



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is seen off by diplomats and officials at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

## Daw Aung San Suu Kyi leaves for Europe

**S**TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left Yangon yesterday to pay official visits to Italy, Britain, and the European Union (EU) Headquarters in

Brussels, Belgium.

The State Counsellor was seen off at Yangon International Airport by U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister, U Min Thu, Deputy Minister

for the President's Office, U Maung Maung Soe, Yangon Mayor, the Italian Ambassador to Myanmar, the British Ambassador, Deputy Chief of Mission of the EU and respon-

sible personnel.

The State Counsellor was accompanied by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



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NEWS  
BRIEFSPyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker attends  
ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' InterfaceStimulant tablets  
seize in Bahmo

An anti-drug squad unit 1 from Bahmo found 3200 stimulant tablets in a search of a motorbike driven by Aung Myint with Ma Thin Phyu on Bahmo-Mansi road near a bridge of Manyut village, Bahmo Township on 29 April.

Police have taken action against Ma Thin Phyu, 42 and Aung Myint, 60 under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■

Two men missing in  
Yathedaung

Two men are missing after they left in search of mollusks to Mayu hillock in Kotankyauk village tract in Kyauksataing village, Yathedaung Township on 22 April.

According to their wives, U Aung Mya Kyaw and U Mg Aye left to search for mollusks from their home on 25 April and have not been seen since.

Police from the Zadi Pyin border guard station and locals searched neighboring villages, but the men were not found. The investigation is continuing.—Myanmar News Agency ■

At the invitation of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Chairman and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines H.E. Pantaleon D. Alvarez to attend the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Preparatory Meeting for the ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface and ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and delegation arrived to Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Manila, Philippines on the evening of 27 April.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and delegation were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to the Philippines U Win Naing and officials from Philippines House of Representatives at Ninoy Aquino International Airport and Makati Shangri-La Hotel. On 28 April, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and delegation attended the AIPA Preparatory Meeting for the ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface together with parliament leaders and representatives from AIPA member countries Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and



Speakers of parliaments of ASEAN countries join hands as they pose for photo. Photo: MNA

Vietnam.

Afterwards the AIPA Chairman and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, the delegation leaders of the ASEAN Parliaments and the AIPA Secretary General took a commemorative photo.

In the evening, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker attended a dinner hosted by the AIPA Chairman and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines.

On the morning of 29 April, the Myanmar delegation attended the Opening Ceremony of 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit held in the Philippine International Convention Center and in the afternoon, attended the ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and delegation flew back from Manila yesterday morning and arrived at the Yangon International Airport in the evening.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and delegation were welcomed at the airport by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Local and Oversea Workers Affairs Committee Chairman U Kyaw Htway, Fundamental Rights of the Citizen, Democracy and Human Rights Affairs Committee Chairman Dr. Htay Kywe and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Citizens Bank  
opens Sittway Branch

MYANMAR Citizens Bank opened its Sittway Branch on Merchant Street in Mawleik Ward, Sittway yesterday.

The Ministry of Commerce, which coordinates and supports the rural development sector, holds a majority share in Myanmar Citizens Bank.

Dr. Than Myint, the Union Minister for the Ministry of Commerce, attended the bank branch opening ceremony by pressing a button to unveil the bank's sign board. U Kyaw Aye Thein, Rakhine State Minister for planning, finance, revenue and commerce; U Toe Aung Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Citizens Bank; U Yan Naing Tun, Director General, Department of Trade; Myanmar Citizens Bank board of directors U Hla Oo and U Zayya Thura Mon then cut a ribbon to officially open the bank.

Sittway becomes the 22nd branch of Myanmar Citizens Bank. Money transfers and withdrawals can be done among the branches of Myanmar Citizens Bank as well as at 300 other bank branches of Ayeyarwady, CB, Myawady, SIMDB, MOB, CHD and RDB banks throughout the country. A service to pay import/export license fee is also provided, in addition to providing the usual bank services. U Nay Win, the managing director of Myanmar Citizens Bank, said that the bank will arrange with Good Brothers (Company) to sell farming and agricultural machinery under an installment payment plan to farmers. Furthermore, to enable cash flow for farmers in rural areas, secured loans with lands and buildings as collateral will be provided.—Maung Sein Lwin ■

Modern three-storey Mayyu Market  
under construction in Sittway

A MODERN three-storey market is being constructed on the old Mayyu Market site in Sittway, Rakhine State using Australian design technology, officials said yesterday.

A local company, Western Shining Stars, is starting the construction beside Mayyu Road, Football Ward, Sittway with the permission of the Rakhine State Ministry.

Western Shining Stars is owned by Sittway locals and is constructing the market together with Golden Green Energy Co. on a 50-50 basis sharing the total construction cost estimated to be more than Ks7 billion.

The market complex is three-acres wide and will house government and public banks. Shops will also be constructed in the market compound. The



Scale model of Mayyu Market. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

three-storey market is a reinforced concrete building with four escalators and two lifts and is expected to be completed in mid-2019.

Western Shining Stars Public Co. chairman U Kyaw Yin said the project will bring Sittway in line with most other states and regions that have modern shopping malls and supermarkets. Once the modern market is completed it is

expected to become the central place for business in Sittway.

The authorities had set the project period at 30 months, the market is targeted to complete in two years. The company set up a temporary market in the Lawkananda Pagoda compound to cater to the vendors and shop owners of the old market while the new market is under construction.—Maung Sein Lwin ■

# President U Htin Kyaw sends Worker's Day message

The following is an unofficial translation of the Message of Greetings sent by President U Htin Kyaw on the occasion of Worker's Day which falls on 1st May 2017

## Dear Respected Workers,

On International Worker's Day which falls on 1st May 2017, I wish to send this Message of Greetings and good wishes not only to all the workers of Myanmar but also to all Myanmar workers in all the countries of the world for their health and happiness.

Today our Government has reformed the administrative style and procedures and has worked for all round development and as workers play a vital role in national progress and development; we are working in cooperation with employers, workers and various allied organizations being a government based on social justice in workers affairs.

National development and good labor relations in the workplace are interdependent. That is why we need to work to ensure that service contracts are signed when workers are employed in factories and work places, employer/employee associations are formed in accordance with the respective laws, and that the occurrence of workers disputes are reduced. Our production will increase and we will reach our goal of socio-economic development only if we have good employer-employee relations, mutual respect and trust and work in unity. That is why we are now conducting National Level Tripartite Meetings comprising the Union Govern-

ment, workers and employers on an accelerated basis.

## Dear respected workers,

For the labour laws to be in conformity with international and regional standards, we have sought the advice of ILO - International Labour Organization and local/foreign experts during the process of reviewing and amending the current laws. In addition, as we do not have laws for safety and health in the workplace, foreign workers law, we are working for the codification and legislation of these new laws

The Union Government has established Labour Exchange Offices for registration of workers and assisting them to get access to employers; for those in remote places, Mobile Teams are conducting field visits and assisting them. Furthermore, we have organized job fairs in consultation with employers to help workers get employment.

To help solve problems of migrant workers, we have opened "Myanmar Migrant Workers' Reporting Counters" at the Yangon International Airport and we are trying to protect and help to the best of our ability. In addition "Migrant Resource Centers - MRC" have been opened in States and Regions and work is being done to ensure the safety of migrant workers. Not only that, Labour Attaches have been appointed to work in Republic of Korea, Thailand and



Malaysia and they are assisting and solving problems for Myanmar workers working in those countries.

On the other hand, we have been conducting national level skills testing and issuing certificates; for upgrading the professional level of workers and enhancing their competitiveness within the ASEAN region, we have also opened on-the-job training courses.

## Dear respected workers,

As we have been implementing the Myanmar Program on Elimination of Child Labour - MY-PEC from 2014 to 2017 as

a Four Year Program, we were able to issue a detailed report on 10 February 2017 based on the analysis of the labour force and child labour entry of children into the labour force after leaving school.

In accordance with the Social Security Law, to give social security protection to workers, six types of insurance schemes have been established. Out of this, three insurance schemes are being implemented and a Social Security Program to provide social protection and health care is being implemented.

To ensure that workers are getting their rights in the work-

places, qualified inspectors are working all over the country to educate employers and workers and also taking legal action when necessary.

In accordance with the amended Labor Organization Law, we now have Labor Organizations which have been formed freely by workers themselves by drawing up their own constitutions and work programs, with full freedom of operation. The organizations have been formed for the benefit their own organization, own community of workers and for members' benefit. It is necessary to note carefully that these organizations have been formed not for personal benefit or for taking political advantage.

## Dear respected workers,

In working for the development of a country with the labor of workers, just as the force of workers is vital, we cannot deny the fact that we cannot do without employers who are partners and who provide jobs. I need hardly emphasize that the harmonious effort of these two partners will bring forth national development. That is why as I send this message of greetings, I urge you strongly to work in unison with equal force for national development by taking the example of other countries where workers and employers are working in unity and cooperation.

## Paper reading sessions, book festival continues

THE second day of paper reading sessions on translated literature and a summer book festival was held at Central Press of the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road in Yangon yesterday.

Dr. Myint Zan and Dr. Zaw Htun were chairmen of the second-day morning paper reading session, where resource persons Daw Khin Phone Yi (Natmauk A

Ni Cho) and U Win Htun (Maung Winthu) read papers titled "Children's literature and translation technique" and "Points to be aware of in translation" and answered questions raised by participants.

In the afternoon session, U Khin Maung Soe (Maung Thamanya) and U Aye Maung Kyaw were chairmen and resource persons U Nyo Htun (Min Tin),



U Win Htun (Maung Winthu)

U Maung Maung Sein (Dinovo) and U Khin Maung Myint (Pantanaw Khin Maung Myint)

read papers titled "Transition period and political literature," "translating fiction (or) cultural pollination" and "Studying translated books on mineral resources of Myanmar" and answered to the questions raised by the participants.

The paper reading sessions will continue on 1st May and resource persons U Ye Htut (Thanyin Maung Wint Wah), U Maung

Maung Oo (Hein Latt), Ye Myint Kyaw, U Hla Myint and Dr. Sein Myint will read papers on related sectors.

While the paper reading sessions were conducted, a summer book festival was held on the ground and first floor of Central Press and were thronged with monks, book lovers and shoppers.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Google's search for non-ad revenue puts spotlight on cloud, Pixel

MOUNTAIN VIEW, California — Alphabet Inc's non-advertising business, which houses its cloud unit, Pixel smartphones and the Play store, has long been sandwiched between Google's advertising juggernaut and its moonshot ventures that have captured popular imagination.

The business, categorized as "Other Revenue" in its earnings report, posted a 49.4 per cent jump in revenue to \$3.10 billion on Thursday — a sum already bigger than Twitter Inc's annual revenue.

The business now represents about 13 per cent of Alphabet's total revenue, compared with 10 per cent a year earlier.

That may not be a big jump but definitely shines a light on Google's efforts to cut down its dependence on revenue from advertising, where it competes with Facebook Inc.

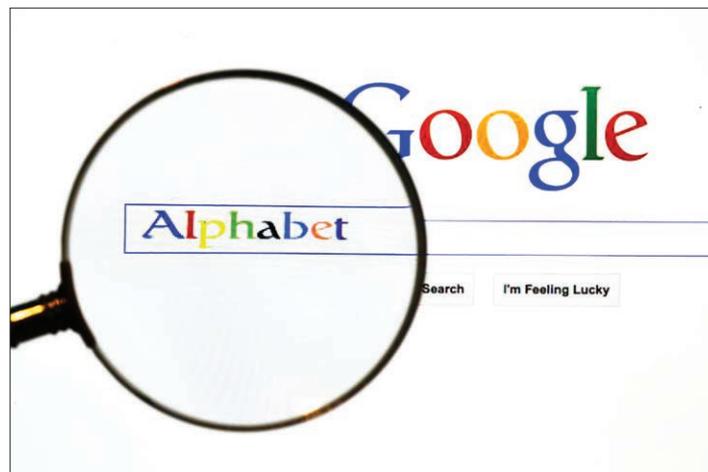
"(Google) is doing a good job, a much better job in diversifying revenue than Facebook is," said analyst James Wang of ARK Investment Management. "We think that is quite an impressive achievement."

Alphabet does not break out revenue contribution within the "Other Revenue" segment. But analysts have said that cloud is the most prominent among the category's clutch of businesses.

To be sure, Google's cloud venture is still much smaller than market leader Amazon.com Inc's Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Corp's Azure.

But Google is investing heavily.

"In Q1, our largest growth in headcount and capital expenditure was in cloud," Google Chief Executive Sundar Pichai said on



A Google search page is seen through a magnifying glass in this photo illustration taken in Berlin on 11 August, 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

a call with analysts on Thursday.

Amazon's cloud business grew 43 per cent to \$3.66 billion in the first quarter. Microsoft's cloud unit grew 93 per cent.

"We believe Google will continue to gain traction in the cloud market, and when combined with Google Play and sales of Google's hardware products, we see Google's 'other' revenue growing 38 per cent to nearly \$14 billion in 2017," Morningstar analyst Ali Mogharabi wrote in a client note.

The company's hardware business also started gaining traction after Google released a pair of high-profile hardware products last year — the Pixel phone and the Google Home, a smart speaker like Amazon's Echo.

"People are hankering for a really awesome Android phone that basically gives them the iPhone experience," Wang said, adding that the growth in Google's "other revenue" bucket this quarter "shows sustained momentum for the

Pixel."

Still, the lion's share of Alphabet's revenue comes from ads and that's not going to change any time soon.

Total advertising revenue increased 18.8 per cent to \$21.1 billion in the first quarter, the company reported on Thursday.

Profit also rose 29 per cent to \$5.43 billion, beating Wall Street estimates.

At least 10 brokerages raised their price targets on the stock after the earnings report.

Alphabet's drive for diversification also includes its "Other Bets" business, considered the company's loss-making arm.

The business, home to the Waymo self-driving car, Google Fiber and thermostat-maker Nest, posted a first-quarter loss of \$855 million.

Google's shares were up 4.6 per cent at a record high of \$932.73 on Friday morning. They have gained 12.5 per cent this year up to Thursday's close.

—Reuters ■

## Turkey blocks access to Wikipedia

ISTANBUL — Turkey has blocked online encyclopedia Wikipedia, the telecommunications watchdog said on Saturday, citing a law allowing it to ban access to websites deemed obscene or a threat to national security.

The move is likely to further worry rights groups and Turkey's Western allies, who say Ankara has sharply curtailed freedom of speech and other basic rights in the crackdown that followed last year's failed coup.

"After technical analysis and legal consideration ... an administrative measure has been taken for this website (Wikipedia.Org)," the BTK telecommunications watchdog said in a statement on its website.

It cited a law that allows it to block access to individual web pages or entire websites for the protection of public order, national security or the well-being of the public.

Turkey's communications ministry said Wikipedia was attempting to run a "smear campaign" against Turkey, saying some articles purported that Ankara was coordinating with militant groups, state-run Anadolu news agency reported.

"Instead of coordinating against terrorism, it has become part of an information source which is running a smear campaign against Turkey in the international arena," Anadolu quoted the ministry as saying in a statement. The ban would be lifted if Wikipedia met the government's demands, Anadolu said.

Under the law, the watchdog is required to submit its ban to a court within 24 hours. The court then has two days to de-

cide whether the ban should be upheld.

A block on all language editions of the Wikipedia website was detected at 8:00 am (1.00 am ET) on Saturday, monitoring group Turkey Blocks said on its website.

"The loss of availability is consistent with internet filters used to censor content in the country," it said.

When attempting to access the webpage using Turkish internet providers, users received a notice the site could not be reached and a "connection timed out" error.

Monitoring groups have accused Turkey of blocking access to social media sites such as Twitter or Facebook, particularly in the aftermath of militant attacks. The government has in the past denied blocking access to some sites, blaming outages on spikes in usage after major events. But technical experts at watchdog groups say the blackouts on social media are intentional, aimed in part at stopping the spread of militant images and propaganda.

Since last year's failed coup, authorities have sacked or suspended more than 120,000 people from the civil service, police and judiciary and arrested more than 40,000 on suspicion of ties to terrorist groups.

President Tayyip Erdogan says the measures are needed given the scope of the security threat Turkey faces.

Turkey last year jailed 81 journalists, making it the world's top jailer of journalists, according to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists. —Reuters ■

## Hot earnings to keep fire under growth — stock rally

NEWYORK — Don't look for the outperformance of growth stocks to fade any time soon, as long as corporate earnings continue to improve and hopes remain for stronger economic growth.

The Russell 1000 Growth index RLG, which tracks such shares, is up 10.9 per cent so far this year, outpacing the US benchmark S&P 500 stock index's 6.6 per cent rise and the 2.8 per cent advance of the Russell 1000 Value index RLV.

And it's not just a US phenom-

enon. Growth stocks — whose profits are expected to grow at a faster pace than the broader market — are also outperforming their value counterparts in Asia and Europe. Still, the appeal of riskier stocks perceived as better positioned to ride an accelerating global earnings tailwind, as opposed to those with a greater cushion of safety, is nowhere as far ahead as it is on Wall Street.

In the United States, an improving outlook for corporate earnings should help keep

growth names in vogue, according to John Praveen, chief investment strategist at Prudential International Investments Advisers LLC in Newark, New Jersey.

The average estimate of analysts for earnings per share growth this year of S&P 500 companies has risen to 11.3 per cent from 10.9 per cent at the start of the month, according to Thomson Reuters data, a trend that should continue to blunt concerns about lofty growth valuations.

"When you have an earnings recovery, growth stocks will outperform. When you don't have good earnings, that's when people are looking for value," said Praveen.

Hopes for pro-business US policy changes under the administration of President Donald Trump will likely also keep expectations for economic growth elevated, helping to maintain the case for growth stocks.

"The value stocks have done okay but growth has done so

much better in the anticipation we'll see a pickup in economic growth," said Paul Nolte, portfolio manager at Kingsview Asset Management in Chicago. "Companies that are going to be more levered to economic growth tend to be growth stocks."

"Right now I don't see a long term condition for value stocks to outperform growth," said Nolte.

To be sure, some strategists are less convinced that growth stock outperformance will continue indefinitely.—Reuters ■



Myanmar farmers harvest rice in Kangyidauk in Ayeyarwady delta. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR/GNLM

## Rice price rises with foreign demand

WITH high foreign demand and erratic weather, the price of rice has risen during the post-Thingyan period.

The price is up by about Ks1,500 per bag of low-quality

rice, ranging from Ks16,500 to Ks21,000.

Similarly, high-quality rice also shows an increase of around Ks5,000 a bag, according to the rice depot.

The export volume rose pre-Thingyan with Sri Lanka and China demanding more rice.

But untimely rain during the Thingyan Festival hiked up

the price of rice, according to Myanmar Rice Federation.

The lack of grain dryers also resulted in a decrease in production, said rice merchants. —Ko Htet ■

## About 75 tonnes of honey exported to China in April

ABOUT 75 tonnes of honey worth US\$52,500 were exported to China through the 105th Mile trade camp in April, according to the Mandalay Region Apiculture Enterprise.

Myanmar's honey has previously been exported to Japan, Thailand and China. The honey market has now extended to America and Canada. Efforts are currently being exerted for Myanmar's honey to penetrate the EU market. America and

Japan offer a good price for Myanmar's honey, according to producers.

Myanmar yearly produces 5,000 tonnes of honey, with over 3,500 metric tonnes flowing into international markets.

The honey season in Myanmar is from September to May. In the 2014-15 Fiscal Year, a total of 3,551 tonnes were exported. The previous year, only 2,490 tonnes of honey were exported. All these exports were

handled by the 13 Myanmar companies that own about 120,000 hives in the country, according to a local source.

In 2015-16 FY, exporters only shipped out roughly 2,000 tonnes, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. The honey fetches up to US\$700 per tonne in the international honey market, it is learnt.

Beekeeping enterprises are mostly found in Mandalay,

Sagaing and Magwe regions and Shan State. There are a total of about 80,000 hives in Mandalay Region and around 150,000 hives across the country, according to the Apiculture Enterprise.

Honey is locally utilised as a traditional medicine, whereas it is used a substitute for sugar in the foreign countries. Because people believe that honey has medicinal qualities, it is highly valued. —Ko Khant ■

## Border trade in first week of April fetched over US\$140million

THE value of border trade with neighbouring countries from 1st to 7th April amounted to US\$142.68 million, which is up by over US\$40 million compared to the same period last year, according to statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar is conducting border trade with neighbouring countries via 16 border trade camps: trading with

China through Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung, with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Maese and Mawtaung border gates. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittwe and Maungtau. Out of those 16 border trade camps, Lweje, Chin Shwe

Haw, Keng Tung, Sittwe and Tamu shows a slight decrease in trade value, whereas the remaining are found to have increase the trade value.

In the first week of this FY, Muse camp performed the largest amount of trade with a trade value of over US\$90million, followed by Myawady with over US\$24million. Meanwhile, the normal trade fetched

nearly US\$200million that exhibits an increase of over US\$120 million against that of last FY. The external trade from 1st to 7th April this FY totaled US\$ 731.913million, which is up by over US\$164million when compared to that in the similar point of last FY, according to the statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry. — Mon Mon ■

## Japan's IHI opens concrete factory in Myanmar

JAPAN'S IHI Corp. held an opening ceremony Sunday for its heavy concrete factory in Myanmar, becoming the first Japanese plant producing pre-stressed concrete products in the Southeast Asia's newest emerging market.

The Tokyo-based heavy industry company, in partnership with Myanmar's Construction Ministry, opened the \$12.2 million facility in the Myaungdagar Steel Industrial Zone in Hmawbi, located about 50 kilometers north of the country's commercial capital Yangon.

The factory is operating under I&H Engineering Co., a joint venture between the ministry's Highways Department and IHI Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd., the Japanese company's Singapore subsidiary. The facility built on a 65,272-square-meter plot and already operating with over 60 workers since earlier this month, has an annual capacity to produce 50,000 to 70,000 tons of pre-stressed concrete products such as bridge girder and spun pile, according to the company. Speaking at the ceremony, IHI President Tsugio Mitsuoka said a steady supply of concrete is crucial for Myanmar as new infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges and buildings are indispensable for its future development.

He said there is great potential demand for pre-stressed concrete products in Myanmar, which like Japan is prone to earthquakes.

Construction Minister Win Khaing said that the Japanese factory is much welcomed, as is the transfer of advanced technology that would help the domestic construction industry.

"Japan is one of the most supportive and friendly countries to Myanmar for our private and public sectors," he added.

Within a few weeks, the factory will begin supplying pre-stressed concrete products to a Japanese-financed port project linked to the Japan-backed Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Yangon's southern outskirts, according to company officials. —Kyodo News ■

# ASEAN leaders share concern over regional threats to peace, stability

MANILA — Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations shared concern at a summit on Saturday in Manila about threats to regional peace and stability, particularly on the Korean Peninsula.

Referring to North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons programmes, the leaders of the 10-member regional bloc expressed "grave concern over recent developments in the Korean Peninsula," according to the ASEAN chairman's statement released Sunday morning.

North Korea's actions, including two nuclear tests in 2016 and subsequent test firings of ballistic missiles, "have resulted in an escalation of tensions that can affect peace and stability in the entire region," it said.

The leaders urged North Korea to "immediately comply fully with its obligations arising from all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and stressed the importance of exercising self-restraint in the interest of maintaining peace, security and stability in the region and the world."



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte holds a press conference in Manila on 29 April, 2017, following a one-day summit there of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

They also reiterated their "full support for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" and called on "concerned parties to explore all avenues for immediate dialogue."

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who chaired the summit, said at the meeting's closing press conference, "We exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest and concern... We had engaged in a productive and fruitful deliberation of ASEAN's

work in the community building process."

"We acknowledged the importance of ASEAN cooperation in addressing issues that affect peace, security and prosperity of the region including terrorism, violent extremism, piracy, human trafficking and illegal drugs," he said.

Duterte and some ASEAN foreign ministers said the leaders agreed that the United States should tone down its confrontational stance toward

North Korea and give China the chance to rein it in.

According to ASEAN sources, Duterte told his counterparts in the closed-door plenary session that the United States should withdraw from confronting North Korea and allow China to handle the situation, while calling for Beijing to urge North Korea to stop "saber-rattling with nuclear weapons."

Duterte said if the current tensions lead to nuclear war, "no one will win," the sources said.

On the issue of territorial disputes in the South China Sea, Duterte said at the closing press conference that ASEAN leaders hope to have achieved a framework on a proposed code of conduct before the end of this year.

Duterte earlier Saturday called for "peaceful resolution of disputes" and respect for rule of law, saying, "In an era where there can be much uncertainty, we must faithfully adhere to the supremacy of the law and rely on the primacy of rules as responsible members of the international community."

The chairman's statement

says the leaders were committed to peaceful resolution of disputes, "including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force."

ASEAN member states Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam have claims that overlap those of China in the South China Sea through which much international commerce passes, and where marine resources, and potentially oil and gas deposits, are abundant.

China continues to reject a ruling issued by an international arbitration court in The Hague last year that invalidated its sweeping claims over almost the entire South China Sea, though Duterte's administration has opted not to push for China's compliance, in the hope of forging closer economic ties.

China has reclaimed land in the South China Sea and built facilities on it, including those military in nature, despite a 2002 agreement with ASEAN not to change the status quo in the area.—Reuters ■

## Bangladesh and its South Asian neighbours need to develop container ports: World Bank report

DHAKA — Bangladesh and its South Asian neighbours can make their container ports more efficient in order to grab a bigger share of international trade and create more jobs, a World Bank report said.

This can be achieved through boosting private sector participation, improving governance and encouraging competition, said the report released on Thursday.

While noting that Bangladesh and South Asia have had impressive economic growth in the last two decades, the new report Competitiveness of South Asia's Container Ports shows that inefficiencies in the region's ports threaten to hinder progress and stop it from matching other regions like

East Asia.

The report found that if ports in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan had been as efficient as those of Sri Lanka it could have cut shipping costs by up to nearly 9 per cent, boosting the value of the region's exports by up to 7 per cent.

"As China is shifting out of labor-intensive sectors such as apparel, Bangladesh has the potential to capture a growing share of the global market. And improving the performance of Bangladesh's container ports is a key step toward increasing trade and creating new jobs for the country's growing labor force," said Fan Qimiao, World Bank country director for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.—Xinhua ■

## China-built amphibious aircraft takes maiden flight — Xinhua

BEIJING — China's domestically developed AG600, the world's largest amphibious aircraft, took its maiden flight ahead of schedule on Saturday from the southern city of Zhuhai, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

The AG600 was designed to extinguish forest fires and carry out rescue missions at sea, Xinhua said on Saturday, adding that it could also "be used to monitor and protect the ocean."

The seaplane's maiden flight comes amid China's increasing assertiveness to its territorial claims in the disputed South China Sea where it is building airfields and deploying military equipment, rattling nerves in the Asia-Pacific region and the United States.



Officials of Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) unveil the newly-made nose of amphibious aircraft AG600, during a ceremony at a factory in Chengdu, Sichuan province on 17 March, 2015.

**PHOTO: REUTERS**

China is in the midst of a massive military modernisation programme, ranging from testing anti-satellite missiles to building stealth fighters and the country's first indigenous

aircraft carrier, to add to an existing one bought from Ukraine.

Xinhua initially reported in March that the AG600 would take its maiden flight in late May.—Reuters ■

# South Korea says US reaffirms it will pay THAAD costs; joint drills wrap up

SEOUL — South Korea said the United States had reaffirmed it would shoulder the cost of deploying the THAAD anti-missile system, days after President Donald Trump said Seoul should pay for the \$1-billion battery designed to defend against North Korea.

In a telephone call on Sunday, Trump's national security adviser, HR McMaster, reassured his South Korean counterpart, Kim Kwan-jin, that the US alliance with South Korea was its top priority in the Asia-Pacific region, the South's presidential office said.

The conversation followed another North Korean missile test-launch on Saturday which Washington and Seoul said was unsuccessful, but which drew widespread international condemnation.

Trump, asked about his message to North Korea after the latest missile test, told reporters: "You'll soon find out", but did not elaborate on what the US response would be.

Trump's comments in an interview with Reuters on Thursday that he wanted Seoul



A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor (R) is seen in Seongju, South Korea on 26 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

to pay for the THAAD deployment perplexed South Koreans and raised questions about his commitment to the two countries' alliance.

South Korean officials responded that the cost was for Washington to bear, under the

bilateral agreement.

"National Security Adviser HR McMaster explained that the recent statements by President Trump were made in a general context, in line with the US public expectations on defence cost burden-sharing with allies,"

South Korea's Blue House said in a statement, adding that McMaster requested the call.

Major elements of the advanced Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system were moved into the planned site in Seongju, in the south of

the country, this week.

The deployment has drawn protests from China, which says the powerful radar which can penetrate its territory will undermine regional security, and from local residents worried they will be a target for North Korean missiles.

About 300 residents rallied on Sunday as two US Army lorries tried to enter the THAAD deployment site. Video provided by villagers showed protesters blocking the road with a car and chanting slogans such as "Don't lie to us! Go back to your country!"

Police said they had sent about 800 officers to the site and two residents were injured during clashes with them.

South Korea and the United States say the sole purpose of THAAD is to guard against North Korean missiles.

The United States is seeking more help from China, the North's major ally, to rein in Pyongyang's nuclear and missile development. Trump, in the Reuters interview, praised Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping as a "good man".—Reuters ■

## Japan issues 1<sup>st</sup> order to protect US ships amid N Korea tension

TOKYO — Japan has issued its first order for forces to protect US military vessels since new security legislation was enacted last year, Japanese government sources said Sunday, amid heightened tension on the Korean Peninsula.

Defence Minister Tomomi Inada ordered the dispatch of the Maritime Self-Defence Force helicopter carrier Izumo on Monday to protect a US Navy supply vessel in the Pacific, the sources said.

The United States has sent the Navy's Carl Vinson carrier strike group to waters near the Korean Peninsula, amid signs North Korea could test-fire more missiles or conduct a nuclear test.

North Korea test-fired a bal-

istic missile Saturday, in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. The US aircraft carrier arrived in the Sea of Japan on the same day and conducted a joint drill with MSDF destroyers and another one with South Korea's navy. The sources said the Izumo will leave Yokosuka base in Kanagawa, southwest of Tokyo, on Monday morning, and join the supply ship off the Boso Peninsula in Chiba, east of the capital. The vessels will sail to the Shikoku region in western Japan.

It was not immediately known whether the Izumo will guard one or more supply ships.

The supply ship, meanwhile, is expected to refuel other US vessels, currently on standby in wa-

ters near Japan for further missile test-firings by Pyongyang, as well as ships sailing with the Carl Vinson. Guarding other countries' vessels is part of the Self-Defence Forces' expanded responsibilities under the security legislation that came into force in March last year to increase Japan's role in global security.

The SDF were previously prevented from protecting allied forces as their use of weapons was restricted to self-defence.

Critics argue that the legislation erodes Japan's post-war pacifist Constitution and may embroil Japanese troops in overseas military actions for the first time since World War II.—Kyodo News ■

## Trump, Duterte discuss N Korea threat, war on drugs

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte discussed the threat posed by North Korea and the two countries' shared objective of eliminating the scourge of illicit drugs, during telephone conversation on Saturday, the White House said.

Trump also told Duterte in their "very friendly" conversation that he looks forward to visiting the Philippines in November for the annual East Asia Summit and another summit between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, it said in a statement. The Philippines this year holds the chair of ASEAN, which is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> founding year. Trump again invited Duterte to visit Washington "to discuss the importance of the United States-Philippines

alliance, which is now heading in a very positive direction," the White House said. Under Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, US-Philippine relations had nose-dived after the US side criticized Duterte's bloody anti-drug crackdown, which has led to the deaths of thousands of suspects, on human rights grounds. Infuriated, Duterte had accused the United States of treating Filipinos like "dogs on a leash" and vowed to realign Philippine foreign policy, pivoting it toward China and Russia. But bilateral tensions have greatly eased since Trump took office January.

The statement said Trump and Duterte "discussed the fact that the Philippine government is fighting very hard to rid its country of drugs, a scourge that affects many countries throughout the world."—Kyodo News ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Good start will lead to goal of safe work sites

Aye Min Soe

The government, workers and employer representatives in Myanmar are celebrating May Day today, a commemoration of the achievements of the labour movement.

History has unfortunately witnessed 20-hour working days in the 1800s and the inhumane employment of children. Dissatisfied with the situation of workers, an effort to officially recognise an 8-hour working day was launched in Chicago, Illinois in the United States in 1886. As a result, the standard working hour for workers was set at eight hours per day and 40 hours per week. To honour the efforts of the workers, International Workers Day has been celebrated yearly since then for over 120 years.

For Myanmar workers, May Day is also a meaningful and auspicious occasion, as G7 selected Myanmar about

three months ago as their first country for development programmes, focusing on several issues including the prevention of work-related accidents, insurance and compensation, rehabilitation as well as capacity building programmes in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

Myanmar is marching towards a peaceful and safe working environment with good relations among the tripartite force of the government, employees and employers. This will enable workers to enjoy the legal rights, be assured of a safe work site and work culture to mitigate workplace injuries, create job opportunities at home and abroad, introduce safe labour migration, conduct on-the-job training to be able to strengthen competitiveness among workers, implement a social welfare plan which will provide social protection and healthcare to workers with social welfare insurance,

and settle labour disputes through the tripartite system based on free and fair negotiations. Moreover, obsolete laws will be revoked, repealed or amended.

For achieving the goal of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), we should pay attention to the capacity-building of the officials and worksite safety and health of workers at small and medium enterprises and to assist in OHS at factories with large labour forces such as garment factories.

Meanwhile, when we formulate policy, we should also take into consideration workers at the basic level such as in the municipal services and mining sectors.

Myanmar still faces problems, and there is a long way to go before the country achieves the well-resourced industrial relations system that it needs. But government, workers and employers can be proud of the very good start they have made. ■

## The Campbell Institute: 4 principles of workplace safety

The Campbell Institute at the National Safety Council is the EHS center of excellence. Built on the belief that EHS is at the core of business vitality, the Institute seeks to help organizations, of all sizes and sectors, achieve and sustain excellence. Learn more at the Campbell Institute website.



Amy May

I jump out of bed every day. I'm not kidding – after 20 years in Boeing EHS, I love going to work in the morning. Because we are making a difference for our teammates, their families and our communities, and it's too exciting to miss.

When I started my career, I had to explain what an ergonomist did and even help pronounce it (“er-gone-o-mist,” “er-go-nom-ics”). Since then, we've made countless safety improvements to our vast portfolio of industrial processes.

Boeing's safety vision is rooted in our culture. Building on our core values for product safety, Boeing's workplace safety initiative, called “Go for Zero – One Day at a Time,” codified four guiding principles as the foundation of all we do:

We value human life and well-being above all else and take action accordingly. In addition to our efforts directly related to safety, as one of the National Business Group on Health's “Best Employers for Healthy Lifestyles,” we emphasize well-being beyond workplace injuries. Often, employees' safety risk can be minimized through stress management and a healthy lifestyle, and I appreciate Boeing's proactive measures to improve

employees' overall health.

All incidents, injuries and workplace illnesses are preventable. Boeing strives to apply its engineering and design expertise to greatly reduce safety risks for our employees, particularly those employees who work in manufacturing. One of my favorite programs is at Boeing in South Carolina.

It places engineers “in the shoes” of the manufacturing technicians to identify and make improvements in how work is performed. Through this new perspective, engineering design teams have developed new ergonomic tools and improved standard work processes that are eliminating hazards.

We are personally accountable for our own – and collectively responsible for each other's – safety. Boeing encourages its employees to “own” their safety and look out for their teammates. Some employees, such as quality test specialist Roger Grenier, excel in modeling safety leadership and personal accountability. I am in awe of his commitment to safety. In one year alone, Roger shared hundreds of safety tips and improvements, mitigated a number of potential safety risks, and developed badge extenders with emergency care information. As a result of his exceptional leadership, Roger was honored as Boeing's first “Safety Champion” in 2016.

By committing to safety first, we advance our goals for quality, cost and schedule. Producing mammoth flying machines in a manner that meets our customers' needs requires a full-time

commitment to safety, quality and productivity. On the 777 jetliner production line, a team of engineers and factory mechanics developed a revolutionary solution for moving and installing heavy power panels, a contributor to employee injuries. Using rail systems to transfer a heavy load through a tight space without manual lifting, this improvement substantially lowered the risk of injuries and generated significant gains in productivity. During safety culture workshops, teams develop lists of reasons why we cannot reach our zero-injury goal, detailing why the challenge is too difficult. Next, they develop a list of why we will be injury-free. I am always inspired by the reinforcement of a commitment to safety as they discuss their shorter, but incredibly meaningful list of the values that outweigh the obstacles we face.

What we do as EHS professionals is challenging. After 20 years in safety, I look at each challenge as an invitation to recommit to my work. It has been my privilege to witness – and sometimes participate in – many safety innovations. When I started at Boeing, ergonomics was just beginning to re-engineer the workplace. Today, we champion other safety transformations, like automation. The decisions we make today can make a real difference as our next chapter unfolds, for generations to come – and that's worth leaping out of bed for every day. ■

Amy May is the director of workplace safety for The Boeing Co., a member of the Campbell Institute at the National Safety Council. May is a Certified Professional Ergonomist.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits GROB Aircraft Company in Memmingen. PHOTO: MNA

## SG Min Aung Hlaing concludes Germany visit

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived back Yangon yesterday evening after concluding his visit to Germany.

The Senior General and party were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, German Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch and officials.

Commander-in-Chief of De-

fence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited GROB Aircraft Company in Memmingen, Germany on 29 April. The Senior General and party were briefed by the company CEO Mr. Andre Hiebeler of the processes conducted by the company, high technology air, ground and sea surveillance networks and manufacturing of aircrafts.

Afterward the Senior General and party viewed the construction of the aircraft engine, body,

wing construction and various stages of aircraft construction.

The Senior General and party then viewed the GROB Reconnaissance System, Flight Stimulator Demonstration and the demonstration flights of G-120 TP and G-520T aircrafts produced by GROB Aircraft Company.

Later in the evening, the Senior General and party flew from Frankfurt International Airport, Germany. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Launching of the JMC Support Platform at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

## JMC to establish 10 local offices

JMC Support Platform launched at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday, with announcement for establishing 10 local level offices of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-L).

At the launching ceremony, Lt-Gen Yar Pyai, Chairman of the Union-level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) clarified the future plans of the JMC-U.

“This ceremony is held to launch the cash assistance from the UN. We received the fund and we will hold a meeting every two week and will

carry out our works decided by the representatives,” said Col Wunna Aung, Secretary-2 of the JMC-U.

He continued to say that landmine clearing project will launch in Kayin State proposed by the representatives of the Tatmadaw.

JMC set up a budget of US\$6.5 million for the first year contributed by international countries, said Dr Shwe Khah, Secretary-1 of the JMC-U. Representatives of the JMC will hold a meeting next week to discuss for establishment of 10 local level offices of the JMC. —Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

## Old, new outstanding students share knowledge

A meeting and knowledge sharing event between outstanding students and Luyechun students were held in Nyaungshwe and Ngwesaung yesterday separately.

Luyechun is an organisation of former top students from 1964 to 1988 that holds conferences and makes charitable contributions.

At BEHS (1) of Nyaungshwe yesterday morning, two experts gave talks titled “Climate Change and Environmental Conservation” and “Agricultural development and tasks carried out by the department for the long-term preservation of Inle Lake” separately. Old outstanding student (Luyechun) shared their knowledge and experience to the younger students. At the Pale Ngwesaung resort hotel in Ngwesaung, old outstanding



Luyechun students arrive Bagan on 30 April. PHOTO: MNA

students (Luyechun) from 1964 to 1988 also shared their knowledge and experiments about volunteering and how the team of Luyechun was organized.

Later, all the outstanding students differentiated into 18 groups and competed for the quiz and puzzle games.—Htien Htet Zaw and Min Thit ■

## Construction Minister inspects housing projects

U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction, visited the construction sites of Thilawa Special Economic Zone Housing being developed by the Urban and Housing Development Department on Saturday in order to make an inspection on the current condition of the project, housing development activities and ongoing plans.

Afterward, the Union Minister met with the developers at the workshop of Aung Chantha housing phase 2 and said negotiations with entrepreneurs will be held for the needs of the project. The Union Minister encouraged them to finalise the project in the prescribed terms and conditions and meet the criteria for construction. And then, he visited and observed Yuzana

housing construction phases 1, 2 and 3 and Kanaung housing, which has been completed.

Yuzana housing Phase 1 is comprised of 864 units contained in 12 four-storey buildings with six units on each floor and 18 four-storey buildings of eight rooms on each floor. Phase 2 includes 1,152 rooms in 40 buildings, including 12 four-storey buildings with six rooms on each floor and 28 four-storey buildings with eight rooms on each floor. Phase 3 consists of 1,576 units with 40 five-storey buildings with eight units on each floor.

After inspecting the project site of Yadana Hninsi housing in Dagon Seikkan Township and discuss the project activities with entrepreneurs. —Myanmar News Agency ■

# British PM May braces for difficult Brexit negotiations

LONDON/BRUSSELS — British Prime Minister Theresa May expects divorce talks with the European Union to be difficult, she said on Sunday in response to the tough stance taken by EU leaders over the forthcoming Brexit negotiations.

EU leaders endorsed stiff divorce terms for Britain at a Brussels summit on Saturday, warning Britons to have “no illusions” about swiftly securing a new relationship to retain access to EU markets and to be prepared for the complexity of issues such as residency rights for EU citizens.

“What this shows, and what some of the other comments we’ve seen coming from European leaders shows, is that there are going to be times when these negotiations are going to be tough,” May told the BBC.

Brussels is concerned about the British government’s state of preparation for enormously complicated negotiations and over the degree of understanding in London of what kind of compromises it will have to make to clinch any kind of deal.

EU officials said that European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier’s talks with May in London on Wednesday did nothing to ease that concern.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, repeating a comment she made after Juncker’s meeting with May, said she was still

Britain’s Prime Minister Theresa May speaks on the BBC’s Marr Show in London on 30 April, 2017. PHOTO: INTERNET



worried by “illusions” in Britain about the Brexit talks.

May reaffirmed her position that she would be prepared to walk away from talks without a deal if she did not like what was on offer from Brussels.

“I wouldn’t have said it if I didn’t believe that,” May said in a separate interview with ITV television. “What I also believe is that, with the right strong hand in negotiations, we can get a good deal for the UK.”

May, who came to power after Britons decided last year to leave the EU, has called a national election in an attempt to win a public mandate and a bigger majority in parliament to help

to execute her plan to leave the EU’s single market and pursue a free trade deal with the bloc.

Many of her European counterparts question whether May really is prepared to take Britain into legal limbo on 30 March, 2019, if there is no deal. European Council President Donald Tusk has argued repeatedly that while such a move would be bad for the EU, it would be much costlier for Britain.

Nonetheless, leaders stated in their negotiating guidelines, approved within minutes at Saturday’s summit, that they would be prepared to deal with a situation in which talks collapse.

The Belgian prime minis-

ter warned colleagues against falling into a “trap” set by British negotiators trying to divide them, while others cautioned May that it was in Britain’s interests, too, to ensure the other 27 stick together.

Noting the unusually harmonious mood of the summit, Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny told reporters: “When the negotiations start and detailed, more complex discussions have to take place, obviously some countries will assign bigger priorities to different issues.

“So,” he added with a smile of understatement, “it won’t all be as calm and as measured as today.”—Reuters ■

## WORLD BRIEFS

Trump invites Philippines’ Duterte to Washington, White House says

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump invited Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte to the White House during a phone call on Saturday that also addressed concerns over North Korea, the White House said in a statement.

The White House gave no details of when the leaders would meet in Washington to discuss their alliance, but said Trump looked forward to visiting the Philippines in November as part of two summits with other Asian nations.—Reuters ■

British PM May sees lead over Labour fall by 10 points in a week — YouGov

LONDON — Britain’s governing Conservative party has seen its lead narrow considerably over the last week, a poll by YouGov showed on Sunday, the third poll of the weekend to show the party’s advantage over the opposition shrink.

British Prime Minister Theresa May’s Conservative party was set to garner 44 percent of the vote, the poll for the Sunday Times showed, still a commanding 13 point lead over Labour, who polled at 31 per cent.—Reuters ■

US, South Korea reaffirm existing pact on THAAD deployment cost — South Korea

SEOUL — South Korea said on Sunday US President Donald Trump’s national security adviser reaffirmed the two countries’ pre-existing agreement on the expenditure for the deployment of the THAAD anti-missile system.

In a telephone call on Sunday, HR McMaster reassured his South Korean counterpart, Kim Kwan-jin, that the United States’ alliance with South Korea was its top priority in the Asia-Pacific region, South Korea’s presidential office said.—Reuters ■

# Sudan cooperating with Chad and France over

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservative Christian Democrats have opened a seven-point lead over the centre-left Social Democrats five months ahead of the 24 September election, according to a poll on Sunday in the Bild am Sonntag newspaper.

The Emnid institute survey found the Christian Democrats and their Christian Social Union allies winning 36 per cent of the vote if the election were held on Sunday, unchanged from a simi-

lar Emnid poll for Bild am Sonntag taken a week ago. But the Social Democrats (SPD), led by their chancellor candidate Martin Schulz, continued to slide and lost two percentage points in the week to 29 per cent. The CDU/CSU long held a comfortable lead in polls until Schulz was nominated in early 2017 and lifted the SPD to the same levels as the CDU/CSU. The latest poll, taken just one week before an important state election in Schleswig-Holstein, also showed the CDU/

CSU’s preferred coalition partner, the Free Democrats (FDP), rising one point to 6 per cent in the last week.

The centre-right alliance would still be well short of winning a majority in parliament with 42 per cent. The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) would win 9 percent, unchanged over the week. All parties have said they will not join forces with the AfD, making it more difficult to form the next government.

The SPD’s preferred part-

ner, the Greens, rose 1 point to 7 per cent in the last week. The far-left Linke party would win an unchanged 9 per cent, according to the latest Emnid poll. The so-called “red-red-green” alliance of SPD, Linke and Greens would also fall short of a majority with 45 per cent. The CDU/CSU and SPD currently lead Germany in a grand coalition government. Both parties have said they do not want to continue that arrangement after the 24 September election.—Reuters ■

# US service member killed in blast near Mosul, Iraq

WASHINGTON — A US service member died of wounds caused by an explosive device outside the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Saturday, the US-led military coalition said.

A statement from Operation Inherent Resolve gave no other details.

US-backed forces have been fighting to retake the

Islamic State strongholds of Mosul.

News of the US casualty came as US President Donald Trump marked his first 100 days in office. During last year's presidential election campaign, Trump vowed to give priority to destroying Islamic State, which operates mostly in Syria and Iraq.—Reuters ■



An Iraqi man walks past buildings and cars which were destroyed during fighting between Iraqi forces and Islamic State fighters in eastern Mosul, Iraq on 30 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## US-backed militias claim big advance against IS in Syria's Tabqa

BEIRUT — US-backed militias said on Sunday they had made a big advance in Tabqa, a strategically vital town controlling Syria's largest dam, in their campaign to drive Islamic State from its stronghold of Raqqa, 40km (25 miles) downstream.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a group of Kurdish and Arab militias, will wait to assault Raqqa until it seizes Tabqa, its military officials have previously said, but it had made only slow progress since besieging the town early this month.

In a statement it circulated on social messaging sites, the SDF said it had captured six more districts of Tabqa and distributed a map showing that Islamic State now controlled only the northern

part of the town, next to the dam.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said the SDF had gained almost complete control over Tabqa in its advance.

Tabqa was isolated from Raqqa in late March after the United States helped the SDF carry out an airborne landing on the southern bank of the Euphrates, allowing it to capture the areas around the town, including an important airbase, and cut the road.

Islamic State still holds several Tabqa districts along the southern bank of Lake Assad and the southern section of the Euphrates dam, including its operations facilities and a hydro-electric power plant.

Raqqa now lies in an Islamic State enclave on the northern bank of the Euphrates that measures about 50km at its widest point on an east-west axis and 20km on its longest north-south axis, but with SDF salients stretching almost to the city.

Islamic State's only means of crossing to its main territory on the south bank of the Euphrates is by boat after aerial bombing put the region's bridges out of service.

The jihadist group still controls large swathes of Syria's Euphrates basin and its vast eastern deserts near the border with Iraq, but it has lost large tracts of its territory over the past year and many of its leaders have been killed.—Reuters ■



US military vehicles travel in the northeastern city of Qamishli, Syria on 29 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Iran satellite TV head shot dead in Istanbul — Dogan news

ISTANBUL — The head of an Iranian satellite television network channel who last year was sentenced in absentia to six years in prison by a Tehran court was shot dead in Istanbul together with a business partner, Turkey's Dogan news agency said on Sunday.

GEM TV founder Saeed Karimian and another Iranian were driving in Istanbul's Maslak neighbourhood after 8 pm (1700 GMT) on Saturday when their car was stopped by a jeep and shots were fired, Dogan said. Karimian was found dead by emergency services arriving at the scene, Dogan said. His associate was taken to hospital but could not be revived.

It was not clear if there were multiple shooters. The jeep was later found abandoned and burned. Istanbul police declined to comment on the shooting when contacted by Reuters.

Dogan quoted the mayor of Istanbul's Sariyer district as saying initial police findings suggested the shooting may have prompted by a financial disagreement involving Karimian.

GEM TV is known for entertainment satellite channels that dub foreign films and Western television programmes into Farsi for Iranians. It also produces movies and TV series.

But in Iran, where the government tries to instil Islamic values by strictly regulating popular culture, the satellite broadcaster's programming has angered authorities, who view it as part of a cultural "soft war" waged by the West.

Last year a Revolutionary Court in Tehran tried Karimian in absentia and sentenced him to six years in jail on charges of "acting against national security" and "propaganda against the state". —Reuters ■

## Eight Syria Civil Defence workers killed in air strike — statement

BEIRUT — Eight Syria Civil Defence workers died on Saturday when an air strike hit their office in northern Hama province, the rescue service said on its Twitter page.

Also known as the White Helmets, the civil defence rescue service operates in opposi-

tion-held parts of Syria.

The civil defence centre was in Kafr Zeita, a town in rebel-held northern Hama province, which came under intense aerial bombardment on Saturday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said.—Reuters ■

## Japanese, 1 American held in Germany over Internet drug sales

BERLIN — A pair of Japanese have been arrested in Germany along with an American citizen on suspicion of selling illegal drugs worth 2.3 million euros (\$2.5 million) on an underground Internet site, local media reported.

The three were identified as a 43-year-old man and a 40-year-old woman with Japanese nationality, and a 39-year-old American man. German authorities are also pursuing a 38-year-old Japanese woman in connection with the investigation.

The four are alleged to have sold cocaine and MDMA, a synthetic drug commonly known as Ecstasy, on around 20,000 occasions at an underground Internet site, with the Japanese man suspected of procuring the drugs, the American man taking charge of accounting and the two Japanese women handling packaging and shipping.

The authorities have searched a location in Berlin in connection with the case, seizing cocaine and marijuana in the raid, according to the media reports.—Kyodo News ■

### Notice on SHISEIDO business in Myanmar

Singapore Myanmar Investco has an exclusive agreement with Shiseido SAPAC Ltd under Singapore jurisdiction to arrange for the distribution and marketing of SHISEIDO products in Myanmar. Importation and distribution in Myanmar is done through an agreement with a Myanmar company, Royal Golden Sky Company Ltd.

Market rumours or suggestions that SMI has an 'agency' agreement with Shiseido Singapore Pte Ltd are factually incorrect. SMI is not the agent of Shiseido Singapore Pte Ltd in the Myanmar market, nor the importer of SHISEIDO products nor does SMI have, and indeed has never had, any contractual relationship with Shiseido Singapore Pte Ltd.

Singapore Myanmar Investco Ltd (Myanmar Branch Office)

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For STEPHENSON HARWOOD LLP



Marine Le Pen French National Front (FN) political party leader and candidate for French 2017 presidential election and Debout La France group former candidate Nicolas Dupont-Aignan attend a news conference in Paris, France, on 29 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## French voters sceptical Macron, Le Pen have answers on unemployment, security

PARIS — A week before a decisive second round in France's presidential election, many voters are sceptical that either of the two candidates can solve chronic unemployment or tackle security concerns, a poll published on Sunday found.

The Ifop survey for the Journal du Dimanche highlights two key battlegrounds as centrist presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron and far-right leader Marine Le Pen enter a final week of campaigning, expected to focus on France's economy and borders.

Polls predict Macron, a former economy minister, will win the 7 May run-off with about 59-60 per cent. But the momentum has recently been with Le Pen, who has clawed back about five percentage points over the past week.

According to the Ifop poll, 45 per cent of voters believe the two finalists would not put an end to unemployment, which has

for years stood close to 10 per cent in France. And 36 per cent say neither candidate is able to protect France from attacks.

France has been under a state of emergency since 2015 and has suffered a spate of Islamist militant attacks mostly perpetrated by young men who grew up in France and Belgium. More than 230 people have been killed in the past two years.

Days before the 23 April first round, a French policeman was shot dead and two others were wounded in central Paris in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group.

The outcome of the run-off will depend to a large extent on floating voters and potentially high levels of abstention.

In the first round, 22.2 per cent of voters abstained: The highest percentage since 2002 when Marine Le Pen's father, Jean-Marie, surged into the second round only to be defeated overwhelmingly by conservative

Jacques Chirac.

If turnout is low in the second round, analysts say Macron may struggle to reproduce the same broad movement against the National Front candidate, citing his mainly anti-establishment feeling has been on the rise in Europe and the United States.

Left-wing candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon, with 19.6 per cent of votes in the first round, has urged his supporters to oppose Le Pen but has refused to back Macron for the second round.

Le Pen travelled to Marseille on Sunday to speak on the environment, a key issue for Melenchon supporters, while Macron was expected to visit the Holocaust memorial in Paris later.

The Ifop poll found 42 percent of voters believe Macron and Le Pen would be unable to reunite the country after months of bitter campaigning, while 43 per cent questioned

whether they would be able to govern even after capturing the Elysee palace.

France returns to the polls in June to select members of the National Assembly, the lower house of parliament, where a majority is needed to push through government policies.

Both Macron, who launched a new party a year ago, and Le Pen, whose National Front has only two seats in the National Assembly, have faced questions about their ability to build a parliamentary majority.

Le Pen said on Saturday defeated right-wing candidate Nicolas Dupont-Aignan would be her prime minister if she wins.

Macron received support on Sunday from Jean-Louis Borloo, a previous leader of the UDI, a small centrist party, but has yet to say who he would ask to lead a government.— Reuters ■

# Trump celebrates first 100 days as president, blasts media

HARRISBURG, (Pa),—US President Donald Trump hit the road on Saturday to celebrate his first 100 days in the White House with cheering supporters at a campaign-style rally, touting his initial achievements and lashing out at critics who have given his tenure poor marks.

Trump told a Pennsylvania crowd he was just getting started on meeting his campaign promises. He repeatedly attacked an “incompetent, dishonest” media, saying they were not telling the truth about his administration’s accomplishments.

“My administration has been delivering every single day for the great citizens of our country,” Trump said in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. “We are keeping one promise after another, and frankly the people are really happy about it.”

The rally occurred on the same day as a climate march at which thousands of protesters surrounded the White House, and it also coincided with the annual black-tie White House



US President Donald Trump appears on stage at a rally in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, US on 29 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

press dinner in Washington. Trump and his staff chose to skip the press dinner because of what he said was unfair treatment by the press. Trump said he was thrilled to be away from the “Washington swamp”.

“A large group of Hollywood actors and Washington media are consoling each other in a hotel ballroom in our nation’s capital right now,” Trump said to loud boos from the crowd. “If the media’s job is to be honest and to tell the truth,

the media deserves a very, very big fat failing grade.”

Trump listed what he said were some of his key early accomplishments, including the successful confirmation to the US Supreme Court of Justice Neil Gorsuch and clearing away many regulations on the environment and business.

He also listed his approval of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, killing a pending Asian trade pact, and enhanced security measures

that have led to a sharp decline in illegal border crossings at the southern border.

“The world is getting the message: if you try to illegally enter the United States, you will be caught, detained, deported or put in prison,” Trump said.

He shrugged off his failure to score major legislative victories on his core campaign promises, such as repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act

and construction of a Mexican border wall. Trump’s ban on visitors from some Muslim nations was blocked in court.

He blamed Democrats for the legislative failures so far and said all of his promises would be kept eventually.

“We’ll build the wall people, don’t even worry about it,” he said.

Some supporters in the crowd said they were willing to give Trump more time.

“I voted for him and I’ll give him a year. That’s enough time to whip Congress into shape and get some deals done,” said Michael Casciaro, 54, a civilian contractor for the military.

Trump said he reversed course on promises to name China a currency manipulator because he wanted China’s help in trying to rein in North Korea’s nuclear and missile development. Trump has said all options are on the table if Pyongyang persists in its nuclear development.

In an excerpt of an interview with “Face the

Nation” of CBS, set to air on Sunday and Monday and conducted during the trip to Pennsylvania, Trump said he would “not be happy” if North Korea conducted a nuclear test. Asked if that would mean military action, Trump said “I don’t know, I mean we’ll see.”

Reveling in the cheers in Harrisburg, Trump made reference again to his upset victory over Democrat Hillary Clinton in the crucial swing state of Pennsylvania, which he said “carried us to a big, beautiful win on 8 November.”

Trump left Washington as another in a series of protests against his administration was winding up.

Thousands of marchers made their way through Washington’s streets during the People’s Climate March, a protest against Trump’s moves to roll back environmental regulations.

Asked by reporters accompanying him to Pennsylvania what he had to say to the climate change protesters, Trump said: “Enjoy the day, enjoy the weather.”

—Reuters ■

## Military plane crashes in Cuba killing all eight on board

HAVANA — A military airplane crashed into a mountain in Cuba’s north-western region of Artemisa on Saturday morning, killing all eight personnel on board, the Ministry of Revolutionary Armed Forces said. The aircraft, a twin-engined turboprop Antonov AN-26, had taken off at 6:38 a.m. (1038 GMT) from Playa Baracoa, just outside Havana,

and crashed into the Loma de la Pimienta mountain some 80 km (50 miles) westwards.

“The eight military personnel on board, including the crew, died,” the ministry said in a statement published by state-run media. “A commission of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces is investigating the causes of the accident.” The

majority of planes flown in Cuba were produced in the Soviet Union. Antonov produced the AN-26 planes in Kiev between 1969 and 1986. The last major plane crash in Cuba was an Aero Caribbean flight that went down in flames in central Cuba in 2010, killing all 68 people aboard. That plane was a European-manufactured ATR-72-212.

—Reuters ■

## Swiss climber dies after fall, preparing for Mount Everest ascent

KATHMANDU — An experienced Swiss climber died on Sunday after he fell in the Everest region of Nepal during preparations to climb the world’s highest mountain, the first to perish in the current climbing

season, officials said. Ueli Steck, 40, died after falling to the foot of Mount Nuptse, a smaller peak in the area, said Mingma Sherpa of the Seven Summits Treks company that organised Steck’s expedition. Steck was in the

area acclimatising ahead of a bid to climb Everest through the less-climbed West Ridge route and traverse to Lhotse, the world’s fourth highest peak — at 8,516 metres (27,940 feet) in May.—Reuters ■

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Side View: 14'4" height, 18' width, 7'2" depth.  
Front View: 7'2" width, 7'2" depth.  
Plan View: 21'6" width, 7'2" depth.  
Front View: 14'4" height, 7'2" depth, 21'6" width.

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# Cast of 'The Godfather' reunite for 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**N**EW YORK — Al Pacino was considered too short, Marlon Brando was required to do a screen test, and director Francis Ford Coppola was almost fired.

The director and cast of "The Godfather" reminisced on Saturday in a 45th anniversary reunion in New York about the trials, perseverance and inspiration that resulted in the Oscar-winning Mafia movies.

Coppola, Pacino, Robert De Niro, Diane Keaton, James Caan, Talia Shire and Robert Duvall watched back-to-back screenings of "The Godfather" (1972) and "The Godfather: Part II" (1974) along with an audience of 6,000 on the closing night of the Tribeca film festival.

"I haven't seen these movies for years," Coppola said. "I found (watching) a very emotional experience. I forgot a lot about the making of it and thought about the story, and the story used a lot of family and my personal stuff."

The two films won nine Oscars and their tale of how an orphan from Sicily emigrated to the United States at the turn of the 20th century and formed the Corleone crime family became movie classics.

But the film had a less than auspicious start. Coppola re-



Actor Al Pacino attends the 'Danny Collins' premiere at AMC Lincoln Square Theater in New York on 18 March, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

called that Hollywood studio Paramount wanted to set the movie in the 1970s and make something "cheap and quick."

Coppola was almost fired several times and met stiff resistance to the casting of both Pacino as Michael Corleone and Brando as the titular Godfather.

Brando, who died in 2004, had made several box-office flops after a stellar career in the 1950s and had a reputation for being difficult.

"I was told (by studio executives) that having Brando in the film would make it less commercial than having a total unknown," Coppola said.

The studio later agreed "if Marlon will do a screen test and

do it for nothing and put up a million dollar bond that he wouldn't cause trouble during the production."

Brando created the rasping voice, jowly cheeks and oiled hair for Corleone in the screen test. Yet three weeks into shooting, there was more trouble.

"They (the studio) hated Brando. They thought he mumbled and they hated the film...It was very dark," said Coppola. Brando went on to win an Oscar for his performance.

Newcomer Pacino had to screen test "countless times" for the role of Michael, the college-educated son who takes charge of the Corleone business of casinos, gambling and racket-

teering. Studio bosses thought he was too short and wanted to cast Robert Redford or Ryan O'Neal.

Yet Coppola persevered because "every time I read the script, I always saw his (Pacino's) face, especially in the scenes in Sicily."

Pacino said he originally wanted the part of the hot-headed son, Sonny, and thought Coppola "was really nuts" about wanting him to play Michael.

"I thought this is either a dream or a joke...and then started the whole trial of them not wanting me and Francis wanting me," Pacino recalled. The film launched his career as one of the most honored actors of his generation.

Luck played a part in the creation of some of the most memorable scenes in the two films. The revelation by Corleone's wife Kay (Keaton) that she had aborted their baby because of horror over her husband's criminal activities was suggested by Talia Shire (Connie).

And the cat Brando cradles in the opening scene of "The Godfather," making for a stark contrast with his intimidating presence, was a last-minute addition.

"I put that cat in his hands. It was the studio cat. It was one take," said Coppola.—Reuters ■



Shah Rukh Khan. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Shah Rukh Khan meets Hollywood legend Warren Beatty

LOS ANGELES — Superstar Shah Rukh Khan had a fan moment when he met Hollywood veteran Warren Beatty.

The 51-year-old actor, who was recently in Vancouver to deliver his first TED Talk, took to Twitter to share a photograph with the "Bonny and Clyde" star.

Shah Rukh said amid a jam-packed travel schedule, he got some time off to spend with his friends and also met Beatty.

"After a whirlwind travelling spree spent a quiet evening with friends in LA and met one of my favourite stars... Warren Beatty," wrote Shah Rukh. Shah Rukh is the first Indian actor to deliver a TED Talk and will host TED Talks Hindi version, titled "TED Talks India: Nayi Soch".—PTI ■

## Springsteen recounts struggle to live outside bliss

NEW YORK — Bruce Springsteen talked on Friday about his struggle to live in the real world rather than inside the lyrical songs he has composed over his 40-year career.

The "Born to Run" musician, who revealed in a 2016 memoir that he had struggled with depression, called rock songs "three minutes of bliss and life compressed."

He told a Tribeca Film Festival audience during a conversation about his career that he had sometimes seen his music "as a life preserver and as a safe space - you think you can live there."

But Springsteen, 67, said

that no artist could live only within his art.

"At the end of the day it's just your job and just your work and life awaits you outside of those things. ... So that took me a long time to learn that lesson — thanks Patti- and it was a tremendous struggle for me," he added, referring to his wife of 25 years, Patti Scialfa.

Springsteen spoke of his early days in music in New Jersey, buying his first guitar at age 15, and being a "stone-cold draft dodger" during the Vietnam War — a period that informed much of his writing, including one of his best known but most

misunderstood songs, "Born in the USA."

Springsteen said he had come to terms with people misinterpreting the 1984 song as patriotic. It was played, without his permission, during Donald Trump's rallies during the 2016 US presidential election.

In rock songs, he said, "People hear the music, the beat, then they hear the chorus, and if they have the time or the inclination, maybe they get into some of the verses."

"That's the way the political rock and roll ball bounces. It's one of those things," Springsteen said.—Reuters ■

## I am not lonely: Priyanka Chopra

MUMBAI — Often with stardom comes a feeling of loneliness, but not for Priyanka Chopra, as the actress says her loved ones are always by her side.

After starting out with a Tamil film in 2002, Priyanka worked in Bollywood before making her way to the West with her song and then the American crime-thriller "Quantico".

"I am not at all lonely. I have incredible support, from friends, family and colleagues. That's why I can do so many (things)."

"Most of my career choices are a gamble. Doing Aitraaz (a negative role) as one of my first few films, doing Fashion when no one was doing women-oriented films. I did Barfi where everyone

said you would look glamorous. Music, Quantico, no one's done that. I can only do that because I have so much support," Priyanka told PTI.

The 34-year-old actress says she knows there will be a time when things might go downhill, but she will continue to work as long as people want to see her.

"I've known that (about downfall) since I did my first film. There are some things that are very constant in the world. Birth, death, up, down. It'll happen to everyone, to me, to you, to the biggest of actors. It's meant to happen at some point. As long as people watch me, I'll work," she says.

—PTI ■

**Mrs Winifred Saldanha (Dimples) - Ma Lone Yin**

Dimples, aged 97, second daughter of U Tun Hlaing and Daw Pya Ohn of Belugyun, Chaungzone, beloved wife of the late Wilfred Saldanha and loving mother of Winsome, Barbara+Andrew, Jeanne+ Meenu, Clement+Finn, Dorothy+Christopher, Wilfred+Kirsten and Patricia+Gottfried, passed away on **27 April 2017** at her home in 135E Than Lwin Road, Yangon. She is also survived by six grandchildren, Natasha, Jason, Lydia, Nathaniel, Nathan, Marckie and two great grandchildren Anjeli and Alexia. She will be greatly missed by all. May her soul rest in peace.

Funeral services will be held at St Augustine's RC Church at 64 Inya Road at 08:00 am on **1st May 2017** followed by burial at Htein Pin. Catholic cemetery.

## Kagaya's Aurora" show in HK museum

HONG KONG — A museum in China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is set to launch on Monday a new sky show about auroras, offering audiences an opportunity to "experience" the mysterious and colorful light display that only exists in bitterly cold

places in high latitude regions.

The "Kagaya's Aurora" show will be screened twice a day from Monday to 30 October at the Hong Kong Space Museum's Stanley Ho Space Theater.

With the help of advanced filming techniques, the 27-minute show will

reveal the amazing display of color and light of auroras, natural light in the sky of high latitude regions such as Alaska and Iceland, the museum said on Sunday.

Besides using computer graphics to illustrate the natural mechanism behind the formation of

auroras and displaying different forms of aurora through time-lapse photography, the show will also provide aerial shots of glaciers, grand images of the Arctic and melodious New Age music, offering audiences a unique experience in the museum's dome.—Xinhua ■

# Railway enthusiasts journey to Japan to travel on minor train lines

WARRINGTON, (England) — Each year for nearly a decade, a dedicated group of railway enthusiasts has been making its way to Japan to explore the small local railways, which branch out like so many veins and arteries around the country.

The fascination is not only with the railway companies and the trains themselves — many of striking varieties — but with why some of these local networks were constructed in the first place, in backwaters that open to the countryside.

The minor lines, which seem to continuously spring up, offer those who come on the trips — usually held once a year — a challenge and an opportunity to explore and learn about

a particular area of a network. They also offer a peek into rural Japan.

"In the past few years, we've covered a fair chunk of the Japanese railway network, and maybe not all of the minor railways, but we've probably visited most of them," Peter Dibben, a member of the Japanese Railway Society (JRS), said in a recent interview.

"I know I haven't done all of them because they keep creating new ones," he added.

The JRS was founded in Britain in 1991, and aims to promote knowledge of Japanese railways in the United Kingdom and abroad, bringing together people from around the world who have a common interest in Japanese railways. The society publishes



Photo shows Peter Dibben (2nd from L) with a group of Japanese Railway Society members on the Kumagawa Limited Express between Kumamoto and Hitoyoshi, during a trip to Kyushu to explore minor Japanese railways in May 2012. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

a quarterly journal called the Bullet-In, which is the only regular publication about Japanese railways that is not in Japanese.

Dibben, a retired chemical engineer, is one of the organizers of the informal trips by a small group of JRS members to

Japan, to minor railways that are run privately or in a private-local authority partnership as third-sector railways, mainly in rural areas. The group of between five and seven JRS members travel together with a Japan Rail Pass for around two weeks and focus on one

area of the network to explore, while making time to experience the local food and culture along the way.

"It took us something like 10 days to do every single line in Hokkaido," Dibben said. "You're up against only a handful of trains a day on some lines, so you have to work around the timetable."

To date, they have ridden on around one hundred minor railways. In the early years, the JRS organized trips with tour companies to visit Japan, but certain train lines were not made for big crowds. Smaller railways pose a logistical nightmare.

"There are a lot of very small railways in Japan, and taking 30 odd people on a single coach train is probably not a good idea,"

Dibben pointed out.

While the JRS continues to arrange bigger tours to Japan every few years, with a group of enthusiasts dedicated to smaller, local lines, they started informally organizing holidays together. Their first trip was in 2008, with the first focused trip of an area to the Tohoku region coming in 2009.

They have since been to the northernmost station in Japan in Wakkanai, Hokkaido, down to Kyushu in southwestern Japan, with journeys to places like the last stop on a local line that is served by just three single carriage services a day.

On the day they were traveling, one of the morning trains had been canceled.—Kyodo News ■



A child presents a creation during a Child Model Show in Fuzhou, capital of southeast China's Fujian Province, on 30 April 2017. PHOTO:XINHUA

## mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(1-5-2017 07:00am ~ 2-5-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Great Shwedagon-The Prayer Halls And Buddha Images (Part-2)
07:51	Am	Next Generation "May Melody"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A May Yay Yin Nat Festival (Ep-1)
08:42	Am	Welcome to the Southern most part of Myanmar
08:53	Am	Next Generation: Nyan Kyal Say
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Aye Aye Soe: Myanma Pioneer Female Bodybuilder
09:40	Am	Thingyan Songs & Dances
09:54	Am	Art Students: Sculpture
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Next Generation "Nyan Lin Htet (Football Player)"
10:36	Am	Myanmar Prehistory

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

**Prime Time**

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Myanmar's Traditions and Culture The Golden Land
07:46	Pm	Dances of Myanmar: Enn Traditional Dance
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar: Pristine Nature - Gaw Yan Gyi Island
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-2)
08:53	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism

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

(For Detailed Schedule - [www.myanmaritv.com/schedule](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))



Anthony Joshua celebrates with trainer Robert McCracken and promoter Eddie Hearn after beating Ukrainian boxer Wladimir Klitschko in a fight for Joshua's IBF and the vacant WBA Super World and IBO heavyweight titles at Wembley stadium in London on 29 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Leipzig draw paves way for Bayern to win title at Wolfsburg

BERLIN — Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich have the chance to seal their record fifth consecutive Bundesliga crown later on Saturday after RB Leipzig could only muster a goalless draw against struggling 10-man Ingolstadt.

Promoted Leipzig are on 63 points while Bayern are on 70 and will have an unassailable 10-point lead with three matches left if they beat VfL Wolfsburg in the later game.

Leipzig were in control for the entire game, missing a bagful of chances, but they could not score, even when the visitors lost Alfredo Morales in the 86<sup>th</sup> minute for a second booking. Borussia Dortmund are a further six points behind in third place after they also drew 0-0, against Cologne.

Hoffenheim, fourth on 55, play Eintracht Frankfurt on Sunday.—Reuters ■

# Joshua wins world titles with 11th-round stoppage of Klitschko

LONDON — Anthony Joshua delivered one of the great nights in British boxing annals by stopping Ukrainian Wladimir Klitschko in the 11<sup>th</sup> round to be crowned IBF, WBA and IBO world heavyweight champion in front of 90,000 fans at Wembley Stadium on Saturday.

The unbeaten home favour-

ite earned a sensational victory by knocking down the 41-year-old former champion twice in the 11<sup>th</sup> and penultimate round before the referee stepped in to save Klitschko from any more punishment.

What was hailed as the biggest fight night ever staged in a British ring, watched by the

biggest crowd for a boxing show in Britain for 78 years, lived up to its billing as Joshua survived a knockdown for the first time in his professional career in the sixth round.

In a sensational fifth round, he knocked down Klitschko only to end up hanging on desperately at the end of the round as the

Ukrainian launched a remarkable comeback.

The veteran had even looked the more likely winner as he defied a 14-year age gap and was outboxing Joshua in the latter stages until the Briton produced a blistering finish to take his unbeaten record to 19 wins.—Reuters ■

## United held at home by Swansea after Sigurdsson strike

LONDON — Manchester United's hopes of a top four finish suffered a blow on Sunday as relegation-threatened Swansea City came back for a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford.

Wayne Rooney put United ahead from the penalty spot on the stroke of half-time after Marcus Rashford was ruled to have been brought down by Swansea

keeper Lukasz Fabianski.

But Swansea earned a potentially important point when Gylfi Sigurdsson curled in a magnificent freekick in the 79<sup>th</sup> minute.

United's injury woes continued to mount however with defenders Luke Shaw and Eric Bailly both taken off during the game.—Reuters ■

## Nadal on track for 10th Barcelona triumph after reaching final

BARCELONA — Rafael Nadal reached the final of the Barcelona Open by dispatching Argentine Horacio Zeballos 6-3, 6-4 on Saturday to book his place in Sunday's showpiece against Dominic Thiem where he will be looking to win the tournament for a 10<sup>th</sup> time.

Nadal struck the first blow by breaking the unseeded Zeballos in the fourth game and the difference in quality between the two players soon began to show. Zeballos earned two break



PHOTO: REUTERS

points in the fourth game of the second set but 14-time grand-slam winner Nadal recovered to hold his serve and wrapped up his victory in 94 minutes, setting up a re-match with Thiem, who beat him last year on clay in the

Argentina Open semi-finals.

Thiem knocked out world number one Andy Murray 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 for the first time in his career, becoming the first Austrian since Thomas Muster in 1996 to reach the final of the claycourt tournament. Just as in Friday's gruelling quarter-final with Albert Ramos-Vinolas, Murray got off to a bad start. The Briton relied on his serve to recover the second set but could not sustain the level and bowed out.—Reuters ■