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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with a Pa-O representative at the closing of the Union Peace Conference. PHOTO: MNA

Birth of Pyidaungsu Accord for Peace

Peace is at hand, peace makers said yesterday at the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong (Second Session), which wrapped up yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The five-day conference was marked by sometimes heated discussions, but there was compromise and eventual

agreement on enough of the issues to move forward toward a peace accord, officials said, with 33 points agreed upon during the five-day session as part of the Pyidaungsu (Union) Accord.

"All agreements on a federal system were not reached in one sitting, but we agreed on the important policy on separa-

tion of powers in the executive, legislative, and judicial sectors", Chairperson Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said in his closing address. "We didn't reach this stage easily. Due to the different beliefs among the ethnic nationals of our country, armed conflicts had occurred and as the armed conflict pro- longs, suspicion between one

another grew and because of the growing suspicion, it was difficult even to use the word federal."

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, chairperson of Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong central organising committee, said significant progress was made.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw: Electrification for Kyaukpadaung and embanking the Mu River

THE 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session's 5th day meeting was held at 10 am yesterday and replied to 8 inquiries, approved one report and put forward one motion and one report to the Hluttaw.

Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, said they have submitted an estimated budget allotment of Ks3226.097 million to be included in the 2018-2019 financial year for building a 27 mile-long 66 KV power grid line and two 5 MVA electrical substations in the northern and southern parts of Kyaukpadaung Township. This was the answer to U Shwe Ko of Kyaukpadaung Constituency asking about the electric sector in his constituency.

Dr Tun Naing further stated they are working on including a 30 mile-long 11KV power grid line and thirty-seven 11/0.4 KV transformers in northern Kyaukpadaung and another 30 mile-long 11KV power grid line and sixty-five 11/0.4 KV transform-

ers in southern Kyaukpadaung to be included in the National Electrification Plan and in the next financial year of the region's government.

Next, U Thant Zin Htun from Dekhinathiri Constituency asked the government's plan on rules and regulations for Committees for Adequate Lighting, the country's development plans on electricity, supplying electricity to households in villages, and plans to abolish illegally linking lines to the power grid.

The Deputy Minister replied that on 17 June 2014, 12 of the 24 rules and regulations for Committees for Adequate Lighting were relaxed and that they are in accordance with the signed agreement for the committees.

He further stated there will be fines for illegal linking to the power grid and a temporary cut off of electricity for the perpetrators, and if similar incidents occurred again there will be permanent cut off from the power grid.



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo, the Ministry of Transport and Communications. **PHOTO: MNA**

In the ten months from April 2016 to January 2017, 609 cases of illegally linking cables to the power grid were discovered and penalties amounting to Ks616 million were fined.

Dr. Win Aung from KhinU constituency asked whether there were plans for construction of retaining wall along the banks of the Mu River near KhinU Township. To this Deputy



Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy. **PHOTO: MNA**

Minister U Kyaw Myo from the Ministry of Transport and Communications replied that their ministry has surveyed the banks of the river and have submitted proposals to the Sagaing Region government for preventing the erosion of banks in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Afterwards, Deputy Ministers Dr Tun Naing and U Kyaw Myo replied to questions con-

cerning relocation of diesel stations to the outskirts of the city and on the electricity and transportation sectors which were asked by Hluttaw representatives from Taungdwingyi, Thanphyuzeyat, Kyaikmayaw, Puta'O, and Mindon constituencies.

Next, U Win Win from Minbu constituency put forward a motion to systematically package locally produced urea fertilizers and maintain their quality, and plans to sell it to farmers at an affordable price.

The Hluttaw approved the discussion for this motion and announced interested Hluttaw representatives can register their names for future discussions. An announcement was made on receiving the Inland Water Transportation Bill put forward by the Pyithu Hluttaw Draft Bill Committee, with no amendments from the Amyotha Hluttaw and a report on the Bill was read at yesterday's Hluttaw meeting. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses child labour and Myanmar citizenship

UNION MINISTER for the Labour, Immigration and Population has committed to tackling child labour issue by implementing long-term and short-term National level projects.

This was stated on the 5th day of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th Regular Meeting held yesterday in reply to a question raised by Daw Ei Ei Pyone from Ayeyawady constituency (8), asking if the government has a policy to reduce the child labour population and to provide opportunities for existing children in labour to take up vocational training and education.

The Union Minister said their ministry has already discussed on the aforementioned projects and will implement them with ministries and organisations concerned. The long-term project has been designated to begin from 2018 till 2033 (15 years), and the short term projects will be divided into three phases with the first phase beginning from 2018 to 2023 (5 years), the second phase from



MPs arrive to attend the 5th day of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

2024 to 2028 (5 years), and the third phase from 2028 to 2033 (5 years).

Vocational trainings are provided in Yankin, Mandalay and North Dagon Myothit with courses in basic welding, basic electric engineering, air-conditioner repair and maintenance, and construction. The Ministry of Education creates opportunities

for working or displaced children and youths to have free middle school education, and for adolescents outside of education to receive the necessary certificates validating their skills so as to support them in their workplace.

Union Minister U Thein Swe said their ministry is collaborating with other ministries, region, state and self-administered ar-

reas, ILO, UNICEF, INGO, NGO, CSOs to combat and reduce child labour.

U Aung Thein from Bago constituency (12) asked whether people holding foreigner registration cards who want to apply for Myanmar citizenship, with the parent already a Myanmar citizen, need to relinquish their foreign NRC before application

or can choose to relinquish it after receiving Myanmar citizenship. Union Minister U Thein Swe replied that if people holding foreign NRCs apply to the central committee for Myanmar citizenship in accordance with Myanmar Citizenship Laws, then there was no need to relinquish their foreign NRCs beforehand. It is only after the central committee has approved of their application for Myanmar citizenship and taken up the oath of loyalty to the State under Myanmar Citizenship Law Section -46 (B), are they required to give up their foreign NRCs.

Later on in the meeting, Hluttaw representatives from Chin, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Yangon constituencies put forward questions on the construction sector and national registration cards. U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population and Major General Than Htun, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs discussed and answered these questions. —Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor meets Chief of Indian Army Staff, Vietnamese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs separately

State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi separately met General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Indian Army Staff and Mr. Dang Dinh Quy, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting with the Chief of Indian Army Staff, they discussed the promotion of cooperation and bilateral relations.

The State Counsellor and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam cordially discussed matters relating to regional and bilateral cooperation including the promotion of agriculture, tourism and aviation between the two countries at the meeting.

Present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and officials.— Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photo with Chief of Indian Army Staff and delegation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint discusses with Director of Free Press Unlimited of Netherland in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Information meets Director of Free Press Unlimited of Netherlands

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint met a delegation led by Mr. Leon Willems, Director of Free Press Unlimited of Netherlands, yesterday at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they openly discussed about reforms in

the media sector under the Ministry of Information, cooperation with international organizations for press freedom, projects for establishing the community Radio and digital media accordingly.—Myanmar News Agency ■

7th Political Consultations between Myanmar and Viet Nam held

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam H.E. Mr. Dang Dinh Quy co-chaired the 7th Political Consultations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam held at the Ayeyarwaddy Meeting Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, at 9:00 am on 29th May 2017.

At the consultations, both sides cordially discussed a wide range of issues on bilateral relations and multi-faceted cooperation including the implementation of bilateral MoUs and Agreements which were signed between the two countries, status on on-going projects, promotion of trade and investment, tourism, agriculture, banking, telecommu-



U Kyaw Tin and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam discuss concerning 7th Political Consultations. **PHOTO: MNA**

nication and energy. The meeting also cordially exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual interests.

Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the members of Vietnamese Delegation were present at the

meeting.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs hosted a luncheon in honour of the Vietnamese delegation led by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Lake Garden Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon. The Vietnamese delegation visited and paid homage to Maha Thetkya Yanthi Pagoda.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

NLD, Hluttaw, government meet for first time

A tripartite meeting among the government, the Hluttaw and the ruling party was held for the first time at NLD headquarters in Yangon on Sunday.

The meeting was held to show unity to the country and the world, officials said.

“There were disagreements among the party, the Hluttaw and the government in the present one-year period. For this, we need to discuss for the betterment of the country and the people by taking lessons from disagreements of the past events”, said U Myint

Htay, chairman of the executive committee of the NLD, Yangon Region.

At Sunday’s ceremony, U Win Htein, a member of the secretariat of the NLD, said it was critical for the three entities to work well together.

“The Yangon Region is the economic hub of the whole country, being watched by international circle, hence the need for the regional government and the Hluttaw to care about their performances. The major objective of holding the meeting is to

carry out the tasks, joining hand in hand among the government, the Hluttaw and the Party for the sake of the State and its people.”

Present at the meeting were the Chief Minister of Yangon Region, cabinet ministers, the Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw and Hluttaw representatives, chairman and members of the Yangon Region NLD Executive Committee, and district chairmen. Arrangements have been made to hold such tripartite meetings every 45 days.—Zaw Gyi ■



Tripartite Meeting among Gov’t, Hluttaw and Party held in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

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100 houses under construction in Kyaukpandu

ACCORDING to the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, a new village comprising of low-cost 100-house is being implemented with the border area development fund, under the instruction of the Vice President in Kyaukpandu village, Maungtaw township, in Maungtaw district of Rakhine State.

U Soe Lwin, deputy director of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department said, "The old Kyaukpandu village had 70 houses or so. Now, it is being expanded as the new village. In the new village, those from the old village and families from other township will be accommodated as per their

Workers are constructing houses in Kyaukpandu village. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

wishes at the expense of the State Budget. Those families need not pay any costs."

The low-cost 100-housed new village was launched since last March, targeted to spend K 650 million. The new village will include sites for a middle school, a market, a light industry, a mon-

astery, a police station, a lake, an office of the administrator, a dispensary and a sport ground, on the roadside of Maungtaw-Ahngu in southern Maungtaw. U Bo Than Htay, engineer-in-charge of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department in Rakhine State said, "For the time

being, 40% had been finished. There were some difficulties of transport and labor problems. We cannot say exactly as to when it will be completed but we are making effort to finish it as soon as possible. It is expected to accommodate locals in these houses during this year."

The new village has a land of 21 acres, being implemented by 60 people including engineers. Now, 40% or so of the village had been constructed.

The house is a kind of Pre-cast type -60-40 ft. The roofs are corrugated iron sheets. It will cost K 65 lakhs per unit. And the district administrative office is making arrangements for granting land plots for the villagers to work on the farms. —Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alin) ■

Agricultural loans paid for farmers in Maungtaw Township

MYANMAR Agricultural Development Bank in Maungtaw paid loans for paddy cultivation to farmers Ks 150,000 per acre starting from 23 May, said U Tun Aung, manager of MADB to Myanmar News Agency. They are planning to pay loans for monsoon paddy cultivation to all farmers across the country from May to September.

"We arranged to pay loans for paddy cultivation for plots of 10 acres. We issued forms to village officials by scrutinizing and with the recommendation of officials about as to whether they are free from arrears", he said. Starting from 23 May

Farmers harvest rice in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

till now, 30 farmers in Maungtaw Township have got Ks 10 million of cultivation loans.

According to U Kyaw Lwin, Minister for Agriculture, Live-

stock, Forestry and Mining of Rakhine State government, there are totally 15,000 acres in Maungtaw and 110,00 acres in Buthidaung township, and among

them, people hold Form (7) and citizens card have been given out.

"We have already got the farm loans for this year. It is supported for agriculture. But we also have the difficulties of insufficient seeds and fertilizer", said a farmer in Maungtaw Township.

Maungtaw Township has a fertile land and high yield. As a priority, the government has already given budgets for agriculture and breeding sectors in Maungtaw, said U Kyaw Lwin. 1069 farmers from 18 village tracks in Maungtaw had got Ks 450 million at Ks 150,000 per acre in the former rainy season, according to MADB. —Min Thit (MNA) ■

Dhamma school committee in Shan State receives donations

A ceremony to receive donations for the multi-township Dhamma School Committee in southern Shan State was held on 28 May in Taunggyi City Hall.

In attendance were Sayadaws, members of Shan State government and Hluttaw, the Chief Justice of Shan State, senior military officers of the Eastern Command, officials from ministries, members of the Dhamma School and donors.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa, followed by students from the Dhamma School entertaining with music and dance.

Dhamma School children attend the cash donation ceremony. **PHOTO: THURA LWIN (ECO)**

Later an official explained the workings of the Dhamma School on the overhead projector. This was followed by Sayadaws from the Dhamma School foundation and committee giving speeches.

Next, Dr. Aung Than Maung

of Religious Affairs, U Win Swe, Chairman of Shine Hope Company's Philanthropic sector delivered the opening speeches and Chairman of the Dhamma school committee, U San Linn gave words of thanks to the donors.

The donations were given in

the second half of the ceremony with Shine Hope Co. donating Ks100 million, KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donating Ks100 million, U San Linn donating Ks50 million, and members of Shan State government and Hluttaw, the Chief Justice, the senior military officers of the Eastern Command and officials from ministries and other donors offering donations.

The Dhamma School Committee has conducted its 21st teachership training programme in townships in southern Shan State and produced 699 teachers.

The school also provided education for 16,500 students from Taunggyi and Loikaw. —Thura Lwin (Eco) ■

Rice export volume up by over 200,000 tonnes

Rice exports to foreign countries as of 12th May in the current fiscal year 2017-2018 is found to have increased by over 200,000 tonnes compared to the same period last year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

During 2016-2017, 70,000 tonnes of rice were exported, whereas this year saw over 280,000 tonnes of rice exported, said U Khin Maung Lwin, the assistant secretary of the Commerce Ministry.

“The volume of rice exports through normal trade has risen this year. We are exploring more international markets for rice exports”, he added.

A tonne of low-quality rice exported to Europe and member nations of the European Union fetched US\$315 per tonne in 2015 whereas this year, only about US\$280-300 was offered for a tonne of low quality rice. High-quality rice fetched about Ks375 per tonne.

The rice exports this fiscal year have earned over US\$85million so far. About 1.6 million tonnes of rice was shipped to foreign trade partners last year. —Phyo Lwin Aung (AMIA) ■

Farmers work on a field as they harvest paddy in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH**



Over Ks530million of tax earned from sale of grant-lake and fishing blocks

The sale of lake and fishing blocks in Mandalay attained over Ks530million of tax, according to Mandalay Region Fishery Department.

This year earned much more tax than that of last year, with an increase of over Ks140million, said U Hla Win, the head of Mandalay Region Fishery Department.

From 3rd to 9th May, 122 lakes and 17 fishing blocks were up for auction, with 103 lakes and 10 fishing blocks sold.

The floor price of a pond was set from Ks50,000 to Ks30million. A bidding system is changed from three-year to a one-year term.

When bidders cannot afford to pay the set price under the terms of the old contract, those lakes are returned to the authority. Those lakes will then be put out for tender in the townships concerned, said U Hla Win.

Nineteen lakes and seven fishing blocks left over from auction have been put out to tender starting from 18th May in the districts concerned. —Htet Aung (AMIA) ■

Broken rice penetrates 22 new export markets this FY

The broken rice export market expanded into 22 countries in Asia, Europe, North America and Africa this fiscal year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Those countries are Afghanistan, Botswana, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Fiji, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Indonesia, Lao,

Lithuania, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka and the United States.

“Previously, broken rice was exported to only 20 countries. We lost market share in some countries but, we managed to attain new markets”, said U Khin Maung Lwin, the assistant secretary of the Commerce Ministry.

Broken rice is shipped to foreign countries through both normal trade and border gates. A tonne of broken rice fetched the highest price of US\$200. The country yearly exports over 500,000 tonnes of broken rice abroad, it is learnt. —Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

Cars imported under consignment system can apply for license in other towns

The Commerce Ministry has a plan for cars imported under the consignment system to apply for licences in towns outside Yangon within an extension period if the cars have not been sold within a set period of time.

Only a few number of those cars are left in the auto market, which saw nearly no demand, said car dealers.

Cars imported under the consignment system into the country according to 2015 Car Import Policy have to be sold within two years. When the period expires, the cars have to be shipped back to the original foreign-based sellers.

The Commerce Ministry granted a permit to sell the

cars within a six-month grace period from January to June. Now that period is soon to expire. The aforementioned ministry will reportedly extend again up to October.

Those cars are allowed to sell after paying from Ks3 to 6 million to the Road Transportation Administration Department, instead of a slip. Pre-2000 model cars are paid Ks3million while cars between 2001 to 2005 model are paid Ks6million to sell. However, the cars later than 2005 model require a slip.

The vehicles imported with a slip received in return for deregistration of old cars can now be sought for Yangon licence. —Ko Htet ■

Myanmar mushroom travels to THAIFEX 2017

MYANMAR mushroom products will be on display at the Thaifex-World of Food Asia 2017 exhibition, according to Ko Nyan Linn Htun of Unique mushroom cultivators and producers, and the marketing-in-charge of Myanmar Mushroom Producers and Traders Group.

Mushroom cultivated with Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) organic method will be displayed at this exhibition.

Supported by Myanmar Organic Grower and Producer Association (MOGPA), Myanmar mushroom products such as seasoning powder, fried silver snow mushroom (sweet) and fried silver snow mushroom (spicy), fried rat ear mushroom (sour and spicy), fried paddy straw mushroom (sour and spicy) and oiled paddy straw mushroom produced from silver snow mushroom, rat ear mushroom and paddy straw mushroom

will be displayed in this exhibition. “We want the farmers to know that mushroom cultivated with Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) can be exported to international market”, said Ko Nyan Linn Htun or Ko Ayarnoe.

Businesses from over 40 countries will display their foods and products in the exhibition and Myanmar also will display mushrooms and other food such as mangoes and tea leaves. —200 ■

Birth of Pyidaungsu accord for peace

FROM PAGE-1

"These agreements will form part of the future Union Accord. "We have now for the first time reached the stage of signing agreements at this conference" she said. "The agreements that we have been able to sign today mark a significant step on our path towards peace, national reconciliation, and the emergence of a democratic federal Union."

Conference officials said the Tatmadaw should be recognised for their willingness to negotiate and compromise with the representatives of the armed ethnic groups, which have their own differing agendas and demands.

"With personal experience of participating in the heated and thorough discussions, we can say courageously that the good outcome of the conference is due to the changing policy and attitude of the Tatmadaw and its ardent desire to achieve peace," said Khun Okka, who presided over the conference. "It is believed that the Tatmadaw will retain this stance without change until the time eternal peace is achieved together with the forming of the democratic federal union."

Khun Okka expressed his delight for the achievements of the peace conference, calling the accomplishments of the conference "the birth of the Pyidaungsu Accord".

"This is progress, a step forward for the NCA-based peace process," he said,

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed thanks to all the stakeholders for the peace making.

"I am greatly encouraged that, despite our many different views and perspectives, we have been able, through frank discussion and negotiation, to reach common positions" she said. "Through dialogue, we have begun the important task of laying the foundations of democracy and federalism for future generations. All those involved should be proud of their efforts to make this possible. The peace that our people have dreamed of for so long is starting to take tangible form for the first time."

Present at yesterday's event were the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee vice chairmen, members, secretariat, heads and members of the government group, Hluttaw group, Tatmadaw group, ethnic armed organ-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the UPC-21st Century Panglong (second session) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

isation group, political group, stakeholder group, observers, invited guests and officials.

The conference was presided over by Khun Okka, with co-chairmen Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Khun Thein Pe and U Nyan Win.

After the speeches, submissions of policy agreements by sectors were made by Tatmadaw group representative U Khin Zaw Oo on political sector policy proposals, ethnic armed organisation group representative Daw Saw Mya Yarzar Lin on economic sector policy proposals, political party group representative U Naing Ngan Lin on social sector policy proposals and hluttaw group representative U Aung Soe on land and natural environmental sector policy proposals.

Next, government group representative U Naing Swe Oo, Hluttaw group representative U

Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho, Tatmadaw group representative Col. Aung Khin Thein and ethnic armed organisation group Phado Mahn Nyein Maung gave a supporting speech for the 37 proposals submitted by sector.

Khun Okka announced the confirmation of all submitted policy proposals as the government group, Hluttaw group, Tatmadaw group, ethnic armed organisation group and political party group supported all the 37 proposals – 12 political sector policy proposals, 11 economic sector proposals, four social sector policy proposals and 10 land and natural environmental sector policy proposals.

The 37 proposals confirmed by the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Second Session) were then signed as part of the Union (Pyidaungsu) Agreement.

After the signing of the agreement, Chairperson of

Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong central organising committee, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, spoke of the importance of the accomplishments made at the conference, and the long road that still lies ahead.

"Whereas short journeys can be completed using physical strength alone, marathons require, above all, a strength and determination of spirit. Such a spirit will sustain us as we continue along the lengthy path towards peace. I believe that our experiences at this conference will carry us towards the unity that will allay the doubts that some may have regarding this peace process" she said. "All of us bear the wounds of past grievances. But rather than bequeath these wounds to our future generations, we have now started to seek means of healing them. It is never easy to find common ground amidst differences. And it is especially difficult in a country such as ours, where we have known almost 70 years of armed conflict. Nevertheless, we have shown clearly today that we can find similarities despite our differences, and that we can identify common ground through peaceful negotiation."

Khun Okka announced that an account was opened for the Union Peace Fund at Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw) on 9 January and, as of 19 May 2017, more than 150 donors had donated Ks15.45 billion. The minimum donation was Ks3,000 and the maximum donation was more than Ks3 billion.

In his closing speech, Chairperson Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said looking at the agreements reached in the second conference, it can be seen that discussions were started on the basic principles to form a union based on democracy and federal system and agreements were reached on some.

"Due to the different beliefs among the ethnic nationals of our country, armed conflicts had occurred and as the armed conflict prolongs, suspicion between one another grew and because of the growing suspicion, it was difficult even to use the word federal", said Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.

But continued discussions resulted in agreements on most issues, and also some much-needed faith among the participants.

"This is a sign that a certain degree of trust was formed within the ethnic national brothers", said Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. "The political scene we arrived at today is a political culture that never existed before in Myanmar."

Going forward, officials said efforts would continuously be made to include the ethnic armed organisations that are still outside of the peace process.

"While attempting to include all, we will proceed forward with those that are already in the process. This challenge is faced by any country with many armed organisations. We will always leave the door open for the remaining armed organisations to overcome this challenge", said Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Closing ceremony of Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Second Session) at the MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

37 points signed as part of Pyidaungsu Accord

37 agreements approved by the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong 2nd session were signed as a part of the Pyidaungsu Accord.
37 agreements, signatures of group leaders and witnesses are as follows:

Pyidaungsu Accord

- 1/ Looking forward to non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty, based on freedom, equality and justice, the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong 2nd session was held at Nay Pyi Taw from 24th May 2017 to 29th May 2017 for building up the Union in harmony with the Panglong spirit, based on democracy and federalism which guarantee democracy, national equality and self-determination, in accord with the outcomes of the political dialogues.
- 2/ In this Conference, proposals acquired from discussions at different levels made in groups or in sectors over principles and proposals submitted by Union Peace Dialogues Joint Committee have been agreed as part of the Pyidaungsu Accord.
- 3/ Part 1 of the Pyidaungsu Accord approved and signed in this conference and further parts of the agreements to be achieved in imminent different levels are to be combined to be signed as the Pyidaungsu Accord.
- 4/ Part 1 of the Pyidaungsu Accord signed in this conference has
 - (A) 12 agreements on principles of political sector;
 - (B) 11 agreements on principles of economic sector;
 - (C) 4 agreements on principles of social sector;
 - (D) 10 agreements on principles of land and natural environment sector; altogether 37 agreements. These are described in Appendix—(A) (B) (C) & (D).
- 5/ The above-said agreements have been signed by group leaders and witnesses in the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong 2nd session as the part 1 of Pyidaungsu Accord under clause 20(E) of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

Appendix (A) Agreement of Principle on Political Sector (29th May 29, 2017) Principles to be based in Federalism

- 1/ The Sovereign Power--- The Sovereign Power of the Union is derived from the citizens and is in force in the entire country.
- 2/ Exercise of Sovereignty-- The 3 branches of the sovereign power of the State, namely legislative power, executive power and judicial power are separated to the extent possible, and exert reciprocal control, check and balance among themselves.
- 3/ Equality--- Each ethnic national race is must have equality in politics and race, and simultaneously must have the right to keep, protect and upgrade their languages, literatures, traditions and cultures.
- 4/ Principle on Federal Union (Organization & Division of Power)
 - (A) The State must be set up as the Union based on democracy and federalism.
 - (B) The Union based on democracy and federalism must be formed by Regions and States. NB Regions and States must have equality. As regards naming, it will be discussed later.
 - (C) Self-administered Regions and self-administered areas are must be organized with the names of national races' names.
 - (D) The 3 branches of the sovereign power of the

State, namely legislative power, executive power and judicial power must be divided and entrusted to the Union, Regions, States and Self-administered Regions and areas. The Constitution must divide legislative powers and associated powers among the State, Regions, States and Self-administered Regions and Areas.

- (E) Legislature power, executive power and judicial power must be entrusted to Regions & States. Region and State Hluttaws must be allowed to be set up for exercising legislative power, with Region & State Cabinets for exercising executive power and Region & State Supreme Courts for exercising judicial power in accordance with the authorities conferred upon by the Union Constitution.
- (F) Union Government, Region and State Cabinets must have the right of enjoying taxes collected and development projects and resources, according to laws.
- (G) Separate and independent tribunal on State Constitution must be set up for dealing with disputes on Constitution among Union and Regions and States or among Regions and States.
- 5/ Multi-Party Democracy
 - (A) Multi-Party democratic system must be practised.
 - (B) Free and fair elections must be held in accord with the prescriptions included in the Constitution.

Policy and Agreement on Economic Sector (29 May 2017) Basic principles for Federal Economy

1. Effective implementation of market economy
 - (a) To draw firm policy, law, by-law, rules and regulations at every level such as Union, Regions and States and Self-administered Regions/Zones and promulgate them in order to be able to implement the market economy effectively.
- Remark:** The governing body of self-administered Regions and Zones has to carry out if there appears policy, laws, by-laws, rules and regulations which they have rights to draw and promulgate.
- (b) To target to alleviate the poverty, to raise the living standard of the people, to narrow down the socioeconomic gap between the rich and the poor and finally aim to achieve sustainable development in promoting the private sector of national economy in line with the policy, law and by-law already set before.
 - (c) To deter economic transactions that will shed bad effect on the national interests in accordance with the law.
2. To promulgate the law that will deter the monopolization of economy by a person or an organization.
 3. To take necessary actions to provide equal opportunities for the economic development in the respective Union, Regions and States and self-administered Regions/ Zones.
 4. To allocate the national budget in a fair and equitable manner in accordance with the Constitution between the Union Government and Regions and States Governments and Governments of Self-administered Regions/ Zones.
 5. To share the management rights in economic affairs among the Union Government, Regions

and States Governments and Governments of Self-administered Regions/ Zones in accordance with the Constitution.

6. To formulate and implement short-term, medium-term and long-term economic projects with transparency, accountability and responsibility.

Social Sector Agreement (May 29, 2017)

- (1) To lay the program systematically that can forge the durable solution for the internally displaced people and refugees due to natural disasters, human activities and armed conflicts without discrimination by following the international norms of human rights.
- (2) To create the conditions for the internally displaced people and refugees due to natural disasters, human activities and armed conflicts to be able to settle and live in their home land or at any other place safely and with due regards.
- (3) To boost the socioeconomic condition and to effectively safeguard the rights and privileges of the aged, the disabled, women and children regardless of the race, religion and wealth.
- (4) To prevent and fight against the drug trafficking by laying the plan and implementing it considering the task a national issue pertaining to politics, security and rule of law.

Principles for Regional Development

- (1) To draw and implement the Regional Comprehensive Development Plans by coordinating among the Union Government and Regions and States Governments and Governments of Self-administered Regions/ Zones for the development of human resources and socioeconomic development.
- Remark:** To undertake the tasks without going against the laws and principles laid by the Union Government.
- (2) To draw the suitable plans and programs that can attract domestic and international investment in compliance with the prevailing law and implement it for the socioeconomic development of Regions and States and Self-administered Regions/ Zones.

Social sector agreement (29 May 2017)

1. Systematic programs to be set-up and implemented to achieve a long-term durable solution for refugees and internally displaced persons caused by armed conflicts, man-made and natural disasters in accordance with international norms and respect for human rights.
2. Enable refugees and internally displaced persons caused by armed conflicts, man-made and natural disasters to return to their place of origin or settle to other places in dignity and safety.
3. Defend the fundamental rights of the old, handicapped, women and children without discriminating in race, religion, rich or poor and to work for the development of their social life.
4. Setup programs as national duty to effectively prevent and eradicate matters relating to narcotic considered to be a national, political, security and rule of law problem.

Peace starting to take tangible form for the first time with Union Peace Conference

Tha Sein

The Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong second session came to a successful conclusion with an address by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. In her address, the State Counsellor said that despite many different views and perspectives, they had been able, through frank discussions and negotiations, to reach common positions and have begun the important task of laying the foundations of democracy and federalism for future generations. She also appealed to all the children of the country to make it clear, beyond

the shadow of a doubt, that they desire peace.

With her strong political clout, the State Counsellor has made peace-making a top policy priority, although ethnic representatives argued that without a new federal constitution, prospects for ending the war will remain dim. The successful holding of the conference has earned her great respect.

The peace process is not a walk in the park when you have to manage government with high expectations from the people.

There is no exception for all the countries on that process, and the

outcomes of this conference would be a supporting mechanism for the remaining stakeholders to join in.

This is a great achievement in our history and the credit should be given to the stakeholders, and the contributions of major political parties, the government, the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed groups are also very critical to the success of the conference.

During the six-day meeting, all the participants were embarking on a new chapter that would help us realize the long-held aspirations of our people, and peace is starting to take tangible form for the first time. This

will be for all our people who long for peace, who value harmony above dissension, friendship above enmity, and prosperity above devastation.

At the end of the day, there is no recourse in finding a solution to these issues other than through peaceful dialogues sitting around a table and thrashing these issues out. And we do hope that everybody will find it possible to agree to the terms and that they could come up with policies that are commonly embraceable for a win-win situation in which all the stakeholders in the peace process see tangible benefits. Only in this way, can we realize a lasting peace. ■

What is & Why Mining: A Perspective from Myanmar

Jan Dharmabandu

EACH year about 5 billion tonnes of minerals are mined from the earth. Mining is the first interface of the civilization with the nature. It has also so happened that mining has been the most “intense” interface between the nature and the civilization. Both sides of the interface are impacted intensely by the transaction.

If a mine with a 100ha footprint, its impact on its footprint is much more intense than had the 100ha been used for example, to run a farm or a factory. The same way that mine would generate far higher positive socio-economic impact and it is often unique – that is that it is much easier to find substitute locations for the farm or the factory, but the mine has to happen where the ore is.

A mining jobs generation study by IFC done in 2013 states that “about 28 jobs in the economy were associated with one direct job in the mine”. 28 indirect and induced jobs (see Table) are encouragingly high. But there is much literature in public domain supporting job multiplier factors around 10 for mining projects in remote areas.

Job Gain			Job Loss (due to loss of access / better law enforcement / alternative employment)
Direct Jobs (working for the mining company)	Indirect Jobs (suppliers and sub-contractors)	Induced Jobs (emerges to support new economy)	
Professionals & managers, equipment operators, laboratory jobs, administration jobs, infrastructure builders, mechanics, electricians, fitters, security personnel.	Catering services, transport services for the mine staff, making small supplies such as survey pegs, sample bags, uniforms, furniture etc.	Local farmers supplying catering companies, barber salons, shops, restaurants, laundry services, transport services, mechanic shops, medical clinics, phone service companies, schools, government service bureaus, fuel stations etc.	Mostly illegal and small scale miners displaced by the mine, Illegal loggers, Some farming jobs.
Jobs gained and Jobs lost when a new mine appears. It had been commonly accepted that the ratio (Indirect + Induced Jobs)/ Direct Jobs is about 10, but a controlled study done by IFC in Ghana in 2013 claims this ratio for that project is 28.			

Like in any other profession, professionals in mining are governed by codes and ethics and, by training are responsible. For example, a modern mine supervised by mining professionals would have, among many other dangerous equipment and activities; a myriad of moving vehicles with gross weights often exceeding 500 tonnes and rock blasts in some mines regularly setting off few thousand tonnes of explosives in one single go. Yet statistics from Australia, a country with a mining industry that generates about USD130 billion in annual sales revenue, show that an average worker is 20% more likely to get accidentally in-

jured working in a shoe shop in the city than on a mine. In countries where rules are respected and accountability counts, “Responsible mining” should sound almost as superfluous as “Responsible dentistry”.

Resource Curse is a hypothesis that came into macro-economic parlance in the early 90’s where it proposes that resource-rich economies generally grow more slowly than resource-poor economies. At first glance it represents a difficult puzzle since a free gift of nature should be a blessing, not a curse.

Although concern over the efficacy of resource-dependent development is centuries old, the exact

phrase “Resource Curse” was first used by Alan Gelb in 1988 as part of an economic research. He argued resource poor countries engage earlier in labor-intensive competitive manufacturing and result being faster diversification, higher saving rates, and faster build-up of human and social capital.

Since then there has been few assays challenging the concept. More recently Daniel Lederman and William Maloney of The World Bank concluded that the evidence for Resource Curse “remains elusive”.

They said that nations with quality administrative institutions are able to manage their resource revenue

and turn it into positive economic growth. Quality institutions and monitoring mechanisms also lead to transparency and accountability- reducing space and incentives for corruption.

Mineral occurrences are subjected to common rules of utility like other attributes of nature; population, water, terrain, flora and fauna. Any of them can have a positive utility (a resource that can be converted to a reserve), or a negative utility (a burden that needs a solution) depending on the time and the geographical location. Driven by technology or supply/demand movements, a mineral occurrence may or may not present itself as a mineral resource. Wright and Czelusta effectively highlighted the failure to recognize this transient nature of resources to undermine the resource curse hypothesis.

For example, mining mineral rich ‘polymetallic nodules’ from deep seas of PNG and elsewhere are scheduled to start production in 2019. More further into the future, Goldman Sachs project team argues that “mining in space is getting cheaper and easier, and the rewards are becoming more promising as time goes by”.

SEE PAGE 9



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Indian Army Staff, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General receives Indian Army Chief

SENIOR GENERAL Min Aung Hlaing received General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army at Zeya Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. During the meeting, they discussed about

peace-making process in Myanmar and the role of the Tatmadaw in keeping stability and peace of the country. They also discussed about exchange of visits between the armed forces of the two countries, conducting

training, promoting cooperation in medicine and sports fields and promoting bilateral cooperation in bringing about security, peace and stability along the border of the two countries. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Stimulants seized in Buthidaung

A local border guard team detained a Thabyaytaung villager in possession of 230 stimulant tablets in Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State on Sunday evening.

Acting on a tip-off, Buth-

idaung border guard force searched a suspicious looking man named Ei Suu Ahdim from Thabyayataung village on Buthidaung-Kyauk Hla Pyin Road at about 4:30pm and found 230 WY stimulant

tablets. Ei Suu Ahdim admitted that his father U Ei Nu send him to give the drugs to another man at the entrance of Kyauk Hla Pyin village in Buthidaung.—Myanmar News Agency ■

37 points signed as part ...

FROM PAGE -7

Land and natural environmental sector agreement (29 May 2017)

1. A countrywide land policy that is balanced and support people centered long-term durable development.
 2. Based on justice and appropriateness
 3. A policy that reduce central control
 4. Include human rights, international, democracy and federal system norms in drawing up land policy.
 5. Policy on land matter should be transparent and clear.
 6. In setting up policy for land development, the desire of the local people is a priority and the main requirements of the farmers must be facilitated.
- Ownership Right**
7. All nationals have a right to own and manage a land in accordance with the land law. Women and men have equal rights.
- Management Right**
8. Both women and men have equal rights to manage the land ownership matters in accordance with the land law.
 9. If the land right granted for an original reason is not worked on in a specified period, the nation can withdraw the granted right and concede it to a person who will actually do the work.
- Preventive Program**
10. To aim toward protecting and maintaining the natural environment and preventing damage and destruction of lands that were social, cultural, historical heritages and treasured by ethnic nationals.
- (Unofficial Translation By GNLM)

Village tract chief killed in Buthidaung

TA HAE, who was in charge of the Meechaung Khaungswe village tract, was killed by a group of masked men on Sunday evening in Buthidaung township, Rakhine State.

According to investigators, Ta Hae was attacked by a group

of men wearing masks at about 4:30pm.

The victim was found dead with cuts to his eyebrows, lips and neck. Border guard police opened a case in accord with the law.—Myanmar News Agency ■

What is & Why Mining: A Perspective from Myanmar

FROM PAGE 8

These transformational changes in the supply chain of commodities can significantly change the ability of individual nations to convert land based mineral deposits to mineral resources and mineable reserves. Also, as happened in Europe, mineral resources had a critical role to play in the development story of their host nations. But the same deposits are not considered “mineral resources” today, due to changes in the societal values and aspiration towards environment, safety, security and employment etc. The best utility of a mineral occurrence to a nation is in the early stages of its growth story.

Mining in Myanmar has had a terrible history marked

by catastrophic accidents, unbridled environmental damage and associations with armed conflict while contributing only marginally to the national coffer. This resulted in policy makers today being suspicious - if not outright hostile - towards what they imagine to be what mining is”, although the dialogue of late has become encouragingly mature.

In 2014 mining industry of Myanmar produced USD1.2 billion worth of minerals (excluding oil & gas and gemstones) compared to the USD 8.1 billion, the number from Philippines. Comparing few factors such as known geology, total land area and the population density between Philippines and Myanmar, an extrapolation can be drawn that Myanmar



A wounded jungle, a tired father and two youngsters. They were captured in April 2017 within 1km from one another somewhere in Central Myanmar - in an area with right type of geology for economic mineralization. Aided by right policies, Mining can heal the jungle, give the father skills & pride, and the children much brighter future.

has the capacity to achieve several times higher mining related a revenue than Philippines.

There are factors critical

for that transition. Some are outside the control of MoNREC. On the part of MoNREC, the most important is clear regulations and efficient

enforcement. Strict standards must be combined with a speedy and streamlined permitting processes.

Mining in Myanmar should be encouraged and supported. It can play a tremendous role especially in the early stages of its journey to prosperity. ■

Jan Dharmabandu is a mining engineer and a Chartered Environmentalist attached to Perth based Ensys Consultants (with Yangon & Manila offices) having held mine development responsibilities in Australia, UK, France, Canada, Kazakhstan and SE Asia. He can be found on LinkedIn and via jan.dharmabandu@gmail.com

Macron meets Russia's Putin near Paris, promising tough talks

VERSAILLES, France — French President Emmanuel Macron met Russia's Vladimir Putin near Paris on Monday, promising some frank talking with the Kremlin leader after an election campaign in which his team accused Russian media of trying to interfere.

Macron, who took office two weeks ago, has said dialogue with Russia is vital in tackling a number of international disputes. Nevertheless, relations have been beset by mistrust, with Paris and Moscow backing opposing sides in the Syrian civil war and at odds over the Ukraine conflict.

Fresh from talks with his Western counterparts at a NATO meeting in Brussels and a G7 summit in Sicily, Macron was hosting the Russian president at the sumptuous 17th Century palace of Versailles outside Paris.

Amid the baroque splendour, Macron will use an exhibition on Russian Tsar Peter the Great at the former royal palace to try to get Franco-Russian relations off to a new start.

The 39-year-old French leader and Putin exchanged a cordial, businesslike handshake and smiles when the latter stepped from his limousine for a red carpet welcome, with Macron appearing to say "welcome" to him in French.

The two men then entered the palace to start their talks.

"It's indispensable to talk to Russia because there are a number of international subjects that will not be resolved without a tough dialogue with them," Macron told reporters at the end of the G7 summit on Saturday, where the Western leaders agreed to consider new measures against Moscow if the situation in Ukraine did not improve.

"I will be demanding in my exchanges with Russia," he added.

Relations between Paris and Moscow were increasingly strained under former President Francois Hollande.

Putin, 64, cancelled his last planned visit in October after Hollande accused Russia of war



French President Emmanuel Macron (R) and Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) meet for talks at the Chateau de Versailles before the opening of an exhibition marking 300 years of diplomatic ties between the two counties in Versailles, France on 29 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

crimes in Syria and refused to roll out the red carpet for him.

Then during the French election campaign the Macron camp alleged Russian hacking and disinformation efforts, at one point refusing accreditation to the Russian state-funded Sputnik and RT news outlets which it said were spreading Russian propaganda and fake news.

Two days before the 7 May election runoff, Macron's team said thousands of hacked campaign emails had been put online in a leak that one New York-based analyst said could have come from a group tied to Russian military intelligence.

Moscow and RT itself rejected allegations of meddling in the election.

Putin also offered Macron's far-right opponent Marine Le Pen a publicity coup when he granted her an audience a month before the election's first round.

Nonetheless, Russia's ambassador to Paris, Alexander Orlov said on Monday that he expected this first meeting between the two men to be full of "smiles" and marking the beginning of "a very good and long relationship".

Orlov, speaking on Europe 1 radio, said he believed that Macron was "much more flexible" on the Syrian question, though he did not say why he thought this. Putin would certainly invite Macron to pay a visit to Moscow, he said.

Putin's schedule included a trip to a newly opened Russian Orthodox cathedral in Paris - a call he had been due to make for its inauguration in October, but which was cancelled along with that trip.

Macron decisively beat Le Pen, an open Putin admirer in a fraught presidential election campaign, and afterwards the Russian president said in a congratulatory message that he wanted to put mistrust aside and work with him.

Hollande's former diplomatic adviser, Jacques Audibert, noted how Putin had been excluded from what used to be the Group of Eight nations as relations with the West soured. Meeting in a palace so soon after the G7 summit was a clever move by Macron.

"Putin likes these big symbolic things. I think it's an excellent political opportunity, the choice of place is perfect," he told CNews TV. "It adds a bit of

grandeur to welcome Putin to Versailles."

The Versailles exhibition commemorates a visit to France 300 years ago by Peter the Great, known for his European tastes.

A Russian official told reporters in Moscow on Friday that the meeting was an opportunity "to get a better feel for each other" and that the Kremlin expected "a frank conversation" on Syria.

While Moscow backs President Bashar al-Assad, France supports rebel groups trying to overthrow him. France has also taken a tough line on European Union sanctions on Russia, first imposed when it annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, and cancelled a \$1.3 billion warship supply contract in 2015.

During the campaign, Macron backed expanded sanctions if there were no progress with Moscow implementing a peace accord for eastern Ukraine, where Kiev's forces have been battling pro-Russian separatists.

Since being elected, Macron appears to have toned down the rhetoric, although he noted the two leaders still had "diverging positions" in their first phone call.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

China urges N Korea to create conditions for talks after missile test

BEIJING — China urged North Korea on Monday to create the conditions for a return to talks after it fired at least one short-range ballistic missile. "At present the situation on the Korean peninsula is complex and sensitive, and we hope all relevant sides maintain calm and exercise restraint," China's foreign ministry said in an emailed statement. —Reuters ■

After Merkel rebuke, UK says still strong partner to EU

LONDON — Britain will remain a strong ally of the European Union even as it leaves the bloc, its interior minister said on Monday, after German Chancellor Angela Merkel suggested Europe could no longer completely rely on Britain and the United States.

"As we begin the negotiations about leaving the EU, we will be able to reassure Germany and other European countries that we are going to be a strong partner to them. A strong part. —Reuters ■

Russia condemns latest N Korea missile launches, calls for restraint

MOSCOW — Russia condemned on Monday the latest missile launches conducted by North Korea, while calling the world community for restraint, RIA news agency quoted a deputy Russian foreign minister as saying.

"We are at the same time calling on the partners with whom we are working to show restraint, including towards military activity in this region," the agency quoted Vladimir Titov as saying.

North Korea fired at least one short-range ballistic missile on Monday that landed in the sea off its east coast, the latest in a fast-paced series of missile tests defying world pressure and threats of more sanctions.—Reuters ■

Warplanes carry out three strikes on Libya's Derna — witness

BENGHAZI, Libya — Warplanes launched three air strikes on the Libyan city of Derna on Monday, a witness said, days after Egypt attacked camps there, saying it was targetting militants responsible for killing Egyptian Christians.

There was no immediate confirmation of Monday's strikes from officials in Libya or neighbouring Egypt, nor any claim of responsibility for the raid on the city at the eastern end of Libya's Mediterranean coast.

The witness said one attack hit the western entrance to Derna and the other two hit Dahr al-Hamar in the south.

Egyptian jets attacked Derna on Friday, just hours after masked militants boarded vehicles en route to a monastery in the southern Egyptian province of Minya and opened fire at close range, killing 29 and wounding 24.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for that attack in Egypt, the latest targetting Christian minority there - two church bombings also claimed by Islamic State killed more than 45 last month.

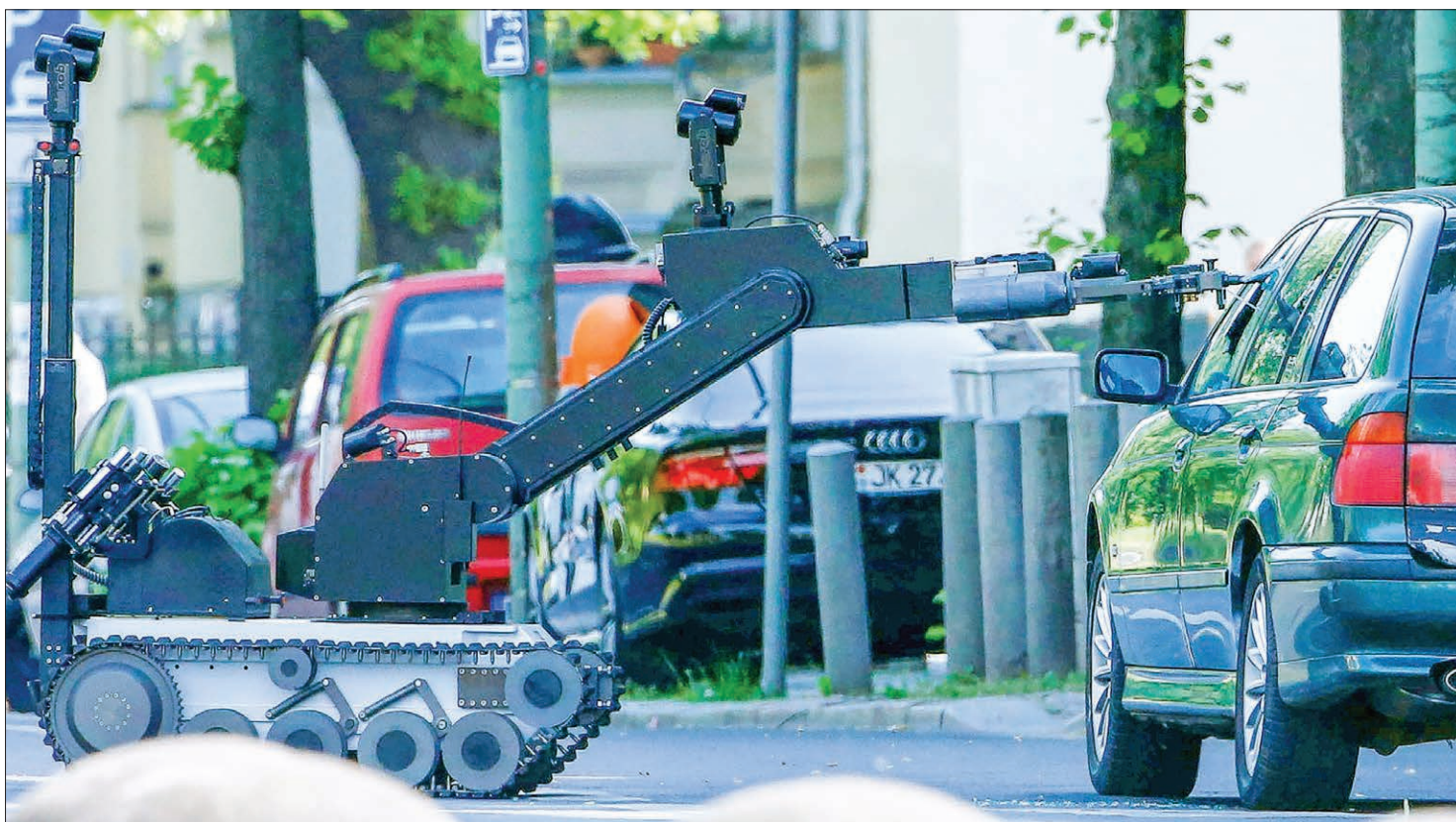
Egypt, which attacked Derna again on Saturday, has carried out a number of air strikes on its neighbour since Libya descended into factional fighting in the years following the 2011 civil war that ousted Muammar Gaddafi.

Islamist militant groups, including Islamic State, have gained ground in the chaos.

Egypt has been backing eastern commander Khalifa Haftar, whose Libyan National Army has been fighting Islamist militant groups and other fighters in Benghazi and Derna for more than two years.

Libyan National Army spokesman Col Ahmad Messmari told reporters in Benghazi late on Sunday that Haftar's forces were coordinating with Egypt's military in air strikes and the weekend raids targeted ammunition stores and operations camps.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Friday the air raids targeted militants responsible for plotting the attack, and that Egypt would not hesitate to carry out additional strikes inside and outside the country.—Reuters ■



A remote control bomb disposal robot breaks a car window in Berlin, Germany on 29 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

German interior minister lauds security ties with US, UK

BERLIN—Germany's security ties with the United States are "excellent" and common interests with Britain mean its departure from the European Union should have as little impact as possible on security cooperation, Germany's interior

minister said.

"I can only say trans-Atlantic cooperation is, especially in the security domain, of paramount significance for our country," Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said in a speech on Monday.

"I am confident that the issue of security cooperation will not be among the most difficult issues in the Brexit negotiations," he said. "A lot unites us here."

On Sunday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel shocked

many in Washington and London by saying that Europe must take its fate into its own hands, implying that the United States under President Donald Trump and Britain after its Brexit vote were no longer reliable partners.—Reuters ■



A member of the Iraqi Federal Police is seen on an armoured vehicle at the frontline in western Mosul, Iraq on 29 May, 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran-backed Iraqi force says takes IS villages on Syria border

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi Shi'ite Muslim force backed by Iran said it pushed Islamic State out of a group of villages on the border with Syria on Monday, a manoeuvre that could weaken the militants' hold on the frontier.

The Iraqi territory taken by the Popular Mobilisation force connected with land held

by US-backed Syrian Kurdish groups on the Syrian side, creating a possible bridge.

In a statement on its website, Popular Mobilisation described its advance through Iraq to the border with Syria as "a Ramadan miracle," referring to the Muslim fasting month which started over the weekend.—Reuters

Hardliner Raisi claims voter fraud in Iranian presidential election

TEHRAN — Defeated hardline candidate Ebrahim Raisi has complained of voter fraud in Iran's presidential election and called on the judiciary and the election watchdog to investigate, the semi-official Fars news agency said on Monday.

The allegations, likely to stoke up Raisi's conservative supporters, were among his strongest since losing the bitterly contested 19 May vote to incumbent Hassan Rouhani by a margin of 57 per cent to 38.

"Tampering with the numbers of people's participation is inappropriate. Not sending ballots to centers where the government's opponent has a chance of getting votes is very inappropriate," Raisi was quoted as saying.

"I ask the Guardian Council and the judiciary not to let the people's rights get trampled. If this vote-tampering is not looked into, then the people's trust will be damaged."

The Guardian Council is a government body that vets candidates and supervises elections in Iran. It has already approved

the results.

But Raisi's comments were a signal that he and his supporters will continue to put up a fight against Rouhani, who won on promises to increase social freedom, improve human rights and open up the Islamic Republic to Western investment.

Raisi, a cleric who served on the judiciary for many years, made the comments to a gathering of his supporters on Sunday night, Fars said. He was also quoted as saying Rouhani had inappropriately used TV, newspapers and government offices for campaign purposes.

During the campaign, the two candidates exchanged barbs in debates and speeches using language rarely heard in politics in Iran. Rouhani accused Raisi of abuses while at the judiciary, and was in turn accused of corruption and economic mismanagement. Each denied the other's accusations. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the top authority in the country who analysts say favored Raisi, called the campaign rhetoric "unworthy."—Reuters ■

Philippine leader asks separatists, Maoists to join fight against Islamic State

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has appealed to Muslim separatists and Maoist-led rebels to join his government's fight against Islamic State-linked militants.

With fears growing that Islamic State is seeking a presence in the country, Duterte offered to pay and even house fighters from groups that have long opposed the Philippine state if they would work to defeat a common enemy, the Maute group.

Duterte said the idea of militias and soldiers fighting together had come from the leader of one of the separatist groups.

Maute militants have pledged allegiance to Islamic State and have been battling government troops since laying siege to a southern city six days ago.

During a visit on Saturday to an army base on Jolo island, where Philippine forces are fighting another Islamist group, the Abu Sayyaf, Duterte said he would treat communist and separatist guerrillas the same as government troops if they join his fight.



Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte (C), flanked by military and police officials, talks to troopers during his visit to Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Jolo, Sulu, Philippines on 27 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I will hire you as soldiers - same pay, same privileges, and I will build houses for you in some areas," Duterte said, according to a video of his speech made available on Sunday.

He made the unconventional offer to the Moro Islamic

Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front. He also asked the communist New People's Army (NPA) to abandon its protracted guerrilla war and work with his government.

The military was using attack helicopters, artillery and

ground troops on Sunday to try to take back Marawi City on Mindanao island, where Maute militants are putting up heavy resistance.

Sixty one rebels, 15 security forces and nine civilians have been killed in the violence, while

tens of thousands of people have been displaced.

The MILF and MNLF have waged a separatist rebellion since the late 1960s and have signed separate peace deals with the government, but those agreements have yet to be fully implemented.

Duterte's offer to the Maoists comes after his government cancelled the latest round of peace talks with the NPA's political arm, accusing the rebels of planning more attacks.

"If this drags on, and you want to join, take your chance with the Republic," Duterte said.

There were no immediate reaction from leaders of the groups to Duterte's offer.

Duterte said the founder and leader of the MNLF, Nur Misuari, had sent him a letter volunteering his men to join the battle in Marawi and other parts of Lanao del Sur province.

The president said he could create a new army division to accommodate the Muslim and Maoist rebels, which he said had battle experience and mastery of the local terrain.—Reuters ■

Knife-wielding man kills two, wounds 18 in China

SHANGHAI — A knife-wielding man suspected of mental illness killed two people and injured 18 in China, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Violent crime is rare in China compared with many other countries, but there has been a series of knife and axe attacks in recent years, many targeting children.

Twenty people were taken to

hospital after the Sunday attack in Guizhou province in the southwest and two died, Xinhua said.

It did not give any details of the victims.

The attacker, aged 30, is being held in police custody and the case was under investigation. Xinhua cited the suspect's father as saying his son had a history of mental illness.

—Reuters ■

Thunderstorms kill 24 in eastern India

BHUBANESWAR, India — Summer thunderstorms in the run-up to the monsoon season killed at least 24 people and injured about a dozen in India's eastern state of Bihar, officials said on Monday.

At least five people died when their houses collapsed, and hundreds of huts were destroyed and trees uprooted in eight of the state's 38 districts during storms

that raged for several hours on Sunday, Anirudh Kumar, Bihar's senior disaster management official said. Several people were killed by lightning strikes, having been caught in the open or having ignored warnings to stay clear of electricity transmission lines. Monsoon rains are expected to hit India's southern coast on Tuesday.—Reuters ■

Cyclone aims for Bangladesh as flood toll rises to 164 in Sri Lanka

AGALAWATTE, Sri Lanka — Floods and landslides in tropical Sri Lanka have killed at least 164 people, authorities said on Monday, as a cyclone grew in the Bay of Bengal, churning towards Bangladesh and forecast to bring torrential rains to neighbouring India.

The floods have reached roof level and cut off access to many rural Sri Lankan villages, disrupting life for half a million people, many of them workers on rubber plantations, officials said.

Villagers in Agalawatte, in a key rubber-growing area 74 km (46 miles) southeast of the capital, Colombo, said they were losing hope of water levels falling soon after the heaviest rain since 2003. Fifty-three villagers were killed and 58 were missing.

"All access to our village is cut off. A landslide took place inside the village and several houses are buried," Mohamed Abdulla, 46, told Reuters.

The military has sent in helicopters and boats in the rescue efforts in the most widespread disaster since the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. About 100 people were missing in total.

The meteorology department said a depression in the Bay of Bengal had intensified into what has been named Cyclone Mora and forecast torrential rains over the next 36 hours.

Residents in seven densely populated districts in the south and centre of Sri Lanka were asked to move away from unstable slopes in case of further landslides. The wettest time of the year in the south is from May to September.

India warned of heavy rains in the northeastern states of Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh as Cyclone Mora moved further up the Bay of Bengal.

Reuters witnessed some people stranded on the upper

floors of their homes. Civilians and relief officials in boats distributed food, water and other relief items.

One of the worst-hit areas was the southern coastal district of Matara which is home to black tea plantations. Rohan Pethiyagoda, head of the Tea Board in the world's largest exporter of top quality teas, said supplies would be disrupted for the next tea auction because of lack of transportation.

Sri Lanka has already appealed for international assistance from the United Nations and neighbouring countries.

Some areas in the southern coastal district of Galle, popular with foreign tourists, have not received relief materials due to lack of access. "My entire village is cut off and nobody can come to this village," CM Chandrapla, 54, told Reuters over the phone from the tourist village of Neluwa.—Reuters ■

BA flights returning to normal after damaging IT collapse

LONDON — British Airways was operating most of its flights from London's two largest airports on Monday after a computer system failure stranded thousands of passengers over a holiday weekend and turned into a public relations disaster.

The airline planned to run more than 95 per cent of flights from London Heathrow and Gatwick on Monday, Chief Executive Alex Cruz told Sky News.

BA had been forced to cancel all its flights from Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport, and Gatwick on Saturday after a power supply problem disrupted its operations worldwide and also hit its call centres and website.

The disruption had continued on Sunday. Some stranded passengers curled up under blankets on the floor or slumped on luggage trolleys, images that played prominently in the media at the start of a week when schools were on holiday.

"Apologises all well and good but not enough. BA has lost another loyal customer #disgraceful," tweeted Tom Callway, who had been due to fly to Budapest.

Cruz said the origins of the problem, which also hit passengers trying to fly into Britain, had been a power surge on Saturday morning which affected messaging



People wait with their luggage at a rebooking zone at Heathrow Terminal 5 in London, Britain on 29 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

across BA's systems.

He said there was no evidence of a cyber attack and denied a union claim that the outsourcing of IT work to India had played a part in the failure.

The company was left counting the cost of the disruption, both in terms of a one-off impact to its profit and the longer term damage to its reputation.

Spanish-listed shares of parent company IAG, which also owns carriers Iberia, Aer Lingus and Vueling, dropped 2.5 per cent on Monday after the outage. The London-listed shares did not trade because of a public holiday.

Flight compensation website Flightright.com said that with around 800 flights cancelled at Gatwick and Heathrow on Saturday and Sunday,

BA was looking at having to pay around 61 million euros (\$68 million) in compensation under EU rules. That does not include the cost of reimbursing customers for hotel stays.

BA has been cutting costs to respond to competition on short-haul routes from Ryanair and easyJet and recently faced criticism for starting to charge passengers for their in-flight snacks.

Ireland's Ryanair was quick to seize on the marketing opportunity, tweeting "Should have flown Ryanair" with a picture of the 'Computer says no' sketch from the TV series "Little Britain" to poke fun at BA.

Ryanair said it had seen a spike in bookings over the weekend but gave no further details.

The GMB union said that BA's IT systems had shortcomings after they made a number of staff redundant and shifted their work to India in 2016.

"This could have all been avoided. BA in 2016 made hundreds of dedicated and loyal IT staff redundant and outsourced the work to India," Mick Rix, GMB National Officer for Aviation, said.

Cruz rejected the union criticism.

"They've all been local issues around a local data centre, which has been managed and fixed by local resources," he said.

Several passengers complained about a lack of information from BA staff at the airport. Others said their luggage had been lost.—Reuters ■

"Convinced Atlanticist" Merkel being honest with US, spokesman says

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel believes firmly in strong German-US relations and is simply being honest with the United States when she flags up policy differences with Washington, her spokesman said on Monday.

Merkel sent shockwaves through Washington and London by saying on Sunday that Europe must take its fate into its own hands, implying that the United States under President Donald Trump and Britain after its Brexit vote were no longer reliable partners.

She made the comments after Trump criticised major NATO allies over their military spending and refused to endorse a global climate change accord at back-to-back summits last week.

"The chancellor's words stand on their own — they were clear and comprehensible," her spokesman, Steffen Seibert, told a regular government news conference in Berlin on Monday, adding: "It was a deeply convinced trans-Atlanticist who spoke."

After the meetings of NATO and the G7 group of wealthy nations, Merkel told a packed beer tent in Munich that the days when Europe could completely rely on others were "over to a certain extent".

"I have experienced

this in the last few days," she said. "And that is why I can only say that we Europeans must really take our fate into our own hands — of course in friendship with the United States of America, in friendship with Great Britain and as good neighbours wherever that is possible also with other countries, even with Russia."

Merkel's remarks, made to her Christian Democrat party's Bavarian allies, were particularly striking as the chancellor, a fan of the United States as a teenager in Communist East Germany, has always been known as a resolute Atlanticist.

Seibert stressed that this remained the case.

"Those of you who have reported on the chancellor for a long time will know how important German-American relations are to her," he told the news conference.

"They are a firm pillar of our foreign and security policy, and Germany will continue to work to strengthen these relations," he said, adding that Merkel had said before that Europe must take its fate into its own hands.

"Because trans-Atlantic relations are so important to this chancellor, it is right from her viewpoint to speak out honestly about differences," Seibert said.

—Reuters ■

Russia to build first helicopter carrier by 2022

MOSCOW — Russia will build its first helicopter carrier by 2022, Russian Deputy Defence Minister Yuri Borisov said on Thursday.

"The cycle of building a helicopter carrier is at least four years; yes, somewhere by 2022," the deputy defence minister said.

The Russian Navy currently lacks universal amphibious assault ships. Mistral-class heli-

copter carriers ordered in France in 2011 were not delivered to Russia.

Russia's United Ship-Building Corporation earlier said the domestic shipyards could create the analog of Mistral ships. Late in July last year, Navy Deputy Commander-in-Chief Viktor Bursuk said the technical assignment for the universal amphibious assault ship had been prepared.—Tass ■



Russia's United Ship-Building Corporation earlier said the domestic shipyards could create the analog of Mistral ships. PHOTO: TASS

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MAREN S VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAREN S VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Swedish art gallery satire “The Square” wins Palme d’Or at Cannes

CANNES, (France) — “The Square”, a Swedish movie about the curator of a museum filled with grotesquely pretentious conceptual art, beat stiff competition to win the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival on Sunday.

Critics hailed the movie by writer-director Ruben Ostlund as “high-wire cinema” that veers between comedy and thriller with moments of pure surrealism, though some said it could easily have shed part of its 2 hours and 22 minutes running time.

The film’s highlight is a dinner for the museum’s well-to-do patrons, with a performance artist leaping from table to table impersonating an ape in a bizarre, tense and ultimately violent scene.

Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar, who headed the jury of nine people that included Hollywood stars Will Smith and Jessica Chastain, said the film was about “the dictatorship of being politically correct”.

“Such a serious subject is

treated with an incredible imagination. It is very, very, very funny,” he said.

“BPM (Beats Per Minute)”, a French movie about AIDS awareness campaigners in the 1980s, had been favourite for the award but had to settle for second place, taking the Grand Prize of the Jury, something Almodovar seemed to regret.

“This is a very democratic jury and I am the ninth part of this jury,” he said and fought back tears as he talked of the film’s portrayal of “real heroes that saved many lives”.

Sofia Coppola won best director for “The Beguiled”, a remake of the 1971 Clint Eastwood tale of sexual tension between an injured soldier in the American Civil War and the women and girls who take him in.

Although members of the jury said she was the first woman to win that prize, the history books show that Soviet director Yuliya Solntseva won it in 1961.—

Reuters ■



Director Ruben Ostlund, Palme d’Or award winner for his film “The Square”, poses with actress Juliette Binoche and Director Pedro Almodovar, Jury President of the 70th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France on 28 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ Hooks No 1, ‘Baywatch’ Belly Flops

LOS ANGELES — Disney’s “Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales” is sailing into first place at the domestic box office this weekend, but the story the numbers dictate is not one of swashbuckling heroics.

Johnny Depp’s fifth outing as Jack Sparrow is looking at a three-day total of \$62.2 million from 4,276 locations, and a four-day holiday weekend sum of \$77 million. If not for international appeal, that would be a let down for a movie riding on a \$230 million production budget.

The first place finish also can’t cover up a serious case of franchise fatigue. “Dead Men Tell No Tales” is the lowest opening for a Pirates movie apart from the original, which earned over \$46 million in its first weekend (and was also the only installation approved by critics). Last time out in 2011, “On Stranger Tides” pulled in \$90 million in its opening weekend. That’s still less than 2007’s “At World’s End” (\$114.7 million) and 2006’s “Dead Man’s Chest” (\$135.6 million). But it’s no question why Disney is still churning out sequels — combined, the movies have made \$1.3 billion domestically and \$3.8 billion worldwide.

“Dead Men Tell No Tales” centers on Sparrow battling deadly ghost sailors, led by the Javier Bardem’s Captain Salazar. Joachim Ronning and Espen Sandberg directed the film, which also sees the return of both Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley, who were absent from the fourth installment.

Over time the “Pirates” franchise has become more reliant on overseas ticket sales, and that’s certainly the case this time out. The studio should make



Actor Johnny Depp. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

back its production budget this weekend once worldwide ticket sales are taken into account. Since the franchise still makes money (even if US grosses are dwindling) this may not be the last we see of Captain Sparrow.

Meanwhile, Paramount’s “Baywatch” was hoping to make an oceanic summer splash, but looks to have ended up in the kiddie pool. The rebooted property should land a three-day total of \$18.1 million from 3,647 locations and end the four-day holiday weekend with \$22 million. That’s far below early estimates. The movie carries a \$60 million production budget. This is the latest in a string of misses for the studio this year including “Ghost in the Shell,” “Rings,” “XXX: The Return of Xander Cage,” and “Monster Trucks.”

Dwayne Johnson and Zac Efron star in the comedy that spawned from the 1990s NBC drama starring David Hasselhoff and a team of lifeguards who patrolled the beaches of Los Angeles. This time around it’s Johnson, an experienced and devoted lifeguard, who butts heads with a new recruit,

Efron, until they uncover a criminal plot.

Priyanka Chopra, Alexandra Daddario, Jon Bass, Kelly Rohrbach, and Ilfenesh Hadera also star. Seth Gordon directed the film based on a screenplay by Damian Shannon and Mark Swift. Jay Scherick, David Ronn, Thomas Lennon, and Robert Ben Garant all have story credits.

“Baywatch” will land in third behind Disney’s “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2,” which has proven to be the only major hit to emerge from the summer box office so far. The sequel looks to pull in another \$24.2 million over the four-day weekend, raising its domestic total close to \$340 million.

Fox’s “Alien: Covenant” should end up in fourth during its second weekend in theaters. The latest installment in the Alien franchise is looking at \$13.1 million over the four-day stretch. Rounding out the top five, the YA adaptation “Everything, Everything” looks to have been a solid low-budget investment for Warner Bros. Its four day total should be about \$7.6 million.—Reuters ■

Priyanka Chopra: There are huge stereotypes about Hindi films in the west

NEW YORK — The Quantico star Priyanka Chopra says people expect Indian actors to not know English, even not know acting and just expect them to get up and dance.

Actress Priyanka Chopra says huge stereotypes still exist in the west about the Indian film industry and it will take more actors from India in mainstream parts to gradually break such long-held notions. “There are huge stereotypes about India,

about Hindi films. There is a lot more awareness now that Hindi movies are such a big industry but the stereotypes still exist,” Priyanka told PTI in an interview. The Quantico star says people expect Indian actors to not know English, even not know acting and just expect them to get up and dance.”Those are stereotypes you have to fight all the time and I guess it will only come with educating people and having them see Indian actors

in mainstream parts, (to make them aware) that we can do this. There is no putting us in a box. But it is going to be a struggle. There is so few of us.”

Priyanka says seeing her in the TV series Quantico prompted people to then watch her Hindi films. “I think they get an understanding that Hindi films are not just about breaking into random song and dance,” she says. Priyanka, who plays villain Victoria Leeds in Baywatch, which

releases in India this Friday, says diversity in global entertainment is the need of the hour, not just in roles and but also actors.

“I believe that in the business where there is demand, there will always be supply. Even audiences and people who watch and consume entertainment need to be open to seeing all kinds of people in iconic parts and not just a certain kind of actors or people who look a certain way,” she says. Priyanka says

she would love to see a woman play James Bond or see an Indian actor in a superhero movie without the tag of being an Indian and just being an actor. That is when it will become mainstream. And not just (from India) but Indian actors from around the world should be a part of global entertainment because that is what the world looks like. “We are one-fifth of the world’s population, there should be more representation.”—Reuters ■

After Everest record Indian woman sets sights on unclimbed peaks

KATHMANDU — A 38-year-old Indian climber who made the fastest double ascent of Mount Everest and became the first woman to reach the highest point on earth twice in five days, says she will now turn her attention to smaller unclimbed peaks.

Anshu Jamsenpa, from India's mountainous northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, climbed Everest by its Southeast Ridge route on 16 May. She repeated the feat on 21 May, beating a record set by a Nepali

woman, Chhurim Sherpa, who made the dual climb in seven days in 2011.

Both ascents are expected to be certified by the Nepali government this week, a tourism department official said.

Anshu, who like many people in the Indian state is known by her first name, also climbed the 8,850 metre (29,035 feet) summit twice in 10 days in 2011. She climbed it again in 2013.

A motivational speaker and trainer in mountaineering, Anshu said she felt an emotional attachment

to Everest.

"When I go high up I rediscover myself and can realize the strength of my mind," she told Reuters in Kathmandu over the weekend after returning from the mountain.

Now she has a new goal — to summit Kangto, the highest peak in Arunachal Pradesh, which is 7,042 metres (23,103 feet) tall and has never been climbed, and other unclimbed peaks.

She said people had been telling her to take on the so-called seven sum-



Indian mountain climber Anshu Jamsenpa, who climbed Everest twice in five days, attends her interview at a hotel in Kathmandu, Nepal on 27 May, 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

mits, the highest peaks on the seven continents.

"But before that I want to climb other virgin peaks in the Himalayas," she said. The mother of two began her expedition in April with a blessing from the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, who gave her a hug. "That long hug had a magic," she said. "I could not tell him anything. I became speechless."

—Reuters ■

Space technologies offer glimpse at Tsar Ivan the Terrible's rare portrait



Russia's first exact-dated printed book, the "Apostle." PHOTO: TASS

MOSCOW, — Multispectral imaging, a technology used in space research, allowed scientists to take a glimpse at the only portrait of Russia's 16th century ruler Ivan the Terrible made during his lifetime and worn away to the point when it could not be seen with a naked eye.

The portrait was engraved in copper and subsequently imprinted on the leather cover of Russia's first exact-dated printed book, the "Apostle." The book was published in 1564 by the decree of

Ivan the Terrible.

"The Apostle has long been kept in the History Museum's collection. Moreover, scientists of the 19th century spotted some kind of image on its cover, but it was blurred, with only contours visible. Thanks to technologies used by an expert with the Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the image, which was fully destroyed by now, could be seen again," a deputy head of the State History Museum, Marina Chistyakova,

told TASS.

The author of the portrait is yet to be established.

Ivan the Terrible (1548-1574), the first Russian ruler to style himself a "tsar" (a rendering of the name Caesar), remains a controversial figure among the Russians. Although his reign was marked by periods of terror, he played a key role in forming the Russian state, by laying down the borders of the modern, centralized country and creating Russia's first standing army.—Tass ■

mitv

Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(30-5-2017 07:00am ~ 31-5-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News	10:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Geographic Center of Myanmar	10:26	Am	Sayit-wyne Girls
07:47	Am	Safari World	10:48	Am	Myanmar Masterclass "Artist Chan Aye"
08:03	Am	News			
08:26	Am	Natural Mineral Water			
08:41	Am	Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax			
09:03	Am	News			
09:26	Am	Let's perform a buffalo dance			
09:39	Am	Wet Markets in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market			
09:49	Am	Dances of Myanmar "Muun Traditional Dance"			
09:53	Am	Today Myanmar: The Smart Cards for Squatters			

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

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

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News

07:26 Pm A Day out With Sarah (EP-6)

08:03 Pm News

08:25 Pm Taste of Myanmar (Fried Flat Noodle)

08:48 Pm A Simple And Peaceful Life

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

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

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

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

MRTV

Programme Schedule

(30-5-2017, Tuesday)

6:00 Am

♦ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:00 Am

♦ Breakfast News

7:35 Am

♦ Law Affairs

8:30 Am

♦ Peace Talks

9:10 Am

♦ Documentary (Mandalay Palace)

9:30 Am

♦ MRTV Youth's Programme

10:30 Am

♦ Teleplay

11:40 Am

♦ Documentary

12:30 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

1:00 Pm

♦ Radio Drama

2:00 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

2:45 Pm

♦ Yes or No Talk Show (Hot Talk)

3:15 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

4:35 Pm

♦ Documentary

5:05 Pm

♦ Mono Classical Songs

5:25 Pm

♦ Catch Asia News

5:35 Pm

♦ Money Talk Myanmar

6:20 Pm

♦ Football Magazine

7:15 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

8:00 Pm

♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report

9:15 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

Muguruza downs Schiavone to reach second round

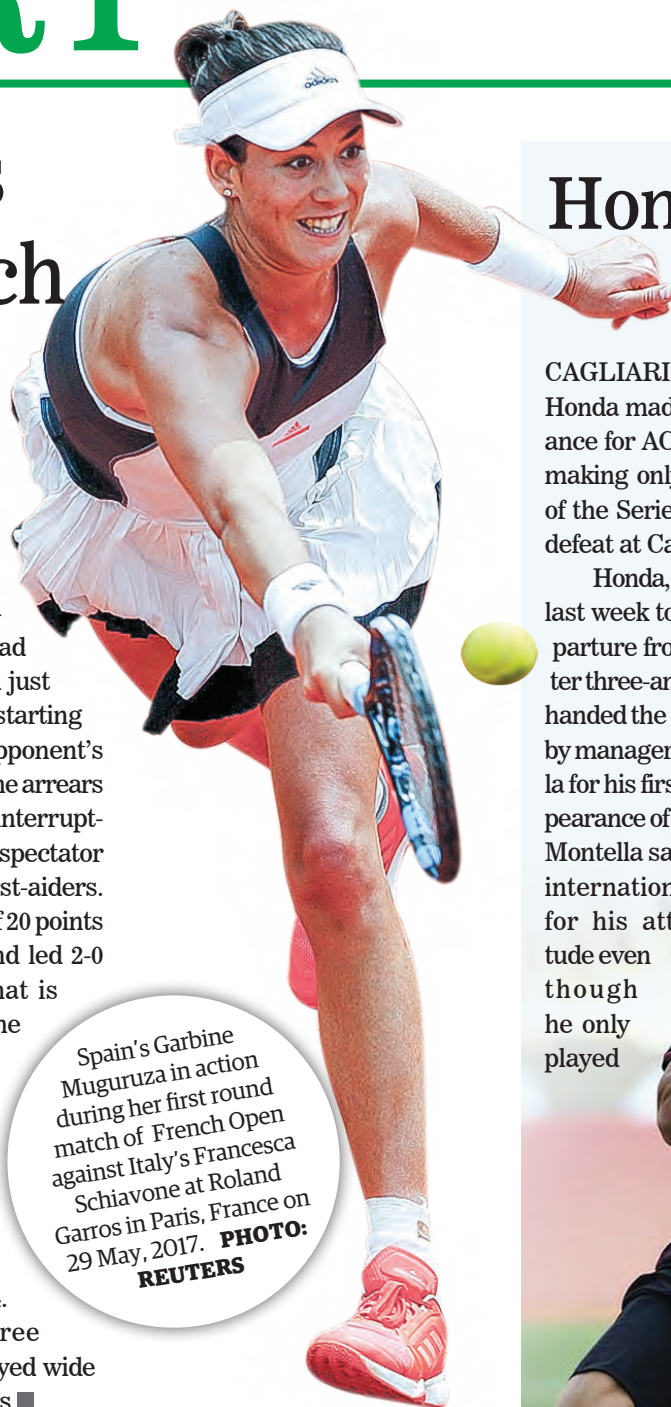
PARIS — Returning to the stage of her greatest triumph inspired defending champion Garbine Muguruza to down 2010 winner Francesca Schiavone 6-2, 6-4 in the first round of the French Open on Monday.

The fourth seed, who had been woefully out of form in the run-up to Roland Garros, never looked in danger of joining Russian Anastasia Myskina as the only reigning women's champion to lose in the opening round of the claycourt major. The Spaniard easily outclassed the skilful Italian with her poise and power in muggy conditions. There were several top-notch rallies and Schiavone pulled a few tricks from her bag, threatening in the second set. However, she made too many unforced errors to sustain any form of challenge.

"I was so excited to play here against another champion. Francesca is a legend," Muguruza said

courtside. "I played my game, which means being aggressive and going forward." Muguruza raced to a 3-0 lead in the opening set and just when Schiavone was starting to work around her opponent's power as she reduced the arrears to 3-2, the match was interrupted for 10 minutes as a spectator was attended to by first-aiders. The Spaniard won 19 of 20 points after play resumed and led 2-0 in the second set. That is when Schiavone's game fell into place. She broke back and had two break chances in the sixth game, which Muguruza saw off confidently. The champion then broke decisively for 5-4. Schiavone saved three match points but volleyed wide on the fourth.—Reuters ■

Spain's Garbine Muguruza in action during her first round match of French Open against Italy's Francesca Schiavone at Roland Garros in Paris, France on 29 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



Honda captains Milan in final game

CAGLIARI, Italy — Keisuke Honda made his final appearance for AC Milan on Sunday, making only his second start of the Serie A season in a 2-1 defeat at Cagliari.

Honda, who took to Twitter last week to announce his departure from the San Siro after three-and-a-half years, was handed the captain's armband by manager Vincenzo Montella for his first 90-minute appearance of the campaign. Montella sang the Japan international's praises for his attitude even though he only played

Honda nine times all season, and just twice in the starting line-up. "He's the consummate professional," Montella said of naming the 30-year-old captain. "It was his last match with Milan, and I thought he deserved it." Honda, whose transfer this summer will not carry a fee, has already been linked with several clubs, although he reportedly is keen to stay in Europe. "Unfortunately, I could not play like a No 10 as often as I would have liked in these last three-and-a-half years," Honda said, according to Italian television. "But I never gave up and did the best I could. I approached every game and training session with all my passion."—Kyodo News ■



AC Milan's Keisuke Honda. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cyclone Mora to cross Bangladesh coast next 15 hrs

According to the observations at 10 pm yesterday, the Cyclonic Storm "Mora" over East Central Bay of Bengal has moved to North wards and intensified into a Severe Cyclonic Storm "Mora". It is centered at about (120)miles Southwest of Sittwe, (120)miles West-Southwest of Kyaukphyu (Myanmar), (220) miles South-Southwest of Chittagong (Bangladesh) and it is expected to cross the coast of Bangladesh next 15 hours.

Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea, South Bay and East Central Bay of Bengal. Weather is cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

National Natural Disaster Management Committee issue a notice for the people

According to the storm warning notice number (05) 2017 issued by the Meteorology and Hydrology Department on Myanmar standard time 11 a.m.

29 May 2017, Cyclone Mora positioned in the middle east side of the Bay of Bengal is moving north and is centered in the sea about 195 mile west of Patheingyi, 180 miles south west of Sittwe, 170 miles south west of Kyaukphyu, 290 miles south west of Chittagong, Bangladesh and will become strong cyclone in the next 12 hours.

According to meteorologists the Cyclone Mora will become a strong cyclone and approach the Rakhine coast by noon of 29 May causing rain and wind. The cyclone can pass near Rakhine coast, Myanmar and an orange alert had been issued and National Natural Disaster Management Committee is coordinating with related states and regions governments for storm preparedness. People are advised to do the following storm preparedness activities.

(a) Arrange for emergency evacuation and have torch-

light, candle, matches, lighters ready and charge the mobile phone

- (b) Set-up a meeting point for family to gather if separated
- (c) Stay inside a safe and sturdy shelter during the storm
- (d) People vacationing on beaches should be alert and careful
- (e) Beware of landslides, flooding and inundating caused by the storm's heavy rain in inland areas
- (f) People living near rivers that can rise rapidly need to be on alert. If necessary, move to secure areas.
- (g) Temporarily move away from areas near rivers and where landslide can occur.
- (h) Inland areas are not directly affected by the storm but strong winds, heavy rains, landslides, sudden flooding and lightning strike can occur in Kachin State,

Chin State, Sagaing Region and Magway Region and people are advised to live in care.

- (i) Those planting seasonal crops on sandbanks near rivers are advised to temporarily move from those areas.

People should be alert and study continuously the storm situation and cooperate by following the instructions and arrangements of responsible officials during the storm. Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement opened a 24 hours call center phones (067-404666 and 067-40477) to which help and assistance can be sought. Relevant ministries, states and regions governments under the leadership of National Natural Disaster Management Committee is conducting necessary management work relating to the storm danger and will inform the people in a timely manner.—GNLM ■

Benfica overcome Guimaraes resistance to complete double

LISBON — Benfica overcame dogged resistance from Vitoria Guimaraes to beat the underdogs 2-1 in the Portuguese Cup final on Sunday and complete a league and cup double.

Raul Jimenez and Eduardo Salvio scored early in the second half in a match featuring the use of video assistant referees as Benfica won the double for the eleventh time. Jimenez cheekily dinked the ball into the net three minutes into the second half after Vitoria goalkeeper Miguel Silva had failed to hold Jonas's long-range drive. Salvio headed the second goal five minutes later from Nelson Semedo's cross.

South African Bongani Zungu pulled one back following a corner with 12 minutes left but Benfica came closer to a third than Vitoria did to an equaliser.—Reuters ■