

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 27, 4th Waning of Kason 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Sunday, 14 May 2017



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Vice Chairman Mr. Wang Yongqing in Beijing, China. PHOTO: MNA

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives in Beijing to attend Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in Beijing, China, at 5.30 pm local standard time yesterday to attend the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation which will be opened today.

She was welcomed at the airport by Beijing Municipal Committee Vice Chairman Mr. Wang Yongqing, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn, families of staff of Myanmar

Embassy in Beijing and the military attaché and officials.

The State Counsellor and her entourage left Nay Pyi Taw yesterday by special flight and they were seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Deputy Minister for the President's Office U Min Thu, Mr. Chan Chan, Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar and officials.

The State Counsellor was accompanied by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo and officials.

The forum is scheduled to be held from 14 to 15 May and heads of 28 countries will participate in the forum.

On her way to Beijing, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was welcomed at the Yunnan Airport by Yunnan province Vice Governor H.E. Mr. Chen Shun, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang, Myanmar Consul-General U Soe Paing and officials.

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will be opened on 14 May where

SEE PAGE 3

YBS to put new buses on road soon

NEW buses bought by private companies and neo-buses purchased under Inter-governmental contract are going to ply along YBS bus line routes very soon, according to Yangon Region Transport Authority.

Out of 1000 buses purchased by Yangon Region Cabinet, the ceremony of handing over 500 units of cars bought from Ankai Company was held on 12 May at its company in China, attended by the secretary of YRTA and responsible officials, according to the Chinese Company.

The buses will be loaded on board the cargo ship bound for Yangon, on 13 May, expected to arrive in Yangon during this month. Similarly, nearly 100 buses imported by Betsone Myinkwin Company to be used for transportation programme in Yangon had already arrived and they will also be used in bus lines in the urban area, it has been learnt. Out of 1000 buses bought by Yangon Region Cabinet, the remaining 500 buses will arrive soon. YRC made a contract of purchase of 1000 neo-buses on 11 April. Dr Maung Aung, secretary of Yangon Region Transport Authority said that the programme for fulfilling neo-buses needed in YBS Transportation System was delayed a little later than expected date, due to undergoing the process of testing cars through skilled group of technicians, negotiation concerning quality and prices & making vehicles adapted to conditions in Myanmar.

The Yangon Region Government introduced the new bus system on 16 January to reduce traffic jams and organise the buses.

The commercial capital has a population of more than five million. About 2.5 million use the public transport service on a daily basis.—Hsu Hnin Lei ■

NATIONAL

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects natural disaster preparedness in Bago Region

PAGE-3



NATIONAL

UPDJC Secretariat meetings conclude

PAGES-3

NATIONAL

Over 20,000 migratory birds move to Indawgyi Lake

PAGES-2



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

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

Over 20,000 migratory birds move to Indawgyi Lake

OVER 20,000 migratory birds consisting of 45 bird species moved to Indawgyi Lake annually from October to April, said U Kyaw Zin Tun, the head of Indawgyi wildlife sanctuary under the Environment and Wildlife Conservation Department.

In Myanmar, World Migratory Bird Day was held at Indawgyi township on 10 May. The Indawgyi Lake is located in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State. World Migratory Bird Day was attended by the local people around Indawgyi township. At the ceremony, U Kyaw Zin Tun, the head of Indawgyi Wildlife sanctuary explained about the world migratory birds, U Saw Htoo, the supervisor of the Wildlife explained about the Indawgyi Wildlife eco-system and Daw Thinzin Saw from



Purple Swamphen are seen in Indawgyi Lake. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Flora and Fauna International (FFI) explained about the illegal trading of the wildlife animals.

There are about 450 water and land birds species in Indawgyi Wildlife sanctuary as well as 23

rare birds species, said U Maung Win, the administrator of wildlife forest. —Salai Mang Ngai ■

Amenitry Design Group wins tender for Mingalar market design

AMENITRY Design Group won the tender for design of a new building at the site for Mingalar market in Yangon Region, according to an official from Markets Department at The Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

YCDC have chosen three design companies out of the

13 submitted. YCDC chose to finalize the term of Amenitry Design Group.

"We are trying the best to reconstruct the new Mingalar market. We are also taking the suggestion from Hluttaw representatives," said U San Shwe Tun, head of the Markets Department at YCDC.

"Moreover, we will finalize the discussion with officials to rebuild the Mingalar market. After that, the shop owners of the market will be informed about the detail of the construction process," he added. An official from Amenitry Design Group explained the design to construct the new Mingalar market

to the officials from YCDC and Regional Hluttaw representatives on 12 May. Mingalar market was severely damaged by a fire caused by the electric short circuit on 9 January, 2016. It had also been destroyed by a fire in May 2010. The fire destroyed 1,636 of over 4,000 shops of the market.—Ko Moe ■

The first literature drama show to be held in Yangon

THE literature drama show will be held for the first time at Yangon Book Plaza on 27 May. Yangon Book Plaza is located on the 5th floor of Lanmadaw (Thanzay) in downtown Yangon.

The literature drama show is sponsored by Yangon Book

Plaza with the aim for Myanmar literature enthusiasts to watch the performance programme which is concerned with literature.

"The literature drama show was held in other countries during the past years. This is the

first time, literature drama show will be held in Myanmar. I wish that the Myanmar literature enthusiasts will like this drama," said a member of Yangon Book Plaza administration team.

The literature drama show is named Shar Phwe Thu (Seek-

er). The drama story-line is based on literature. The literature drama show can be watched free of charge. Anyone interested in joining the literature drama can contact Yangon Book Plaza at phone numbers: 09767019926. — 200 ■

Action to be taken against illegal building on the Chindwin River bund

AUTHORITY will take legal action against those who build illegal building on the river bund and throw rubbish into the Chindwin River.

The river bund was built to protect Kani town from the Chindwin river floods, it is learnt.

Authorities are upgrading the area to develop the tourism sectors at the Kani, Kalay, Katha, Shwebo and Monywa in Sagaing Region.

"Currently, we are upgrading the roads and markets and implementing the famous places at the six towns of Sagaing

Region to attract the tourists.

The roads need to be smooth and clean.

We also found illegal buildings constructed on the Chindwin river bund without permission. People are also throwing the rubbish into the Chindwin River.

So, we will take action against them, said Dr Myint Naing, the chief minister of the Sagaing Region.

The authority has plan to build a sports ground and a resort on the Chindwin river bund which will attract tourists.—200 ■

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects natural disaster preparedness in Bago Region

VICE President U Henry Van Thio assisted in natural disaster preparedness undertakings in Bago Region yesterday morning.

Together with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and deputy ministers, the vice president heard a report on the progress of repairing banks damaged by a natural disaster last year; provision of rice seeds for damaged crops caused by sea water inflow, progress in rebuilding disaster-hit roads and bridges, provision of fingerlings for inundated fish farms, and work programmes for fiscal 2017-2018 presented by the region Chief Minister.

The vice president, in his capacity as the chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee, stressed durability of the facilities.

He then inspected the embankment on the west side of Myitmakha river in Monyo Township



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and officials inspect works for preventing floods in Monyo. **PHOTO: MNA**

and heavy machinery at work at the embankment work.

After hearing report on the

work progress presented by an official, the vice president spoke

of the need to listen to the public

voices in connection with durability.

Irrigation and Water Uti-

lization Management Department is building dams and banks to prevent the loss of lives and property and crops of the locals due to the floods caused by the Ayeyawady river and downhill streams.

Six natural disaster prevention works in Thayawady and Pyay districts of the region were carried out under the Union funds, 19 in the two districts under the region funds and two in Thayawady district under the National Disaster Management funds.

The vice president then inspected Ngapyayma bridge project on Letpadan-Nattalin road. The 260 ft long and 12 ft wide baily-typed bridge was built with the special funds of the Union Government. The bridge was constructed over one of the three outlets through which the flooded water of the swelling Ayeyawady River is released.

—MNA ■

Thura U Shwe Mann leaves for Qatar

A delegation led by Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann left by air for Qatar yesterday morning to attend the 17th Doha Forum, from 14 to 15 May 2017.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.—Zaw Gyi (Panita) ■



Thura U Shwe Mann arrives Yangon International Airport to leave for Qatar. **PHOTO: MNA**

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrive ...

FROM PAGE 1

Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China will give an opening speech. Afterwards, on 15 May, a high level meeting of Heads of State chaired by President Mr. Xi Jinping will be held. The meeting will be attended by United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and heads of 29 countries.

At the same time as the high level meeting, 6 separate meetings will be held in which, 8 sectors of basic infrastructure, industrial investment, cooperation in economy and trade, energy and natural resources, financial cooperation, people to people connectivity, environmental protection and maritime cooperation are

included. Chinese government's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) had been endorsed by 56 countries and regional organizations by signing OBOR MoUs and agreements with China. Furthermore an initial investment of US\$ 40 billion is made to implement OBOR. The opening ceremony of OBOR will be attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni and Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde while heads of ASEAN countries Viet Nam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Malaysia and Philippines, Europe and east-Europe countries of Greece and Belarus as well as Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Ethiopia will attend the forum.—MNA ■



Participants discuss at the last day meeting of Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee-UPDJC's secretariat meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

UPDJC Secretariat meetings conclude

UNION Peace Dialogue Joint Committee-UPDJC held its secretariat committee meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Wunna Theikdi Quarter in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

The participants – U Khin

Zaw Oo, U Hla Maung Shwe, Min Kyaw Zayar Oo, U Zaw Htay, U Naing Ngan Lin, Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, U Myo Win, Tar Hla Pe, U Aung Soe and Khun Myint Tun – held talks on the agenda of the second meeting of the Union Peace Conference: the

21st Century Panglong.

During the five days from 24 to 28 May, the Union Peace Conference: the 21st Century Panglong will hold sector-wise discussions and group discussions and approve the meeting minutes.—Thura Zaw (MNA) ■



NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) 70-metric-ton configuration is seen launching to space in this undated artist's rendering released on 2 August, 2014. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

NASA delays debut launch of \$23 billion moon rocket and capsule

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla) — NASA has delayed the first launch of its heavy-payload rocket until 2019 and decided against an idea floated by the White House to put astronauts aboard the capsule that is set to fly around the moon, the US space agency said on Friday.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration had hoped to launch the Space Launch System, or SLS, rocket in November 2018. The rocket will send the deep-space Orion capsule on a high lunar orbit.

The launch is part of NASA's long-term programme to use the rocket to get astronauts and equipment to Mars.

In February, at the behest of President Donald Trump's administration, NASA began to weigh the implications of adding a two-person crew for the trial flight.

The conclusion of the study was to wait until a second flight before adding a crew, NASA Act-

ing Administrator Robert Lightfoot said.

The research "really reaffirmed that the baseline plan we have in place was the best way for us to go," he told reporters on a conference call.

Adding systems to support a crew would have cost NASA \$600 million to \$900 million more and would likely have delayed the flight to 2020, he said.

Even without a crew, the SLS will not be ready to blast off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida until 2019, Lightfoot said, adding that the agency would have a more specific timeframe in about a month.

The delay would push back the rocket's second flight beyond 2021, said NASA Associate Administrator William Gerstenmaier.

The delays are largely due to technical issues encountered during the development of SLS and Orion, as well as tornado damage to the rocket's manu-

facturing plant in New Orleans.

By the end of the next fiscal year on 30 September, 2018, NASA will have spent \$23 billion on the rocket, capsule, launch site and support systems, according to an audit by NASA's Office of Inspector General.

That excludes \$9 billion spent on the mothballed Constellation lunar exploration program, which included initial development of the Orion and a second heavy-lift rocket.

Initially, the SLS rocket, which uses engines left over from the space shuttle program and shuttle-derived solid rocket boosters, will have the capacity to put about 77 tons (70 metric tons) into an orbit about 100 miles (160 km) above Earth.

Later versions are expected to carry nearly twice that load.

"We're really building a system," Gerstenmaier said. "It is much, much more than one flight."—Reuters ■

AstraZeneca shares surge after key drug shows promise in lung cancer trial

LONDON — A trial of AstraZeneca's key immunotherapy drug durvalumab showed it reduced disease progression in lung cancer patients, sending the company's shares higher and giving it a lead over rivals as it seeks to transform its oncology business.

The trial results are an unexpectedly early boost for the product, known commercially as Imfinzi, which the company hopes will become a blockbuster drug with sales in the billions of dollars.

It sets AstraZeneca apart from rivals Merck and Roche, whose equivalent drugs are years behind in the race for similar treatments against lung cancer.

Shares in AstraZeneca extended gains to be up by 9.1 per cent by mid-afternoon, the top FTSE 100 riser, hitting its highest level since September 2016 and set for its biggest one day rise since May 2014.

Merck fell 1.5 per cent, while Roche was up 0.9 per cent.

AstraZeneca said it was in talks with the authorities over

plans for regulatory approval.

"These are highly encouraging results for patients with locally-advanced lung cancer for whom surgery is not an option," Sean Bohen, Executive Vice President, Global Medicines Development at AstraZeneca, said in a statement.

Analysts said the results of the trial, known as PACIFIC, showed AstraZeneca was ahead of competitors as there was a gap in the market for such treatment. It also augured well for another trial due in mid-2017 which could mean the drug could be used in combination in newly diagnosed cases.

"The surprise early positive readout of the PACIFIC trial of... durvalumab (Imfinzi) in locally advanced lung cancer is a major inflection point for AstraZeneca's immuno-oncology," analysts at Deutsche Bank said in a note.

"In theory, this could open a market opportunity of \$1.75 billion to \$3.5 billion (or more) for the drug, which is not included in our current forecasts."—Reuters ■



A sign is seen at an AstraZeneca site in Macclesfield, central England on 19 May, 2014. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Surgery won't help degenerative knee problems, experts say

LONDON—Surgery won't cure chronic knee pain, "locking," "clicking," a torn meniscus, or other problems related to knee arthritis, according to a panel of international experts.

Every year, more than two million people with degenerative knee problems have arthroscopic surgery, in which a surgeon inserts a tiny camera into the knee and uses small instruments to try to fix what's wrong.

But guidelines published Wednesday in the British Medical Journal recommend against the procedure for just about everyone with knee arthritis.

"It does more harm than good," Dr Reed Siemieniuk, chair of the guideline panel, told Reuters Health by email.

"Most patients experience improvement after arthroscopy, but in many cases, this is probably wrongly attributed to the

surgery itself rather than to the natural course of the disease, a placebo effect, or (other) interventions like painkillers and exercise."

In addition, the procedure is costly — up to \$3 billion annually in the US alone — and there's a risk of rare but serious adverse effects such as blood clots or infection, said Siemieniuk, who works in the department of Health Research Methods, Ev-

idence and Impact at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

The panel, made up of surgeons, physical therapists, clinicians and patients, analyzed data from 13 randomized controlled trials — the gold standard way to test medical procedures — involving a total of 1,668 patients. The trials compared knee arthroscopy to conservative treatments such as exercise and

painkillers.

The panelists also reviewed 12 less-rigorous studies of close to two million patients that looked at complications from the procedure.

After considering the balance of benefits, harms and burdens of knee arthroscopy, as well as the quality of the evidence for each outcome, the panel made a "strong recommendation against arthroscopy."—Reuters ■

Thailand's seafood manufacturer to buy Myanmar's mud crabs

THAILAND-based Viya Crab Products Co, a manufacturer and distributor of seafood products, is planning to buy Myanmar's mud crabs on a regular basis, according to the company.

Since its establishment in 2005, the Viya Crab Products run the seafood business as both manufacturer and distributor with quality system including GMP, HACCP, ISO 9001:2008, BRC and others global food standard.

Its products include Blue Swimming Crab, pasteurized crab meat and Crab value-added frozen products.

The company's main markets include North America, Southeast Asia, Middle East, Western countries and European states. The company is now exporting around 300 tons of finished crab meats to international countries.

Mud crab is available in tropical regions and it can be found in coastal areas.

Mud crab has huge demand and fetches high price in global market as many coun-



tries import the vast amount of the crabs for consumption each year.

Myanmar exports crabs mostly to China, Singapore and Malaysia.—200 ■

Import of intermediate goods up by over \$100 million

THE IMPORT value of intermediate goods went up by more than US\$100 million in the first month of the current financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 and 28 April of this year, the country's import of intermediate goods reached \$438.577 million, including \$5.708 million from the government sector and \$432.869 million from the private sector.

The country bought the same kind of goods amounting to \$335.124 million from over-

seas customers on the first 28 days of last FY.

The total import of goods in the current FY hit over \$1 billion, including over \$393 million worth of capital goods and \$258.720 million worth of consumer goods. Myanmar continues to trade with Asian countries, ASEAN member states, island nations, Middle East countries, some European and African states, and other western countries mainly through sea routes.—Lynn Lynn ■

Border trade with India declines by over US\$2 million in current

BORDER trade between Myanmar and India amounted to almost US\$5 million over the first month of the current FY, a decrease of US\$2 million compared with the same period of last year, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce. From 1 to 28 April, Myanmar-India trade totalled US\$4.969 million. Of the total, Myanmar's exports to the world's second most populous nation were US\$2.962 million and its imports from the neighbour were US\$2.007 million. In FY2016-17, the trade value between the two countries was US\$7.641 million in total, including US\$4.184 million from the export sector and \$3.457 million

from the import sector.

Myanmar exports beans and pulses, rice and vegetables, edible fruits and nuts, forest products and sugar from India. It imports includes pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, electrical machinery and parts thereof, plastics, cotton and food products. Last financial year, the bilateral border trade was US\$88.192 million. Exports were US\$63.191 million; imports were US\$25.001 million. According to the figures issued by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, India's investment in Myanmar stands at US\$732.649 million from 23 projects as of the end of March 2017.—Yin Nyein ■

Eel production to be boosted through G2G collaboration

Myanmar and Viet Nam will soon sign a memorandum of understandings on technical cooperation in eel aquaculture industry, according to the Myanmar Eel Entrepreneurs Association.

The bilateral cooperation will be done by a university of Vietnam and the Myanmar's Department of Fisheries. The new plan is expected to be initiated at the end of this year under the MoU.

Since past few years, the country's eel production has been in steady decline because of technical requirements, said a member of the Myanmar Eel Entrepreneurs Association.

Several negotiations have already made between the responsible organisations of both countries to implement the long-term project in the country this year.

The two experts from the

Vietnam's university are planned to be invited for the cooperation project to breed eel through a systematic approach.

Myanmar exports eel chiefly to China. The small-sized eels are now being exported to Thailand. Based on the size, a viss of eels fetches between Ks12,000 and Ks10,000. The country earned over US\$40million from the export of eel last year, according to the association.—200 ■

Garlic sells well in domestic market

GARLIC from southern Shan State has sold well in the domestic market due to the growing foreign demand, the Commerce Ministry reported.

For the time being, a large quantity of garlic continues to enter the market, particularly in Taunggyi, the capital town of Shan State. Buyers from Yangon have increased their demand for the kitchen crop while border trade merchants purchase garlic for export purposes.

Myanmar's garlic chiefly exports to its neighbor Thailand through Kengtung and Tachilek broder trade camps. Starting last year, Thailand imports not only garlic from Loilin District but also the same crop produced in Taunggyi District.

Some crop merchants bought garlic to store for future use, while some others purchased the crop to fill local and foreign consumption, growers say. They said this is a reason

why the market is very active in Taunggyi.

Based on the size and quality, the price of garlic from Taunggyi are from Ks1,900 to Ks2,400 per viss, while the same viss of garlic from Loilin has been priced between Ks3,000 and Ks3,200. According to domestic growers, the demand for red onion has also been rising in Monywa market because of low production this season.—Swe Nyein ■

Mount Kyaikhtiyo cable car project to be finalized in late July

A PROJECT to operate cable car service at Mount Kyaikhtiyo is almost finished and it is estimated to be finalised at the end of July, according to Sky Asia Co, a Korean-owned company permitted to develop the project on 13.5 acres of land within Kyaikhtiyo Wildlife Sanctuary.

The cable car project costs US\$20 million. Upon completion of the project, cable car, which can hold maximum of eight persons, will give easier access to the Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda, a well-known tourist attraction in Kyaukse Township, Mon State.

The cable car service will soon launch its operation at the Mt Kyaikhtiyo as a pilot project in the initial stage. During

the three-month project period, the cable car will carry only commodities, the project implementer said. The cable car journey will take about 10 minutes, running from Yathe Mountain to the Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda. It is reported that the service will run 43 cable cars and a reserved car imported from France. Regular safety inspection will be made by the company every two weeks, a spokesperson of the company said. According to the Board of Trustees of pagoda, the Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda, one of the major pilgrimage sites in the country, hosted more than 80,000 international visitors in the past six months.—200 ■

China-led AIIB approves seven new members ahead of new Silk Road summit

BELJING — The China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) said on Saturday it had approved seven new members to join the bank, a day before China's biggest diplomatic event of the year kicks off.

Leaders from 29 countries will attend China's new Silk Road forum in Beijing on Sunday and Monday, an event orchestrated to promote President Xi Jinping's vision of expanding links between Asia, Africa and Europe underpinned by billions of dollars in infrastructure investment.

Delegations from around the world will attend including the United States and North Korea.

The new members are Bahrain, Bolivia, Chile, Cyprus, Greece, Romania and Samoa, bringing the bank's total membership to 77 countries.

The bank's president Jin Liqun held a joint press conference with Chilean President Michelle Bachelet to announce the new members.

"Better infrastructure across Asia will allow Chilean goods to access new markets, more investment in Chilean infrastructure in turn will further bind together the two great continents of Asia and Latin America," said Jin.

"We think there are a lot of



A man takes pictures of a flower display set up ahead of the Belt and Road Forum in central Beijing, China, on 10 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

projects that can link Asia with or through Latin America," said Bachelet, adding that she had spoken with Jin about the possibility of investing in a Trans-Pacific optic fibre cable to improve digital connectivity between Asia and Latin America.

"The cable could be considered a part of the 'One Belt, One Road Initiative' and transform the Pacific Ocean into a bridge between our regions," she added, using another name for China's "Belt and Road Initiative" or

new Silk Road plan. Other investments could include tunnels and highways across the Andes Mountains and ports to link Latin America and South America to Asia, Bachelet added.

Thirteen prospective new AIIB members from around the world, including Canada, were approved in March.

"Expanded membership to Africa, Europe and South America, along with the addition of further members in Asia shows the level of global commitment

towards the bank's mission and illustrates the momentum that has gathered since 20 countries signed initial memoranda on establishing the bank less than three years ago," said Jin.

The multilateral institution, seen as a rival to the Western-dominated World Bank and Asian Development Bank, was initially opposed by the United States but attracted many US allies including Britain, Germany, Australia and South Korea as founding members.—Reuters ■

Two major Indonesian hospitals attacked in "ransomware" storm

AKARTA — At least two of Indonesia's major hospitals have been struck in the "ransomware" cyber attack that infected computers globally, a government official said on Saturday.

Dharmais Hospital and Harapan Kita Hospital in Jakarta are affected by the ransomware, said Samuel Pangerapan, a director general at Indonesia's Communication and Information Ministry.

"Efforts to localise the infected server are underway to prevent (the ransomware) from spreading," he said, adding that his ministry was working with other authorities, including the Health Ministry, to solve the problem.

Cyber extortionists tricked victims into opening malicious malware attachments to spam emails that appeared to contain invoices, job offers, security warnings and other legitimate files.

The ransomware encrypted data on the computers, demanding payments of \$300 to \$600 to restore access.

The attack, which leverages hacking tools believed to have been developed by the US National Security Agency, has infected tens of thousands of computers in nearly 100 countries.

"This is so cruel," said Abdul Kadir, president-director of Dharmais Hospital.

Nearly all computers across the hospital are affected, Kadir told Reuters, locking up its information technology (IT) system and with it patient medication records and billing.

The hospital is currently re-installing its system on backup computers and servers, he said, adding that he expects operational delays as the hospital currently operates without IT.

Globally, hospitals, companies, and universities have been affected, with the most disruptive attacks reported in Britain, where hospitals and clinics were forced to turn away patients after losing access to computers on Friday.—Reuters ■

ILO chief emphasizes need to maintain momentum for work style reform

TOKYO — Work style reform being promoted by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is an important step but the real challenge is to maintain momentum over the longer term, the chief of the International Labour Organization said on Saturday.

Guy Ryder, director general of the ILO, welcomed the Japanese government's push to address excessive overtime, with Abe seeking to impose a binding cap and ensure there is no discrimination between regular and nonregular workers.

"I welcome the fact that some first steps have been taken to address this long-standing Japanese phenomenon, excessive working time," Ryder said in an interview with Kyodo News. "The real challenge would be to

maintain the momentum."

"It's like riding a bicycle. If you keep moving, you stay up. If you stop, you can fall over," Ryder said.

The issue of excessive working hours came into the spotlight after a young female employee of advertising giant Dentsu Inc committed suicide due to overwork, an act known as "karoshi."

To overhaul the country's deep-rooted culture of overwork, the government, Japan's most powerful business lobby Keidanren and the Japanese Trade Union Confederation, known as Rengo, have agreed on a labour reform plan described by Abe as "a historic" achievement.

But relatives of karoshi victims as well as critics have argued that capping overtime

at 100 hours per month, as envisioned under the reform plan, is still not enough.

Labour reform is seen as critical as Japan needs to boost productivity as its working population is expected to decline amid the graying of society.

Ryder said allowing elderly workers to keep their jobs longer, enabling more women to join the workforce and accepting foreign workers are among policy initiatives that would address the problem of the aging population.

"One very bad policy alternative is to make people work longer hours," he added.

To rejuvenate the economy, the Japanese government is promoting the "engagement of all citizens," especially women's participation in the workforce in

a country where many people still believe women should stay at home and do housework.

The biggest obstacle to women's participation, Ryder said, is "reconciling" work and family responsibilities.

The ILO, a United Nations agency launched in 1919, is tasked with improving working standards and dealing with labour issues.

Ryder, who is expected to enter his second term in October, said there is a "real reason" to focus on the Asia-Pacific region, expressed hope for its increased role in the organization.

"What's happening in the Asian region is increasingly important for the global economy and the international system," he said.—Kyodo News ■



Park Byung Seok, a lawmaker from South Korea's ruling Democratic Party of Korea, arrives in Beijing on 13 May, 2017, to attend an international conference on building a new Silk Road linking Asia, Africa and Europe. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

North Korea, South Korea officials may have rare contact in Beijing

BEIJING — North and South Korean delegations respectively arrived on Saturday in Beijing to take part in an international conference on China's ambitious plan to build modern-day overland and maritime Silk Route trade routes.

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation starting Sunday could provide a rare opportunity for both sides to come into contact for the first time since South Korea's administration of newly elected President Moon Jae In was formed on Wednesday.

"Given that we are all at the same conference hall for all day long, there could be a contact naturally," Park Byeong Seug, a veteran lawmaker of Moon's liberal Democratic Party of Korea, who heads the delegation, is quoted as telling South Korean reporters upon arrival in the Chinese capital.

Park, who was co-chairman

of Moon's presidential campaign team, however, said there is nothing pre-arranged, according to his remarks provided by the journalists.

The North Korean delegation is headed by Kim Yong Jae, minister of external economic relations, who could meet with Chinese officials on the sidelines of the two-day forum to request easing UN sanctions on Pyongyang imposed following a series of banned nuclear and missile tests.

While the international community is putting more pressure on North Korea to curb its nuclear ambitions, the minister could also get in touch with Russian officials. He served as North Korea's ambassador to Moscow between 2006 and 2014.

Meanwhile, the US Embassy in Beijing recently conveyed concerns to the Chinese Foreign Ministry over inviting the North Korean delegation to the forum,

saying that it contradicted with international efforts in sternly dealing with Pyongyang over the nuclear issue, a diplomatic source with knowledge of the situation said.

For many years, China has been North Korea's most important political and economic backer. But the Chinese leadership under President Xi Jinping has been increasingly frustrated with North Korea's defiant pursuit of nuclear and missile technologies.

The two-day forum, involving 29 leaders and representatives from over 100 countries, is about Xi's vision of expanding China's economic links along and beyond the ancient Silk Road trade routes by building a vast infrastructure network. China has identified about 70 countries, not including North Korea, are part of Xi's signature policy, known as One Belt, One Road. But it has said that the initiative is open to everyone. —Kyodo News ■

Two Indians killed in Kashmir border firing

SRINAGAR, India/MUZAFARABAD, (Pakistan) — A n Indian father and daughter were killed and about a dozen civilians were injured in the disputed Kashmir region on Saturday as India and Pakistan exchanged fire over their de facto border, said officials from each side of the frontier.

India and Pakistan have accused each other of initiating the cross-border shelling.

The father and daughter were killed in the Indian part of the disputed Kashmir region by Pakistani army fire, and three of their relatives were wounded, an Indian military spokesman said.

A mortar bomb hit a home in an Indian village near the Line of Control, which separates the two sides in Kashmir, inflicting the casualties, Indian spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Manish Mehta said.

Mehta said Pakistani troops began firing weapons from small arms to mortars in the Nowshera sector of Kashmir, prompting a retaliation by Indian forces.

But an official in Pakistani Kashmir said Pakistan had responded to "unprovoked" Indian firing.

Eight people, five of them women, were injured in the Pakistani-administered side of Kashmir, said Raja Azhar Iqbal,

an official in Pakistani Kashmir's information department.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since their independence in 1947, two of them over the Muslim-majority Himalayan region of Kashmir which they both claim in full but rule in part.

Clashes between their forces in Kashmir largely stopped after a 2003 ceasefire but exchanges of fire have been more common over the past couple of years.

Occasional efforts to improve ties between the nuclear-armed neighbours through talks have achieved little, while protests against Indian rule in its part of Kashmir have flared violently over the past year.

Pakistan accuses India of helping the separatist movement in Baluchistan, a charge denied by India.

For its part, India says Pakistan aids separatist fighters in Kashmir, part of India's only Muslim-majority state, which Pakistan also claims. Pakistan denies the accusation.

Last week, India accused Pakistani forces of killing two soldiers patrolling the Kashmir border and mutilating their bodies. Pakistan's military denied the allegations and said it had not committed ceasefire violations. —Reuters ■

Italy expels Tunisian connected to Berlin market attacker

ROME — Italy has expelled a Tunisian citizen suspected of having been in contact with the man who killed 12 people by driving a truck through a Christmas market in Berlin last year, the interior ministry said on Saturday.

The 36 year-old had been living on the southern island of Sicily, where Berlin attacker Anis Amri spent time in jail and a deportation centre, the ministry said in a statement.

He gave Amri a telephone and the two stayed in contact after the latter moved to Germany. Amri returned to Italy after the 19 December attack,

and was shot dead by Milan police.

Investigators tapped the telephone of the other Tunisian and discovered he had been in contact with extremist suspects and was planning to cross illegally to France, the ministry said.

They tracked him down in the northern city of Turin on May 2 and held him in a repatriation centre before accompanying him on a flight to Tunisia.

The ministry said Italy had now expelled 174 people suspected of religious extremism since January 2015. —Reuters ■

Merkel says wants close cooperation with France's Macron

AACHEN, (Germany) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday she wanted close cooperation with French President-elect Emmanuel Macron and that their two countries would do everything to shape Eu-

ropean policy.

"We will do everything not only to help France but also to shape the European path with France," Merkel said in the city of Aachen near the border with Belgium.

Macron holds talks with Merkel in Berlin on Monday, a day after his inauguration, with the aim of stressing the importance of the relationship with Germany to relaunching the European project. —Reuters ■

Leaders should be Organizers

Dr. Nu Nu Win

EVERY leader should be an organizer, so that he or she can carry out his or her duties effectively and smoothly. If he or she cannot organize the public to be on his or her side, this person will not be able to mobilize the support of the public. The public will not follow such a person willingly.

In our Myanmar Culture, we have Six Leadership Qualities that a leader should follow, what we call “Naryaka Gone Chauk Par” (Six Leadership Qualities that a leader should have).

These are “ထကြွ နိုးကြား ၊ သနားသည့်ခံ ၊ ဝေဖန်ထောက်ရှု ၊ ဤ ဖြောက်ရ ၊ ကြီးသူ ကျင့်အပ်ရာ “These Characteristics are: -- to be active and alert, to sympathize and to be patient

and have perseverance, to rationalize and to think of others.”

It is easy for him or her to mobilize the people if a leader has such kinds of qualities. We people like persons who are always active and alert for they can carry out so many activities in a limited amount of time. A leader who is always alert can see the dangers that can harm the organization ahead of time. A leader who is alert will have enough time to think and formulate his ideas and plans and be able to find the best solution for his problem.

The next is the quality of having sympathy for his followers and being patient. It is natural that all followers obey their leaders all the time. However, sometimes, we have some

foolish followers who will disobey the leader and bring great harm to the whole organization. In facing such kinds of foolish followers, the leader should have sympathy and pity and patience towards them. It is not easy to do so for a leader, but leaders need to forgive these foolish ones and should sympathize and be patient and understand why they did what they did and have the patience to explain to them why these foolish deeds can cause great harm or loss for their organization.

Let's see the last two. A leader should have the ability to see for the long run and have the ability to analyze the problems and dangers and figure out how to find a solution for the problem. And the last one is that

they should take care of their followers although he or she may be foolish. Leaders should have understanding for such kinds of followers.

If a leader has all these qualities, it is so easy for them to organize the people to follow them. Sometimes, eye contact with the people, a broad smile, a sympathetic word, and a touch on the shoulders are effective ways to win the trust and confidence of the people.

Last, but not the least, having sympathy and goodwill for the people is also the most effective way to win the support of the people.

Think of all great leaders of Myanmar and other leaders all over the world, they all have such kinds of qualities to organize their people. ■

Ability is ageless

Tommy Pauk

THE word ‘Ability’ is defined as a level of skill or intelligence in the dictionary. Individuals have different abilities normally depending on their talent or occupation or practice. Normally adults use to say that the young people need some experiences and a level of skill to handle or do some work. This could be partially true. However, ability does not need to be born within the specific age-limit because there are many young people who show their abilities in their teenage gained or empowered by their talents as well as intelligence. Generally speaking, ability does not depend on a person's age.

When we assess a person's ability, no matter he or she is young or old, we ought to recognize his or her ability which can contribute or support or do something achievable for a community or an organization or entity or society. That's why the adults should not neglect or despise the abilities of young people and essentially those young peoples' abilities must be utilized in some proper fields for the humanity. A person's ability does not depend on fixed age in his or her life. A yard stick cannot be used to measure a person's ability with the unit of age. In the world, tremendous and marvelous child prodigies have been heard very often. These phenomenal abilities are very helpful for the humans and



(A) Gregory Smith

societies indeed. Every society does have such persons who have extraordinary abilities in various fields with no age-limit. It is learnt that not only the persons of grown-up age but also the young persons possess the high level of skills or intelligence in particular trait or fields. Both need some training and learning to gain these level of skills. The following persons are honored and recognized for their abilities despite their tender age. Amazingly, they do have geniuses for respective fields.

(A) Born in 1990, Gregory Smith could read at age two and had enrolled in university at 10. But genius is only one half of the Greg Smith story. When not voraciously learning, this young man travels the globe as a peace and children's rights activist. He is the founder of International Youth Advocates, an organization that promotes principles of peace and understanding among young people throughout the world. He has met with Bill Clinton



(B) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

and Mikhail Gorbachev and spoke in front of the UN. For these and other humanitarian and advocacy efforts, Smith has been nominated four times for a Noble Peace Prize at the age of 12.

(B) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is one of the heavyweights of classical music, generally placed in the top rank of composers along with Beethoven and Bach. Many consider Mozart to be the greatest composer of all time. He was a child prodigy who wrote his first symphony at age eight, then grew into a prolific adult who wrote over 600 pieces of music. Among his most famous works are Eine kleine Nachtmusik (A Little Night Music, 1787) and the operas Don Giovanni (1787) and Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute, 1791).

(C) In 1985, at the tender age of 13, Ruth Lawrence graduated from Oxford University with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics. The next year, she got a second degree in



(C) Ruth Lawrence

Physics, which was followed by a PhD in Mathematics in 1989 when she was just 17. After spending some time at Harvard as a junior fellow and working at the University of Michigan as an associate professor, Lawrence moved to Israel. There, she became an associate professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

There are many gifted persons like them exist in many different societies in the world to date. They gained credit and recognition by the ordinary people around the world. By learning the abilities of those talented young people, the adults should award them the opportunities to grab the eminent professionals in the society. Thus they can create the advance society. This practice may help socio-economic development. We must recognize the person's ability regardless of the positions of age. It is doubtless to accept or agree to the dictum “Ability is ageless” in human society.

The secret of Hsenwi

THE tall and slim pagoda can be seen from afar even before entering Hsenwi, an ancient town over 40 miles from Lashio in the northern part of Shan State. Situated high on a mountain slope in the northern sector of Hsenwi, the pagoda, titled “Kaunghmu Htut” has an unusual architectural design when compared with most of the ceties around the country.

After ascending the mountain through a snaky motor road, we reach the pagoda built under the patronage of Mine Phone Sayadaw, an eminent Buddhist monk from eastern Shan State. According to some local accounts ruins of an ancient pagoda said to be over 2000 years old were found at the place where “Kaunghmu Htut” is now standing. Locals also claim that the idea of building the pagoda at the present site in the present shape came to the Sayadaw in vision; and that the design was drawn by the Sayadaw himself. Additionally, they believe that the ruins are the remaining parts of a pagoda built by the natives with the help of missionaries sent to the area by King Asoka.

On the large foundation structure stands the stupa which has four stories of chambers, each accommodating a standing Buddha image and facing a

different direction.

On top of the uppermost storey comes the florally decorated structure supporting the parts where the scared umbrella, hngetmyatnar and diamond bud are erected.

Painted deep purple on most of the surface areas, the pagoda has altogether 28 standing Buddha images as a symbol of paying obeisance to the 28 Buddhas described by the Buddhavamsa.

Another significance of the pagoda is that all the four side-walls of its square-shaped foundation are studded with mounted figures of white elephant heads.

The surrounding area of the pagoda is mostly forested and there is a natural stream thundering down the mountain slope. As for the monks of a nearby monastery, the stream is a source of clean water for drinking and many other purposes. There are also two strange-looking shrines for local (nats) spirits in the area. From the mountain, picturesque Hsenwi with its medium-size lotus lake lies silently amidst the large paddy fields.

In fact, the town Hsenwi has a long history as it was the seat of the Shan chieftains. Once, the town was besieged by a large invading army with flags and banners fluttering high in the air



Photo shows the Kaunghmu Htut Pagoda.

The general of the enemy troops stationed on the hills surrounding the town was demanding total surrender or to face annihilation. At that time a prophecy came out saying that the only means to crush the enemy troops was to trample on their flags and banners. But how could it be done without defeating them first? Fortunately a wise man appeared

before the chieftain and advised him to dig a shallow lake on whose surface the enemy flags and banners were reflected. Then he asked the chieftain to order his men to trample on the images of the enemy flags and banners. This gave the Hsenwi men and women enough morale, courage and strength to eliminate a much larger army. Some speculate that

the wise man was no other person than the court minister U Paw Oo who was on a visit to the area or was exiled as a light punishment for annoying the King.

Perhaps, Hsenwi may have many more interesting places and stories to show and tell visitors. So, come, visit the town and discover its secrets. —Tin Maung Than ■

Myanmar woman found dead in Thailand

A BODY of a 37-year-old Myanmar woman was found in a roadside drain in Om Noi area of Samut Sakhon district in Thailand at about 9 pm on 11 May.

The woman, Ma Thanda Myint, a migrant labourer of a sofa-making workshop of the area never returned home while on her way to buy Thai tradition-

al food for dinner. As she failed to reappear her roommates made a search and found her body in the drain.

Some people living near the place where the incident occurred said that they heard something like a quarrel, but others speculated that she was hit by a car.

But witnesses only found some bruises at the calf of her body which was kept at a nearby morgue. The Thai-based Aid Alliance Committee-AAC in cooperation with local authorities was trying to contact her family in Myanmar and expose the truth about her death. —Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■

Car, generator, garage, refrigerated coffin for free funeral service in Rakhine State

A LOCAL well-wisher family donated a car, a generator, a garage and a refrigerated coffin to Maungtaw Free Funeral Service Society in Rakhine State on 12 May. At the donation ceremony at Bhaho Monastery in Maungtaw, the chairman of the society said, “This is the first time a donation of high value was made for the so-

ciety. There were small donations made by one or two persons. In the past the society had to rent a hearse from the town municipality, but now we have our own. So we can help the people more. At its initial stage, the society had about 200 members, but now it has only 150. So we are inviting old members to come back and

trying to recruit new members.

The donors were U Tun Myint and family of West Ward, Maungtaw. The society is providing Ks 20,000 for every funeral, but if a Buddhist monk dies, it provides up to Ks 50,000. It is also providing other necessary items for a funeral.—Aung Kyaw Sein (District IPRD) ■

POEM

A Mother's Worry

She is worried since the time she conceived,
Whether her baby inside will be born healthy.
After the little one comes out, she is in baby blue,
With the daily worries even small things like pee and poop.
On her kid's first school day,
She prays that everyone is kind to her baby in special way.
When her beloved screams in the dentist's room,
she wants to shout,
“Stop torturing him right now!”
When her child is in teenage wild,
She passes so many sleepless nights behind.
People advise her to do meditation practice,
She tries and finds it worse as her mind left where her child is.
When her son starts his own business,
Whether he can extract right from wrongs is her stress.
On her son's wedding day,
Who knows that her heart is taken away?
When her first grandchild comes,
She is worried again that the new parents' worry has begun.
Ah, (she sighs...) when will a mother's worry end?
(Devoted to all the mothers)

Meiji Soe

Senior N Korean diplomat says open to dialogue with US, S Korea

BEIJING — North Korea does not rule out dialogue with the United States and South Korea, a senior diplomat suggested on Saturday, while mixed messages are emanating from those three countries on future approaches to Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme.

"If conditions are met, we will hold dialogue (with Washington)," Choe Son Hui, head of its Foreign Ministry's North America bureau, told reporters in Beijing before heading back to Pyongyang, following recent informal discussions with US experts in Norway.

On North Korea's possible stance toward South Korea's new government of President Moon Jae In, who upon taking office on Wednesday said he is open to visiting North Korea under the right conditions, Choe said, "We have to wait and see."

A North Korea delegation led by Choe met with a group of US experts on security affairs on Monday and Tuesday in Oslo.

The experts included Thomas Pickering, former US under-secretary of state for political affairs and ambassador to the United Nations, and Suzanne DiMaggio, a director and senior fellow of the US think tank New America.

Ahead of her departure to Pyongyang from Beijing Capital International Airport, Choe also disclosed they did not address the fate of four US citizens detained in North Korea during the two-day meeting.



Photo shows Choe Son Hui (L), head of the North Korean Foreign Ministry's North America bureau, prior to her departure for Pyongyang from Beijing Capital International Airport on 13 May, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

US President Donald Trump's administration said late last month that its basic approach toward North Korea is to pressure it into dismantling its nuclear program by "tightening economic sanctions and pursuing diplomatic measures with our allies and regional partners."

US officials have said the meeting between Choe and the experts had nothing to do with Washington. But it is almost certain that for Choe, who has long been involved in nuclear negotiations, the latest trip was to learn more about Trump's administration and its possible next steps toward North Korea, which has never had diplomatic ties with Washington. Diplomatic sources

told Kyodo News this month that the administration had already informed China of Trump's readiness to welcome North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for a meeting in the United States, if Pyongyang abandons its nuclear and missile programmes. The idea was part of a set of proposals the United States put out during recent discussions with Chinese officials on how best to deal with North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes.

US officials have said all options, including a military strike, are on the table in trying to curb North Korea's nuclear ambitions. But they have said at the same time that the door for dialogue is open. The mixed signals from

Washington have become more obvious after Kim's regime did not conduct another nuclear test on either of two important North Korean anniversaries in April, as had been widely expected.

The US administration had also already told China, North Korea's most important political and economic backer, it would not resort to military action and would give a security guarantee for Kim's regime if the arms programs were scrapped, according to the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity. While indicating its willingness to reach out to the United States, North Korea has not changed its stance on advancing nuclear arms development.—Kyodo News ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia's central bank says domestic banks withstood massive cyber attacks — RIA

MOSCOW — Russia's central bank said on Saturday it had detected "massive" cyber attacks on domestic banks, which successfully thwarted them, the RIA news agency reported. The report came amid a global cyber attack leveraging hacking tools believed to have been developed by the US National Security Agency that infected tens of thousands of computers in nearly 100 countries. Local media reported that state-owned Russian Railways also successfully defended itself from a cyber attack.—Reuters ■

US in final stages of \$100 bln arms deal for Saudi Arabia — White House official

WASHINGTON — The United States is close to completing a series of deals to sell Saudi Arabia more than \$100 billion in American arms and related maintenance, a senior White House official said on Friday, as President Donald Trump prepares to visit Riyadh in a week. The official, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said the arms package could end up surpassing more than \$300 billion over a decade to help Saudi Arabia boost its defensive capabilities while maintaining US ally Israel's qualitative military edge.—Reuters ■

G7 nations to agree joint fight against cyber attacks — draft

BARI, (Italy) — Finance chiefs from the Group of Seven rich countries will commit on Saturday to join forces to fight the growing threat of international cyber attacks, according to a draft statement of a meeting they are holding in Italy.

A global cyber attack infected tens of thousands of computers in nearly 100 countries on Friday. "We recognise that cyber incidents represent a growing threat for our economies and that appropriate economy-wide policy responses are needed," the draft statement, seen by Reuters, said.—Reuters ■

UK government in dark over who behind cyber attack

LONDON — The British government does not yet know who was behind Friday's global cyber attack that disrupted the country's health system, interior minister Amber Rudd said on Saturday.

"We're not able to tell you who's behind the attack. That work is still ongoing," she told BBC radio.

She said Britain's National Cyber Security Centre was working with the country's health service to ensure the attack was con-

tained, while the National Crime Agency was working with them to find out where it came from.

Rudd said the government did not know if the attack was directed by a foreign government.

On Friday, cyber extortionists tricked victims into opening malicious malware attachments to spam emails that appeared to contain invoices, job offers, security warnings and other legitimate files. Nearly 100 countries were impacted. Rudd said the

attack was not specifically targeted at Britain's health service.

"(The virus) feels random in terms of where it's gone to and where it's been opened," she said.

Though 45 health service organizations in England and Scotland were affected by malicious software, no patient data has been accessed or transferred, said Rudd.

The minister said lessons had to be learned from the attack.

"There will be lessons to learn ... Why is it certain regions are affected more than others? Is it to do with the software? Is it to do with better IT?"

Separately on Saturday, finance chiefs from the Group of Seven rich countries will commit to join forces to fight the growing threat of international cyber attacks, according to a draft statement of a meeting they are holding in Bari, Italy.—Reuters ■

Mutinous soldiers seal off access to Ivory Coast's second city

ABIDJAN — Disgruntled soldiers blocked access to Ivory Coast's second largest city Bouake and gunfire rang out in other towns on Saturday as protests over a pay dispute extended into a second day despite government warnings of harsh punishments.

The revolt began in Bouake early on Friday before spreading quickly, following a pattern similar to a mutiny in January by the same group that paralysed parts of the West African state and marred its image as a post-war success story.

In the commercial capital Abidjan on Friday, mutineers seized control of the national military headquarters and defence ministry on Friday. They went a step further in Bouake on Saturday, blocking roads north and south out of the city.

"We do not want to negotiate with anyone," said Sergeant Seydou Kone, one of the leaders of the uprising. "We're also ready to fight if we are attacked. We have nothing to lose."

Kone said the mutineers were also active in the commercial capital Abidjan and the towns of Korhogo, Daloa, Man and Bondoukou.

The soldiers were re-



Soldiers of Ivory Coast presidential guard take position in front of mutinying soldiers camp in the centre of the commercial capital Abidjan, Ivory Coast on 12 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

volting over delays to bonus payments, promised by the government after the January mutiny but which it has struggled to disburse after a collapse in the price of cocoa, Ivory Coast's main export, caused a revenue crunch.

The government paid the

8,400 troops behind January's rebellion, most of them ex-rebel fighters who helped bring President Alassane Ouattara to power, bonuses of 5 million CFA francs (\$8,371) each as part of a deal to end that mutiny.

On Thursday, however, a

spokesman for the group said they would forego demands for remaining bonuses of 7 million CFA francs each following a meeting with authorities in Abidjan.

The decision was rejected by at least some of the soldiers.

"We want our 7 million and

that's it," said Kone.

Bouake residents said shops remained closed as soldiers fired weapons in the air and patrolled the streets in cars.

"The soldiers are wearing balaclavas and are threatening to move on Abidjan," said Bouake resident Abou Kone.

In a statement broadcast on state-owned television late on Friday, Military Chief of Staff General Sekou Toure threatened the soldiers with "severe disciplinary sanctions" if they did not end the revolt.

A Korhogo resident confirmed gunfire there and said access to the main military camp had been blocked.

An inhabitant of the northern city of Odiene reported a similar situation. And there was also sporadic gunfire in Daloa, the main cocoa growing hub in southwestern Ivory Coast, the world's top producer of the chocolate ingredient.

Ivory Coast emerged from a 2002-2011 conflict with one of the world's fastest-growing economies. But deep divisions persist, particularly in a military assembled from both former rebel and loyalist combatants. —Reuters ■

Syrian army regains control of airport in northern Syria from Islamic State

AMMAN — The Syrian army has taken full control of a small airbase in eastern Aleppo countryside that was under Islamic State control, aided by heavy aerial bombing by Russian and Syrian airforces, pro-state media and an army source said on Saturday.

The al-Jarrah airport is located in the ultra-hard-line militants' remaining enclave in eastern Aleppo countryside, a region where they have mostly lost control to competing forces ranging from the Syrian army, US-backed Kurdish-led forces to Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) rebels.

The airport was briefly

stormed by the army's elite forces last March, but the militants repelled that attack on the base they had held since 2014.

Russian and Syrian jets have also intensified their attacks on the town of Maskaneh, the last main town in the region west of the Euphrates River in eastern Aleppo countryside, former residents in touch with relatives said.

Dozens of civilians have been killed since last week in the aerial bombing of the remaining villages and towns in the area still in the control of the militants, the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. —Reuters ■

South Africa to sign new nuclear power pacts after court ruling

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa plans to sign new, more transparent nuclear power agreements with five foreign countries after a high court blocked a deal with Russia due to a lack of oversight, the energy ministry said on Saturday.

South Africa signed inter-governmental agreements with Russia, France, China, South Korea and the United States in 2014 as part of plans to build a fleet of nuclear power plants at a cost of between \$30 billion and \$70 billion.

Many investors view the scale of the nuclear plan as unaffordable and a major risk to South Africa's financial stability, while opponents of President Jacob Zuma say the deal will be used as a conduit for corruption. Zuma denies allegations of

wrongdoing.

State energy firm Eskom says nuclear power should play a role in South Africa's energy mix and will help reduce reliance on coal.

The Western Cape High Court found last month that the agreement with Russia lacked transparency and offered Moscow favourable tax rules while placing heavy financial obligations on South Africa.

The energy ministry said it had "major concerns" about the court judgement but would not appeal the ruling. It will continue with nuclear energy plans adhering to stricter procedural guidelines, including consulting parliament.

"There is no intention to table the current agreements but (we) will embark to sign new

agreements with all five countries and table them within reasonable time to parliament," the ministry said in a statement.

Eskom on Friday reinstated its former chief executive Brian Molefe, a Zuma ally who has supported the nuclear power plan.

Molefe stepped down five months ago after being implicated in a report by the country's anti-graft watchdog into alleged influence-peddling. He denied any wrongdoing.

Some analysts say former finance minister Pravin Gordhan was fired partly because he resisted pressures from a political faction allied to Zuma to back nuclear expansion.

New Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba has said nuclear expansion will only be pursued if it is affordable. —Reuters ■

99 countries targeted in global cyberattack

LONDON — Cyberattacks have hit 99 countries, including many in Europe and Asia, with the public health system in Britain severely disrupted, US and other media reported on Friday.

A total of 75,000 attacks have reportedly been detected worldwide involving the use of ransomware, a type of malware that encrypts computer files and makes them inaccessible until the user pays a ransom.

In addition to Britain, the affected countries include China, Italy, Japan, the Philippines, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, Viet Nam and the United States.

Japanese authorities are investigating whether any damage has been inflicted to the country's systems.

It is believed that the ransomware circulated across networks by exploiting a weakness in Microsoft's Windows operating system. Targets were sent an encrypted, compressed file by email that, once loaded, allowed the malware to infiltrate the system, the New York Times and other media reported.

The affected computers appeared to be hit with the same ransomware and similar messages demanding \$300 worth of virtual currency bitcoin to unlock the data, the reports said.

Microsoft said it had added detection and protection against the ransomware known as WannaCry and issued a software patch.

In Britain, where around 40 health service organizations were hit by the attack, Prime Minister Theresa May said it was "an international attack" and it had not specifically targeted the National Health Service, according to the Associated Press.

According to the Associated Press, Russia appeared to have been hit the hardest, with its Interior Ministry confirming the strikes.

Similar attacks were reported among companies in Spain and delivery company FedEx Corp in the United States. Romania's intelligence agency claimed it had stopped attacks against its government entities.—Kyodo News ■



Soratnik robotized combat system. Russia's arms producer Kalashnikov last year demonstrated its first robotized system Soratnik developed at the request of the Defence Ministry. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russia's 20-tonne reconnaissance and attack robot to undergo testing in 2018

MOSCOW— Russia's newest reconnaissance and attack robot will be tested in 2018, the CEO of the Kalashnikov concern (an affiliate of Rostec), Aleksei Krivoruchko, told TASS.

Earlier, he told TASS in an interview that the 20-tonne robot was in the phase of test runs.

Kalashnikov last year demonstrated its first robotized

system Soratnik developed at the request of the Defence Ministry. It is an armoured tracked vehicle equipped with a computerized control system, encoded radio communication,

target detection and monitoring equipment and a combat module. This robot is capable of interacting with other automated combat units, including Zala Aero drones.—Tass ■

China says all welcome at Silk Road forum after US complains over North Korea

BEIJING — China welcomes all countries to participate in this weekend's forum on China's new Silk Road plan, the Foreign Ministry said on Saturday, after the United States warned China that North Korea's attendance could affect other countries' participation.

Two sources with knowledge of the situation said the US embassy in Beijing had submitted a diplomatic note to China's foreign ministry, saying that inviting North Korea sent the wrong message at a time when the world was trying to pressure Pyongyang over its repeated missile and nuclear tests.

The spat over North Korea threatens to overshadow the summit, China's most important diplomatic event of the year for an initiative championed by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Asked about the US note,

China's Foreign Ministry said in a short statement sent to Reuters that it did "not understand the situation".

The statement added: "The Belt and Road initiative is an open and inclusive one. We welcome all countries delegations to attend the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation".

The ministry did not elaborate. It said on Tuesday that North Korea would send a delegation to the summit but gave no other details.

China has not announced who North Korea's chief delegate will be, but South Korea's Yonhap news agency said Kim Yong Jae, North Korea's minister of external economic relations, will lead the delegation.

Delegates will hold a series of sessions on Sunday afternoon to discuss the plan in more detail, including trade and finance.

China has given few details about attendees.

Leaders from 29 countries will attend the forum in Beijing on 14-15 May, an event orchestrated to promote Xi's vision of expanding links between Asia, Africa and Europe underpinned by billions of dollars in infrastructure investment.

Some Western diplomats have expressed unease about both the summit and the plan as a whole, seeing it as an attempt to promote Chinese influence globally.

China has rejected criticism of the plan and the summit, saying the scheme is open to all, is a win-win and aimed only at promoting prosperity.

In an English-language commentary on Saturday, China's state-run Xinhua news agency said the new Silk Road, officially called the Belt and

Road initiative, would be a boon for developing countries that had been largely neglected by the West.

"As some Western countries move backwards by erecting 'walls,' China is contriving to build bridges, both literal and metaphorical. These bridges are China's important offering to the world, and a key route to improving global governance," it said.

Despite Chinese anger at North Korea's repeated nuclear and missile tests, China remains the isolated state's most important economic and diplomatic backer, even as Beijing has signed up for tough UN sanctions against Pyongyang.

China has over the years tried to coax North Korea into cautious, export-oriented economic reforms, rather than sabre rattling and nuclear tests, but to little avail.—Reuters ■

After tough week, Trump looks for a lift at Liberty University

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Saturday is set to deliver the commencement address — his first as president — to Liberty University, the nation's largest Christian college, where he is expected to find to a friendly audience after a week of turmoil in Washington.

Trump has been closeted in the White House all week, making only a few, brief public appearances after he took the highly unusual and fraught step of abruptly firing James Comey as FBI director on Tuesday.

Dismissing the head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at a time when the agency probes alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 election has overshadowed Trump's push to boost jobs through tax

reform and a massive infrastructure programme.

The Lynchburg, Virginia, college should provide a receptive crowd for Trump's economic message. He campaigned there during his run for office and was bolstered by the endorsement of its president, Jerry Falwell Jr, who helped secure support from religious conservatives. "He's going to tell them what he wants to do to make their careers run more smoothly and make it easier for them to raise families," Falwell told WDBJ7, a CBS television affiliate in Roanoke, Virginia, about Trump's message to graduates.

"I've been working with his speech writers and I think he's going to deliver a wonderful speech that will be personal to Liberty," Falwell said in the



US President Donald Trump acknowledges a guest while attending a "celebration of military mothers" at the White House in Washington, US on 12 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

interview.

Trump has expressed frustration that the Russia probe has loomed over his presidency. He insisted this week that he

fired Comey over his performance, not because of the investigation, but the timing of the dismissal and his comments afterward have raised alarms with

his critics.

Trump, who has been preparing for his first foreign trip to the Middle East and Europe late next week, also will deliver the

commencement address to the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, on Wednesday.

"To young Americans at both schools, I will be bringing a message of hope and optimism about our nation's bright future," Trump said in his weekly address to the nation.

Trump will encourage students to "be a force for good in the world by standing up for the values that Liberty has taught them," White House spokesman Sean Spicer said.

Liberty University said it expects more than 7,000 of its 18,000 graduates to participate in the ceremonies, most of whom earned their degree online. Past commencements have attracted as many as 40,000 people, the college said.—Reuters ■



Photo taken on 13 May, 2017, from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the site of a fire (C) at Seibuen amusement park in Tokorozawa, near Tokyo. No one was injured. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Fire breaks out in amusement park in Saitama, no injuries

SAITAMA, (Japan)—A fire broke out late Friday night at Seibuen amusement park in Saitama Prefecture neighboring Tokyo, but no one was injured, police said on Saturday.

The fire, which started around 11:30 pm, appeared to have consumed around 1,000 square metres before

being extinguished about two hours later. The park in the city of Tokorozawa will be closed for a while until safety is secured. The local police and fire department conducted an on-site investigation Saturday to determine the cause of the fire. An area near the entrance where eating places

and souvenir shops are located was burnt severely, according to the police and Seibu Railway Co, which owns the facility. Four of the park's attractions were also burnt by the fire, they said. A fire also broke out in that area of the park in 2014, they said.

The park was closed

4:30 pm on Friday and no visitors or employees were present when the fire occurred. A worker who was in a nearby office overseeing the scrapping of a roller coaster was quoted by police as saying, "There was an exploding noise and the fire was breaking out when I noticed."—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.5.2017 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Croatia's 'Mr Voice' and Hungarian gypsy singer among Eurovision finalists

KIEV — Croatian pop-opera, Romanian yodeling and Hungarian gypsy fusion will all feature in the final of the 2017 Eurovision song contest, after the three countries were among 10 to qualify in the second round of heats in Kiev.

Forty-two countries competed in this year's Eurovision, an annual pageant of the colorful, the camp and the cheesy, but only 26 will take part in Saturday's grand final in front of a television audience of millions.

In Thursday's semi-final, singer Jacques Houdek, known as 'Mr Voice' in Croatia, won a place in the last round by melding pop and operatic singing styles in the song "My Friend".

Houdek's costume was half-tuxedo, half-leather jacket — a sartorial illustration of the musical crossover.

Other performers also reached the final with untypical fusions of different musical traditions.

Joci Papai, Hungary's first Roma entrant for Eurovision, performed "Origo" — a mixture of electronic beats and gypsy vocal flourishes.

Romanian duo Ilinca and Alex Florea combine rock, rap and yodeling in their song "Yodel it!".

Thursday's other qualifiers for the final were Bulgaria, Belarus, Denmark, Israel, Norway, the Netherlands and Austria.

Eight countries missed out on a final place, including Macedonia's Jana Burceska, but any disappointment she felt was likely eased by a surprise marriage proposal from her partner live on air. —Reuters ■



Croatia's Jacques Houdek performs with the song 'My Friend' during the Eurovision Song Contest 2017 Semi-Final 2 Dress rehearsal 1 at the International Exhibition Centre in Kiev, Ukraine, on 10 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Oscars chief Boone Isaacs steps down from governors board

LOS ANGELES — The departing president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which organizes the Oscars, said on Friday she is also stepping down from the board of governors.

The announcement by Cheryl Boone Isaacs that she is not seeking re-election to the board follows controversies over diversity at the Oscars and a blunder over the best picture winner at this year's glittering awards show.

Boone Isaacs, the Academy's first African-American president, is departing after serving 24 years on the board of the Academy that included four years as president. Under Academy rules, she was not eligible to seek another term as president.

"It's been my greatest honor serving on the Academy's Board of Governors in numerous capacities for more than two decades, and it will be a



Paul McCartney (L) and Ringo Starr perform during the taping of "The Night That Changed America: A GRAMMY Salute To The Beatles", which commemorates the 50th anniversary of The Beatles appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, in Los Angeles on 27 January, 2014. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

privilege to provide the opportunity for new voices to have a seat at the table," she said in a statement.

Boone Isaacs gave no rea-

son for her decision also to leave the board but the Academy has come under fire in the past three years over the scarcity of people of color in its ranks, sparking the #OscarsSoWhite hashtag.

The Academy overhauled its membership last year, pledging to double membership of women and minorities by 2020 and stripping some older, non-active members of voting privileges.

In February, a backstage envelope mix-up by a PricewaterhouseCoopers accountant led to musical "La La Land" mistakenly being announced the winner of the best picture Oscar instead of "Moonlight."

The blunder, deemed the biggest in Oscar history, led to Boone Isaacs announcing new protocols for the awards ceremony that included adding a third accountant and banning backstage tweeting, photos and other social media postings. —Reuters ■

Hidden footage of The Beatles on film put on sale

LIVERPOOL — Footage of The Beatles on the set of their 1965 film "Help!" is being offered for sale after 50 years if being hidden in storage.

The film was shot by Australian-born actor Leo McKern, who played a villainous cult leader in the film, and shows the band in unguarded moments behind the scenes on the set.

"This is footage taken in 1965 of people who at the time were the most famous people on earth at the pinnacle of their collective career," Neil Pearson, a London rare book dealer who is selling the footage, told Reuters.

The band feature in around 10 minutes of the footage, which comes on the original 8mm film cassette on which it was shot, labeled by McKern as "snow scenes," which also features footage

of the actor's family.

The footage includes scenes showing the band tobogganing, joking around while playing instruments in a brass band, as well as more private moments, including Paul McCartney smoking a cigarette and taking photographs, according to the vendor's description.

McKern, who died in 2002, later achieved acting fame in films such as "A Man For All Seasons", "Ryan's Daughter" and the lead role in television hit "Rumpole of the Bailey".

The film has not yet been seen in public, though a portion of it is due to be aired on British television on Friday. It doesn't come cheap for any Fab Four memorabilia fans — the footage commands an asking price of £35,000 pounds (\$45,101.00). —Reuters ■

Vanessa Hudgens joins Ludacris to host 2017 BMAs

LOS ANGELES — Actress Vanessa Hudgens is set to host the 2017 Billboard Music Awards with rapper Ludacris on 21 May in

Las Vegas.

While, it marks Ludacris fourth consecutive year hosting the event, the 28-year-old actress will host the ceremony

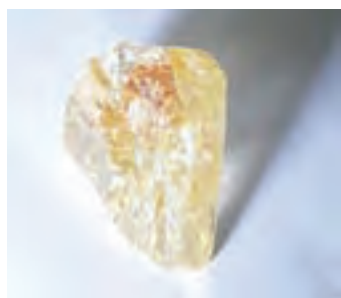
for the first time.

"I'm so unbelievably excited to host the @BB-MAs this year with @Ludacris," Hudgens wrote

on Twitter.

This year Drake, Nicki Minaj, Ed Sheeran, Bruno Mars, Camila Cabello, Imagine Dragons, John Legend,

The Chainsmokers, Halsey, Sam Hunt, Lorde and Florida Georgia Line are set to perform at the star-studded ceremony. —PTI ■



Giant diamond auction fails as Sierra Leone rejects offer

The 709-carat gem is the second largest ever discovered in the West African country and was unearthed in March in the eastern Kono region by a Christian pastor who gave it to the government to handle the sale. Five bids were handed to auctioneers in a sealed brown envelope, ranging from \$2 million to \$7.8 million. The top bid was made by a man in a white shirt and light trousers on behalf of Belgium diamond dealer Ray Diam BVBA.—Reuters ■

Bathhouse reformed as library showcasing 20,000 used comic books

Seeing the comic books out of order at the time, the couple stepped forward to take on the task of sorting them and did so



"I can sell my comic books to used book stores, but if I bring them here many other people can check out the works that I have grown fond of," said the 44-year-old painting contractor from the neighboring city of Seki.—Kyodo News ■

 Programme Schedule (14-5-2017, Sunday)	
6:00 Am	League (MNL) (1)
♦ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	(2017) (LIVE Broadcast) (Shan United Vs GFA FC)
7:00 Am	6:15 Pm
♦ Breakfast News	♦ Analysis For Myanmar Movie
7:35 Am	6:30 Pm
♦ Weekly Sport Info	♦ Tasty Trip
8:35 Am	7:15 Pm
♦ Pan Pyo Khin	♦ TV Drama Series
9:10 Am	8:00 Pm
♦ Documentary	♦ News / International News / Weather Report
10:40 Am	8:35 Pm
♦ Poem For Children	♦ Unity Melody
11:15 Am	8:50 Pm
♦ Health and Vegetables	♦ Towards All Sector Development
12:30 Pm	8:50 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series	♦ Unity Melody
1:30 Pm	9:20 Pm
♦ Talk on Old Flim (Part-4)	♦ TV Drama Series
2:30 Pm	10:05 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series	♦ Musician's Talk
3:20 Pm	
♦ Documentary (Traffic)	
3:45 Pm	
♦ "Myanmar National	

<div>  <div> <div>Myanmar</div> <div>International</div> </div> </div> <div>Programme Schedule</div>		
(14-5-2017 07:00am ~ 15-5-2017 07:00am) MST		
07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Yoga & Health
07:47	Am	Elephant Catching and Scaring Trip Mile Stone 26
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	The Crocodiles of Meinmahla Island (Part-1)
08:40	Am	The Crocodiles of Meinmahla Island (Part-2)
08:53	Am	Creations of a Designer: Fashion
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Caves of Myanmar
09:52	Am	Coin Collectors
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Memorable Yaw Region
10:45	Am	Lacquerware Technology College
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) -Saturday Repeat(07:00Am ~ 11:00Am)		
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repea(07:00 Am ~ 11:00Am)		
<div> <div>Prime Time</div> <div> <div>07:03</div> <div>Pm</div> <div>News</div> </div> <div> <div>07:25</div> <div>Pm</div> <div>Travelogue “To the coastal region (Myeik - Kawthoung)” (Part-1)</div> </div> <div> <div>07:50</div> <div>Pm</div> <div>Today Myanmar: Waste to Energy</div> </div> <div> <div>08:03</div> <div>Pm</div> <div>News</div> </div> <div> <div>08:25</div> <div>Pm</div> <div>Literature: Sayar Zaw Gyi (Episode-3) National Literary Icon in His Old Age</div> </div> <div> <div>08:54</div> <div>Pm</div> <div>Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism</div> </div> </div>		
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00Pm ~ 03:00 Am) -Saturday Repeat(07:00Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)		



Chelsea celebrate winning the Premier League title at The Hawthorns in London on 12 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Title in the bag, Conte sets sights on double

LONDON — Antonio Conte spent the immediate aftermath of Chelsea's title-winning 1-0 victory at West Bromwich Albion on Friday being bounced skywards by his players but once back on terra firma his mind was already focusing on the next target — the double.

In claiming the Premier League title at the first time of

asking Conte matched the feat of Chelsea predecessors Jose Mourinho in 2004-05 and Carlo Ancelotti in 2009-10.

Ancelotti went on to win the FA Cup as well and one suspects the insatiable Conte will feel a sense of anti-climax if his side do not beat Arsenal at Wembley Stadium on 27 May.

"My players show me a great

attitude to try to do something great this season," Conte said after the title triumph.

"We were not lucky, we did a great job. It's important to rest. It is a great season but now we can win the FA Cup."

The Italian, winner of three Serie A titles as Juventus manager, has transformed Chelsea from flops to champions in one

season with largely the same group of players.

Yet there were moments back in the autumn when things looked in danger of unravelling as defeats by Liverpool and Arsenal threatened to undermine a bright start to the season.

Conte said the drubbing by Arsenal, a game in which he switched to a three-at-the-back

system midway through when his side trailed 3-0, was a turning point.

"That decision changed our season. We had to change and find a new suit for our team," he said.

"In my mind there was this option to play a 3-4-3 because I knew I had the players to do that."—Reuters ■

Man City hang on to beat Leicester and move third

LONDON — Manchester City survived a stirring Leicester City fightback to claim a 2-1 win that lifted them above Liverpool into third in the Premier League on Saturday.

The hosts, looking to cement their top-four status, were cruising when goals by David Silva and Gabriel Jesus put them 2-0 ahead after 36 minutes but Leicester hit back strongly.

Shinji Okazaki smashed in a sensational volley before half-time and the hosts had a huge let-off in the 77th minute when Riyad Mahrez's penalty was ruled out because he inadvertently made a double contact while striking the ball.



Leicester City's Shinji Okazaki scores their first goal during the match of Premier League between Leicester City and Manchester City at Etihad Stadium on 13 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Jamie Vardy also missed a late chance but a nervy City hung on to move to 72 points with two games remaining.

Liverpool have 70 points with two games left while fifth-placed Arsenal have 66 with three to play.—Reuters ■

Nishikori seeded 7th at Italian Open

LONDON — Japan's Kei Nishikori is seeded seventh at the Italian Open and will face the winner of an all-Spanish match-up between David Ferrer and Feliciano Lopez in his opening match after the draw was made for the Rome event on Friday.

Nishikori, who is set to open his Roma campaign from the second round, pulled out of his scheduled quarterfinal match of the Madrid Open on Friday after aggravating a right wrist injury. He initially hurt the wrist in late March during

the Miami Open and sat out the Barcelona Open last month.

The world No 8, who returned to competition this week after sitting out a month and a half due to the injury, had been scheduled to meet second-seeded Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the last eight in Madrid.

Nishikori said after pulling out of the quarterfinals that he wants to play next week in Rome. He will make a decision on whether or not he will take part after taking a few days rest.—Kyodo News ■