

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 19, 11th Waxing of Kason 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 6 May 2017

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Queen Elizabeth for lunch

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met Britain's Queen Elizabeth for lunch yesterday at Buckingham Palace in London.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who also serves as Myanmar's foreign minister, later met Prince Charles, heir to the throne, and his wife Camilla, at Clarence House, their official residence in Westminster.

Prince William, Charles's elder son, attended the queen's lunch with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the palace said.

Accompanying the State Counsellor were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Ambassador of Myanmar to United Kingdom U Kyaw Swa Min.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is currently conducting official state visits to several countries in Europe, including Belgium, Italy, the Vatican and England.

Before leaving for Britain, the State Counsellor held talks with Mr Paolo Gentiloni, the Prime Minister of Italy, in Rome on Thursday. —Myanmar News Agency and Reuters ■



Britain's Queen Elizabeth, right, and Prince William, left, greet State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi before a private lunch at Buckingham Palace yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Tatmadaw, KNU to conduct landmine clearance operations

Ye Khaung Nyunt

The Tatmadaw and the Karen National Union will jointly carry out mine clearance operations in Kayin State, giving priority to public areas after the two sides built up mutual trust, said Col Wunna Aung, Secretary-2 of the Union Joint Monitoring Committee-JMCU. "But, currently, there is no plan to clear land mines at military outposts due to security concerns," he told the media following the end of the three-day meeting of the committee at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon.

The second step would be taken when both sides earned greater trust, he added. During the 10th meeting, which started on 3 May, the participants approved the directives for local people who would take part in the monitoring programme at the local level.

The meeting also approved draft rules for security of volunteers and personnel who are taking part in the monitoring process in regions and states. The JMC-U has a plan to establish local-level offices of the Joint Monitoring Committee JMC-L in conflict areas to reduce armed conflicts.

A state-level Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee-JMCU will draw up a curriculum and will give training to volunteers in conflict areas so that they can understand the Code of Conduct and the nature of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement before they take part in the monitoring programme.

NATIONAL

VP U Myint Swe assists in restoration of damaged pagodas in Bagan

PAGE-2



LOCAL NEWS

35 Myanmar smuggling victims found in Thailand

PAGE-9

NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives representatives of Japan's Lower House

PAGE-2



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THE INTERNATIONAL BREWING AWARDS

U Myint Swe assists in restoration of pagodas in Bagan

WITH step by step approach, the government set a four-year target to restore the earthquake-hit pagodas in Bagan, said Vice President U Myint Swe yesterday.

At a meeting of the leading committee for restoration and conservation of the pagodas in Bagan, he also stressed the need to conserve the pagodas without damaging their original architectural value.

A total of 249 earthquake-hit pagodas have been conserved so far, 17 are under conservation and 123 remained to be conserved.

A total of 389 pagodas were damaged by a 6.8 magnitude earthquake on 24th August last year and emergency restoration work on the pagodas completed in December.

Before receiving cash from private donors for restoration and conservation the quake-hit pagodas, Vice President U Myint Swe inspected conservation and restoration works at the major pagodas which were largely damaged by the quake.

Until now, donation money received were Ks 5.553 billion, US\$1.1million, Thai Baht 13820,



Lokananda Pogada (Left) undergoing restoration. Vice President U Myint Swe (Right) inspecting the restoration efforts in Bagan. PHOTO: MNA



Singapore \$ 7502, Japan Yen 30000 and other kinds of currencies.

“The Bagan cultural heritage zone is the heart of Myanmar and a remarkable area of international interest” said Vice President U Myint Swe said in his opening address at the 2nd meeting of leading committee for

renovation of ancient religious edifices at the Bagan Ancient Cultural Museum.

There are 36 pagodas to be renovated as the first priority, 53 as the second priority and 76 as the third priority—224 in all. Now 224 pagodas for the minor renovation had been repaired. There are 17 pagodas (under re-

pairs) and 123 pagodas left to be renovated.

The donation money had been used systematically under the supervision of the officially formed committee, he added.

“In implementing the tasks of renovation of quake-hit pagodas and stupas, we have been consulting with the UNESCO to

have Bagan Region designated as the world heritage zone. It is necessary for us to cooperate with all for the survival in the long run, by taking into consideration the potential dangers of natural disaster to come,” said the Vice President.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Speaker U Win Myint meeting with the members of Japan's Lower House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives representatives of Japan's Lower House

SPEAKER of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received Hon. Ms. Yoko KAMIKAWA, Hon. Mr. Akira SATO and Hon. Mr. Teru FUKU, representatives of the Lower House in Japan, yesterday afternoon at the Guest Room of the Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed issues including in supports of Japan to Myanmar in the sectors of Union Peace

and rules of law, promoting in investments and economic cooperation, and friendship and case on cooperation between Parliaments of Myanmar and Japan.

U T Khun Myat, Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Daw Khin San Hlaing, chairman of Banks and financial development committee and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw attended to the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Yangon water bus service to launch in June

WATER bus service in Yangon will start in June on the Hlaing River to give passengers more transportation convenience, according to Daw Tint Tint Lwin, the CEO of Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies, the operator of Yangon Water Bus Services.

“Previously, we had expected to start in May. Currently, we have ships ready, but parts of the jetty are still under construction. So we can start running on the second or third week of June,” she said at a press conference held at her company's office in Sanchaung township.

The water bus services with 16 water buses will be available for eight jetties on the Hlaing River between near Aungzayya Bridge in Insein township and Botahtaung township.

“Our company has experience in waterway services for

years. We prioritise safety first for the passengers. A short trip costs Ks300 per head and long trip costs Ks500 for one,” she said.

The departure time of the water bus will be announced on an LED board and a water bus will leave every 20 minutes. The travel time for one run will be one-and-a-half hours from the starting point to the final destination. The water buses will run from 6 am to 6 pm.

The company has linked with Kanbawza Bank for life insurance for the passengers. The company will announce its operation on Facebook and on its website.

In providing service, the company will install CCTVs and a GPS Monitoring System that is being used in Hungary and has not yet been utilized in Asian countries.

The company has been constructing jetties in the Ngamoeyeik River to be able to accommodate water bus service. As the river is shallow, the vehicles will be constructed in Myanmar to allow for this.

The company invested Ks20 billion to Ks37 billion for the water buses, which are being constructed in Australia, Thailand and Myanmar.

For the service on the Hlaing River, Yangon River and Ngamoeyeik River, 50 to 70 vehicles will be needed, she said.

Four types of vehicles will be in service as the types of rivers are different.

The vehicles will carry 60, 80, 180 and 200 passengers, depending on the model. Yangon has more than six million people who mostly depends on buses for mass transit.—Zaw Gyi (Panita) ■

Outstanding students go back home as the camps end

AFTER the Inle (Kauung Tai) camp had already been wrapped up, outstanding students returned home yesterday

respectively.

Outstanding students from Inle camp visited the pagodas and places of interest in

Taunggyi Township and camp closing ceremony was held on Thursday.—Hein Htet Zaw ■

State Counsellor leaves Italy, arrives in London

H.E Mr Paolo Gentiloni, the Prime Minister of Italy, welcomed State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who was in Rome on an official state visit, with a ceremonial guard at the Prime Minister's Office on Thursday.

The State Counsellor and the Prime Minister of Italy discussed bilateral cooperation, friendship and upgrading cooperation in the sectors of culture, agriculture and investment.

Present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, U Myint Naung, Myanmar ambassador to Italy and responsible officials.

The State Counsellor and party left Fiumicino International Airport in Rome at 7 pm local time and arrived in London several hours later.

The State Counsellor was welcomed at the Heathrow Airport by U Kyaw Zwa Min, Myanmar ambassador to Britain, Mr. Bill Henderson, special advisor of Britain's Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E Mr Andrew Patrick, the British ambassador to Myanmar and other officials. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi then proceeded to the Dorchester Hotel in London, where she will stay for the duration of her visit.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni in Rome, Italy on 4 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

U Ko Ko Naing presents his credentials to President of Laos

U Ko Ko Naing, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Bounnhang Vorachith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 4 May 2017, in Vientiane.—MOFA ■

Two villagers killed in Maungtaw Tsp

Two villagers were found dead with wounds near Thawun Chaung village in Maungtaw Township yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off that a man was dead in a distance of 300 yards from the east of Thawun Chaung village, local police have investigated and found the body of Armatarlan (B) Armattusin in Yaekhat Chaunggua village with wounds.

Aryaraular, aged 18 in Thawun Chaung village also was dead with wounds on his neck and back in the foot of Mayyu hill, east of Thawun Chaung village, police also said. The police have sent two bodies to the hospital.

Police are investigating charges under the law.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Second Myanmar Parliamentary Union meeting discusses Hluttaw set-up

The Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) meeting (2/2017) began yesterday in Zabuthiri Hall in Nay Pyi Taw's Hluttaw building.

Firstly, Chairman of MPU and Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than delivered the opening address and spoke on progress made in carrying out decisions made during the previous MPU meeting (1/2017) concerning amendment and formation of region and state Hluttaw offices.

The new set-up for region and state Hluttaw was published on 1 April this year. Proposals were submitted to Union Civil Service Board and the Union Government in accord with the Civil Service Law so that region and state staff can apply for transfers. Requests have been made to region and state Hluttaws to compile a list of personnel in service and numbers needed in region and state Hluttaw offices.

Discussions were made on approval for the Myanmar Parliamentary Draft Law drafted by the Union Hluttaw Commission and MPU and for it to be included in the 5th Regular Hluttaw Meeting.

Afterwards, Vice Chairman of MPU and Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than delivers a speech at MPU meeting. PHOTO: MNA

spoke about how the Hluttaw is the foundation of democracy and therefore processes in the Hluttaw should be done in line with its laws and rules and regulations. Recently rumors have been spread to disturb the political stability of the country.

He further stated the Hluttaw is an important sector in a democratic nation, therefore Hluttaw representatives are expected to fulfill their duties and responsibilities in accord with the law. He also said the legislator Hluttaw and administrative Government should do their best to carry out their tasks separately while cross-checking each other. Calling for tenders

should also be conducted without any bribes and everyone should collaborate in realizing a Democratic Federal Union.

Later, Secretary of MPU and Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung explained on the progress of things and of the decisions from the previous MPU meeting.

Afterwards, Member of the Legal affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission U Zaw Myint Pe discussed on how region and state Hluttaws could make full use of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law 45 drafted in 22 July 2015, followed by Director of MPU and Direc-

tor-General of Hluttaw Office U Kyaw Soe explaining of the formation of region and state Hluttaws.

Next, Chairmen of the different regional and state Hluttaws reported on the progress of their respective Hluttaws with the Deputy Speaker and Vice Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and commission members giving advice and engaging in discussions.

Then, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and Vice Chairman of MPU U Win Myint gave advice where necessary and delivered the concluding address.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Second lighting festival to be held in Sept in Mandalay

The second Myanmar International Lighting festival 2017 will be held in September near the Southern Palace moat in Mandalay.

The light sculptures include scenes of Mandalay, the array of Myanmar traditional culture and illustrations of Mandalay Hill and the walls of the palace will feature LED creation and other technical LED figures will also be displayed, said U Hein Htet, Project Director of DN Development Group.

“The festival will be the second time of Myanmar International Lighting festival 2017. The first festival was held in People Park in Yangon. We shall take permission from the Mandalay Regional Government.

Yangon People’s Park was lit up with 70 million LED bulbs and about 20 million bulbs were damaged due to the rain and people attending the festival. This time



Entrance to lighting festival in People’s Park in Yangon on 19 March. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

the festival will be displayed grandly with 50 million bulbs”, said U Hein Htet.

30 percent of the revenue from the Yangon festival was

donated to Yangon Children

Hospital and Ks 30 Lakhs were donated to Mingalar Youth Development Institute and Christian Association

for the Blind each.

Two Photo Contest winners from the social media pages were given two iPhone 7 Plus handsets.—200 ■

Price of car slips rise again

THE price of car slips has increased up to Ks10 million because of the scarcity of deregistered vehicles in the car market, said U Htay Win, a vehicle dealer from Hline.

The price of slips had fallen to under Ks10 million before the water festival. But the price of the slips has increased because some people are still using 20-year-old vehicles, he added.

The vehicles to which slips are issued are entitled to register with the Road Transport Administration Department. This is the reason why the street price is Ks1.03 million in the car market.

People mostly buy the 20-year-old slips of home use cars. However, bus slips are not popular among buyers.

“We won’t buy a bus because they have no slips guaranteed for running in a bus line, said U Htay Win.—200 ■

Heroin and meth pills seized in Chinshwehaw

A LOCAL anti-drug squad searched a motorbike driven by Aung Wai accompanied Law Louk Wu and Kyaing Phine in Kunlon and seized 12950 of methamphetamine pills and 0.05 kilo heroin on Chinshwehaw- Laukai road in Chinshwehaw Town yesterday.

Similarly, a local anti-drug in Taunggyi found 2023 methamphetamine pills in a search of a motorbike driven by Saw Al Khu and Thae Ko Ko on Hopong-Hsihseng road near Hoti village, Nawng Moon village tract in Hsihseng Township.

The police filed charges against all the suspects under the Anti- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■



PHOTO: MPF

Fish breeding centre to be completed in June

CONSTRUCTION of the Myanmar Freshwater Fish Breeding Technology Research Centre (MFFBTR) will be completed in June with the assistance of the Republic of Korea, according to the Mandalay fisheries department.

The Myanmar fisheries department and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) signed an agreement in October 2015 to build

the first MFFBTR center in Myanmar. The project was started in August 2016. Currently, the construction of project is 35 per cent complete, said an official from Mandalay fisheries department.

Upon completion, the centre will be able to undertake basic research for the development of freshwater fish breeding, for the fish breeding system to emerge in a suitable environment, ensure

sustainable development of the freshwater fish breeding business, strengthen services for production of the fish, put into practice the new fish breeding system, and manage the income for the fish breeders, according to the fisheries department.

The centre is being constructed at a cost of US\$4.4 million in Thayetgone fisheries camp compound in Mandalay.— Min Thu ■



PHOTO: MPF

Express collided with light truck on Ygn-Mdy Highway

AN express named New Mandalay Tun en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon driven by Win Zaw collided with a light truck driven by Kyaw Hein while the former driver slept at the wheel between mile posts 59/1 and 59/2 at 5:00 am yesterday.

A total of 42 passengers from the express were not injured but out of six passengers, five passengers from the light truck were injured. The injured victims were taken by Bawni highway police to Bago General Hospital. Police have taken action against the reckless express driver under section 338/337 of the Penal Code.—Nyi Nyi Than (Nay Pyi Taw) ■

One dead, four injured due to violent rampage by nine masked men in Bago

NINE masked men went on a violent, deadly spree using knives and sticks in Bago on Thursday, killing one and injuring four.

U Nyunt Shwe, representative of Bago Constituency (1) said that, “we were trying to solve the accident case but one man died in the hospital and the others were not serious.

We are also set to meet with Bago Region Chief Minister.”

The police said six suspects were already arrested yesterday and the murder case is being handled by the No.1 police station in Bago. The suspects are Thar Gyi (alias) Thar Thiha and Swan Nyi Htoo, Aung Kaung Myat, Htun Thura Zaw, Tin Tun

Aung and Thet Zaw Htwe from Okktar Township. The victims included Phyo Ko Ko Win,23, Nay Lin Aung, 24, Si thu Lwin,22, Kaung Myat Kyaw, 24 and Thuara Win.

The suspects are being charged under the Law and further interrogation is in process by the local police force.—Aung Lay ■

More loans for Myanmar vegetable businessmen

CONCERTED efforts are being made by the Commerce Ministry for Myanmar's vegetable businessmen to get access to more loan plans through Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank, according to a meeting held at UMFCI on Tuesday with private businessmen.

Apart from watermelon and muskmelon, other vegetables and fruits production has been found to be in decline in the vegetable and fruit sector. The decrease in production is attributed to the high cost of input, erratic weather conditions and insufficient capital of the farmers.

In addition, the price of fertilizer and pesticides are higher than that of neighbouring countries. Therefore, locally produced vegetables and fruits are not able to compete with imported ones in the domestic



A farmer harvests chilis in a farm in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

market, said U Soe Than Min Din, the chairperson of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP).

More loan plans are being planned to provide for the businessmen through Myanmar

Agricultural Development Bank, said U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Commerce. He encouraged the aforementioned association to participate in enhancing the export through cooperation with the growers.—YCDC ■

Local shrimp hatchery battered by increasing shrimp deaths

LOCAL shrimp farming enterprises and hatcheries are having difficulty meeting domestic market demand as the number of dead shrimp rises due to the extremely hot weather, according to Myanmar Shrimp Association.

In a bid to fulfil the requirements of domestic consumption, frozen shrimps are being imported from Thailand. Local

shrimp farming enterprises lack advanced techniques.

Myanmar has freshwater and brine shrimp farming enterprises, but there are no brine shrimp hatcheries, forcing the businessmen to import the shrimp larvae.

The freshwater shrimp farming and hatcheries are in need of technical assistance to boost the production rate and

scale down the death rate of shrimp larvae.

Pedigree species need to be imported into the country because domestic shrimp farming businesses are suffering from increasing numbers of dead shrimp caused not only by hot weather, but also infectious disease and shrimp species that are not pure-bred.—200 ■

Agricultural products needed to seek approval to export to Korea

AGRICULTURAL products are required to seek a sanitary certificate stating that the food is clear from diseases in order to import products to Korea, according to Myanmar's embassy in Korea.

Meanwhile, Korean businessmen are facing difficulties with long processing times while seeking approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Myanmar compared to other countries. South Ko-

rean businessmen are eyeing Myanmar to invest. They are reportedly preparing to hold a working-level meeting in Korea or Myanmar to carry out Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for ham exports from Korea.

Myanmar is likely to ship more agricultural products including coffee seeds to Korea and Myanmar can attain more market share if canned beef is exported to Korea. The country is willing to cooperate

with Korea for sanitary certificate of the food, according to a meeting held in Seoul. The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS), the Korea's governmental agency that regulates food, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and cosmetics in South Korea, is in charge of the approval of medical devices, GMP standards, and pre- and post-market management of the medical device classification process.—Ko Khant ■

MRF receiving plans of farmers for contract farming

Those who wish to conduct contract farming for the coming rain crop season can submit their plans to Myanmar Rice Federation.

The MRF has already submitted the rules and regulations of contract farming to the State in order to protect the farmers' right, enhance the socio-economic backgrounds of the farmers and achieve a long-term plan.

The rice federation will provide technical and financial assistance to the rice millers, merchants and farmers who wish to join the contract farming system, it is learnt. Contract farming aims to ensure the quality of the products by bolstering production, promoting the supply chain and value chain, improving the agribusiness and effectuating rural development.—Ko Htet ■

Steep drop in number of free permit applications for car imports

Starting from the day when the new car import policy came into effect, the number of free permit applications for car importing was found to have significantly dropped over the past three months, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Since January, there were only about 20 applications of free permit seekers so far. According to the new import policy, cars with 2013 and later models are allowed to import with free permit.

During this year, the number of deregistration of old cars reached over 100 so far. Car

showroom owners and dealers are waiting for a new policy to come out for the cars imported under consignment system.

According to 2017 new car import policy, only cars with left-handed drive are allowed to import for 2015 to 2017 models.

In January, imports of right-hand drive vehicles were banned and only those built between 2011 and 2014 qualified for an exemption in exchange for certificates showing the scrapping of older vehicles. Most of the used vehicles entering the country came from Japan.—Ko Htet ■

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

Ocean City City Mart SUPERCENTRE Supermarket

China's homegrown jumbo passenger jet takes to the sky

SHANGHAI — China's homegrown large passenger plane, the C919, took to the sky on Friday.

The flight makes China the fourth jumbo jet producer after the United States, West Europe and Russia. It also marks a milestone for the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC), the Shanghai-based manufacturer of the C919.

The twin-engine plane departed from Shanghai Pudong International Airport with five crew members on board but no passengers.

The plane took off at around 2 p.m. The 80-minute flight was greeted with applause by more than 1,000 spectators on the tarmac, including Vice Premier Ma Kai and Shanghai Party chief Han Zheng.

The "C" in the aircraft's name stands for both China and COMAC, while 9 symbolizes "forever" in Chinese culture, and 19 represents the 190 seats at



China's homegrown large passenger plane C919 slides on a runway ahead of its maiden flight in Shanghai, east China, on 5 May 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

maximum capacity.

"The maiden flight was exciting," said Wu Guanghui, C919's chief designer, adding that it was a major breakthrough in China's civil aviation history, as well as the start of a new era of advanced manufac-

turing in the country.

With a standard range of 4,075 kilometers, the narrow-body jet is comparable with updated Airbus 320 and Boeing's new generation 737, signaling the country's entry into the global aviation market.

China began to develop its own jumbo passenger jets in the 1970s and the first one, the Y-10, had a successful test flight in 1980. But the project was abandoned later.

In 2007, the State Council approved plans to develop a large passenger jet. In November 2015, the first C919 jet rolled off the assembly line.

The aircraft was given the go-ahead in April to begin a series of high-speed taxiing tests, the final step before its maiden flight. More than 200,000 technicians worked on the project.

The jet was designed and produced in China and made with resources from around the world. It is an achievement in global cooperation, said Wu.

The C919 incorporates parts from over 30 global suppliers such as Honeywell International Inc. Its engines were made by a joint venture between General Electric and Safran Aircraft Engines.—Xinhua ■

Satellite imagery shows new activities at North Korea missile test site

WASHINGTON — Commercial satellite imagery taken recently showed new activities at a North Korean missile test site where the country tested prototype submarine-launched ballistic missiles through 2016, according to a US institute's analysis released Thursday. The imagery of the Sinpo South Shipyard in the eastern region last Saturday suggests a heavy-lift crane was deployed near a missile test stand used between 2014 and 2016 for verification of SLBM launch systems, the US-Korean Institute of Johns Hopkins University said on its North Korea analysis website, 38 North. A 13-meter-long flatbed truck could also be seen parked nearby, the site said.

"The image, however, is of insufficient resolution to reach a determination as to whether the activity is related to maintenance, removal of the service tower or preparations for an upcoming test," it said.—Kyodo News ■

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Beijing removes 180,000 old, polluting cars from roads from January-April

BEIJING — Beijing removed 180,000 old and polluting vehicles from its roads in the first four months of 2017, the Chinese capital's environmental bureau has said, as part of its efforts to tackle congestion and cut smog.

An action plan published in 2015 committed Beijing to removing a total of 1 million ageing vehicles over the 2013-2017 period. Beijing needs to take 300,000 off the road this year to meet the target.

The Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau said late on Thursday the capital has a total of 5.7 million vehicles, responsible for half of the city's nitrogen oxide emissions, a major source of smog.

Traffic is responsible for 31 per cent of Beijing's total particulate matter, environment minister Chen Jining said earlier this year.

The city has promised extraordinary measures this year to meet its 2013-2017 air pollution targets following a spike in smog in the region in January and February.

Average readings of small breathable particles known as PM2.5 reached 95 micrograms per cubic metre in Beijing in the first two months of 2017, up 69.6 per cent from the same period of last year.

The World Health Organization recommends concentrations of just 10 micrograms. —Reuters ■



Protesters carry candles as they shout slogans during a protest to mark the first anniversary of the Delhi gang rape, in New Delhi 16 December, 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

India's top court upholds death penalty in Delhi gang rape case

NEW DELHI — India's top court on Friday upheld death sentences against four men who fatally gang raped a woman on board a bus in 2012, a crime that sparked widespread protests and drew international attention to violence against women.

"It's a barbaric crime and it has shaken the society's con-

science," Justice R. Banumathi told a packed courtroom as the three-judge Supreme Court panel threw out an appeal on behalf of the defendants.

The five men and a juvenile lured the 23-year-old trainee physiotherapist and her male friend on to a minibus in New Delhi on Dec. 16, 2012, repeated-

ly raping the woman and beating both with a metal bar before dumping them on a road.

The woman died of grave internal injuries two weeks later in a Singapore hospital.

Applause broke out in court among relatives of the victim - whose identity is protected by law - as judges explained that

the crime met the "rarest of the rare" standard to justify capital punishment in India.

"I am very satisfied. Today I am happy," the victim's mother said. Her father said: "It's not just a victory for my family, it's a victory for each and every woman in our country." —Reuters ■

Japan, China, South Korea vow to counter "all forms of protectionism"

YOKOHAMA — Japanese, Chinese and South Korean finance and central bank leaders agreed Friday to counter "all forms of protectionism," taking a clearer stand against stepping back from free trade than Group of 20 finance chiefs did at their gathering in March.

At a meeting in Yokohama near Tokyo, the three countries also confirmed they will work in tandem to tackle any financial instability that arises from geopolitical risks with regional tensions remaining high over North Korea's missile and nu-

clear programmes.

The leaders shared the view that global growth is "expected to rise" on the back of robust financial markets and recovery in manufacturing and trade, a joint statement released after their meeting said.

But they warned there are "downside risks" such as economic policy uncertainties, indicating their concern about US President Donald Trump's pursuit of an "America First" economic policy and his criticism of globalization.—Kyodo News ■



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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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We must still wait with patience for favorable times to reach us

Khin Maung Oo

Normally, the lifespan of a human being can be said to be short. We say that our lifespan is short or long depending on the experiences of our life time. Some people who are rich and lead a luxurious life generally think that time goes by quickly. They do not even want to hear the words that they do not have much time left to live in this world. Yet, some people think differently because of bitter experiences they face in their lives. For them, they have no fixed abodes, although they are not homeless. It is very difficult for them to keep body and soul together. They are living in rented houses with many living in very poor and shabby conditions without basic amenities or enough space to sleep, toilets and kitchens, etc. They cannot send their children to schools. They are uneducated, with some just being literate. Because of their desperate situations, their offspring also do not see any bright future ahead of them. We can hear their depressing words in slum areas. Some

people say that they will be liberated from these miserable conditions only when they pass away. For them, time seems to be too long.

Then there is another group of people who are suffering a lot of difficulties because of their ill-bred children; they are well-to-do people. Out of intolerance over their children and their behaviors, some hopeless words slipped out of their lips that they would be free from these sufferings only when they leave this world. Whatever it is, nobody wants to leave their present existence yielding to the miserable things, much as they would suffer. Thus, we spend much of our lifespan, hoping for better times. Each and every one of us has happy times and simultaneously difficulties and problems to be solved. We take some time to deal with these. We managed to solve some easily. Some were left uncared beyond our capability, for long, longing for hints of a brighter future.

At the time when a family takes time to solve its problems, we should be

considerate that a country consisting of millions of families must take time to deal with all problems. Here, the legend of Hercules reminds us of the fact we must keep in our mind. The dirt Hercules had to clean was excretion left by cattle in 3000 stables only. The dirt and problems for our State Leaders to solve are trash piled up by people for over 50 years, exceeding much more than the amount of trash in the Augean Stables, hence more difficult to clean up for its horrid smell. And, Hercules was a powerful demigod while our leaders are only human beings. Accordingly, it is sure that the latter cannot manage to clean up the waste matters from stables in our country in a one year period, not to mention cleaning up in one day like Hercules. It is difficult to clean up these in 4-5 years to come. We elected the government we liked. We can criticize their deeds constructively. We, however, will never accept any kinds of fabricated rumors done with destructive minds. We must still wait with patience for favorable times to reach us. ■

Taking the wheel on road safety

Why good public policy holds the key to safer roads



Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh,
Regional Director for
WHO South-East Asia

Motor travel has had a profound impact on the modern world. Road networks have linked communities. Local transport systems have changed lifestyles. And ever-greater mobility has advanced social and economic progress. The simple joy of driving, meanwhile, has rapt enthusiasts since an engine was first hitched to four wheels and a drive shaft.

And yet despite these common goods, there is a tragic downside: mass injury, disability and death. In the WHO South-East Asia Region approximately 316 000 people die every year on our roads, equating to around 865 fatalities each day. Twenty to 50 times that number are injured or disabled and require long-term care. Road fatalities are the leading cause of death among young persons, while road safety incidents are costing upwards of 3% of GDP. That's before accounting for medical expenses.

This devastating toll is often chalked up to rising rates of vehicle ownership. Not true. High income countries account for just 10% of road deaths,

despite having 46% of the world's motor vehicles. It is also explained away by reference to 'human error'. That's a fallacy. The vast majority of 'accidents' could have been avoided by better use of road safety technology such as barriers, rumble strips or signage. Their impact could also have been lessened by safer vehicles.

Though the behavior of road users matters, poor public policy is at the root of the problem. The upshot? Good policy can bring about immediate change. Action in four key areas can diminish injury and death on roads across the Region, and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of halving the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020.

First, road safety authorities must have the data needed to act efficiently. Good data allows authorities to analyze and understand the factors causing road crashes, as well as to devise and implement cost-effective solutions. This could be as minor as installing a guard-rail on a switchback, or as substantial as demolishing a high-risk road and building it anew. Clear lines of responsibility and partnership among government agencies and stakeholders can help this process, especially given the problem's multi-sectoral nature.

Second, infrastructure must be

tailored to the needs of vulnerable road users. On average 50% of road deaths across the Region occur among pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. In some countries this figure rises to more than 80%. Bicycle lanes, pedestrian crossings and enforcement of helmet laws among other interventions can dramatically reduce these numbers. And they can do so in a way that makes our cities less car dependent.

Third, motor vehicles must be manufactured to higher safety standards. Just two of the Region's countries currently apply any of the seven priority international vehicle safety standards, such as seat belts and electronic stability control. Not a single country applies all. Priority safety features should be present in all new vehicles; the inclusion of more advanced technologies should be encouraged. Consumers have immense power in making this happen, and in creating a groundswell for national regulations to be harmonized with global standards.

Finally, responsiveness to post-crash emergencies must be increased. When every second counts, a nationwide emergency phone service is critical. So too are efficient pre-hospital response and hospital trauma care systems. On all counts, more work is needed.

SEE PAGE-9

Diplomatic relations established between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Liberia

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Liberia has established diplomatic relations at the level of Ambassadors, with effect from 5 May 2017 as the two countries are desirous of establishing friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement and the norms of International Law in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

The Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations was signed in Beijing on 5 May 2017 by the Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China and the Ambassador of the Republic of Liberia to the People's Republic of China. Myanmar is expanding its diplomatic ties with countries around the world. The Republic of Liberia is the 119th country with which Myanmar has established diplomatic relations.—MOFA ■

35 Myanmar smuggling victims found in Thailand

THAI police found 35 migrants from Myanmar abandoned and wandering in a southern forest on Friday, raising fears that smuggling and trafficking routes are flourishing despite a crackdown by authorities.

The 28 men and seven women were discovered by villagers in Tha Sala district in Nakorn Si Thammarat province in southern Thailand, police said. They were on their way to Malaysia and had no identification cards on them.

"They were wandering in the forest and abandoned near shrimp farms. Villagers found them and brought them to us," Police Colonel Sophon Chamrongnirong, an officer in charge of the case, told Reuters.

"They said they were dumped here... It is unclear who dumped them."

Reuters has not spoken directly to the 35 who are being detained and questioned by police.

Activists say the discovery is unlikely to be a one-off and said it could suggest that smuggling routes are still thriving in Thailand despite a crackdown by authorities.

"We know from recent activity that the smuggling routes are far from quiet, despite what authorities might have us believe about the success of their trafficking crackdown," said one activist who declined to be named because he feared repercussions.—Reuters ■

Taking the wheel on road safety

FROM PAGE-8

In addition, steps should be taken to enhance early rehabilitation and support for road crash victims. This will help avoid long-term complications and enhance quality of life. It will also reduce health care usage over the life-course. Still, as safe as our roads become, they will never be entirely human-proof. Each one of us can limit the prospect of an incident and protect ourselves and our loved ones by slowing down, by desisting from drink-driving, by using seat-belts and child restraints, and, when riding a motorcycle, by wearing a helmet. These actions will reinforce government-led initiatives, and will also promote society-wide change.

This emphasis on broad-based ownership is crucial. Though motor travel is a welcome marker of development and increased autonomy, its public health impact is shared across society. As motor vehicle ownership in the Region increases, and as countries seek to advance public health and productivity, creating safer roads through good public policy is both readily achievable and necessary. Taking the wheel on road safety is a duty that cannot be foregone.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Charles, Prince of Wales and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall in Clarence House. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor visits Great Britain

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is on a working visit to London, met yesterday with Charles, Prince of Wales and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, in Clarence House, their official residence in West-

minster.

Accompanying the State Counsellor were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Ambassador of Myanmar to United Kingdom U Kyaw Swa Min.

Later on the same day, the State Counsellor arrived in Buckingham Palace to meet with Queen Elizabeth II and was entertained with lunch by the Queen.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Kandawgyi water supply pipes to be replaced and extended

Maung Sein Lwin

The pipes carrying water from Kandawgyi Lake to Buthidaung township in Rakhine State will be replaced and more water pipes will be installed in the current fiscal year, according to the municipal office in Budhidaung township.

The water pipes from Kandawgyi lake will supply water to seven wards in the town. The additional pipes will allow more water to be delivered to

local residents.

"In the present 2017-2018 fiscal year, we will do these works quarterly, as the work is expensive. For example, we will make No. 1 and No. 2 water pipes that supply seven wards to be replaced in the second quarter. Most of the damage such as leaking and blocking usually happen in November and December and needs replacing," said U Aung Moe Oo, Junior Engineer-3 from the municipal department.

"Moreover, we will install

more new water pipelines to some wards which need more water", he said. Currently, the township municipal manages the water supply in a rotating system to 184 households in seven wards and 14 sub-water supply points. The water is supplied three times daily, from 7 am to 9 am, from 11 am to 1 pm, and from 4 pm to 6 pm. The new water pipes to be installed will extend the water supply more than 1,000 feet to supply water to some wards that need more water. ■



Kandawgyi Lake, which supplies water to the wards in Buthidaung. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THANT

New UN disarmament chief to give support for nuke ban talks

NEW YORK — Izumi Nakamitsu, the new UN undersecretary general and high representative for disarmament affairs, said Thursday she will throw her full support behind negotiations to ban nuclear weapons.

In an interview with Kyodo News, the 53-year-old Nakamitsu said she will pay an official visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki this summer, if invited, with the aim of making an appeal to the international community for disarmament from the atom-bombed Japanese cities.

Nakamitsu, who assumed the new posts on Monday, gave her blessing to the view held by non-nuclear countries in favour of an international treaty to outlaw nuclear weapons that such an accord would complement the regime of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

She also said it is “critically important” to make a success of an NPT review conference to be held in 2020. Unlike the UN-backed talks on a nuclear weapons ban treaty, which began in March, the NPT review process involves major nuclear powers.

Nakamitsu said she hopes Japan, the world’s sole country to have suffered nuclear attacks, will serve as a “bridge” between nuclear and non-nuclear nations.

She added that she is also keen to step in when necessary, saying, “It is my very important



Izumi Nakamitsu, the new UN undersecretary general and high representative for disarmament affairs, is interviewed by Kyodo News at the UN headquarters in New York, on 4 May 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

role to play to provide political facilitation.”

Turning to North Korea’s ballistic missile and nuclear development programmes, Nakamitsu said they are “unacceptable to the international community.”

She also pointed to the need to “think about what steps we should take toward the path of dialogue,” adding the United Nations is willing to serve as an intermediary if asked by the parties concerned.

In addition to her own vis-

it to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, she said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has started scheduling a similar trip.

Nakamitsu said the US atomic bombing of the two Japanese cities in August 1945 was “the biggest incident in human history.” She said she heard her father talk about the mushroom cloud he saw at the time of the nuclear attack on Nagasaki from neighbouring Kumamoto Prefecture.

A native of Tokyo, Nakamitsu joined the United Nations in 1989 and has been assistant secretary general and assistant administrator at the UN Development Programme’s Crisis Response Unit since November 2014.

Previously, she served as director of the Asia and Middle East division, as well as director of the division of policy, evaluation and training with the United Nations’ peacekeeping department.

Her extensive career at the international body has included posts in and out of New York, including serving under former Secretary General Kofi Annan as part of his reform team and at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in the former Yugoslavia, Turkey and northern Iraq.

Nakamitsu was also a professor of international relations at Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo between 2005 and 2008.—Kyodo News ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Russian bombers fly over waters along Aleutian Islands

MOSCOW — Russian long-range strategic bombers flew over the waters of the Pacific Ocean along the Aleutian Islands on Thursday, the Russian Defence Ministry said Friday.

“On 4 May, Tu-95MS air-planes accompanied by multi-purpose Su-35S fighter aircraft, carried out the scheduled flights over the neutral waters of the Pacific Ocean along the Aleutian Islands,” it said.

All flights are carried out in strict accordance with international rule in the use of air space over neutral waters, without violation of borders of other states, the ministry said.—Xinhua ■

12 IS suspects detained in south Turkey

ANKARA — Turkish police detained 12 Islamic-State-linked suspects in operations conducted in Turkey’s southern Adana province early Friday, local media reported.

Police carried out simultaneous operations in nine different addresses according to intelligence information. They conducted an extensive search at the targeted houses and surroundings.

The state-run Anadolu Agency reported that two of the 12 suspects are Iraqi nationals, five Syrian nationals and five Turkish.—Xinhua ■

Viet Nam, Cambodia to build expressway

HO CHI MINH CITY — A 195-km expressway linking Vietnam’s Ho Chi Minh City and Cambodia’s Phnom Penh will be constructed with investment of some 650 million US dollars, a Vietnamese transport department said Friday. The expressway will include a 65-km section stretching from Ho Chi Minh City to Moc Bai international border gate in southern Tay Ninh Province, and a 130-km section from Cambodia’s Bavet city, Svay Rieng Province to Phnom Penh, said the International Cooperation Department under the Transport Ministry.—Xinhua ■

May’s Conservatives make strong gains in UK local votes

LONDON — Britain’s governing Conservative Party made strong gains in local elections on Friday, suggesting that Prime Minister Theresa May’s Brexit strategy is winning over voters who should hand her an easy victory in a parliamentary election on 8 June.

Early results in the polls, which voters often use as an opportunity to protest against the ruling party, showed May’s Conservatives had gained more than 100 council seats and secured victory for their candidate as mayor for the West of England.

The main opposition Labour Party lost control of councils in Wales, but the biggest losses were suffered by the anti-EU UK Independence Party, which has struggled to find a new footing since the vote to leave the European Union last June.

By calling an early national election for next month, May has made the local votes a gauge of her leadership, and many of her Conservative candidates have campaigned in recent days using her campaign mantra of “strong and stable leadership”.

But turnout was low and the Conservatives were careful not to overplay their expected victory next month, which could reshape the British political landscape for years to come.

“(They are) encouraging results but I am cautious about predicating the general election on them,” Defence Minister Michael Fallon told BBC radio.

The opposition Labour Party also played down its losses, with Labour finance spokesman John McDonnell saying that despite it being “tough ... it hasn’t been the wipe-out that some people predicted or the polls

predicted”.

The early results suggested that May’s Conservatives had taken votes from both Labour and UKIP, signalling that her bid to position her party in the political centre ground and take a strong stance on Brexit may be paying dividends.

Opinion polls give May a runaway lead in the national election on 8 June of around 20 percentage points, which could hand her more than 100 more seats in parliament and bolster her hand in divorce negotiations with the EU.—Reuters ■

Trump to wade into Middle East politics on first foreign trip

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he will travel to Saudi Arabia and Israel this month, kicking off his first foreign trip, where he will work to reinvigorate traditional alliances in the region.

Trump said he would also visit the Vatican along with his swing through the Middle East before attending a NATO meeting in Brussels on 25 May and the Group of Seven summit in Sicily on 26 May.

The maiden foreign trips of US presidents often take on broader symbolic import, and by choosing the Middle East as his first stop, Trump will highlight his lofty promises to eradicate Islamic State insurgents and bring peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Trump cast his trip as an effort to build cooperation and support between Muslims, Christians and Jews for fighting terrorism.

“Our task is not to dictate to others how to live but to build a coalition of friends and partners who share the goal of fighting terrorism and bringing safe-



US President Donald Trump shakes hands with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as they deliver a statement at the White House in Washington DC, US, on 3 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

ty, opportunity and stability to the war-ravaged Middle East,” Trump said during a speech in the Rose Garden at an event on religious liberty.

Trump’s predecessor President Barack Obama had

a testy relationship with both Israel and Saudi Arabia, whose leaders viewed him as being concerned less with traditional alliances than with negotiating a deal to rein in Iran’s nuclear programme.

Trump has been criticized for his “America First” mantra for national security issues, for challenging allies in NATO and the Middle East to do more to pay for their own defence, and for immigration policies that

have been cast as anti-Muslim.

Even as he has described himself as a non-interventionist unwilling to be “the policeman of the world”, Trump has recently shown he is willing to engage militarily when he sees fit.

Last month, he ordered missile strikes on a Syrian airfield in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack that he blamed on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The idea to visit Saudi Arabia first came during conversations the Trump team held with Saudi officials after the November election, where Saudis sought a fresh start on areas of common interest, including tackling the causes of extremism and dealing with the destabilising activities of an emboldened Iran.

By choosing Saudi Arabia, home to Islam’s holiest shrines, as his first destination, Trump intends to send a message about how he wants to show leadership on global issues like the fight against Islamic State militants by strengthening alliances, senior administration officials told reporters.—Reuters ■

Syrian rebels reject Russia’s proposal for safe zones

ASTANA, (Kazakhstan) — Syria’s armed opposition on Thursday rejected a Russian plan to create safe zones in Syria, calling it a threat to the country’s territorial integrity, and said it would also not recognise Iran as a guarantor of any ceasefire plan.

Turkey, which supports Syrian rebels, and Iran, which backs Syrian President Bashar Assad, agreed earlier in the day to Russia’s proposal for “de-escalation zones” in Syria, a move welcomed by the United Nations but met with scepticism from the United States.

“We want Syria to maintain its integrity,” opposition delegate Osama Abu Zaid said after Russia, Turkey and Iran signed a memorandum on creating safe zones. The three countries are sponsoring talks in the Kazakh capital Astana aimed at ending Syria’s fighting.

“We are against the divi-



Syrian armed opposition delegate Osama Abu Zaid (C) attends the fourth round of Syria peace talks in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 4 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

sion of Syria. As for the agreements, we are not a party to that agreement and of course we will never be in favour (of it) as long as Iran is called a guarantor state,” Abu Zaid said.

He also cited what he called “a huge gap” between the promises of Russia, which intervened militarily in 2015 on Assad’s side and gave him back the upper hand in the conflict.

“We have an agreement already (in) our hands, why isn’t it implemented?” he said, referring to a truce deal announced by Russia in December that was largely ignored on the ground. “Why are we jumping now to safe zones?”

“Russia was not able to or does not want to implement the pledges it makes, and this is a fundamental problem.”—Reuters ■

Cholera outbreak kills 618 in Somalia since January

MOGADISHU — An outbreak of cholera/ acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) in Somalia has killed 618 people since January, the UN humanitarian agency said on Thursday.

The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in its latest bulletin that the AWD/cholera outbreak is affecting 13 out of 18 Somali regions.

The OCHA attributed the outbreak to widespread water shortages, food insecurity and displacement that have stretched sanitation facilities beyond their capacity.

“Nearly 32,000 AWD/cholera cases and 618 related deaths have been reported since the start of 2017,” said the UN agency.

The vulnerable children and adults, already struggling to cope with malnutrition and food insecurity caused in large part by the failure of 2016’s two rainy seasons, were struck down by the deadly disease after drinking contaminated water, it said.

The OCHA said most cas-

es were reported from Banadir, Togdheer, Lower Shabelle, Hiraaan, Sool, Mudug and Lower Juba regions, noting that reporting and verification in places such as Middle Juba have been hampered by difficult access.

“The current mass population displacement as a result of droughts is worsening the situation. The onset of the rainy season risks exacerbating the situation further in the hotspots and along the riverine areas,” it said.

Meanwhile, the report said an outbreak of suspected measles has added to the burden of disease in Somalia.

“Almost 5,700 suspected cases of the disease have been reported since the start of 2017, more than the total number of cases in 2016,” the UN said.

Measles, a viral respiratory infection that spreads through air and contact with infected mucus and saliva, thrives in congested, unsanitary displacement settlements that have multiplied across the country as people flee drought.—Xinhua ■

Australia wins landmark WTO tobacco packaging case

GENEVA/LONDON — A landmark Australian law on restrictive tobacco packaging has been upheld at the World Trade Organization after a five-year legal battle, Bloomberg news reported on Thursday, citing two people familiar with the situation.

The news is a blow to the tobacco industry as such a ruling from the WTO has been widely anticipated as giving a green light for other countries to roll out similar laws.

It could have wider implications if applied to packaging for alcohol and junk food.

The Australian law goes much further than advertising bans and graphic health warnings enforced in many other countries.

The rules, introduced

in 2010, ban logos and distinctive-colored cigarette packaging in favor of drab olive packets that look more like military or prison issue, with brand names printed in small standardized fonts.

Tobacco firms said their trademarks were being infringed, and Cuba, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Indonesia complained at the WTO that the rules constituted an illegal barrier to trade.

Although the WTO's final ruling is not expected until July, a confidential draft said Australia's laws were a legitimate public health measure, Bloomberg reported.

A WTO official confirmed the draft was sent to parties to the dispute on Tuesday. "It's a confidential interim report ... and we don't comment on



A photo illustration shows restrictive tobacco packaging on cigarettes outside a Sydney office building in Australia, on 5 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

confidential reports," he said. Of the biggest international cigarette companies, Imperial Brands' profits are most exposed to markets that may im-

plement plain packaging, said analysts at Jefferies.

Imperial's shares fell more than 2 per cent, while Philip Morris and British American Tobacco

were up slightly. A spokeswoman for British American declined to comment on the ruling until it was made public, but suggested the complainants

would keep fighting.

"As there is a high likelihood of an appeal by some or all of the parties, it's important to note that this panel report is not the final word on whether plain packaging is consistent with international law," she said.

A spokeswoman for Japan Tobacco also declined to comment on the ruling, but said the fact that the draft had been leaked was disconcerting and a breach of WTO rules.

"Such breaches completely undermine the integrity of the process, which has not yet run its full course," she said.

A spokesman for Imperial declined to comment and Philip Morris, the world leader, was not immediately available. —Reuters ■

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For **KG International FZCO.**
By their Attorneys
Lall & Sethi Advocates

Dated 6th May 2017

New Delhi – 110 049, India

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV GLOBAL AQUARIUS VOY. NO (17001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GLOBAL AQUARIUS VOY. NO (17001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MSTL-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BAY LINE SHIPPING PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV PRIMA DORA VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PRIMA DORA VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO (1706)

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MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO ()

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Lion cubs born in Chile after world first veterinary procedure

SANTIAGO, (Chile) — Two baby lion cubs were presented to the public at a zoo in Chile on Thursday, born after a pioneering veterinary procedure that involved a reversed vasectomy of their father.

The cubs' mother "Masai" became pregnant after the father "Maicho" underwent the procedure, which vets at Buin Zoo in the suburbs of Santiago said took months of planning and a five-hour operation.

Both parents had been rescued from circuses.

"This is the first suc-

cessful reversal of a lion vasectomy reported in the world," said Marcelo Marconi, a urology specialist who joined the zoo vet team to lead the procedure. "It gives a way of preserving and maintaining a species in a zoo."

The procedure could be copied by other places around the world that have lions in captivity, the zoo said.

One of the cubs, which were born around three months ago, is named Niara and the other is yet to be named. Both are female.

—Reuters ■



Lion cubs, who were born after a pioneering veterinary procedure that involved a reversed vasectomy of their father, are presented to the media, at Buin Zoo, in the outskirts of Santiago, Chile on 4 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Scientists call for more precision in global warming predictions



A drop of water falls from a melting piece of ice on Argentina's Perito Moreno glacier near the city of El Calafate, in the Patagonian province of Santa Cruz, in 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Researchers from Harvard University, Princeton University and the Environmental Defence Fund proposed a new, more precise way to measure the effects of greenhouse gas emissions on Earth's climate in an article published on Thursday in the academic journal *Science*.

The proposal, titled "Unmask temporal trade-offs in climate policy debates," would create a two-digit measurement system the scientists likened to blood pressure readings in medicine, which show the pressure on blood vessels both during heartbeats and in between them. It would help scientists and policymak-

ers account for the fact that some greenhouse gases last longer than others in the atmosphere.

"Different gases have widely different lifetimes in the atmosphere after emission and affect the climate in different ways over widely different timescales," said co-author Michael Oppenheimer, a geosciences professor at Princeton.

The system would show the effects of greenhouse emissions on a 20-year scale and a 100-year scale. Having a measurement that shows both numbers, the scientists argued, would let governments and other institutions trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow global warming decide which

policies would be best in the short term and which should be adopted longer term. It would also help in disputes between opposing advocacy groups. For example, according to the researchers, advocates for using natural gas as an energy source base their arguments on a 100-year timescale. But their opponents, activists lobbying against natural gas, use a 20-year timescale to show the effects of burning natural gas on the climate.

An overwhelming majority of scientists believe gas emissions like carbon dioxide, which is produced from burning fossil fuels, are contributing to global climate change, triggering sea level rise, droughts and more frequent violent storms.

For the two-value proposal to be successful, the scientists argued, it would have to be widely adopted, not only by individual government agencies like the US Environmental Protection Agency, but also by international bodies like the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change. —Reuters ■

Nearly 900 people die daily from road crashes in the Western Pacific region: WHO

MANILA — Nearly 900 people are killed each day in road crashes in the Western Pacific region, with speeding being a major factor in up to half of fatal crashes in most low- and middle-income countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

The Manila-based WHO Western Pacific Region Headquarters said in a statement that approximately 337,000 people are killed each year as a result of road traffic crashes in the region, which includes 37 countries and areas in East Asia, Southeast Asia and Oceania.

"69 per cent of those dying on the region's roads are vulnerable road users like pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. Millions more suffer non-fatal injuries, with many incurring lifelong disability as a result of their injury," the statement read.

WHO said road traffic injuries cause considerable economic losses to victims, their families and to nations, adding "these losses arise from the cost of treatment, including rehabilitation and incident investigation, as well as reduced or lost productivity for those killed or disabled by their injuries, and

for family members who need to take time off work or school to care for the injured."

"Road traffic injuries cost some low- and middle-income countries as much as 5 per cent of their gross national product," WHO said, noting the risk of dying from road traffic injuries is 2.5 times higher in low- and middle-income countries compared to high-income countries.

Injuries create a spiral of poverty, WHO said, adding they can leave people unable to work or care for themselves, draining family budgets and hopes for prosperity.—Xinhua ■

Announcement for Companies

According to the Myanmar Companies Act, Section 76, an Annual General Meeting of every company must be held within eighteen months from the date of its incorporation and, thereafter, at least once in every calendar year and not more than fifteen months after the holding of the last preceding Annual General Meeting. According to Section 32 of the Myanmar Companies Act every company shall submit an annual list of members and a summary of share capital (Form-E) within 21 days of the Annual General Meeting.

In accordance with the above provisions, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) urges the companies registered in 2014-2015 budget year to hold Annual General Meeting and submit a Form-E within 21 days of the date on which the Annual General Meeting is held.

The companies which must respond to this notification are listed on DICA's website: www.dica.gov.mm

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

'Baahubali 2' shatters myths and box-office records in Bollywood

MUMBAI — S. S. Rajamouli's Telugu fantasy epic "Baahubali 2 - The Conclusion" is shattering many a myth about film-making in Bollywood on its way to breaking box office records in India.

The second installment in the two-film franchise that combines Indian mythology with Hollywood-style special effects opened to packed theatres across India and looks set to become the highest-grossing Indian movie sometime this week. The feat is all the more impressive because audiences in Hindi-speaking north India hardly watch films made in the south and vice versa. The first film in the franchise, about warring kings in a magical kingdom, released in 2015.

The latest film, which was released last Friday, has grossed 6.41 billion rupees (\$99.8 million) globally in ticket sales till Tuesday - including 4.41 billion rupees in India. It also ranked third in North America, raking in just over \$10 million in ticket sales over three days (till April 30), according

to website BoxOfficeMojo - the biggest ever opening for an Indian film in the world's largest film market.

But it is the movie's business in India that has analysts running out of adjectives. In the Hindi-speaking belt, where a dubbed version was played, "Baahubali 2" made more on its first day than what Bollywood's top grossers "Bajrangi Bhaijaan", "PK" and "Dangal" did on their respective opening days. "Baahubali 2" has already overtaken the domestic tally of Bollywood's highest-grossing movie of all time, Aamir Khan's "Dangal", and is on the verge of surpassing its global earnings of 7 billion rupees.

"The biggest lesson is that the size of the market is huge. In the last few years, people (from the industry) have been saying that we need more screens or that the younger audiences are moving to digital, but this movie has shown that the medium is there and so are the audiences," said Shailesh Kapoor of Ormax, an agency that tracks box office results.—Reuters ■



Handout photo from the film 'Baahubali 2 - The Conclusion'. PHOTO: REUTERS

Salma Hayek suffers from stage fright

LOS ANGELES — Actress Salma Hayek says she suffers from stage fright and hates performing in front of an audience. The 50-year-old actress says she feels comfortable only in front of the camera, reported Fox News.

"I suffer from stage fright.

No one would know it, but I get it really, really bad. If you take the camera away and put me in front of an audience, I just die.

"Once I get onto the stage, you can't tell. But then I can't do anything else the rest of the day because I'm so exhausted," Hayek says.—PTI ■



A fan dressed as a Storm Trooper from 'Star Wars' reacts at the Taipei Metro (MRT) during Star Wars Day in Taipei, Taiwan on 4 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

'May the 4th be with you': 'Star Wars' fans mark 40th anniversary

TAIPEI — Dozens of "Star Wars" fans dressed like Jedi knights, Galactic Empire storm troopers and other characters from the sci-fi series paraded through central Taipei on Thursday, part of a worldwide celebration to mark the 40th anniversary of the film franchise.

Costume parties, movie marathons and fun runs were among the special events being staged in New York and other cities worldwide on Star Wars Day.

Countless others joined the celebration on social media, many of them tweeting "May the 4th be with you," in a play on the "Star Wars" catchphrase, "May the force be with you."

For years that catchphrase has brought "Star Wars" fans together to celebrate the franchise in private and public events on 4 May, a phenomenon that has

been pushed into light speed as more fans have connected over the Internet.

In Taiwan's capital, fans took the day off from work to pose in costume for photographs at landmarks such as the Taipei 101 tower and the Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall.

"I liked 'Star Wars' since I was small," said Annie Tseng, a 40-year-old communications specialist dressed as archvillain Darth Vader. "I chose Darth Vader because I think he's very handsome," she said.

This year's event in Taipei featured a duel with light sabers at the Living Mall, a shopping mall with a giant orb that resembles the film's Death Star space station, organizers said.

The original "Star Wars" film, written and directed by George Lucas and starring Harri-

son Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher, hit movie theaters in 1977. Since then, 11 "Star Wars" movies have been released, sparking a devoted worldwide fan base and generating billions of dollars in sales of tickets and branded merchandise. In the United States, even the Federal Aviation Administration got in on the fun. On Twitter, the agency posted a photo of a huge Star Destroyer spaceship crashed on the surface of fictitious planet Jakku, with an FAA investigator standing next to it. "It was a very long day for the only FAA accident investigator on Jakku," the tweet said.

Other events in the United States included special "Star Wars"-themed activities at the Walt Disney Co's (DIS.N) Disneyland amusement park in California. Disney owns the Star Wars franchise.—Reuters ■

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child to open on Broadway in 2018

LONDON — "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" will open on Broadway next year, following its success in London's West End.

The critically acclaimed two-part play - which is a follow-up to JK Rowling's hugely successful "Harry Potter" novel and movie series - will make its US debut in the famous theatre district of New York on April 22, 2018, when it opens at the Lyric Theatre, reported The Guardian.

Preview performances, casting and all further details will be announced in the coming months.

Tickets for the shows will go on sale later this year, though it is unclear how long the play will remain at the Lyric Theatre.

The play has been a phenomenal success in London's West End, and picked up a whopping nine Olivier Awards at the glitzy ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall last month. "Cursed Child"

won Best New Play, Best Actor (Jamie Parker), Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Anthony Boyle), Best Actress in a Supporting Role (Noma Dumezweni) and Best Director (John Tiffany) at the annual awards ceremony in London.

The widely acclaimed production also won in the Best Lighting Design, Best Costume Design, Best Sound Design and Best Set Design categories.—PTI ■

Activision's 'Overwatch' fuels revenue beat; forecasts raised

COLOGNE — Activision Blizzard Inc raised its full-year adjusted profit and revenue forecasts, and reported quarterly revenue above estimates, as the videogame publisher benefited from the popularity of its "Overwatch" game.

The company on Thursday nudged up its full-year adjusted profit to \$1.88 per share from \$1.85 and its adjusted revenue forecast to \$6.33 billion from \$6.30 billion.

Activision's total adjusted revenue rose 31.7 per cent to \$1.20 billion in the first quarter ended 31 March, from \$908 million a year earlier.

Analysts on average had expected revenue of \$1.09 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

"Among the drivers of our results was 'Overwatch', which now has over 30 million players globally," Chief Executive Bobby Kotick said in a statement.

Activision, best known for its "Call of Duty" and "World of Warcraft" games, released the multi-player futuristic game "Overwatch" on 24 May last year to rave reviews.

Revenue from the company's high-margin digital business rose 50 per cent.

Activision, like rivals Electronic Arts and Take Two Interactive, has benefited in recent years as players increasingly prefer downloading games to buying physical discs.

Activision's net income rose



Visitors look at a presentation at the Activision Blizzard exhibition stand during the Gamescom 2013 fair in Cologne, in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

to \$426 million, or 56 cents per share, from \$363 million, or 48 cents per share in the latest quarter.

Under Kotick, Activision is looking to transform into a media entertainment giant. The company has set up a film studio, e-sports and consumer products divisions. The consumer products unit is headed by former Walt Disney executive, Tim Kilpin.

Activision bought "Candy Crush" maker King Digital for nearly \$6 billion last year, looking for a bigger foothold in the highly-addictive mobile gaming space.

The company is continuing to make progress with the testing and development of its ads platform at King, Kotick said on a post-earnings conference call.

Last week, Activision released a trailer of its latest "Call of Duty", set in World War II, as the company looks to rebound from disappointing sales of last year's installment, "Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare".

Though early, initial pre-orders for "Call of Duty: WWII" are off to a very strong start, the company said.

Activision had 48 million monthly active users in the

first quarter, down from a year earlier, largely due to expected softness from the "Infinite Warfare" release.

The company forecast current-quarter adjusted revenue of \$1.20 billion, largely in line with analysts' average estimate of \$1.19 billion.

Videogame companies are required to defer some revenue from certain online-enabled games following a tweak to the US accounting rules.

The company's shares, already up about 47 per cent this year, were down slightly in after-market trading on Thursday.—Reuters ■

Sri Lanka's tourism arrivals back on track following re-opening of airport runway

COLOMBO — Tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka picked up with over 160,000 tourists arriving in April, after February and March recorded a negative growth due to the partial closure of the country's main airport, statistics from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Bureau showed here Thursday.

India was the number one market in April with the largest number of tourist arrivals of 26,323, while China came in second with 19,823 arrivals.

Britain generated the third highest number of arrivals with 17,841 tourists.

Overall over 760,000 tourists arrived in Sri Lanka from January to April 2017, a 6.1 per cent growth from the 721,825 tourists who arrived during the same period last year.

Tourist arrivals had seen a decline in February and March, due to the partial closure of Bandaranaike International Airport from 8 Jan to 8 April in order to renovate its runway. During the period, passengers were required to check in five hours prior their flight departures whilst airlines also had to re-schedule their timings due to the day time closure of the airport from 8 am to 4 pm local time.—Xinhua ■

Programme Schedule
(6-5-2017, Saturday)

<p>6:00 Am ◆ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw</p> <p>7:00 Am ◆ Breakfast News</p> <p>7:35 Am ◆ Weekly Sport Info</p> <p>8:35 Am ◆ Pan Pyo Khin</p> <p>9:10 Am ◆ Documentary</p> <p>10:40 Am ◆ Poem For Children</p> <p>11:15 Pm ◆ Health and Vegetables</p> <p>11:30 Am ◆ Game for Children</p> <p>12:30 Pm ◆ TV Drama Series</p> <p>2:45 Pm ◆ Law Ka Ni Ti</p> <p>3:45 Pm ◆ "Myanmar National League (MNL) (1) (2017)</p>	<p>(LIVE Broadcast) (GFA FC Vs Southern Myanmar FC)</p> <p>6:15 Pm ◆ Documentary</p> <p>6:30 Pm ◆ Tasty Trip</p> <p>7:15 Pm ◆ TV Drama Series</p> <p>8:00 Pm ◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report</p> <p>8:35 Pm ◆ Towards All Sector Development</p> <p>8:50 Pm ◆ Unity Melody</p> <p>9:20 Pm ◆ Documentary (Sport)</p> <p>9:30 Pm ◆ TV Drama Series</p> <p>10:00 Pm ◆ Teleplay (Firebrigade Day)</p>
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Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(6-5-2017 07:00am ~ 7-5-2017 07:00am) MST

10:44	Am	Mahar Thakya Atula Man Aung - Nga Htat Kyee	
(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	New	
07:26	Pm	Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Part-4)	
07:38	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Bullock-Cart & Equestrian Racing	
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar: CBT in Myaing Township	
08:03	Pm	New	
08:26	Pm	U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-I)	
08:46	Pm	Dances of Myanmar "Lisu Traditional Dance"	
08:51	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass - Aung Thiha	
(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)			

Rashford rocket gives United away win in Europa semi

VIGO (SPAIN) — Manchester United's teenage striker Marcus Rashford struck a stunning second-half free-kick to secure a 1-0 win at Celta Vigo in their Europa League semi-final, first leg on Thursday.

The victory puts United on course for this month's final with Ajax Amsterdam the most likely opponents after they beat visitors Olympique Lyonnais 4-1 in their first leg on Wednesday.

Celta keeper Sergio Alvarez had denied United several times but was powerless to stop Rashford's 67th minute strike soaring into the net after the striker had won the free-kick.

Despite the victory coach Jose Mourinho was frustrated with his side's inability to take their chances and knows there is still a job to do in the return leg at Old Trafford next week.

"I am very pleased with the performance but not with the result. At halftime it should have been three or at least two (goals) but the result is open," the Portuguese told reporters.

"We played well enough to



Manchester United's Marcus Rashford shoots at goal during UEFA Europa Semi Final First Leg at Balaidos Stadium, Vigo, Spain on 4 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

have the result closed but we have to go and play at Old Trafford... We tried to win the match but we missed chances, but the team played well. They were compact against a side who are difficult to play against."

Three-times European champions United had never reached the last four of the Eu-

ropa League or its predecessor the UEFA Cup, while Celta were in their first major continental semi-final.

Injury-hit United had also only won twice in 22 visits to Spain and knew they were in for a tough battle in Galicia.

Celta made the first clear-cut opening for the unmarked

Daniel Wass who headed wide from close range before Rashford then forced Alvarez into a flying save from distance.

Alvarez thwarted Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Jesse Lingard in one-on-one situations in quick succession before the break and Lingard missed a gilt-edged chance as United were

frustrated.

Celta started the second period brightly, with ex-Liverpool striker Iago Aspas heading just wide before Pione Sisto forced United keeper Sergio Romero into action with a deflected effort.

The game became stretched and, with Celta enjoying their best spell of possession, United broke on the counter. Rashford strode away and drew a foul from Hugo Mallo 25 metres out.

Daly Blind dummied the set piece, which slightly threw Alvarez who took a step to his left allowing Rashford to curl the ball expertly past him into the far corner.

Aspas then fired narrowly wide and Pogba tried to catch Alvarez out of position with a free-kick from just inside Celta's half but the ball hit the side netting.

United's victory was slightly soured when 19-year-old Rashford hobbled off 10 minutes from time clutching his knee. To add to United's growing injury list, substitute Ashley Young was forced off with a hamstring problem in added time.—Reuters ■

Landa ready to make up for last year's Giro heartache

LONDON — SPANIARD Mikel Landa hopes to erase the bitter memory of last year's Giro d'Italia, when the race begins with a 206km flat stage in Sardinia on Friday.

Landa was given the role of Team Sky leader for the Giro last year in his first season for the British outfit but abandoned the race on stage 10 because of illness.

He will again be expected to challenge for the Maglia Rosa, and he will have plenty of high-quality back-up in co-leader Geraint Thomas as Sky try to win the race for the first time having dominated the Tour de France.

"Having a co-leader is great because we can play our tactics. Geraint is a very good climber



Astana rider Mikel Landa Meana of Spain celebrates as he crosses the finish line in the 174 km (108 miles) 16th stage of the 98th Giro d'Italia (Tour of Italy) cycling race from Pinzolo to Aprica, Italy, on 26 May 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

but is maybe a rider who moves better in mid-mountain stages and in time trials, whereas maybe I'm better at uphill finishes," he told Team Sky's website.

"If we stay together and make a good plan then hopefully we can work well together."

Landa has worked on his time trialling and believes he is

in much better shape than he was this time last year, when his training block was disrupted by illness.

"Last year was very different," he said. "I started (with the team) with an illness so I couldn't do all the base work that I've done this year. I'm more confident." —Reuters ■

Schmeichel wants Champions League football back at Leicester

LONDON — Leicester City goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel has enjoyed playing in the Champions League this season and does not think he will have to leave the club to repeat the experience.

The Premier League champions reached the quarter-finals of the competition at the first attempt but a disappointing domestic campaign means there will be no continental football for them next season.

Schmeichel thinks the club could again qualify for a place among the European elite in future years but at the moment is focused on finishing as high in the league as possible.

"Those Champions league

nights are special," Schmeichel told the BBC. "There is something about the night games, going away to different cities, it makes it unique.

"It's something I hoped would come earlier in my career. The journey I've taken has made me appreciate it even more - but also want it even more.

"Eighth position is still a real possibility for us with the games remaining and we will be aiming for it."

Leicester, who were flirting with relegation earlier this season, have clawed back up to 11th in the standings since Craig Shakespeare took charge from Claudio Ranieri in February.—Reuters ■