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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends a summit with world leaders at the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, China, yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

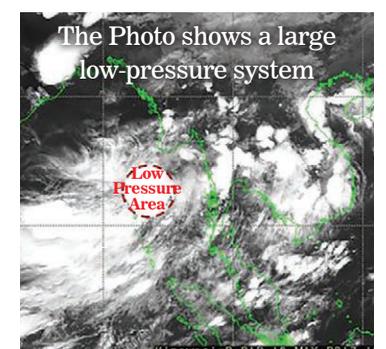
Low pressure persists over Andaman Sea

The low pressure area over the Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists, according to Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The forecast for today by the weather bureau issued yesterday evening said that rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Bago and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, scattered in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Aye-yarwady Regions, Chin State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is 100 percent.

Occasional squalls with moderate to rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar water.—GNLM ■



State Counsellor and world leaders attend China talks

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and heads of states and governments attended a roundtable discussion at the Belt and Road Forum for International

Cooperation held at Yanqi Lake International Conference Centre, China yesterday.

The roundtable discussion was attended by heads of states

from 30 countries, including the host country China. Also attending are the United Nations Secretary General, the World Bank President, the managing direc-

tor of the International Monetary Fund and the president of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping, who chaired the discussion. SEE PAGE-3



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Vice-President attends opening of rice husk power plant in Kyaiklat

A MODERN rice mill and a biomass power plant that burns rice husks to generate electricity were opened in Kyaiklat in Ayeyawady Region yesterday, with Vice-President U Henry Van Thio in attendance.

U Henry Van Thio, who is also the chairman of the leading committee for the protection of farmers' rights, unveiled the signboard of the MAPCO Golden Lace rice mill and biomass power plant.

Present at the opening ceremony were Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Dr Htun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy and Mahn Jonny, Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region.

The modern rice mill contains storage rooms, silos, and a husk-fired 2.2 megawatt power plant.

"We were greatly pleased and honoured for Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation to open this modern mill jointly with a husk-fired power plant — an industrial circle in the private sector which is needed for the development of Myanmar agricultural sector, especially for the development of the agricultural sector of Ayeyawady Region.

"It is important to modernise the agricultural sector as the sufficiency of food is more and more vital for the country. Contract farming can support pedigree seeds and agricultural techniques effectively and it can bring about secured markets and prices at harvest time."

The Vice-President said



Vice President U Henry Van Thio (Left) and Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region Mann Jonny unveil the signboard of the MAPCO Golden Lace modern rice mill and the biomass power plant. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

high-quality storage buildings and drying machines for better quality of crops, plus grinding, refining and packing machines will have to be included in order to make a high-quality product.

"The State is making an effort to get a share of the international market for Myanmar's agricultural produce. Arrangements are being made for disbursing agricultural loans more than ever to help in farmers' agriculture. Disbursement

of the loans under the plan of short-term loan, medium-term loans and long-term loans are being carried out with the loans to be borrowed from international institutions at low-interest rates" the Vice President said.

He added that the State has supported farmers whose crops were destroyed in natural disasters with a view to substitute other crops in ruined farmlands, and to renovate embankments, roads and bridges from the spe-

cial fund for natural disasters. Power generation by using husk is beneficial for the fulfilment of power demand as well as helpful for the reduction of air and water pollution, helping to protect natural environment.

"We firmly believe that surplus power can be distributed to nearby local people. We would like to urge farmers who rely on farming, agricultural produce-related merchants and private organisations to pro-

duce high-quality agricultural produce more than expected and to get prices in accord with export quality.

Afterward, Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, made an address, followed by explanation from U Chit Khaing, chairman of Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation and responsible officials from Lucky Export Company of India.

In addition, U Ye Min Aung, managing director of MAPCO and Katsuyasu, chairman of Fukuoka Seiyu Co., Ltd signed a memorandum of understanding for a joint-venture of production and export of bran oil. Then, Chief Minister and responsible officials handed over Ks12,255 Lakhs to 1,850 farmers from Kyaiklat, Dedaye, Phyarpon, and Bogale through representatives for growing expenses of 600 acres of paddy seeds and high-quality paddy of 5,500 acreage and harvesting expenses.

The Vice-President handed over the gifts in commemoration of the opening of the rice mill, with the Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region and three farmers on behalf of local people giving words of thanks.

The modern 240-ton-producing rice mill, 200-ton-paddy-steaming-plant, 500-ton storage buildings, drying machines and 2.2 megawatt husk power plant are the first stage for Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation, with a bran oil mill, animal feed-producing mills, and rice flour, rice noodle and rice vermicelli mills to be built during the second stage. — Myanmar News Agency ■

CCTVs installed in Yangon Region to be interlinked for better security system

Ko Moe

CCTVs installed in Yangon Region would be inter-linked for better security system, according to the Yangon Region Government.

Col Tin Aung Tun, Minister for Security and Border Affairs of Yangon Region Government, said "Due to insufficient fund for interlinking CCTVs installed in

Yangon Region, it is impossible to do so, hence monitoring system is being done only in the respective townships for the time being.

If and when the fund is allowed, we will have all CCTVs interlinked," in response to the question raised by U Nay Myo Kyaw (a) NayPhone Latt, Yangon Region Hluttaw Representative of Thingangyun Constituency 1 as

to how CCTVs installed in Traffic lights, back alleys and some places for security matters works and how facts are kept."

A total of 225 CCTVs have been installed at the crowded places in South Okkalapa, Kyauktada, Pabedan, Hline, Bahan, Kyimyindine and Shwepyitha townships.

He added, "In some town-

ships, monitoring work is being done from Police Stations and Administrative Offices.

This cannot be assigned to everybody. We need trustworthy ones."

CCTVs will be installed in 25 townships with the allotment of K 2500 Lakhs from the government's fund, with Control Room to be built at the respective police

stations. And, at 154 traffic lights in Yangon Region, CCTVs are being installed with more CCTVs to be installed at the exit gates of the town, it has been learnt.

With a view to effective prevention of crimes and rule of law, Community Based Policing Project has been being launched in 20 townships through CCTVs by combined forces. ■

State Counsellor and world leaders attend China talks

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Discussions were held under the titles “Policy synergy for closer partnership” in the morning, “Closer people-to-people bond” during working lunch and “Connectivity cooperation for interconnected development” in the afternoon.

During the discussion, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave a speech emphasising that a closer people-to-people bond, a peaceful and stable neighbourhood based on mutual understanding and respect are the basic principles for the success of the One Belt, One Road programme, a major initiative by China to revive, and modernise the land and sea routes used in ancient times to trade spices and silk. The modern version of the Silk Road will potentially benefit all the countries along the route, from Asia to Europe.

A joint communiqué was issued after the discussion.

In the evening, the State Counsellor met the United Nations Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres in the Diaoyutai State Guest House and discussed matters relating to the Myanmar peace and reconcili-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets the United Nations Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres. PHOTO: MNA

ation processes and invited the United Nations Secretary General to attend the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong second meeting.

Attending the forum with the State Counsellor are the Un-

ion Minister for Transport and Communications, the Union Minister for Construction, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Minister for Commerce.—Myanmar News Agency ■

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Reconciliation and Peace Centre

Letter of Appreciation

3rd Waning of Kason 1379 ME
13 May 2017

1. Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and United Nations Global Compact Network Myanmar signed a memorandum for businesses to participate in the peace process at the Business for Peace event held in UMFCCI, Yangon on 4 April 2017.
2. The Memorandum includes being responsible and dutiful in the society to create job opportunities especially in regions where development is minimal as well as to achieve and maintain peace in workplace, in goods and services market and the society by studying, learning, discussing and working together.
3. In order to protect and maintain human rights, businesses and companies must obey and respect the law, protect the environment and must not support corruption and corrupt practices. Myanmar companies can play a part in peace by subscribing to the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and become members of UNGC. Global Compact started in 2012 with 15 companies as members and by 2016, there were 300 member companies. There are about 30,000 companies in UMFCCI of which about 10,000 is seeking to become members.
4. As such, National Reconciliation and Peace Centre welcome Business for Peace supporting the peace process from the economic side and thank UMFCCI, United Nations Global Compact Network Myanmar and business owners who helped businesses participate in the peace process.

Aung San Suu Kyi
Chairperson

National Reconciliation and Peace Centre
(Unofficial Translation)



A meeting between Rakhine Advisory Commission and Central Committee on Implementation for Peace, Stability and Development for Rakhine State in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Rakhine Advisory Commission meets with Central Committee

THE members of Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by Mr. Ghassan Salame met with the Vice Chairman and Members of Central Committee on Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine

State at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The National Security Advisor to the Union Government was also present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the two

sides discussed matters relating to efforts being made by the government and progress on the implementation of recommendations of the Advisory Commission in its interim report of March 16, 2017.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Five bodies unearthed near 5 May explosion site in Buthidaung

FIVE bodies were found in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, two identified as foreigners and the rest locals, the apparent victims of a 5 May bomb blast, according to the State Counsellor's Office.

The bodies were discovered by security forces on 13 May near the site of the explosion in Thaenhi Village. Security forces also found materials commonly used in Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and two plots of cleared land that likely were to be used for building huts. Authorities have said the area may have been used for terrorist training.

Two of the bodies were identified only as foreigners, and the rest were identified as Maw-

lawi Adu Kawrein from Ward-3 of Tinmay Village, Mawlawi Yar Seint from Kyauktaung Ale-Village and Zubai from Sarkhai Village.

The bodies were taken to Buthidaung Hospital.

An on-site investigation resulted in the discovery of the bodies, which authorities said were buried. Acting on a tip-off that an explosion had occurred at the edge of a jungle near Thaenhi Village on 5 May, security forces conducted an area clearance and found the site on 7th May.

Actions are being taken in accordance with the law, said the State Counsellor's Office Information Committee.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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

Rental price to be increased in major location of Yangon Region

RENTAL prices will increase in parts of the Yangon Region because of the foreign companies based in Yangon, according to Yangon real estate agencies.

In the office rental market, online rental service has increased, according to rental agencies. Although the rental price has increased, compared to the same period last year it is still lower by 20 per cent.

Downtown real estates may also profit from the increased rental prices. **PHOTO PHOE KHWAR**

Average rents were US\$15.6 per square meter in the third quarter of the last year, while average rents have reached US\$45.8 in the first quarter of

this year.

According to market information, 34 per cent of the offices which rent to foreign companies are located mostly in the Yangon

Region.

The tenants are also likely to rent in buildings such as the HAGL office tower, which is outside of Yangon Region.—200 ■

Outbreaks of dengue fever rise in first four months of 2017

THE number of outbreaks of dengue fever has quadrupled in the first four months of this year compared to the same period last year in the Yangon Region, said an official from the health department in the Yangon Region.

The period of January to April this year saw a total of 954 cases of dengue fever, resulting in four deaths. In the same period last year, there were only 214 cases. "More than 200 people had dengue fever last year. This year, the outbreak of dengue fe-

ver rate has increased and over 900 people were infected. The dengue fever cases occurred mostly in Hlinethaya and Dala," he added.

Dengue fever is caused by overcrowding, poor sanitation and unhygienic water storage.

Disease prevention activities will be carried out in 20 Yangon townships where most outbreaks of dengue fever occurred. The public health office will provide awareness training of dengue fever and anti-mosquito larvae training.—200 ■

HIV infection mostly occurs in migrant community in Mon State

HIV infects mostly the migrants in Mon State, it is learnt. In 2016, 1,846 HIV infected patients were taking treatment at the general hospital in Mon state. Among them, most of the patients were from migrant communities, according to Dr. Min Thu from State Anti-AIDS/anti-VD programme.

Official statistics show that

990 HIV-infected patients took treatment in 2015, up from 410 patients last year. In 2016, there were up to 1,846 HIV patients, a significant increase.

HIV infection mostly occurs among the 20-40 age group.

HIV is caused chiefly by homosexuality and heterosexual communion. This year, around

100 children have been infected by HIV, said Dr. Min Thu.

The government provides the ART drugs which stop the progression of AIDS. To provide better HIV treatment in Mon State, the Mon state authorities provide HIV tests and are seeking the assistance of 13 partner organizations. Moreover, they are providing

awareness training courses in the crowded areas and in public places.

The Ministry of Health and Sports targeted to provide the ART drugs to 90 per cent of HIV patients in 2017-2020.

The Ministry of Health aims at ending the threat of HIV across the country by 2030.—MMAL ■

Stimulants, opium oil seized in Yangon, Muse

YANGON (West) anti-narcotics squad searched a house owned by a suspect named Hla Myint linked with Win Naing, also known as Osama on 14 May.

The police arrested Win Naing in possession of 25 stimulant tablets in Bolane Aung Mingalar Ward in Tamway Township on 13 May.

Police also detained Hla Myint after he was found in possession of 0.09155 kilos of opium oil,

7,100 stimulant tablets, Ks 26.92 lakh and two phone handsets at No.14, 8th floor (A), Nay Kyar Street, Ward 2 in Pazundaung Township.

Similarly, a Taunggyi anti-narcotics squad searched a motorbike driven by Nay Lin Phyo with Sein Latt aboard and found 1,000 stimulant tablets at mile post 82 on Yaksawk-Inntaw Road, in Yaksawk Township on 14 May. The squad also dis-

covered a motorbike driven by Eaik Luu in possession of 600 stimulant tablets. Likewise, a Muse anti-narcotics drug squad searched a house owned by W Ba Yan Shaung at Swam Saw Ward in Muse. The police discovered 1,155 stimulant tablets in the house. Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■

Hla Myint. **PHOTO:MPF**



Visitors look at the board showing the stock exchange rates in YSX. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

YSX stock trading still unpopular among the public

The decreased volume of stock trading on the Yangon Stock Exchange is likely to prove unpopular among the public.

First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and FPB are currently trading shares on YSX.

A total of 5,243 shares were traded on 15th April 2017 with 300 shares of FMI, 3,823 shares of MTSH and 1,120 shares of FPB, while MCB hit zero trading. The share prices were Ks16,000 for FMI, Ks3,900 for MTSH, Ks9,000 for MCB and Ks27,000 for FPB at closing

time.

The total stock trading volumes were 5,439 shares on 8 May, 7,919 shares on the 9 May, 27,963 shares on 11 May and 8,863 shares on 12 May, according to the statistics of YSX.

Last year, monthly stock trading values by FMI on YSX were over Ks24 billion in March and over Ks5.8billion in April. With MTSH entering YSX on 20 May, stock trading values of FMI and MTSH amounted to over Ks 16billion in May, over Ks6.8billion in June and over Ks3.7 billion in July. After MCB listed on YSX, the monthly stock trading values were over

Ks2.9 billion in August, over Ks 2.4 billion in September, over Ks 4billion in October and over Ks 2.2 billion in November. Stock trading on the YSX in December hit an all-time low with a trading value of only Ks1.5billion last year, it is learnt from the monthly report of YSX.

With the debut of First Private Bank (FPB) on YSX, stock trading in January and February hit over Ks6billion and over US\$3.3billion in March. The stock trading on YSX in April hit the record low of over US\$1.2 billion in the past 14 months, according to the stock trading data of YSX.—Htet Myat ■

CHDB plans to extend duration of mortgage payment

THE Construction and Housing Development Bank (CHDB) is exerting concerted efforts to extend the loan term period to 30 years in order to allow more low-income people to afford to buy apartments, it is reported.

The CHDB is prepared to offer a long-term mortgage payment plan with reasonably low interest rates. The bank is making efforts to get access to soft loans under a government-to-government (G-to-G)

arrangement. With the low interest rate and smaller instalment payments on the loan, a low-income family will be more able to afford to buy an apartment.

The low and fair-cost apartment units developed by the State can be purchased through the link on the CHDB website, which offers up to a 10-year-loan plan. Only those who do not own a house are entitled to submit an application to buy

these apartments.

Those who purchase the low and fair-cost apartments developed by the Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction cannot resell the apartment until five years after the purchase. If they want to resell the units after five years, the aforementioned department will resell them at a set price, according to its announcement.—Ko Htet ■

Chili growers in Thegon township expect good profits

USING a technique that allows earlier harvesting, chili growers in Thegon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, are optimistic about achieving a good yield of their produce this year and expect to get a good price, said a local grower.

Chili plants grow mostly during the rainy season, but if chili growers plant earlier than usual using irrigation, the products can be placed on the market earlier, leading to increased profits for the growers.

“We used to grow the chili in rainy season. Now, we have grown chili on a manageable scale by irrigation starting in April. Chili grown by irrigated water can earn a good profit in the market. We expect that the price of chili will increase this year compared to last year”, said a grower from Thegon township.

The growers buy the chili seeds for Ks3,000 per pack from agricultural companies.

With the recent profitable harvest, chili has become a popular crop, but some costs have



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

also increased, officials said.

“The number of chili growers has increased this year compared to last year, so we had to hire the labour. Labour charges increased from Ks2,000 per labourer last year to Ks3000 this year. We need around 20 labourers per acre. We have to invest Ks3 or 4 lakhs for an acre of the chili farm and the labour charges cost us over Ks50,000”, said U Aung Myint, a growers form Thegone Township.—MMAL ■

Available @

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



Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu is welcomed by Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Daniel Zohar Zonshine at the reception to mark 69th Independence Day of Israel in Yangon on 15 May. **PHOTO: MNA**

Legal affairs & special cases commission chairman addresses at 17th Doha Forum

At 17th Doha Forum, Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discussed matters on Transformation in Myanmar Political Landscape.

Chairman of Special Commission said, "Currently the world is paying much attention today to the refugee issue. The refugee issue has great impact on related countries politically, economically and socially. Myanmar also puts great importance on this issue, which we are handling with it sensitively. Now Union Peace Conference has been convened so as to extinguish the armed conflicts which started with our independence in 1948, now approaching their 70th year. Due to various factors of poverty, lower standard in education, slow development and lack of mutual belief which started many years ago, Rakhine State Affairs which attracted global attention now escalated its existing tensions in the region.

Presently the Central Committee for Stability, Peace and Development in Rakhine State, led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been dealing with these problems. The government is placing great importance on the provision of



Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann attends at 17th Doha Forum. **PHOTO: MNA**

humanitarian assistance in that area, together with better health care, better education, better infrastructure and the speedy completion of the citizenship verification process. The government also is implementing the recommendations of the interim report of Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by Dr Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary General. There have been allegations of human rights violations, which the commission led by Vice-President U Myint Swe is investigating very seriously in Rakhine State as well as in the refugee camps in Bangladesh. If anyone is found to have committed violations, justice will be done in accordance with the law. Now, Myanmar is endeavoring

for internal peace, national reconciliation and building a federal democratic union, making an effort to become a country of freedom, equality and justice and a country that is responsible and accountable. And we are also trying to be actively involved in the promotion of regional security and stability and the building of a peaceful, secure and developed world."

17th Doha Forum will be held at Sheraton Hotel, in Doha, Qatar from May 14 to May 15, attended by leaders from the countries, Speakers of the Parliaments, representatives from international and regional organizations, amounting to 600 or so in all. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Fire destroys house in Pyaungpik Village

A fire broke out in Pyaungpik village in Maungtau Township on 13 May, destroying a house.

The fire started from overturning a lamp at 8:20 pm and

engulfed the house owned by Nurahsin. The suspect has been charged with negligence of fire at Ngakhuya Police Station. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Ks 40 billion to be spent on electricity sector in Mandalay

About Ks 40 billion will be spent on electricity in the Mandalay region this fiscal year.

To pay for the electrification project, the Mandalay Electric Power Corporation will use Ks 27.86 billion loans from JICA and World Bank, Ks 6.4 billion from the regional government budget, and Ks 3.92 billion from development budgets, said U Soe Min Tun, general manager (engineer) from the Mandalay electric power corporation.

"This year, about Ks 40 billion will be invested in the electricity sector. We will supply the electricity to the villages with the regional government budget," he added.

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the regional government built three 66 KV sub-power stations, seven 33 KV sub-power stations

and installed a 21-mile-long 66 KV line, a 110-mile-long 33 KV lines and a 22.7-mile-long 11 KV lines at a cost of Ks 12 billion from the government budget and Ks 18.4 billion loan from ADB in Mandalay region.

The authorities also spent Ks 7.1 billion from regional government budget and Ks 1.7 billion from development budgets to supply the electricity to the villages.

The local authorities supply the electricity to over 200 villages per year with the regional government budget. Currently, over 1,700 out of 4,700 villages have electricity available. The local authorities are trying to supply electric power to 393 villages within three years with the loan from the World Bank. — The Mirror ■

Pyar Swe elephant camp in Mawlaik to be opened in the third week of May

PyarSwe elephant camp in Mawlaik, Sagaing Region is one of the tourists attracting place in Myanmar. The entertainments of the elephants in the camp are usually ceased in hot seasons, but it will be opened in the third week of May.

Travellers from upper Myanmar and European countries mostly visited PyarSwe elephant camp in Mawlaik. "Travellers mostly visit in winter time when the weather is fine and in rainy season as waterway is favourable. The very interesting entertainment program of the elephants will be shown to the visitors", said an official from PyarSwe elephant camp Ad-

ministration. MawlaikPyarSwe elephant camp is situated four miles away from Mawlaik Township beside the road of Mawlaik-Pyaungboke-Sawbwarshin. The PyarSwe Elephant Camp currently has eight grown-up elephants and one young elephant. Visitors can enjoy observing elephants at work, elephant bathing, providing foods to the elephants, riding the elephants and life of elephant in nature. The entertainments of the elephants are rendered twice a day, in the morning and evening. The entrance fees for camp are 1000kyats per person for local people and 2000kyats per head for foreigners. —200 ■

North Korea's latest missile launch suggests progress toward ICBM: experts

SEOUL — North Korea's successful missile test-launch signals major advances in developing an intercontinental ballistic missile, such as mastery of re-entry technology and better engine performance key to targeting the United States, experts say.

The isolated country has been developing a long-range missile capable of striking the mainland United States mounted with a nuclear warhead. That would require a flight of 8,000 km (4,800 miles) or more and technology to ensure a warhead's stable re-entry into the atmosphere.

The new strategic ballistic missile named Hwasong-12, fired on Sunday at the highest angle to avoid affecting neighboring countries' security, flew 787 km (489 miles) on a trajectory reaching an altitude of 2,111.5 km (1,312 miles), the North's official KCNA said.

The reported details were largely consistent with South Korean and Japanese assessments that it flew further and higher than an intermediate-range missile (IRBM) tested in February from the same region, northwest of Pyongyang.

Such an altitude meant it was launched at a high trajectory, which would limit the lateral distance traveled. But if it was fired at a standard trajectory, it would have a range of at least 4,000 km (2,500 miles), experts said.

The test "represents a level of performance never before seen from a North Korean missile," John Schilling, an aerospace expert, said in an analysis on the US-based 38 North website.

"It appears to have not only demonstrated an intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) that might enable them to reliably strike the US base at Guam, but more importantly, may represent a substantial advance to developing an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)."

KCNA said the test launch verified the homing feature of the warhead that allowed it to survive "under the worst re-entry situation" and accurately detonate.

The claim, if true, could



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reacts with members of the Korean People's Army in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 15 May, 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

mark an advancement in the North's ICBM programme exceeding most expectations, said Kim Dong-yub, a professor at Kyungnam University's Institute of Far Eastern Studies in Seoul.

Kim, a former South Korean navy officer, added the trajectory showed the North was clearly testing the re-entry technology under flight environments consistent for a ICBM.

The North has successfully launched long-range rockets twice to put objects into space. But many had believed it was some years away from mastering re-entry expertise for perfecting an ICBM, which uses similar engineering in early flight stages.

Sunday's missile launch also tested the North's capability to carry a "large-size heavy nuclear warhead", the state news agency said.

"The test-fire proved to the full all the technical specifications of the rocket ... like guidance and stabilization systems ... and reconfirmed the reliability of new rocket engine under the practical flight circumstances," KCNA said.

On Monday, South Korea's military played down the North's claim of technical progress on atmospheric re-entry, saying the possibility was low.

North Korea's official Rodong Sinmun devoted half of its six-page Monday edition to coverage of the missile test, with vivid color photographs of the launch and jubilant leader Kim celebrating with military officers.

The pictures featured a long nose-coned projectile that appeared to be similar to missiles displayed during an 15 April military parade for the birth anniversary of state founder Kim Il Sung.

The nose cone resembles that of the KN-08 ICBM the North is believed to be developing, and the lofted trajectory tests re-entry by putting the missile through extra stress, said Joshua Pollack of the US-based Nonproliferation Review.

"This is an advanced missile, if their claims are true."

KCNA said Kim accused the United States of "browbeating" countries that "have no nukes", warning Washington not to misjudge the reality that its mainland is in the North's "sighting range for strike".

North Korea, which is banned by UN resolutions from engaging in nuclear and missile developments, has accused the United States of a hostile policy to crush its regime, calling its nuclear weapons a "sacred sword" to protect itself.

The North's leader, Kim, has said it was in final stages of developing an ICBM.

It is difficult to say when the North will have a reliably tested ICBM ready to deploy, said Lee Choon-geun, a senior research fellow at South Korea's state-run Science and Technology Policy Institute.

"When it comes to actual deployment, developed countries have tested at least 20 ICBMs and their success rate should be around 90 per cent. It is not there yet."

But the new engine used for Sunday's test signaled a major step forward in the intermediate-range missile development, one that can be modified for an ICBM flight, Lee said.

The United States called the missile launch a message to South Korea, days after its new president took office pledging to engage Pyongyang in dialogue and keep up international pressure to impede the North's arms pursuit.

Two senior national security advisers to US President Donald Trump will meet South Korean President Moon Jae-in's top foreign policy adviser, Chung Eui-yong, in Seoul on Tuesday, to discuss a summit of the leaders and the North's missile test, a source with direct knowledge of the meeting said.—Reuters ■

India asks World Court to bar Pakistan from executing alleged spy

THE HAGUE — India asked World Court judges on Monday to order Pakistan to stay the execution of an Indian citizen Islamabad says is a captured spy, a case that has escalated tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

India argued in a preliminary hearing at the UN court, formally known as the International Court of Justice (ICJ), that Pakistan violated the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations by denying the condemned man access to legal and other assistance from India. Pakistan was to respond later Monday.

Monday's hearings focused on India's request for so-called "provisional measures" that can be granted at short notice to ensure a dispute between states does not deteriorate during full ICJ proceedings, which typically take several years.

At the core of the dispute is the fate of Kulbhushan Sudir Jadhav, an Indian former naval officer who was arrested in March 2016 in the Pakistani province of Baluchistan. There has been a long-running conflict in Baluchistan between Pakistani security forces and a militant separatist movement. According to Islamabad, Jadhav confessed to being tasked by India's intelligence service with planning, coordinating and organising espionage and sabotage activities in Baluchistan "aiming to destabilise and wage war against Pakistan".

In April, a Pakistani military court sentenced him to death.

No date was set for the execution. Pakistan has said Jadhav's conviction and sentence remain open to appeal. India's representative at the ICJ hearing, Deepak Mittal, described the charges against Jadhav as "concocted" and his trial as "farcical."

The ICJ is the UN court for resolving disputes between nations, and its decisions are final and binding. However, it has no means to enforce rulings and they have occasionally been ignored. In a similar dispute over the Vienna Convention in 1999, the ICJ ordered the United States not to execute a German national who did not get proper consular assistance, but the man was put to death regardless.—Reuters ■

Peace Process with Signs of Promising Result

Khin Maung Oo

VERY soon, to be exact, from 24 May to 28 May, Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong's 2nd meeting will be convened for 5 days in Nay Pyi Taw. In more than one year period when the civilian-led government took office, 1st meeting was held from 31st August 2016 to 3rd September 2016, thus supposedly to have acquired favorable experiences.

The government born out of people's heartfelt choice, being the kind of government based on national reconciliation, had committed themselves to accomplish the peace process to success. In moving toward the ultimate goal, that is, the federal democratic union, the government has to undergo many a stage step by step on the road

to the peace.

On a general overview of the journey to the peace in more than one year period of the government, it can be said to have success to some extent. The whole world has a great interest in the peace process of Myanmar, because some assume that dissimilarities and unfinished conflicts in the country are of great importance for Myanmar and they may be potential lessons for global countries.

During over 7 decades after gaining the Independence, many kinds of people struggled for achieving peace in various ways but these attempts came to nothing. Success or failure of peace process only depended upon wishes of those concerned whereas most of the national ethnics had no alternative but to pray for reaching an agreement for

the peace.

In finding out a solution for the peace, all participants must negotiate with frankness and straightforward attitudes for a good result. All must work out without neglecting or opposing the interests of groups, targeting at national benefits. Efforts for the peace process are the affairs of the Union. So, evidently enough all participants are wholeheartedly taking part in the process at different levels.

All participants will be overjoyed if their respective expectations are successful while the whole populace will rejoice to its climax. Union Peace Conference Joint Committee's meeting held just prior to convening UPC—2nd Panglong Meeting managed to approve favorable results.

Altogether 24 facts under the six

main items of the agenda were approved—one fact in the item, "Sovereignty"; one fact in the item, "Exercising Sovereignty"; two facts in the item, "Equality"; five facts in the item "Self-Promulgation"; 10 facts in the item, "Principles on Federal Union—Constitution and Division of Power" and two facts in the item, "Multi-Party Democratic System." And it was a great pleasure as 10 facts under the seven categories of economic sector, 4 facts under the social sector, 6 facts under the land and natural environment sector, 41 facts in all, were approved.

For these reasons, accomplishment of such favorable results at different levels of peace process can be said to be collective forces of unity amongst the dissimilarities, for the eternal peace of the Union. ■

Together with the people

U KHIN MAUNG
(A retired diplomat)

Introduction

1. Performing works to promote, protect and safeguard the public interests; ensuring the prevalence of rule of law in the government's functions and business are the essential ingredients of a democratically elected government or a good government, with clean governance. In a sense, there should be no nepotism, no cronyism, no favouritism, no prejudice and bias, no injustice, no corruption of any kind in a democratically elected government. In essence, "the care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of the good government. And to win the hearts and minds of the people, the good government or a democratically elected government shall always be "the government of the people, by the people, and for the people". As such, the people's government is made for the people, made by the people and shall be answerable to the people." The good government must always be together with the people. The good government must always serve the public requirements.

2. In a wider sense, what are the ingredients of the good government and clean governance? Well, from my humble point of view, they are as follows:

- (a) Accountability
- (b) Transparency
- (c) Rule of law
- (d) Freedom of press
- (e) Independence of Judiciary
- (f) Corruption free

(g) People's participation

In brief, may I present to you definitions of each of the afore-mentioned ingredients as mentioned below:

(a) Accountability — It may be defined as being accountable. And "accountable" means responsible or answerable to the people. The good government and of course the democratically elected government must be accountable, answerable to the people, for every action it takes and for every decision it has made.

(b) Transparency — Transparency means obviousness, not being opaque, but light coming through. Except for the state secrets and security, every action of the good government must be transparent, must be open, and must not be opaque.

(c) Rule of law — This phrase "rule

In essence, the people play the decisive role in a democracy. Furthermore, the people must always actively participate in the good government's plans and performances. People's participation is one of the essential ingredients of good government.

of law" means, equality before the law, fair play, uniformity of laws for private citizen and public official alike. It also means that disputes and differences that are amenable to legal settlement will be taken to the courts and peacefully settled and they will not lead to violence. "The first essential condition for making democracy secure in our lives is" said U Nu, the first prime minister of our union, in his address to the parliament, "is to base all our activities firmly on the rule of law."

(d) Freedom of press — It is widely accepted that "press, newspapers, and magazines are the fourth pillar of a sovereign state. From my collection of memories, I would like to mention, what Mr. Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States of America once said "Let me make a newspaper of the nation, and I don't care who makes its laws".

(e) Independence of Judiciary—As you all know, the judiciary is one of the vital organs of a sovereign and independent state. And "independence of judiciary", I believe, is so concise and clear in itself that it needs no further explanation or explication. Under this doctrine, a judge or a magistrate is vested with the judicial power, i.e the authority to hear and decide the cases independently and at his or her own discretion, but strictly in accordance with the law. And there is one important point to note. Independence of judiciary does not mean that judicial power may be exercised at the whims and fancies of the judge or the magistrate, leaving aside all the relevant laws and evidence pertaining to the cases.

(f) Corruption free—There is a universally accepted maxim, i.e "power tends to corrupt; and absolute power corrupts absolutely." And another definition is; "corruption is a global shame and sin against good manners and character. Well, corruption does not mean only bribe taking. From the legal point of view "corruption means maladministration of justice, mismanagement of affairs, prejudice and bias, and wrong doing etc.

(g) People's participation—People's appreciation and people's participation are closely connected. The more appreciation government's performances by the people, the more participation in government's performance by the people. The incumbent government is democratically elected government. In other words, the incumbent government is mainly composed of the elected people's representatives.

In essence, the people play the decisive role in a democracy. Furthermore, the people must always actively participate in the good government's plans and performances. People's participation is one of the essential ingredients of good government.

If we assess and evaluate the incumbent government, how well, how effectively and actively "it is working during it's one year period in office, I, a retiree, a nonentity and an oldie, with one foot in the grave, sincerely believe that the incumbent government is performing the people's mandate and its mission very well. In other words, the incumbent government is doing good jobs of their work.

SEE PAGE 9

Chatrium Hotel hands over multipurpose building to Monastic school

Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon held a ceremony for handing over the newly renovated multipurpose building at Nawarat Monastic School in Shwepyitha Township, recently.

The ceremony took place in the newly renovated 1,700 square feet multipurpose building with Chatrium representatives, the school's headmaster, monks, teachers, students, guests and the media in attendance.

As per the program, the management and staff of the hotel handed over the building to headmaster Sayadaw and then offered lunch to the assembled guests.

With the newly renovated

multipurpose building, the 250 students of Nawarat Monastic School will be able to study, pray and hold meetings and events together all under one roof.

Nawarat Monastic School is located in Quarter No. 8, Nawarat Road, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon and was founded in 2012 by headmaster Sayadaw U Kay Lar Tha. It has come to accommodate over 300 students, around half of whom are in-house children. Within the short span of a few years, it has also become a fundamental establishment in Shwepyitha Township providing education for children of all religions and ethnic backgrounds.—GNLM ■



Monks, children and assembled guests having meals in the newly renovated Narawat Monastic School in Shwepyitha township. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Mobile payment for pensioners coming soon

A mobile payment service will soon be introduced for pensioners to withdraw their pension salaries from mobile phone by collaboration with Myanmar Economic Bank, Myanmar Economic Cooperation, Innwa Bank Co, Ltd and Myanmar Mobile Money (MMM). By installing mobile payment services and giving the Standing Instruction to the Banks, pensioners will be able to withdraw their salaries from the Point of Sale (POS) machines of Myanmar Economic Banks and representatives agencies of Myanmar Mobile Money (MMM). Pensioners don't need to travel to banks time and again. They mostly need to come to banks once every six months for the personal pension salary and once every three months for the family pension salaries.—MNA

Together with the people

FROM PAGE 8

So the incumbent government is winning the hearts and minds of the people as a good government, with clean governance. Well, as we know, governments may come and governments may go, but a good government will remain in the heart and history of a nation forever. A good government is remembered not by the years it stayed in office, but by the years it used for the welfare of the people.

In this connection, the State Counsellor, Her Excellency, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her exclusive interview with British Broadcasting Corporation (B.B.C) has confessed, "we are not home and dry yet." And the incumbent government itself admits that together with the people, it could make some progress, some developments. And to honour the one, to whom honour is due is a virtue. In this sense, I would like to present to you that the incumbent government is making a good name, at home and abroad. The political image of our nation is getting

better these days, and ours is being well-recognized as a nation, governed by the people's representatives.

Conclusion

In presenting my humble and honest views on the incumbent government's one year performance, I remember those golden days of the newly independent and sovereign country of ours, Burma. The international image of ours as a non-aligned country was well recognized. It was our country's government with its two big neighbours, China and India, that expounded the universally respected, five principles of peaceful co-existence at a time when cold-war between the East and the West was at its apex. And it was our country, Burma, which was the first and foremost country in Asia, to propose to the United Nations Organization to admit the People's Republic of China, in stead of Taiwan, as UN member state. And owing to the political image of our country, as a neutral state, or a non-aligned state, and also for his own talent, and prestige, the permanent

representative of Burma (Myanmar) to the U.N.O, U Thant was appointed as the Third United Nations Secretary General (1961-1971).

Concerning a few historic achievements of our country, after getting back its sovereignty and independence. I would like to present to you only two vital achievements. The first one was our country's fighting out the aggression of Kuomintang Government of Formosa, without seeking any sort of assistance from any single country. In this war against Kuomintang forces, our Burmese (Myanmar) soldiers had done a good job of their work and had proved their worth. The second achievement is its independent and active foreign policy since Myanmar has become a member in the family of nations i.e. on 4th January 1948. And "in its international relations, Myanmar strictly adheres to the five principles of peaceful coexistence, which Myanmar together with India and China had expounded in 1954. These Five Principles of Peaceful

Co-existence are:

- Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
- Non-aggression
- Non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
- Equality and mutual benefit
- Peaceful coexistence and peaceful settlement of disputes.

Well, this is my admiration and appreciation of "one year performance of our incumbent government, together the people and of course together with the historic achievements of our country, internationally known as "golden land".

Reference:

- (1)The Global New Light of Myanmar. Press-conference on one year performance "together with the people"
- (2)Diplomatic handbook Second Edition.
- (3)To a soldier son by Dr. Maung Maung.
- (4)Law and custom in Burma and the Burmese Family.
- (5)C.N.A Satellite News

About 3,000 people apply for passport daily

About 3,000 Myanmar citizens applied for a passport every day in May so far this year to work abroad, according to an official from Yangon passport office.

Currently, the paper in the issued passport books are the same type of paper used to print bank notes at the Myanmar Central Bank. The passport must include a bar code number, security logos and stickers. The passport office is in the process of making arrangements with international companies to upgrade the security of the Myanmar passport. A retinal scan of the applicants, for instance, will be made to decrease the number of counterfeit passports. "We are upgrading the security of the passport because of the fake passport problem. Currently, we take a record of applicants' fingerprint, signature and photo. Later, we will conduct a retinal scan of the applicants with the assistance of computer technology", a passport official said. Myanmar currently issues seven types of passports: visit, religious, work, student, dependent, seafarer and business.—200 ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

WORLD
BRIEFS

Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures while speaking to the media after the Belt and Road Forum at the China National Convention Center on Yanqi Lake just outside Beijing, China on 15 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

US, EU to meet on airline security on Wednesday – EU Commission

BRUSSELS – A meeting between European Union and US officials to discuss airline security and a possible extension of a ban on passengers carrying electronic devices bigger than cellphones in aircraft cabins will take place on Wednesday, a European Commission spokesman said on Monday. US Homeland Security Department Secretary John Kelly held a phone call with EU ministers on Friday during which the high-level meeting was planned, but no date was given.—Reuters ■

Putin says Russia right to boycott Eurovision over Ukraine

BEIJING – Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that Russia was right to boycott this year's Eurovision song contest because Ukrainian authorities were not up to the job of organising such events.

Russia's state broadcaster boycotted the contest after Ukraine, the host country, barred entry to the Russian contestant because she had performed in Crimea after the region was annexed by Russia.—Reuters ■

UK govt emergency committee to meet on cyber attack at 1600 GMT – spokesman

LONDON – The impact of the ransomware attack in Britain is much the same as it was but the government is monitoring the issue and will hold a meeting of its emergency committee at 1600 GMT on Monday, a spokesman for Prime Minister Theresa May said.

The government has said 48 of 248 health service trusts – the bodies that run hospitals – in England had been impacted by Friday's attack and technology experts worked through the night to patch computer systems.— Reuters ■

Putin says world needs to talk to North Korea not threaten it

BEIJING — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that Moscow was opposed to any new countries acquiring nuclear weapons, but that the world should talk to North Korea rather than threaten it.

Putin, speaking in Beijing, said nuclear tests of the type that Pyongyang had been carrying out in recent weeks were unacceptable, but that a peaceful solution to rising tensions on the Korean peninsula was needed.

“I want to confirm that we are categorically against the expansion of the club of nuclear powers, including with the Korean Peninsula and North Korea,”

said Putin, who said any such move would be “harmful and dangerous”.

“But at the same time, we understand that what we have observed in the world recently, and specifically flagrant violations of international law and incursions into the territory of foreign states, changes in regime, lead to such kinds of arms races.” Putin did not specify what countries he had in mind, but he has in the past repeatedly criticised the United States for military operations in Iraq, Libya and Syria, and accused it of trying to oust legitimate governments. “In this connection, we

need to act in a joined-up way, (and) strengthen the system of international guarantees with the help of international law and with the help of the UN Charter,” said Putin.

“We need to return to dialogue with North Korea and stop scaring it and find ways to resolve these problems peacefully.” The Russian leader said he thought such an approach was possible because of what he called “the positive experience” of holding talks with Pyongyang in the past.

“If you recall, there was a time when North Korea announced it was suspending this

kind of (nuclear) programme, but unfortunately certain participants in the negotiations process did not have enough patience. I think we need to return to this.”

Putin said he was briefed by his defence minister after North Korea's latest missile test.

“This missile launch presented no threat to us, but it of course escalates this conflict and there is nothing good about that.”

The Russian Defence Ministry said on Sunday that a ballistic missile fired by North Korea had crashed into the Sea of Japan around 500 kilometres (310.69 miles) off the Russian coast.—Reuters ■

UK May's Conservatives hold 18 point poll lead — Survation

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservatives have slightly extended their large lead over the opposition Labour Party as the state-run health service takes over from Brexit as the

nation's top concern, a poll said on Monday.

The Conservatives were on 48 per cent, up one point from a similar survey a week before, with Labour unchanged on 30 percent, the Survation poll for

the Good Morning Britain TV show found. The Liberal Democrats were on 8 per cent, up one point, with the UK Independence Party unchanged on 4 per cent.

The poll of 1,016 people,

carried out on 12-13 May, found the National Health Service was now the most important issue for voters overtaking Brexit, followed by the economy, immigration and education.—Reuters ■



An empty street is seen in Bouake, Ivory Coast on 14 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Heavy gunfire erupts in Ivory Coast's two main cities

YAMOOUSSOUKRO — Heavy gunfire erupted on Monday in Ivory Coast's two largest cities Abidjan and Bouake, witnesses said, as the military pressed an operation aimed at ending a four-day nationwide army mutiny over bonus payments.

Loyalist troops began advancing towards Bouake, the epicenter of the revolt, on Sunday and sporadic gunfire was heard overnight there as well as at military camps in Abidjan. Shooting in both cities intensified before dawn.

"There was heavy shooting at the northern entrance to the city and in the city center. It's calmed a bit but we're still hearing gunfire," said one Bouake resident. Other residents confirmed the shooting.

Heavy shooting was also heard in Daloa, a hub for the western cocoa growing regions. It was not immediately clear what impact the unrest might have on the flow of cocoa supplies.

The soldiers were revolting over delayed bonus payments, promised by the government after an earlier mutiny in January but not fully paid after a collapse in the price of cocoa, Ivory Coast's main export, caused a revenue crunch.

A spokesman for the mutiny denied that any clashes had occurred in Bouake and said the renegade soldiers were firing in the air to dissuade any advance on the city.

But on Sunday, the group's leaders rejected the army's demand that they disarm and surrender.

"We can no longer turn back," said their spokesman Sergeant Seydou Kone. "We don't know what will happen to us, so we just want our money so we can start a new life. But we can't give up now that we've reached this point."

Ivory Coast has been touted as a post-war success story after emerging from a 2002-2011 political crisis as one of the world's

fastest growing economies.

But society remains deeply divided and a wave of mutinies that began earlier this year has exposed the lack of unity in a military assembled from former rebel and loyalist combatants.

The 8,400 mutineers, most of them former rebels who said they were promised bonuses for fighting to bring President Alassane Ouattara to power, received 5 million CFA francs (\$8,400) each to end the January uprising.

But the government has struggled to pay remaining bonuses of 7 million CFA francs.

A spokesman for the group said on Thursday they would drop demands for the remaining money, an announcement rejected by many of the soldiers who sparked the current revolt.

An Abidjan resident said mutinying soldiers came out of the West African nation's largest military camp and erected

barricades early on Monday, blocking traffic along one of the main thoroughfares in the east of the city.

Several schools near the camp did not open and the Abidjan-based African Development Bank [AFDB.UL], which employs several thousand people — many of them international staff — told its employees to stay home.

"I've been hearing the sound of kalashnikovs and a heavier weapon. That began at around 5 am (1.00 am ET) ... It's intense," said another Abidjan resident, who lives near the US Embassy and the presidential residence. At least eight people were shot by the mutineers in Bouake and the northern city of Korhogo on Saturday and Sunday as popular opposition against the revolt gathered momentum, sparking protest marches in several cities, including Abidjan. One man, a demobilized former rebel fighter, died on Sunday.— Reuters ■

Air strikes target Islamic State in eastern Syria, kill 23 — monitor

BEIRUT — Dawn air strikes on a Syrian border town in the Islamic State-held eastern province of Deir al-Zor killed 23 people, most of them civilians, a war monitoring group said on Monday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said jets thought to belong to the US-led coalition hit the town of Al-Bukamal near the border with Iraq. The warplanes struck near a residential area and a mosque, wounding dozens more, the Britain-based monitor said.

The Islamic State-linked media outlet Amaq said coalition strikes killed

15 people and wounded 35 others in Al-Bukamal.

A spokesman for the US-led coalition against Islamic State could not immediately be reached for comment.

Islamic State holds most of Deir al-Zor province, apart from an enclave at the centre and a nearby air base that Syrian government forces control. The province links territory Islamic State militants control in Syria and Iraq.

The United States military has said it makes "extraordinary efforts" to avoid civilian deaths in its air strikes in Syria and Iraq.—Reuters ■

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German lawmakers prevented from visiting Turkey's Incirlik air base, officials say

ANKARA/BERLIN — A group of German lawmakers has been blocked from visiting troops stationed at Turkey's Incirlik air base, officials said on Monday, a move that could reignite a row between the NATO allies over Berlin's access to the base.

The lawmakers were denied a visit to the base as it was not deemed appropriate at this time, sources in Turkey's foreign ministry told Reuters, without elaborating. Some 250 German troops are stationed at Incirlik as part of the fight against Islamic State in neighbouring Syria, according to the German armed forces.

A spokesman for the German foreign minister said it was "completely unacceptable" for Turkey to keep German lawmakers from visiting their own soldiers. "A visit by lawmakers must be made possible," Martin Schaefer said, adding that Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel would raise the issue with colleagues from other NATO governments in Washington

on Tuesday.

German government spokesman Stefan Seibert said Berlin would consider alternative places to station the soldiers.

Relations between the NATO allies were strained in the run-up to Turkey's 16 April referendum, when Germany banned Turkish politicians from addressing rallies of expatriate Turks, citing public safety concerns. President Tayyip Erdogan accused Berlin of "Nazi-like" tactics. A narrow majority of Turks backed the referendum to change the constitution and grant Erdogan sweeping executive powers. Germany and other Western allies have voiced concern about what they fear is growing authoritarianism in Turkey.

Last year Turkey banned German lawmakers from visiting the base for months in response to a resolution in the General parliament declaring the 1915 massacre of Armenians by Ottoman forces a genocide, a term Ankara rejects. —Reuter ■

Russia is developing advanced medium class drone

MOSCOW — The group Kronshtadt has come up with a pilot project of a medium class vertical takeoff drone Fregat, the group's CEO Armen Isaakian told TASS in an interview.

"We have already confirmed the technical parameters of the medium class drone of the Fregat family using scale models, carried out research and development in the field and delivered a pilot project. In a word, we are fully prepared for the implementation phase," he said.

The date of marketing the drone Fregat will depend on the market's maturity.

"The way I see it, it is very low for now. Regulatory matters, security, the availability of technologies and the product's economic



Russian manufacturers have come up with a pilot project of a medium class vertical takeoff drone Fregat. PHOTO: TASS

parameters are the main reasons for this," Isaakian said. The Kronshtadt group has conducted research into a heavy drone for a long time.

"The company has worked on this theme for

quite a while. Over the years we have achieved a lot in terms of composite materials, onboard electronics and avionics, control and communication systems, ground points, payloads and software,"

Isaakian said.

For the first time a high-speed off-airfield drone was presented at the MAKS-2015 air show. It is meant for reconnaissance and the delivery of cargoes.—Tass ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GLODEN SEA

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TRUONG PHAT 01-ALCI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TRUONG PHAT 01-ALCI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MSTL-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV FRISA LAHN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISA LAHN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar



Ministry of Education
Invitation for Bids

Date:	15 May 2017
Loan/ Grant No. and Title:	MYA 3472 —Equipping Youth for Employment Sector Development Project
Contract/s No. and Title:	EYE/CW/ICB/CBMS-WS-Dorms/01
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	28 June 2017

- The Government of Myanmar has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Equipping Youth for Employment Project. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contracts named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB.
- The Ministry of Education ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of CBMSC workshops, Dormitories and Open Sheds ("the Works"), as outlined below:
 - Lot 1 — Construction of Workshop Block (Type 1) and 1 Student Dormitory at Pakkoku ITC
 - Lot 2 — Construction of Workshop Block (Type 1) and 1 Student Dormitory at Mandalay ITC
 - Lot 3 — Construction of Workshop Block (Type 3) and 1 Student Dormitory at Magway ITC
 - Lot 4 — Construction of Workshop Block (Type 3) and 1 Student Dormitory at Tha Ga Ya ITC
 - Lot 5 — Construction of Workshop Block (Type 2) and 2 Student Dormitories (male-female segregated) and 1 Open Shed at
 - Waibarrgi GTHS (North Okklapa)
 - Aung San GTHS, both in Yangon
 - Lot 6 — Construction of 2 Workshop Blocks (Type 2) and 1 Student Dormitory and 1 Open Shed at Mandalay GTHS
 - Lot 7 — Construction of 2 Workshop Blocks (Type 3) and 1 Student Dormitory and 1 Open Shed at Nay Pyi Taw GTHS
 - Lot 8 — Construction of 2 Workshop Blocks (Type 2) and 1 Student Dormitory at Meikhhila GTHS
 - Lot 9 — Construction of Workshop Block (Type 2) and 1 Student Dormitory at Taungoo GTHS
 - Lot 10 — Construction of Workshop Block (Type 1) and 1 Student Dormitory and 1 Open Shed at Lashio GTHS
 - Lot 11 — Construction of Workshop Block (Type 2) and 1 Student Dormitory at Monywa GTHS
 - Lot 12 — Construction of Workshop Block (Type 2) and 1 Student Dormitory at Pa-an GTHS
 - Lot 13 — Construction of Workshop Block (Type 2) and 1 Student Dormitory at Patheingyi GTHS
 - Lot 14 — Construction of Workshop Block (Type 2) and 1 Student Dormitory at Kale GTHS
 - Lot 15 — Construction of Workshop Block (Type 2) and 1 Student Dormitory at Mawlamyine GTHS

Bidders may bid for one or several contracts, as further defined in the bidding document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid.

- International competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage One Envelope procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
- Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

Key Experience Requirement

Participation in at least (3) three contracts that have been successfully or substantially completed within the last 5 years and that are similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds the contract amounts indicated below:

- Lot 1 - MMK 288 Million
- Lot 2 - MMK 288 Million
- Lot 3 - MMK 489 Million
- Lot 4 - MMK 489 Million
- Lot 5 - MMK 480 Million
- Lot 6 - MMK 604 Million
- Lot 7 - MMK 748 Million
- Lot 8 - MMK 604 Million
- Lot 9 - MMK 374 Million
- Lot 10 - MMK 288 Million
- Lot 11 - MMK 374 Million
- Lot 12 - MMK 374 Million
- Lot 13 - MMK 374 Million
- Lot 14 - MMK 374 Million
- Lot 15 - MMK 374 Million

The similarity of the Bidder's participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology or other characteristics as described in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements) in the Bidding Document.

Key Financial Requirement

Minimum average annual construction turnover of (as indicated below) calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.

- Lot 1 - MMK 720 Million
- Lot 2 - MMK 720 Million
- Lot 3 - MMK 1.2 Billion
- Lot 4 - MMK 1.2 Billion
- Lot 5 - MMK 1.2 Billion
- Lot 6 - MMK 1.5 Billion
- Lot 7 - MMK 1.9 Billion
- Lot 8 - MMK 1.5 Billion
- Lot 9 - MMK 940 Million
- Lot 10 - MMK 720 Million
- Lot 11 - MMK 940 Million
- Lot 12 - MMK 940 Million
- Lot 13 - MMK 940 Million
- Lot 14 - MMK 940 Million
- Lot 15 - MMK 940 Million

The Bidder must demonstrate that it has the financial resources to meet the requirements for the Subject Contract in the minimum amounts of:

- Lot 1 - MMK 120 Million
- Lot 2 - MMK 120 Million
- Lot 3 - MMK 204 Million
- Lot 4 - MMK 204 Million
- Lot 5 - MMK 200 Million
- Lot 6 - MMK 252 Million
- Lot 7 - MMK 312 Million
- Lot 8 - MMK 252 Million
- Lot 9 - MMK 156 Million
- Lot 10 - MMK 120 Million
- Lot 11 - MMK 156 Million
- Lot 12 - MMK 156 Million
- Lot 13 - MMK 156 Million
- Lot 14 - MMK 156 Million
- Lot 15 - MMK 156 Million

Key Equipment Requirement

For each Lot, the minimum construction equipment requirement is indicated below:

S. No.	Equipment Type and Characteristics	Minimum Number Required
1	Excavator	1
2	Lifting Crane (or other equivalent manually operated lifting device)	1
3	*Concrete Mixer/Agitator (100 kg Cement Capacity)*	1
4	*Small Concrete Mixer (50 kg Cement Capacity)*	2
5	*Concrete Vibrators -Hose Length 1.5 M (Minimum)*	2
6	Mechanical Compactors	1
7	Metal Cutter	4
8	*Welding Electrode Holder/Welding Machine*	2
9	Diesel Generator (20 HP)	1
10	Temporary Construction Water Storage Tank/s*	As necessary
11	Vehicles	
	Tipper Trucks (capacity 7 Cubic Meters)	1
	Service trucks (2 Tonne or more)	1
	General Transport	As necessary
	Excavator	1

* Since Lot 5 has 2 sub-sites, each sub-site must have these equipment's mobilized on a dedicated full time basis.

Key Personnel requirement

For each Lot, the minimum personnel requirement is indicated below:

No.	Position	Total Work Experience [years]	Experience in Similar Work [years]
1	Site Construction Manager (Project Manager)	10	4
2	Site Supervisor (Project Engineer)*	5	3
3	Stores in charge (Storekeeper)*	3	2

* Since Lot 5 has 2 sub-sites, each sub-site must have these personnel on a dedicated full time basis.

The qualification criteria are more completely described in the bidding document.

- To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:
 - EYE Project Management Unit
 - Department of Education Research, Planning & Training (DERPT)
 - Ministry of Education, Building No 13
 - Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
 - Telephone: +95 67407534 / 67407273
 - Fax: +95 67407406
 - E-Mail: projectmanager.EYEPMU@gmail.com
 - With copy to procurement.EYEPMU@gmail.com and civilworks.EYEPMU@gmail.com

- To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible Bidders should

- Write to address above requesting the bidding documents for MYA 3472/EYE/ICB/CW/ CBMSC-WS-Dorms/01 specifically indicating the Lot numbers for which bidding document is requested.
- Pay a non-refundable Bidding Document Fee of Myanmar Kyats 10,000 for each Lot either by cash payment of through bank transfer to:

Bank A/C No: MD-012898
Bank Name: Myanmar Economic Bank
Address: Thiri Kyaw Swa Street, Near Bank Zone, Zabu Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
Account Name: Department of Education Research, Planning & Training, Ministry of Education

- Deliver your bid
 - to the address above
 - on or before the deadline: 15.00 Hours (Myanmar Time) on 28 February 2017
 - together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document

Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

Late Bids will be rejected. Electronic Bid submission is not permitted.

- When comparing Bids, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Bidding Document

ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ
ဆောက်လုပ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
လမ်းညွှန်ဌာန
စီမံကိန်းစစ်ဆေးရေးနှင့်အရည်အသွေးထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဌာန(တည်ဆောက်ရေး)
အိတ်စွင့်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ဆောက်လုပ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ လမ်းညွှန်ဌာန၊ စီမံကိန်းစစ်ဆေးရေးနှင့်အရည်အသွေးထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဌာန (တည်ဆောက်ရေး)မှ ၂၀၁၇-၂၀၁၈ ဘဏ္ဍာနှစ် ငွေလုံးငွေရင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်း) ရန်ပုံငွေဖြင့် ဓါတ်ခွဲခန်းနှင့်တွင်းတွင် အသုံးပြုရန်အတွက် အောက်ပါ အရည်အသွေး ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး စမ်းသပ်ပစ္စည်းများအား စီမံကိန်း စစ်ဆေးရေးနှင့် အရည်အသွေးထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဌာန (တည်ဆောက်ရေး) ယှဉ်းမနား ရုံးအရောက် မြန်မာကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်
၁။	Plate Bearing Testing Equipment (500 KN)	၀၀ ခုံ
၂။	Compressive Testing Machine (1500 KN) (Manual)	၃ ခုံ
၃။	Marshall Testing Equipment (50KN)	၂ ခုံ
၄။	Water Bath(KN)	၂ ခုံ
၅။	Centrifuge Extractor	၂ ခုံ
၆။	Sieves (all size)	၉၈ ခုံ

၃။ Technical proposal and Financial proposal ကို စာအိတ် တစ်ခုထဲတွင် တစ်ပေါင်းတည်း ထည့်သွင်းတင်ပြရမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အရည်အသွေး ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး စမ်းသပ်ပစ္စည်းများ၏ စံချိန်စံညွှန်း အသေးစိတ်စာရင်းနှင့် တင်ဒါ လျှောက်လွှာပုံစံများကို ဒုတိယညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (မြို့ပြ)ရုံး၊ စီမံကိန်းစစ်ဆေးရေး နှင့်အရည်အသွေးထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဌာန (တည်ဆောက်ရေး) နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း ၀၆၇-၂၇၇၆၃၊ ၀၉-၂၇၇၇၂၈၈၄၄ တွင် (၀၆.၅.၂၀၁၇) ရက်နေ့မှ စ၍ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

တင်ဒါပိတ်မည့်နေ့/အချိန် - (၀၄ . ၆ . ၂၀၁၇) ရက်၊ (၀၆:၀၀) နာရီ
တင်ဒါဖွင့်မည့်နေ့/အချိန် - (၀၅ . ၆ . ၂၀၁၇) ရက်၊ (၀၃:၃၀) နာရီ
တင်ဒါဖွင့်မည့်နေ့ရက် - ဒုတိယညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး(မြို့ပြ)ရုံး၊ စီမံကိန်းစစ်ဆေးရေးနှင့် အရည်အသွေးထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဌာန (တည်ဆောက်ရေး) နေပြည်တော်။

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District of Columbia contestant named Miss USA

LAS VEGAS — A 25-year-old scientist representing the District of Columbia was crowned winner of the Miss USA pageant on Sunday, the second consecutive year that the contestant from the nation's capital won the annual competition.

Kara McCullough, who holds a degree in chemistry and works at the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, triumphed over 50 other contestants, including first runner-up Chhavi Verg, representing New Jersey, to claim victory in the contest which was held at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas.

For her question as one of three finalists, McCullough was asked about healthcare rights, and replied that affordable healthcare was a privilege for people who held jobs. The response drew some stinging criticism on social media platforms such as Twitter, but also had its defenders.



Miss District of Columbia Kara McCullough reacts after being crowned 2017 Miss USA in Las Vegas, Nevada, US on 14 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"Twitter is like a war zone," posted one user, referring to opposing reactions to the winner's remarks.

McCullough also took hits for saying she does not call

herself a feminist, preferring "equalism," before adding "Women, we are just as equal as men, especially in the workplace."

The pageant's other final-

ist, Meridith Gould, represented Minnesota.

McCullough will go on to compete as the US representative at the annual Miss Universe pageant.—Reuters ■

Tony Bennett postpones concert due to mild flu

LOS ANGELES — Veteran musician Tony Bennett has postponed his Pennsylvania concert due to mild flu.

The 90-year-old jazz legend was set to perform at the Sands Bethlehem Event Centre, reported People magazine.

"(Bennett) has a mild flu virus and has been advised not to travel or perform for the next few days. On behalf of Tony Bennett, we want to express his appreciation to all his fans in the area who purchased tickets for the concert and he sends his regrets that he will not be able to perform for them on Saturday," the venue said in a statement on their website.

According to the Event Center all the purchased tickets will be accepted for the rescheduled date, which will be declared soon.—PTI ■

Humorous 'Guardians' set Marvel on new path for superhero movies

LOS ANGELES — The surprise success of the first "Guardians of the Galaxy," with its intergalactic gang of misfits and quirky tone, launched Marvel Studios into making action movies starring lesser-known comic book figures that could make audiences laugh.

Two years later, the bet that comedy could help catapult characters such as the "Guardians," "Ant-Man" and "Doctor Strange" into box office stars has paid off again.

The "Guardians," led by actor Chris Pratt's Peter Quill, debuted in 2014 with more than \$700 million at the global box office. "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2" opened in the United States last week and has already grossed more than \$500 million worldwide.

"The first 'Guardians of the Galaxy' film allowed us to perhaps go a little bit further, not just in humour, but types of characters," Kevin Feige, chief executive of Marvel Studios, told Reuters.

Comedy has flavored Marvel movies since 2008's "Iron Man"

featured star Robert Downey Jr.'s cocky one-liners. Many of the studio's upcoming releases, including "Spider-Man: Homecoming" and "Thor: Ragnarok," are expected to build humor into their audience appeal.

The "Guardians" franchise has gone farther by putting comedy at the core of the movie. Audiences fell in love with the roguish Peter, no-nonsense Gamora, the alien Drax who didn't understand irony and the bromance between Rocket Raccoon and tree-alien Groot.

"Laughter is the way you hook the audience, and then you can scare them, then you can hopefully touch them emotionally deeper than they were expecting to in a film about a tree and a raccoon and aliens that don't understand metaphors," Feige told reporters in April.

"Humor is the secret into the audience's other range of emotions," he added.

It's also part of Marvel's strategy to keep audiences coming back for repeat viewings, which Feige compared to



Cast members (L-R) Dave Bautista, Zoe Saldana, Pom Klementieff, Chris Pratt, Kurt Russell, Karen Gillan, director James Gunn and Michael Rooker pose as they attend a premiere of the film "Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol 2" in London, Britain on 24 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

the fan-favorite "Star Wars" films or the "Harry Potter" franchise.

"There's only one way to do that — to make films entertaining enough and have the mythology of our stories rich enough and deep enough that there are things worth continuing to experience," he said in the Reuters interview.

Disney-owned Marvel has seven upcoming films mapped out until 2019, including "Spider-Man: Homecoming," a joint

production with Sony Pictures due in July.

The film taps the teen comedy genre in the retelling of Spider-Man's origin story as his alter-ego Peter Parker navigates the perils of high school.

But comedy has not always paired well with superheroes.

George Clooney's 1997 "Batman & Robin," which featured goofy jokes, was savaged by critics and was one of the worst-performing superhe-

ro films, grossing \$238 million worldwide according to BoxOfficeMojo.com.

In contrast, Christopher Nolan's three-part "Dark Knight" franchise for Warner Bros. recast Batman in a gritty light that won rave reviews and grossed more than \$2 billion worldwide from 2005 to 2012.

The success of 2014's "Guardians" proved that Marvel could have a hit with its lesser-known comic book properties, such as pint-sized hero "Ant-Man," played by comedic actor Paul Rudd, and the mind-bending "Doctor Strange," in which Benedict Cumberbatch delivered witty retorts in the vein of Iron Man.

Even "Thor: Ragnarok" harnessed a comedic talent, New Zealand director Taika Waititi, known for hits such as the vampire mockumentary "What We Do in the Shadows," to take the Norse god in a new direction.

Feige said Waititi's films have "really gut-wrenching drama in some moments and really hilarious, over-the-top humor in other moments."—Reuters ■

Carnations made of carrots gifted to giant panda on Mother's Day

TANABE, (Japan) — Carnation flowers made of carrots were given to a female giant panda Sunday at a zoo in western Japan on Mother's Day.

As visitors to the Adventure World zoo amusement park in Wakayama Prefecture watched, giant panda Rauhin enjoyed eating the eight carrot carnations -- the same number of cubs she has given birth to. The zoo also gave a 2-metre-long bamboo shoot to her as a Mother's Day gift.

Rauhin was born at the zoo in September 2000. Among her eight offspring is female cub Yuihin, born in September 2016. —Kyodo News ■



Carnation flowers made of carrots are given as a Mother's Day gift to Rauhin (R), a female giant panda who has given birth to eight cubs, at the Adventure World zoo amusement park in the town of Shirahama, Wakayama Prefecture, on May 14, 2017. At left is her female cub Yuihin, born in September 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

When Noah meets Emma: Top US baby names for 2016

NEW YORK — When 18-year-olds register as first-time voters in the 2034 US congressional elections, many of the signatures will include the names Emma and Noah.

The two names topped the lists issued by the Social Security Administration of the most popular names given to US-born girls and boys in 2016. It was Noah's fourth consecutive year at the top of the list of male names, and Emma's third on the female side.

The retirement and disability benefits agency, which released its latest findings on Friday, compiles the lists of most popular baby names every year, in part to draw Americans to its website.

Rounding out the top 10 list of baby boys' names in 2016 were Liam, William, Mason, James, Benjamin, Jacob, Michael, Elijah and Ethan. For girls, it was Olivia, Ava, Sophia, Isabella, Mia, Charlotte, Abigail, Emily and Harper.

Before Noah emerged as the top name for boys, parents favored another name from the Old Testament, Jacob, for the previous 14 years. For most of the latter half of the 20th century, Michael topped the list.

The most popular 21st cen-

tury names for girls before 2014 were Sophia, Isabella and Emily. For the second half of the 20th century, Jessica, Ashley, Jennifer, Lisa and Mary each had their turns as parents' favorite names for girls.

Over the past 100 years, Mary has been the name parents chose the most for their daughters, followed by Patricia, Jennifer, Elizabeth and Linda. For boys, the top go-to name for the past century has been James, followed by John, Robert, Michael and William.

With baby name trends ebbing and flowing over the decades, the agency also reported the names with the greatest change in popularity for 2016.

For girls, it was Kehalani, which jumped to No 872 from 3,359. "Perhaps this can be attributed to Kehalani Parrish, a singer/songwriter who was nominated for a Grammy in 2016," the agency said.

The biggest gainer among boys' names was Kyo, which vaulted to No 901 from 3,269. "Kyo Ren, the son of Han Solo and Princess Leia and the grandson of Darth Vader, was a character in the 2015 film 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens,'" it noted.

—Reuters ■

Smoke alarm — Indonesians take tiny steps against Big Tobacco

JAKARTA — A neighbourhood in the Indonesian capital has informally declared itself a smoke-free zone as students plan further protests against what they see as an increased effort by cigarette companies to target the young.

Indonesia has one of the highest rates of smoking and is the world's fourth-biggest cigarette producer, mostly of the pungent "kretek" clove and to-

bacco variety, but parliament has proposed a law to boost tobacco output further.

A few groups are now pushing back against Big Tobacco in the country of 250 million people where nearly two-thirds of men smoke and a cigarette pack can cost less than \$2.

In eastern Jakarta, a row of at least a dozen houses at the Penas Tanggul neighbourhood

were painted with bright colours in March, with a blue banner hung near the entrance declaring it a smoke-free zone.

Residents there have been encouraged to stop or to avoid smoking "so this neighbourhood will not just be beautiful, but also healthy", said Nobby Sail Andi Supu, a 22-year-old student who coordinated the programme with a civic group.—Reuters ■

MRTV

Programme Schedule
(16-5-2017, Tuesday)

6:00 Am ♦ Paritta by Hilly Reagon Missionary Sayadaw	3:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series
7:00 Am ♦ Breakfast News	4:35 Pm ♦ Documentary (Education)
7:35 Am ♦ Documentary	5:05 Pm ♦ Mono Classical Songs
8:35 Am ♦ Law Affairs	5:25 Pm ♦ Catch Asia NEWS
9:10 Am ♦ Documentary (Mandalay Palace)	5:35 Pm ♦ Money Talk Myanmar
9:35 Am ♦ MRTV Youth's Programme	6:15 Pm ♦ Football Magazine
10:30 Am ♦ Documentary	6:35 Pm ♦ Kya Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
11:00 Am ♦ Documentary	7:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series
11:15 Am ♦ Teleplay	8:00 Pm ♦ News / International News / Weather Report
11:40 Am ♦ Documentary (Forest)	8:35 Pm ♦ Life Struggles
12:30 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series	8:55 Pm ♦ Teleplay
1:00 Pm ♦ Radio Drama	9:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series
2:10 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series	10:00 Pm ♦ Unity Melody
2:55 Pm ♦ Yes or No Talks Show (Hot Talk)	

mitv Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(16-5-2017 07:00am ~ 17-5-2017 07:00am) MST

			(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 A ~ 11:00 Am)
			(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
		Prime Time	
07:03	Am	News	07:03 Pm News
07:26	Am	Adventurous Young Photographer	07:26 Pm A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
07:47	Am	Five Hair Relic Enshrined Pagodas	07:51 Pm Kyeikhteeoye: Welcome All
08:03	Am	News	08:03 Pm News
08:26	Am	The Writer "Chit Oo Nyo" (Part-2)	08:26 Pm Taste of Myanmar (Rakhine Monte Ti)
08:57	Am	Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon	08:49 Pm Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar
09:03	Am	News	
09:25	Am	The Strokes of Myanmar	
09:51	Am	Today Myanmar: Waste to Energy	(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
10:03	Am	News	(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
10:26	Am	History And Mystery Behind The Caves	(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
10:51	Am	One of the Useful Purposes of Bamboo	

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



Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sturridge return gives Liverpool more options, says Klopp

LONDON — Daniel Sturridge's return to full fitness gives Liverpool more options tactically, manager Juergen Klopp said after the striker opened the scoring in Sunday's 4-0 Premier League win over West Ham United.

Sturridge made his first league start since January after an injury-ridden season where he had multiple spells on the sidelines.

"It's a cool thing having Daniel in this shape.

We had two options... but we wanted to create more space for Coutinho to play more passes and be more influential," Klopp told reporters.

"It's nice that we can bring him into these games.

His smartness was fantastic, and hopefully we can go through this week without injuries." Sturridge's hip, calf and ankle injuries have limited him to just 26 appearances this season, with the 27-year-old scoring seven goals. Liverpool, who are battling to hold on to a place in the top four, host relegated Middlesbrough in their last game of the season on Sunday. —Reuters ■



Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez. PHOTO: REUTERS

Arsenal's top-scorer Sanchez a doubt for Sunderland game

LONDON — Arsenal's top scorer Alexis Sanchez faces a fitness test to determine his availability for Tuesday's Premier League clash against relegated Sunderland while midfielder Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain has been ruled out, manager Arsene Wenger said.

Sanchez was withdrawn with a thigh injury during Arsenal's 4-1 win over Stoke City on Saturday that kept Wenger's team in the hunt for a top-four berth.

Defender Laurent Koscielny is also doubtful due to a calf problem.

"We have a little bit of a problem with Koscielny but we should have everyone avail-

able," Wenger told a news conference on Monday.

"Alexis should have a test today. It didn't look good but with him he is always so eager. (Kieran) Gibbs should be available but Oxlade-Chamberlain is out."

Arsenal are currently fifth in the table, three points behind fourth-placed Manchester City and four adrift of third-placed Liverpool, who have played a game more.

Arsenal need one of their rivals to slip up to have a shot at Champions League qualification, but Wenger is pleased by the desire his team have showed in recent weeks, with the win at Stoke marking their

third consecutive league victory. "I am very positive because it looks like we get stronger in every game," he added. "We won six of the last seven games. We look strong again away from home.

"We have created momentum again.

We had a difficult period and recovered from it. I think the only chance we have now to be in the top four is to win all of our games."

Despite the improvement, Arsenal look set to spend next season without Champions League football in what could be the first time in more than 20 years that Wenger's team will not feature in Europe's

elite club competition.

Wenger said a lack of Champions League involvement would not have any impact on the quality of players that Arsenal would be able to sign in the close season.

"I believe finishing outside the top four will not have any influence on how the club will be led and how we will operate on the transfer market," he added.

The manager, whose future has been the subject of speculation in the media and who is out of contract at the end of the season, did not clarify whether he would sign a new deal with Arsenal. —Reuters ■

Chelsea, Spurs dominate Premier League player nominations

LONDON — Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur each have three players among the eight nominations for the Premier League Player of the Season, while the coaches of both teams have also been shortlisted for the Manager of the Year award.

Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante is the favourite for the

players' prize, having already been named the PFA (Professional Footballers' Association) Player of the Year and the FWA (Football Writers Association) Player of the Year.

Belgium international Eden Hazard and Spain full back Cesar Azpilicueta are the other Chelsea players on the list, while Tottenham

are represented by striker Harry Kane, midfielder Dele Alli and defender Jan Vertonghen.

Arsenal striker Alexis Sanchez has also been included, along with Everton's Romelu Lukaku, who currently leads the league's scoring charts with 24 goals.

Chelsea secured the title on

Friday and lead the table by seven points from Tottenham Hotspur going into the final games of the season.

Antonio Conte, who guided Chelsea to the title in his first season in charge, faces competition from Paul Clement, who took over with Swansea City four points adrift at the bottom in Jan-

uary but guided them to safety with a game to spare.

Mauricio Pochettino, whose Spurs team are guaranteed a second-place finish, Burnley's Sean Dyche, Bournemouth's Eddie Howe and West Bromwich Albion's Tony Pulis are the others on the Manager of the Year shortlist. —Reuters ■