energy, including about its efforts to restore lost public confidence stemming from the Fukushima nuclear accident, before deciding whether to build a nuclear power plant in the country, according to Malaysian government officials. Two weeks ago, a total of 25 Malaysian delegates, including representatives from several ministries, participated in a programme on public understanding of nuclear power in the country, assisted by the Center for International Cooperation of the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, a nonprofit organization promoting peaceful use of atomic energy.

The views and support of the general public are key concerns for the Malaysian government to venture into the use of any new energy source, including nuclear power, according to Mohd Zamzam Jaafar, chief executive of Malaysia Nuclear Power Corp.

Zaini Ujang, general secretary of the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water, said the program included a proposal to build a nuclear power plant in Malaysia even though the government has yet to decide on the matter. "Although Japanese nuclear power generation started more than 50 years ago, its public acceptance is decreasing as a result of the tragedy that occurred in Fukushima in 2011," Zaini said. "We want to study how Japan handles this matter on the basis of safety once more as some people have lost faith in nuclear power supply," he said. "Malaysia can explore new energy sources such as nuclear power that are cheaper and stable for long periods compared with other fuels such as gas and coal."

According to Zaini, the supply of uranium, a nuclear power material, abounds in the world and its price remains stable but it is used only slightly to generate electricity.— *Kyodo News*

North Korea test-fires missile into sea ahead of Trump-Xi summit

SEOUL — North Korea test-fired a ballistic missile into the sea off its east coast on Wednesday, South Korea's military said, ahead of a summit between US and Chinese leaders who are set to discuss Pyongyang's increasingly defiant arms programme.

The missile flew about 60 km (40 miles) from its launch site at Sinpo, a port city on North Korea's east coast, the South Korean Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. Sinpo is home to a North Korean submarine base.

The launch comes just a day before the start of a summit between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, where talks about adding pressure on the North to drop its arms development will take center stage.

"The launch took place possibly in consideration of the US -China summit, while at the same time it was to check its missile capability," a South Korean official told Reuters about the military's initial assessment of the launch.

The missile was fired at a high angle and reached an altitude of 189 km (117 miles), the official said.

Any launch of objects using ballistic missile technology is a violation of UN Security Council resolutions. The North has defied the ban, saying it infringes on its sovereign rights to self-defense and the pursuit of space exploration.

The launch drew swift condemnation from Japan, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe saying further provocative action was possible.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga described the launch as "extremely problematic"

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watched the ground jet test of a Korean-style high-thrust engine newly developed by the Academy of the National Defence Science in this undated picture provided by KCNA in Pyongyang on 19 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

and said Tokyo had lodged a strong protest.

South Korea's foreign ministry also condemned the launch as a blunt challenge to a series of UN Security Council resolutions targeting North Korea's nuclear and missile programme. Seoul called a National Security Council meeting and vowed to respond strongly in case of further provocations.

In a terse statement, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said: "The United States has spoken enough about North Korea. We have no further comment."

Trump wants China to do more to exert its economic influence over unpredictable Pyongyang to restrain its nuclear and missile programmes.

China has denied it has any outsized influence on Pyongyang and Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying ruled out the chance of a link between the launch and the summit, saying, "I can't see any certain connection between these two things."

Ahead of the US-China summit in Florida, Trump had threatened to use crucial trade ties with China to pressure Beijing into more action on North Korea.

A senior US White House official said Trump wanted to work with China and described the discussions over North Korea as a test for the US-Chinese relationship. North Korea could choose to continue with missile-related activities through next week, when the isolated and impoverished country celebrates the 105th anniversary of the birth of the state's founder, Kim Il Sung.

It has used the anniversary in previous years to test-fire the intermediate-range Musudan ballistic missile and to launch long-range rockets to try to put satellites into orbit. An expert on the North's political strategy warned against reading too much political significance into the timing of the tests ahead of the US-China summit.

"They may have taken the summit into account to pick a day but, to me, it is more likely to catch up with its own missile development roadmap for their technical needs," said Kim Dong-yub, a military expert at Kyungnam University's Institute of Far Eastern Studies in Seoul.

North Korea failed in an attempt to launch a ballistic missile from its east coast two weeks ago. Earlier in March, it fired four missiles towards Japan, some of which came as close as 300 km (190 miles) to the Japanese coast.

It has also conducted two nuclear weapons tests since January 2016, all in defiance of UN sanctions.

The US and South Korean militaries said initial assessments indicated the latest launch was of a KN-15 medium-range ballistic missile, which would be the same kind North Korea test-launched in February. Pyongyang tested a new type of medium- to long-range ballistic missile in February, which it later said was an upgraded, extended-range version of its submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).

North Korea has carried out several SLBM tests near Sinpo.

"While it is entirely possible it was the land-based KN-15, it very well could have been a test of their SLBM system that was conducted on land," said Dave Schmerler, an expert at the California-based James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies.

The North is believed to be developing an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that could hit the United States and its leader, Kim Jong Un, has vowed to test-launch one at any time.

Experts and officials in the South and the United States believe Pyongyang is still some time away from mastering all the technology needed for an operational ICBM system, such as re-entry into the atmosphere and subsequent missile guidance.—*Reuters*

Japanese woman nabbed in Thailand over financial fraud

BANGKOK — A Japanese woman wanted by police in Japan for cheating investors out of their money has been arrested in Thailand, immigration police said Wednesday.

They said Setsuko Yamabe, 62, a native of Kumamoto Prefecture in southern Japan, was arrested on 30 March at a gas station in Ubon Ratchathani province of northeastern Thailand, at which time she was accompanied by a Thai man.

Yamabe is expected to be extradited soon to Japan where Kumamoto police have issued a warrant for her arrest for financial fraud.

She is alleged to have illegally invested almost 70 million yen collected from a Japanese man, while guaranteeing the principal and promising high returns.

Using the same method, she allegedly amassed more than 700 million yen from dozens of other people between 2014 and 2016, according to police. Some victims who lost their money fell into depression and a suicide was even reported.

Yamabe entered Thailand 15 times in the past several years, most recently in January as a tourist, and recently applied for an extended stay until 19 April.

Police said they intend to question the Thai man with whom Yamabe was staying in the province to see whether he was involved in the scheme, while also investigating why she visited Thailand so frequently. —*Kyodo News*

Friend of S Korea's ousted Park to be transferred to different location

SEOUL — A long-time friend of ousted South Korean President Park Geun-hye is to be transferred to a different location to prevent her from coming into contact with the detained leader, a prosecution official said on Wednesday.

Choi Soon-sil, the friend at the centre of a corruption scandal that removed Park from power, is accused of conspiring with her to pressure big businesses to contribute funds to foundations controlled by Choi and take bribes from the giant Samsung Group in exchange for favours.

Park and Choi are now locked in the women's ward at the Seoul Detention Centre in the South Korean capital, but Choi will be moved to a different location.

"It (her transfer) will happen this week...The women's block at the Seoul Detention Center is not big. Apparently the detention center is having difficulties to control," a prosecution official told reporters.

Park is being held in detention for up to 20 days while she is investigated and possibly indicted on charges that could imprison her for at least 10 years.

Others at the site include Samsung scion Jay Y Lee, who is accused of giving bribes to Park for corporate favours, as well as top presidential aides who have been charged or implicated in the scandal.

Park, Choi and Lee have denied any wrongdoing.

Prosecutors have said they interrogated Park in the detention centre on Tuesday rather than summoning her, at her lawyer's request, taking into consideration her security and mental condition.

She is spending her time in a single cell that is slightly more spacious than others.

Park will have another interrogation session at the centre on Thursday, the prosecution official added.—*Reuters*

Choi Soon-sil, the woman at the centre of the South Korean political scandal and long-time friend of President Park Geun-hye, arrives for a hearing arguments for South Korean President Park Geun-hye's impeachment trial at the Constitutional Court in Seoul, South... Kim Hong-Ji. PHOTO: REUTERS

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.

Co-dependency, Dependency Culture, Self-help & Volunteerism

Khin Maung Oo

HUMAN beings live in society, helping each other. Living together, they fight against enemies and difficulties. Thus, they overcome hindrances and woes on their way, having a good time throughout their lives. Thus, their bonds become firm. Knowing that the stronger can protect the weak from dangers, enemies and beasts, the latter comes to rely upon the former, making him their leader. They respect their leader, believing that they can be free from dangers and conquer all trials and tribulations, if and when their leader is with them. In this way, reliance or dependence develops among human beings. We have found many kinds of dependence in our surroundings. It is not strange for the elderly to depend upon others for their survival. But we can also see some married couples, friends and mother and son who are too much dependent on each other emotionally. This kind of reliance is called codependency.

Boys and girls who are young but not feeble are often seen asking for money at bus stands and in buses. In fact, they are lazy, always expecting easy money from others. Likewise some people depend too much on money from others, for example from institutions or the government. These kinds of people develop the practice of dependency culture. A banana republic is a poor country with a weak government that depends on foreign money. This is also a kind of dependency culture. Above-said two kinds of reliance are mostly found in our environment, but no one likes them. But they find no solution to get rid of these except for giving contemptuous looks. Excessive dependence is an unacceptable habit in our society, yet we fail to think of the way to help them to get out of the vicious circle for many decades. Meanwhile, people with disabilities who are willing and ready to help people in trouble and their fellow colleagues emerge in our country. They highlight to us that we should serve our societies and communities, at such a time when there are plenty of selfish persons in our world. We were really elated to hear the heartening news in our dailies these days.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor has been selecting the person who is worth congratulating among those from the citizens, philanthropists and social societies monthly, releasing their names to say words of thanks known to the public. Ma Aye Chan Aung aged 27 was selected as the person who was worth congratulating for the month of February 2017. Ma Aye Chan Aung was born with right eyesight innately deficient. At the age of 10 while in her primary education class, she lost eyesight of her left eye as well. Though she lost her eyesight totally, she tried her best without abandoning herself to despair. Due to her arduous efforts, the Office of State Counsellor released that she was selected as the person who was worth congratulating for the month of February.

She and her fellow friends show that we are all brethren and that we should co-exist in the world, helping each other without yielding to any difficulties. Simultaneously, they show that we should develop the practice of living on self-help as much as we can and we ought to contribute our voluntary labour to serve our world and our people.

A Visit to the Moeyumgyi Wet-land Wild life Sanctuary

Dr. Saw Mra Aung

(continued from 5-4-2017)

At 10: 45 am, we came to the junction of the Phayagyi. We diverted from the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Road and took the road to Phayagyi. Greenery pea-plantations and an elephant camp were seen on the road-sides near Thayatgon Village. Just before reaching the entrance to Phayagyi, a line of age-old Kukko trees with branches affording a good shade over the road were found. Swirling around the road beyond Phayagyi was a very wide flat plain covered with paddy fields, sloping gently down towards the Gulf of Mottama. The scene convinced me that the sea-water had receded recently from the Gulf of Mottama. It is learnt from some geologists and historians that the mouth of the Ayeyawady River was near Pyi about 300, 000 years ago, that Lower Myanmar including the Ayeyawady Delta and the Gulf of Mottama was then occupied by a shallow sea, that a few tree-clad laterite islands were above water and that the sea retreated due to a severe earthquake which quivered Lower Myanmar about the 5th century B.C.

Legend also has it that while the Buddha was journeying to Suvannabhumi Thaton in the year 111 M.E, he saw a couple of Hamsas(Brahminy ducks)-the female duck on the male's back-perching on a tiny island above the shallow sea at the place where Bago (Hamsavati)would emerge, when he reached the Gulf of Mottama. It is also known that some remnants of ships such as bolts, cables, anchors, were found buried near Phayagyi and Mt. Kelasa in the rim of the Gulf of Mottama during Colonial Period. The claims of the tradition, scholars and the archaeological discovery certify that that region would have been under sea some thousands years ago. I believed that when the sea-water receded, the flat alluvial plains would remain unaffected by any geological activities. These recently-formed alluvial plains would serve as the granary of the Hamsavati Kingdom when King Samala and King Vimala founded it at the advent of the Christian Era. I remembered a 6th-century stone inscription bearing the Paticcasamupada(Law of Dependent Origination) in a South- Indian script discovered at Kwunseik Village which settled on the edge of the Gulf of Mottama. As the Paticcasamupada is included in the Vibhanga, the second of the Seven Abhidhamma Texts, it can be assumed that the Abhidhamma might have reached the Gulf of Mottama since the beginning of the Christian Era. At the same time, I felt that our team was traversing one of the lands blessed with the teaching of the Buddha earliest in Myanmar.

When it was 11:30 am, we came to the lane with a sign-board which read " Welcome to Moeyum-gyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary", erected at its top. So our car drove into it. The lane was leading

The scenic view of Moeyumgyi Wet-land Wild life Sanctuary. PHOTO: DR SAW MRA AUNG

east, sheltered by branches of trees growing on its left. On the right was a dry creek with white sand at its bottom, running parallel to it. After we had covered half the lane, we felt due to breaths of cool wind coming continually across the open plains from the north as if the winter had abruptly set in on us. Beyond the end of the lane was a very large water body seeming a land-locked sea, the Moe-yum-gyi Lake. Across the gate was a one-storeyed building employed as an exhibition hall. As we entered it, we found many colourful photographs of animals inhabiting the lake and its background history hung on the walls. It is said that the Moe-yum-gyi Lake was constructed as a reservoir in 1878 to help float wood-rafts along the Bago-Sittoung Canal. But as it sank into oblivion for years, it was gradually converted into a natural lake. It was officially declared as the Moe-yum-gyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary in 1988. When Myanmar entered the Ramsar Convention in 2005, it became the Myanmar's first Ramsar site. It is learnt that the lake covers 40 square miles, surrounded in its immediate vicinity by flat plains flooded during the rainy season and dry during the hot season and that it is inhabited by 53 species of water-birds, 35 species of terrestrial birds, 30 species of fishes, 33 species of butter-flies, 8 species of amphibians, 21 species of reptiles and 49 species of aquatic plants.

We had to pay 500 kyats as entry fee per head at the gate. Then we from the bank of the lake went over to a small island overgrown with tall trees by an arched wooden bridge. We then pushed on along the track amongst the trees until we reached the other end of the island, whence we again crossed over to another sizable island by a wooden bridge. We there saw some make-shift stalls built of bamboo- matting floors and walls and thatch-roofs under the large trees with their foliages so thick that the sun-rays could not be penetrable. Inside those stalls were found many people of different ages and descriptions having lunch.

SEE PAGE 9 >>

Three women in Maungtaw allege rape

THREE women from Kyargaungtaung Village in Maungtaw Township filed cases at the Ngakhura police station, alleging that they had been raped 3 months ago, according to the State Counsellor Office Information Committee.

Ma Phartaymar Khartu and Ma Zawmilar Khartu made complaints at Ngakhura police station in the evening of 30 March, while Ma Mawria Khartu filed a case on the morning of 31 March.

In response to their complaints, Ngakhura police station opened cases under section 376 of the Penal Code, arranging to interrogate witnesses and culprits who allegedly raped the women. Forensic testing has been down to find the culprits, according to the State Counsellor Office Information Committee.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Murder suspect arrested in Maungtaw

A man suspected of involvement in the murder in Maungtaw that occurred a month ago was arrested police force on Monday by border guards.

Border guards police force on patrol in Maunggyitaung Village, Maungtaw Township, interrogated three suspicious men and discovered one of them to be wanted for the 5 March murder of a man in Buthidaung. Bodiya, 20, a local resident is suspected of being one of the suspects behind the murder of Maungyitaung resident Zarmar Hussein on 5 March.

The two men with Bodiya at the time of his arrest are Marmad Armain, 25, and Colli Mullah, 22. Action will be taken against them for breaching Act 144, a curfew violation. *–Myanmar News Agency*

Fire destroys house in Aung Tharya Village, Maungtaw

A house in Aung Tharya village in Maungtaw township was destroyed by fire Tuesday evening, according to the State Counsellor's Office Information Team.

The house with wooden floors and walls and a zinc sheet roof owned by Daw Saw Thein Yin was destroyed by the fire, but there were no casualties of people or animals.

The value of the house is Ks50,000.—*Myanmar News Agency*

No casualties were found at the burnt house.
PHOTO: MNA

Humanitairan Assistance after 9/10 Attacks (October 9 Attacks) in Rakhine State

(From 18-2-2017 to 5-4-2017)

Sr. No.	Supporting consumer goods, household goods and business materials	Department / Organization					Total
		Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Ministry of Border Affairs	International Organizations (including WFP)	Rakhine State Government	Local Donors	
1	Cash(kyats in million)	-	-	170.21	268.94	-	439.15
2	Rice (bag)	-	1500	331.81	-	-	1831.81
3	Cooking oil (viss)	-	1000	496.25	-	-	1496.25
4	Salt (viss)	-	3000	117.97	-	-	3117.97
5	Peas(viss)	-	3000	734.6	-	-	3734.60

The State Counsellor's Office the Information Committee has announced that during the period from 9 October 2016 to 3 April 2017, 23 people have died and 10 people are still missing in Maungtaw, Rakhine State.

List of missing people in Maungtaw

No	Date	Name	Death	Detained/ Missing	Remark
1.	9.10.2016	Maung Maung Soe (alias) Runamyar and Mahmat Kali	2	-	
2.	14.10.2016	Scrutinizing	1	-	
3.	7.11.2016	Mahmout Pharo (alias) Faisal	-	2	Found
4.	17.11.2016	Jamar (alias) Fawmar Hussein	1	-	
5.	13.12.2016	Habi Rohman	-	1	
6.	21.12.2016	Dusmahmat (alias) Runamyar	1	-	
7.	25.12.2016	Rafi	1	-	
8.	26.12.2016	Sira Zuhout	1	-	
9.	28.12.2016	Swedu Arrmi	1	-	
10.	29.12.2016	Anamula	1	1	Found with knife injuries
11.	2.1.2017	Lar Luu	-	1	
12.	13.1.2017	Scrutinizing	-	-	
13.	14.1.2017	Friya (alias) Friya Zuhaut	1	1	Found
14	20.1.2017	Sunta Ahmad, Mahmat Shafi and Mahmat Zubai	-	-	
15	22.1.2017	Eibyar Hein	3	1	
16.	27.1.2017	Shafi Rahmout and Swedu Arrmein	-	2	
17.	28.1.2017	Zaw Ki Ahmed	-	-	
18.	4.2.2017	Eidris	1	-	
19.	24.2.2017	Mahmat Cassim	-	-	
20.	26.2.2017	Tun Thar Maung	1	1	
21.	2.3.2017	Nuhkarin	11	-	
22.	5.3.2017	Zarmar Hussein	1	-	
23.	10.3.2017	Mahmat Sawli	1	-	
24.	12.3.2017	Mahmat Sufi	1	1	
25.	16.3.2017	Soli Mulla	-	-	
26.	30.3.2017	Yar Yar	1	1	
27.	31.3.2017	Shivali and Nuhmahmat	-	1	
28.	1.4.2017	Nuhmahmat , Abdullaha, Dulami, Ibrahim and Hamid Dulla	1	3	Abdullaha, Dulami were found tied up
29.	2.4.2017	Aniwa Ashat	1	-	
Total			**23**	**15**	

Note: Of the 15 people abducted, 5 people were found.

Humanitairan Assistance after 9/10 Attacks (October 9 Attacks) in Rakhine State

(From 4-11-2016 to 5-4-2017)

A Visit to the Moeyumgyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary

>> **FROM PAGE 8**

We came into a stall and had fried gourd-fritters with plain-tea to quench our thirst and hunger. Looking east , we saw a restaurant in water connected with neighbouring islets by wooden bridges and beyond it were some new man-made islands, among which were some colourful boat guest-houses. We proceeded to that restaurant and the man-made islands. The restaurant was full of holiday-makers, a few of whom were foreigners. I saw some birds standing among the tall grasses growing wild on the edges of the man-made islands jutting out into the open lake and a bird-watching tower at the far end of a distant island. To the south was a vast expanse of water stretching away into the distance. To the south, not far from the restaurant, was a small island covered by tall shady trees, whose straight trunks look like pillars of ancient temples. I espied some large birds hovering high and low over them. Off and on, I saw occasional flights of wild birds over the glistening surface of the wide water expanse. Although we hired an outboard motored-boat to skim over the open lake, as we were asked to await our turn some hours, we resigned ourselves to the desire of the boat-riding over the lake.

Most of the islands employed as resort-islands with stalls, restaurants and guest-houses huddled together near the northern bank of the lake , a few densely forested-islands being a few hundred yards south apart from them. We went round the resort-islands, as they were connected with one another by wooden bridges. But since the outboard- motored boat was not available to us, we had to satisfy ourselves with the pleasant scene offered by the islands out of our reach. While going about in the resort-islands, I saw lots of holiday-makers enjoying their free time to their heart's content, some being inside the restaurants and many under the shady trees on the edges of the islands.

To my despair, I noticed some plastic bottles, rubbish, etc dispensed of into the water near the edges of the islands and some youngsters sitting with beer-bottles in front. So I wished the sale of beer and alcohol be limited according to the age and the disposal of the rubbish more systematic. Anyway, the breaths of cool wind which came uninterrupted across the plains and the breath-taking beauty of the lake compensated us for our stiffness caused by the long constant posture in the car all the way and the weariness and intense heat given by the long ride and the wintry afternoon-sun. We left the lake at 2 pm.

As we left the lake farther and farther behind, more and more thoughts on the environmental conservation were still crowding in on me. One of them worrying me was that this lake was being threatened by encroaching of cultivators, undisciplined holiday-makers, overgrazing of the cattle from the near-by villages, overfishing, etc., that other sanctuary lakes like Inlay Lake, In-daw-gyi Lake, In-daw-lay Lake, etc were in the same situation and that these natural lakes, which could promote greenness and beauty of the environment and regulate the climate, should be kept in pristine purity.

In fact, Myanmar abounds in sea-beaches, islets, sanctuary parks and lakes, hilly-towns, wooden mountains and hills , which constitute a high potential for ecotourism and there may be some more untouched places. If they all are to be explored and exploited, Myanmar could secure a top place in the list of the countries where tourism thrives to its maximum extent in Asia.

*****

May suggests free movement could continue during Brexit implementation — BBC

British Prime Minister Theresa May (L) walks alongside the Saudi head of the women's section at the general authority for sports, Reema Bint Bandar al-Saud, during their meeting at Olympic headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 5 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May has not ruled out allowing the free movement of people between Britain and the European Union during "an implementation phase" after Britain leaves the bloc, the BBC reported on Wednesday. May, who triggered the formal divorce procedure with the European Union last week, has said she expects some kind of implementation phase, or transitional agreement, after two years of talks with the bloc.

She has offered few details on how an implementation phase would operate, but if Britain wants to keep the status quo before finalising a deal, it will have to accept the EU's rules — the so-called four freedoms allowing the free movement of people, capital, goods and services. Asked whether her government would rule out the free movement of people in any transitional period after the terms of Britain's departure from the European Union were agreed, May declined to do so, the BBC said. "Once we've agreed what the new relationship will be for the future, it will be necessary for there to be a period of time when businesses and governments are adjusting systems and so forth," May told reporters on a visit to Saudi Arabia. Concern over immigration from the European Union was a major reason behind Britain's vote to leave and May has said she will respect those fears by not seeking membership of Europe's single market which would mean allowing freedom of movement of people.

She added that Britain would have "control of our borders and control of our immigration", the BBC reported. Citing the same conversation with reporters, the Financial Times said May had suggested that Britain would not be able to complete a new trade deal with the EU until after Brexit happens in 2019, saying that there was a "legal situation in terms of how the European Union can conduct trade negotiations". However May said that by the time Britain leaves the EU, "it's right that everybody should know what the future arrangements, the future relationship, that future partnership between us and the EU will be". —*Reuters*

UN Ocean Conference to call for ending plastic use

TOKYO — The upcoming UN conference on marine conservation is expected to call for phasing out the use of plastic bags and single-use plastics to prevent further pollution, a copy of a draft declaration obtained by Kyodo News showed Wednesday.

The declaration under preparation for the Ocean Conference, slated for 5-9 June in New York, urges nations to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of microplastic particles in various products, including some toothpastes and face washes. The tiny plastic beads are a major concern for their effect on the ecosystem. It also calls on nations to reduce waste by "developing alternative products such as reusable or biodegradable products."

The declaration, titled "Our Oceans, Our Future: Call for Action," is subject to change before its planned adoption at the conference.

"The fact that it puts emphasis on reduction and proposes specific measures such as reducing the use of plastic bags is cutting-edge," said Hideshige Takada, a professor at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology specializing in marine plastic pollution. "It is an indication that preventive steps against microplastics pollution have been launched internationally," he said, adding Japan should not fall behind other countries in reducing the pollutant, which is hard to collect once it enters the oceans.

The draft shows that members are seeking to achieve sustainable development of oceans by fighting ocean acidification caused by an increase in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere and sea level rises due to global warming, while ending illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing practices. By calling for ensuring the "implementation of the relevant obligations and commitments," the draft urges members to follow the Paris Agreement on climate change, which entered into force last year.—*Kyodo News*

Australian police seize record meth haul in Melbourne

SYDNEY — Police on Wednesday said they had seized a record 903 kilograms (1,991 lb) of methamphetamines worth A$898 million ($680 million) in Australia's second most populous city of Melbourne this year.

Two men were arrested over the drugs, concealed in the floor boards of a factory, law enforcement officials told a news conference, without disclosing the date of the anti-drug operation.

"It's very difficult, when you consider the amount of cargo that comes across, to get every individual concealment, but with this particular concealment, we had significant intelligence that led us to that warehouse," said Neil Gaughan, assistant commissioner of the Australian Federal Police.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swiss attorney general upbeat on prospects for 1MDB probe

BERN — Swiss Attorney General Michael Lauber expressed confidence on Wednesday that his money laundering probe into scandal-hit Malaysian fund 1MDB would bear fruit despite Malaysian authorities' refusal to cooperate.

"It's not hopeless, in fact it's the opposite," Lauber told a news conference, saying the probe was making progress based on money-laundering reports, bank documents and work with Singapore and other countries.—*Reuters*

Russian investigators detain six on terror suspicion, no links to bomb attack

MOSCOW — Six people have been detained in St Petersburg on suspicion of recruiting for Islamic State and aiding terrorist activity, Russian investigators said on Wednesday.

There is no evidence the detainees, who are citizens of Central Asian states, are in any way linked to Monday's bomb attack in a St Petersburg metro train, Russia's state investigative committee said in a statement. The detainees are suspected of being active since November 2015 in recruiting other Central Asian immigrants for "terrorist activity" and for Islamic State as well as another banned Islamist movement Nusra Front.—*Reuters*

S Korea condemns N Korea's missile launch

SEOUL — South Korea's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday strongly condemned North Korea's latest missile launch, criticizing it as "an outright challenge to UN Security Council resolutions and an act to threaten the peace and security of the entire international community, as well as the Korean Peninsula."

The North should "realize these reckless provocations, along with the assassination of Kim Jong Nam by using a chemical weapon, will only strengthen the international community's resolve to impose sanctions and punitive measures and thus quicken the pace of its self-destruction," the ministry said in a statement.—*Reuters*

Germany says Russia, Iran bear responsibility over Syria chemical attack

BERLIN — Germany on Wednesday accused Russia and Iran of carrying some responsibility for a suspected chemical weapons attack by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces that killed scores of people in a rebel-held area.

"The federal government sees responsibility lying with Russia and Iran as allies of the Assad regime," a German government spokeswoman told a regular news conference in Berlin.

"We are convinved that without their massive military support the regime would have long ago had to agree to serious negotiations about a political solution," she added.—*Reuters*

Norwegian Air's ticket sales to the US 'surprisingly good' — CEO

OSLO — Norwegian Air, Europe's third-largest budget airline by passenger numbers, said bookings from Europe to the United States were surprisingly good and that the firm had yet to see a see negative impact from the US administration attempts at imposing travel bans, its CEO told Reuters on Wednesday.

"Bookings to the US are very good, surprisingly good," Bjoern Kjos said in an interview on the sidelines of a conference. "We have not seen it (a negative impact of the ban attempts). That is probably because we do not fly (directly) from the countries affected.—*Reuters*

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Newest Arctic military equipment to take part in V-Day parade in Moscow for first time

ALABINO /Moscow — The newest Arctic military equipment will participate in the 9 May Victory Day parade in Moscow's Red Square for the first time, ground forces commander Colonel-General Oleg Salyukov told the media on Wednesday.

"Arctic military equipment will participate in the parade for the first time. The general public will for the first time be able to see such air defence weapons as Tor-M2DT and missile, artillery system Pantsir-SA and support vehicles," Salyukov said during the first training of forces selected for the parade.

"Also, we may present upgraded configurations of the well-known models of tanks, possibly, T-72B3M," Salyukov said, adding that the military equipment he mentioned was capable of maintaining Russia's security in the rigorous Arctic climate in rugged roadless terrain far away from logistic facilities.

The air defence system Tor-M2 is meant for protection from enemy aircraft and missiles at the division level. It is capable of providing defence for ground forces from strikes by anti-radar and cruise missiles, remote-controlled aircraft, glide bombs, planes and helicopters. Under a contract between the electro-mechanical plant Kupol in Izhevsk and the machine-building corporation Vityaz, published on the government purchases website, research and design work for upgrading and adjusting Tor-M2 for the Arctic conditions are to be carried out in 2015-2020. The system will be installed on the articulated tracked chassis DT-30PM-T1.—*Tass*

Tor-M2 missile system. PHOTO: TASS

More airstrikes after suspected chemical attack kills dozens in Syria

CAIRO — Warplanes launched at least five more airstrikes on a rebel-held city in northern Syria on Wednesday morning, a day after a suspected chemical attack that killed dozens of people including children there and which the United States said Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime was responsible for.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, or SOHR, said at least 72 people, including 20 children, were killed in Tuesday's attack in Khan Shaykhun city in Idlib province, southwest of Aleppo.

US broadcaster NBC put the toll even higher, with at least 83 killed and 350 others injured, likely making the attack one of the worst of its kind in the country's six-year civil war.

The US government believes the man-made nerve agent sarin was used in the attack and that it was "almost certainly" carried out by forces loyal to Assad, Reuters quoted an unnamed US government source as saying. A doctor who treated the wounded in a hospital told CNN the victims showed symptoms that match the usage of sarin.

SOHR said on Tuesday that based on multiple eyewitness reports, it believes the raid was carried out by Russian-made Sukhoi 22 jets that are deployed by the Syrian military.

"Dozens of children collapsed on the road. I was able to save a few of them, but the rest..." said a 35-year-old resident in the neighborhood where the airstrike hit, who was at a loss of words when describing the scene to Kyodo News in a telephone interview. The resident said the neighborhood was reduced to a mountain of rubble after a back alley was struck. Some medics and rescuers who rushed to the scene also collapsed upon exposure to the suspected gas. World leaders denounced the reported airstrike, although the Syrian military denied responsibility. "Today's chemical attack in Syria against innocent people, including women and children, is reprehensible and cannot be ignored by the civilized world," US President Donald Trump said in a statement.

He blamed it on the Assad regime, as well as the "weakness and irresolution" of former US President Barack Obama's administration to act after initially citing the regime's use of chemical weapons as a "red line." The UN Security Council is set to convene an emergency meeting Wednesday on the matter. The United States, Britain and France have circulated to all Security Council members a draft resolution to condemn the deadly attack, diplomatic sources said. The doctor who spoke with CNN said tests were needed to confirm whether sarin gas was to blame.

The incident, if confirmed, would be the deadliest chemical attack in Syria since sarin gas killed several hundreds of people in a rebel-held area near Damascus in August 2013. Western states have said the Syrian government was responsible for that attack as well. The odorless and colorless nerve gas, which can be absorbed through the skin, is considered one of the most toxic chemical warfare agents. It was also used in a deadly attack on the Tokyo subway system by doomsday cult AUM Shinrikyo in March 1995.—*Kyodo News*

Blast in Pakistani city of Lahore kills at least six

LAHORE, (Pakistan) — The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on an army census team that killed at least six people and wounded 18 in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore on Wednesday.

Punjab government spokesman Malik Ahmed Khan said the blast, which hit an army vehicle taking part in Pakistan's first census in nearly two decades, killed four soldiers and two civilians.

Scores of people have been killed since the beginning of the year in a series of attacks that have dashed hopes of an end to the violence of recent years and stepped up pressure on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government to improve security. TV footage showed security personnel blocking off the street around the site of the explosion, close to an elite police training school which was the site of a Pakistani Taliban attack in 2009.

The apparent targeting of personnel involved in the census, the first in 19 years, underlined the challenge to government institutions in Pakistan, a nuclear-armed state of some 200 million people. The army has been closely involved in the census, with soldiers accompanying civilian enumerators, a move authorities say is needed to prevent collectors being intimidated by local political figures trying to slant sensitive population data in their areas.Pakistan army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa said the census would be completed "at any cost". "These sacrifices will only strengthen our resolve and with the support of entire nation we will cleanse the menace of terrorism from our soil," he said in a statement. Lahore, Pakistan's second-largest city and capital of the Punjab region, was already on high alert following a bomb attack last month that killed at least 13 people. Muhammad Khurassani, a spokesman for Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a banned Islamist movement often called the Pakistani Taliban, issued a statement claiming responsibility.—*Reuters*

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(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(7 / 2017)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	DMP/L-001(17-18)	Redress Kit, Casing Packer, Shifting Tool & Sliding Sleeve (6) Items	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-002(17-18)	OTECO Gate Valves and Spares for Rig Pumps (16) Items	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-003(17-18)	2", 3" & 4" Pipe Fitting (13) Items	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-004(17-18)	Welding Electrode (6) Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-005(17-18)	Steel Wire Rope for Oil Field Truck (2) Items	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-006(17-18)	2" Oteco Pressure Relief Valves (PRV Type), Thread End (2) Nos	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-007(17-18)	Foreign Bentonite (500) Tons	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-008(17-18)	Steel Helmet (2000) Nos	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-009(17-18)	A3 Digital Multifunction Copier (1) No	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-010(17-18)	18 R 22.5 x 18 PR Tyre Tubeless (12) Sets	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-011(17-18)	Assorted Sizes of PDC Bits (2) Items	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-012(17-18)	5 1/2" Change Nipple (2) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time- 2-5-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 3TH April, 2017 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206 / 411274

Russian metro bombing puts Putin's Syria policy to the test

MOSCOW — Islamist militants have targetted Russia many times before but Monday's bombing of a metro train in St Petersburg was, for President Vladimir Putin, personal: it happened in his native city on a day he was making a visit back home.

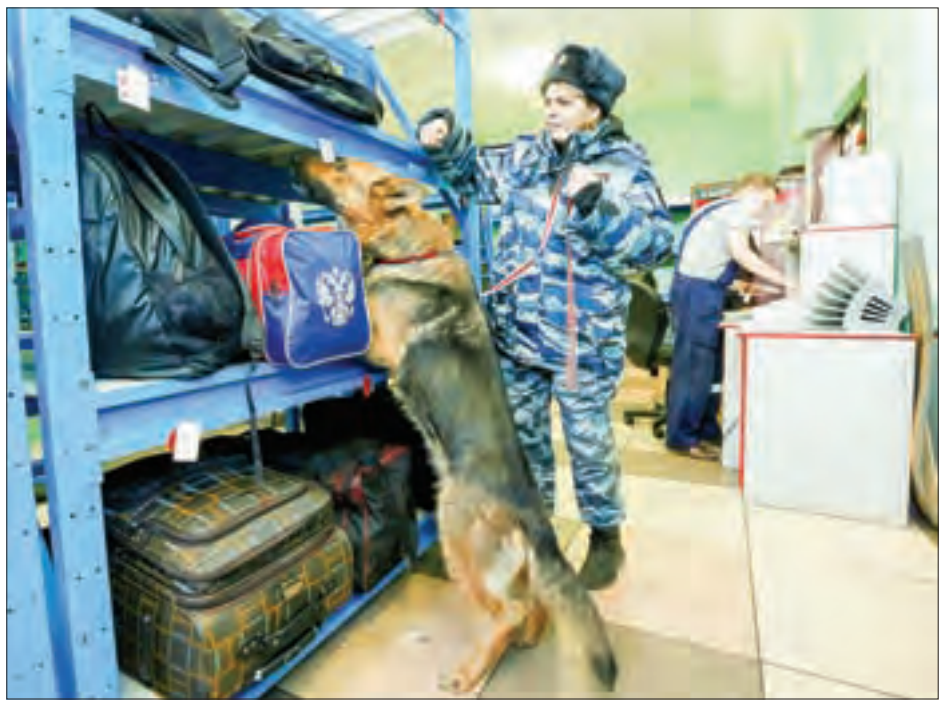
The attack, which killed 14 people and wounded 50, is also a test for one of Putin's most contentious policies — his decision to launch a military intervention in Syria on the side of President Bashar al-Assad.

Kremlin-watchers say the risk is that Russian voters could decide, after seeing the destruction in St Petersburg, that the Syrian operation is making them more vulnerable to such attacks — not safer as Putin promised.

That would be problematic for Putin, who faced a new wave of anti-corruption protests last month, before a presidential election next year when he is expected to seek a fourth term.

The main suspect in the blast, Akbarzhon Jalilov, is a Russian citizen from mainly Muslim Kyrgyzstan. No group has said it was behind the attack but in the past Islamic State has threatened to avenge Syria. It already said it was responsible for bringing down a planeload of Russian tourists over Egypt's Sinai peninsula in 2015, killing all 224 people on board. If the St Petersburg bombing turns out to be Islamic State's response to Russia's operation in support of Assad, "that would signify the complete failure of Putin's gambit in Syria", said Alfred Kokh, a former deputy prime minister under the late president Boris Yeltsin.

"If you add to the mix the air disaster over Sinai ... then the picture is looking very grim for the author of Russia's participation in the Syria conflict," said Kokh.—*Reuters*



A Russian police officer leads her sniffer dog to check luggage for explosives at a left-luggage room at a railway station following the St Petersburg metro blast that took place on 3 April, in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, Russia on 4 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Remote rural life inspires poet in Australian farmer

COME-BY-CHANCE — As hungry cattle look on, May McKeown pushes an eight-foot bale of hay off her truck and onto the ground below.

It's one of her regular chores on Longview farm where the 78-year-old McKeown has lived alone for most of the last 15 years.

She has no plans to retire anytime soon.

"I will keep going on doing this for as long as I am fit," she said in a recent interview on her farm near the town of Come-by-Chance, about 700 km (435 miles) northwest of Sydney.

McKeown's family has been farming in the northwest corner of New South Wales state since the late 19th century.

Recent rains have brought some relief to an area hit by years of drought that forced McKeown to cut back her cattle herd and hand-feed the remaining animals.

Working alone in a male-dominated field like farming has also raised some eyebrows over the years.

"Oh, you get all sorts of comments," McKeown said. "But I know sons of farmers nowadays who can't drive a tractor, let alone ride a horse like me, and I'm nearly 80!"

In her spare time, McKeown enjoys writing poetry about life on the northwest plains.

She takes inspiration from the works of the Australian "bush" poet, Banjo Paterson, who wrote about rural life around the end of the 19th century. Among his most famous poems was "The Man from Snowy River".

She also remembers when her father recited poems from atop his horse on their way home from a day of mustering.

"They are memories that I think of and write them down. Like a certain tree in a paddock where something happened," she said. —*Reuters*

UK and Swedish watchdogs warn of international cyber attack

STOCKHOLM — A large-scale cyber attack from a group targeting organizations in Japan, the United States, Sweden and many other European countries through IT services providers has been uncovered, the Swedish computer security watchdog said on Wednesday.

The cyber attack, uncovered through a collaboration by Britain's National Cyber Security Centre, PwC and cyber security firm BAE Systems, targeted managed service providers to gain access to their customers' internal networks since at least May 2016 and potentially as early as 2014.

The exact scale of the attack, named Cloud Hopper from an organisation called APT10, is not known but is believed to involve huge amounts of data, Sweden's Civil Contingencies Agency said in a statement. The agency did not say whether the cyber attacks were still happening.

"The high level of digitalization in Sweden, along with the amount of services outsourced to managed service providers, means that there is great risk that several Swedish organizations are affected by the attacks," the watchdog said.

The agency said those behind the attacks had used significant resources to identify their targets and sent sophisticated phishing e-mails to infect computers.

It also said Swedish IP addresses had been used to coordinate the incursions and retrieve stolen data and that APT10 specifically targeted IT, communications, healthcare, energy and research sectors.—*Reuters*

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

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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: gmrailway.mr@mptt.gov.mm, dgmplan.rail@mptt.gov.mm (not for submission but for clarification)

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MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO ( )

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ORIENT KING VOY. NO (001)

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

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Tokyo Disneyland breaks ground for "Beauty and The Beast" area

CHIBA, (Japan) — Oriental Land Co, operator of the Tokyo Disney Resort, held on Wednesday a groundbreaking ceremony for an area featuring "Beauty and the Beast" and other fresh attractions set to open in the spring of 2020.

The company is expected to devote some 75 billion yen ($677 million) into the development project, the largest sum it has spent since opening the Disneyland park in Urayasu, Chiba Prefecture, in 1983.

The project will cover a total of some 4.7 hectares of land and will feature an attraction based on the beast's castle and a theater, it said.—*Kyodo News*

Supplied image shows Tokyo Disneyland's planned attraction featuring "Beauty and the Beast." Oriental Land Co, operator of the Tokyo Disney Resort, held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Beauty and the Beast area and other attractions set to open in the spring of 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Actors Vin Diesel and Charlize Theron pose at the premiere of the "Fast and Furious 8" movie in Berlin, Germany on 4 April, 2017. Photo: Reuters

Theron says villainous role in last 'Fast and Furious' was challenge

BERLIN—Oscar winner Charlize Theron said it was an exciting challenge to play the main villain in the latest installment of the "Fast and Furious" racing film series with Vin Diesel.

"This is a franchise that has been built for 16 years on this idea of family being kind of the cornerstone ... and to play a character that has to kind of break all of that up, it was fun, yeah, and challenging," Theron said at the Berlin premiere of "The Fate of the Furious."

Diesel was also on hand for the release of the film, which is being marketed in Europe as "Fast and Furious 8" and features the signature fast car chases, daring stunts and explosions of the previous seven films.

"The Fate of the Furious" sees Diesel's lead character Dominic Toretto go rogue. Theron, who won a best actress Academy Award for "Monster", plays the villainous Cipher.

Diesel told reporters he felt as though he had "let the world down" when he left the film franchise several years ago because he was dissatisfied with the script.

The film, directed by F Gary Gray, also stars Jason Statham, Dwayne Johnson, Michelle Rodriguez and Tyrese Gibson. —*Reuters*

Spice Girl Mel B gets restraining order after accusing husband of abuse

LOS ANGELES — Spice Girl Melanie 'Mel B' Brown was granted a restraining order against her estranged husband after filing court papers claiming he had emotionally and physically abused her for much of their 10-year marriage.

The British singer, 41, said her husband, TV producer Stephen Belafonte, had beaten her and destroyed her self esteem, threatening to leak a sex tape to the media if she left him, according to court documents filed in Los Angeles Superior Court to support her request for a restraining order.

The request was granted on Monday and a full hearing was scheduled on 24 April.

Representatives for Brown did not immediately return requests for comment on Tuesday.

Attempts by Reuters to reach Belafonte by telephone were unsuccessful and no lawyer or representative for Belafonte was listed in the court documents. Brown, known as "Scary Spice" in the 1990s British girl group, filed for divorce last month in Los Angeles citing irreconcilable differences.

The couple married in 2007 and have a five year-old daughter. Brown has two other children from previous relationships.

Belafonte told celebrity website TMZ in an interview on Monday, "I am shocked at those allegations... I think someone is trying to set me up to look like a bad guy."

Britain's ex-Spice Girl Mel B (Melanie Brown). PHOTO: REUTERS

In the court documents, Brown detailed incidents dating back to 2007, when she claimed Belafonte slammed her onto the floor and began choking her on the night of her finale for the TV show "Dancing with the Stars." In 2012, she said a jealous Belafonte punched her in the face and split her lip as she was about to tape a segment with R&B singer Usher for the TV show "The X Factor," according to the court documents. The singer included photographs of herself in the filing, including a couple from her appearance on "The X Factor" with bruises on her arms and face.

Brown said in the documents that she tried to leave Belafonte many times but he "threatened me with violence and threatened to destroy my life in every possible way ... destroy my career and take my kids from me." —*Reuters*

Orwell's '1984' back in theaters in stand against 'alternative facts'

NEW YORK — Nearly 200 independent movie theaters across the United States on Tuesday will screen the film of George Orwell's "1984" novel about a dystopian future in what organizers say is a stand against US President Donald Trump's administration.

The 1949 book, which returned to the US best-seller list in January, features a "Big Brother" government that spies on its citizens and forces them into "doublethink," or simultaneously accepting contradictory versions of the truth.

Organizers the United State of Cinema said the screenings were arranged to "take a stand for our most basic values: freedom of speech, respect for our fellow human beings, and the simple truth that there are no such things as 'alternative facts.'"

The British novel was reprinted in January, decades after it was written, following the Trump administration's defense of "alternative facts," a term White House official Kellyanne Conway used during a dispute over the size of the crowd at Trump's inauguration. Adam Birnbaum, director of Film Programming for the Avon Theatre Film Centre in Stamford, Connecticut, and co-organizer of the event, said Orwell's themes were just as relevant today as they were nearly 70 years ago.

"Our concern is the idea that the only answer is the one coming from the mouthpiece running the (Trump) administration and that there's this effort to sort of snuff out anything but that," Birnbaum said.

The movie, made in 1984 and starring John Hurt and Richard Burton, will be screened in 44 states. It will also be shown at five locations in Canada, one in England, one in Sweden and one in Croatia.

Birnbaum, who will screen the film at the Avon Theatre Film Center on Tuesday, said a number of the theaters have scheduled post-film audience discussions. "If nothing else, we hope that people will continue to be voices of opposition to some of the practices that are currently being employed by government," he said.—*Reuters*

Vatican museums make exception for Tretyakov Gallery exhibition

"Roma. Aeterna. The Masterpieces of the Vatican's Pinacoteca" exhibition in Tretyakov Gallery. PHOTO: TASS

VATICAN — The recent Tretyakov Gallery exhibition titled Roma Aeterna, Masterpieces of the Vatican's Pinacoteca, was a unique project for the Vatican, which rarely showcases their collection in other galleries, especially it's most famous paintings, the Vatican Museums Director Barbara Yatta said in an exclusive TASS interview.

"When I became the head of the museum, the project was already approved and prepared by my predecessor Antonio Paolucci with the head of the Tretyakov Gallery Zelfira Tregulova. And these plans were so huge, that in the beginning, I got a little scared," Yatta admitted.

According to her, the biggest challenge was replacing 42 items from the permanent Pinacoteca collection on display, while they were on their way to the Russian capital.

"It's not like we don't have anything to put in their place, but when a visitor expects to see Caravaggio and can't find it, it's a problem. And we sent to Moscow our biggest masterpieces — Raphael, Caravaggio, Melozzo da Forli's Angels that take up an entire exhibit hall, along with other Vatican Pinacoteca gems," she said. Yatta also emphasized that the Moscow exhibition was a big exception. "It is also symbolic, it is true of an important dialogue with the Russian culture, and "rewards" a special attitude that Russians have towards Italy, Rome, and Italian culture," she added.

"But overall, I am of the rather traditional mindset, that works of art should be in their place and that people need to come see them there.

Of course, I am not against exhibits, that would contradict the nature of the museum itself, but any exhibition should be approached cautiously. If only because the slightest motion can be dangerous and creates problems for the artwork itself," the museum director pointed out.

The Vatican exhibition was held in Moscow 25 November, 2016 through 1 March, 2017 at the Engineering Building of the Tretyakov Gallery, and was visited by over 163,000 people.

The interest was so great, that the exhibit was extended for 10 days and on-line tickets were sold out in minutes after the opening of sales.—*TASS*

New US spelling bee rules aim to prevent T-I-E-S

WASHINGTON — Scripps National Spelling Bee winners aced "gesellschaft" and "feldenkrais" to be named co-champions of last year's competition, but it was the word "tie" that gave organizers a headache.

On Tuesday, the contest revealed new rules aimed at preventing ties after the annual contest ended ended in a dead heat three years in a row, with joint winners both getting $40,000 cash prizes in 2016.

Organizers said they would prefer to see a clear-cut champion, rather than a shared title.

The 290 young spelling whizzes from across the United States and six foreign countries in this year's Bee will face a new written tie-breaker when they square off from 30 May to 1 June in a Washington suburb, organizers said. The written test introduces a fresh hurdle for participants spelling ever-tougher words in the Bee, a national institution since its launch in 1925.

"During our history, students have expanded their spelling abilities and increased their vocabulary to push our program to be even more challenging," Paige Kimble, the Bee's executive director, said in a statement.

Ahead of this year's title round, the finalists will be tested on 12 words, which they will hand write, and 12 multiple-choice vocabulary questions.

If it is mathematically impossible for one champion to emerge through 25 rounds, Bee officials will declare the speller with the highest tie-breaker score the winner. If there is a tie on the test, judges will declare co-champions. This year's Bee will draw contestants ages 5 to 15 culled from more than 11 million in the spelling programme. The winner - or winners - each will receive the cash prize of $40,000.—*Reuters*

Co-champions Nihar Saireddy Janga and Jairam Jagadeesh Hathwar (R) hold their trophy upon completion of the final round of Scripps National Spelling Bee at National Harbor in Maryland, US on 26 May, 2016. PHOTO : REUTERS

"Pink Star" diamond sells for record $71.2 mln in bidding war

A model poses with a 59.60-carat mixed cut diamond known as "The Pink Star", the largest Internally Flawless Fancy Vivid Pink diamond ever graded by the Geological Institute of America (GIA), ahead of being auctioned in Hong Kong by Sotheby's. PHORO: REUTERS

HONG KONG — A 59.60-carat pink diamond sold for a record $71.2 million in Hong Kong on Tuesday to local jewellers Chow Tai Fook after a five-minute bidding war between three phone bidders.

The "Pink Star", the largest Internally Flawless Fancy Vivid Pink diamond ever graded by the Gemological Institute of America according to Sotheby's, set "a new record for any diamond or jewel at auction", the auction house tweeted.

The diamond failed to sell in November 2013. The gem fetched a record $83 million but the buyer could not pay.

However, Patti Wong, chairman of Sotheby's Asia, said the Tuesday's three bidders had been vetted for this sale.

"All three bidders... have a long standing relationship with the company and we were very, very confident that all three bidders had the financial capability and of course the buyer definitely had the financial capability," she said.

"We're not worried at all."—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(6-4-2017 07:00am ~ 7-4-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Moe Hnyin Than Buddhe, The Unique Pagoda In Monywa
07:41	Am	A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritages
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Continuation In Rural Tradition
08:57	Am	Dances of Myanmar: Enn Traditional Dance
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanma Pottery
09:51	Am	Thingyan Songs & Dances
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Aesthetic Chinlone
10:52	Am	Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market

(11:00 Am ~03:00 Pm)-Wednesday 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	New
07:26	Pm	Cruising To Precious Islands(Part-2)
07:48	Pm	Betel Nut Farmer
08:03	Pm	New
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art
08:40	Pm	Now in Yangon
08:47	Pm	Chef Life "Oliver E Soe Thet"

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Wednesday Repeat (07:00Am~11:00Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV

Programme Schedule (6-4-2017, Thursday)

6:00 Am
♦ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
7:00 Am
♦ Breakfast News
7:35 Am
♦ NRC Programme
8:35 Am
TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE (Police)
9:35 Am
♦ Beautiful ASEAN
9:40 Am
♦ ASEAN Sportlight
10:30 Am
♦ MRTV Worker's Programme
11:15 Am
♦ Documentary
12:30 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
1:00 Pm
♦ Myanmar Movie (Part-1)
2:15 Pm
♦ Documentary
3:25 Pm
Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition
4:35 Pm
♦ Documentary
5:05 Pm
♦ NHK Programme "Beautiful Landscape of Japan" (Heartbesi of the subtropicak forest: Amam Oshima island Kagoshimma)
5:30 Pm
♦ Applied Financial Knowledge
6:15 Pm
♦ Football Magazing
6:30 Pm
♦ Current Affairs
7:30 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
8:00 Pm
♦ News/International News/ Weather Report
8:35 Pm
♦ TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE (Econimic)
9:15 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
♦ Talk on Old Film

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Grand Final of 4th Miss Myanmar World 2017 to be held

Miss Myanmar World 2016 winner Bella and top twenty contestants pose for a photo. PHOTO: MMAL

THE Grand Final of the 4th Miss Myanmar World 2017 will be held on 10 June. The final will select the winner, the 1st runner up, the 2nd runner up and Miss Personality.

The winner goes on the represent Myanmar at the Miss World 2017 competition. For winning the Miss Myanmar World 2017 event, the organisation will award a prize of Ks100 lakh and a crown from Forever Gems of Shwe Nan Taw. A crown will also be awarded to the 1st runner up, plus Ks30 lakh. The 2nd runner up will receive a crown and Ks20 lakh.

Miss Myanmar World has been held with the aim for Myanmar ladies to participate in Myanmar tourism promotion. The winner will be selected from among the top 20 contestants. These 20 were already selected at previous events. Miss Myanmar World has been held since 2014. In 2014, the winner was Wine Lay, while the 2015 winner was Khin Yadanar Thein. The 2016 winner was Bella (alias) Myat Thiri Lwin, it is learnt. — *Maung Sein Lwin (MMAL)*

Man City's Guardiola tells players to prove their worth

LONDON — Manchester City will make "necessary" changes to the squad when the transfer window opens in July and it is up to the players to prove the club cannot do without them, manager Pep Guardiola has said.

"Every club wants to improve and the changes are necessary but we are going to discuss it at the end of the season," the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich manager told British media.

"The players decide for themselves through their performances." Third-placed City travel to face leaders Chelsea in the Premier League on Wednesday. Chelsea saw their lead over Tottenham Hotspur trimmed to seven points after a stunning 2-1 home defeat to Crystal Palace at the weekend and City midfielder Kevin de Bruyne said nerves could creep in at Stamford Bridge should City emerge with a win. City trail Chelsea by 11 points.

"There's still a lot of points ahead but if they lose and Tottenham win then maybe they have a little bit of pressure that they haven't had throughout the whole season until now," De Bruyne said. "You don't want the pressure that you've not had all season."—*Reuters*

Japan is U-19 Asia Volleyball Champion, Myanmar 8th

JAPAN won the U-19 Asia Volleyball Championship after defeating South Korea in the final matches held at the Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium yesterday morning, while host Myanmar got 8th place as it lost to Australia.

Japan defeated South Korea 3-0 in straight sets (25-17, 25-18, 25-19) yesterday. Meanwhile, Myanmar and Australian team fought for 7th place and Myanmar settled for eighth place after being defeated by Australia 3-0 (14-25, 23-25, 19-25).

Japan won the championship by defeating South Korea by a score of 3-0. South Korea stood in second place followed by China, Iran, China (Taipei), Thailand, Australia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Hong Kong.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe presented the trophy and medals to the players of the Japanese championship team.

The Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environment U Ohn Win presented the second prize to the South Korean team and officials presented the third prize to China. —*Ye Yint Shine*

PHOTO: KO KO SOE NYUNT

Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic in action with Everton's Joel Robles during their Premier League at Old Trafford on 4 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

Late Ibrahimovic penalty earns draw for Man Utd against Everton

LONDON — Zlatan Ibrahimovic returned after suspension to rescue a 1-1 draw for Manchester United against Everton at Old Trafford with an injury-time penalty.

Ibrahimovic coolly struck home the 93rd-minute spot kick after Ashley Williams had been sent off for deliberate handball keeping out Luke Shaw's shot.

But United's push for a top-four place in the Premier League still suffered a huge setback with a rare and deft Phil Jagielka goal giving Everton a first-half lead and ensuring them a share of the points.

Jose Mourinho's side, whose form has been so underwhelming recently at their "Theatre of Dreams", were facing the end of their 19-match unbeaten streak in the league as luck had earlier deserted them.

England centre back Jagielka showed all the predatory instincts of a goal poacher, latching on to a Williams header from a 22nd-minute corner and, with back to goal, holding off Marcos Rojo to conjure up a shot that trickled between the legs of David de Gea.

His first goal of the season prompted an urgent response from United, with an Ander Herrera effort striking the bar, but even with Ibrahimovic back in the team, United were blunt.

There was misfortune, too, when Paul Pogba headed against the bar after the break before Ibrahimovic also had a headed goal ruled out for offside, with TV replays suggesting it had been the closest of calls.—*Reuters*

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