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Buddhist devotees water the Bo Tree at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw to mark Buddha Day which falls on the Full Moon Day of Kason. **PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE**

Myanmar celebrates Buddha Day

Bo Trees at pagodas across Myanmar watered on the Full Moon Day of Kason

Myanmar people celebrated Buddha Day on the Full Moon Day of Kason, pouring water on the Bo Trees across the nation.

Devout Buddhists observed

the Eight Precepts, meditated and performed meritorious deeds on the day of great religious significance. The Full Moon of Kason is significant

because it was on this day when

Gotama Buddha received His prophecy from Lord Buddha Dipankara, when Gotama Buddha was born, when He attained

Enlightenment and when he entered nirvana, so says Buddhist belief.

On this auspicious day, people pour water on the Bodhi tree,

which is regarded as the paribogaceti, Boddhi or Bo Tree. It is a noble tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



Buddhist devotees celebrating the Buddha Day at the KabaAye Pagoda in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**



Buddhist devotees water the Bo Tree at the Shwedagon Pagoda. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**



Buddhists gather at a Bo Tree at the Shwedagon Pagoda celebrating the Buddha Day. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

Myanmar celebrates Buddha Day

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The Kason water pouring ceremony is the one among the 12 festivals held in their respective months.

The Kason Festival was held at the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, with sacred water poured on the Bodhi trees there by Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung, former Union Minister for Religious

Affairs Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials. Famous pagodas in Yangon were thronging with Buddhist devotees yesterday, the Full Moon Day of Kason.

The 34th anniversary Kason Festival was held at the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday with pouring water on Bo Trees. Before the event, Ovadacariya Sayadawgyis

and invited members of Sangha being offered meals, members of the pagoda board of trustees holding water pots accompanied with religious associations, circumambulating the pagoda clockwise and the Bodhi Tree being doused in water.

Similarly, the 31st anniversary Kason festival was held with the members of pagoda board of trustees pouring water onto

the Maha Bodhi tree, reciting the religious verses starting with Uddisiyajinam Buddhain, jayohi Buddhassa gatha and the gatha commencing with the Jaya-to Bodhiya mule. Similar traditional ceremonies were held at Kyaikkasan pagoda, Kaba Aye Pagoda, Botahtaung Kyaik de-ut pagoda, Swedaw pagoda, Sule pagoda, Shwephonepwint pagoda, Moegaung pagoda, Ngahtatgyi,

Chaukhtatgyi and Kohtatgyi pagodas, Melamu pagoda, Okkalapa pagoda, Kyakkalo and Kyaikalei pagodas, ThanhlyinKyaikkhauk pagoda and Kyauktan Kyaikhmawwun Yailai pagoda.

Similarly Kason Water Throwing ceremonies were held in Pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw Council areas with Buddhist devotees performing meritorious deeds.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Tatmadaw families pour sacred water to Bo Tree

AT the festival of pouring sacred water to Bodhi Banyan Tree which falls on the full moon day of Kason, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and families from the Office of Chief of Staff (Army, Navy, Air) poured sacred water to Bo Banyan Trees in Lawka Chantha Pagoda, in front of the Zeyar Thiri Supermarket in Zeyar Thiri township.

Similarly, in the Military Command Headquarters as well, festivals for pouring sacred water to Bo trees—in Nay Pyi Taw Region Command, Northern Command, North-East Com-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife pour water on the Bo Tree at the Lawka Chantha Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

mand, Eastern Command, Central Command, Triangle Region Command, South-East Command, Coastal Region Command, Yangon Command,

South-West Command, West-ern Command, North-West Command, East Central Command and Southern Command, it has been learnt.—MNA ■



Women water the Bo Tree in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THANT**

Buddha Day celebrated in Maungtaw, Rakhine State

BUDDHIST devotees in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, celebrated the Kason Watering Festival marking the Buddha Day by watering Bo trees in the town.

The auspicious day which falls on the Full Moon Day of Kason.

At the festival held at the

Shwebaho Monastery in Maungtaw, devotees from wards and villages pour water on the Bo Tree, also known as Bodhi Tree, in the compound of the monastery. Local Buddhist devotees, clad in traditional dresses, participated in the festival while reciting religious verses.—Maung Sein Lwin ■



State Counsellor arrives back at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor returns from EU Headquarters, Belgium, Italy and Britain

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, returned home by air from her official visit to the EU Headquarters, Belgium, Italy and Britain at 12 noon yesterday

at the Yangon International Airport. She was welcomed by U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of the Yangon Region Cabinet and responsible officials, HE

Mr Pier Giorgio Fedrico Aliberti, Italian Ambassador; Mr Colin Steinbach, the EU Counsellor and other responsible persons. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) Secretariat Committee Meeting Held

Secretariat committee meeting of UPDJC was held at the national reconciliation and peace centre in Wunna Theikdi Quarter in Nay Pyi Taw, starting from 10 May morning.

Present at the meeting were Secretariat members, Dr Hlan Mhon Zarkhon, U Hla Maung Shwe, Daw Saw Mya Yarzar Lin, Min Kyaw Zayar Oo, U Zaw Htay,



Secretariat committee meeting of UPDJC in progress. PHOTO: MNA

U Sai La, U Naing Ngan Lin, U Myo Win, Tar Hla Pe, U Aung Soe, Khun Myint Tun and U Myint Soe. At the meeting, discussions were made upon submissions from work committees. It has been learnt that UPDJC's secretariat committee will continue to hold its meetings on May 11, it has been learnt. Union Peace Conference—21st Century Pan-

glong work committees held their meetings from 7 to 10 May, discussing policies, principles and working process regarding politics, economy, social affairs, security, land and natural environment. It has been learnt that results coming from these discussions will be submitted to the Secretariat Committee of UPDJC. —Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor to visit the People's Republic of China

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will visit the People's Republic of China at the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's

Republic of China, to attend the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to be held in Beijing from 14 to 15 May 2017. —Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and party pose for a documentary photo before departure for Vietnam. PHOTO: MNA

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw leaves for Viet Nam

A delegation led by Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, Mahn Win Khaing Than left by air yesterday for Viet Nam to promote friendly relations between the two countries and to attend the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference concerning sustainable development under the title "Responding to Climate Change- Action of Legislators to achieve the SDGS" in Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam at the invitation of the Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Madam

Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, from 10 to 16 May 2017.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by U Tin Maung Htun, Chairman of Yangon Region Parliament, Mrs. Luan Thuy Guong, the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar and officials. Representatives of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Kyaw Thaung, U Khin Myo Win, U Myint Than Tun and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw accompanied Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Organized by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education and the Shan State Gov't

Children's Literature Festival & Book Bazaar (Taunggyi)

Children's Literature Festival and Book Bazaar will be held at Taunggyi University from 9 am until 5 pm on June 2,3 and 4 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday).

To ensure everyone can participate in the literary festival.

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Watercolours to be exhibited in group show

EIGHT watercolourists will showcase their diverse works in a collective art exhibition to be held this month in downtown Yangon, according to Artist Aung Lin Tun, organiser of the new event.

Located between Mahabandoola and Merchant Road, the 43rd Art Gallery will host the group show, titled "8 Watercolor", the first group show by the eight artists, including seven young men and a woman.

There will be about 40 pieces in the group event, which is planned to launch on May 20 at the 43rd Gallery and continue through Sunday, 23 May, the organiser



A watercolour by Aung Lin Tun. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

told the **Global New Light of Myanmar**.

Subject matters may include the beauty of flowers,

busy jetties, historic structures of Yangon and farmlands, said the 26-year-old Artist Aung Htet Lwin, who created five works

on subject matter that deals with urban culture issues.

All exhibited works will be sold from US\$100 to \$500.

The organiser said a plan is underway to hold a similar kind of exhibition in partnership with a group of watercolourists next year — Arkar Myo, Arthurain Soe, Aung Htet Lwin, Aung Lin Tun, Nang Hee Phay San, Hnin Thiri, Thu Ra Kyaw and Ye Yint Myint Naing.

Artist Aung Lin Tun, organiser and member of the group, said he also has a plan to hold his first solo show in the first quarter of next year to present portraits of well-known artists, musicians and writers he admires most.—Khaing Thanda Lwin ■

Skilled labour shortage makes loom industry woes

SHORTAGE of skilled labour has resorted to traditional loom weavers in Zayatgyi village in Taungthar Township, to shutting down their businesses.

A gap between the daily wages and the rising cost of living is the main reason for putting the on brink of extinction.

"A weaver can earn 2,500 kyats per day. Though there were plenty of loom workers in the village in the past, there is shortage of labour in the village

as the wage is too low to meet the rising cost of living," said a villager who is working for the loom business.

There are nearly 1,500 houses in Zayatgyi village and almost all of them are running their own loom business.

Villagers have found their jobs in the industry which mainly produce cotton hand-weaving loom from Zayatgyi village include blanket, hand towel,

face towel, and robes go to the markets of every part of the country.

Most of the young villagers are migrating to large cities and some overseas to seek better jobs with good income. The cotton products of village weaving loom are attaining a good market across the country, but the young workers are now very scarce to hire.

In the event of an important religious day, such as on

the eve of full moon day of Tazaungmone (usually falls on November), a group of ladies from the village usually go to Shwedagon of Yangon and take part in Matho Robe Weaving Competition.

The participants are aiming more at getting merit than at prize winning. However they can take pride in their consummate skill in weaving by winning first prize.—Kyaw Kyaw (Maling), Myama Alin ■

Vocational training empowers women in remote Chin State

MORE THAN 1,400 women have learned skills that would support a livelihood through the Women's Vocational Training School in Matupi Township since 2014, according to the local authorities.

As part of its effort to promote the socio-economic status of rural women, the government opened a vocational training school in Matupi, the second capital city in Chin State, in May 2014. Since its establishment to date, the school has turned out a total of 1,410 trainees, offering livelihood training, especially tailoring.

The school has opened the 35th batch advanced tailoring course and related course in the same township

to share sewing techniques to 46 female residents. The three-month course will promote their skills and enable them to find a good job.

The school will provide outstanding trainees with sewing machines after the course.

Similar training schools have also been established in Hakha, Falam, Tiddim, Mindat and Kanpetlet townships. Trainees who complete the advanced tailoring course will have a chance to attend a motor tailoring course in Yangon.

The local authorities also seek suitable jobs for those trainees at garment factories in Yangon.—Township IPRD ■

Heroin, ICE and yaba pills seized

MOHNYIN anti-narcotic squad searched a house owned by Soe Win and found 0.3 kilos of heroin, 5,490 yaba pills, a phone handset and Ks57.7 lakh at No. 95, Aung Ya village in Phakant Township on 9 May.

Similarly, anti-narcotics squad from southern Mandalay searched a house owned by Aung San Htwe between 28th and 29th streets and 82nd and 83rd streets in Ward 592, Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay on the same day. The police found 3,669 yaba pills from the house.

Taunggyi anti-drug squad searched a Toyota Mark-II driven by Khun Min Naung and discovered 32,000 stimulant tablets and a phone handset at the 4-mile cooperative inspection gate near Taunggyi Township.



Another anti-drug squad from Tachilek searched an apartment owned by Nyan Lin at Wein Kyauk Ward in Tachilek Township on 10 May. The police found 0.85 kilos of ICE and 216,000 stimulant tablets in the house.

The police also searched Naing Lin's house and seized 24,399 stimulant tables at Yan Aung Myay Ward in Tachilek Township.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■

FDI of US\$19million flow into Thilawa this FY

Foreign direct investment flowing into the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in the early period of Fiscal Year 2016-2017 reached US\$19million, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). The industrial sector accounted for over 76 per cent of FDI, whereas the transportation and service sectors individually received over 7 per cent. The real estate sector and sales sector also gained a small amount of investment.

The transportation sector

drew the attention of foreign investors, with over US\$200million of investment attained last year.

The value of investments in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) could possibly shoot up to US\$1billion in the coming years, and exports produced by Thilawa SEZ are expected to fetch up to US\$350million, according to the Thilawa SEZ Management Committee.

There are a total of 75 foreign and local companies in Thilawa SEZ. Textile enterprises, construction and associated tool

factories such as steel manufacturing factories and concrete plants, a packaging materials factory, a tin manufacturing factory, a food and beverage manufacturing factory, a fertilizer plant, an agribusiness related materials factory, an auto installation and auto parts factory, and pharmaceutical factory are being operated in Thilawa SEZ.

Thilawa SEZ started operation in October, 2015, with a 51 per cent stake owned by Myanmar and 49 per cent by Japan in Thilawa.—Ko Htet

Maubin Industrial Park project starts to be implemented

By Soe Win

A groundbreaking ceremony for six factories at Maubin Industrial Park, which included the farmer stakeholders, was held on 9th May at the construction sites.

Maubin Industrial Park is being established on 250 acres of land in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region. The projects aims to enhance the socio-economic status of the local people, create more job opportunities, attract more foreign investments, improve the regional industrial sector, effectively use local human resources and produce value-added products, it is reported.

Maubin Industrial Park was initiated with 26 shareholders from Maubin Development Company Limited which has now been turned into Maubin Development Public Company Limited, with 134 shareholders. This Maubin Development Public Company has established a joint venture with Shanghai Yangon Investment Company Limited. Shanghai Co will hold 55 per cent of shares while Maubin Development Public Company will contribute 45 per cent of shares.

The project will include 42 factories relating to clothing, three factories of foodstuff, three factories of household goods, one literature and entertainment factory, one electric product factory, for a total of 50 factories. With a total estimated



Officials inspect the modeling of the Maubin Industrial Park Project during the groundbreaking ceremony. PHOTO: SOE WIN

investment of Ks291,213 million, around Ks269,100 million of investments are expected to be put into this project while the infrastructure construction is expected to spend Ks22,113 million. With the construction of the factories, job opportunities can be created for 77,000 locals.

“There is no heavy industry, only agriculture and livestock in Maubin. Therefore, we have come up with an idea of implementing the industrial park in this township. The government also vows to assist us in construction of the big factories jointly implemented by the entrepreneurs”, said U Yan Win, the chairman of Maubin Development Public Company.

“What makes Maubin Industrial Park unique is that some shares are held by farmers. The farmers are happy to be a part of this project. This industrial park will help effectuate the development of the

region, creating much more job opportunities for local people”, he continued.

“The deep sea ports can be constructed in our region. We have planned to conduct Chinese language course for the factory labourers in order to have good communication with the foreign investors”, he added. In Myanmar, Yangon is the first Industrial Park city and the second one is in Mandalay. Maubin Industrial Park will be the third one. This Maubin industrial Park project is slated to be completed within three years, according to the Maubin industrial zone.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by U Aung Htoo, the deputy Minister for the Commerce Ministry, officials from Ayeyawady Region, chairperson and officials from Shanghai Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Maubin Development Public Company.



1,975 tonnes of rice were exported to Poland, South African countries and Singapore in the last week of April. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Rice exports declined in April

The export volume of rice and broken rice through normal trade and border trade camps are found to have significantly declined in April compared to that of the previous month, according to the Commerce Ministry.

A total of 83,871 tonnes of rice worth US\$26.173million were exported through border trade camps from 1st to 28th April. In March, over 105,855 tonnes of rice worth US\$33.222million were sent via the border trade camps and the volume was down by over 21,000 tonnes in April. Broken rice exports also declined in April, with a decrease of over 1,600 tonnes against that of March.

Over 28,846 tonnes of rice worth over US\$9million were exported through Myanmar-China border trade camps between 22nd and 28th April.

Meanwhile, 27,122 tonnes of rice worth over US\$8million were shipped out to foreign countries from 1st to 29th April through normal route whereas 52,808 tonnes of rice were exported in March. Broken rice export via sea route in April also shows a decline of 6,371 tonnes when compared to that of March.

From 23rd to 29th April, 1,975 tonnes of rice were shipped to Poland, South African countries and Singapore.—Ko Khant

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Ocean City Supercenter City Mart Supermarket

Media can cover UPC—21st Century Panglong Second Meeting

THE Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong second meeting will be held on 24 May at the Myanmar International Convention Center 2 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Media representatives from home and abroad who are interested in covering the event can register at www.moi.gov.mm after filling in the necessary information in the Media Registration Form by pressing Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong, not later than 4 pm on 19 May.

Accreditation cards will be given out at the Office of Minis-

try of Information from 10 am to 4 pm on 23 May.

Overseas reporters are required to apply for a visa through the nearest embassy. Further information for local and overseas-based foreign news agencies and local reporters to get a free pass in and out of the meeting can be obtained by calling 067-412187, the research, news and information branch of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD); or 067-412125 & 067-412126 of news and periodical enterprise.

It has been learnt that ar-

rangements have been made for the convenience of lodging for local and overseas media at reasonable prices at Sky Palace Hotel and for covering news at the opening and closing ceremonies and for covering news and information at the press conferences to be held in the evenings during the duration of the conference, for commuting from Sky Palace Hotel to MICC—2 to hold meetings, for a round trip in the morning and in the evening and selling coupon tickets for lunch at K4,000 a piece. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Dando drilling machinery drills a tube well in Asansa Village in Magwe Region. **PHOTO: THURA LWIN (ECO)**

Drilling success in Magway will provide water for 1,400 villagers

A successful tube well that struck water in a village in Magway Region on Tuesday will provide sufficient drinking water to about 1,400 villagers.

The success at finding water is the latest achievement of the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation, which has been drilling tube wells nationwide.

The tube well at Asasan Village in Magway Region also became the 154th one drilled with British-made Dando drilling machinery by the philanthropic foundation.

"The drilling struck the water at the depth of 520 ft and water gushed out at the rate of 3,600 gallons per hour," said an

official of the BFM.

Before the latest success, the foundation also found success in drilling a tube well at a monastery in Pinlaung Township, Northern Shan State, when the water gushed out with 2,000 gallons per hour at the depth of 400 ft. Meanwhile, the foundation has provided water bowsers to philanthropic groups nationwide

assisting in supplying water to areas facing scarcity of water in dry season. The foundation also donated a 3,000-gallon bower to Saytanar Shin Philanthropic Group in Tada Oo Township on 9 May. BFM has already donated 38 bowsers to philanthropic associations so far.

—Thura Lwin (Eco) ■

Colonial structure in Toungoo needs renovation

SITUATED in a village in the western part of Toungoo in Bago Region, a 100-year-old crumbling colonial building, which is currently used as a village monastery, needs renovation, said an abbot of the monastery.

The old residents of Ohpogon Village in Kinseik Village-tract say that the old building was the home of a family during the colonial era and had since been used as a branch office of Kempeitai, Japanese military police, said Sayadaw U Kawthala who moved to the building two years ago.

The Sayadaw said the roof and other parts of the two-storey structure have worn out, urging well-wishers to take part in the renovation plan. Taungoo was a



The colonial-era building in Toungoo. **PHOTO: KO LWIN (SWA)**

dynasty that flourished between 1510-1539 and 1551-1552 and is famous in Myanmar history.

The city has numerous ancient structures includ-

ing pagodas, temples, stupas and other historic attractions. Taungoo celebrated

its 500th birthday in 2010. —Ko Lwin (Swa) ■

Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary offers visit throughout the year to study golden deer and natural forests

Rare golden deer species and natural forests can be studied in Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary in Kawlin Township in Katha District and Kanbalu Township in Kanbalu District, Sagaing Region according to the administration office.

Shwe Sat Taw wildlife Sanctuary and Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary are very convenient places for the visitors to study the golden deer, forests, insects and other species.

"Golden deer are normally difficult to be seen. Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary provides

golden opportunity for the visitors because they can see the golden deer.

But, visitors who want to see golden deer need to follow the rules such as not to wear the bright clothes, not to make noise and etc.

Our department is serving the visitors and researchers who want to see or study the golden deer. One museum has also been opened in the San Myaung Camp," said U Min Swe administrator of Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Chatthin Wildlife Sanctu-

ary is 64264.42 acres wide and situated nearly two miles away from Chattin village in Kanbalu Township, Kanbalu District, Sagaing Region.

There are a total of 349 varieties of herbal species and 321 varieties of animal species in Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Express buses from Yangon and Mandalay are running directly to Kanbalu. Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary can be reached by motorcycles, cars and railways via Kanbalu Township.

—Win Oo/ Mirror ■

Speedometer to be installed on the main road in Yangon

"Speedometers will be installed soon on the main roads in Yangon to check and take action against the over-speed vehicles" said U Aung Myo Myint, deputy traffic police officer of No (7) traffic police force (provisional)

Vehicles in Yangon are limited to 48km/h or 30miles/h, but vehicles out of the Yangon were allowed to 90km/h. However, the vehicles are driving over the specified speeds, 48km/h in downtown. More accidents were happening as the result. Therefore, our police force is trying to check and take action against the vehicles driving over

the speed. "Technical aids are needed to implement the program. Therefore, speedometer will be installed on the main roads in Yangon", said U Myo Aung Myint police officer at the 4th United Nation Road Safety Week Ceremony held by Myanmar Road Safety Association.

Car drivers driving over the limited speeds will be checked from speedometers and will be suited according to the motor vehicles rules. Those drivers will be fined starting from 30,000kyats to till keeping their driving license to be invalid.— Myint Maung Soe/Myamaalin ■

Moon Jae In sworn in as South Korea's new president

SEOUL — South Korea's new president, Moon Jae-in, was sworn into office on Wednesday hours after being confirmed the winner of the previous day's election to choose a successor to ousted former President Park Geun-hye.

The 64-year-old former human rights lawyer took the oath of office in a ceremony held at the National Assembly at noon, formally becoming the country's 19th president.

"I will become a president of all people," the new leader said in a speech delivered at the ceremony. "I declare that I will fulfill my responsibilities and calling as the 19th president of the Republic of Korea with a fearful but humble heart before history and the people."

Facing the challenge of uniting ideological and generational divisions in the country after the bitterly fought election, he called

on all people to work to achieve national unity.

"There is no winner and loser in the election, and we are all partners to lead forward a new Republic of Korea," he said.

To resolve the security crisis arising from North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes, Moon said he is prepared to visit the South's reclusive northern neighbour.

"If necessary, I will fly to Washington, Beijing and Tokyo, and if conditions arise, I will go to Pyongyang," said Moon, who favours dialogue with the North while maintaining pressure and sanctions. "I will do whatever I can to consolidate peace on the Korean Peninsula."

Moon's five-year term officially began at 8:09 am when the National Election Commission confirmed his victory in Tuesday's election, the commission said.

It got underway without any transition period given that his predecessor had been ousted from office.

He has chosen South Jeolla Province Governor Lee Nak-yeon to be his first prime minister, government sources said, adding that Moon plans to officially announce his choice later in the day.

Moon's choice of Lee, a former four-term lawmaker from the southwestern Jeolla region, as prime minister apparently reflects his oft-stated aim of achieving national unity through having figures from different regions in the government.

Moon spoke with General Lee Sun-jin, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, by phone shortly after being officially declared the winner and thereby taking over command of the nation's armed forces. He ordered the armed forces to maintain a



South Korea's new president, Moon Jae-in (L), leaves his residence in Seoul on the morning of 10 May, 2017, after winning the election held the previous day to succeed ousted President Park Geun-hye. The 64-year-old former human rights lawyer launched his five-year term later in the day. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

high state of readiness.

He also visited the leaders of all four opposition parties shortly after his term formally began.

Moon, from the liberal Democratic Party of Korea, won 41.08 per cent of the vote in the election, according to the NEC. Hong Joon-pyo of the conservative Liberty Korea Party won 24.03

per cent and Ahn Cheol-soo of the center-left People's Party got 21.41 per cent.

Moon's predecessor Park, who was the country's first female leader, was imprisoned in March after being impeached by parliament thrown out of office over a corruption and abuse-of-power scandal.—Kyodo News ■

Jailing of Jakarta's Christian governor reverberates across Indonesia

JAKARTA — Hundreds of supporters of Jakarta's Christian governor sang patriotic songs outside the Indonesian capital's City Hall on Wednesday to protest his imprisonment for blasphemy after a trial that drew concerns over rising religious intolerance.

Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama is appealing his harsher-than-expected two-year jail sentence after being found guilty of insulting the Koran in the Muslim-majority country.

Purnama, the first ethnic Chinese and Christian leader to be elected as Jakarta's governor, was immediately detained, on the judge's orders, at the end of the trial on Tuesday.

While he was held in a police detention facility on Jakarta's outskirts, Purnama's supporters dressed in the national colours of red and white to gather at his office in a show of solidarity at the Dutch colonial-style City Hall.

The emotions unleashed by the case have sent shud-

ders through Indonesia — a secular state that has religious freedom and diversity enshrined in the constitution, though 85 per cent of its people are Muslim.

A Hindu spiritual leader from the holiday island of Bali, I Gusti Ngurah Harta, said Purnama's guilty verdict meant minorities could be disadvantaged before the law in the future.

"It means that before the law, minorities will be increasingly oppressed because judges can't do much in the face of the pressures they face," he said.

Rights groups have condemned the verdict.

They fear Islamist hardliners are in the ascendancy in a country where most Muslims practise a moderate form of Islam and is home to sizeable communities of Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, and people who adhere to traditional beliefs.

Purnama, who is an ally of President Joko Widodo, was put on trial late last year

over allegations that he had insulted the Koran when he said political rivals were deceiving people by using a verse in from the Islamic holy book to say Muslims should not be led by a non-Muslim.

Islamist groups drew hundreds of thousands of protesters onto the street, calling for him to be sacked and jailed, scuppering his chances at re-election.

Though he remains popular for his record of getting things done, Purnama lost April's divisive election to a Muslim rival who will take office in October.

At Jakarta's City Hall, Purnama's supporters worried about healing the divisions caused by the election and trial.

"Look at the situation with consideration for the Unitary State of Indonesia, not for the hatred toward a group, religion or certain people," said Hironimus Rupa, a 36-year-old Catholic priest who had joined Purnama's supporters.

An umbrella organisation for Islamic groups that led the anti-Purnama protests called on Wednesday for all sides to "understand and accept the judge's decision."

Purnama, considered a "double minority" because of his ethnicity and religion, has received an outpouring of sympathy from across the archipelago nation and internationally.

"I admire his work for Jakarta. Don't believe he's anti-Islam.

My prayers are with his family.

Leaders must safeguard tolerance and harmony," Moazzam Malik, Britain's ambassador to Indonesia, tweeted after the verdict.

A Christian activist in the eastern-most province of Papua said Purnama had been treated unfairly.

"It clearly shows that this country does not respect diversity and the people of Papua feel (Purnama) has been tyrannized," said Victor Mambor.—Reuters ■

Nine hatchlings of Royal Turtle taken to conservation centre in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH — Nine eggs of Royal Turtle were hatched and taken to Koh Kong Reptile Conservation Centre in southwestern Cambodia for raising and possibly breeding in the future, a conservationist group said on Wednesday. The Royal Turtle, also known as Southern River Terrapin (*Batagur affinis*), is one of the world's most endangered freshwater turtles and listed on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List as Critically Endangered. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Cambodia said in a press release that a nest of Royal Turtle with 14 eggs was found by a villager along the Kaong River in Koh Kong province in February. A Royal Turtle conservation team from the Fisheries Administration and the WCS went to check the nest, built a fence to protect the eggs, and hired a villager to guard the nest until those eggs were hatched, the press release said.—Xinhua ■

Save lives by driving Safe

Khin Maung Oo

Nearly every day, printed media reports accidents and casualties due to motor vehicles and motor cycles which cannot control speed. Likewise, accidents which are happening across the world claim lots of lives almost always. Hence, it became a matter which the United Nations itself took notice. Thus the United Nations designated a week called the “Fourth UN Global Road Safety Week, 2017” from May 8 to May 14.

In launching the campaign for road safety week this year, warnings have been made regarding over-speed driving of motor vehicles and motor cycles, and the theme is “Save

lives by driving safe.” In addition, educative talks will be conducted. Over-speed driving is the key risk factor for road traffic deaths and injuries.

With the control of over-speed driving, rates of accidents and deaths and casualties can be reduced.

According to data collected by the WHO (World Health Organization), around one-third of all fatal road traffic crashes in high-income countries and up to half in low- and middle-income countries have been attributed to over-speed driving. When accidents happening across the world have been compared to each other, death toll rates in low-income countries are found to be higher than

those in high-income-countries.

In our country, there were 15306 cases of motor vehicle accidents in 2015 and 4233 death cases resulted from these accidents. In the previous year as well, there were over 12000 cases of car accidents and death tolls amounted to 3500 cases or so and about 19000 injuries, during a 9 month-period from the advent of the year to September.

The main cause of these car accidents was found to be careless driving and over-speeding. Therefore, provided that driving at high speed can be effectively controlled, the above-said accidents, casualties and injuries can surely be reduced

to a considerable extent. The World Health Organization has called for upgrading roads, constructing roads of high-quality and renovating them nearly always, making arrangements for cars to drive on roads in safe and controlled ways and taking actions against those who violate traffic rules effectively and sharing knowledge on road safety.

Small notices hung in cars saying, “Your family is waiting for you to come back home,” reminds us of keeping awareness. In fact, the moment we get into buses, we entrust our lives to drivers. So, let us keep the motto: “Save lives by driving safe.” ■

Towards Peaceful, Just & Fair and All-inclusive Societies

Aye Myint Aung

In such a period of time when everything is changing, I always remember a speech that Abraham Lincoln made over 150 years ago—“If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it.”

Whenever I remember it, I happen to review what we experienced, as for the media man who had worked for many years in the media environment, to which state we reached and how we expect to proceed.

Origin of our journey

To put it simply, we all strived ourselves to be liberated from Dark Age on News. We lived under the suppression of dictators, being deprived of freedom of description and freedom of expression. We could not resist the censorship. Only when 2008 Constitution did come into existence, all the media men approached for the solution in their own ways, so as to reap the freedom of journalism and rights of journalists. In other word, voices for demanding for the freedom of journalism and for being free from suppression were being heard in the media world at that time. In the Myanmar democratic society, it depicts that media sector plays an important role for freedom of expression, good governance and national development.

Present situation

On April 26, 2017 Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) released the status of freedom of press of global countries, in which it has been learnt that Myanmar was ranked 131st place out

of over 180 countries. In fact, it can be said to be unsatisfactory but we need to ponder how we marched to reach the state and how many difficulties we experienced and how much we sacrificed. In the year 2011/2012, Myanmar stood at 169th place out of 170 countries concerning the status of freedom of expression of Myanmar. We cannot deny changing into present situation was attributed to efforts of the media men.

Designated theme for world press freedom day, 2017 is “Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

New Responsibility

Designated theme for world press freedom day, 2017 is “Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

When the theme has been analyzed, our media men have 3 tasks to be done—for our societies to become peaceful societies, to become just and fair societies and to become all-inclusive societies.

At the end of 20th century,

patterns of political extremism in the world became on the verge of extinction but religious and racial extremists are still surviving. Today’s world was assumed to have been more complicated between open mind and closed mind. Most people believe that societies surviving on open mind will develop in future. To bring about open mind, every media man should encourage for 3 tasks of peace, justice and all-inclusiveness to survive in human societies. In doing so, what media men must be aware is for both sides to approach for the right solution with full understanding, as most of the media are transforming their political system subtly, their needs cannot be permitted to the full and media men do not yet get accustomed to the media ethics, responsibility and accountability pertaining to freedom of expression.

Media development

To tell the truth, when we started to think about media freedom in the past, our first-ever approach was just the press media. As known by all, CNN broadcasting station has been broadcasting news and documentary news reports around the clock, after 1980, changing roles of newspapers. Now that 24-hour-broadcasting stations are emerging a lot, patterns of media changed, and we must implement media development not only by depending wholly upon print media but also by relying upon online media which is also named new media, besides print media and broadcast media.

Presently, implementation of Ministry of Information for the development of media has shown that the

ministry has been giving supports for the development of state-owned media and private media. In the financial year 2016-2017, the ministry supported K 247 million to Myanmar News Media Council and will provide K 299 million in 2017-2018.

And, the ministry has been carrying out amendment of rules and regulations on printing and publication that are no longer suitable with the current situations, holding workshops for journalists to cover news in safety.

In conclusion, in accord with the designated theme, 2017, our media men must implement. So as to be able to do so, our critical mind and critical thinking are also of great importance. We need to think deeply to which extent the news item can lead a society to effective result.

In this 21st century world, human beings’ ideas and doctrines differ greatly. As a result, standardized values and expected values differ between societies. These differences are to be solved by accepting these dissimilarities through mutual understanding and patience.

In other word, without prioritizing what we want to implement according to the essence of democracy, the good practising of finding solutions by combining or consulting what we want and what others want must be cultivated.

For the smoothness of democratic federal union road we are marching, media men are required to help hand in hand with rightful stance, doctrines and cooperation, so that peaceful, just and fair and all-inclusive Myanmar society will really emerge.— Translated by Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U) ■

MOFA issues press release

State Counsellor concludes official visits to European Countries

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release yesterday on conclusion of official visits to European countries by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The following is the full text of the press release.

1. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived back in Yangon on 10 May 2017 at 11:30 hrs. upon completion of her official visits to the Headquarters of the European Union, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Italian Republic, the Holy See, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 1 May to 9 May 2017.

Visit to Belgium

2. During her stay in Brussels, the State Counsellor met with His Majesty King Philippe and H.E. Prime Minister Mr. Charles Michel of Belgium on 2 May 2017. At the meeting with the Prime Minister, they discussed matters on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, provision of assistance in the field of water resource management and the capacity building of Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar's peace and national reconciliation process and, Belgium's assistance to promote democracy in Myanmar.

3. The State Counsellor met with H.E. Mr. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council and attended the Working Lunch hosted by H.E. Mrs. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission. At the meetings, they exchanged views on promotion of Myanmar-EU bilateral relations and cooperation, addressing the challenges faced by Myanmar during its democratic transition, Myanmar's peace and national reconciliation process, holding of the second session of 21st Century Panlong, and promotion of stability and de-

velopment in the Rakhine State, regional and international issues, promotion of ASEAN-EU relations, and the holding of Asia-Europe (ASEM) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in November 2017 in Myanmar. Following the working lunch, the State Counsellor and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission held a joint press briefing and responded to the questions raised by the media.

Visit to Italy

4. The State Counsellor arrived at Italy on the afternoon of 3 May 2017 for an official visit. She received Mr. Romano Prodi, former Italian Prime Minister and Mr. Vincenzo Scotti, President of the Italia-Birmania Insieme organization separately and discussed matters on preservation of cultural heritage and development cooperation in Myanmar.

5. The State Counsellor met with H.E. Mr. Angelino Alfano, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, on 3 May 2017, and held bilateral discussions with H.E. Mr. Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Prime Minister on 4 May 2017. At the meetings, they discussed matters on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, provision of assistance from the Italian government in preservation of cultural heritage in the Rakhine State and upgrading of cultural museums in Myanmar, and cooperation in the fields of agriculture, trade and investments in Myanmar. They also exchanged views on Myanmar's peace and national

reconciliation process, promotion of peace, stability and development in the Rakhine State.

6. On the morning of 4 May 2017, the State Counsellor met with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican City. After the meeting, the two sides announced the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Holy See. Afterwards, the State Counsellor met with His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of the Holy See, and exchanged views on political development in Myanmar, and the government's efforts for peace and national reconciliation. Both sides expressed their pleasure for the establishment of diplomatic relations.

7. The Holy See is a sovereign city state enjoying an observer status at the United Nations, and has already established diplomatic relations with over 180 countries. The establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and the Holy See was approved by the 4th Session of the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 10 March 2017. The two sides agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the level of Embassy on the part of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and of Apostolic Nunciature on the part of the Holy See. Myanmar Ambassador in Austria will be concurrently accredited to the Holy See.

8. In the afternoon, the State Counsellor attended the International Parliamentarians' Conference which was held with the theme of 'Migration and Gender Equality' at the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Republic and delivered a keynote speech

as the Special Guest at the opening session of the Conference. H.E. Mrs. Laura Boldrini, Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and H.E. Mr. Paolo Gentiloni, Prime Minister of the Italian Republic also attended the opening session of the Conference.

Visit to the United Kingdom

9. The State Counsellor arrived in UK in the evening on 4 May 2017 to pay an official visit. In the afternoon of 5 May 2017, the State Counsellor met with Prince Charles and the spouse at the Clarence House in London. Then the State Counsellor had the royal audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and attended the Luncheon hosted by Her Majesty to the Myanmar delegation at the Buckingham Palace.

10. In the afternoon, the State Counsellor visited St. Mary's Hospital, which has been assisting Myanmar for the development of medical education. In the evening, the State Counsellor attended the dinner hosted by the Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs at the Carlton Gardens Residence in London.

11. At the dinner, the two sides discussed matters on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, capacity building of Myanmar Police Force, development cooperation in health and education sectors, continued support for Myanmar's peace and national reconciliation process.

12. On 8 May 2017, the State Counsellor attended the Presentation Ceremony of an Honorary Freedom Award conferred by

the City of London at the Guild Hall and delivered a speech at the event. Afterwards, the State Counsellor attended the lunch hosted by Alderman Sir Alan Yarrow, Acting Mayor of London. The Honorary Freedom Award is the highest honour which the City of London confers, and the State Counsellor has been conferred this Honorary award in recognition of her efforts to achieve peace, freedom and democracy in a non-violent way and the exceptional leadership at the international political stage. Previously awarded persons are former UK's Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, South Africa's late President Mr. Nelson Mandela, famous scientist Professor Stephen Hawking, and Lady Diana, Princess of Wales.

13. While in London, the State Counsellor met with Sir Michael Fallon MP, Secretary of State for Defence and Mr. Alok Sharma, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the UK, and Mr. Rory Stewart, Minister of State at the Department for International Development (DFID) respectively. At the meetings, the two sides discussed matters on Myanmar's peace and national reconciliation process, including the Rakhine State issue, the UK Government's assistance in the capacity building of Myanmar's Police Force, developments of Myanmar and promotion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, health, electricity and energy.

14. On 9 May 2017, the State Counsellor met with Myanmar Community in the UK at the Landmark Hotel in London. —Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

14 HYLI conference to be held in Myanmar for sharing views on local and global issue

STUDENTS of Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan will hold 14 Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI) conference in Yangon for exchanging view on local and global issue with the title

“Sustainable Urban Maintenance by Combined Creative Power”

Students from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Vietnam and Myanmar will participate and discuss global and local

issue in this event with four students from each country.

ASEAN leaders, government representatives, business leaders and representative experts for education will also attend the event.

This event aims to nurture

potential Myanmar leaders and to upgrade Information Technology sector in Myanmar. Hitachi Company will also support the development works of Myanmar partly by their high tech.

Four students to represent

Myanmar were selected by Hitachi Asia Ltd. and Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

This event will be held at the Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon from July 10 to 13. —Kyaw Zin ■

Germany to make reforms to army after far right plot — minister

WORLD BRIEFS

BERLIN — German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday said she would respond to the discovery of far right sympathisers in the German army with reforms, including revising one of the force's post-Nazi era founding principles.

German police on Tuesday detained a second soldier suspected of involvement in what prosecutors believe was a plan by a military officer and a student, both in custody, to carry out an "extremist" attack and blame it on migrants.

Von der Leyen, under fire for her handling of the growing scandal, told reporters she would on Wednesday inform a special session of the parliamentary defence committee about the investigation into the case and far right sympathies within the military.

She said the ministry would clarify its "Traditionserlass," a policy last updated in 1982 that gives a differentiated view of how troops are to treat and view the legacy of the German military. Von der Leyen, whose post in-



German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen faces the defence commission of the lower house of parliament Bundestag in Berlin, Germany on 10 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

cludes the role of commander in chief of Germany's armed forces, is a close ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel who is gearing up for a national election in five months' time. The military needed a fast-

er and more efficient reporting scheme for incidents and potential threats and would need to increase the political education of troops, the minister said.

"I am completely clear ...

that we need a broad process in the military itself, that we must travel together — from recruits to generals, from instructors to the minister," she said. —Reuters ■

German police detain Islamist suspects in Leipzig — media

BERLIN — German police detained several potential Islamist militant suspects in the eastern city of Leipzig, German media reported on Wednesday.

Police in the city confirmed that several properties had been searched earlier on Wednesday morning.

Regional news portal Tag24 said the operation targeted suspected members of Islamic State and other organisations that had been active in Syria's six-year-old civil war.—Reuters ■

Incoming S Korea spy chief says too early to talk about summit with N Korea

SEOUL — The man nominated as South Korea's new spy chief said on Wednesday the right conditions to resolve North Korea's nuclear crisis should be set before a summit between South and North Korea could take place.

South Korea's newly elected president Moon Jae-in named Suh Hoon, a veteran of inter-Korean talks, to head the country's National Intelligence Service.

Suh told reporters soon after his nomination it was too early to talk about a possible summit between Moon and his North Korean counterpart. —Reuters ■

After Macron win, France's main parties fret over parliament elections

PARIS — France's Socialist Party and the wider political Left splintered on Wednesday as centrist Emmanuel Macron's presidential victory triggered power-struggles between moderates and hardliners ahead of June parliamentary elections.

Benoit Hamon, the unsuccessful Socialist Party candidate in the presidential contest, said he would set up a new political movement after several of his hallmark proposals during that campaign were abandoned by his own party.

Radical left-winger Jean-Luc Melenchon, also eliminated in the presidential contest, criticised his erstwhile allies in the Communist Party and vowed to campaign without them for seats in the 577-seat National Assembly.

The two-stage legislative elections on 11 and 18 June will decide whether a new party created by 39-year-old Macron, who is due formally to take power on Sunday, will win enough seats to allow him to govern effectively for the next five years.

Macron's year-old Republic on the Move party does not have any seats in the current parliament but it hopes in June to secure a majority that will allow him to push through economic reforms for reviving an economy beset by high unemployment and sluggish growth.

The Socialists, whose term in government comes to an end in tandem with the departure of President Francois Hollande, have traditionally disputed power with the centre-right for the past half century. The

main right-wing party, The Republicans, is also striving to come to terms with the new political landscape and will be working to try to cling on to its dominant role too.

Francois Baroin, head of the Republicans' parliamentary election team, said on Tuesday they would abandon key proposals that their unsuccessful presidential candidate, Francois Fillon, stood for. The party was due later on Wednesday to work further on what Baroin said would be a revamped programme for the National Assembly election. On both sides of the traditional divide, the signs so far are that the large parties which have long dominated are struggling to maintain leverage over Macron via the lower house of parliament without losing too

many of their troops through defections to his camp. Showing who is in charge right now, his Republic on the Move party made clear on Wednesday that even top-rank politicians from established parties were not guaranteed a slot on its list of parliamentary contenders. Manuel Valls, the Socialist former prime minister who has angered his own party by saying he backs Macron, was told on Wednesday that he could not count on being sponsored by the Macron camp in the June ballot.

"As of today, he does not fit the criteria that would allow the investiture committee to take him on," Jean-Paul Delevoye, the man in charge of choosing Macron's party's candidates, told Europe 1 radio.—Reuters ■

Serbia to continue Haradinaj investigation

BELGRADE — Serbia's judiciary will continue its investigation of former "Kosovo Liberation Army" ("KLA") commander Ramus Haradinaj despite an April decision of the appeals court in Colmar, France, not to extradite him to Serbia due to "grave consequences" that could have potentially arisen for him.

A senior source in the Serbian judiciary confirmed to Tanjug on Tuesday that an international arrest warrant for Haradinaj would remain in force and that his prosecution would continue.—Tanjug ■

NATO assessing request for more troops to Afghanistan

LONDON — NATO is assessing a request from the alliance's military authorities to send more troops to Afghanistan and will make a decision on the scale and scope of the mission within weeks, Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said on Wednesday.

The request for what Stoltenberg said was "about a few thousand" more troops reflects the West's alarm about the worsening security situation in Afghanistan, territorial gains by Taliban militants and military and civilian casualties.

"We are now assessing that request. We will make decisions on the scale and scope of the mission within weeks but this is not about returning back to a combat operation in Afghanistan," he said after meeting British Prime Minister Theresa May.

NATO already has some 13,450 troops in Afghanistan, including about 6,900 US military personnel, who are training the Afghan armed forces to eventually take over the country's defence and security and



Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers stand guard during a battle with Taliban in Kunduz province, Afghanistan, on 10 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Stoltenberg stressed that any new arrivals would not be in a combat role.

"It will continue to be a train, assist and advise operation," he added.

A decision could be taken by NATO defence ministers in June, according to an alliance official. The NATO leaders summit in Brussels on 25 May was probably too soon, the official said.

Almost 16 years since the United States tried to topple Afghanistan's Taliban, who had harboured al Qaeda militants behind attacks on New York and Washington, the West remains entangled in an effort to stabilise a country facing resurgent rebels.

Facing public fatigue at the long-running conflict, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation has

sought to progressively reduce its presence in the country by building up the country's armed forces, notably creating an Afghan air force.

However, loss of territory to Taliban and Islamic militants, a rise in civilian casualties and a fall in the number of Afghan security forces have led the US administration under President Donald Trump to review Afghan-

istan policy.

Over the past 18 months, Taliban insurgents have twice succeeded in seizing the northern town centre of Kunduz for brief periods and the latest fighting underscores the challenge Afghan forces face to quell the insurgency.

According to the United Nations, 583,000 people fled their homes due to conflict in 2016, the highest number of displacements since records began in 2008.

US National Security Advisor HR McMaster visited Kabul in April to assess the situation, days after the US military dropped one of the largest conventional weapons ever used in combat during an operation against Islamic State militants in eastern Afghanistan.

"I strongly believe that the best answer we have to terrorism, the best weapon against terrorism, is to train local forces to fight terrorism, to stabilise their own country," Stoltenberg said.—Reuters ■

Iraqi forces chip away at last Islamic State-held districts in Mosul

MOSUL (Iraq) — Fly-blown corpses of Islamic State militants (IS) littered the streets of a district in Mosul on Tuesday as US-backed Iraqi forces chipped away at the last remaining handful of districts under the jihadists' control.

Seven months into the campaign to recapture Iraq's second largest city, government forces say it is now in its final phase after opening a new front in the northwest of Mosul last week and gaining ground in several districts there.

Trapped in a shrinking area with no way out, the ultra hard-line Sunni militants are hitting back with a barrage of suicide car bombs and snipers hidden among hundreds of thousands of civilians they are effectively holding hostage.

A Reuters reporter in the Harmat district, which has been partially retaken by the Interior Ministry's elite Emergency Response Division, said there was heavy fighting there on Tuesday.

Jets flying overhead con-

ducted air strikes and helicopters strafed IS positions while several car bombs exploded in the distance. Heavy sniper and mortar fire could be heard.

A spokesman for the Emergency Response Division said 250 Islamic State members had been killed in Harmat over the past 5 days.

Hundreds of families streamed out of Harmat, 17 Tammuz and other front-line districts, joining an exodus of 435,000 people who have been displaced from the western half of Mosul since Iraqi forces began attacking it in February, according to UN figures. Travelling in the back of a van carrying civilians to safety, 44-year-old Abu Ahmed said the militants had forced 48 people into the basement of his home in the Musherfa district before opening fire from it. The aim was to goad Iraqi forces into striking the house and thereby turn civilians against them.

"They tried to scare us into helping them, they said the army would rape our women. But we



Debris is seen on a street controlled by Iraqi forces fighting the Islamic State fighters in north west of Mosul, Iraq on 9 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

didn't believe them."

With no escape route, a growing number of militants are trying to leave the city by camouflaging themselves among fleeing civilians, Brigadier General Mahdi Abbas Abdallah of the Rapid Response Division said on Tuesday.

"We are conducting checks on all the fleeing families."

Conditions in the handful of districts still under militant control are increasingly desperate as food runs out and civilians are killed under bombardment.

A resident of the 17 Tammuz district said at least 10 people including his neighbour's son had died as a result of air strikes and

mortar fire since Monday: "The rockets are falling like rain over our heads," he told Reuters by phone. Militants were burning civilian vehicles to produce a smokescreen against aerial surveillance and had taken up position on the roofs of tall buildings wearing suicide belts, he said. "The fear and confusion is visible on their faces."

The elite Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) retook an industrial area on Tuesday, Lieutenant General Abdul Ameer Rasheed Yarallah, who commands the campaign, said in a statement.

A woman in the adjacent Is-lah al-Zirai neighborhood, which

remains under Islamic State control, said she could now see the Iraqi flag in the distance.

"We will die of hunger if they don't reach us within a week," said the woman, who has resorted to eating weeds. "Despite the violent bombardment, we are happy that the Iraqi forces are approaching us." Islamic State seized Mosul in a shock offensive across northern and western Iraq in 2014 but have lost much of their gains to resurgent government forces over the past year. Still, even defeat in Mosul would still leave IS in control of swathes of Syria and Iraqi territory near the Syrian border.—Reuters ■

Russian troops to receive advanced satellite communications vehicles

MOSCOW — New satellite communications vehicles Loshchina-GUS based on Tigr armoured vehicles have passed state trials and will arrive for the Russian troops in the second half of 2017, the press office of Ruselectronics hi-tech manufacturer said on Friday.

“Ruselectronics Holding Company [part of Rostec Corporation] has launched the serial production of the R-444-D satellite communications station based on the Tigr-M SpN special-purpose vehicle for the Defence Ministry of Russia,” the press office said.

“Compared to previous-generation stations,



Tigr armoured vehicles. PHOTO: TASS

the new product, which is code-named Loshchina-GUS, can operate in

motion and does not require any time for deployment,” Ruselectronics

said, adding that the vehicles had already passed state trials and the first

stations would start arriving for the troops in the second half of 2017.

The new satellite communications station is based on the chassis of the Tigr-M SpN armored vehicle. It is protected from interference and equipped with a special antenna.

The vehicle is also supplied with a mobile operator’s place that can be moved far away from the station without losing the communications function.

The communications stations have been developed by Radiosvyaz Enterprise based in Krasnoyarsk in East Siberia. The new stations are designed to provide troops with highly reliable and secure

satellite communications.

The new stations can be quickly deployed in any terrain and be automatically guided to a retransmission unit, providing round-the-clock communications in harsh weather conditions.

The Loshchina-GUS can provide a fast-speed digital communications channel for video conferences, telephone and facsimile communications, and also transmit encrypted information via a satellite channel. The system can operate through re-transmitters of Globus-1M, Meridian, Sfera, Blagovest, Yamal and Express-AM satellites.—TASS

UK man held near May’s office appears in court on terrorism charge

LONDON — A man arrested near Prime Minister Theresa May’s office in London last month appeared in court on Wednesday and was remanded in custody after being charged with terrorism and explosives offences.

Khalid Mohammed Omar Ali, 27, of north London, was detained by counter-terrorism officers on Parliament Street, near the parliament building

and May’s Downing Street office on 27 April. Flanked in the dock at Westminster Magistrates Court by two guards and wearing a grey top and trousers, Ali said he did not recognise the charges and “not guilty” pleas were entered on his behalf. He faces one count of preparing terrorist acts and two, relating to activities in Afghanistan in 2012, of possessing explosives.—Reuters ■

Stockholm truck attack suspect was not mentally ill — forensic board

STOCKHOLM — Rakhmat Akilov, the man suspected of ramming a truck into a crowd and killing five people in early April, was not suffering from a serious mental disorder at the time, according to the National Board of Forensic Medicine.

The examining physician also concluded that

Akilov, who has admitted driving the truck, did not need to be assessed to see whether he should be held in prison or in a secure psychiatric unit, a document seen by Reuters showed.

Akilov is currently being held in police custody. He was examined by the National Board of Forensic Medicine at the request of the Stockholm

District Court. The type of evaluation he underwent was intended to provide a guide for the court, which could still order a more extensive psychiatric examination to determine where he should be held. On Wednesday, the prosecutor in the case asked the court for more time to bring charges against Akilov. “Substantial inves-

tigative matters remain, such as further interviews, analyses, surveys and technical investigations, before the investigation can be completed,” says Hans Ihrman at the National Security Unit. Swedish police said soon after the attack that it could take up to a year to complete a preliminary investigation into the attack.—Reuters ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV CHINDWIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHINDWIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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World Bank approves loan to improve Chinese healthcare services

BEIJING — The World Bank announced on Wednesday that it had approved a loan of 600 million US dollars to China to help improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare services in Anhui and Fujian provinces.

The programme will use the Programme-for-Results (PforR) instrument, created in 2012, that links loan disbursements to tangible results on the ground, the

World Bank said in a statement.

“China has made impressive gains in improving overall health outcomes in past decades, but now faces new challenges: an aging population, an increasing burden of chronic diseases, and fast-rising health expenditures,” said Ramesh Govindaraj, World Bank Lead Health Specialist and team leader for the program. Anhui and Fujian provinces, which face

similar challenges as the country as a whole, have been pioneering innovative health reforms. The program will be implemented from 2017 to 2021, the World Bank said.

The programme aims to improve the quality and efficiency of hospital services by reforming hospital governance and management, controlling the growth of health expenditure, and creating an enabling policy and institution-

al environment for health reform by strengthening oversight and stewardship, it added. “We are pleased to support the Chinese government in the ‘deep water’ phase of its health reform. This PforR is building on our joint study with WHO and the Chinese government on health reform, and will put its recommendations into practice,” said Bert Hofman, World Bank Country Director for China.—Xinhua ■



German Chancellor Angela Merkel attends the weekly cabinet meeting at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany on 10 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Merkel's conservatives could govern with Greens, FDP: German poll

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives could form a three-way coalition with the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) and the pro-environment Greens after a September parliamentary election, a poll released by the Forsa Institute on Wednesday showed.

Such a "Jamaica coalition" — a reference to the black, yellow and green colors of the Jamaican national flag is already under discussion in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein after Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) scored a decisive victory there on Sunday.

Some CDU lawmakers, including Deputy

Finance Minister Jens Spahn, said this week such a coalition could also be an option on the national level after the September election.

The Forsa poll, conducted for Stern magazine and broadcaster RTL before Sunday's regional election, showed support for the CDU unchanged at 36 per cent, while the Social Democrats (SPD), currently the junior partner in Merkel's "grand coalition", gained one percentage point to 29 per cent.

Both the conservatives and Social Democrats have said they hope to end the current two-way coalition and lead the government with smaller

partners after September.

The FDP and the Greens both stood at 7 per cent each in the Forsa poll of 2,004 potential voters, giving the three parties a combined 50 per cent, just enough to govern.

The FDP served as junior coalition partner to the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the CSU, for almost half of federal Germany's post-war history. It dropped below the 5 per cent threshold for legislative representation in the 2013 national election but is expected to exceed that level in September.

The anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) dropped one percentage point to 7 per cent in the poll, which was con-

ducted on 2-5 May and has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

Merkel expanded her lead over the SPD's top candidate Martin Schulz, the former president of the European Parliament, gaining one percentage point to 48 per cent, while Schulz dropped one point to 27 per cent, the poll showed.

It also showed support for Schulz among his own party members dropped seven percentage points to 67 per cent from the previous poll a week earlier, while Merkel's support among CDU supporters remained steady at 90 per cent. —Reuters ■

New China-Europe container train launched

SHENYANG — A train pulling 45 containers set off from Panjin Port, northeast China's Liaoning Province on Wednesday, joining China-Europe freight trains which have been booming in recent years.

The 16-day journey will see the train leave China through Erenhot in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, to Mongolia and on to Russia before reaching Minsk, the capital of Belarus.

On its maiden trip, the train was loaded with textiles, backpacks, fishing gear and machine devices, such as valves.

The train service will run weekly.

The new service is ex-

pected to facilitate trade and opportunities along the China-Mongolia-Russia economic corridor.

More than 20 Chinese cities have launched container trains to Europe in recent years.—Xinhua

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT Invitation for Bids

Date: 11st May, 2017
SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
IDA Credit No. : 5727-MM

Contract Title: ACSR Conductors for National Electrification Project
Reference No. : C1-G4

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for ACSR Conductors for National Electrification Project.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of ACSR Conductors to be delivered in 2017 and 2018 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 10 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots.

3. For quick reference, some of the key qualification requirements include :

The minimum average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) of the last three years should be USD 600,000 or higher which varies by lot and is cumulative if bidding for multiple lots.

The bidder has successfully completed at least two (2) contracts in supplying similar goods in any years over the last five (5) years, and at least one of the two contracts had a value equivalent to or greater than 50% of the value of the bid.

The details of the qualification requirements are seen in the bidding documents.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Project Management Office, Office No.(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, nep.pmo moep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours Myanmar time at the address given below.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:

Director General, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw
Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Email: nep.pmoep@gmail.com

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before July 11, 2017, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below on July 11, 2017, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time.

8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1 Bid Data Sheet of the bidding document.

9. The address referred to above is :

Attention : Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telephone : +95 67 410203
Facsimile : +95 67 410077
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Grammy Awards leaves Los Angeles for New York in 2018

LOS ANGELES — Music's biggest night is heading to New York next year after more than a decade in Los Angeles, the organizers of the annual Grammy Awards said on Tuesday.

The 60th Grammy Awards will take place on 28 January at Manhattan's Madison Square Garden arena, where the ceremony was last held in 2003, the Recording Academy and CBS Corp, which televises the live event, said in a statement.

The move to bring the prestigious event, staged at the Staples Centre in downtown Los Angeles for the past 14 years, to

New York was largely championed by the city's mayor, Bill de Blasio, the statement said. It said the show is estimated to bring \$200 million to the city's economy. "Playing host to the music industry's marquee awards show is a unique creative, artistic and economic boon to the rich cultural fabric of our city," de Blasio said in the statement.

The announcement was accompanied by a short film directed by Spike Lee, in which he and New York musicians including Cyndi Lauper and Tony Bennett showed off the city's musical history and venues.—Reuters ■



A white-gloved worker polishes a Grammy Award before the 51st annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on 8 February, 2009. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Latin singer Prince Royce gears up for his summer tour



Singer Prince Royce arrives at the 17th Annual Latin Grammy Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada, US on 17 November, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

NEW YORK — Latin pop star Prince Royce will tour 21 US cities this summer to showcase his new music, which he says has a bit of a new twist. Known for his Dominican bachata hits, Royce released his fifth studio album, "FIVE," in February, collaborating with musicians Chris Brown, Zendaya and Shakira. Bachata is a style of romantic music originating in the Dominican Republic.

"I think it's important to always try new things," Royce, 27, told Reuters on Tuesday. "On this album, we got Chris Brown singing bachata, he did a little bit of Spanish, Zendaya [is] also singing in Spanish," he said.

Royce said it was "a pleasure to work with" Shakira, adding that he shares a lot in common with the "Hips Don't

Lie" singer.

"She's very involved with every detail," said Royce. "I identify with her a lot because that's the way I am. I like to listen to a song 1,000 times."

Since launching his career in 2009, Royce, who was born in the New York City borough of The Bronx, has garnered 15 No 1 hits on Latin radio charts, 21 Latin Billboard Awards and 9 Latin Grammy nominations.

Although he is proud of his accomplishments, Royce said he chooses to live in the present.

"I think it's always good to focus on today," Royce said. "I think that's what always keeps that hunger, keeps that motivation." He will kick off his summer tour on June 29th in Laredo, Texas and end it on 30th July in Miami.—Reuters ■

Women need to unite to make world a better place: Katy Perry

LOS ANGELES — Singer Katy Perry says women need to come together to make the world a better place.

The 32-year-old musician says she would like to see all women unite and put their differences aside in aid of helping the society, reported Entertainment Tonight.

"Honestly, when women

come together and they decide to unite, this world is going to be a better place. Period end of story," Perry says.

The singer, who is currently working on her fifth studio album, says her new record is not on anyone else but herself.

"This record is not about anyone else. This record is about me being seen and heard

so that I can see and hear everyone else. It's not even about me! It's about everything that I see out there that I digest.

"I think there's a healing in it for me and vulnerability. If people want to connect and be healed and feel vulnerable and feel empowered and strong, God bless, and here it is," she says.—PTI

Former 'Dance Moms' star Abby Lee Miller sentenced to prison

LOS ANGELES — Former "Dance Moms" reality television star Abby Lee Miller was sentenced on Tuesday to a year and a day in prison by a federal judge in Pittsburgh for bankruptcy fraud and concealing money earned abroad.

Miller, 50, a dance instructor on Lifetime cable television's hit show "Dance Moms," was also sentenced by Chief District Judge Joy Flowers Conti to two years of probation following her release from prison and ordered to pay a \$40,000 fine.

Miller pleaded guilty to concealing approximately \$755,000 in income she had earned in 2012 and 2013 after filing for bankruptcy in 2010 to reorganize her Abby Lee Dance Company business. Her company exited bankruptcy in 2013.

The reality TV star was also ordered by the judge to forfeit



Reality TV show star Abby Lee Miller leaves at the federal courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, US on 2 November, 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

\$120,000, the amount of money which prosecutors said Miller had transported in foreign currency to the United States from overseas locations, including England and Australia in 2014, without disclosing on arrival.

A representative for Lifetime declined to comment and representatives for Miller did not respond to Reuters' re-

quests for comment on Tuesday.

Miller was indicted by a federal grand jury in October 2015 on charges of bankruptcy fraud, concealment of bankruptcy assets and false bankruptcy declarations.

Questions about the accused fraudulent activity were first raised after a bankruptcy judge happened to watch one of Miller's spin-off shows and doubted her claim that she was cash-strapped, the indictment said. Known for her bossy and brash teaching style, Miller was the star of "Dance Moms," a reality TV show about the competitive world of dancing that premiered in 2011.

Miller wrote in a March post on Instagram that she would be leaving the show after seven seasons, saying she was refused creative credit for her dance routines and ideas.—Reuters ■

For world's super-rich, a pink diamond is forever

LONDON — For the world's super-rich, the investment of choice is increasingly a very rare naturally pink diamond, an asset class that this year has set records at auction.

Tobias Kormind, managing director of 77 Diamonds, which has a shop in London's Mayfair district and sells online, says the trend for coloured stones has gathered strength as the world emerged from financial crisis.

"Very savvy investors clocked on to the fact these coloured stones are so incredibly rare," Kormind told Reuters Television.

Naturally coloured diamonds occur because of a particular lattice structure, formed when they were created at great pressure in the earth's crust, that refracts light to produce coloured rather than white stones.

Depending on their exact

structure, coloured diamonds can be blue, yellow, red and pink, but pink is both rare and aesthetically highly prized by collectors, analysts say.

"Pink diamonds are not a bubble. There is a market. People are not just buying, but selling. There is economic sense to this," Edahn Golan, of Edahn Golan Diamond Research & Data, said. In April a huge 59.6-carat pink diamond, the "Pink Star", sold for a record \$71.2 million in Hong Kong.

The source of an estimated 90 per cent of the world's pink diamonds is Rio Tinto's Argyle mine in Western Australia, which has been operating since 1983, meaning its deposits are depleted. Rio says it is due to close in 2021.

Even at the Argyle mine, Rio says less than 0.01 per cent of annual production (14 million carats in 2016) comprises pink diamonds.—Reuters ■

London's river and its secrets

LONDON — London's River Thames has been the lifeblood of the British capital since the city's origins as a Roman garrison town around 2,000 years ago.

The artery through which the world's trade passed at the height of the British Empire, its banks were lined with factories that drove the industrial revolution but left its waters biologically dead.

Now, with power stations transformed into galleries, the river is home to seals, the occasional porpoise and has become a much-loved open space.

For Reuters photographer Stefan Wermuth most work days are spent a short stroll away

from the Thames, covering the political machinations of parliament, the Bank of England or previewing a new exhibition at the Tate Modern gallery.

A ramble along the river is a chance to take a breather from the frenetic pace of news to shoot in a slower and more creative way.

Over three months, Wermuth walked along the banks of the Thames, photographing the river and the abandoned objects exposed by the receding tide.

They range from the mundane to the enigmatic: mud-encrusted traffic cones and swirling seaweed to the carcass of a pigeon lying next to a rose on the sand.—Reuters ■



Seaweed is seen on the bank of the River Thames during low tide in London, Britain on 23 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Romanian museum celebrates the creativity of kitsch

BUCHAREST — Visitors to Romania who yearn for a taste of taste of communist era kitsch now have an entire museum to enjoy.

From the mundane - wedding champagne flutes covered in sequins and bows — to the more spectacular — a life-sized Dracula and flashing neon crucifixes - Bucharest's Kitsch Museum celebrates questionable taste of the past and present.

"My favourite kitsch, which has unfortunately been damaged, is a statue of Christ with an incorporated room thermometer," said Cristian Lica who opened the museum to show off a collection he has amassed

over two decades.

"The creativity behind kitsch must be admired."

The 215 exhibits are curated into several categories: communist, Dracula, Orthodox Church, contemporary and Gypsy kitsch, which, Lica said, was not meant to offend the Roma minority.

"We don't want to insult anyone. We didn't invent anything, we just picked up items from the reality around us," he said.

Lica, who has travelled to over 100 countries and has written a travel book, said he believed Romania has been particularly prone to kitsch as it rushes to catch up with the aspirational living standards

of its richer western neighbours.

In the communism collection, plain cotton underwear hangs out to dry in plain view, a common sight on apartment balconies of the era. For Romanians, the tiny museum in the capital city's picturesque old town, is full of recognisable artefacts both from pre-1989 communist times and the present.

"It reminded me of my childhood, how I grew up, how the house looked," said local visitor Simona Constantin.

"I am glad such a museum has opened. Everything I have seen has made me nostalgic." —Reuters ■



A reconstructed apartment interior is pictured inside the newly opened kitsch museum in Bucharest, Romania on 4 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

10:27 Am A Real Dream Of Accidental Gift
10:53 Am Independent Filmmaker

(11:00 Am-03:00 Pm)-Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am-11:0 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)-Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(11-5-2017 07:00am ~ 12-5-2017 07:00am)

		Prime Time	
07:03	Am	07:03	Pm
07:26	Am	07:26	Pm
07:41	Am	07:46	Pm
08:03	Am	08:03	Pm
08:26	Am	08:26	Pm
08:36	Am	08:42	Pm
09:03	Am	09:00	Pm
09:25	Am	11:00	Pm
09:49	Am	03:00	Am
10:03	Am		

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

Liverpool's Henderson will return latest by pre-season — Klopp

LONDON— Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson will return before the start of the pre-season from a foot injury that has sidelined him since February, manager Juergen Klopp has said.

Henderson, 26, has suffered from recurring heel and foot injuries since the turn of the year and has made just six appearances for the Premier League club in 2017.

"It is too early to say," Klopp told British media. "Next season is the latest moment of course but anything can happen. We stay positive because he is strong.

"The moment someone gives him the green light he will be back in a second because of his attitude and character. I am not thinking about the start of

pre-season but that would be the latest moment he is back."

Klopp said Henderson was advised rest by the club's medical team.

"We don't know if he will back tomorrow in training or next week," Klopp said.

"Because it is Jordan and he has a really high fitness level, even if it's just swimming, we know we can think about him immediately when he is ready.

"Then we could think about the national team. If he has games he could play, if not it makes no sense. But no we did not speak."

Third-placed Liverpool travel to 12th-placed West Ham United on Sunday before their final game against relegated Middlesbrough at home on 21 May.—Reuters ■



Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chelsea hopeful of sealing title at West Brom — Courtois

LONDON — Leaders Chelsea want to beat West Bromwich Albion on Friday to become Premier League champions, goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois has said, as he sets his sights on lifting the trophy for the second time in three years at the club.

Chelsea beat Middlesbrough 3-0 on Monday to move seven points clear at the top of table after second-placed Tottenham Hotspur lost 1-0 at West Ham United last Friday.

The leaders need three points from their last three games to seal the title and Courtois said that they wanted to win it as soon as possible with a victory over a tough West Brom side.

"We hope to do it at the first attempt. We know West Brom are a hard team to play against. We had a very tough game here," Courtois told British media, referring to Chelsea's 1-0 win over West Brom at Stamford Bridge in December.

"Every opponent who goes there has a hard game. They are eighth in the league and have had a very good year."

Courtois joined Chelsea in 2011 and had three year-long loan spells at Atletico Madrid but returned to the London side in 2015 when Chelsea won the title under former manager Jose Mourinho.

The 24-year-old



said this season's title triumph will be special due to their inconsistent 2015-16 campaign that saw them finish 10th.

"The first year I came here, I came from winning the league in Spain and straight away we won the league, so that was very nice," Courtois added.

"This year was maybe even more special, because last year was a very bad year... The new manager came in at the beginning of the season, we won some games but then we lost, and there was again a lot of criticism," he said.

"We're very close, and it will be very enjoyable after last year." —Reuters ■



Chelsea's Thibaut Courtois. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chelsea's Moses credits Conte for reviving his career with wing back switch

LONDON — Chelsea's Victor Moses has credited manager Antonio Conte for reviving his career at Stamford Bridge by converting him into a wing back during their Premier League title charge this season.

The 26-year-old Nigeria international Moses was previously sent out on loan for three consecutive seasons by manager Jose Mourinho before Conte arrived this season and changed Chelsea's main formation to 3-4-3. That reshuffle brought Moses back into the starting lineup, and has helped make him one of the most consistent performers this season, making 37 appearances in all competitions.

"He (Conte) didn't say to me, 'Do I fancy playing wing back?' He just put me in there, and after that he just kept on encouraging me," Moses told British media.

"He went through what the position was all about, constantly talking to me in

training to make sure I was improving in it. I took that in and I didn't look back," he said.

"I have been learning a lot defensively. And when I play against a winger... I understand what they are going to do before they try and go past me, so it makes it a lot easier."

Moses said the position has added responsibilities at both the attacking and defensive ends, but he is enjoying the experience with every game.

"You need a lot of stamina to be able to play that position, and it's a responsibility for me as well," he added. "I have never played that position before, but I am enjoying it. The more games I play, the better I get."

League leaders Chelsea hold a seven-point advantage over Tottenham Hotspur and can seal the title if they beat West Bromwich Albion away on Friday.—Reuters ■