

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 22, 14th Waxing of Kason 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 9 May 2017



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts the Freedom of the City of London, the city's highest honour, a symbolic and prestigious award which marks the trust gained by the recipient from the city. The ceremony took place in Guildhall, London yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor receives London's highest honour

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday accepted the Freedom of the City of London, the city's highest honour, joining prestigious luminaries such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Stephen Hawking and Nelson Mandela as fellow recipients.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is in the United Kingdom on an official visit, during which she met with Sir Michael Fallon,

Britain's Secretary of State for Defence at the Ministry of Defence in Westminster.

After meeting with Britain's Secretary of Defence yesterday morning, the State Counsellor accepted the Honorary Freedom of The City of London award at Guildhall, London, the home of the city's centre of government, and gave a speech of thanks.

The Honorary Freedom of The City of London is the highest honour bestowed by the City of London. It has previously been awarded to royalty, heads of states and figures of genuine global standing. Former prime minister of Britain Margaret Thatcher, former president of South Africa Mr. Nelson Mandela, English physicist and professor Stephen Hawking

and Diana, Princess of Wales were the past recipients of this honour.

After the event, State Counsellor attended a luncheon hosted by acting Lord Mayor of the City of London Sir Alderman Alan Yarrow.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi last week visited Brussels, Belgium, the Vatican and Italy. —Myanmar News Agency ■



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Participants at yesterday meeting in Nay Pyi Taw discussing topics concerning environmental conservation and other related issues. PHOTO: AYE THAN (MNA)

Many voices for the Year of Peace

By Thura Zaw (MNA)

THE State has been making concerted efforts to achieve peace, which is essential for national development. Accordingly, the 2nd Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong will be held very soon.

All citizens are hoping that good results concerning peace will be gained in 2017. Here are voices of those taking part in the

national peace process.

Political dialogue essential:

Khun Myint Tun, of the committee for discussing matters on Land & Natural Environment, said: “The government designated the year 2017 as the year of peace, making efforts for the peace process with great momentum.

I think that the fruits of the peace will be gained promptly

only if political dialogues can be made more broadly than ever.

Urgent need to stop wars:

U Myo Win of the working committee for discussing matters on security said: “We all need to make efforts with the intention of winning peace in the country.

It wholly depends on the present political situations whether it will be successful or

not. Especially we all, those who are in the peace process are required to make efforts hand in hand, as always, not only in the year 2017.

It is necessary to stop wars as soon as possible.

Due to these wars, the country and its people will greatly suffer. So, it will be the best if the peace is gained in this month, instead of winning peace in this year.

Reality of current situations:

Min Kyaw Zayar Oo of the working committee for discussing matters on the economy said: “Our peace process will not come to an end suddenly. We will proceed very far away from here, but this year, being the year of peace, we will try our best to perform the duties assigned upon us, according to the principle of realising current situations.”

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Work committees meetings: economy, environment

By Thura Zaw (MNA)

UNION Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong work committee meetings were continued yesterday morning at Nay Pyi Taw National Reconciliation and Peace Centre and present were work committees' members from the government group, ethnic armed group and election winning political parties group.



Dr. Wah Wah Maung. PHOTO: AYE THAN (MNA)

Talks on basic principles

Political affairs work committee meeting continue at the assigned place where U Khin Zaw Oo and Dr. Hlan Mhon Zarkhon led the discussion and Brig-Gen Tin Aung, Lt-Col Win Myaing on behalf of Brig-Gen Hla Than Maung, U Htay Win Aung, U Aung Lwin Oo, Dr. Sai Oo, Saw L Klo Say, Saw San Nye-in Thu, Saw Kuu Ku, U Zam Za mone, Sai Bho Aung, Dr. Tu Ja and U Aung Kyi Nyunt attended and discussed political basic principles.

Economic Affairs

In the work committee on economic affairs, U Hla Maung Shwe, Daw Saw Mya Yarzar Lin and Min Kyaw Zayar Oo led the meeting and Brig-Gen Thaik Soe, Mi Kon Cham, Salai Hta Lar Hay, Pado Saw Tar Do Mu, Sai Hlan, Khun Tin Shwe Oo, U Tun Naing, U Thein Tun, U Marcos and U Thar Tun Hla continued the discussion about the paper on economic sector submitted



Khun Myint Tun. PHOTO: AYE THAN (MNA)

from Shan State.

Scrutinise, discuss papers

Similarly, at work committee on social affairs, U Zaw Htay, U Sai La and U Naing Ngan Lin led the discussion and Maj-Gen Nay Lin, Daw Zin Mar Aung, U Naing Swe Oo,

Dr. San San Aye, Saw Sel Bwe, Khun Thomas, Daw Aye Thida Myint, U Tin Swe, U Sam Saung Kar and U Shwe



U Min Kyaw Zayar Oo. PHOTO: AYE THAN (MNA)

Min scrutinized and discussed the papers submitted by Kayin State and Pa'O Self-Administered Zone.

Basic policy

At the work committee on security affairs, Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, U Myo Win and U Tar Hla Pe led the discussion and Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win, Brig-Gen Sein Tun Hla, U In Hton Khar Naw Hsan, U

Kyaw Kyaw Han, Pado Saw Tar Mu Lar, Puu Htet Ni, Khun Okka,

Dr. Aung Myat Oo, U Saw Tun Aung Myint, U Myint Naing and Daw Nan Khin Sein Myint discussed about defence affairs basic policy under the title of national defence matters.

Work committee on land and environmental affairs

In the work committee on land and natural environmental affairs, U Aung Soe and Khun Myint Tun led the discussion and Brig-Gen Aung Thein Oo, U Soe Win, U Zaw Min Latt, Dr. Wah Wah Maung, U Sonny, Saw Daniel, Naw Khu Khu Ju, Sai Sai Win, Daw Dwe Bu, U Hla Khaing, Khun Tun Shwe and U Eik Hsaw discussed about land policies related to federal system.

The meetings of each committee will continued on 9 May. ■

Myanmar celebrates World Red Cross Day welcomes theme “Everywhere for everyone”

By Maw Si (MNA)

President U Htin Kyaw has warned that Myanmar has a high fatality rate from disasters compared to other Southeast Asian nations, calling for the concerted efforts by the government, the people civil society organizations, and humanitarian organizations to help those who are in need of help.

Speaking at the ceremony to celebrate of the World Red Cross Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, the President said over 12 million people in Myanmar were affected with nearly 140,000 fatalities. Startlingly, with 1.13 per cent fatality, Myanmar has a high fatality rate from disasters compared to other Southeast Asian nations.

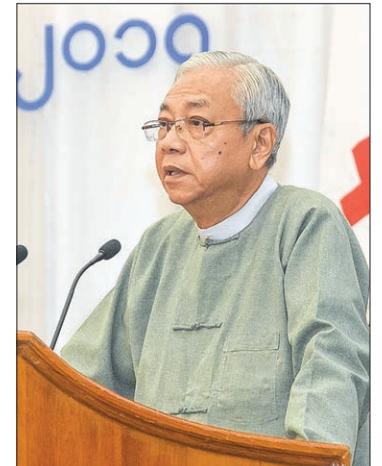
Also with increased occurrences of disasters, the Myanmar Red Cross Society needs to redouble its efforts in providing first aid, in disaster preparedness, responses and in disaster risk reduction activities, he added. “We are aware that the Myanmar Red Cross Society alone cannot meet the humanitarian needs of the people in time of natural calamities or disasters. Concerted efforts have to be rendered by the government, people, civil society organizations, and humanitarian organizations to help those who are in need,” said the President.

Moreover, the Myanmar Red Cross Society can help trained communities to be disaster resilient and the government, on its part, will be providing necessary assistance through its line ministries.

He also expressed his delight to see various level Red Cross societies in states and regions established to gar-



President U Htin Kyaw observes a display of equipment and other items used by the Red Cross. **PHOTO: KO KO LAY (MNA)**



President U Htin Kyaw addresses the celebration of the World Red Cross Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: KO KO LAY (MNA)**

ner more active participation of youths in the humanitarian work of the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

In his speech, the President also pay tribute to those dedicated brave Red Cross Volunteers, who had sacrificed their lives, limbs and health to help save others in their time of need.

Myanmar celebrates the World Red Cross Day every year, on 8th May, the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant who was the founding father of the International Committee of the Red Cross and its movements, to honour all the Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers around the world.

The country welcomes and celebrates the theme “Everywhere for everyone”.

“It truly represents the work and aspiration of the Myanmar Red Cross Society that always stands ready to be there for the

Over 12 million people in Myanmar were affected with nearly 140,000 fatalities.

people, wherever and whoever needs its assistance,” he added.

Since its inception from the battlefield of Solferino in 1859, the Red Cross has been actively carrying out humanitarian work all over the world for over 150 years.

Today, there are over 190 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies providing humanitarian assistances with 17 million volunteers to 160 million people around the world. He

said he was proud to learn that the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), with its trained 44,000 Red Cross volunteers, was also actively providing humanitarian assistances to an average of 500,000 people in Myanmar every year. Recognizing the important role the Myanmar Red Cross Society plays in the field of humanitarian work, the Government has been continuously supporting its work including amendment of the 1949 Act and enactment of the new Myanmar Red Cross Society Law in August 2015, said the President.

The new law is enacted to ensure that the work of the Myanmar Red Cross Society remains relevant with today’s changing time and realities as well as to enable it to thrive to be a people centered and community-based organization that can carry out its humanitarian services. It is therefore impera-

tive that the humanitarian work of the Myanmar Red Cross Society is in line with the national policies and plans for efficient and effective delivery of humanitarian services.

According to the 2016 International Red Cross and Red Crescent Federation’s World Disaster Report, over 1900 million people were affected globally by various disasters in the last decade (2006-2015) with nearly 700,000 fatalities. Seventy-nine per cent of those disasters took place in the Asian region.

In his concluding remarks, the President urged the Myanmar Red Cross Society to maintain the momentum of good work and success that it has achieved to continue striving for improvement and betterment to help the people and to thrive as a people-centered humanitarian organization.

Following his speech, President U Htin Kyaw presented an honorary award to Prof Dr Thar Hla Shwe, who carried out reforms for the Myanmar Red Cross Society in the 11-year period from 2006 to 2016. ■

Yangon Water Bus services to create jobs for people

By Ko Moe

TINT TINT Myanmar Group of Companies has announced that it will prioritize working class people residing along the Yangon River in hiring staff for its water bus service which is expected to launch next month.

“When we launch the Yangon Water Bus service we will hire the people and families living along

the banks of the river. We’ve put up flyers for job vacancies near where they live and there have been a lot of applicants. Vacancies are now closed but we will consider hiring them when we open new routes,” said C.E.O Daw Tint Tint Lwin from Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies.

The vacancies included positions for attendants on the water bus and near terminals as well as

for security and other jobs. She also mentioned that they will provide proper training for the staff.

The water bus service will begin in June and will have routes along the Hline river starting from Insein Rope Bridge to Botahtaung Jetty. There will be 8 terminals and sixteen buses in operation.

The water bus service will have LED signs to signal depar-

ture for the buses and will have 20 minutes of interval between each bus. The entire trip will take one and a half hour long and the bus service will run from 6 in the morning till 6 at night.

Additionally, jetties are under construction on the route from Yangon River to Ngamoeyeik Creek for another water bus route. The Ngamoeyeik Creek has a lot of bridges and low water

levels, and these are taken into consideration when building new water buses.

Because Yangon River, Hline River and Ngamoeyeik Creek have differing pathways, the Yangon Water Bus service has 4 different types of water buses to ferry people. The passenger capacity for the buses begins from 60 and increases to 80, 180 and 200 passengers. ■



Mandalay Palace from Watch Tower. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

3,000 tourists visit Mandalay's Myanansankyaw Golden Palace

LAST month, nearly 3,000 holidaymakers visited Mandalay Palace, also known as Myanansankyaw Shwenandaw, the last royal palace of Myanmar.

Built by King Mindon in the 1850s when he shifted his capital from Amarapura, the Great Golden Royal Palace located in the heart of Mandalay City is one of the more popular

tourist attractions of Myanmar and is famous for its ancient architecture.

Visitors, including 150 foreigners, toured the Royal Palace in April, according to the administration department under the Mandalay branch of the department of archaeology.

Foreigners have to pay a Ks10,000 admission fee, while the authority collects Ks200 per

head from local visitors. There is no entry fee for children.

The royal palace hosts roughly 200 visitors daily.

The majority of visitors are students and observers from Mandalay and nearby areas.

If officials are given advanced notice, groups will be given the background history of the palace and related structures.—Shwe Khine ■

Electricity project in Thaton to be finished by 2018

AN electric power project being implemented in Thaton Township in Mon State by the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy is expected to be finalised in early 2018, a project manager said.

U Kyaw Thet, chief engineer of the Thaton gas turbine station, said construction works are almost completed, with plans to import substan-

tial machinery reserves next month. U Kyaw Thet said every stage of the project has been implemented in accord with standards and norms for environmental health under systematic management.

The government received US\$140 million in loans from the World Bank to implement the project to fill the growing power demand. Upon completion of the project, the new

plant will generate over 100 megawatts of electricity.

Installation of a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant at the existing Thaton Gas Turbine (GT) station is the first component of the project.

The project includes a good wastewater management plan for the factory to reduce environmental impact, a project engineer said.—200 ■

Squatters increasing even in survey time

Surveys of squatters in Hlaine-thaya started from 25 April and will be ended on 25 May, but the squatters are still growing while they are under survey, said ward's administrators of Hlaine-thaya Township.

Hlaine-thaya Township has the largest number of Squatters in Yangon Region and more

houses are being built in them, said administrator of hundred houses. But the make-shift buildings that are built after the survey will not be counted.

Official document will not be issued for a home where only one person lives.

Therefore, solo living people are adding new people in their

house to get the official squatter document. We will make investigation on it, said administrator of 100 houses. Regional government aimed to stop new squatters by issuing official documents for them and the aided programmes of the government will cover only the officially valid homes.—200 ■

Ancient Pyu cities of Sri Kestra kingdom hosted over 8,500 foreigners last FY

THE ancient Pyu cities of the ancient Sri Kestra kingdom hosted more than 8,500 foreigners last year, according to the Myanmar branch of the World Heritage department.

A group of city-states — Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Kestra — were designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites in 2014. Since then, the areas have attracted visitors from home and abroad. The ancient city of Hanlin, located in Wetlet Township of Sagaing Region; the ancient city of Beikthano, in Taungdwingyi Township of Magwe Region; and the ancient city of Sri Kestra, in Pyay Township of Bago Region, are the most

prominent sites of the ancient Pyu civilisation. Archaeological excavations of the three ancient Pyu cities are being carried out as part of a five-year cultural heritage plan that began in 2014 and will run until 2018. Research programmes as well as tourism development tasks have also been accelerated in the target areas. According to the official figures, a total of 6,936 foreign travellers visited the ancient cities in the 2015-2016 FY. The number increased to over 8,500 the following year.

Plans for an elephant ride tour in the cultural cities is being carried out by the authorities.—200 ■

Dried turmeric sells well in southern Shan State

DRIED turmeric, the main spice in curry, has sold well in the south of Shan State this season, domestic growers and producers say. Residents near Ayethaya Market, Ayethaya Myoithit, Taunggyi Township, reaped handsome profits from the sale of dried turmeric and turmeric powders, sending the herbal products to Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi.

Based on size and quality, the current prices of dried turmeric are between Ks1,000 and Ks1,800 per viss (a viss includes

3.6 Kg). The turmeric market has boomed as demands from China and India continued to rise after 2014. The majority of residents produce turmeric products through family businesses. Only a few plant turmeric on a commercial scale. Growers normally start cultivating turmeric in June and harvest in November.

Turmeric, a perennial herbaceous plant, is also widely used for medicinal properties, especially in traditional medicine.—200 ■



Yaba pills seized in Yangon, Laukkai

Local anti-drug force from Yangon (East) found a suspicious looking Ma Thu Thu Soe on Wah Oo road in Phaukkan Ward in Insein, Yangon on 6 May.

Police seized 4,000 yaba pills, a phone handset from her, and the police also discovered 980 yaba pills from her house.

Similarly, members of Tatmadaw armed force searched a vehicle driven by Li Ta Ae with Ywi Lauk Paung on board on the Laukkai-Konegyan road in Laukkai Township and

found 1.75 kilos of ICE on the same day. Likewise, Kwanlon Township anti-narcotic squad and members of Tatmadaw searched a motorcycle driven by Kyuu Lauk Woo together with Ma Chin Yan aboard on Chinshwehaw-Laukkai road near Chinshwehaw Township and seized 39,975 yaba pills from them. Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■



A farmer waters patches of watermelon in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

High transportation charges render watermelon growers loss-making

SOME watermelon growers from Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw suffer from hundred thousands of loss this year with the unfavourable watermelon market condition, said the watermelon growers.

Some businessmen rented the plots of land from the growers who are working on a manageable scale and cultivated the watermelon on a commercial scale. The number of growers has risen and so have the exporters.

The number of growers increased as the watermelon fetched a good price in the

previous year, resulted in the excess supply, said U Aung Min Oo, Zayatgyigon village, Nweyit village-tract of Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

Previously, the transportation charges of a lorry with a capacity of 17 tonnes were around Ks1.2million from Tatkon Township to Muse 105mile, he said.

The political instability in Muse prompted the truck drivers to ask for more charges because of the situation of possibly their life threat. Additionally, the excess supply at the border trade depots brings

down the prices, causing the growers to make losses, it is learnt.

A watermelon seedling cost from Ks500 to 600 last year whereas this year it costs around Ks700. The yield also drops down to 30-40 per cent from 70 per cent as a result of erratic weather condition, U Aung Min Oo continued.

Currently, watermelons from Shan State are flowing into Muse 105 mile market. The highest price of watermelon is 3,800 to 4,200 Yuan per tonne, he added.—Tin Maung Lwin (MMAL) ■

Frozen meat to be sent back to China

Frozen meat will be sent back to China as they are found to contain the chemicals, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The government held a meeting with the private companies on 2 May to overcome as soon as possible the challenges the sustainable and short-term development of the Myanmar economic sector. At the meeting, the government and private companies discussed the difficulties being faced by over eight sectors as well as upgrading of Warden depot and amendment

of HS codes.

At the meeting, U Win Sein, vice chairman from livestock breeding federation reported that they suspended import of the frozen meat worth US\$ 80 million which were imported from China as they were found the chemicals.

Moreover, cross-breeding of Myanmar meat cows with Brahman cows proves to be successful and is thus expected to produce 500 kg weighing cows within three years. So, the livestock breeding can earn the foreign currency for the govern-

ment. Milk and Milk products worth around US\$ 50 million are imported every year. So, we have to encourage the breeding of the cows.

Furthermore, U Kyaw Win, the Union minister for planning and finance, said that they are making arraignments to send back chemicals contained frozen meat to China and have discussed to reduce the cost of supply chain. The union minister encouraged to implementation of the contract system in breeding and reproduction.—Min Thu



High price for cashew nut

CASHEW nut manufacturers of Ayeyawady Region say that they continue to reap a handsome profit for their marketable small hard fruit this season.

Cashew nut is widely consumed and one of the popular export products due to high global demand. The seasonal hard fruits normally enter Yangon market beginning in late February.

“The cashew nut production is highest in March and the market is usually active before monsoon,” said one of the growers.

Approximately 65,900 acres of cashew orchards have been developed across the Ayeyawady Region, especially in Myaungmya, Hinthada and Patheingyi districts. Growers from Labutta, Thabaung, Ngaputaw and villages near the famous Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung beaches continue the cashew cultivation on a commercial scale.

In Patheingyi Township, about seven wholesalers chiefly collect cashew nuts to send them mainly to Yangon market. After grinding the raw nuts, manufacturers export finished products to international market. Processed cashews have also been sold monthly to Chinese buyers through Muse cross-border station.

Based on the quality and freshness of the fruit, the prices of cashew nuts are currently ranging between Ks2,000 and Ks3,000 per viss (a viss is equal to 3.6 Kg). The prices of cashew nuts in early harvest time of this year amounted to Ks4,000-Ks4,200 per viss, increasing over two-fold than last season.

Last year, the prices of early harvest cashew nuts were Ks1,500 per viss and the prices reached its peak of Ks1,700 a viss at the end of the harvest time.—Shwe Khine ■

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)

- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Fish pond expanded to over 200 acres in Buthidaung Township

By Maung Sein Lwin & Hla Kyaw (Buthidaung)

ACCORDING to the Buthidaung Township Fisheries Department, there are 7 times the amount of fish-breeding more than before, increasing in the period of three years, thanks to the calling for the townspeople to do freshwater fish-keeping in the township, now reaching over 200 acreage.

U Hsan Win, Head of the Fisheries Department said, "Our department has been carrying out to sustainably develop the fishery, and to increase the fishery production and fishery resources. With the plan, we have been releasing fingerlings annually into ponds, creeks and rivers. Previously, the people in Buthidaung township did not get accustomed to the practice of catching freshwater fish and breeding as a profession. So, the



A fish pond in Buthidaung township, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THANT (THE MIRROR)

department educated them to develop freshwater fish breeding linking with rural people in the area. We have been making call for them to aspire to keep fish annually. Now, fresh fish-keeping remarkably devel-

oped in three years period.

In the past, there were no practices of artificial fish breeding by induced spawning in Buthidaung township. Now the department went to villages, educating and giving artificial fish

breeding by induced spawning free of charges, selling spawned fish at cheap prices.

As a result, there were up to over 200 acres of fish breeding in the township in 3 years after 2014. ■

Factories in Yangon release gallons of waste water daily

AROUND 250 plants and factories in Yangon Region release nearly one hundred thousand gallons of waste water every day, according to Dr. Aung Myint Maw, an assistant department Head from Environmental Protection and Cleaning Department under Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

Though five indicators were set to limit the production of waste water from factories and plants, about 30 factories out of 200 met the set indicators. Factories producing alcohol, beverage, chemical, battery and food were mostly producing waste water.

Officials are planning to check five to ten factories weekly and the effects of the waste water on the environment will also be examined.

In the meeting of Yangon Region Hluttaw held on 2 December 2016, officials planned to control waste water production by testing waste water in laboratories and taking action against the factories that went against rules and regulations. But, factories are still not complying with rules and regulations.

There are 24 industrial zones with 3,474 factories in Yangon Region. Over 200 factories are producing waste water but only 10 per cent of them implement the process of cleaning the waste water.—200 ■

Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda attracts 83,000 visitors in six months

A total of 82,953 travellers visited Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda in Mon State and earned Ks4,900 lakhs of entrance fees, according to the organization of pagoda trustees.

Foreigners visited Kyaikhtiyo pagoda more from October 2016 to April 2017 and entrance fee for each of them was Ks6,000.

"More entrance fees of

Kyaikhtiyo pagoda were collected in this year due to the increase of foreign travellers", said an official from the organization of Kyaikhtiyo pagoda trustees.

Kyaikhtiyo heritage zone was mostly visited by tourists from Thailand and other Asian travellers including Viet Nam,

China and Japan but also American and European tourists.

Every year Kyaikhtiyo pagoda holds an opening ceremony on full moon day of Thadingyut and closing ceremony on full moon of Kasone.

A total of 34,851 travellers visited Kyaikhtiyo pagoda and over Ks2,000lakhs of entrance

fees were collected during November 2013 to march 2014. During April 2014 to March 2015, nearly 149,625 travellers visited and over Ks8,000 lakhs of entrance fees were obtained. In April 2015 to March 2016, nearly 106,963 travellers visited and over Ks6,000 lakhs of entrance fees were received.—200 ■

Man feared dead after falling into river in Buthidaung Tsp

By Maung Sein Lwin & Hla Kyaw (Buthidaung)

A man is feared to have died after falling into the Panzin River from onboard a cargo ship—Aung Dagon 6 plying between Sittway and Buthidaung at 9:15pm on May 7 while going onboard through a wooden ladder.

The 38-year old victim who is identified as Maung Maung Chay from Sittway is still missing, according to local police.

According to Ko Myat Soe, the victim's brother-in-law, he called the victim to take dinner

out, and the victim followed him, falling into the river. Despite the fact that he called for help, it failed. The victim was said to have grabbed at the edge of wooden frame of the ship. The victim is working for the ship as a clerk, living in Sittway. While loading at the Panzin River jetty in Buthidaung before departure for Sittwe, the accident happened. The event has been reported to the nearby port police station, and the search had been made with the help of fire-brigade at night, it has been learnt.

U Aung Min Htike, 2nd head

of the fire-brigade said, "At the request of the port police station at 11 pm or so, I permitted them to take out the motor boat. In spite of searching for the body for over one hour with the combined force of fire-brigade members and the men from the ship, we failed to find it. The time he fell down into the river is 9 o'clock or so and the water flowed fast, it is difficult to find the body."

According to a local, at Panzin River such accidents happen annually. It is necessary for passengers to get onboard a ship with great care. ■

List of missing and deaths in Maungtaw

During the period since the violent attacks in Maungtaw from 9 October 2016 to 8 May 2017, 30 innocent civilians have been killed and 22 have gone missing.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Month	Deaths	Captured/Missing
2016 October	3	-
2016 November	1	2
2016 December	4	2
2017 January	5	5
2017 February	3	-
2017 March	5	3
2017 April	5	9
2017 May	4	1
Total	30	22

Table of deaths and missing people compiled by the months.

S Korean presidential contenders make final pitches on election eve

SEOUL — On the eve of South Korea's election to choose a successor to ousted president Park Geun Hye, the candidates on Monday made last-ditch efforts to sway voters.

The latest voter surveys show Moon Jae In of the liberal Democratic Party of Korea maintaining a solid lead over his two main rivals with some 35-40 per cent of support.

The polls show Ahn Cheol Soo of the centrist People's Party and Hong Joon Pyo of the conservative Liberty Korea Party in a neck-and-neck race for second place.

"Please open a new world by overwhelmingly supporting me," Moon, a former human rights lawyer and chief staff to the late liberal president Roh Moo Hyun, said in a statement released on Facebook.

Referring to rising tensions over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs and the sluggish local economy, Moon said South Korea is ready to overcome the challenges with reforms and efforts to unify the nation.

"The nation faces a situation of multiple crises, and the new president should start management of state affairs even without a transition committee," Moon said.

Ahn, a former medical doctor and antivirus software developer, also sought support, saying he is confident of winning despite the poll results that have him far behind Moon.

"A great come-from-behind



South Korean presidential candidate Moon Jae In of the main opposition Democratic Party of Korea holds a press conference in Seoul on 8 May, 2017, on the eve of the nation's election to choose a successor to ousted president Park Geun Hye. The latest voter surveys showed that front-runner Moon maintains a solid lead over his two main rivals. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

drama overturning all opinion surveys will be unfolding," Ahn said in a campaign rally held in central Seoul, according to Yonhap News Agency.

Hong, a former prosecutor and South Gyeongsang Province governor, criticized Moon as being a pro-North Korea leftist and called on the nation's conservative voters to support him.

"The election is a war as to whether a pro-North Korea leftist government will be chosen or a government that protects the free Republic of Korea will be chosen," Hong said in a speech on the KBS TV network.

Moon, who is less hawkish on North Korea than Park and her predecessor, both conservatives, has been under attack from opponents who call his proposed "two-step" approach on Pyongyang too soft.

Tuesday's snap election is being held seven months earlier than originally scheduled because of Park's impeachment.

Park, who was the country's first female leader, was imprisoned in March after being thrown out of office over a corruption and abuse-of-power scandal.

Prime Minister Hwang Kyo Ahn, who has been serving concurrently as acting president since Park's impeachment by parliament in December, decided not to run in the election.

Voting stations nationwide will be open for the country's 31 million eligible voters from 6 am to 8 pm. The winner of the election is expected to be known in the early hours of Wednesday.

The winner will be sworn in as the new president for a full five-year term immediately, without going through a transition period for two months.

South Korea has adopted an early-voting system for those unable to go to the polls on Tuesday.

Voter turnout for the early voting, held for the first time for a presidential election, stood at 26.06 per cent after some 11 million out of the 42 million eligible voters voted last Thursday and Friday at some 3,500 polling stations across the country.

—Kyodo News ■

Abe urges LDP members to more actively debate constitutional change

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday urged members of his ruling party to engage in discussions about the first-ever change of Japan's postwar Constitution after mentioning last week his hope the revised supreme law will be put into force by 2020.

"As I have spoken out as Liberal Democratic Party president, I hope substantial talks will be held inside the party," Abe said at a parliamentary committee, referring to a proposal he made Wednesday in a video message at a pro-constitutional reform gathering in Tokyo.

In the video message, Abe stated for the first time the target time frame for when he wants to achieve an amendment and also expressed his eagerness to see a revision of the war-renouncing Article 9, the most contentious part of the Constitution drafted under the strong influence of the United States after World War II.

Abe proposed leaving the clauses in Article 9 as is while adding the existence of the Self-Defense Forces. While the SDF is not specifically mentioned in the article currently, the government has so far interpreted it as not prohibiting Japan from maintaining its ability to defend itself and thus allows Japan to possess defense forces.

Abe explained at the parliamentary committee that his proposal was intended to "invig-

orate" discussions among political parties on a constitutional amendment.

His remarks indicate his frustration with the slow progress in discussions at the Diet on constitutional issues, with parties yet to narrow down the areas that should be subject to a revision.

The constitutional amendment was a key objective of Abe's grandfather and former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi and also a stated goal of the LDP, which believes Japan should have its "own" Constitution instead of the one drafted during the US occupation after World War II. The current Constitution has gone unrevised since it went into effect in 1947, and no bid been made to initiate a formal amendment process, partly because of the high hurdle in proposing an amendment in parliament before it can be put to a national referendum.

But in the wake of electoral victories spanning several terms, the LDP, its junior coalition ally Komeito and other parties supportive of change now have a two-thirds majority in both houses of parliament, the threshold for making an amendment proposal.

The LDP's ultimate goal is to rewrite Article 9, but the move is seen as highly controversial as many in the public cherish the pacifism embedded in the Constitution.

—Kyodo News ■

Six die in apartment building fire in Kitakyushu, southwestern Japan

KITAKYUSHU, (Japan) — Six people died in a fire overnight at an apartment building in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, in southwestern Japan, police said on Monday.

Five other men were treated for smoke inhalation and other injuries but were apparently not in life-threatening condition.

The fire occurred at a wooden apartment building in the city's Kokurakita Ward where 16 people lived, many of them day laborers and all living by themselves, according to the police and the local

fire department. The police are investigating whether the fire was arson or an accident and trying to confirm the identities of the six victims.

The police have confirmed the safety of another five people, including two whose whereabouts had been unaccounted for.

The fire also burned down a neighboring residence and partially burned other houses and an apartment building, firefighters said. The department was alerted to the fire at around 11:20 pm on Sunday. It was put out at around

3:30 am Monday. The two-story building where the fire apparently began had seven residential units, a dining room and a bath on the first floor with nine residential units on the second floor.

A real estate agency that manages the building said multiple fire extinguishers were placed in the hallways and smoke alarms were installed in each room.

Residents were paying their rent every 10 days and they changed frequently, according to a person living on the first floor. —Kyodo News ■



Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at an apartment building in the southwestern Japan city of Kitakyushu in this supplied photo taken in the early hours of 8 May, 2017. **PHOTO: 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.

"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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Every individual has a duty to pay tax

Khin Maung Oo

Most people sound disapproving when they hear the word "tax", shrugging their shoulders as if a worm has been sprinkled with salt. Indeed, we have forgotten that we need money to support our families. Without money, no one, nor any institution nor organization can survive. The revenues of a country come from taxes. Here we need to know the real meaning of tax defined in dictionaries. Oxford Advanced American Dictionary defines it as "Money that you have to pay to the government so that it can pay for public services. People pay tax according to their income, and businesses pay taxes according to their profits. Tax is also often paid on goods and services." Apart from governments which excessively depend upon money received from products or natural resources, others have to rely on revenues contributed by tax payers dutifully to keep government machinery working well. Some people think that they are paying more taxes just after the incumbent government took office. In fact, the system of levying tax

on people had been exercised since the rule of ancient Myanmar kings. Actually we are paying taxes to the government monthly by trying our luck buying lottery tickets, paying 40% of the cost of a lottery ticket as government revenue. The culture of paying tax is compulsory across the world.

Paying tax is a deed of virtue for us. Why? In our modernized and civilized world, we get accustomed to the words—tax or revenue. We should be well convinced that these taxes and revenues are spent for implementing health, education and social welfare programs for all the people. As regards tax, it can be categorized into two groups, tax assessor and tax assessee/ tax payer. Tax assessor is the government and tax payer/assessee is every individual living under the rule or protection or shelter of the government.

The government makes staff collect tax or revenue from the people. There is one condition that we as well are responsible for tax collected from us to go into the government's budget rightfully. To do so, we ourselves must avoid paying bribes to those collect-

ing tax for the government. Clapping cannot be made with one hand only. Failing that, our bribes given with a view to alleviate the great burden of paying money or tax will go into the hands of mischievous people. Black or dubious money or rather, income received from undisclosed sources will push him to become a villain. Our children concurrently will lose opportunities to have elite education, health care and social securities. If so, our deeds done for our own sake is like watering plants of poison. Without a giver, a receiver will never come into existence.

Now, we have elected a democratic government of our choice in a free and fair election. Keeping in our minds that the government will bring about betterment for us, we are responsible for helping the government accomplish its aims and objectives. The government will have to find ways and means to serve the people to the best of its ability. Staff will have to change their mindsets, hoping for a brighter future of their generation. The most important thing is that every individual has a duty to pay tax. ■

To strive hard to draw up a constitution suitable for the union

U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

Introduction

In the third national objective for the 69th anniversary Independence day, it was stated "to strive hard to draw up a constitution suitable for the union and in accord with the democratic principles and norms for the emergence of a democratic federal union." Well, then what is the constitution? From a layman's point of view, the constitution is the most important law and vital organ of a sovereign and independent state. From a lawyer's point of view, "the constitution is the fundamental and organic law of a nation or state, establishing the conception, character, and organization of its government, as well as prescribing the extent of its sovereign power and the manner of its exercise. It is, in essence, the written instrument embodying this fundamental law".

In the constitutions, including the charter of the United Nations, the noble aims and objectives are usually mentioned in the preambles. In the UN charter, it is mentioned inter alia. "We the peoples of the United Nations determined:

- To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought

As far as I could remember, federal state or federalism is a kind of government in which states and provinces are delegated with powers to control and manage their own affairs.

untold sorrow to mankind, and

- To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of human person, in the equal rights of men and women and nations large and small and

- To establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintainedetc.

So, in most of the constitutions, whether the Republic or the Parliamentary Democracy, in the preambles, such aims and objectives are emphatically mentioned:

"Determined to establish a Sovereign and Independent State, in unity

and strength to maintain social order on the basis of the universal principles of Justice, Liberty and Equality and to guarantee and secure to all citizens Justice, social, economic and political etc.

Democratic Federal Union

As regards this phrase, expressed as the third objective for the 69th anniversary Independence day, may I present my understanding of every single word's meaning. Democratic (adj) means a country, a state system etc controlled by representatives who are elected by the people of a country. And Mr Abraham Lincoln, a famous and well-respected President of the United States of America, in his Gettysburg address, 1863 A.D, defined "democracy" as "the government of the people, by the people, for the people." This is Lincoln's crystallization of a definition. But, since the latter part of the 18th century, it has varied slightly in its terms and considerably in its scope.

Especially in Daniel Webster's speech, democracy is, the people's government made for the people, made by the people, and answerable to the people. (This speech was made by MR. Daniel Webster in 2 January 1830.)

SEE PAGE 9

Two men die in explosion in Buthidaung



Evidences found at the explosion site show that terrorist training was conducted there.

Two men died and three other men were injured while trying to make a landmine on 4th May, according to the State Counsellor Office Information Committee yesterday. The explosion happened near the forest edge west of Thae Ni village in Buthidaung Township. After the accident,

local security forces carried out the area clearance operation, and discovered materials used for improvised explosive devices including some packs of mixture of gunpowder, sulphur and charcoal powder, two pistons, a burnt shirt, ground sheets, blankets, and mosquito nets were found

in a two cleared lands.

The Security forces are taking probe into the case. The incident is believed to be connected with terrorist training to conduct violent attacks in the region. —State Counsellor Office Information Committee ■

Man escapes from five abductors in Maungtaw

A MAN escaped from five abductors in Maungtaw on 6th May by jumping into a creek and running away, according to local police yesterday.

Sweyuk Husaung, 30, was abducted by five men armed

with machetes as he was walking along a creek in Kyeinchaung North Village in Maungtaw Township. When he was near Kyein Chaung market, the five men told him that they were sent by Zubai, a former member

of Padaka Village administration committee to bring him.

Sweyuk Husaung managed to jump into the creek and informed the case to a local police station. — State Counsellor Office Information Committee ■

Low-quality rice price rises with China's demand

THE price of low-quality rice rises with the increasing demand from China, according to the Muse border market.

Around 40,000 to 50,000 bags of rice are daily flowing into Muse market. Currently,

Chinese merchants are daily purchasing large volume of rice these days, resulted in increase of 10 Yuan per bag.

The rice price slightly increases in the domestic market. The prevailing mar-

ket price of low-quality rice is Ks17,000 to Ks18,000 per bag while the high quality rice prices ranges from Ks30,000 to Ks43,000 per bag, according to the domestic rice market.

— Ko Khant ■

Many voices for the Year...

FROM PAGE-2

Desire for gaining peace:

Dr. Hlan Mhon Zarkhon, of the working committee for discussing political affairs said: "We welcome wholeheartedly the assertion that fruits of peace will be gained in 2017.

Among what we are implementing, it may take time or delay the peace process. But we firmly believe that we will get good results because the whole populace and all the national ethnics in the whole country want peace greatly."

He added, "We want the over-60-years-long civil war to come to an end and to build up a peaceful and developed Union. But we have a problem of the civil war, which has lasted over 60 years with very deep conflict.

There can be other problems behind the conflict if we are required to solve a problem. Whenever we consider ourselves to solve the country's problem, through political means for a 60-years-long civil war to cease, we experienced subsequent problems. For example, starting a civil war is the political problem.

When we approach to solve the problem through political means, it occurred to us that there are many problems concerning land and forests, socially related victims and humanitarianism that were created

by the 60-years-long civil war. These are not political affairs, hence the need to solve these by taking time with patience."

Dr. Wah Wah Maung of the working committee for discussing economic affairs said: "Myanmar remained in a less developed state, lagging behind others. Peace and development is closely connected. To be able to move on the development route with great momentum, we cannot accomplish it without peace.

Therefore, peace plays an important role for the regions across the country to develop on the same level. Now that all the national ethnics came to be well convinced of the essence of the peace, we urge all to make concerted efforts hand in hand with each other to win peace as soon as possible."

Compromises:

She added, "Peace is of great importance. Doctrines, benefits, national interest, the benefit of an organisation, and national benefits must be taken into consideration fairly. Peace must be built based on understandings, and it needs to build common agreements.

Provided that the whole populace becomes well convinced of peace process and take part in it, the Union Peace Conference will bear fruitful negotiations to some extent." ■

To strive hard to draw up a constitution suitable for the union

FROM PAGE 8

Federal union. In this phrase, federal means a system of government in which the individual states of a country have control over their own affairs, but controlled by the central government for national decisions.

Within a federal system, for example, the United States and Canada connected with national government, rather than the local government of an individual state. For example, a federal law, state and federal income taxes.

And Black law dictionary defines "federal means of or relating to a system of associated governments with a vertical division of governments into national and regional components having different responsibilities, especially of or

relating to the national government of the United States."

The aforementioned are some quotations from a book and from pieces of writings of scholars about the democratic federal states. From a layman's point of views, I would like to present something about the federal state.

At university, our lecturers, and professors, to whom I still owe immeasurable debts of gratitude, for what I am today, explained to us about federalism or federal state.

As far as I could remember, federal state or federalism is a kind of government in which states and provinces are delegated with powers to control and manage their own affairs. But the federal government or the central government retains the crucial

powers concerning the whole country. For example, foreign policy, national defence and national currency, i.e. the kind of money that is in general use as the currency or coins. Our professors and lecturers explained to us about "federalism" giving the examples of United States of America and Canada.

Federalism, if I may say, is aimed at unity among diversity. Though, federalism delegates some powers to its states and provinces, federalism has a clear vision of its own. "United we stand and divided we fall" are the eternal vision and policy of federalism.

"With malice towards none, with charity for all, and with firmness in the right" may I present my own opinion – opinion of a citizen, a nonentity,

a retiree, as follows:

The 1947 constitution of the Union of Burma contains the eternal principles of Justice, Liberty and Equality based on democracy. The constitution also contains some elements of federalism except one provision, i.e., right of secession and its procedures. To quote only a very few provisions.

"The sovereignty of the union resides in the people." As regards the elements of federalism, we can see union legislative list; state legislative list. In connection with the human rights guarantees, there are universally accepted rights, for example, rights of equality, rights of freedom, rights relating to religion, cultural and educational rights, economic rights, etc.

In presenting my opinion on our first constitution, it was, as far as I know, based on the resolutions passed by the first Panlong Conference 1947. At that conference, our martyr, General Aung San had played a vital role.

I have no other iota of interest than academic interest, in presenting this article. Thank you, sir.

Reference:

- (1) 1947, The Constitution of the Union of Burma.
- (2) Black's Law Dictionary, Bryan A. Garner
- (3) Dictionary of Business English, J.H. Adam
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Merkel's conservatives aim for state-level tie-up with FDP, Greens

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives hope to form a coalition with the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) and the Greens in Schleswig-Holstein after a decisive election victory in the north German state on Sunday.

The FDP been a frequent partner for the conservatives at national level, and Merkel will seek a fourth term in office in federal elections in September for which Sunday's vote strengthened her hand.

"It's clear to me that we need a change in government in Schleswig-Holstein. That's what the people want," Daniel Guenther, the lead candidate of the chancellor's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in the state, told broadcaster ARD.

"Now it's up to me to have talks with the FDP and the Greens."

The CDU raised its share of the vote in the state to 32 per cent while the Social Democrats (SPD) — her main rival in September — dropped to 27.2 per cent, according to a preliminary vote count.

The parties both polled just over 30 per cent in the previous election in 2012, which produced a three-way governing coalition



Daniel Guenther, top candidate of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel address a news conference after the Schleswig-Holstein regional state elections, in Berlin, Germany on 8 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

led by the SPD and including the Greens and the South Schleswig Party (SSW), which represents the ethnic Danish minority.

Guenther said that Merkel, in a phone call on Sunday, "encouraged us to make a change in government visible" in the state, adding that a tie-up with

the SPD was "the last choice" for the CDU.

The FDP won 11.5 per cent on Sunday. At national level, the liberals have served as junior coalition partner to the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the CSU, for almost half of federal Germany's post-war history.

The FDP dropped below

the 5 per cent threshold for legislative representation in the 2013 national election but is expected to exceed that mark in September.

Wolfgang Kubicki, the top FDP candidate in the state, on Monday told reporters the prospects for a three-way coalition with the conservatives and the SPD were "close to zero."

He also ruled out supporting a continuation of the leadership of current SPD state premier Torsten Albig.

The top Greens candidate told ARD her party would prefer a tie-up with the SPD and FDP but would talk with all potential partners.

Guenther said he remained hopeful that the CDU could find common ground with the pro-environment Greens on immigration, child care and financial issues.

Jens Spahn, deputy finance minister and a senior CDU member, told broadcaster Bayerischer Rundfunk that a federal coalition with the Greens and the FDP might also be an option, though the Greens are unlikely to match the 12.9 per cent they polled in Schleswig-Holstein at national level.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Putin, in telegram to France's Macron, says ready for constructive work

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin sent France's President-elect Emmanuel Macron a telegram to congratulate him on his election victory and told him Russia was ready for constructive work on bilateral and global issues, the Kremlin said on Monday. "The citizens of France have trusted you with leading the country at a difficult time for Europe and the whole world community. The growth in threats of terrorism and militant extremism is accompanied by an escalation of local conflicts and the destabilisation of whole regions," the telegram to Macron read, according to the Kremlin.—Reuters ■

German gov't says important to support France in making reforms

BERLIN — No time should be lost in supporting France as it seeks to implement economic reforms and strengthen its role in Europe, a spokesman for the German Foreign Ministry said on Monday. A spokeswoman for Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble told the regular government news conference that said Schaeuble would discuss measures to strengthen the eurozone with the new French government once it was formed after Sunday's election of independent candidate Emmanuel Macron.—Reuters ■

China's Xi congratulates Macron on French election win — Xinhua

BEIJING/PARIS — Chinese President Xi Jinping congratulated Emmanuel Macron on Monday for winning France's presidential election and said China was willing to further ties between the two UN Security Council permanent members, China's Xinhua news agency reported.

Xi said China was willing to work with France to push the close and comprehensive Sino-French strategic partnership to a higher level, according to Xinhua, China's official news agency.—Reuters ■

No change to US Navy freedom of navigation patrols — commander

SINGAPORE — There has been no policy change with regard to US Navy freedom of navigation operations under the administration of President Donald Trump, US Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Scott Swift said on Monday.

Under the previous administration, the US navy conducted such voyages through the South China Sea — most of which is claimed by China — angering Beijing. But none has been conducted in the region under the Trump administration.

The New York Times reported last week that a US Pacific Command request in

March to sail near the disputed Scarborough Shoal, a prime fishing ground that China seized in 2012, was rejected by top Pentagon officials.

Two other requests by the Navy in February were also turned down, it said.

Some saw this as an indication that the United States wanted to avoid antagonizing China while waiting to see how far it would go in helping to press North Korea to give up its ballistic missile and nuclear programmes.

"There is nothing that has significantly changed in the last two or three months," Admiral Scott Swift told reporters

in Singapore, referring to the US Navy excursions it says it conducts to ensure freedom of navigation.

"We just present the opportunities when we have a ship in the area and there's an area of interest ... They are either taken advantage of or they're not."

China's extensive claims to the South China Sea, which sees about \$5 trillion in shipborne trade pass every year, are challenged by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam, as well as Taiwan.

The United States has criticized China's construction of man-made islands and build-up of military facilities in the sea,

and expressed concern they could be used to restrict free movement.

Late last month, top US commander in the Asia-Pacific region, Admiral Harry Harris, said the United States would likely carry out freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea soon, without offering details.

Swift said there has been no change in the importance the United States placed on the South China Sea issue.

"We are on track to conduct over 900 ship days of operations this year in the South China Sea," he said.—Reuters ■

Demobilized rebels block road to Ivory Coast's second city

ABIDJAN — Demobilized rebel fighters blocked a main road into Ivory Coast's second city on Monday, demanding the payment of bonuses and jobs in the army and state institutions.

The former fighters, some wearing balaclavas or their faces blackened with ashes, set up barricades, sealing off the main road south from Bouake, the centre of a wave of army mutinies that paralysed the world's top cocoa grower earlier this year.

A witness and a soldier, who was not part of the group, said they saw several hundred demobilised fighters, some armed.

"We're asking for President Alassane Ouattara to have a thought for his sons, who have suffered for 15 years," Amadou Ouattara, who described himself as the spokesman for the group, said.

Split from 2002 to 2011 between rebels in the north and government forces in the south, a successful post-war recovery has seen Ivory Coast become one of the world's fastest growing economies. However, this year's unrest has exposed deep divisions in the military.

Defence Minister Alain-Richard Donwahi said the protesters, that he said numbered only around 50 and were unarmed, were brought to the local government

headquarters for discussions and said the road-blocks had been cleared.

"The situation is calm," he said. "Order has been re-established."

However, Ouattara, the group's spokesman, said that while they had agreed to talks, they were continuing to block the road.

A Bouake resident, who said she briefly heard gunfire, confirmed they were still there, and some had ordered civil servants at the nearby offices of the national tax authority to leave the building.

"Some of them have weapons but many of them don't," said Isabelle Kouassi, whose bus was turned back as it attempted to leave the city. "They've blocked everything."

Ouattara said the Bouake protesters represented some 6,800 former fighters across the country who were demobilised after civil war ended in 2011.

They are demanding the payment of bonuses worth 12 million CFA francs (\$20,000) each as well as positions in the armed forces and government services, he said.

The government agreed earlier this year to pay some 8,400 active duty soldiers that amount as part of a deal to end the mutinies that first erupted in Bouake in January before spreading to other cities.—Reuters ■



Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighters pose with foreign volunteer fighters inside Tabqa military airport after taking control of it from Islamic State fighters, west of Raqqa city, Syria on 9 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

US-backed militias say they made new advance against Islamic State in Tabqa

BEIRUT — A group of Kurdish and Arab militias supported by the United States captured a district of the town of Tabqa from Islamic State on Monday, they said in a statement, a step towards the capture of Syria's largest dam.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) has been fighting Islamic State in Tabqa for weeks, aiming to capture not just the town but its Euphra-

tes dam, a vital strategic objective before assaulting the jihadists' regional stronghold of Raqqa.

"The forces of Wrath of the Euphrates managed to liberate the First Quarter of the town of Tabqa this morning, which divides the three new quarters of the town from the Euphrates dam, after intense fighting," it said.

Wrath of the Euphrates is the name used by

the SDF and the US-led coalition against Islamic State for its campaign to drive the jihadist group from Raqqa, a major city that it has used to control its northern Syria territories and plot attacks abroad.

The SDF assault on Tabqa began after US-forces helped its fighters conduct an airborne and water crossing of the Euphrates in late March.

According to a map

the SDF distributed on its Wrath of the Euphrates social networking feed, its new advance has brought it very close to the southern edge of the dam, where a hydro-electric plant and associated operations buildings are sited.

The SDF already controls the northern bank of the Euphrates and northern stretches of the 4 km (2.5 mile)-long dam.—Reuters ■

Roadside bomb kills three soldiers at Somali checkpoint north of capital

MOGADISHU — At least three Somali soldiers on a ordnance-clearing mission were killed on Monday by a roadside bomb just 90 km (60 miles) north of the capital, from where Islamists militants were routed six years ago.

Al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack at a

checkpoint on the outskirts of the town of Shalanbood in the Lower Shabelle region.

"We went out of town in search of bombs but one had been planted right on the spot where we were based," regional military official, Mohamed Nur, said.

"The blast killed three

of my colleagues and injured four others," he told Reuters. The insurgents gave a higher toll.

"We are behind the bomb at the checkpoint that killed four soldiers, including two officials," al Shabaab's military operations spokesman, Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, said.—Reuters ■

Foreign Investors Must Advise Restricted Activities

According to the Myanmar Investment Rule 227, all foreign investors, including those holding a permit of Myanmar Investment Commission, who are currently carrying out investments under the list of restricted investment activities subject to Notification No. 15/ 2017 of the Myanmar Investment Commission, must notify the Commission that they are performing restricted investment activities.

Therefore, the Commission hereby announces that such foreign investors must notify to the Myanmar Investment Commission Office or the respective State or Regional Committee Offices by 29th March 2019 with the stipulated form in accordance with the Rule 2 (v).

Pro-EU Macron beats far-right Le Pen in French presidential election

PARIS — Pro-European Union centrist former economy minister Emmanuel Macron was elected next president of France in Sunday's runoff, beating far-right National Front candidate Marine Le Pen by a wide margin.

At age 39, Macron will be the country's youngest ever president and the first not to belong to either of the two major political forces that have shaped politics in postwar France.

"A new page in our long history has turned tonight," Macron said in a statement to Reuters news agency. "I want it to be that of rediscovery of hope and trust."

In an address to supporters in Paris, Le Pen conceded defeat. The 48-year-old congratulated Macron on his victory and said the French people had voted for continuity.

The latest count showed Macron winning 64.28 per cent of the vote against Le Pen's



Supporters of Emmanuel Macron, who won the French presidential election, celebrate his victory waving the flags of France and the European Union, in Paris on 7 May, 2017. Macron, a pro-European Union centrist and former economy minister, beat far-right National Front candidate Marine Le Pen by a wide margin in a presidential runoff earlier that day. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

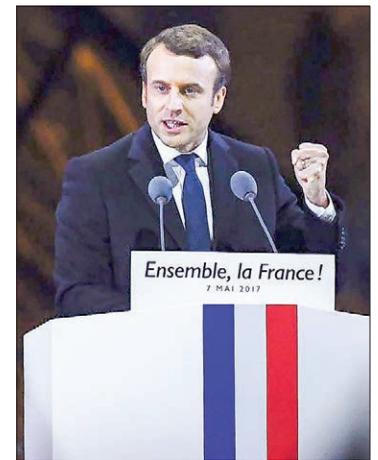
35.72 per cent, according to the Interior Ministry.

The outcome was in line with opinion polls suggesting Macron was on course to beat

Le Pen, who had pledged a referendum on EU membership and a hard-line policy on immigration.

Experts said Macron suc-

ceeded in attracting significant numbers of voters who supported conservative former Prime Minister Francois Fillon and leftist Jean-Luc Melenchon in



Leader of "En Marche!" Emmanuel Macron addresses supporters after winning the French presidential election, in Paris, France on 7 May, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

the first round on 23 April.

Macron, a former bureaucrat and investment banker, formed a political movement in April 2016 and resigned as the minister of economy, industry and digital affairs in August to run in the presidential election.—Kyodo News ■

Fujitsu expects digital solutions to grow among Thai manufacturers

BANGKOK — Japanese electronics giant Fujitsu Ltd foresees a rosy outlook for digital solutions business in Thailand as Internet of Things technology has gradually increased local entrepreneurs' interest in digitalization.

Eiji Furukawa, managing director of Fujitsu (Thailand) Co, told NNA that more local

manufacturers are tending to utilize the IoT for their operations as digital solutions have become crucial for the industry nowadays.

"Sixty percent of our customers are currently Japanese firms located in Thailand while non-Japanese firms account for 40 per cent," Furukawa said, adding that non-Japanese cus-

tomers are expected to increase continuously owing to the rising popularity of the IoT.

According to research firm Frost & Sullivan, budget spending on IoT technology among Thai companies is expected to reach 30 billion baht (\$867 million) in 2020, with up to 16 billion baht (\$462 million) of the amount to be spent by the man-

ufacturing industry.

Fujitsu (Thailand) enjoys a healthy growth of 5 per cent in sales annually and aims to maintain the growth rate this year, with 60 per cent of its revenue generated by solutions and consulting services while the rest comes from hardware and devices, Furukawa said.

It recently partnered

with Thailand's second-biggest cement manufacturer, Siam City Cement Public Co, known as SCCC, to take part in a project for turning one of the company's plants into the country's first fully digitally connected "smart" cement factory by installing a wireless communication network.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HA LONG VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HA LONG VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV HAI DUONG-01 VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAI DUONG-01 VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-3 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

Mexico army fights surge in violence for control of poppy country

COYUCA DE CATALAN, Mexico, — The Mexican army says its fight against surging opium production that feeds US demand is increasingly complicated by the rise of smaller gangs disputing wild, ungoverned lands planted with ever-stronger poppy strains.

The gangs have engulfed the state of Guerrero in a war to control poppy fields, turning inaccessible mountain valleys of endemic poverty and famous beach resorts into Mexico's bloodiest spots.

Colonel Isaac Aaron Jesus Garcia, who runs a base in one of the state's most unruly cities, Ciudad Altamirano, told Reuters on an operation to chop down poppies high in the Guerrero mountains that violence increased two years ago when a third gang, Los Viagra, began a grab for territory.

Bodies are discovered almost daily across the state, tossed by roads, some buried in mass graves. In Ciudad Altamirano, the mayor was killed last year and a journalist gunned down in March at a car wash.

"These fractures (in the gangs) started two years ago, and that caused this violence that is all about monopolizing the production of the drug," Jesus Garcia said.

From this frontline of the fight against heroin, Jesus Garcia sees a direct link between a record US heroin epidemic that killed nearly 13,000 people in 2015 and violence on his patch.

"The increase of consumers for this type of drug in the United States has been exponential and the collateral effect is seen here," Jesus Garcia said.



A soldier walks among poppy plants before a poppy field is destroyed during a military operation in the municipality of Coyuca de Catalan, Mexico on 18 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Heroin use in the United States has risen five-fold in the past decade and addiction has more than tripled, with the biggest jumps among whites and men with low incomes.

Jesus Garcia said the task of seeking out poppy fields in one of Mexico's poorest and least accessible regions, rising above the beach resorts of Acapulco and Ixtapa, was practically endless.

His 34th Battalion and others send platoons of troops on foot for month-long expeditions every season. They set up camps and fan through treacherous terrain, part of a campaign that destroys tens of thousands of fields a year. One such field visited by Reuters was deep in a lawless region six hours from Ciudad Altamirano through winding dirt roads thick with dust that rose into the mountains.

It was irrigated by a lawn sprinkler mounted on a pole that spritzed water over less than a hectare of poppies and fertilizer bags were piled nearby, basic farming techniques the soldiers nevertheless said were a sign of growers' new sophistication.

A dozen troops fanned out, chopping down the flowers with machetes.

Army officials said gangs use poppy varieties that produce higher yields and more potent opium from smaller plots, and that its higher value is driving violent competition between gangs.

"Now we see more production of poppy in less terrain, and it has to do with the quantity of bulbs each plant has," said Lieutenant Colonel Jose Urzua as he showed bulbs oozing valuable gum from slits. He explained opi-

um is often harvested by families.

In these tiny mountain hamlets opium has grown for decades, officials said, but a coffee plague and the US opiate epidemic has led farmers to plant much more.

The harvest has become central to Guerrero's economy, also dependent on cash sent home by immigrants.

One army official said the field seen by Reuters could produce around 3 kilos (6.6 lb) of opium, fetching up to \$950 per kilo from traffickers who sell it for up to \$8,000.

"There aren't many alternatives here," said a woman selling soft drinks and snacks from a pine shack by a dirt road. Her husband grows poppies, and she said anyone who runs a business faces extortion by gangs. —Reuters ■

Australian customs destroys unique plant specimens after quarantine mix-up

SYDNEY — Australian customs officials destroyed two irreplaceable plant specimens that were being loaned to scientists by international institutions, prompting the agriculture department to concede that some missteps had occurred enforcing strict quarantine laws. France's National Museum of Natural History and New Zealand's Landcare Research Allan Herbarium had sent the samples of lichen specimens, which dated back to the 19th Century, to Australia to help research, but they were intercepted by customs officers due to inaccurate paperwork.

A spokesman for the Department of Agriculture said the packages did not give any indication of the intrinsic value of the samples, and the customs officers held onto them for longer than they were required before deciding they posed a potential biosecurity threat and incinerating them.

"The department concedes the unintentionally proceeding with destruction of the specimens was premature," a spokesperson for the Australian government department said in an emailed statement.

"But it does highlight the importance of the shared responsibility of Australia's biosecurity system, and the need for adherence to import conditions." —Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV HUA YOU 1 VOY. NO (JF1712)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUA YOU 1 VOY. NO (JF1712) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW-7 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 UNI-SPRING LOGISTICS
HOLDINGS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV DINGXIANGHAI VOY. NO (1703)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DINGXIANGHAI VOY. NO (1703) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING
CO LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ARKA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ARKA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.5.2017 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.

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

Phone No: 2301185



PHOTO: REUTERS

Fashion is all about standing out: Miley Cyrus

LOS ANGELES — Singer Miley Cyrus says she is disappointed to see girls trying to mould their fashion as per the trends instead of standing out.

The 24-year-old singer says the idea of fashion has taken people “a little bit downhill”, reported Billboard.

“It’s not about standing out right now. Which is so weird, because it seems like for the really unique, smart kids in this generation, it’s all about standing out.

“... Girls really make me sad a lot of the time too, especially right now. I can only speak for the years that I’ve been alive, but I don’t know if it has ever been so important to ‘fit in,’” says Miley.

The “Wrecking Ball” singer says she feels the “world right now is so divided, in the arts, fashion — everything.—PTI ■

Passionate speeches take spotlight at MTV Movie and TV awards

LOS ANGELES — Spirited speeches were front and center at the MTV Movie and TV awards on Sunday, where the night’s top winners at the usually irreverent awards show took to the stage to champion diversity and inclusion.

A rare spell of wet weather in Los Angeles shut down the red carpet before the awards show, but inside, drinks were flowing as host Adam Devine literally set the stage on fire as he kicked off MTV’s first awards celebrating both television and films.

Streaming platform Netflix enjoyed the night’s biggest spotlight when its 1980s sci-fi series “Stranger Things” won the inaugural Show of the Year award.

“Thank you to Netflix, where would we be without Netflix? Like literally, when you’re having a bad day, what do you do when you go home?,” “Stranger Things” star Caleb McLaughlin said on stage, as the audience shouted back “Watch Netflix.”

Disney’s live-action fairytale “Beauty and the Beast” won Best Movie and director Bill Condon thanked the female audience, saying “women have proven that they are huge and powerful audience and it’s going to change the movie business.”

MTV did away with gender-specific acting categories this year for its fan-voted awards, where “Beauty and the Beast” star Emma Watson won best actor in a movie and “Stranger Things” newcomer Millie Bobby



The cast of ‘Stranger Things’ at the Show of the Year Award in Los Angeles, US on 7 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

Brown, 13, won best actor in a show.

“Acting is about the ability to put yourself in someone else’s shoes and that doesn’t need to be separated into two different categories,” Watson said on stage.

MTV’s annual fan-voted, youth-orientated awards show is known for its irreverent moments, explicit jokes and unconventional award categories, which Devine played up in off-kilter quips about his genitals and smoking marijuana.

But this year’s show saw presenters and winners get pas-

sionate about issues on stage.

The Best Kiss award went to a tender moment between two teenage boys played by Ashton Sanders and Jharrel Jerome in the Oscar-winning film “Moonlight,” and Sanders dedicated the win to “those who feel like the others, the misfits.”

US Representative Maxine Waters presented the award for Best Fight Against the System and said each of the nominees “pushes back against the bullies and uses their platform to inspire us all.” The award went to “Hidden Figures,” the story of three black female NASA math-

ematicians.

“Logan” stars Hugh Jackman and newcomer Dafne Keen won Best Duo, “Get Out” star Daniel Kaluuya won the Next Generation award, while NBC family drama “This is Us” won Best Tearjerker.

The MTV Generation Award went to the “Fast and Furious” action franchise and star Vin Diesel thanked “a generation that was willing to accept this multicultural franchise where it didn’t matter what color your skin was or what country you’re from - when you’re family, you’re family.” —Reuters ■

Director Francis Ford Coppola weighs in on preserving net neutrality

WASHINGTON—Francis Ford Coppola, director of classic films such as “The Godfather” and “Apocalypse Now,” has sent a letter to the top US telecommunications regulator to urge support for “net neutrality,” which prevents internet companies from blocking, throttling or giving “fast lanes” to particular websites.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, named by President Donald Trump in January, has said that he plans to scrap a 2015 internet conduct stand-

ard aimed at preventing broadband providers from favoring their content over others.

In the letter released late on Sunday by advocacy group Public Knowledge, the Oscar-winning filmmaker said the internet was designed so it would not be dominated by giant corporations.

“Trusting the leadership of huge corporations with America’s artistic heritage is a crucial mistake, and can already be seen in the ‘monotony’ of contemporary major studio cinema,” Coppola wrote.

“The changes you are making at the FCC will only make the fragile balance between artist and businessman more impossible to maintain. I assure you that none of the films that I or my contemporaries are known and celebrated for could exist today in such a climate,” he wrote in the brief letter.

Big web companies like Facebook Inc, Alphabet Inc and others back net neutrality rules, saying they guarantee equal access to the internet. —Reuters ■

Optimus Prime, Bumblebee’s bodies may merge in Transformers 5

LOS ANGELES — Anthony Hopkins was a dream to work with: Laura Haddock Anthony Hopkins was a dream to work with: Laura Haddock Gavin Rossdale up for another ‘Constantine’ movie Jonathan Demme, ‘Silence of the Lambs’ director, dies at 73 Travis Knight to direct ‘Transformers’ spin-off ‘Bumblebee’

A new promotional standee has hinted that the bodies of Optimus Prime and Bumblebee will be meshed together in the upcoming film “Transformers: The Last Knight”. A standee at Toys’R’Us shows that Optimus Prime will get a new body in the

fifth installment of the sci-fi action franchise and some parts of this avatar resemble those of Bumblebee, reported AceShowbiz. This has fuelled rumours whether Optimus will somehow merge Bumblebee’s body into his.

As per the trailers, the two have been battling with each other. There is an assumption that Optimus destroys Bumblebee in the end and adds his leftovers on his body.

The film stars Anthony Hopkins, Mark Wahlberg, Josh Duhamel, Stanley Tucci, Laura Haddock, Tyrese Gibson and Gemma Chan among others.—PTI ■

Street artist Banksy tackles Brexit in Dover mural

LONDON— British street artist Banksy has taken on Brexit with a mural of a workman chipping away one of the 12 gold stars on the flag of the European Union on a wall in Dover, the ferry port that connects England with Calais in France.

Banksy, whose identity is a closely guarded secret, posted pictures of the work, which appeared overnight, on his official Instagram feed on Sunday, the day of the French presidential election.

His representative also confirmed it was by Banksy.

Dover and its white cliffs, which are seen by many people arriving in and departing from Britain every year, have loomed

large in media coverage of Brexit.

The Sun newspaper, which campaigned for “leave”, projected the message “Dover & out” on the cliffs on 24 March, the day that British Prime Minister Theresa May triggered the start of Britain’s exit from the EU.

In 2015, Banksy created four artworks at the Jungle migrant camp in Calais, including one featuring Apple founder Steve Jobs, in a reference to his background as the son of a Syrian migrant.

In March he created the Walled Off Hotel in Bethlehem, a quirky guesthouse that stands close to Israel’s towering security barrier in the occupied West Bank.—Reuters ■



An artwork attributed to street artist Banksy, depicting a workman chipping away at one of the 12 stars on the flag of the European Union, is seen on a wall in the ferry port of Dover, Britain on 7 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Communist-ruled Cuba hosts first transgender Mass

MATANZAS, (Cuba) — For decades belonging to a religion and being anything but heterosexual was stigmatized in Communist-ruled, macho Cuba, making the Mass held by three transgender pastors in the western Cuban city of Matanzas all the more groundbreaking.

Rainbow flags decorated the chapel, while the pastors, who had flown in from Brazil, Canada and the United States, wore stoles in the trans hues of light blue, pink and white and the congregation swayed to Caribbean beats.

Friday was the first time a trans pastor held a Holy Communion in Cuba, highlighting how much the island nation has changed since both religious be-

lievers and homosexuals went to “correctional” labor camps in the early years after the 1959 revolution.

“Tonight has been a night of celebration of equality between all people, marking a new era for Cuba,” said Alexya Salvador, a Brazilian trans pastor, born Alexander, wearing a black dress with a white clerical collar and lacy sleeves she made herself.

“God’s love is radically inclusive.”

The Mass on Friday was the highlight of a three-day conference on transsexuality and theology organized by the Matanzas-based Cuban branch of the international Metropolitan Community Church.

“This is not only a first of

its kind event for Cuba, but certainly one of the very first ever to be held anywhere in the world,” said Allyson Robinson, a trans Baptist reverend from Washington.

The conference took place ahead of the 10th anniversary, next weekend, of Cuba celebrating the global day against homophobia, and included a raucous “transformist” party as well as a variety of panels on theology and personal experiences.

In one, Salvador argued God was transgender, given the Holy Trinity was made up of the Holy Spirit, which she views as feminine, the Father and the Son.

Elaine Saralegui, a lesbian pastor who founded the Cuban branch of the MCC nearly two

years ago, said she hoped the conference would foster greater inclusion of trans people and prove that being trans and Christian were not incompatible.

“I leave with having learnt a lot of things I can share with other trans,” said one participant, a 26-year-old Cuban trans woman called Malu Duardo, “in particular that there is a God for everyone.”

Saralegui’s congregation numbers around 35 but she said she also gets asked to hold Mass at lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) activist events around the rest of the island nation of 11 million inhabitants.

“Nearly always they ask me to hold a liturgy there, so we have to improvise wine, bread

and hold a (Lord’s) supper anywhere,” she said.

The trans pastors said they were impressed by Cuba’s progressiveness in some respects, for example providing state-financed sex reassignment.

The country was clearly lagging the rest of the Americas in other ways though, they said. Same-sex couples may not marry or adopt children and a promised update to Cuba’s family code has been slow to materialize.

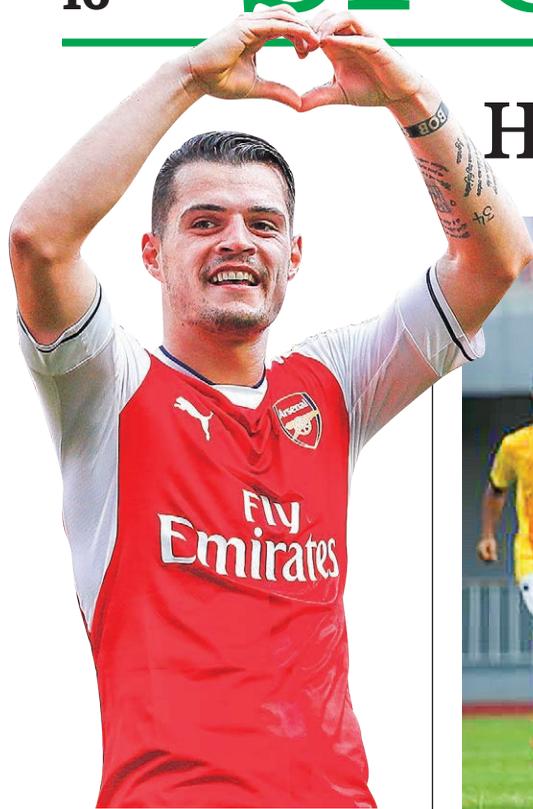
“Everyone should have the right to have a family,” said Salvador, who has adopted two children, including a trans girl. “I believe this touch of God will also happen in the Cuban community.”—Reuters ■

Programme Schedule
(9-5-2017, Tuesday)

<p>6:00 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw <p>7:00 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Breakfast News <p>7:35 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Socio Economic Scenes <p>8:35 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Law Affairs <p>9:35 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ MRTV’s Youth Programme <p>10:30 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dhamapuzza Song (Part-1) <p>11:30 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Documentary <p>11:45 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Teleplay <p>12:30 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TV Drama Series <p>1:00 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Radio Drama <p>2:10 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TV Drama Series <p>3:00 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Yes or No Talk Show (Hot Talk) 	<p>3:15 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TV Drama Series <p>4:35 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Documentary (Kasone) <p>5:05 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Mono Classical Songs <p>5:25 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Catch Asia News <p>5:35 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Money Talk Myanmar <p>6:15 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Football Magazine <p>6:35 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than <p>7:15 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TV Drama Series <p>8:00 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ News / International News / Weather Report <p>8:35 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Life Struggles <p>9:55 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TV Drama Series <p>10:00 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unity Melody
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Programme Schedule

				Plaza News	
				Back To A Paradise (Ep-1)	
(9-5-2017 07:00am ~ 10-5-2017 07:00am) MST					
Prime Time					
07:03	Am	News	07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Thatched Roofs: IN-LEAF	07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)
07:44	Am	Kambawzathardi Golden Palace - A Treasured Legacy Of Golden Days	07:52	Pm	Inspiration
08:03	Am	News	08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Am	Travelogue: Chaung Tha at its peak period	08:26	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Mandalay Noodle Salad)
08:41	Am	Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry	08:44	Pm	Young Lady Musician: Nge Nge Lay
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)					
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)					
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)					
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)					



Arsenal's Granit Khaka. PHOTO: REUTERS

Arsenal's Khaka doubtful for Saints game through injury

LONDON — Arsenal midfielder Granit Khaka could miss Wednesday's Premier League game at Southampton due to a recurring ankle injury, manager Arsene Wenger said after his side's 2-0 win over Manchester United on Sunday.

Khaka, who sustained an ankle injury during Arsenal's loss at Tottenham Hotspur on 30 April, scored the opening goal at the Emirates on Sunday but was forced off in the 76th minute.

"He got injured last time and he got a recurrence of that," Wenger said after the game.

"We'll see. I don't know," Wenger said when asked if he was fit for the trip to St Mary's Stadium.

Khaka, who joined Arsenal before the start of the season, has scored four goals in 41 appearances for the club in all competitions.

"He has improved from the start to now," Wenger told the BBC. "He is slowly getting stature in the middle of the park."

Sixth-placed Arsenal beat Southampton 5-0 in the FA Cup in January but have recorded one league win in their last six visits to St Mary's. —Reuters ■

Home Yadanabon FC draws Magwe FC 2-2



Players of Yadanabon FC and Magwe FC fight for the ball during MNL match at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. PHOTO: MFF

As the last day of MNL No.12 matches, Yadanabon FC drew with Magwe FC 2-2 at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay yesterday evening.

Although Magwe FC did not use any expatriate strikers, the team showed its best performances throughout the match and gave force to the opponents in the first half. The defender

of Magwe FC, Kyaw Zin Lwin scored the starter kick at 11 min. Yadanabon FC striker Aung Thu equalized the goal at 17 min. The equalizer was supported by midfielder Win Naing Soe. Both team's players attempted to gain the icebreaker again and Magwe FC midfielder Ko Ko Naing headed the ball directly to the net at 38 min and attained their third

icebreaker goal.

In the second half, Yadanabon FC attacked immediately just after the kick-off and got the penalty at 49 min. But unfortunately, the penalty kicked by the striker Aung Thu was prohibited by the Magwe FC keeper Si Thu Aung. At 66 min Yadanabon FC scored the equalizer again by hitting the ball straightforward into

the net by midfielder Win Naing Soe. The match became pretty cutthroat after the equalized goal but both teams could not change their chances to goal till the last minutes. After the competition, both teams got one mark respectively and Yadanabon FC might be attempted for the first and second place of the scored table. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Roma coach Spalletti exasperated over Totti situation

MILAN — AS Roma coach Luciano Spalletti is fed up with discussing 40-year-old Francesco Totti, saying he would not have taken the job in the first place if he had known it was going to be such a thorny subject. Totti is in his 25th season at his only professional club, who have announced that he would retire when his contract ended in June.

However, the attacking midfielder has been used sparingly by Spalletti this season with his 15 Serie A appearances including just one start and two halftime introductions from the bench. In most other games, he has been brought on less than 20 minutes from the end. "If I could go back in time, I would never have come to coach Roma," said Spalletti when

asked why he did not bring on Totti during Sunday's 4-1 league win at AC Milan. "When I bring him on for the last five minutes you say I'm making a fool of him and I lack respect. Let's take the time to agree on what I should do," he said in post-match television interviews. "When I took over, I said that it's not for me to manage Totti's legacy — I must

manage Totti the footballer. "Last season, he did well to make the most of his opportunities and he finished the campaign excellently but I don't know what to do now. "The club are there watching and we need to keep our chances of finishing second alive. I'm sorry, I'll be more careful next time. —Reuters ■

Guardiola hails impact of fit-again Kompany at Man City

LONDON — Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has hailed the impact of captain Vincent Kompany after two injury-ravaged seasons at the club but admits they still need to sign a back-up option for their central defender. Kompany made a fifth consecutive appearance in the starting lineup and scored his second goal since returning last month in City's 5-0 victory over Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Saturday. "Five games played in a row for Vincent) is a huge step," Guardiola

told reporters. "I spoke to him at the beginning of the season, saying we need to make small steps. "(Former manager) Manuel Pellegrini missed him a lot last season and you can see that. He wins so many duels. (Against Palace), we discovered that maybe he can play as a striker! "Hopefully he can last longer next season. We need to have back-up though in case this (his injury) happens again."

City are currently fourth in the league, a point and a place behind Liverpool with a game in

hand. With the Merseyside club and fifth-placed Manchester United dropping points over the weekend, Guardiola is confident of securing a top-four finish.

"It is in our hands for a place in the Champions League," the 46-year-old Spanish manager added. "We have two more games at home... one more than Liverpool. We can enjoy ourselves a little bit (following the win over Palace) and then prepare for Leicester next week." —Reuters ■



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola. PHOTO: REUTERS