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President U Htin Kyaw meets Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, NPCSC Chairman Mr. Zhang Dejiang
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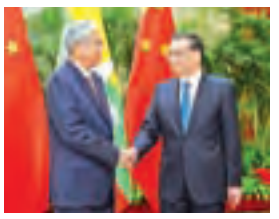

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Myanmar, China agree to oil pipeline

CHINA and Myanmar reached an agreement on an oil pipeline between the neighbouring countries yesterday after almost a decade of talks, with the project due to start "very quickly", Chinese vice foreign minister Liu Zhenmin said yesterday.

The new oil gateway fits with China's "One Belt, One Road" ambitions, linking it with central Asia and Europe, and will provide a more direct alternative route to sending Middle Eastern oil via the crowded Malacca Straits and Singapore.

The agreement highlighted the visit to China by President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin, who were welcomed at a ceremony by Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping and his wife Mrs Peng Liyuan at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Bilateral meetings were then held at Hei Bei Hall of the Great Hall of the People with Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr Than Myint and U Win Khaing, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Chairman of Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee Dr Soe Win, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and officials in attendance.

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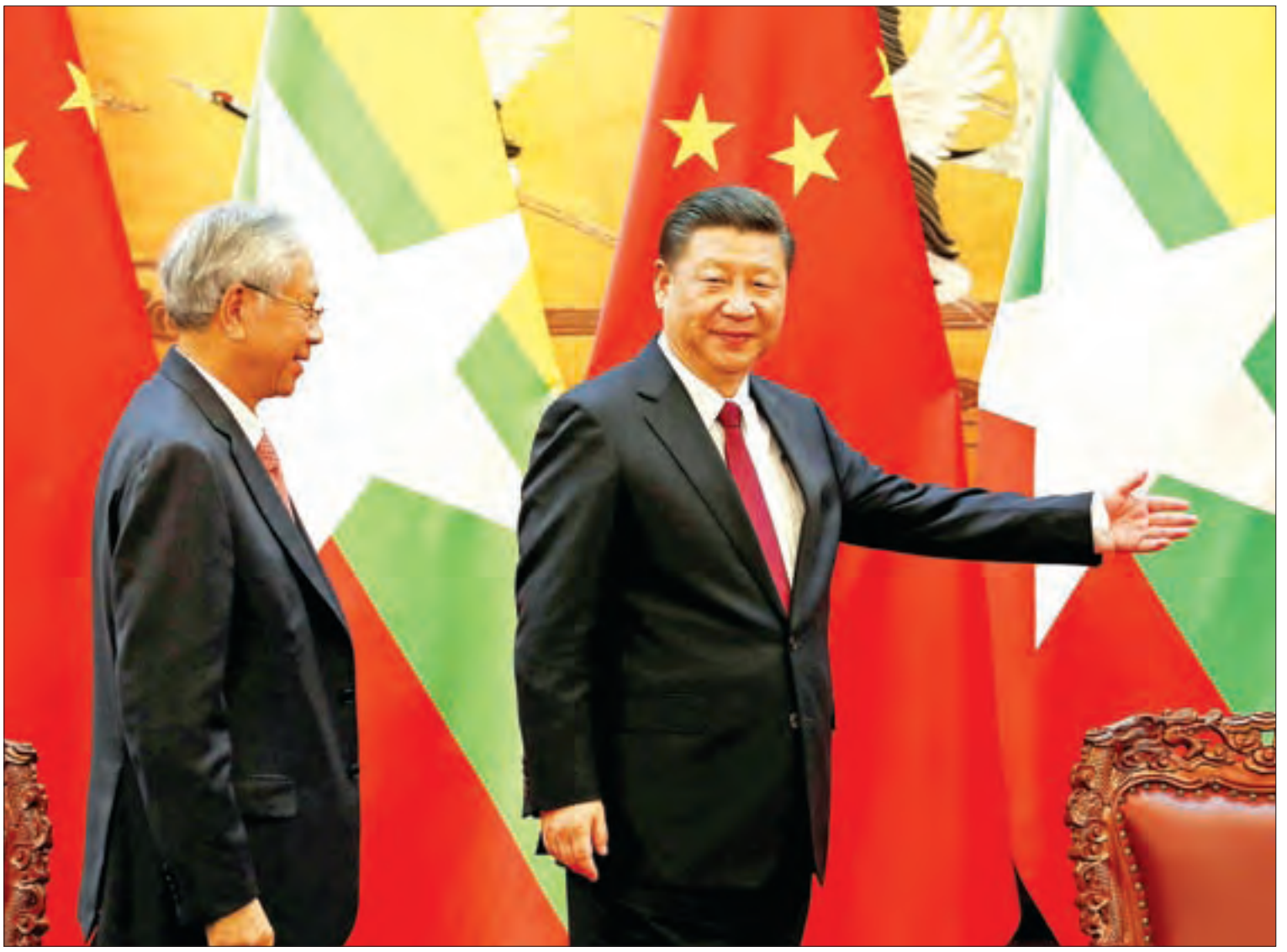


President U Htin Kyaw is welcomed by Chinese President Xi Jinping after a signing ceremony in Beijing, China yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

JONIT PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China

1. At the invitation of President Xi Jingping of the People's Republic of China, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin paid a State Visit to China from 6 to 11 April. During the visit, President U Htin Kyaw held talks with President Xi Jinping and met with Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council and Chairman Zhang Dejiang of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress separately.The two sides had in-depth exchanges of views and reached broad consensus on consolidating their traditional friendship and advancing their comprehensive strategic cooperation. SEE PAGE 2 >>

Vice President U Myint Swe attends the 5th regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs

VICE President U Myint Swe attended the 5th regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs at the meeting hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was held in order to fulfil the needs encountered in respective sectors for entrepreneurs to achieve success promptly and smoothly in operating their businesses.

Vice President U Myint Swe said a total of 65 decisions were made in the first four meetings. Out of the 65 decisions, respective ministries, Chief Ministers of Regions and States and working committees coordinated and resolved 54 decisions and submitted reports to UMFCCI. Works are coordinated in order to resolve the remaining 11 decisions promptly.

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 5th regular meeting with entrepreneurs in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

The private sector plays an important part in the development of the national economy. In order to set up and implement the policy required for private sector development that is appropriate to the time and for the government to help resolve the difficulties encountered by the private sector, a workshop to setup the framework and process for private sector development was held in Nay Pyi Taw on April 5. At the workshop, partner associations for private sector development were explained about the government's work and areas in which the private sector and donors can participate were coordinated and determined.

On the matter of investment, increases in local and foreign investment were to raise the income and job opportunities of the people. It is also for the purpose of supporting market expansion and technology transfer.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted the Myanmar Investment Law on 18 October 2016. In order to quickly utilise the law, Myanmar Investment Rules was drawn up and enacted on 30 March 2017.

International experts had suggested in workshops that for our country's development, the travel sector is the best sector that can rapidly develop the country's economy as well as provide job opportunities and raise the income of the people in the shortest period of time. This would require the respective ministry and business owners to cooperate.

Furthermore, Myanmar is based on agriculture and there is a need to link up small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in agriculture. Presently, 1.7 million tonnes of rice are exported, but much needs to be done to improve quality to increase the share in the world market.

In regular monthly meetings with private business owners, the problems faced by the selected, grouped private business owners were heard and resolved. Those problems are effectively handled in coordination with respective ministries and the Chief Ministers of Regions and States.

In order to increase the flow of merchandise in the Yangon Region, processes on reducing the congestion of container vehicles in the ports were coordinated, while bridge tolls in Yangon were removed. Business owners on their side should regularly meet and coordinate with the public sector development committee and work committees in order to resolve the issues they are facing. In this meeting too, business owners need to effectively submit their problems.Afterward, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein explained about the progress of ongoing works.The President of the UMFCCI U Zaw Win Min gave a welcoming speech.

Afterward, officials concerned discussed the issues they faced and the support required from the government in the customs tariff sector, illegal import sector and garment sector, to which Vice President U Myint Swe attended to the needs.

Present at the 5th regular meeting with entrepreneurs were U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education, U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, Yangon Region Cabinet Ministers, departmental heads, President of the UMFCCI and responsible personnel and entrepreneurs.—*Myanmar News Agency*

MOI conducts training for digital newspapers

THE News and Periodicals Enterprises under the Ministry of Information conducted a two-day training workshop on digital newspapers commencing 9 April at the office building of the News and Periodicals Enterprises on Theinbyu Road in Botahtaung Township.

Twenty-one reporters from Bago, Ayeyawady, and Yangon Regions attended the training and learned writing formats for online media, use of media applications, and rules and regulations in writing digital media. The instruction was given by Chief Editor U Khin Maung Kyaw Din of the Mirror (Kyemon) daily newspaper. Managing Director U Kyaw Soe of the News and Periodicals Enterprises explained the reason behind the training workshop was to keep up with modern times in publishing digital newspapers. The digital media has many differences with printed media and for it to reach an international audience it is necessary to be in English.

The Ministry of Information will begin publishing digital versions of newspapers and news from around the country in May.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal receives Russian Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt received the Russian ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Nikolay Listopadov at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The principles and practices of the Constitutional Tribunal, the citizen's fundamental rights and responsibilities, rule of law, the democratic system and potential cooperation between the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union of Myanmar and the Constitutional Court of Russia were discussed during the meeting.—*Myanmar News Agency*

JONIT PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China

>> FROM PAGE 1

2. The two sides exchanged views on the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and China, and spoke highly of the "Pauk-Phaw" friendship between the two countries. Both sides agreed that, since the establishment of diplomatic relations 67 years ago, Myanmar and China have always adhered to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and worked together for rapid progress in bilateral relations, which delivered tangible benefits to the two peoples.

3. The two sides reaffirmed that they would continue to uphold good-neighbourly policy, adopt a strategic and long-term perspective, put the interests of the two peoples at the fore-front and work to achieve further progress in existing comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

4. Both sides agreed to maintain close high-level contacts through exchange of visits, workclosely at the multilateral fora, increase friendly exchanges at different levels, enhance strategic communication and deepen exchanges on the experience of governance.

5. Myanmar supported China's initiative of "Belt and Road" and hosting a successful Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in May 2017.

6. The two sides will continue to make good use of existing inter-governmental cooperation mechanisms, including the economic and trade joint committee, agricultural cooperation committee and electricity cooperation committee, and enhance mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of economy and trade, agriculture, electricity, transportation and production capacity, so as to promote common progress of the two countries and development of the livelihood of the two peoples.

7. China supported Myanmar in following a development path in line with its own national conditions and steadily promoting democratic transition, appreciated Myanmar government's efforts to develop economy and improve people's livelihood, and expressed its readiness to provide help to the best of its ability. Myanmar reaffirmed its firm commitment to the one-China policy and its continued support towards China's position on the questions of Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang.

8. The two sides agreed that they would continue to make good use of the Myanmar-China 2+2 High-Level Consultations led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense, jointly uphold security, the rule of Law, peace and stability in their border areas, and promote economic, social development and better livelihood in these areas. China supported Myanmar in realising domestic peace and national reconciliation through political dialogue. Myanmar thanked China for the assistance that China extended to Myanmar's domestic peace and national reconciliation, and welcomed China's continued constructive role in this process.

9. The two sides agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation in the United Nations, ASEAN-China cooperation and other multilateral forums to jointly promote peace, stability and development of the region.

10. President U Htin Kyaw expressed his sincere appreciation to President Xi Jinping for the warm hospitality accorded to Myanmar delegation during his visit, and extended an invitation to President Xi Jinping to pay a State Visit to Myanmar at a mutually convenient time in the near future. President Xi Jinping expressed his appreciation for the invitation.

President U Htin Kyaw inspects honour guards during a welcoming ceremony outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on 10 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar, China agree to oil pipeline

>> FROM PAGE 1

The Chinese President was accompanied by ministers, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Lian and high ranking officials.

A signing ceremony between Myanmar and China followed. The Agreement on Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property was signed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Head of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China Mr. Liu Yuzhu, the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and Chinese Minister of Commerce Mr. Zhong Shan, and the Agreement on Crude Oil Pipeline was signed by Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and the President of Chinese National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) Mr. Wang Yilin.

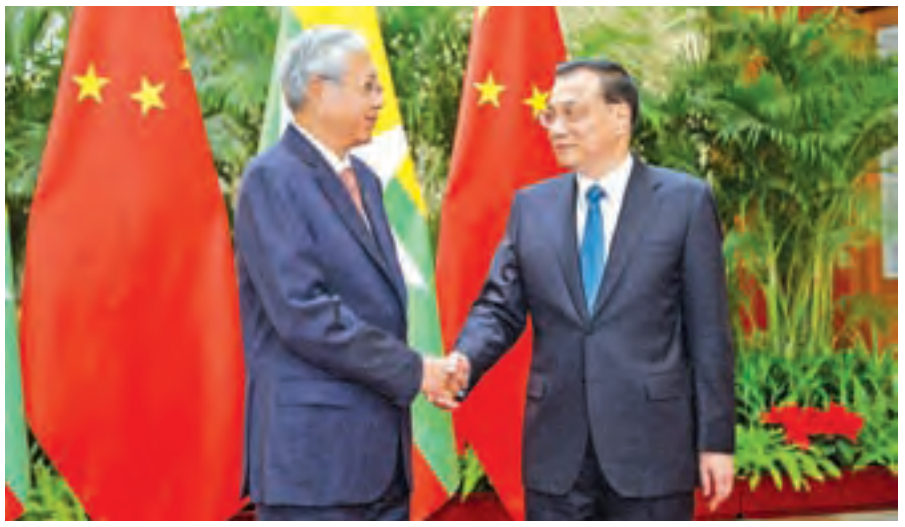
The agreement between China's PetroChina and Myanmar's government will allow the state energy giant to import overseas oil via the Bay of Bengal and pump it through the pipeline to supply a new 260,000-barrels-per-day (bpd) refinery in landlocked Yunnan province.

Similarly, the MoU on Cooperation in Seafarers Training, Education and Development between the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China was signed by Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and Chinese Minister of Transport Mr. Li Xiaopeng, MoU on Cooperation in Forestry Sector between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of Myanmar and State Forestry Administration of China by Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and Head of State Forestry Administration of China Mr. Zhang Jianlong.

Likewise, "Exchange of Letters of Implementation of Deep Sea Port Project and Industry Park Project in Kyaukphyu SEZ in Myanmar" was signed by Dr Soe Win, Chairman of Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee and Mr. Chang Zhenming, Chairman of China International Trust Investment Corporation (CITIC), "MoU on Technical Cooperation for the 29th SEA Games between the governments of Myanmar and China and "Exchange of Letters on Medical Technic Training Centre Project and Exchange of Letter on Myanmar Centre for Disease Control Projects" by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister and Mr. Zhong Shan, Minister of Commerce of the PRC in the presence of the two presidents.

Last night, President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin attended a dinner party hosted by Chinese President Mr. Xi Jingpin.

The announcement wraps up President U Htin Kyaw's six-day state visit to China, the first since he was elected, where he met President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang, as well as visiting a number of Chinese cities including Shanghai and southwestern Chengdu.—*Myanmar News Agency/ Reuters contributed to this report*



President U Htin Kyaw shakes hands with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the Great Hall of People in Beijing, China, on 10 April 2017. Photo: Reuters

President U Htin Kyaw meets Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, NPCSC Chairman Mr. Zhang Dejiang

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw met with Chinese Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Mr. Li Keqiang at the People's Hall in Beijing yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on rapid progress in bilateral friendship since 67 years ago when the two countries established diplomatic relations and discussed maintaining close high-level contacts through exchange of visits at high levels and promoting coordination between the two countries at regional and international levels.

Together with the President at the meeting were Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Than Myint and U Win Khaing, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee Chairman Dr. Soe Win, Myanmar ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and other officials while Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Mr. Li Keqiang was accompanied by ministers and top officials. Earlier, the President U Htin Kyaw met with the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) Mr. Zhang Dejiang in the People's Hall, Beijing at local standard time 3 p.m.

At the meeting, they discussed issues related to bilateral cooperation and cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries and exchange of experiences.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu hands over aid to a local in Buthidaung. PHOTO: TIN SOE

Rakhine State Chief Minister delivers natural disaster prevention aid in Buthidaung Township

A CEREMONY to deliver natural disaster prevention aid to the local populace was held in U Uttama Hall in Buthidaung Township, Maungtaw District in Rakhine State yesterday evening.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said that he wanted to find out the villagers' opinion on the government's measures taken for regional development during the new government's one-year period. And he discussed matters relating to future activities.

Local residents also submitted social, economic, transport and development requirements in their township. Then, officials from the state government and relevant departments responded.

After the meeting, the Rakhine State Chief Minister and officials delivered natural disaster-prevention aid to Township Natural Disaster Prevention Committee Chairman Township Administrator U Kyaw Min Tun and Vice Chairman Township Police Commander Pol-Maj Thaung Ngwe. U Kyaw Min Tun and U Thaung Ngwe spoke words of appreciation.—*Yamanya*

India promotes friendship with Myanmar via healthcare improvement projects

THE INDIAN government continues to support Myanmar's priorities to improve the health industry through several healthcare projects costing millions of dollars, according to a news release issued by the Indian Embassy in Myanmar.

As a part of its continuing efforts, the government of India is supporting the development of the Women and Children's Hospital in Monywa through a financial commitment of US$2 million. It is also providing capacity-building training for Myanmar medical physicians in specialty institutes in India.

In recent years, India has also committed US$7 million for upgrading the Yangon Children's Hospital and the Sittway General Hospital by supplying essential, state-of-the-art medical equipment for diagnostic testing including a CT scan machine, an oxygen machine, an ultrasound machine and other critical care medical equipment. Some hospital equipment has already been installed at those hospitals under the bilateral agreement.

The neighbouring country also donated two ambulances equipped with modern healthcare facilities to the Yangon Children's Hospital last month. The two ambulances cost over US$15,000 and can help the hospital enhance public health service delivery and facilitate transport in emergency cases.—*Shwe Khine*

Authorities to inspect construction of pandals

THE 2017 MahaThingyan Festival Pandals Allocating and Fortification Inspection Committee will inspect the construction of pandals in Yangon Region every two days. If they find the the building of pandals fail to follow the specified rules and regulations, they will take action against the owners of those pandals.

"We granted the pandals construction permits. We will make ground inspections every two days when the pandals start to be built. The pandal owners have to pay a fine for the first time if they do not obey the discipline. Also, they have to rebuild the new pandal that follows the rules and regulations. If they do not follow, their pandals will be shut down," said U Than Hone, a member of 2017 MahaThingyan Festival Pandals Allocating and Fortification Inspection Committee. The region government has laid down 45 rules for the 2017 water festival. The pandals have to be built with wood in 2017. The government also banned construction of pandals with extra areas or with private closed rooms.

Currently, the regional government has permitted 80 pandals to be built beginning on 3 April in the Yangon Region. The Yangon Region Government granted permission to build 16 large-sized pandals, 13 medium-sized pandals and 51 small pandals. The eight large pandals will be built along Pyay road.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Top commercial and income taxpayers awarded certificates of honour

A ceremony to present certificates of honour to the top commercial and income taxpayers and foreign companies in the fiscal year 2015-2016 was held at the Mingalar hall of Yangon Region Government office in Yangon yesterday.

Kanbawza Bank was announced as the country's top income taxpayer for this year, retaining its lead in the list of Myanmars 1,000 top taxpayers for the fifth consecutive year.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win announced the list of the top 1,000 commercial and income taxpayers and foreign companies, saying tax efficiency plays an important role in building a modern developed country. The strength of the entrepreneurs and taxpayers across the country is needed for seeking ways to leave the "least developed country" status, he added.

The Union Minister, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, the Deputy Speaker of Yangon Regional Hluttaw, Yangon Region minister for Security and Border Affairs and regional minister for Planning and Finance presented certificates of honour to the top commercial and income taxpayers.—*Ministry of Planning and Finance*

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win presents the certificate of honour to Daw Nang Lang Kham, Executive Director of the Kanbawza Bank, following the bank is announced as the top tax payer with K2.2 billion for the 2015-2016 FY. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Regional government spends Ks8 billion for prevention of floods

THE Yangon Region government will spend Ks8 billion for prevention of floods in the Hlaing and Ayeyawady rivers, according to an official from the Yangon Region Government.

The government will conduct annual flood prevention in those rivers. Prevention has reduced the impact of floods in Hlegue township and Dagon (East) township. The government will also conduct flood prevention in Taikkyi and Hmawbe townships.

The regional government has spent money in the budget to prevent the floods which communities face annually across the country. The regional government is also trying to improve the drainage system to prevent roads from flooding.

Similarly, the region government spent Ks32 billion on a special project for the development of places outside the YCDC area.— *200*

Three more first aid centres to be opened on highway

MYANMAR Red Cross Society (MRCS) will open three more first aid centres on the highway this year. The health centres will be opened with an aim to provide emergency health care for the victims of the road accidents on the highway.

MRCS opened the first first aid centre at 115th Mile and the second centre at 285th Mile. Three new health centres will be stationed at 39th Mile, 326th Mile and 202nd Mile.

"We have targeted to open 33 new health centres in this fiscal year. We have already selected the locations. One out of the 33 new health centres will be opened at 202nd Mile on 8 May. The ambulance which was donated by Singapore has arrived for 202nd Mile first aid centre, said Daw Khin Khin Shein, first aid and safety director of Myanmar Red Cross Society.

Currently, awareness training courses will be provided by MTCS jointly with Shell Myanmar with an aim of safe driving in 11 villages in Kyauktaga township on Yangon- Nay Pyi Taw highway.—*200*

LOCAL Business

Ten more tonnes of dried fish exported to India from Sagaing Region

SAGAING Region was able to boost the export volume of dried fish to India through Tamu town this year, with an increase of 10 tonnes against that of fiscal year 2015-2016, said an official from the Sagaing Region Fishery Department.

The fishery products flowing into Tamu town were shipped to India under the supervision of the Border Trade Department. Thirty tonnes of dried fish worth Ks28.35million were exported in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, whereas 20 tonnes of dried fish export last year fetched Ks18.90million. There is no export of frozen fish sent from Yangon.

Workers prepare fish to dry. PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

Various freshwater fish comes into Sagaing Region through Yangon, Mandalay, Shwebo and Monywa for drying and processing which are then sent back to Myitkyina, Mandalay, Tamu and Chin State. Last year, a total of 113,945 viss of freshwater fish went into the Sagaing Region market, mainly from Yangon Region.

From 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017, national fish production resulted in 12,623.82 viss of fish from fish farms while 26,908.12 viss were produced from lakes and ponds in Sagaing Region.—*Myo Win Tun (Monywa)*

India merchants slash demand of pigeon pea

WITH the imposition of tax on imports by the government of India, merchants there scaled down the demand for pigeon peas, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seed Merchants Association.

Starting from 1st April, 10 per cent of tax levied on imports came into force in India. The merchants thus reduce the orders of pigeon peas.

While demand for pigeon peas has declined, the demand for mung bean remained steady because the yield from the new harvest was low and the demand was high, according to the pea market.

The price of pigeon peas is about Ks734,500 a tonne, whereas mung bean fetched Ks1,068,000 per tonne in early April, according to the Bayintnaung commodity depot.

The local pea growers this year face difficulties from the low yield, plus the lower price at a harvest time, it is learnt.—*Mon Mon*

Export value up by nearly US$500million

EXPORT value in fiscal year 2016-2017 soared to US$11.62 billion, up from US$ 11.13 billion in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, an increase of nearly US$500million, according to statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

The values of exports through normal trade increased by over US$430million, whereas border trade showed only a slight increase in exports as the value of trade via Muse border trade camp, which usually attains the largest trade value out of the 16 border trade camps, significantly declined.

The country's exports consist of products 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 improve.

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, export values were US$2.93 billion from agricultural products, US$10.636 million from animal products, US$581.772million from fisheries products, US$925.095million from minerals, US$ 246.849million from forest products, US$5.38 billion from finished industrial goods and US$1.53 billion from other products.—*Ko Htet*

Myanmar's exports consist of products from the mineral, natural gas, agricultural and fishery sectors. Above, fish in baskets for sale. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Fertilizer plant scheduled to be built in Thilawa SEZ

THE construction of a new fertilizer manufacturing plant under the name of Agri First Co. (AFC) is slated to begin this fiscal year in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ), said an official from the Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO).

The new fertilizer manufacturing plant is being established by MAPCO in cooperation with the Japanese company Mitsui and the German chemical distributor Behn Mayer in the Thilawa SEZ. This plant is likely to produce 150,000 to 200,000 tonnes of fertilizer a year, with a capacity of 50 tonnes per hour.

The developers started to lay the foundation of this plant on 15th March and the construction will be completed this year, officials said.—*Mon Mon*

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 13th April to 17th April 2017 "Myanmar New Year Holidays", under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Australian PM, in India, pushes bilateral, regional trade agenda

NEW DELHI — India and Australia agreed on Monday to revive stalled talks on a bilateral trade deal but, on a visit to New Delhi, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull conceded that chances of an early breakthrough were slim.

Instead, Turnbull said he was prioritising an Asia-Pacific forum that includes China, amid concerns over access to India's market of 1.3 billion people for farm exports from Australia and opportunities for skilled Indian workers there.

After meeting Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, the Australian leader said that the two had agreed to make a fresh push on a proposed bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull (L) shakes hands with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi during a photo opportunity ahead of their meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India, on 10 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We had a very good discussion about the CECA, and I think it's fair to say that progress has not been as fast as either of us would like it to be," Turnbull told a joint news conference.

"We will ask our negotiators to schedule an early meeting to get the process moving."

Turnbull is in the company of other foreign leaders, including Britain's Theresa May, who have found Modi a tough interlocutor on trade.

And, even though the two sides agreed to a fresh round of discussions, he made it clear his priority was now the broader Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The RCEP has emerged as Australia's main opportunity to bolster its trade prospects after US President Donald Trump pulled out of another, broader, trade deal, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, after taking office in January.

It groups the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and a further half-dozen countries, including India, with which ASEAN has free trade deals.

Speaking earlier to Australian journalists, Turnbull said "we've got to be realistic about timing" for a bilateral deal with India. "It's important to have an agreement that meets your requirements," he said.

Bilateral trade with India has doubled over the past decade to around $20 billion, Turnbull also said, but that was a fraction of what it could and should be.

Turnbull, on a three-day visit to New Delhi and Mumbai, was joined by a business delegation and heads of academic institutions.

Australia is second after the United States as the most popular foreign destination for Indians studying abroad.

"We see our temporary migration programme as being conducted in a very focused way, in Australia's national interest. Our commitment is to ensure that, when jobs can be done by Australians, they are done by Australians," he said earlier.

"When there is a genuine shortage of skills, we can bring in skilled persons from overseas — a great many of those have come from India."—*Reuters*

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Chinese premier voices hope for improved ties with Japan

BEIJING — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Monday expressed his desire to bring relations with Japan back to the right track of development, during a meeting with a business delegation from Tokyo led by a former longtime lawmaker.

"This year is the 45th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan, and China attaches great importance to China-Japan ties," Li said.

In a meeting with the group from the Japanese Association for the Promotion of International Trade at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Li also said the two countries should step up efforts toward the "normal direction of development" in the spirit of "taking history as a mirror and looking forward to the future."

The group is headed by Yohei Kono, who served as lower house speaker from 2003 to 2009 and many other key posts, including chief Cabinet secretary and foreign minister, in his long career as a member of the Liberal Democratic Party.

It is the first time this year that the premier or any other top Chinese leader has met with a Japanese high-profile figure.

Kono, who has developed close ties with China, and corporate executives belonging to the association last met with Li in 2015.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between Japan and China. But no tangible progress has been made in recent months on repairing distrust between Tokyo and Beijing, caused by territorial and historical issues intricately intertwined with their regional rivalry.

Chinese officials have blamed Japan for not having a correct view of wartime history and not being sincere enough in acknowledging China's rise.

"Of course, we want to improve relations with Japan for the benefit of our two peoples. But first of all, Japan has to adopt the right frame of mind, be sensible and come to terms with the fact of China's development and revitalization," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during his annual press conference last month.

Wang noted that this year marks not only the 45th anniversary of normalized relations between the two countries, but also the 80th anniversary of the "Marco Polo Bridge Incident."

Wang said the two anniversaries are in stark contrast, with "the one leading to peace and friendship and the other to war and confrontation."

A skirmish between Japanese and Chinese troops near the bridge on the outskirts of Beijing on 7 July, 1937 developed into full-scale warfare that lasted until Japan's surrender to the Allied Powers in 1945.—*Kyodo News*

Duterte assures China no plan to militarize S China Sea isles

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte told China on Monday that his earlier order to his military to fortify disputed islands and reefs controlled by the Philippines in the South China Sea does not mean deployment of offensive weaponry.

"For the information of China, we will not place there any offensive weapons. Not even one gun. We are just there to claim the islands for us because those are really ours," Duterte said, noting that he merely ordered the building of structures and the hoisting of the Philippine flag in those areas.

Speaking at Davao International Airport before leaving for a visit to the Middle East, Duterte said, "China can relax. We are friends. We will not go to war with you. We are just trying to maintain the balance of the geopolitical situation there."

Duterte's order covers a total or 10 islands, reefs and shoals and in the South China Sea, a region replete with competing territorial claims from several Asian countries.

The remarks made by Duterte last week sparked a reaction from China, a country which the Philippines has been seeking closer ties with since he took office last July.

"Having noted the report, the Chinese side is concerned about it. We hope the Philippine side will continue to properly manage maritime disputes with China and work with us to maintain the sound and steady growth of China-Philippines relations," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said last Friday.

Duterte also floated the possibility of selling those islands to China once the situation has cleared up in the region.

"And maybe when we get rich, very rich, I can sell the land to you for...Those would be yours when the spectacle of war is gone and nothing is dangerous to the Philippines," he said. — *Kyodo News*

China, SKorea discuss more sanctions on N Korea amid talk of Trump action

SEOUL/TOKYO— China and South Korea agreed on Monday to slap tougher sanctions on North Korea if it carries out nuclear or long-range missile tests, a senior official in Seoul said, as a US Navy strike group headed to the region in a show of force.

North Korea marks several major anniversaries this month and often marks the occasions with major tests of military hardware.

The possibility of US military action against North Korea in response to such tests gained traction following last week's strikes against Syria. Previously, Washington has leaned toward sanctions and pressure to deter North Korea, but comments from US President Donald Trump's top aides at the weekend suggest that position may be hardening.

However, South Korea's chief nuclear envoy Kim Hong-kyun said there was no mention of any military option in his talks with China's Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Affairs, Wu Dawei. The two also did not discuss any possible strike against the North by the Trump administration, he said.

"Both sides agreed that despite the international community's warnings, if North Korea makes strategic provocations such as a nuclear test or an ICBM launch, there should be strong additional measures in accordance with UN security council resolutions," Kim told reporters.

Kim added the two sides agreed "an even stronger UN resolution" will have to be adopted in the event of additional weapons test by North Korea. Wu did not speak to reporters.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said the US military strike against Syria over its alleged use of chemical weapons was a warning to other countries including North Korea that "a response is likely" if they pose a danger.

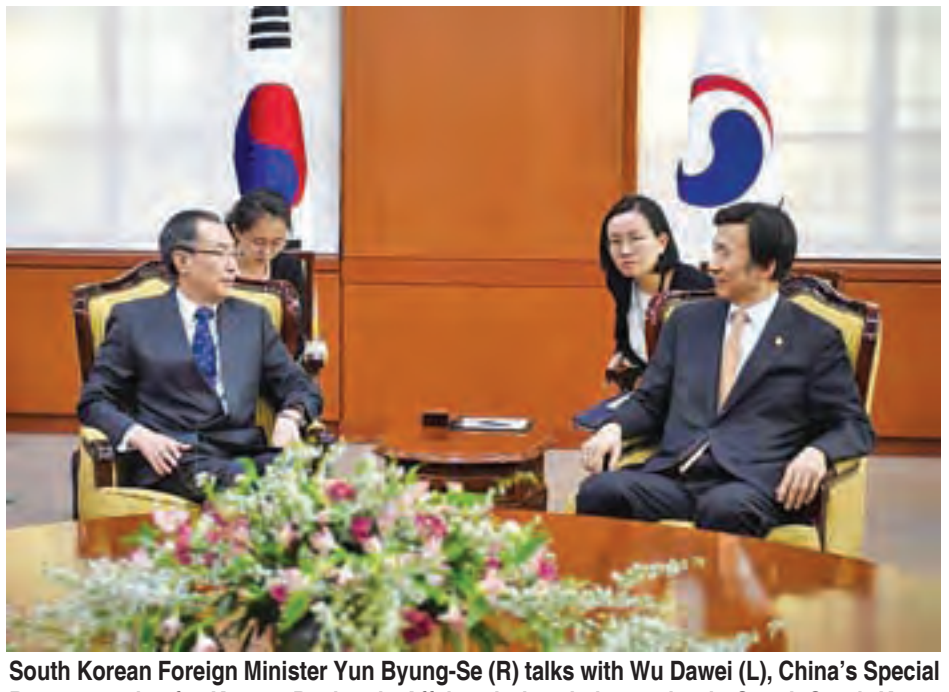
"(Chinese) President Xi (Jinping) clearly understands, and I think agrees, that the situation has intensified and has reached a certain level of threat that action has to be taken," Tillerson said on CBS's Face the Nation.

The US Navy strike group Carl Vinson canceled a planned trip to Australia and was moving toward the western Pacific Ocean near the Korean peninsula as a show of force, a US official told Reuters over the weekend. "We feel the increased presence is necessary," the official said.

Trump and China's Xi held a summit meeting in Florida last week, where Trump pressed his counterpart to do more to curb North Korea's nuclear programme. China is North Korea's main diplomatic and economic ally.

Wu's trip was the first visit to South Korea by a senior Chinese official since the planned deployment of the US THAAD missile defence system led to a diplomatic row between Beijing and Seoul.

Kim said Wu repeated China's position on the THAAD deployment but did not give details. China has previously said the system would destabilise the regional security balance and that its radar's reach would be intruding into Chinese territory. North Korea has sounded a note of defiance against the United States, calling the strikes against Syria on Friday "an unforgivable act of aggression" that showed Pyongyang's decision to develop nuclear weapons was "the right choice." In Tokyo, the feasibility of US military action was downplayed, while South Korea said the focus remained on deterrence and readiness.



South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-Se (R) talks with Wu Dawei (L), China's Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Affairs, during their meeting in Seoul, South Korea on 10 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"It probably is not realistic for the US to attack North Korea," a Japanese defence ministry source said. "If America says it is going to attack, both Japan and South Korea will probably put a stop to it," said the source, who declined to be identified.

A senior Japanese military source added: "If the US military was to attack, there could be a request to Japan for rear-guard logistics support but there has been no talk of such preparations."—*Reuters*

Kishida, Tillerson meet on Syria conflict, N Korea threat

VIAREGGIO, Italy—Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson met on Monday in central Italy to discuss the Syrian conflict and the rising nuclear threat posed by North Korea.

Japan has said it supports the United States' commitment to international peace and security after US President Donald Trump approved military strikes against Syria on Thursday in response to the country's alleged use of chemical weapons. Tokyo hopes that the United States' strong response on Syria will put pressure on North Korea, which shows signs of preparing for its sixth nuclear test and more test-firings of ballistic missiles.

To rein in Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missiles programs, Japan and the United States agree that the role of China, the main economic and diplomatic benefactor of North Korea, is crucial.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Donald Trump agreed on the importance of close coordination over North Korea, speaking on the telephone shortly after a summit between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Florida. At the summit, Trump told Xi that the United States "is prepared to chart our own course," or take unilateral action, if Beijing is unable to coordinate with Washington in applying increased pressure on Pyongyang to change its behavior, Tillerson told reporters earlier. Kishida and Tillerson met in Viareggio on the sidelines of the two-day Group of Seven foreign ministers' meeting from Monday in Lucca, also in central Italy. It is their third face-to-face meeting since Tillerson assumed his post in February.—*Kyodo News*

Pakistani court sentences accused Indian spy to death

ISLAMABAD—A Pakistani military court sentenced an Indian accused of espionage to death on Monday, potentially racheting up tension between the two nuclear-armed states.

Kulbushan Sudhir Jadhav was arrested on 3 March in the turbulent province of Baluchistan, which has seen a long-running conflict between Pakistani security forces and a militant separatist movement.

The Pakistani military said in a statement he had confessed to being tasked by India's intelligence service with planning, coordinating and organizing espionage and sabotage activities in Baluchistan "aiming to destabilize and wage war against Pakistan".

The sentence was passed by a Field General Court Martial and confirmed by the powerful army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. The military did not announce any date for the execution.

There was no immediate comment from the Indian government.

Pakistan accuses India of helping the separatist movement in Baluchistan, a charge denied by India. In its turn, the government in New Delhi says Pakistan aids separatist fighters in Kashmir, part of India's only Muslim-majority state, which Pakistan also claims. Last September, tension between the neighbours escalated after gunmen killed 19 Indian soldiers at an army camp in Kashmir, an attack India blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

Pakistan denies backing militants saying it only offers political support to the Muslim people of Indian-controlled Kashmir.—*Reuters*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ARKA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ARKA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MAREN S VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAREN S VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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.

Let's stand together in times of hardship

Tha Sein

DIPLOMACY is vital in international relations because without being diplomatic we cannot protect our national interest and neither can we work with other countries. Well aware of this, the incumbent government is making efforts to expend its diplomatic ties with countries around the world while fixing its frayed ties with the other country.

The Republic of Ecuador is the 116th country with which the country has established diplomatic relations. Ecuador, a medium-income country, in South America has 16 million people with a $ 182 billion GDP and a $ 11,000 per capita income.

Myanmar's international relations have improved since the incumbent government took office in 2016. The greatest success in the time of the new government is the decision of the EU not to table a human rights resolution at the UN General Assembly Third Committee last year.

The decision was in recognition of the country's progress on democratic transition, the reinvigoration of the peace process and the positive steps taken by the new government to improve human rights. As the world is becoming increasingly interdependent, we must find ways to support each other and help each to thrive.

Since taking office, the new government is committed to achieving its own vision of a more perfect union while endeavoring to resolve one of the world's longest running internal insurgency problem as well as the simmering communal tensions in the Rakhine State, which has made headlines around the world.

Regarding this, the State Counsellor stated that the problems in the Rakhine should not be viewed as ethnic cleansing. It is a matter of people on different sides of a divide, and this divide we are trying to close up as best as possible. In that regard, we invited Dr Kofi Annan to form a commission and look into the problems and help us to find long-term solutions.

As the problems in the western part of the country can be a politically sensitive issue, it is important that widespread rumors and rampant hate speech on social media could not unleash further violence.

So journalists from local and foreign media outlets were allowed to visit the region and cover news freely. Given inhumanities including the killing and threatening of local people who had given interviews to the media and cooperated with the government, we need to be vigilant, to exercise restraint and to stand together in times of hardship.

Students opt for staycation or travelling or contributing voluntary services during the summer vacation

Tommy Pauk

IN Myanmar, all the schools, colleges and universities are usually closed for three consecutive months in summer. The students of all levels can enjoy a long summer vacation. Normally, the summer vacation begins from the first week of March to the end of May. During that period of time, the Myanmar New Year public holiday and Thingyan Water Festival are included. The primary students, secondary students and university students in Myanmar have so full of fun and enjoyment on a long summer vacation. When schools, colleges and universities are closed for summer vacation, all students can enjoy leisure or relaxation at home with their family. The boarding school students and the students who stay at university hostels go back home when the summer vacation falls officially. As for the students who have sat for the matriculation examination can get relaxed during summer vacation. They have to spend the summer vacation beneficially for them while waiting for the matriculation results which are normally announced in June. Then they can opt whatever they like to do with the consent of their parents or guardians. Some secondary and tertiary students take part in voluntary services in their community or various places in Myanmar such as literacy campaign and charitable services. Parents and guardians also support or fulfill the wish of their children for joining voluntary services willingly. Their good will and intention to contribute voluntary services are encouraging. Some students take the summer martial arts course (Judo, Karate, Myanma Martial Arts etc) or summer computer courses or summer swimming training course or summer English speaking course, summer Basic Red cross course and summer traditional ethic course (conducted by Buddhist monks at Buddhist Monasteries). The Lu-Ye-Chun students (the outstanding students from secondary schools and universities) are annually chosen by state to visit Lu-Ye- Chun recreation camps in Inlay lake area (Khaung Dine) and Ngapali beach (Shwe War Chine) during summer vacation.

The students those who are the members of scouts and members of Myanmar Trekking and Mountaineering participate in their respective activities. These two activities also contribute to the communities, people and environment as the student scouts and mountaineering members help the local people and community while they work or climb to the summit. Not only they help the local people but also they make effort to conserve the natural environment along the route.

The student scouts participate in scouting activities which contribute to the communities and they learn the socio-economic development of the designated areas in Myanmar. Thus, the students gain knowledge about the life of the people in some areas and experience of voluntary services there. The activities done by the student scouts are beneficial both for the students and the local people concerned.

Few students prefer staycation rather than visiting some interesting places in Myanmar on summer vacation, but most of the students like to visit various interesting places or wildlife sanctuary or seaside resorts or waterfall resorts or famous pagoda sites or tourist attractions in Myanmar. They visit these places with their family or friends or relatives together. Normally, they go on a pilgrimage tour in Myanmar on summer vacation. The students who belong to the well-to-do families go on a tour of a foreign country. Otherwise, these students and their families visit hill station in Myanmar where cooler weather prevails in summer e.g. Pyin Oo Lwin (A hill station of Myanmar). There they enjoy their leisure and recreation comfortably.

The options or choices for spending summer vacation depend on the individual students' desire or hobby or support of the parents. If the parents cannot provide their children with financial support for travelling to foreign countries during summer vacation, the students concerned cannot choose traveling abroad on summer vacation. In this case, it is totally impossible for those students to fulfill his wish while having summer vacation. This is an exceptional case that not all students can take the option of visiting a foreign country during summer vacation.

The students take staycation because they do not want to travel to another location in Myanmar in the period of summer vacation. They spend a vacation at their home or near their home and participate in leisure activities within driving distance. The students belonged to close-knit families help their parents as much as they can. For example; doing household chores, helping their parents in family business or in the shops or working on the farm of their parents during summer vacation. The students who opt staycation usually visit or sightsee nearby their homes. Also they contribute voluntary services to their community and within their location where they live. Actually they do not spend the summer vacation idly. Being staycationers, the students help their parents, community and do some charitable work actively. They are not indolent indeed.

Anyway, all the students in Myanmar merrily participate in Myanmar Traditional Water Festival or Thingyan Festival during the summer holiday. Sequentially, they enjoy Myanmar New Year celebration in connection with Thin gyan Festival. Some students do meritorious deeds and do meditation at meditation centers. Some students are ordained as Buddhist monks. In Myanmar, as for Students, they do a lot of beneficial activities for them and communities or country and ritual practices apart from taking relaxation and recreation during the long summer vacation. They do not waste the precious time and spend the long summer vacation according to the helpful guidelines of parents, teachers and government. A very harmonious relationship between parents and children is seen vividly in Myanmar society.

Ministries hold press conference on performance in one year

A PRESS conference on changes and processes during the one-year term of the current government was held yesterday at 1pm at meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

Attending the press conference were Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Permanent Secretaries from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Construction, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win and responsible officials.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Police Chief Zaw Win and permanent secretaries of other two ministries answer questions of journalists at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Crimes involving children, including rape cases, are becoming more common, therefore Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye stated they are drafting laws for Children's Right with only ratification left.

There has been no policy for youths yet, so the ministry is systematically drafting policies to convene youths for their benefit as well as for the benefit of the nation. Additionally for women to get the most of their rights laws protecting women, laws protecting women from violence and such are being drafted.

Laws for people with disabilities have been drafted since 2015 and for their implementation a bylaw was drafted through much difficulty so that organizations working for disabled people can make the most of their rights and laws for senior citizens is also being drafted.

Pension plans for senior citizens will commence starting from the current budget with citizens over 90 years of age receiving ten thousand kyats per month.

The next topic is relief and resettlement and to sum it up the policies put in place need to be utilized in an effective administrative system. Despite relief, pre-planning and resettlement efforts currently in action there is a lot left to be done in the administrative department.

If there is a natural disaster, action should be able to be taken immediately and there is collaboration with philanthropic groups, state and regional government and ministries concerned.

The policy of relief and resettlement is to build a strong society and in that endeavor reviews and changes to the systems are being made with crucial support from philanthropic groups and UNIGOs.

Ministry of Home Affairs

Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Home Affairs U Tin Myint stated that the realization of a peaceful and developed nation, the ministry is working on national security, rule of law, peace in society, benefit for the people and other similar objectives in mind together with the Department for General Administration and Myanmar Police Force, Bureau for Special Investigation, Correctional Department, and Department of Fire Services.

The 199 Hot Line available in 181 townships can be contacted via landlines and other mobile service providers except CDMA phones. Additionally a single focused call center for the 199 hotline was established in Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw and CCTV command centers were also established in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay.

To improve the skills of the police force, MoUs were signed with the Australian Police Force, Australian Border Police Force, Japan's KUSI Police Academy, the Institute for Security and Development Policy based in Sweden, and the International Organization for Migration.

Committees and sub-committees formed for establishing One Stop Shops were formed with a total of nineteen members comprising of the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs acting as chairman, Director-General from General Administration Department under Ministry of Home Affairs acting as secretary, and permanent secretaries from eight ministries.

For establishing One Stop Shops in states, regions and Nay Pyi Taw council, the sub-committee was formed with twelve members from state, region levels and Nay Pyi Taw council as Chairman, comprising a total of thirteen members.

To combat money laundering, an analysis team was formed with the Bureau for Special Investigation completing 56 of the 93 cases submitted to them, and the remaining 37 cases still ongoing. The Bureau was able to file a lawsuit against 5 cases and of the 68 cases reported, 52 were resolved with the remaining 16 still ongoing.

The Correctional Department under the administration of the new government was able to conduct prison visits according to rules and regulations with no discrimination between inmates for one visit a week, increasing visiting hours to a minimum of 25 minutes, providing 'Three A' workshops for improving living standards and characters of inmates, fulfilling religious needs of inmates, providing vocational training and basic education, conducting sports and other festivals, and health awareness seminars.

The Department of Fire Services with support from Poland's government and ODA program by the United States of Europe, were able to assemble 65 modern fire engines and support vehicles, and a loan of Euro 50 million after verification from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and signing of contracts.

Ministry of Transport and Communications

The eight open tenders were invited to upgrade Yangon-Mandalay Railway and the project is slated to be completed in 2023. Yangon-Toungoo railroad section is being upgraded as the first phase of the project and it is scheduled to be completed ahead of 2020. Upon completion of the project, the train is expected to run at the speed of 100 kilometer per hour and will reduce travel time from 16 hours to 8 hours.

The people along the rivers of Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung, Thanlwin and Kaladan rely on waterway transportation and floods and change of water courses occurred due to deforestation and illegal gold mining. At present, action plan was drawn up to carry out maintenance of the segment of the Ayeyawady River between Mandalay and Nyaung U by spending US$ 100 million loan from World Bank and improvement of waterway near Mandalay was initiated. Waterway maintenance works are being undertaken in Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Shan States using the Union Budget and special reserve fund.

A 400-meter long jetty is under construction at Thilawa SEZ with the use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from the Japan and the project is 21.5 percent complete. Upon completion of the project, the aforementioned jetty will be managed by the private operator and the government is seeking investors to build a similar jetty in Thilawa SEZ. The open tender had been invited to carry out Yangon River maintenance works and dredging of the Elephant Point had already been implemented.

Regarding expansion of the local and international routes, Myanmar National Airline has been performing as a corporate starting from the fiscal year 2013-2014. Myanmar National Airline flies with nine ART, four Boeing, two Embraer and four Grand Caravan aircrafts totaling 19 airplanes to 28 local airports and is expanding international routes. During its one-year operation, Myanmar National Airline launched international services to Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Gaya and Chiang Mai.

When it comes to telecommunication sector, Myanmar Sat 1 was established after the ministry signed the five-year agreement with Intelsat Global Sale and Marketing Ltd in March. Arrangement is being made to provide channels for government ministries and private companies at reduced price rate. The ministry conducted an auction of spectrum to provide public broadband data services for 2600 MHz in a transparent manner and fetched US$ 244.16 million and earned US$ 66.74 million this financial year. 1800 MHz was designated to four telecommunication operators at fixed price rate and plan is underway to earn US$ 160 million in the next fiscal year.

Concerning meteorology and hydrology sector, the three weather radars are being installed with the assistance of Japan to issue the early warnings by predicting the location and intensity of the storms on real time. The first weather radar was installed in Minpyin Village, Kyaukphyu Township in October 2015 and the second one was at Kabaaye in Yangon. The third weather radar station in Mandalay is expected to finish in May 2017.

With regard to road safety measures, 1,003,588 vehicles and 5,122,701 motorcycles have been registered and the Myanmar National Road Safety Action Plan is being implemented with the formation of the National Road Safety Council. Plan is underway to introduce Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) System for the vehicles to be able to handle traffic congestion and to check and control unregistered vehicles.

Ministry of Construction

U Kyaw Lin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Construction, clarified the achievements of the ministry, highlighting the opening of the Malikha Bridge (Machanbaw) in Kachin State and upgrading the road between Machanbaw and Naungmon.

Since to the new facility and the road were commissioned into service, the residents have enjoyed a day trip between Machanbaw and Naungmon, he said.

The ministry also upgraded the road between the Shwebo and Mandalay to a concrete one, shortening the travel time between the two cities.

Biluchaung Bridge, which is 270 ft long and can withstand 60 tons of load, in Loikaw, Kayah State, is expected to be inaugurated soon, said the Permanent Secretary.

In Kayin State, Myawady Bridge-2 is expected to be commissioned into service in early 2019, said U Kyaw Lin.

The road section between the Eindu and Kawkareik of the Myawady-Kawkareik-Hpa-an-Kyaikto-Yangon Road, which is the country's east-west corridor, is under construction with the loan program of ADB. Meanwhile, the 15-mile long Eindu-Zarthabyin Road Section was opened on 30 March.

Three bridges on Mudon-Myawady Road have been inaugurated on 8th April.

In Shan State, plans are underway to construct a new Gokteik Bridge on the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Road.

Meanwhile, in Ayeyawady Region, Maubin-Kyaiklat Road is being upgraded with ADB loan and the loan from the World Bank would be injected into the Ngathainchaung-Gwa Road.

Out of 14 bridges which are under construction in Ayeyawady Region, Natchaung Bridge is expected to be commissioned into service soon and other three bridges will be completed in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

Regarding the construction of affordable housings for the people, a total of 10,212 apartments are under construction, with 80 in Nay Pyi Taw, 871 in Yangon, 440 in Monywa, 304 in Magway, 676 in Pathein, and the project is targeted to be completed in 2017, according to the Ministry of Construction.

Service personnel and employees of the companies and pensioners would be given priorities for the apartments.

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Ministries hold press conference on performance ...

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Q&A session of the Press Conference

On the question of having a plan to purchase a helicopter for rapid response when faced with natural disaster and plan to provide humanitarian assistant to relief camps in Kachin State, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said arrangements are being made to purchase a helicopter and prompt assistant was provided to internally displaced persons in Kachin State whenever they face with dangers. Long term assistant and redevelopment assistants were also provided. Humanitarian assistants are also regularly provided to IDPs camps in Kachin State.

Processes that benefit the men, women and children in the camps are being conducted. In Kachin State, priority is given to these processes. For women's development, vocational training course and managable scale course were conducted while livelihood education for men was also conducted. We are coordinating with the relevant ministries for children education.

Acting Director General Daw San San Aye of Social Welfare Department said the ministry is drawing up the draft law on violence against women. Once the law is enacted, procedures to enable the relevant departments to understand and implement the provision of the law need to be drawn. Therefore, definitions will be included in the procedures that will be enacted later.

Questioned about the budget allocated for the people in the IDPs camps, Permanent Secretary U Soe Aung said there are two types of disasters, man-made and natural. The ministry is responsible for both disasters. According to the government budget and annual budget the ministry is allocated Kyat 6.5 billion. In both man-made and natural disasters, relief materials are speedily provided and on the matter of redevelopment, short-term programs are mainly conducted. There is a national disaster management fund. The government allocated Kyat 20 billion last year and for this year too, another 20 billion Kyat was allocated. Left over from last year's allocation was combined with this year's allocation and utilized in required areas. He further added and explained that redevelopment work for refugee camps is providing livelihood works while redevelopment of children is important, so enjoyment space for children are also provided. Social Welfare Department provide for these matters 575 million budget was used for livelihood of children and women.

Answering to the question on investigations conducted on former Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe, the Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Home Affairs U Tin Myint said the investigations relating to the Magway Region development fund were conducted according to the instruction of the Union and the assignment of the President's office, by a joint group of Special Investigation Bureau and responsible persons from Magway Region Auditor General. Findings of the investigations were submitted to Union Attorney General Office for legal advice. Currently there were no further directives or confirmation from the President office.

Regarding the question of why demonstrations were allowed in faraway places instead of at the front of the Nay Pyi Taw Ministerial departments, Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint said, demonstrations are related to the peaceful assembly demonstration act. Application for permission to demonstrate in a certain place need to be submitted at least 5 days ahead and a response to the application is provided within 48 hours according to the law if the place where the demonstration is to be held could cause public disturbance, cause violence and threaten peace and stability. Demonstrations are conducted for the public to know and will be allowed where there is public. At the ministries, only the staff is there.

Answering to the question of providing land lease agreements for rural area, he said villagers are allowed to live on a land without land lease agreement. Land lease agreement was provided annually to rural areas that became developed when there was application for it. If there is a request and a requirement, it will be provided. Application for tax free lease of religious land is also being considered and granted. Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee looks into the matter of living in the Nay Pyi Taw Municipal area.

On the question of action taken by police force on the absconded suspect Aung Win Khaing in the January 29 Yangon airport assassination of U Ko Ni case, Chief of Myanmar Police Force, Police Major General Zaw Win said intensive search for the suspect was made together with officials from Township, Ward and village tracts in the Naypyitaw area. The photo and a brief about Aung Win Khaing was distributed to States and Regions in order to detain him. In case he fled abroad, Asean countries were informed about him as well as INTERPOL also being notified accordingly. Everything was done in order to detain him.

Regarding the question on amending the firearm act in order to take effective actions against illegal arm possession, Police Major General Zaw Win said amendment to the firearm act is being prepared together with the parliament in order to make it relevant to the present situation while every effort is made to detain and take action against illegal arm possessors.

Asked if the Ministry of Transport and Communications has a plan to amend the Section 66/D, Permanent Secretary U Win Khant replied that the section is aimed at giving guarantee to development of the communications business and to convenience of businessmen.

However, the current cases connected the Section 66/D happened based on the hate speech though the section was included in the law without considering the hate speech when it was drafted, he said. U Soe Thein, Director-General of the Directorate of Telecommunications, elaborated that the Communications Law was enacted to give guarantee to the local and foreign investment in the communications sector and currently, the ministry and other related institutions are seeking the way for amending the Section 66/D.

Asked when Hanthawady International Airport project started, Permanent Secretary U Win Khant said the project began in the time of the previous government, adding that the project is expected to launch in this year if the Japanese government's loan, which is playing an important role in implement of the airport project on the 9,000 acres of land, is okay this year.

U Min Lwin, Director General of the Department for Civil Aviation, clarified that the framework agreement of the Hanthawady Airport project was signed in 2016 as a first step, and discussion are undergoing for the second step of signing the construction agreement. No company has received tender for the project yet, he added.

Asked when the Yangon-Mandalay Highway is upgraded to a four-lane road, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Lin said an international tender will be announced to upgrade the Yangon-Mandalay Highway, which is using by about 16 million people a day, when the time comes and the ministry needs to seek approval from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to sign a loan agreement for upgrading the road. Asked when work on construction of the Yangon-Dala Bridge across the Yangon River starts and how much does it cost, U Kyaw Lin said the plan for construction of the bridge started in 2008 and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has already approved US$138 million loan from the Republic of Korea and the people in the project area have been relocated.

Regarding inauguration of Chaungson Bridge in Mon State, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Lin said the bridge, which was named Bogyoke Aung San Bridge on 13th February, was expected to be commissioned into service in the last week of April after the bridge receives final checks for its withstanding. Regarding a plan for construction of a bridge in parallel with current Gukteik Bridge in Nawnghkio, Shan State, U Kyaw Lin disclosed that the design for the new bridge has been drawn and plan is underway to construction the bridge after the bypass road is constructed in Nawnghkio.—*Myanmar News Agency*

PRESS RELEASE

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Eduardo E. Kapunan, Jr. as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

He obtained a Bachelor of Science from the Philippine Military Academy, and a Master's degree in Management from the Asian Institute of Management.

From 1971-1977, he served in the Philippine Air Force as Senior Pilot. From 1977-1986, he served in the National Defence Intelligence Office. From 1986-1987, he served as Group Commander of Special Security and Anti-Terrorist Force of General Headquarters, Armed Forces of the Philippines. In 1987, he served as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations of the Philippine Military Academy. From 1992-1993, he served as Consultant of the National Unification Commission(NUC). From 1993-1995, he served as Chief Operations Officer, Witness Protection Program in the Department of Justice. From 1996-1998, he served as Director of the San Miguel Foods Corporation Governing Board and Consultant of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (International Operations). From 2000-2002, he served as Consultant of the Office of the Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process (OPAPP). From 2002 -2005, he served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs as well as Director of Intelligence and Security Service of the Department of Foreign Affairs. From 2007-2008, he served as Assistant Secretary for the Department of Transportation and Communication. From 2008-2010, he served as Deputy Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Three houses burn down in Maungtaw

FIRE destroyed three houses in Done Kala village in Maungtaw Township on Sunday.

The outbreak of fire started from the kitchen of a house owned by Amina Khatu, 52, in Done Kala village at about 5pm and spread to two other houses.

Local police have taken action against Amina Khatu for causing the fire.—*Myanmar News Agency*

490 morphine vials seized in Sittway

FOUR hundred-and-ninety vials of morphine were seized near Tadaphyu on Sittway-Yaychanpyin Road on Sunday in Sittway, Rakhine State.

Acting on a tip-off, a local anti-narcotics team searched Mamoud Jabay, 32, from Done Pyintaung village, who was walking near Tadaphyu on Sittway-Yaychanpyin Road at about 6pm and found 200 vials of morphine in a plastic bag. Local police also discovered another 290 vials in his home. The seized morphine is worth Ks17.15 lakhs.

Upon interrogation, the suspect Mamoud Jabay admitted that Adhusalin, of SatOh village, had trusted these vials to him. Sittway Myoma Police opened a case and are still investigating the case.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Body found in Buthidaung

A man's body was found in a potato field in Bogyee Chaung village, Maungtaw Township on Saturday, according to a local police source.

The man, identified as Rawphee from Bogyee Chaung Village, left home with Ar Yarrs, who was from the same village, and did not return. Ar Yarrs phoned Rawphee's wife on Friday and informed her that Rawphee had been killed by three men, including Guya Sutin, using axes and knives and buried his body under the potato field.

Acting on the information, Rawphee's wife opened a file about the murder at Taung Bazzar police station. A combined team comprised of security forces and forensic doctors excavated the field where Rawphee was said to have been buried on Saturday and found his body.

Authorities continue to investigate the case and the four suspects, including Ar Yarrs, are being interrogated.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Egypt's cabinet approves three-month state of emergency

CAIRO — Egypt's cabinet said a three-month state of emergency would go into force from 1 pm (1100 GMT) on Monday, a day after two church bombings killed at least 44 people.

The nationwide measure must be approved by parliament within seven days to remain in place.

"The armed forces and police forces will do what is necessary to confront the threats of terrorism and its financing in order to maintain security across the country, protect public and private property and the lives of citizens," a cabinet statement said.

The state of emergency was announced on Sunday in a televised address by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi following the church attacks, which were claimed by Islamic State. Sisi also ordered troops immediately deployed to assist police in securing vital facilities.

The emergency decree will give the security forces wide-ranging powers. Ending martial law was one of the demands of the popular uprising that ousted President Hosni Mubarak in 2011.—*Reuters*

Army soldiers patrol on the Cairo-Alexandria desert road before the funeral of victims of the Palm Sunday bombings of Egyptian Coptic churches, in Cairo, Egypt on 10 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Two bombers die in suicide attack in Nigeria; no other casualties

MAIDUGURI, (Nigeria) — Two female suicide bombers detonated explosives on the edge of a university campus in northeast Nigeria on Monday, blowing themselves up but causing no other casualties, disasters agency NEMA said.

The bombers detonated their vests close to the perimeter fence of the University of Maiduguri at around 04:00 am (0300 GMT), a NEMA spokesman said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Maiduguri is the city that has been worst hit by an eight-year-old Islamist insurgency by the Boko Haram group. It was the second suicide bombing there in three days.

Two female bombers blew themselves up on Saturday at a mosque in the Jiddari Polo district on the edge of Maiduguri, injuring four people, said NEMA.

Attacks or attempted attacks bearing the hallmarks of Boko Haram in crowded areas, such as markets and refugee camps, have escalated since the end of the rainy season in late 2016. Most have either been foiled or the suicide bombers managed only to blow themselves up. —*Reuters*

Ethnic militias raid South Sudan's Wau, at least 10 dead — witnesses

NAIROBI — At least 10 people were killed in the South Sudanese town of Wau on Monday, as ethnic militias went house to house searching for people from other groups, witnesses said.

Streets were deserted as families hid inside, residents told Reuters by phone. Some reported seeing killings.

Witnesses said the militias were aligned to the government's side in the country's ethnically-charged civil war and accused army soldiers of blocking the main road to a civilian encampment protected by UN peacekeepers.

South Sudan's deputy army spokesperson, Colonel Santo Domic Chol, said fighting had first broken out during a mutiny by soldiers at the town's prison. He was awaiting more information, he said.

An official from the United Nations, which has a base in the northwestern town, said staff were looking into the situation, without giving further details.

Five residents, all of whom asked not to be named, described members of the president's Dinka ethnic group searching for members of the local Lou and Fertit groups. The head of the military is also Dinka.

"We are still inside hiding. In my house, nobody was killed but I have seen four dead bodies of my neighbours," said one man by telephone, speaking from a Wau neighbourhood called Nazareth. "Armed militias are moving from house to house," one resident said. "It is an ethnic crackdown." Another said he had fled an attack that had killed many people, including his cousin.

South Sudan descended into civil war in 2013 after President Salva Kiir, a Dinka, fired his deputy, Riek Machar, a Nuer. Fighting since then has often split the oil-producing country along ethnic lines and created a patchwork of armed factions. The war in a territory already awash with weapons after decades of conflict has fuelled ethnic tensions over land, grazing grounds and long-running feuds.

In another part of Wau, a resident said they saw two bodies near a feeding centre and a couple killed by the road as they tried to flee to a nearby civilian encampment protected by UN peacekeepers. More than 200,000 people have taken refuge in such sites set up across the country after widespread ethnic killings, many by soldiers in the country's civil war. Campaign groups have accused both sides of atrocities. Two residents said soldiers had blocked off the road leading to the protected site in Wau.

"I and my two sisters tried to get a way to the UNMISS protection site but we can't because the road is blocked by government soldiers. Yes, along the road, I saw one woman together with her husband who was killed because they tried to run to UNMISS," one woman said, using the acronym for the UN Mission in South Sudan. The army's Chol said the mutiny had broken out on Monday morning. "Some four prison soldiers in Wau prison decided to mutiny and shot at their own colleagues. They killed two," he said.

He said there had been fighting in Wau state for the past three days but had no further details on Monday's fighting, apart from the fact it was taking place along ethnic lines.

"The type of the rebellion which is taking place in Wau ... it is more or less tribal because some tribal groups decided to target some people based on their ... ethnicity," he said.

The 15,000-strong UN peacekeeping mission, which has a base in Wau, has not been able to stop the killing.—*Reuters*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (007)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (007) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV DENSA PANTHER VOY. NO (1602)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DENSA PANTHER VOY. NO (1602) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Trump national security aide McFarland may become envoy to Singapore — official

PALM BEACH, (Fla) — President Donald Trump's deputy national security adviser, KT McFarland, is expected to step down and has been offered the position of US ambassador to Singapore, a US official said on Sunday.

The move will be seen as a victory for Trump's national security adviser, HR McMaster, who is retooling the national security team he inherited from retired Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, who resigned as Trump's first national security adviser in February. McFarland, 65, is a former national security analyst for Fox News and was one of Trump's original hires after he won the presidential election on 8 November. The exact date of her departure was unclear, said the US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. News of her pending departure came less than a week after Trump removed his chief strategist, Steve Bannon, from the National Security Council at McMaster's urging. Bannon had a seat on the council's "principals committee," which included the secretaries of state, defence and other ranking aides.

Flynn was forced to resign on 13 February over his contacts with Russia's ambassador to the United States, Sergey Kislyak, before Trump took office on 20 January. McFarland's expected departure will likely elevate the status of Dina Powell, who is deputy national security adviser for strategy. She had served in Republican President George W Bush's State Department, and had advised Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, during Trump's transition to the presidency.

Trump's White House has been rife with infighting and palace intrigue as the president has struggled to get past some early stumbles.—*Reuters*

State Bank of India (Yangon Representiative Office)
[In closing down]
Notice of Final Closing Down

State Bank of India - Yangon Representative Office has completely carried out liquidation proceedings and has been fully closed down from 10th April 2017.

Daw Tin Tin Yee, Liquidator
Facilitation Limited, Room 4, 1st Fl, 24 (C), Yaw Min Gyi St., Dagon Township, Yangon.

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar
Department of Rural Development,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Grant from the Federal Republic of Germany (KfW Bank) through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation towards the cost of the Rural Road Rehabilitation Programme.
The Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation intends to implement, with a contract system, the construction of;
1- Two bridges (each one up to 200 meters in length) and three low-level causeways (each one up to 350 meters in length).
2- Road Rehabilitation works(cumulative total length around 50km)
In Kalay District of Sagaing Region.
Interested companies should provide an Expression of Interest in writing on the Prequalification forms provided and submit the completed forms in person to the address below not later than 4.00 p.m. on the 25-May-2017.
Only the prequalified companies will then be invited to take part in the bidding process organized by the Central Tender Selection Committee.
The Pre-qualification Document is to be used for the selection of Applicants in two stages International Competitive Bidding procedures as described in the KfW Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and Associated Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries (KfW procurement guidelines-August 2016).
Further inquiries should be made by telephone or in person as mentioned below.
Contact Address
(a) Director
Rural Road and Bridge Division
Department of Rural Development
Office No-14, Nay Pyi Taw.
Ph &Fax : +95 67 409410 , +95 67 409210
Email : rbbdrd@gmail.com
(b) Deputy Director
Procurement and Logistics Division
Ph &Fax : +95 67 409029

The first UK to China export train, laden with containers of British goods, is seen during the official ceremony to mark its departure from the DP World London Gateway, Stanford-le-Hope, Britain on 10 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Freight train begins first journey from Britain to China

STANFORD-LE-HOPE, (England) — The first freight train to run from Britain to China departed on Monday, carrying goods like vitamins, baby products and pharmaceuticals as Britain seeks to burnish its global trading credentials for when it leaves the European Union.

The 7,500-mile (12,000 km) journey from eastern England to eastern China will take three weeks, around half the time needed for the equivalent journey by boat. The first freight train from China arrived in Britain in January.

The bright red train left a depot at Stanford-Le-Hope in Essex for Barking in east London, hauling dozens of containers.

From Barking, it will pass through the Channel Tunnel into France and on to Belgium, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan before ending up in Yiwu in China.

Britain is trying to enhance its trade links with the rest of the world as it prepares to leave the EU in two years' time.

"This new rail link with China is another boost for global Britain, following the ancient Silk Road trade route to carry British products around the world," said Greg Hands, a British trade minister.

Run by Yiwu Timex Industrial Investment, the Yiwu-London freight service makes London the 15th European city to have a direct rail link with China after the 2013 unveiling of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"This is the first export train and just the start of a regular direct service between the UK and China," said Xubin Feng, chairman of Yiwu Timex Industrial Investment Co.

"We have great faith in the UK as an export nation and rail provides an excellent alternative for moving large volumes of goods over long distances faster." —*Reuters*

Over 130,000 people to take part in Victory Day events across Russia

MOSCOW — More than 130,000 people, including over 90,000 military servicemen, have been making preparations for military parades and other events scheduled to be held on 9 May, the Russian Defence Ministry said in a statement.

"More than 90,000 military servicemen and over 40,000 representatives of security agencies, cadet military schools, the Young Army military patriotic movement, as well as veterans of the Great Patriotic War, will participate in the events planned to mark the 72nd anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945," the statement reads.

Military parades and exhibitions will involve more than 2,000 units of military hardware, 118 aircraft and nine warships.

The parades will take place in 28 cities, including Moscow, St Petersburg, Sevastopol, Volgograd, Vladivostok, Murmansk and Kaliningrad to name a few.

"Parades will start at 10:00 local time. At 22:00, fireworks will be staged," the statement adds.

"Festive events will take place in another 347 cities where the Russian Armed Forces units are deployed, as well as in the cities that enjoy the City of Military Glory title," the Russian Defence Ministry said.—*TASS*

Military parades and exhibitions will involve more than 2,000 units of military hardware, 118 aircraft and nine warships. PHOTO: TASS

US air strike gives Tillerson a boost for Moscow talks

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's visit to Moscow this week will be an early test of whether the Trump administration can use any momentum generated by striking a Syrian air base to craft and execute a strategy to end the Syrian war.

Even before Trump ordered last week's strike on the air base in retaliation for a nerve gas attack, Tillerson's visit was certain to be dominated by thorny issues, including Russian interference in the 2016 US election, an apparent violation of an important arms control treaty, and seeing what cooperation, if any, is possible in the fight against Islamic State.

Now, Tillerson, a former oil executive with no diplomatic experience, is charged with avoiding a major US confrontation with Russia while exacting some concessions from Russian President Vladimir Putin. Those include getting rid of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's remaining chemical weapons stocks and pressing Assad to negotiate Syria's future.

Russia, along with Iran, is Assad's primary backer, and its intervention in Syria's war has been crucial to ensuring his grip on power, although no longer over the entire country.

Tillerson said he had not seen hard evidence that Russia knew ahead of time about the chemical weapons attack but he planned to urge Moscow to rethink its support for Assad in the 12 April talks.

"I'm hopeful that we can have constructive talks with the Russian government, with Foreign Minister (Sergei) Lavrov and have Russia be supportive of a process that will lead to a stable Syria," Tillerson told ABC's "The Week" on Sunday. The US cruise missile strike on Thursday, meant to dissuade Assad from using chemical weapons again, gives Tillerson more credibility with

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson makes a statement about the visit of China's President Xi Jinping and about the situation in Syria, at Palm Beach International Airport in West Palm Beach, Florida, US on 6 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russian officials and will boost his efforts, observers and former officials said. Tillerson is due to meet with Russian officials on Wednesday, and is expected to meet with Putin and Lavrov.

"The demonstration of the administration's willingness to use force has the potential to add some leverage to the diplomacy," said Antony Blinken, a deputy to former Secretary of State John Kerry.

The US strike — ordered less than three days after the gas attack — could make it clear to Russia that the United States will hold Moscow accountable for Assad, Blinken said. Tillerson ought to be "very matter of fact" in his meetings, Blinken said, sending Russia a message that: "If you don't rein him in, we will take further action."

Tillerson said on Thursday that Russia had "failed in its responsibility" to remove Syria's chemical weapons under a 2013 agreement, which he argued showed Russia was either complicit with the gas attacks or "simply incompetent." Securing a Russian commitment on eliminating Assad's chemical weapons is likely to be first on his agenda, said Evelyn Farkas, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense in the Obama administration.

The Russian talks will be a major test of Tillerson's diplomatic skills. As a former chief executive at Exxon Mobil, he has experience doing business in Russia, but no background in the often public negotiations that international diplomacy requires. It also is unclear if Trump, who has expressed skepticism of multilateral institutions such as the European Union and United Nations, will have patience for the protracted negotiations that a comprehensive deal on Syria would require.

Russia condemned the US missile strike as illegal and Putin said it would harm US-Russia ties. Moscow also said it would keep military channels of communication open with Washington, but would not exchange any information through them.

It was an unforeseen turn of events for Trump, who praised Putin repeatedly during last year's election campaign and said he would like to work more closely with Russia to defeat Islamic State. Just a little more than a week ago, top administration officials were signaling that removing Assad is no longer a US priority.

But one senior official said it was significant that Russia suspended, and did not cancel, cooperation with the United States after the American air strike. Nor did Lavrov cancel Tillerson's visit to Moscow, suggesting that Russia may be willing to tolerate the single strike. As of this weekend, the talks were still on.—*Reuters*

Russian computer programmer arrested in Spain — embassy

MADRID — A Russian computer programmer, Pyotr Levashov, has been arrested in the Spanish city of Barcelona, a spokesman for the Russian embassy in Madrid said on Sunday.

It was unclear why Levashov was arrested. The embassy spokesman declined to give details for his arrest, and Spanish police and the interior ministry were not available for comment on Sunday. Russian television station RT reported that Levashov was arrested under a US international arrest warrant and was suspected of being involved in hacking attacks linked to alleged interference in last year's US election. Peter Carr, a spokesman for the US Justice Department's criminal division, said: "The US case remains under seal, so we have no information to provide at this time."

The criminal division is separate from the national security division, which is responsible for investigating state-sponsored cyber crimes.—*Reuters*

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)
Nay Pyi Taw

Extension of timeline to submit responses to the Requests for Proposals for Joint Venture in Onshore Seismic Acquisition Services, Onshore Drilling Services and Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

Date: April 7, 2017

Further to the announcements of the Requests for Proposals for Joint Venture in Onshore Seismic Acquisition Services, Onshore Drilling Services and Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, published on March 24, 2017, MOGE hereby announces an extension for interested parties to submit their Applications. The Applications shall be submitted **no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on May 17, 2017** to the following address:

MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services, Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested parties are now invited to submit a second round of questions regarding the RfP and comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement no later than 12 PM (noon), local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 26, 2017. MOGE will duly respond to all questions submitted no later than 3 PM local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on May 5, 2017. A revised draft Joint Venture Agreement will be issued together with the response to this second round of questions, taking into consideration comments received from both the first and second rounds of comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement.

MOGE also hereby announces an extension for interested parties to designate an Authorised Representative and a Back-up Representative. Interested parties must designate an Authorised Representative and a Back-up Representative no later than 12 PM (noon), local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 26, 2017. Any updates to the Joint Venture Partner Selection Process shall be communicated through the designated Authorised Representative and Back-up Representative and published on the official website for the Joint Venture Partner Selection Process (www.mogemm.com).

The RfP may still be purchased by any interested party no later than 12 PM (noon), local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), April 26, 2017 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays) at Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar for a non-refundable cash payment of five hundred United States Dollars (USD 500). The purchaser will be provided with a payment acknowledgement when payment is made. Only Applications from Applicants that had purchased the RfP document officially from MOGE will be evaluated.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Electricity and Energy

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Daw La Min May, *H.G.P*
For **Azula Management Co., Ltd.,**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **11 April 2017** lmm@kcyangon.com

'Veep' and the art of nailing Washington politics, Trump or not

NEW YORK — "Veep" returns to HBO next week with a defeated female president painfully navigating her way back to public life after a year nursing her wounded psyche.

Sounds familiar?

Satirizing Washington politics is getting harder for the award-winning TV comedy but the new season, starting on 16 April, has an uncanny knack for nailing current US politics — and it does not even have a Trump-like figure.

Executive producer David Mandel says writing on the sixth season of "Veep" started in June 2016, well before Democrat Hillary Clinton lost her bid in November to become the first woman in the White House.

Any comparison to Clinton's stunning change in circumstances is an "accidental coincidence," he says.

"The overall plan to have ("Veep" character) Selina Meyer lose the tied election and have her become a former president who is desperately trying to remake her reputation in the world all goes back two years. It has nothing to do with Hillary losing," said Mandel.

Nevertheless said Mandel "it's getting sort of frightening" how closely the series about a political system where idealism is trumped by compromise tends to echo real Washington politics.

"Sometimes when we sit around to come up with a storyline, we think 'What's the stupidest thing a president could do? What's the worst thing a president's press secretary could say?' and right now some of those things seem to be happening on a daily basis," said Mandel.

Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus poses backstage with her award for Outstanding Lead Actress In A Comedy Series for her role in HBO's "Veep" at the 68th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, California US on 18 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Presidential memoirs, corruption in the former Soviet state of Georgia, sperm donation, the US debt ceiling, payments for speeches and cheating spouses are just some of the topics this season as the vainglorious Meyer (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) tries to worm her way back into public life.

The arrival of Republican businessman Donald Trump in the actual White House has not changed the underlying premise of the series, which launched in 2012 before President Barack Obama won his second term.

"We're not changing the show and trying to figure out how to do Trump. We're doing a show about power in Washington DC, the people that crave it and how frighteningly sometimes stupid and incompetent they can be. Right now that is lining up very well," said Mandel.

When it came to losing power, "Veep" had plenty of advice. Writers spoke with Republican Mitt Romney, who lost out in two presidential elections, and to a former aide of President George HW Bush, who was defeated in 1992 by Bill Clinton after one term.

Authenticity is key to the success of "Veep," which has won two best comedy series Emmy awards and five Emmys for Louis- Dreyfus, whose character started out as a vice-president who the president never calls.

The show's characters never reveal their party affiliations, so despite the barbed jokes, it has a thriving audience in Washington DC, said Mandel.

"Whenever we meet people from whichever party, they think 'Veep' is about the other guys."—*Reuters*

Ricky Martin joins Versace: American Crime Story

LOS ANGELES — Singer Ricky Martin is the latest star to join the cast of Ryan Muprhys "Versace: American Crime Story".

The Grammy-winning singer will co-star opposite Edgar Rarmirez, Penelope Cruz and Darren Criss in the third installment of the FX limited series, reported Deadline.

Martin will play Versaces longtime partner Antonio DAmico.

The 10-episode Versace examines the shocking July 1997 assassination of Gianni Versace (Ramirez) on the steps of his Miami Beach mansion by sociopath and serial killer Andrew Cunanan (Criss).

It will begin production later this month in LA and Miami for a 2018 premiere.

This is a reunion for Martin and Murphy, who first cast the Latin music superstar in an episode of his Fox series "Glee".—*PTI*

Singer Ricky Martin. PHOTO: REUTERS

Vin Diesel remembers Paul Walker at Furious 8 premiere

LOS ANGELES — The cast of "The Fate of the Furious" remembered their most favourite co-star Paul Walker at the New York premiere of the movie.

Actor Vin Diesel introduced the film by telling the audience that every scene was shot with Walker in mind, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Also, present at the screening were Walkers mother and daughter.

"We like to say the last one is for Paul and this one is from Paul. We wanted to make the best movie possible," one of the cast members Ludacris told audience.

Walker, who died in a tragic car crash in November 2013, was one of the Universal franchises original actors.—*PTI*

Vin Diesel poses for photographers during a handprint and footprint ceremony honoring the actor at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles on 1 April, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

"Harry Potter" triumphs with magical sweep at Olivier Awards

LONDON — "Harry Potter And The Cursed Child", a stage adaptation of J K Rowling's fantastical world of witches and wizards, cast a magical spell at the Olivier Awards on Sunday, scooping nine wins at Britain's big night for theatre.

The critically-acclaimed production, which opened last year in London's West End, went in with 11 nominations. Its victorious haul made it "the most decorated production in the ceremony's history", awards organizers said.

The eighth story in the "Harry Potter" series, the play follows Rowling's young boy wizard and friends Ron and Hermione into adulthood. It took best new play, best actor, best actor and actress in a supporting role as well as best director.

"The power of imagination is infinite," director John Tiffany said in his acceptance speech. "We need it now more than ever."

Jamie Parker, who portrays the older Harry, won best actor, beating off competition from the likes of Ian McKellen and Ed Harris. Anthony Boyle, who plays Scorpius Malfoy, took best actor in a supporting role while best actress in a supporting role went to Noma Dumezweni, who plays an adult Hermione.

"Thank you J K Rowling for creating Hermione and...the privilege of being able to play Hermione is overwhelming and humbling," Dumezweni said.

The play also won best lighting design, best sound design, best costume design and best set design.

Other winners at the glitzy ceremony at London's Royal Albert Hall included children playing instruments in "School of Rock", composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's adaptation of the 2003 comedy film, who won in the outstanding achievement in music category.

"Groundhog Day", an adaptation of the famed 1993 film starring Bill Murray, won best new musical as well as best actor in a musical for Andy Karl. —*Reuters*

Iraqis celebrate Palm Sunday near Mosul for the first time in three years

QARAQOSH (Iraq) — Hundreds of Christians flocked to the Iraqi town of Qaraqosh on Sunday to celebrate Palm Sunday for the first time in three years, packing into a church torched by Islamic State to take communion at its ruined altar.

In October, Iraqi forces expelled the Sunni Muslim militants from Qaraqosh as part of a campaign to retake nearby Mosul, the country's second-largest city seized by the group in June 2014.

Iraq's biggest Christian settlement until the militants arrived, Qaraqosh has been a ghost town as most residents are still too afraid to come back with the battle for Mosul, located 20 kilometres away, still raging.

But on Sunday church bells rang again across the town. Hundreds arrived in cars from Erbil, the main city in autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan where most Christian had fled when Islamic State gave them an ultimatum to pay special taxes, convert or die.

Burned candles as seen as Iraqis attend the first Palm Sunday procession in the burnt out main church of the Christian city of Qaraqosh since Iraqi forces retook it from Islamic States militants, Iraq, on 9 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We need reconciliation," Syriac Catholic Archbishop of Mosul Butrus Moshe told worshippers in the Immaculate Conception Church guarded by army jeeps. Islamic State has targeted minority communities in both Iraq and Syria, setting churches on fire. Scribbled "Islamic State" slogans could be still seen on the church's walls while torn-up prayer books littered the floor. Escorted by soldiers carrying rifles, the congregation then walked through Qaraqosh for Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week that culminates on Easter Sunday, holding up a banner saying "In times of war we bring peace."

Christianity in northern Iraq dates back to the first century AD. The number of Christians fell sharply during the violence which followed the 2003 overthrow of Saddam Hussein, and the Islamic State takeover of Mosul purged the city of Christians for the first time in two millennia. "Almost 75 per cent of houses were burnt so if people return where can they live?" said Aziz Yashou, a worshipper. "We call for an international protection in order to live here." — *Reuters*

Poll shows most young Russians favour ban on use of social networks for children under 14

MOSCOW — The majority of young people aged between 18 and 24 support the idea of banning access to social networking websites for children under the age of 14, a survey conducted by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center showed on Monday.

"The idea of banning access to social networks for children under 14 has enjoyed support among the population, with 62% of Russians supporting the proposed move. In the youngest group of respondents (aged 18-24) this figure is 67%, which is more than among those aged 60 and over (60%). One-third of those polled (35%) disagreed with the initiative, those were primarily residents of Moscow and St. Petersburg (47%)," the pollster said.

According to the survey, 52% of those polled said their attitude towards the proposal to register in social networks with passports was negative. This share is significantly higher among active Internet users than among those who do not go online (58% and 36% per cent respectively). The pollster added that 39% of those polled (48% of respondents aged between 25 and 34) said the move was understandable.

"The high level of support for initiatives to take additional legislative regulatory measures in social networks stems primarily from the fact that today Russians see the Internet as a source of a wide array of security threats ranging from fraud to the creation of suicide groups that involve, above all, young people. Even gaining this experience once or becoming a witness of a tragedy, people come to realize that the new communication environment that is creeping into society, just as the reality we are familiar with, need legislative regulation, including in the work of special supervisory bodies," said head of the pollster's information policy and communication technologies division, Kirill Rodin.—*TASS*

A dash of bugs with that? Insect-topped noodles sell out in Tokyo

TOKYO — Curious Japanese foodies queued up outside a Tokyo restaurant for a taste of a rare dish — ramen garnished with deep-fried worms and crickets.

Within about four hours, the Ramen Nagi restaurant had sold out of the 100 bowls of "insect tsukemen" noodles it had prepared for Sunday's single-day event.

The noodles were topped with about a dozen small crickets and mealworms, which customers then dipped into soups flavored with crickets, grasshoppers, or silkworm powder. "It's deep-fried, so it's really crispy, and it doesn't have a bad taste," said 22-year-old student Anri Nakatani. "It's almost like a deep-fried shrimp."

The event was organized by the restaurant owner, and Yuta Shinohara, a 22-year-old who has set up insect-eating events in Tokyo, including a Valentine's Day celebration that served chocolates, cakes and cocktails featuring insects.

Shinohara, who started eating bugs as a child, wants to promote the alternative food culture in Japan and around the world, through ramen, a popular Japanese food.

"Through ramen, I'd like to spread how fun and delicious it is to eat insects," he said. The full course, costing 3,000 yen ($27), consisted of insect ramen, a bowl of rice with crickets, spring rolls with fried worms, and ice cream flavoured with insect powder. The ramen alone cost 1,500 yen ($13.50). Insects are eaten in many countries, such as China, Ghana, Mexico and Thailand. Australia's indigenous groups have eaten insects for protein for generations. Bugs are even part of traditional Japanese cuisine in rural areas, but few city dwellers have had the opportunity to try them. California tourist Steve Lee enjoyed the dish, but said it would take time to catch on in the United States.

"Ramen is just taking off now in a big wave in California so...maybe ten years, five years later?"—*Reuters*

A customer eats an 'Insect tsukemen' ramen noodle topped with fried worms and crickets at 'Ramen Nagi' restaurant in Tokyo, Japan, on 9 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(11-4-2017 07:00am ~ 12-4-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Myanmar Traditional Thatched Roofs: Nipa Plam
07:42 Am A Chance to Change Their Future
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am Auspicious and Traditional Thingyan (New Version)
08:35 Am Myanmar Prehistory
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am International Dances in Myanmar
09:45 Am Thingyan Songs & Dances
10:03 Am News
10:25 Am Trend of Kachin Dress
10:52 Am Today Myanmar: By Election 2017

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

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News
07:26 Pm A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
07:51 Pm Kindhearted Pet Lovers
08:03 Pm News
08:25 Pm Discovering Tribes "MUUN (Episode - I)"
08:49 Pm Artistic Erosion on Steel: Kyi Wynn
Remark:
01:45 Pm State Counsellor meeting with rural youths

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

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

MRTV

Programme Schedule (11-4-2017, Tuesday)

6:00 Am
♦ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
7:00 Am
♦ Breakfast News
7:35 Am
♦ Soclo Economic Sciences
8:35 Am
♦ Law Affairs
9:10 Am
♦ Documentary
9:35 Am
♦ MRTV's Youth Programme
10:30 Am
♦ Documentary
11:40 Am
♦ Public Debate
12:30 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
1:00 Pm
♦ Yes or No Talk Show (Season-3) (Imagination or Practice)
1:45 Pm
♦ PEACE TALK
4:35 Pm
♦ Mono Classical Song
5:20 Pm
♦ Catch Asia News
5:35 Pm
♦ Money Talk Myanmar
6:20 Pm
♦ Documentary
6:30 Pm
NRC Thingyan Programme
7:15 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
8:00 Pm
♦ News/International News/ Weather Report
8:35 Pm
♦ Life Struggles
8:50Pm
♦ Documentary
9:15 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
10:00 Pm
♦ Myanmar Thingyan Songs (Patr-2)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 11 April 2017

Myanmar women's national football team. PHOTO: MFF

Host Vietnam Vs Myanmar will set for new heights today

THE last day of the matches of AFC Women's Asian Cup Group D will be held in Vietnam today. Myanmar will play a decisive match of AFC Women's Asian Cup against host Vietnam today at 5.30 pm.

The growing rivalry between Vietnam and Myanmar is set for a thrilling new chapter for today, when the two sides lock horns to decide who bags Group D's ticket to 2018 AFC Women's Asian Cup.

After the matches of 9 April, Myanmar and host Vietnam won all of the three matches and altogether got nine marks so today's match will become a very important decisive competition.

Myanmar won all matches in Group D, beat Iran by 2-0; Syria by 14-0 and Singapore by 6-0 and Vietnam defeated Syria by 11-0, Singapore by 8-0 and Iran by 6-1 respectively.

Myanmar women's football team could not get any success whenever it met with Vietnam in recent years.

Remarkably, Myanmar got a chance to compete in the ASIA Cup twice and if Myanmar beat Vietnam today, Myanmar Women's team will have a chance to a ticket to 2018 AFC Women's Asian Cup.— *Kyaw Zin Lin*

Lukaku double as Leicester's winning run ends at Everton

LONDON — Romelu Lukaku scored twice as Everton defeated champions Leicester City 4-2 at Goodison Park in a game which saw four goals inside the opening 23 minutes.

Leicester, who face Atletico Madrid on Wednesday in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final, made five changes ahead of their trip to Spain and the defeat ended the run of five straight wins since Craig Shakespeare replaced Claudio Ranieri as manager.

For Everton, it was a fine bounce back from their derby defeat to Liverpool and the disappointment of conceding an injury-time equaliser to Manchester United in their 1-1 draw on Tuesday.

Ronald Koeman's team grabbed the lead after 30 seconds when Kevin Mirallas broke through from midfield and appeared to be brought down but the referee, wisely, played advantage and the ball fell to Tom Davies who shot home.

Leicester struck back three minutes later though with a trademark counter-attack, Demarai Gray bursting deep into home territory before he slipped the ball to Islam Slimani and the Algerian coolly side-footed past Joel Robles.

Robles was beaten again in the 10th minute when he misjudged a curling free kick from the left from Marc Albrighton as the champions took a 2-1 lead.

Everton looked the sharper in midfield with Mirallas particularly lively and it was no surprise when they got back on level terms in the 23rd minute, Ross Barkley whipping in a superb cross from the right which Lukaku met with a perfect glancing header — the Belgian scoring for the eighth straight home game.

Four minutes before the end of an intense first half, Everton grabbed the lead. Barkley should have scored when one-on-one with Leicester keeper Kasper Schmeichel but the Dane managed to palm it wide for a corner and from the resulting kick Phil Jagielka rose at the back post to power in a header.

Lukaku struck again, with his 23rd league goal of the season, in the 57th minute, firing home at the back post after Leicester failed to clear a corner.

Robles made amends for his error with a superb diving save, three minutes from the end, to keep out a fine header from Leicester sub Leonardo Ulloa.

Koeman said he was pleased with his team's performance particularly the displays of Lukaku and Barkley, who had come in for some criticism after the Merseyside derby.

"We played some fantastic football in the first 45 minutes, really good team performance today. We had great movement between the lines.

"Lukaku and Barkley didn't need to respond (but) they showed today they are fantastic football players. Two players on a high level but the whole team played well." —*Reuters*

Everton's Ross Barkley in action with Leicester City's Yohan Benalouane during the Premier League at Goodison Park on 9 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Man Utd cruise to victory at Sunderland

LONDON — Manchester United put a spate of recent draws behind them with a routine 3-0 win at bottom club Sunderland to move fifth in the Premier League on Sunday. Zlatan Ibrahimovic's 28th goal of the season in all competitions put United ahead and Sunderland's cause became all but impossible after Seb Larsson was sent off close to halftime.

Henrikh Mkhitaryan doubled United's lead 46 seconds after the interval and the game petered out with Sunderland offering little in response as they failed to score for the seventh Premier League game in succession. Marcus Rashford struck a third in the 89th minute — his first in the league since September — after being set expertly up by the classy Ibrahimovic. United have 57 points from 30 games, four behind fourth-placed Manchester City having played a game less. Sunderland remain 10 points adrift of safety. —*Reuters*

Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic. PHOTO: REUTERS

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