INITIATION WORKSHOP FOR RAKHINE JOINT ASSESSMENT HELD P-3 (NATIONAL)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi waters the rose named after her at a ceremony in Yunnan Province in China. **PHOTO: MNA**

Yunnan Province, China: a rosy chance for stability

During a meeting in southern China, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi spoke with the Yunnan Province Communist Party Secretary and discussed bilateral relationship and stability and peace in the northern Myanmar region.

Yunnan Province borders Shan State, the site of conflicts as recently as November 2016.

The meeting in Kunming, Yunnan Province came after she attended the two-day One Belt, One Road forum in Beijing.

After her meeting with the Yunnan Province Commuinist Party Secretary, the State Counsellor attended a ceremony

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VP U Myint Swe inspects reforestation, bridge and road construction

Vice President U Myint Swe yesterday morning inspected bridge No. 2/7, Thine Chaung Bridge on Koepin-Thagaya Road, the Minhla-Sein Kant Lant-Myo Chaung-Phado-Kyun Kone road section and the Bago Yoma reforestation project in Bago Region.

The 40-feet long Thine Chaung Bridge, a reinforced concrete bridge in Yedashe Township, was completed on 22 April. Upon arrival, the Vice President inspected the tarring of the bridge approach and Bridge Department Deputy Director General U Khin Maung Swe and officials explained about completed and future works.

Vice President U Myint Swe inspects Ye Nwe hydropower plant in Sittaung. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Vice President instructed officials to ensure proper flow of water in the Thine Chaung (river) and to construct a retaining wall to prevent water erosion.

Next, the Vice President arrived at the Ye Nwe Dam meeting hall in Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Region, where Electric Power Supply Enterprise Managing Director U Khin Maung Win explained the number of hydropower plants constructed along the Sittaung river, details about the Ye Nwe hydropower plant and annual electricity generation. Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department's Construction (1) director U Tin Maung Aye explained the dam and the supply of irrigation water. The Vice President made remarks about maintaining the dam and preventive programmes against natural disasters and inspected the dam.

The Vice President also viewed the installed machines in the Ye Nwe hydropower plant and the situation of generating electrical power.

The Vice President then visited Phyo Sithu Trading Company's private teak plantation at the 69 mile post of Minhla-Sein Kant Lant-Myo Chaung Road and encouraged private sector cooperation in the reforestation of Bago Yoma.

The Vice President then continued to the construction meeting hall at mile post 51 of Minhla-Sein Kant Lant-Myo Chaung-Phado-Kyun Kone Road, where Bago Region Road Department Chief Engineer U Zaw Tun explained about financing obtained to maintain the Minhla-Sein Kant Lant-Myo Chaung-Phado-Kyun Kone Road, tarring of the road and future work. Bago Region Forest Department director U Zaw Win Myint spoke about Bago Yoma reforestation, the status of the department's forest plantations, the involvement of locals in reforestation and distribution of saplings. The Vice President made remark about maintaining the road without reducing its quality, promoting eco-tours during the period when log extraction from Bago Yoma is suspended and to increase the forest coverage of Bago Yoma from the current 29 per cent to the national average of 43 per cent.

Afterward, the Vice President visited the 50-acre and 100-acre commercial teak plantation 1/2014 and 1/2017 at 16/4 mile post of Minhla-Sein Kant Lant road and viewed the teak saplings. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held talks separately with ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces yesterday in the Philippines over matters relating to bilateral relations, defence, anti-terrorism and security cooperation.

Those who met with the Senior General were Chief of the Lao People's Armed Forces Maj. Gen Souvone Leuangbounmy, Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Gen. Surapong Suwana-adth, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Gen Eduardo M.Ano, Chief of Defence Forces of Singapore Armed Forces Lt Gen Perry Lim, Chief of Indonesian Armed Forces Gen Gatot Nurmantyo.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is currently in the Philip pines to attend the 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting- ACDFIM.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Gen Eduardo M.Ano, Chief of Defence Forces of Singapore Armed Forces. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Senior General and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visited Rizal Park and Malacañang Museum which housed memorial things of the Philippines' presidents before they went to the Fort Santiago which is inside the ancient city of Intramuros, Philippines. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Yangon to consider needs of disabled in buses, housing

WHEN building a new housing project in Yangon, careful consideration will be given so people with disabilities (PWD) can travel about easily, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region Minister for Electric Power, Industry and Transportation.

The minister's remarks were in response to a question raised by U Nay Myo Kyaw from Thingangyun Constituency (1) in the Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting on 17 May asking whether buses and bus stops would be upgraded to become accessible to those who are handicapped.

"Starting from this (2017-2018) fiscal year, we will consider the needs of people with disabilities when drafting designs for new housing projects, funded by the Yangon City Development Committee," said Minister Daw Nilar Kyaw, adding that they will also consider the needs of the disabled in infrastructure designs.

"With the transition into the new YBS bus system, we can observe even normal people struggling to deal with the change, that's why I want to know if there are plans to help them (people with disabilities) cope with the changes?" asked Hluttaw Representative U Nay Myo Kyaw.

Minister Daw Nilar Kyaw further responded that the regional government has plans to review and improve the YBS bus system once every three months.

Currently an open tender has been announced for the upgrading of 500 bus stops. She added that additional bus stops will be upgraded with help from donors. —Ko Moe ■

Yunnan Province, China: a rosy chance for stability

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

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that named a new species of rose in her honour. The event took place at the Hai Geng Garden Hotel in Yunnan Province, China yesterday afternoon.

At the ceremony, a taxonomist explained the new rose species and presented a commemorative document of the ceremony to the State Counsellor. The new rose species was named "Aung San Suu Kyi Rose" in honor of the State Counsellor.

Afterward, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party attended a luncheon hosted by the Communist Party Secretary of Yunnan Province Mr. Chen Hao.

Earlier in the day, the State Counsellor left Beijing by air and upon arrival in Kunming was welcomed by Yunnan province Vice Governor H.E. Mr. Chen Shun, Myanmar Consul-General U Soe Paing and other officials.

She also spoke with the Communist Party Secretary about increasing cooperation in economic, infrastructure, education, cultural and health sectors.

At 3pm local time, the State Counsellor left Kunming by Myanmar National Airlines and was seen off at the airport by Yunnan province Vice Governor H.E. Mr. Chen Shun, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn, Myanmar Consul-General U Soe Paing and officials from the embassy and the consulate.

The State Counsellor arrived in Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday evening and was welcomed at the airport by Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Deputy Minister for the President's Office U Min Thu and Mr. Chan Chan, Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar. —GNLM ■

Initiation Workshop for Rakhine Joint Assessment held

HUMANITARIAN aid groups in Rakhine are urged to perform their tasks with good intention and efficiency.

The remark made by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, comes at the Initiation Workshop for Rakhine Joint Assessment held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, the Union minister, who is also the chairman of the working committee for resettlement and development of socio-economic life in the region, also stressed the need to carry out the tasks of developing the area and ceasing conflicts to be implemented simultaneously.

Out of 19 organisations which had signed MoU with Myanmar, 12 organisations have been carrying out the tasks of providing humanitarian aid in Rakhine State,

According to UN reports, Myanmar was ranked 42nd out of 171 disaster-prone countries and 12th among 191 countries in human-caused disasters.

A total of 6.4 million of the population are living in areas where conflicts are taking place.

Cessation of conflicts and achievement of peace is of great importance, it was determined. It is necessary for 15 regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council Region, to develop proportionally. But in Chin State and Rakhine State which lagged behind in development, more attention needs to be paid. This is true especially in Rakhine State, which has experienced many conflicts.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye delivers a speech at the initation workshop in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

According to reports, there are nearly 120,000 displaced people in Rakhine State. The working committee for resettlement in the region and development of socio-economic life was formed and has been performing the tasks of developing all of the whole Rakhine State.

In doing so, Ks3,656.840 million were spent for building bridges and roads in 16 townships in Rakhine State with the emergency funds of the President of the State, with Ks4,164.325 million supported for humanitarian aid from the national fund for management of natural disasters. A five-year-plan for development of socio-economic life drawn up by the Rakhine State Government will be supported. In performing the tasks, cooperation was made by linking with UN organisations and aligned countries for development.

During the period of the stay in camps, vocational trainings are being conducted for the displaced people. Successful management of opening the Smart Sewing Factory and Shwe Kyar Textile Factory jointly operated by the government and Rakhine nationals were the accomplishments for creating more jobs for the locals and for implementing the development of socio-economic life. The government has been operating SMEs in public partnership for regional development. This is targeted at gaining development from the project for providing humanitarian aid. It is of urgent need to negotiate the emergence of peace-orientated analysis, which is the very basis of development, and implementation in harmony with social affairs.

At the meeting, Ms Renata Dessallien, UN Resident Representative and Humanitarian Coordinator, made the welcoming speech, discussing matters on cooperation concerning the workshop, followed by discussions on the main objectives of the workshop and the ways to achieve harmony in social affairs by the permanent secretary and director-general of the social welfare department.

Present at the workshop were the vice-chairman of the working committee for resettlement in the region and the development of socio-economic life, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Brig-Gen Than Htut and responsible officials.— Myanmar News Agency ■

HAPUA Council Meetings held in Yangon

33rd Meeting of Head of ASEAN Power Utilities/Authorities—HAPUA Council & its related meetings were held from May 15 to May 17 at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon.

Present at the meeting were heads of ASEAN Power Utilities/Authorities—HAPUA Council, Secretary-General of HAPUA, President of Consultancy Committee on ASEAN Power System, representatives from ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Center for Energy & responsible officials from the Ministry of Electricity and Power.

At the meeting, matters on power generation from the use of power resources in the regional countries, sufficient acquisition of energy in ASEAN regions, establishment of ASEAN power grid by linking among ASEAN member countries, adaptation of standards, rules and regulations between member countries and acquisition of technical aids from international countries, were discussed frankly.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Mandalay Royal Palace to become Historical Park

To attract more tourists, Mya-Nan-San-Kyaw-Shwe-Nan-Taw, Mandalay Royal Palace, Ancient city of Innwa and the three forts, Thabyaytan fort, Servant fort and Sin Kyone fort will be transformed into a Historical Park, according to Myanmar Tourism Federation.

Discussion and negotiation will be made with Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture to be able to create the Historical Park.

"Creating new places of interest to visit is beneficial for tourism, but features of historical interests are needed to attract local and foreign travellers," said a tourist guide. Surveys are currently made to make market promotion, open gift shops and setup rest areas. Discussion for the project will be made with the respective Ministries according to Myanmar Tourism Federation.

Currently, entrance fees for foreigners cost Ks 10,000 each and Ks 200 for local visitors. Nearly 180,000 foreign travellers visited the Palace in 2016.—200

The Mandalay Palace, Ancient city of Innwa, also known as Mya-Nan-San-Kyaw-Shwe-Nan-Taw. **PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING**

Literature competitions to be held

Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Drug Association (MANA) will hold the 10th short story, article writing, poem composition, impromptu speech and poem reading competitions in Myanmar and English for intermediate and beginner level in honour of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June 2017.

Manuscripts for the competition of short story, article and poem composition can be sent to the office of MANA at Kyun Taw Street in Kamayut Township of Yangon no later than 4pm on 7 June according to the MANA.

The impromptu speech for the intermediate level and poem reading contest for the beginner level will be held at Kyaukse Dhammaryone on Shwegonedine Road in Bahan Township starting from 19 to 22 June.

The final competition for both contests along with rewarding ceremony will be held at the meeting room of Drug Elimination Museum in Kamayut Township on 24 June.

Any interested persons can contact the office of MANA, Phone No. 01-502893 for further information.—Shwe Win(Pyay)■

Residents in Mohnyin to receive free eye surgery

PEOPLE living with eye disease who currently reside in Mohnyin District in Kachin State will get free eye care thanks to Cherry Myitta Foundation, a local charity. Organised by the two monks, in cooperation with a local charity foundation, the eye care support is planned to be offered to residents free of charge at a monastery in Mohnyin Town on 20-21 May.

Eye specialists and surgeons from Yangon will come to the designated place to perform surgical operations, with plans to absorb all medical charges to patients before and after surgery.

Eye screening and testing will be made between 17 and 19 May, according to an orgnaiser.

The most common eye diseases in the country are cataracts, glaucoma, corneal diseases, injuries and retinal diseases. Cataracts are the most common cause of vision loss in people over the age of 40 in Myanmar and are the principal cause of blindness in the world.

According to the World Health Organisation's assessment, cataracts account for 51 per cent of the world's blindness.—200 ■

Authority to spend Ks15 million rebuilding power facilities in Yesagyo

A BUDGET of more than Ks15 million has been allocated for a power improvement project to be implemented in Yesagyo Township in Magway Region, according to the Magway Region government.

Under the new plan, the electricity authority will repair broken power lines, replace old wire cables with quality cable and install concrete power poles across the township for the purpose of ensuring electrical safety especially in communal areas and to reduce possible risks.

The region government plans to spend Ks35.8 million on removing 62 old wooden power poles and installing 0.68 miles long 95 mm2 ABC cables in Ward-7 in the township, projecting to allot Ks18.4 million for the rebuilding of essential power facilities in Ward-2 and a further Ks18.4 million for Ward-4.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy is putting forth concerted efforts to sufficiently supply power in both urban and rural areas through several projects. According to a survey, Yangon consumes half of the country's total electricity generation as it is home to 29 industrial zones and over 6,000 small and medium-sized enterprises, all of which account for the higher energy demand in the region.—Pe Tun Zaw (Yesagyo)

Over 6,000 tonnes of fisheries products exported to China in April

OVER 6,000 tonnes of fisheries products were exported to China through Muse border trade, according to the Commerce Ministry news.

From 22nd to 28th April, 70 tonnes of freshwater Rohu were exported via the Sittway border camp, whereas over 110 tonnes of dried fish were sent to Bangladesh via the Maungtaw trade camp. Similarly, over 1,700 tonnes of fisheries products worth about US$1million were exported to China via the Muse trade camp, it is learnt.

Fisheries exports fetched over US$55million from 1st April to 5th May in the current fiscal year. Last year saw income of about US$605million from exports of over 430,000 metric tonnes of fisheries products. Rohu, soft-shell crabs and hilsa were mostly exported from the fishery export sector.

Worker sorts through deliveries of fish at the fish market. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

Fisheries exports earned over US$668mil in 2011-2012, over US$493mil in 2012-2013 and over US$341mil in 2013-2014. The figure was seen to decline slightly. And then, the export value was a bit up in 2015-2016 FY with over US$-469mil.

Hilsa export volume increased this year with the high landings of hilsa in Myanmar. About 6million viss of hilsa were caught so far.

Currently, Myanmar's fishermen are dependent on offshore fishing. However, offshore fishing might damage aquaculture and its resources. Efforts are being exerted to farm saltwater prawn in a systematic method. —YCDC ■

Ninety thousand motorcycles imported via Muse

OVER 90,000 motorcycles were imported through the 105th Miles Muse Border Trade Zone in April, 2017-2018 FY, according to Myanmar Ministry of Commerce.

Motorcycles in Myanmar are mostly imported from China and nearly 90 per cent of the motorcycle market in Myanmar is controlled by China. 94,743 motorcycles worth over USD 30millions were imported in April.

More than 270,000 motorcycles worth over USD 89millions were imported in the last fiscal year via Muse 105th Miles Border Trade Zone.

The motorcycles were imported with permission from the Ministry of Commerce and the taxes were set between Ks 40,000 to 80,000 per motorcycle. Road Transportation Administration Department also issue initial license for the imported motorcycles.—200 ■

Food & Hotel exhibition to be held

FOOD & Hotel Myanmar 2017 is a three-day event to be held from 7th to 9th June at the Myanmar Convention Center in Yangon, it is learnt.

The Food & Hotel Myanmar 2017 exhibition is organised by All World Exhibitions. The exhibition will be the second edition of Myanmar's largest international food and hospitality trade show.

"At the exhibition, the food & hotel businesses will give competitive prices in order to get high demand. The exhibition will show the nature of food & hotel businesses and visitors will find new products, ideas and F&B solutions. Food & Hotel Myanmar 2017 is the best event to learn and develop professional skills and business," said an organiser of the event.

This exhibition showcases products such as tea and coffee, wine and spirits, food servicing, food service equipment, kitchen equipment and supplies, hospitality equipment and supplies, spa services, lifestyle services, wellness services, hospitality services and technologies. Food & Hotel Myanmar will have over 250 participants from 27 countries and six international pavilions from Germany, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the USA.—200 ■

Low-cost housing project to be implemented

THE Ministry of Construction plans to implement a low-cost housing project on plots of lands owned by the ministry in Dagon (south), Hlinethaya, Thanlyin, Kyauktan, near Thilawa Special Economic Zone and ShwePyiTha township in the Yangon Region, according to an official from the Ministry of Construction.

The ministry will sell the low-cost housing units to the public during the construction period.

"Previously, we sold the housing units after completion of the construction. Now, the ministry will sell the housing units during the construction period. The people have to pay under loan payment terms when the housing project starts to be implemented. After completion of the housing project, 50 per cent of the house value will be paid already by the housing unit buyers," he added.

The ministry of construction will construct over 10,000 housing units this fiscal year. The ministry will connect with the Housing development bank to sell the housing units under an instalment system.

Currently, the Ministry of Construction is giving residential permits for the Hlinethaya and Shwelinban low-cost housing units in the Yangon Region.— 200 ■

Agricultural exports fetch nearly US$300million over a month

AGRICULTURAL exports from 1st April to 5th May in the current fiscal year hit US$295.685million, an increase of over US $12million compared to that of the similar period last year.

Myanmar's agricultural exports mainly depend on the markets of China and India, the most populous neighbouring countries — especially rice to China and mung bean and pigeon peas to India through border trade.

With concerted efforts exerted by the government and the private sector, rice and broken rice were exported to 53 foreign countries last fiscal year 2016-2017.

Myanmar exported 1.4 million tonnes of rice in 2012-2013 FY, 1.2 million tonnes in 2013-2014 FY, 1.8million tonnes in 2014-2015 FY, 1.4million tonnes in 2015-2016 FY and 1.7million tonnes in 2016-2017 FY, according to an announcement of the Commerce Ministry.

The machine adding at the rice heap at Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

Seventy per cent of various peas export constitutes the demand from India. Therefore, the price is positively related to its demand. The green grams are exported to China, Viet Nam and European Union countries.

The peas are mostly cultivated in Sagaing and Magway regions. A total of 1.43million tonnes of various peas were exported during last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.—Mon Mon ■

Falling rubber prices affect labourers

THE job of collecting rubber latex is coming to a close this year as falling rubber prices make it difficult to retain rubber labourers.

A break in collecting of rubber latex falls on the beginning of June as well as during the raining season and rubber labourers face difficulties. To provide livelihood for the labourers and prevent labour shortage in the operating seasons, rubber business owners made them to cut the grasses and clean the plantations during the break every year. At present, falling rubber pricesare making the rubber business owners and their labourers face more difficulties.

Normally rubber price used to rise in opening seasons and fall when close to the break of collecting rubber latex. Local rubbers were mostly bought by China and exported through the border. Malaysia also used to buy local rubber from Myanmar.

The quality of local raw rubber is currently poor. Local businessmen will open the finished rubber factories and make the investment to meet the standard quality.

The price of RSS (Ribbed, Smoked Sheet) rubbers is Ks 875 per pound and raw rubbers sheet is nearly Ks 750 per pound. The prices hit up to Ks1,000 last months, but the prices are currently declining.—200 ■

Farmers concerned of declining sesame prices

FARMERS are worried of the steady decline of sesame as harvest season approaches.

"The price of the sesame seeds has declined continuously in 2015 and 2016 and we are worried that the prices in September may fall," said U Maung Ngae, a grower of sesame seeds in Nyaung Nga Bin village, Tatkon Township.

"Sesame price has declined consistently in last two years. If the sesame seeds price will fall again this year, growers will meet with losses. The average prices of sesame seeds in 2014 fetched over Ks 90,000 per basket. In 2015 and 2016 it fetched between Ks 40,000 and Ks 50,000 kyats per basket", said U Maung Ngae.

Among the oil crops in Myanmar, sesame stands at the top with nearly 51.3 million acres planted.

"China purchased Myanmar sesame seed with high prices in 2014 due to the bad weather and reduced planting of sesame in China. Later, the price became steady in Myanmar," said U Nay Moe Thwe, a merchant of NhanAkharyi Shop in Mandalay.

Sesame support the local cooking oil sector and is currently exported to 12 countries.—Myanma Alinn ■

Mango market looks promising with finished products factories

WITH the mango finished products factories emerging in the country, the mango market is likely to take a firm hold of the market this year, according to export marketers.

Myanmar's mango is mainly exported to China and also shipped to Singapore and Korea.

Cold storage facilities and mango processing factories will reportedly open this year, and South Korea has offered Myanmar mango to purchase and finish. In addition, Russia placed orders for dried mango and mango pulp after a flourishing market last year.

Over 740 tonnes of mango were exported to China between 3rd and 19th April, according to the Commerce Ministry.

A cold storage factory to produce finished mango products is under construction in Singaing Township, Mandalay Region, which is reported to be completed this month.

This factory buys mango at a prevailing export price to China so as to produce frozen mango pulp, dried mango, preserved mango, and other finished products.

A factory which produces baskets for mango is being built in Patheingyi Township. A basket which can hold 16 kilograms of mango will sell for Ks1,300 to Ks1,500 to the growers.

The growers need not send their mango to the border market as they can sell the mango in the domestic market with a prevailing export price. Thus, the domestic mango market is likely to boom this year.

The yield of mango is expected to decline this year due to unavoidable erratic weather conditions. Myanmar's mango market is likely to thrive domestically, some experts said. —YCDC ■

Value of export through Muse border gate down by over US$85million

Exports through the Muse border trade camp as of 5th May in this Fiscal Year 2017-2018 were found to have decreased by over US$85million compared to that in the similar period of last FY.

Muse border trade from 1st April to 5th May this FY hit US$357.473million, which is down by over US$20million from that of last FY, according to statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

The country is conducting border trade with neighbouring countries via 16 border trade camps: trading with China through Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung, with Thailand through Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maese and Mawtaung border gates. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtaw, while the country trades directly with India via Tamu and Reed border gates. Muse, Chin Shwe Haw, Keng Tung, Tachilek, Htee Khee, Sittway and Tamu are witnessed to have a decline in trade while the trade values in other remaining camps have risen a bit.

The border trade values as of 5th May this FY totaled over US$550million, which shows only a slight increase than that of last FY. —Ko Htet ■

President receives outgoing Pakistan Ambassador

THE president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Htin Kyaw received Mr. Ehsan Ullah Batth, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar who had completed his tour of duty at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 3 pm yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint and officials.

During the meeting, they discussed about collaboration and exchange of high ranking official's visits between the governments of the two countries. — Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Htin Kyaw bids farewell to Pakistan Ambassador Mr. Ehsan Ullah Batth. **PHOTO: MNA**

14 injured in Pauktaw fire

A fire caused by a cigarette in a convenience shop destroyed 14 shops at No.3 Ward of Pauktaw Town at about 8.30am yesterday.

According to the investigation, a flame caused by the errant cigarette spread to tanks of engine oil in the shop owned by U Naing Naing Tun.

The fire was put out within two hour by firemen and total damage of the fire is estimated at about K150 Lakh.

Thirteen men and a woman were injured in the incident and they were taken via Pauktaw Hospital to Sittway Hospital.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Yangon Gov't to relax low-cost housing down payment rules

The Yangon Region Government is planning to relax the down payment requirements for purchasing low-cost housing and to extend the periods for loans, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, Regional Minister for Electric Power, Industry and Transportation.

The regional government will extend the period of loans from the initial 20 years to 30 years, mainly to allow more citizens to be able to own their own homes.

"It is difficult to own property because the down payment is 30 per cent of the price, and the period of the loans is too short. That's why we are trying to decrease the down payment and extend the periods of loans," said Minister Daw Nilar Kyaw, adding that they are currently in discussions with the union government to extend loan periods to 30 years.

"We are working to increase the housing project areas and for staff and citizens to be able to own property by increasing investment and capital in the financial sector," she said. These statements were made in response to a question raised by U Yan Aung Min from Shwepyitha Constituency (1) at the Yangon Regional Hluttaw meeting on 16 May, asking what steps the government would take to ensure that civil staff, pensioners and citizens who are renting will one day be able to own their own household. "Limitations on the purchasing power of the public also limits them from purchasing their own property. Staff members from the City Development Committee and other ministries are living in self-organised housings," said Minister Daw Nilar Kyaw. The Construction and Housing Development (CHD) Bank was established in 2014 and disburses loans and accepts immediate payment, payment with installment and pawn to cover loans. The period of loans varies from 8 to 10 years. The regional government is also collaborating with the Ministry for Planning and Finance and Ministry for Construction to provide housing for civil staff, pensioners and citizens across the country.

The Ministry for Construction has announced that it will finish construction of a 200-acre low-cost housing project within two years and will include 8,000 rooms each costing under Ks100 lakhs. Private companies have been invited to collaborate on the project and the nationwide bank loan system will be used.

The Civil and Housing Development Department said their main focus is to provide housing for low-income citizens, civil staff and pensioners. A total of 116,486 rooms have been constructed in Yangon Region during the period from 1951 to the 2015-2016 fiscal year. —Ko Moe ■

U Win Myint appointed as Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Win Myint , Ambassador at the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Singapore, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than (center) arrives back Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets with Vietnamese President

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than who has been in Vietnam on an official visit met with President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr. Tran Dai Quang at the Presidential Palace on 16 May afternoon.

During the meeting, matters relating to increasing bilateral relationship, cooperating in economic, agriculture and cultural sectors, stability and development in the ASEAN region were discussed.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and party left Vietnam from Noi Bai International Airport, Hanoi and arrived back to Yangon International Airport yesterday morning where they were welcomed by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint and officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Thura U Shwe Mann arrives back Yangon after attending 17th Doha Forum

Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann attended the 17th Doha Forum in Qatar from May 14 to May 15 and arrived back to Yangon by air yesterday morning.

During the visit, Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann met with Qatar Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani in Sheraton Hotel, Doha on 13 May afternoon and met with member of the Advisory Council and Rapporteur of the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee H.E. Nasser Rashid Serayea Al Kaabi in Advisory Council Building on 15 May noon.

During the meeting matters relating to legislative process, increasing bilateral relation and cooperation were cordially discussed and views exchanged. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Block Wastage And Save Shortage!

Khin Maung Oo

In our everyday conversation, the two words, "Wastage" and "Shortage" are commonly heard. To put it simply, most of our people fail to regard their importance, or rather condoning them. Wastage is defined as the fact of losing or destroying something, especially because it has been used or dealt with carelessly. Here, it must be noted that something includes time, money or effort. Among them, time is concerned with every individual because each and every one of us is equally given 24 hours a day by the nature. Those who have no money or no work have nothing to waste apart from time. Due to weakness in demography and management in our works/jobs, our businesses, our professions and departments, we do not achieve success to the extent as expected.

Undeniably, we need relaxation and recreation after a daily exhaustion in our jobs. But we should assess ourselves how many hours we spend a day. In this frenetic age people, especially those in advanced countries are busying themselves with pursuing for the progress of their lives. In our country there are many persons who spend their most valuable time, with some sitting in cafeterias and road-side teashops to chat or wait for winning numbers of two-or-three-digit-Myanmar-Chai-gambling game. Most of wealthy parents spend their time by transporting their offspring to schools every weekday. Taking time of traffic jam into consideration, they spend three or four hours a day. They may say that such a kind of wastage does not harm anyone. In case they develop their skills or abilities during these hours, they will make progress in their lives, to help fulfill needs in their children's knowledge with their advancing ages.

Out of the whole populace in the country, provided that one million people spend one hour a day, the country will lose the effort of one million labor hours. In such a time when we are marching toward a federal democratic nation, these labor hours will help to implement a project to the success. By creating more and more jobs, we can use up labor of those who are killing time on roads or coffee-shops, and simultaneously we can reduce crime rates. And we need to review actual situations in our work. With incompetent service-personnel, our work may be failed or delayed, leading to wastages of time, money and labor or effort. So as to avoid such a kind of wastage, they need to be trained to have a full capacity. Some important jobs or works do not accept even iota of a mistake. In other word, capacity-building is of a great importance and it depends not only upon the government but also on our own efforts. Failing that, we will meet shortages in every place. So, let us save shortage by avoiding wastages. ■

NCDs: Not communicable but can spread

Dr. Phone Myint (PHP)

As the world is becoming increasingly globalized and consumer-oriented systematic understanding of the private sector is vital to promoting health. The current global economic system that prioritizes wealth creation over health creation is the main contributor for the rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Many key problems and solutions lie outside the health sector and no one factor could fully address the burden of NCDs. Alliance with non-health actors and key stakeholders and where appropriate, including the private sector and civil society, in collaborative partnerships to promote health and to reduce risk factors for non-communicable disease is highly essential. In addition to the deaths caused by tobacco and alcohol, more than 18 million deaths every year are caused by high blood pressure (9•4 million), high body-mass index (3•4 million), high fasting blood glucose (3•4 million), and high total cholesterol (2•0 million), much of which could be attributed to the consumption of ultra processed foods and drinks. Almost all growth in the foreseeable future in profits from the sale of these unhealthy commodities will be in low-income and middle-income countries. Scaling-up of concerted action to reduce consumption of unhealthy commodities—mainly tobacco, alcohol, and ultra-processed food and drink products will be needed to achieve the agreed goal to reduce premature mortality due to NCDs of 25% by 2025.

Lifestyles and choices of individual consumers which ultimately determining health outcomes are shaped by the social environment in which people live and work: and this social environment is under the influence of corporate activities on the availability, cultural desirability, and prices of unhealthy products. Power of the corporate sector should not be underestimated. Starting from the field of tobacco attention in recent years has been on the other areas like unhealthy commodities, industrial epidemics, profit driven diseases and corporate practices harmful to health. Transnational corporations are major drivers of the acceleration of the nutrition transition—from traditional diets of whole or minimally processed foods to highly processed foods and drinks. The substantial growth of ultra-processed products has paralleled and contributed to the increase in obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related chronic diseases, especially in low-income and middle-income countries.

Both demand and supply factors contribute to the rising consumption of unhealthy commodities by the population. On the demand side, as purchasing power of people improved with economic growth, unhealthy commodities become more affordable; as people have less time, consumption is enhanced with convenience of getting these products. Additionally demand is increased by the systematic and aggressive mass marketing campaigns of alcohol, ultra-processed foods and drink, and tobacco. Economic policy and trade agreements that open markets to foreign investment is a contributory factor to supply as these provide entry for tobacco, alcohol, and ultra-processed food and drink corporations through takeovers of domestic companies. Constraining the ability of governments to introduce fiscal policies to limit their consumption, de-regulation also contributes to market spread of unhealthy commodities. These demand and supply drivers are similar in the tobacco, alcohol, and ultra-processed food and beverage industries. In this way unhealthy commodities stimulate complementary epidemics.

What does it meant by ultra-processed products?

Ultra-processed products are made from processed substances extracted or refined from whole foods—oils, hydrogenated oils and fats, flours and starches, variants of sugar, and cheap parts or remnants of animal foods—with little or no whole foods. Products include burgers, frozen pizza and pasta dishes, nuggets and sticks, crisps, biscuits, confectionery, cereal bars, carbonated and other sugared drinks, and various snack products.

Ultra-processed products are typically energy dense; have a high glycaemic load; are low in dietary fibre, micronutrients, and phytochemicals; and are high in unhealthy types of dietary fat, free sugars, and sodium. When consumed in small amounts and with other healthy sources of calories, ultra-processed products are harmless; however, intense palatability (achieved by high content fat, sugar, salt, and cosmetic and other additives), omnipresence, and sophisticated and aggressive marketing strategies (such as reduced price for super-size servings), all make modest consumption of ultra-processed products unlikely and displacement of fresh or minimally processed foods very likely.

SEE PAGE 9

Transnational corporations are major drivers of the acceleration of the nutrition transition—from traditional diets of whole or minimally processed foods to highly processed foods and drinks. The substantial growth of ultra-processed products has paralleled and contributed to the increase in obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related chronic diseases, especially in low-income and middle-income countries.

UNAIDS lauds launch of new Myanmar HIV strategic plan, calls for more investments to end AIDS epidemic

UNAIDS commended the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) and the Myanmar HIV Technical and Strategy Group on the launch of the third National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS 2016 to 2020 (NSP III), held at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The five-year plan serves as the country's fast-track strategy to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

The NSP III adapts the latest global strategies to the Myanmar context to ensure an effective, cost-efficient and high-impact HIV response.

UNAIDS Myanmar Country Director, Eamonn Murphy said, "It is with deep gratitude that I congratulate MOHS, the National AIDS Programme and partners who all worked hard on this state-of-the-art plan to ensure that health services are delivered faster to the people who need them the most."

The NSP III includes geographic prioritization which categorizes townships based on HIV epidemic burden and risk of new infections.

The plan also differentiates service delivery approaches to reach priority populations and expedite their access to services.

The new plan is also more cost-efficient, with savings of around US$ 100 million compared to the previous national HIV plan. Government funding also increased in the said plan, particularly on HIV treatment and methadone treatment for drug dependence.

While the Myanmar government is highly committed and is increasing its contribution to the national response, there is still a need for additional financial resources both from the government and the international community in order to implement the plan according to its vision.

"This new plan builds on the significant achievements of the past five years and aims to bring the country closer to ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat. But without the necessary funds to fully implement it, the country stands to lose the gains it had made and back slide to the situation prior to 2012, when there were long waiting lists and not all who needed treatment can be accommodated.

Without additional investments for critical prevention and treatment elements, thousands of lives will hang in the balance.

This is a crucial time for Myanmar to fast-track its national response and we hope that the government and international community will continue to invest in the country as it strives to avert new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths." Murphy added.
—GNLM ■

Fuel laboratory to be opened in August at Thilawa port

A fuel oil laboratory being constructed at Thilawa port will be opened in August to control the quality of fuel. The construction of the fuel oil laboratory will be completed soon, officials said.

The Thilawa Port Authority wants to test the fuel oil at the laboratory to determine the quality of fuel that oil suppliers are selling. The fuel oil laboratory will be a state-of-the-art facility that provides results quickly. The authority will take legal action against those who are selling fuel that does not meeting the standards laid down by the government. "The tests from the fuel laboratory will come up with precise results because the fuel laboratory is using international technology. Testing the fuel at the fuel laboratory can deter fraudulent fuel selling," said a staff member.— 200 ■

NCDs: Not communicable but can spread

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These factors also make ultra-processed products liable to harm endogenous satiety mechanisms and so promote energy overconsumption and thus obesity. Most are made, advertised, and sold by large or transnational corporations and are very durable, palatable, and ready to consume, which is an enormous commercial advantage over fresh and perishable whole or minimally processed foods.

Various goods including tobacco, alcohol, vinyl chloride, asbestos, cars, and the food and drink industries are reported to be associated with harmful health outcomes. These industrial products can cause spread of NCDs, and thus the term industrial epidemic is emerging as an area of interest in the field of public health. Unlike infectious diseases, these NCDs here are not carried by biological agents but by transnational corporations. These transnational corporations put into practice sophisticated campaigns to undermine public health interventions. Better understanding of the effect of corporate behaviour on health, namely the health risks of transnational corporations and the distribution of the unhealthy commodities that they make and market is essential. Addressing the following two questions will be far reaching in shedding light for the public health professionals on what they need to do.

What are the channels through which companies influence governments, society, and consumers? What are strategies and approaches used by the private sector to promote products and choices that are detrimental to health?

Corporate exert their influence through four channels

Through marketing, they try to enhance the desirability and acceptability of unhealthy commodities. By lobbying they attempt to impede policy barriers such as plain packaging and minimum drinking ages. Using corporate social responsibility strategies they aim to deflect attention and whitewash tarnished reputations. Extending supply chains they amplify company influence around the globe. Through these channels the corporate boost their reach and magnify the health impact of commercial enterprise. As more people are reached with ever more consumption choices corporate influence is expanded both in the breadth and depth. Any strategies or actions taken must address the drivers and channels through which corporations propagate the non-communicable diseases pandemic.

Common strategies industries use to affect public health legislation and avoid regulation

The first strategy is to bias research findings to misinform the public. They accomplish this strategy through hiring doctors to publish studies or by creating quasi-independent organizations to produce biased and partial scientific reports. They also funded research and compared to the findings of research that were not sponsored by food or drug companies research articles sponsored by them are more likely to have conclusions favorable to their financial interests.

> Various goods including tobacco, alcohol, vinyl chloride, asbestos, cars, and the food and drink industries are reported to be associated with harmful health outcomes. These industrial products can cause spread of NCDs, and thus the term industrial epidemic is emerging as an area of interest in the field of public health.

Secondly they co-opt policy makers and health professionals. To undermine tobacco control research, partnership with scientists was promoted and researchers were hired to disseminate health promotion strategies to mislead the public about the harmful effects of smoking. The third strategy is to lobby politicians and public officials to oppose public regulation. Tobacco transnationals lobby policymakers and fund campaigns of politicians who support tobacco use. The lobbying power of alcohol and ultra-processed food and drink corporations is also substantial. The fourth strategy is to encourage voters to oppose public health regulation. For example, the tobacco industry has, and continues to campaign for, a restricted role of government, and against taxation and regulation.

Demand for processed food and drink, alcohol, and tobacco is becoming higher particularly in the low-income and middle-income countries. Consequently selling these products become a big business. "Efforts to prevent non-communicable diseases go against the business interests of powerful economic operators". That was what the Director General of the World Health Organization Dr. Margaret Chan noted in her address at the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion in Helsinki in 2013. How the tobacco, alcohol, and ultra-processed food and beverage corporations had been able to advance their strategies shows the failure of public health policy makers and professionals to respond to the effect of unhealthy commodities on global health, and shows how these industries undermine public health. A substantially scaled up response from governments, public health organizations, and civil society to regulate the harmful activities of these industries is urgently in need.

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PRESS RELEASE

State Counsellor participated in the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing

State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid a visit to China to attend the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation at the invitation of President Xi Jinping, from 13th to 17th May 2017 and arrived back Nay Pyi Taw by a special flight at 15:00 hrs on 17th May 2017.

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held on 14-15 May 2017 in Beijing, China. It was attended by more than 1500 representatives from over 130 nations including 30 heads of state and government.

The State Counsellor attended the opening ceremony of the Forum held in the morning of 14 May 2017 at China National Convention Centre in Beijing and the welcome dinner hosted by President Xi Jinping in the evening. On 15th May 2017, she attended the Leaders Roundtable held at Yanqi Lake International Conference Centre in Beijing. The Leaders Roundtable was attended by 30 heads of State and Government, including the host, the United Nations Secretary-General, the President of the World Bank Group and the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. The morning session of the Leaders Roundtable was held to discuss the theme of "Policy Synergy for Closer Partnership. Its afternoon session was focused on "Connectivity Cooperation for Interconnected Development" and the theme of the working lunch was "Closer People-to-People Bond". The State Counsellor participated in and made interventions at both sessions and at the working lunch.

In her interventions, the State Counsellor expressed her thanks to President Xi Jinping and the Government of China for initiating the Belt and Road Forum as well as for their warm hospitality. She stressed that good people-to-people relations based on mutual understanding and respect and a stable and peaceful environment are essential foundation stones for the success of the Belt and Road Initiative. Connectivity covers not only physical or infrastructure connectivity but also institutional connectivity and people-to-people connectivity. Because of its multi-facetted nature, connectivity cooperation would need to complement existing national and regional platforms. She also stressed that projects under the Initiative would be most effective if they are designed to re-enforce or complement ongoing and future projects of respective nations and regional organizations. Due attention needs to be paid to the expectations and concerns of governments and peoples. She added that each partner country has its own characteristics and the best multi-national initiatives are aligned those well with national plans. Myanmar has laid out its own Road Network Master Plan and it is also participating in a number of ongoing sub-regional and regional projects. She emphasized the need to ensure that business activities are carried out in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. Conservation of the natural environment and welfare of local communities are essential for the success of development projects. The creation of employment opportunities for local peoples is also an important factor. She shares the view that the Belt and Road Forum should not be a one-time event and it should be a process so that progress can be reviewed and policy guidelines charted out for the success of this Initiative. Myanmar supported the proposal for continuation of the Forum in future.

At the end of the Leaders Roundtable, the leaders adopted a Joint Communiqué on the Belt and Road Initiative. It was stated that the Belt and Road Initiative aims for strengthening physical and infrastructure connectivity among countries along the Silk Road, for fostering policy coordination and connectivity cooperation, for unimpeded trade and investment, and for promoting people-to-people bond through exchange of culture, religion, tourism, education, and digital connectivity.

The State Counsellor was accompanied at the Forum by Union Minister for Construction, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister for Commerce and senior officials from the relevant ministries to the Forum. The accompanying Ministers also attended the High-level Dialogue sessions held in the afternoon of 14th May 2017 in Beijing.

During the visit, on 16th May 2017, the State Counsellor held separate bilateral talks with President Xi Jingping and Premier Li Keqiang of the People's Republic of China. At the meetings, the leaders stressed the importance of advancing "Comprehensive Cooperative Strategic Partnership Relations" based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence and existing "Pauk-Phaw" friendship, maintaining peace and stability and development of the border areas, continued support of China for the success of Myanmar's reconciliation and peace process, promoting diverse cooperation between the two countries particularly for the benefit of the two peoples through the high-level communications and exchange of visits. Furthermore, the leaders also cordially discussed about the further promotion of trade and investments including establishment of Border Economic Cooperation Zone and ongoing infrastructure projects stressing the importance of peace and stable environment for the success of Belt and Road Initiatives.

After the bilateral meetings, the State Counsellor and Premier Li Keqiang attended the signing ceremony of cooperation agreement and MoUs between Myanmar and China. A total of 5 MoUs and Agreement were successfully inked, namely Agreement on China's grant for Economic and technical Cooperation of RMB Yuan 500 million to Myanmar to Support Development of Agriculture Sector, MoU on Establishment of China-Myanmar Border Economic Cooperation Zone, MoU on Cooperation within the Framework of the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative, MoU on Cooperation in Health, and MoU on Cooperation in Post-quake Restoration and Protection of Historic Monuments of Bagan,.

While in Beijing, the State Counsellor held bilateral meetings separately with H.E. Mrs. Doris Leuthard, President of Switzerland, H.E. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, H.E. Ms. Beata Szydlo, Prime Minister of Poland, and H.E. Mr. Erdenebat Jargaltulga, Prime Minister of Mongolia on 14th May 2017 and discussed on further promoting friendship and cooperation as well as on lending supports to Myanmar"s democratic transition process. She also held a separate meeting with H.E. Mr. Antoni Guterres, United Nations Secretary General on 15th May 2017 and exchanged views on the United Nations' support for the Myanmar's democratic transition, ongoing peace and reconciliation process as well as on sustainable resolution of the issue of Rakhine State.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Dated: 17 May 2017.

Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Second Session)

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to **dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: **(1)** Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), **(2)** Real name and (if different) your penname, **(3)** Your level of education, **(4)** Name of your School/College/University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).– Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

Christian sect members attack Congo prison, free leader — govt

KINSHASA — Supporters of a jailed Christian sect leader attacked the prison holding him in Democratic Republic of Congo's capital, freeing him and about 50 other inmates early on Wednesday, the government said.

Ne Muanda Nsemi — a self-styled prophet and leader of the Bundu dia Kongo movement — was arrested in March after a series of deadly clashes between his supporters and police, government spokesman Lambert Mende said.

Witnesses said they had heard gunfire near Makala prison at around 4 am (0300 GMT) and saw prisoners wearing blue shirts with yellow collars in the streets.

The United Nations warned its staff to avoid unessential movement around Kinshasa, saying the situation was calm but unpredictable.

Soldiers stopped young men for questioning near Nsemi's house in the city's district of Ngaliema and arresting some of them, a Reuters witness said. Justice minister Alexis Thambwe told a local radio station that, aside from Nsemi, the prison's most prominent prisoners, including political opposition leaders and soldiers convicted in the assassination of former president Laurent Kabila, had not escaped.

Security personnel sitting on a truck watch burned vehicles at the front gate of the Makala prison after it was attacked by supporters of jailed Christian sect leader Ne Muanda Nsemi in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo on 17 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The president of Bundu dia Kongo's political wing could not be immediately reached for comment. Nsemi has a strong following in southwestern Congo and wants to revive the Kongo kingdom, which flourished for centuries around the mouth of the Congo River.

Clashes between his followers and security forces have compounded wider tensions across Congo since President Joseph Kabila refused to step down when his mandate expired in December, raising fears of renewed civil conflict. At least six of Nsemi's supporters were killed earlier this year during the two-week standoff at his Kinshasa residence that led to his capture. —Reuters ■

Three Somali soldiers die trying to defuse car bomb — police

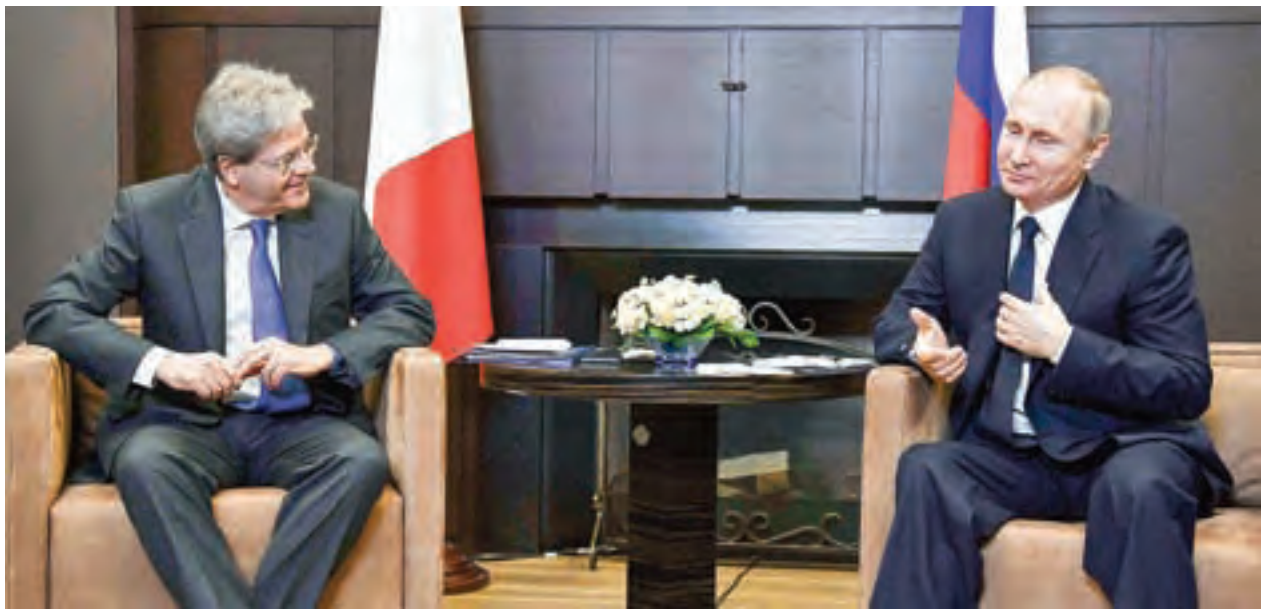
MOGADISHU — Three soldiers died when a car bomb exploded while they were trying to defuse it on Wednesday in the Somali capital Mogadishu, police and the militant al Shabaab group said.

The men were dismantling part of the car when the device went off. "First two soldiers died and another was injured. The third soldier died of the blast wounds minutes later," police major Mohamed Hussein told Reuters. Al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab claimed responsibility but gave different details. "Five mine experts including security officials and foreigners died in the Mogadishu blast," its military affairs spokesman Abdiasis Abu Musab said. Police officer Hussein said all the dead were Somalis.

Since losing large swathes of territory to African Union peacekeepers supporting the government, al Shabaab have frequently launched raids and deadly attacks in Mogadishu and other regions controlled by the federal government.—Reuters ■

Vladimir Putin says can prove Trump did not pass Russia secrets

SOCHI, (Russia), — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that US President Donald Trump had not passed on any secrets to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov during a meeting in Washington last week and that he could prove it. Speaking at a news conference alongside Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Putin quipped that Lavrov was remiss for not passing on what he made clear he believed were non-existent secrets.



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni at the Bocharov Ruchei state residence in Sochi, Russia on 17 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"I spoke to him (Lavrov) today," said Putin with a smile. "I'll be forced to issue him with a reprimand because he did not share these secrets with us. Not with me, nor with representatives of Russia's intelligence services. It was very bad of him."

Putin, who said Moscow rated Lavrov's meeting with Trump "highly," said Russia was ready to hand a transcript of Trump's meeting with Lavrov over to US lawmakers if that would help reassure them. A Kremlin aide, Yuri Ushakov, later told reporters that Moscow had in its possession a written record of the conversation, not an audio recording.

Complaining about what he said were signs of "political schizophrenia" in the United States, Putin said Trump was not being allowed to do his job properly. "It's hard to imagine what else can these people who generate such nonsense and rubbish can dream up next," said Putin.

"What surprises me is that they are shaking up the domestic political situation using anti-Russian slogans. Either they don't understand the damage they're doing to their own country, in which case they are simply stupid, or they understand everything, in which case they are dangerous and corrupt."

Two US officials said on Monday that Trump had disclosed highly classified information to Lavrov about a planned Islamic State operation, plunging the White House into another controversy just months into Trump's short tenure in office.

Russia has repeatedly said that anti-Russian politicians in the United States are using groundless fears of closer ties with Moscow to sabotage any rapprochement and damage Trump in the process.—Reuters ■

Political tensions escalating between Germany and Turkey

BERLIN — Unfolding daily events are continuing to contribute to the rising tensions between Germany and Turkey, German newspaper Bild reported on Wednesday.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim gave Berlin an ultimatum to choose between alliance with Turkey and support for the rebels on Tuesday. German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel warned that if Turkey continues to "blackmail" Germany, a tolerance level will be eventually reached.

Bild reports said that Germany has put in motion concrete plans to start moving their military facility in Turkey to Jordan. German troops will inspect the Jordanian airbase Muffawak Salti on Wednesday to ascertain how quickly the move can occur. The heated exchanges come in the wake of rising tensions between the two governments. Last week, Germany accepted asylum claims from former high-ranking Turkish generals, who were also former NATO officials. Turkey claimed that these generals had a direct hand in the failed coup attempt in July 2016. But Germany accepted the asylum by the Turkish officers for fear that they would not receive a fair trial in Turkey.

Turkey subsequently refused German members of parliament access to German staff at a military facility on Monday. The refusal prompted German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her CDU party to seriously consider the possibility of moving the army from Incirlik airbase in Turkey.—Xinhua ■

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HARD WOOD LOGS
- KANYIN ABOUT (1872)TONS
HARDWOOD CONVERSION
KANYIN ABOUT (93) TONS
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Israeli intel experts alarmed by Trump leak but play down any damage

JERUSALEM — Israeli intelligence experts are gravely concerned that US President Donald Trump's sharing of classified information with Russia may have compromised an Israeli agent, but don't expect any long-term consequences for intelligence cooperation.

Trump has confirmed via Twitter that during a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the White House last week he shared information related to a potential airline plot by Islamic State, thought to involve a laptop bomb.

The New York Times, citing a current and a former US official, reported on Tuesday that the information Trump divulged came from an Israeli intelligence asset based in Islamic State-held territory in Syria.

Israeli officials have declined to confirm whether they were the source of the information Trump shared, but have been quick to say counter-terrorism coordination with the United States is strong.

"The security relationship between Israel & our greatest ally the United States is deep, significant & unprecedented in volume," Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman said on Twitter, remarks that were echoed by the intelligence minister.

Ron Dermer, Israel's ambassador to Washington, issued a similar statement, saying: "Israel has full confidence in our intelligence-sharing relationship with the United States and looks forward to deepening that relationship in the years ahead under President Trump."

Israeli intelligence experts said they could not confirm whether an Israeli asset was the source. But they said Israel had developed a deep network of human and signal intelligence across the region and it was plausible that it had managed to infiltrate Islamic State as part of that long-running effort.

"Israeli intelligence agencies have shown that they can have such human sources," said Aviv Oreg, former head of the Al Qaeda and global jihad desk in the army's military intelligence department, who now runs a counter-terrorism consultancy.

"It would take a lot to put someone inside ISIS. If there is an agent, I'm sure it's the only one. If we have really lost a human source over there, it's a major loss and it will take years to regenerate another one," he said.

"Israel will be furious about it," he added, highlighting that it was likely to have implications for how Israel operates its human intelligence assets more broadly, and may make others unwilling to cooperate with it in the future.

At the same time, he said Israel understood that Trump, as president and commander-in-chief, had the authority to divulge the information, even if in doing so he had shown that he "has no experience in how to deal with intelligence."—Reuters ■

The new vehicle will have a heavy-lift capacity and a V-shaped undercarriage and more comfortable seating for the combat crew and landing troops. **PHOTO: TAS**

Russian Defence Ministry invests in advanced Tiger armoured vehicles

MOSCOW — Russia's Military Industrial Company has started developing a new generation of the Tigr (Tiger) armoured vehicles, with the first model likely to be rolled out in 2018, the company's CEO, Alexander Krasovitsky, told TASS.

"The development of the next-generation Tiger armored vehicles has been launched. The Defence Ministry has welcomed this project and has earmarked funding for it," he said.

According to Krasovitsky, the company's engineers are now working on sketches for the new "Tigers".

"I think we will see this vehicle next year 'in the flesh'," he added.

Earlier Krasovitsky told TASS that the new vehicle will have a heavy-lift capacity and a V-shaped undercarriage and more comfortable seating for the combat crew and landing troops.

The vehicle will also get Class 1, Class 2, and, over time, Class-3 protection under the common technical requirements. —Tass ■

Greeks, in nationwide strike, demand end to evermore austerity

ATHENS — Thousands of Greeks walked off their jobs on Wednesday and marched through central Athens in an angry protest against continued austerity measures being demanded by international lenders in exchange for disbursing bailout funds.

There were isolated clashes with police, but the demonstration was generally peaceful.

The strike was called by the country's main public and private sector unions a day before Greece's parliament is due to vote on reforms that would help unlock the funds from the 86-billion-euro bailout, the country's third in seven years.

New austerity attached to the funds release include the 13th cut in pensions since 2010 and a reduction in tax-free allowances on income. They come after years of cuts that for a time threw the country into deep recession.

Unemployment is running at close to one in four and there is a 48 per cent jobless rates among the youth.

A few domestic flights were grounded and public transport was disrupted throughout Athens. At least 15,000 people including pensioners, teachers, doctors and lawyers, marched to parliament as lawmakers debated the new measures.

Protesters held banners reading "No to austerity, yes to debt relief!" and "Bring back the conquered rights that you stole from us!". They chanted "They talk about losses and gains and we talk about human lives". Some of the demonstrators expressed anger at the coalition government of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, whose leftist Syriza party came to power in 2015 promising to stop the cuts. "They told us they would end austerity and tear apart the bailouts," said Paraskevi Tsouparopoulou, 62. "Instead they brought us disaster."

Clashes broke out outside parliament as the march ended.

Police fired teargas at a group of protesters hurling petrol bombs and firecrackers at them. A small group of demonstrators were seen firing projectiles at police with what appeared to be improvised devices. Others held hammers.

Greece has agreed to the further spending cuts to end a logjam in talks with its foreign lenders, the European Union and the International Monetary Fund, over its bailout progress.

Once the new measures are approved by Greek lawmakers — as is expected — euro zone finance ministers will then discuss the disbursement of the loans at the next scheduled Eurogroup meeting on 22 May.

Athens needs the funds urgently to repay 7.5 billion euro ($8.18 billion) in debt maturing in July.

Tsipras and German Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed during a call on Wednesday morning that "a deal was feasible" by Monday, a government official said.—Reuters ■

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Education
Invitation for Bids

Loan/Grant No. and Title:	MYA 3472 – Equipping Youth for Employment Sector Development Project
Contract/s No. and Title:	EYE/CW/ICB/CBMSC-WS-Dorms/01

With reference to the Newspapers advertisment for the construction and completion of CBMSC workshops and dormitories under the Ministry of Education which appeared in Myanma Ahlin and The Global New Light of Myanmar Newspapers on 16 May 2017, please note that the deadline for bid submission is corrected as 15:00 Hours (Myanmar Time) on 28 June 2017.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Cannes to open with feast for art-house movie buffs

CANNES, France — No Hollywood blockbusters this year, but the 2017 Cannes Film Festival, which opens on Wednesday, has a rich line-up of art-house movies that one critic has called the most appealing in a decade.

While a fight between American streaming giant Netflix and French movie theaters has overshadowed the opening, fans of auteur cinema are excited to see the latest works by the likes of Noah Baumbach, Francois Ozon and Lynne Ramsay. Todd Haynes, director of acclaimed lesbian drama "Carol", has the first film in the main competition, "Wonderstruck", based on a half-text, half-graphic novel about the inter-connected stories of two troubled children, set decades apart. Sofia Coppola's "The Beguiled", one of two films screening at Cannes starring Nicole Kidman and Colin Farrell, is a remake of the 1971 Clint Eastwood

A tourist takes a photo of the official poster, featuring actress Claudia Cardinale, on the facade of the festival palace at 70th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France on 17 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

American Civil War tale of sexual tension — this time seen through the lens of a woman, rather than the famously macho "Dirty Harry" director Don Siegel. Austrian director Michael Haneke could make it a record third Palme d'Or with "Happy End", starring the queen of art-house cinema, Isabelle Huppert.

"Set in and around Calais as the refugee crisis grows, the film is certainly not short of political relevancy," said Irish Times critic Donald Clarke, who reckons this year's line-up is "the most promising in a decade". After winning for "The White Ribbon" in 2009 and "Amour" in 2012, "there are few film¬makers Cannes would rather see break the record," Clarke added in his predictions for the festival that runs until 28 May.

A Chopard representative displays the Palme d'Or, the highest prize awarded to competing films, during an interview before the start of the festival at 70th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France on 17 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Outside the main competition, many films have a political edge, including "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power" which follows up on Al Gore's 2006 climate change documentary "An Inconvenient Truth". Oscar winner Vanessa Redgrave, twice Cannes' Best Actress, makes her directorial debut at the age of 80 with "Sea Sorrow", a documentary about the European refugee crisis. With France still under a state of emergency due to a raft of Islamist attacks, Cannes 2017 — the festival's 70th outing — will be under tighter security than ever, but that will not dampen spirits, according to the Hollywood Reporter's Scott Roxborough. "What Cannes definitely has, it still manages this sort of glamour, the magic of cinema — that still happens here," Roxborough told Reuters TV. "When the festival kicks off, it's just swarming here with people who are in film, who want to be in film, who love film — and you don't really get that atmosphere anywhere else in the world." —Reuters ■

Blake Lively to star in MMA action-drama Bruised

LOS ANGELES — Actress Blake Lively is set to star in a mixed martial arts film "Bruised".

The film, which centers on a single mother (to be played by Lively) working two jobs and a former MMA fighter who must return to the cage in order to keep her son, will be directed by Nick Cassavetes, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The script has been written by Michelle Rosenfarb.

Thunder Road Pictures Basil Iwanyk is producing alongside Linda Gottlieb and Guymon Casady of Management 360. Production is slated to begin in September this year. —PTI ■

Country singer Loretta Lynn moved to rehab centre after stroke

HURRICANE MILLS, Tennessee — Country music star Loretta Lynn has been moved from a hospital to a rehabilitation center as she recovers from a stroke, the singer-songwriter's representatives said on Monday.

The 85-year-old was admitted to a Nashville hospital on 5 May after suffering the stroke at her home in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee.

"Loretta wants to thank everybody for their prayers, love and support," her representatives posted on the singer's official Facebook page on Monday. "Loretta has been moved from hospital facility in to rehabilitation and we're happy to report she is doing great!"

Musician Loretta Lynn performs during the 48th Country Music Association Awards in Nashville, Tennessee on 5 November, 2014. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The singer's upcoming shows have been postponed on her doctors' advice while she recovers, a statement on her website said earlier this month. Lynn, one of the first women to break through to country music stardom as both a writer and a performer, had shows lined up across the United States through November.

Born in Kentucky, she carved a career in the country music scene with her down-home twangy voice, writing and singing hits such as 1960's "I'm a Honky Tonk Girl" and "Coal Miner's Daughter," released in 1970.—Reuters ■

Kendrick Lamar performs at the Global Citizen Festival at Central Park in Manhattan, New York, US on 24 September, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Logic topples Lamar from Billboard 200, Fonsi reaches No1 in US

LOS ANGELES — Rapper and record producer Logic toppled Kendrick Lamar from his three-week hold on the top of the Billboard 200 album charts with his new release "Everybody," according to Nielsen SoundScan figures on Monday.

"Everybody" sold 247,000 units for the week to take the No 1 spot, while country singer Chris Stapleton had his best sales week ever with new album "From A Room: Volume 1," which sold 218,000 units to take second place. Lamar's "Damn." added another 134,000 to land in 3rd place. The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

On the digital songs chart, which measures online single sales, Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi's "Despacito," in a version that features Justin Bieber, finally rose to the top spot in the United States with sales of 104,000. The song, recorded with fellow Latin star Daddy Yankee and first released in January, has already proved a global sensation. The new romantic single from Miley Cyrus, "Malibu," managed a disappointing 22nd place on the digital songs chart in its first week of release. —Reuters ■

Princess Mako, granddaughter of Japan emperor, to become engaged

TOKYO — Princess Mako, the first grandchild of Japanese Emperor Akihito and the elder daughter of Prince Akishino, will soon become engaged to a man who went to the same university in Tokyo, an Imperial Household Agency source said on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old princess will become engaged to Kei Komuro, who lives in Kohoku Ward in Yokohama, near Tokyo, the source said.

The news comes at a time when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government is preparing a bill for submission to the current Diet session to enable the 83-year-old emperor to hand over the Chrysanthemum throne to Crown Prince Naruhito, in what would be Japan's first abdication in around 200 years.

The envisioned succession will make her father Prince Akishino, the crown prince's younger brother, the next in line to the throne.

Princess Mako enrolled at International Christian University in Tokyo in April 2010. She studied at the University of Edinburgh in Britain as an exchange student when she was a junior at ICU.

After graduation, she went on to study at the University of Leicester in Britain, where she obtained a master's degree in art museum and gallery studies in January 2016.—Kyodo News ■

Photo taken in March 2014 shows Japan's Princess Mako (R), a granddaughter of Emperor Akihito, meeting children who lost their parents in the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster, along with her father Prince Akishino (L) in Sendai, northeastern Japan. The 25-year-old princess will soon become engaged to a man who also went to Tokyo's International Christian University, the Imperial Household Agency said on 16 May, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

A visitor walks past the paintings 'The Turner' (L) by Albanian artist Zef Shoshi and 'The Action Worker' by Hasan Nallbani during the 'Documenta 14' art exhibition in the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens, Greece on 9 May, 2017. **PHOTO : REUTERS**

Stirring portraits of communist Albania's women recall different reality

ATHENS — Three women stare down from the gallery wall — colorful, defiant and imbued with a spirit of working for the many not the few.

They are a brigadier, a factory worker and a youth volunteer with a hoe. They are paintings of socialist realism. They are also all Albanian women from the time of Enver Hoxha, who created one of the world's most closed societies until his death in 1985.

Visitors to Greece's capital have a relatively rare opportunity to see Hoxha-era art on display outside its regular home in Tirana's National Gallery of Art.

The portraits are part of documenta 14, the Kassel, Germany-based exhibition of Western European modern art that this year is being hosted both in Kassel and Athens.

Hundreds of documenta 14 displays are to be found in museums across the Greek city until July, with the three women portraits among the offerings at EMST, the National Museum of Contemporary Art located in the old but renovated Fix brewery building.

The paintings — by Spiro Kristo (1976), Zef Shoshi (1969) and Hasan Nallbani (1968) — draw you in and can inspire.

But they were also political, more than acceptable to Hoxha, who saw threats from the West, Russia, the then-Yugolavia and just about everywhere.

In a sense they are modernist icons for the only society in the world that was officially atheist.

As Edi Muka, an Albanian art critic and curator notes of Shoshi's factory worker, "representations of motherhood as constitutive of women's central role in religious art are carefully removed".

Hoxha-era paranoia was to be found everywhere from spikes in vineyards to deter potential enemy paratroopers to more than 700,000 concrete bunkers across the country, housing soldiers on guard for potential attack.

So it was not all easy for painters. Not far from the three women, documenta 14 has hung a 1971 painting "Planting of Trees" by Edi Hila.

It depicts blissfully happy young people planting trees for their country. Too blissfully happy, perhaps. Almost "expressive dancing", in the words of the painter.

"My work stepped out of the contours of socialist realism," Hila told Reuters in Tirana. "Generally in those works the positive, the hero, is in the center ... The compositional structure was different so this hurt their taste."—Reuters ■

MRTV Programme Schedule (18-5-2017, Thursday)

6:00 Am
♦ Paritta by Hilly Reagion Missionary Sayadaw
7:00 Am
♦ Breakfast News
7:35 Am
♦ NRC Programme (Rakhine)
8:40 Am
♦ Documentary
9:30 Am
♦ Beaytiful ASEAN
9:40 Am
♦ ASEAN Spotlight
10:30 Am
♦ MRTV Worker's Programme
11:15 Am
♦ Documentary (Forest)
11:30Am
♦ Real Story Real Movies
12:30 Am
♦ TV Drama Series
1:00 Pm
♦ Myanmar Movie
2:25 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
4:35 Pm
♦ Documentary
5:05 Pm
♦ NHK Programme "Tresure from the Earth" (Gleaming Rock salt)
5:30 Pm
♦ Socio Economic Scences
6:15 Pm
♦ Football Magazine
6:30 Pm
♦ Current Affairs
7:15 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
8:00 Pm
♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report
9:00 Pm
♦ Hluttaw Image
9:15 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
10:00 Pm
♦ Talk on Old Film (Part-1)

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(18-5-2017 07:00am ~ 19-5-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Ta Bin Dine Mya Nan) (Vitis)
07:56	Am	Dances of Myanmar (Pre Kayaw Traditional Dance)
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	Hanthawddy U Win Tin: A Fearless Man (Ep-2)
08:44	Am	Myanmar Betels
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Product of Myanmar - Stone of The Heavens
09:51	Am	Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township
10:51	Am	Well-Trained Elephants

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-2)
07:46	Pm	Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Hills Of Phowintaung and Shwebataung
08:43	Pm	A Life In The Ring

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

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

Japanese Judo Grade 8th to be assisted for Myanma Judo advancement

A delegation from Kodokan Judo Institute from Japan, led by Director of International Department Judo Grade 8th Dan Mr. Fujita Shinro, was welcomed by U Tun Tun, the chairman of Myanmar Judo Federation, at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

"Our delegation was invited by the Myanma Judo Federation and we are aiming at promotion of the ability of Myanma athletes by giving special trainings and courses for more qualified athletes to be able to participate in the 2020 Japan Olympic Games", said Mr. Fujita Shinro.

The delegation will form a special committee for the Myanmar Judo Federation to give certificates for Myanmar Judo athletes directly. — Saw Thein Win ■

The delegation from Kodokan Judo Institute is welcomed by officials. **PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN**

Sharapova retires hurt in Rome, Wimbledon main draw hopes hit

ROME — Triple champion Maria Sharapova retired injured from her second round match with Croatia's Mirjana Lucic-Baroni at the Italian Open on Tuesday, ending her hopes of qualifying on merit for Wimbledon's main draw.

The 30-year-old Russian, playing her third tournament back after a 15-month doping ban, was leading 2-1 in the deciding set but was unable to continue after injuring her left thigh.

It completed a miserable evening for the five-times grand slam champion, currently ranked 211, who earlier found out that she had been refused a wildcard for the French Open. The French Tennis Federation decided against awarding the former world number one even a place in the qualifying event — a move that surprised many. Sharapova had needed to reach the semi-finals in Rome to avoid needing a wildcard for the Wimbledon main draw.

However, her first round win against American Christina McHale in Rome means that her ranking will rise back inside the world's top 200 just in time to be guaranteed a place in the Wimbledon qualifying tournament.

A decision as to whether she is granted a main draw spot will be taken on 20 June.

Sharapova, banned after testing positive for heart drug meldonium at the 2016 Australian Open, has had mixed results since re-joining the WTA Tour. —Reuters ■

Man City on brink of Champions League spot after beating West Brom

LONDON — Manchester City moved back into third place and almost guaranteed Champions League qualification thanks to a 3-1 home victory against West Bromwich Albion on Tuesday at the Etihad Stadium.

They were frustrated for nearly half an hour but struck twice in two minutes, first when Gabriel Jesus tapped in from Kevin de Bruyne's cut-back and then when Jesus turned provider to set up De Bruyne who curled a shot past Ben Foster.

Yaya Toure finished off another slick City move in the 57th minute following a one-two with Sergio Aguero.

City need just a point from their final game away to Watford to make absolutely certain of a top-four finish.

One of the biggest cheers of the night was when substitute Pablo Zabaleta came on just past the hour to replace David Silva.

The club announced this week that the 32-year-old Argentine right back will leave at the end of the season after nine years at City in which he twice won the title.

The mood was slightly dampened late on when West Brom grabbed a late consolation from Hal Robson-Kanu.

With one game to play, City have 75 points to fourth-placed Liverpool's 73.

Arsenal, in fifth have 72, and could only catch City if Pep Guardiola's side lost to Watford on the final day and Arsenal beat Everton and there was a five-goal swing in goal difference. —Reuters ■

Manchester City's Yaya Toure in action with West Bromwich Albion's Darren Fletcher during the match of Premier League between Manchester City and West Bromwich Albion at Etihad Stadium on 16 May,2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Sanchez at the double as Arsenal down Sunderland

LONDON — Arsenal kept alive their top-four hopes with a 2-0 victory over Sunderland as Alexis Sanchez broke the visitors' dogged resistance with a late double at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday. Relegated Sunderland had defended deep and restricted Arsenal to half chances on a frustrating evening for Arsene Wenger's side until Sanchez rode to the rescue, sidefooting home Mesut Ozil's cross after 72 minutes. Sanchez, who had a first-half effort ruled out after his shot went in off the arm of Olivier Giroud, then doubled the lead with a close-range header with nine minutes remaining.

The victory leaves Arsenal fifth on 72 points, one behind Liverpool and three behind third-placed Manchester City ahead of Sunday's final round of fixtures to decide who will join Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur in next season's Champions League. —Reuters ■