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Religious titles conferred on outstanding monks

The congregation led by Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay and Union ministers gathered at the ceremony in the Mahapasana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba-Aye hillock in Mayangon, Yangon, to confer religious titles on monks who passed the 69th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examinations. (FULL STORY ON PAGE-10) PHOTO: MNA



NATIONAL
State Counsellor receives Serbian envoy
PAGE-3



NATIONAL
Pyithu Hluttaw to discuss motion on nationwide greening projects
PAGE-2



NATIONAL
Senior General attends ACDFIM dinner
PAGE-10

Amyotha: Social protection for mothers and newborns

A PROGRAM to provide monetary help to expectant mothers and their newly born babies up to the age of two years will be operated in the Chin State, Rakhine State and Naga Self-administered zone in the fiscal year 2017-1018 said Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and

Resettlement.

At the second day of the 5th regular meeting of second Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday, the Union Minister responded as above to the question raised by U Kyaw Kyaw Win of Rakhine State constituency No. 8 on the financial support programs for elders, expectant

mothers and their newly born babies up to 2 years in the Chin State, Rakhine State and Naga self-administered Zone.

The scheme is aimed at providing sufficient nutrient for regular growth of newborns in those regions and to instill the practice of family planning and good personal hygiene and will

include an educational portion as well as financial support, said the Union Minister.

In general, it will include five stages of informing the public, recording and confirming the beneficiaries, providing financial support and education.

SEE PAGE - 3



NATIONAL
Economic opportunities in Rakhine State
PAGE-5,6,7

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw to discuss motion on nationwide greening projects

PYITHU Hluttaw approved a motion yesterday on implementing greening projects nationwide.

At the 2nd day meeting of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session held yesterday, the parliament decided to debate the motion put forward by Dr U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency.

In his clarification, the MP has urged the Union Government to implement the greening projects calling “Green Land Projects” by stepping up efforts for conservation of the forests across the country.

Due to deforestation in the areas covered by forests, Myanmar experienced the worst weather in 2015-2016, standing at 2nd place out of 187 countries in Global Weather Danger Indices, said MP U Aung Khin.

He stressed the need to increase the rates of conservations of forests across the country, to implement the Green Land Projects in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Pyin Oo Lwin systematically and as soon as possible, and to extend projects year after year in other areas.

According to the parliamen-



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

tarian who presented the motion, forest coverage in Myanmar dropped from 60% in 1990 to 43% in 2015 and there occurred cutting down forests excessively in the country legally or illegally, burning trees for hill farming, extending farming land, wild fires outbreaks, insects affecting crop production, exploitation of underground resources, building dams and embankments, urban sprawl and deforestation caused by natu-

ral disasters, in the country.

In analyzing the real causes of deforestation, Dr U Aung Khin discussed that increasing population depending on forests must be added to the causes—wrong management on forests for the national economic development and bribery & corruption, stressing the need to appoint more staff.

As regards the question raised by U Myint Ngwe of Kyauk Kyi constituency as to whether

there had been any plans to grant for building 2-storeyed school building measuring (30 ft—90 ft) after demolishing Bayintnaung one-storeyed school building of basic education high school (branch), at Bago ward in Kyauk Kyi township, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education said, “It has been designated for a primary student to have a space of 12 sq-ft, and for a middle and high school student to have a space of 18 sq-ft each. So space of that school is proportional to the numbers of students. Scrutiny as to whether the school was dilapidated and dangerous enough will be made in accord with the prescription.”

Afterward, Dr Myo Thein Gyi replied to the question raised by U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi constituency as to whether there have been any plans for appointing teaching staff enough for post-primary schools, basic education middle schools and basic education high school schools (branches) across the country, “Ratio of teacher appointed and students is 1:22 at the high school level, 1:28 at the middle school level and 1:24 at primary level.

Presently ratio of teachers and students on the national scale is 1:25. In the academic year 2017-2018, it has been targeted for every school-age child to have an access to learn basic primary education. And tasks for achieving permission of appointing teachers in accordance with the procedures—3 each for post-primary schools, 5 each for BEMS (branch) and 7 each for BEHS (branch) are under way. On receipt of the permission, qualified teachers are to be scrutinized for appointment.”

Then, Dr Myo Thein Gyi replied to the questions raised by U Shwe Hla (a) U Shwe Hla Win of Thingangyun Constituency, U Tun Wai of Phaung Pyin Constituency and Dr Daw Pyone of Inn Taw Constituency. At today’s meeting, informing Hluttaw of upgrading the tenure of the committee for justice and legal affairs, reading the annual report of drafting committee, and reading the report of the law for granting permit for operating the industry of Myanmar coastal and inland marine transportation (amendment) (Bill) were performed. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe is welcomed by Ambassador of Norway to Myanmar Ms Tone Tinnes on his arrival at the reception to mark the National Day of Norway in Yangon on 19 May, 2017. PHOTO: MNA

KIA armed group burn Myat Mandalar Tun bus and give extortion letter to the driver

A KIA armed group numbering about 10 burnt a Myat Mandalar Tun bus travelling from Muse to Mandalay on Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Pyidaungsu expressway at milestone 257 near Khomone village, Muse yesterday afternoon, gave an extortion letter to the driver and retreated toward the east.

No one was hurt in the incident but the luggage and personal effects of the bus passengers were burnt and lost.

The extortion letter said express buses and trucks travelling on Muse-Kutkai Pyidaungsu expressway are to give annual tax to KIO Kutkai

district Battalion No. 9 by 18 May and action will be taken against those who didn’t pay.

The Tatmadaw columns are clearing the surrounding area where the incident oc-

curred and are following the retreating armed group. The Tatmadaw endeavor to protect the people and safeguard the regional security it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■



The bus burnt by KIA armed group as a warning for extortion money. PHOTO: MNA

Correction

Please read “Lt-Gen Perry Lim, Chief of Defence Forces of Singapore Armed Forces” in the caption of the news story “Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces” on page-2 of May 18 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM

One killed, one abducted in Buthidaung Township

ONE village head was killed and another one has been abducted in Kyaungtaung Village in Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State yesterday.

Noru Salam, who is a head of the 10 households in Pazu-

nchaung Village, was abducted by 50 masked men around 3 am and killed in a field in front of his house.

His body was found with cuts.

Meanwhile, about 20 men

from the same group abducted Mozi Rahman, the head of the 100 households.

The group left for Gantaru Village along with Mozi Rahman, according to villagers. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Very Rev. Fr. Zaven Sargis Yazichyan in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor receives Very Rev. Fr. Zaven Sargis Yazichyan in Nay Pyi Taw

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Very Rev. Fr. Zaven Sargis Yazichyan, the Representative of the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians to The Far East, Pastor of the

Spiritual Pastorates of Myanmar; Singapore and Bangladesh on 10:00 am in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The State Counsellor discussed with Very Rev. Fr. Zaven Sargis Yazichyan, on behalf of the Myanmar Armenian Community who are a minority in

Myanmar, to preserve and uphold their tribe and heritage. Moreover, the State Counsellor gave words of encouragement to two Myanmar-Armenian family members, U Richard Minus and Daw Rachelle Minus after the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor receives Serbian envoy

STATE COUNSELLOR and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Goran Aleksic, special envoy of the Serbian Prime Minister Mr. Aleksander Vucic at 11:00 am at guest room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday.

They discussed matters relating to bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. At this meeting, Mr. Goran Aleksic also presented a letter from Serbian Prime Minister Mr. Aleksander Vucic to the State Counsellor.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor receives Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Goran Aleksic and entourage. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha: Social protection for mothers and newborns

FROM PAGE-1

The Union Minister said one of the ministry's national level social protection strategic programs of providing old-age pension was approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw on 30 December 2016 as Myanmar Elders Law and fund for the countrywide program to assist elders according to this law has been submitted to the union budget. In the fiscal year 2017-2018, elders aged above 90 will be provided with a monthly support of Ks 10,000. He also said the processes of drawing up guidelines and providing training courses for the program, collecting, compiling and checking beneficiary list, actual provision of the financial support, reviewing the distribution of financial support, monitoring and coordinating the support works will be conducted in stages.

Construction Sector

U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency no. 6 asked whether the tendering programs for construction and maintenance works permitted by the

government to each ministry under the 2017-2018 fiscal year were recalculated with the actual costs of each regions.

Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing said applying of funds for works to be implemented in the fiscal year 2017-2018 were based on the tender winning prices of the fiscal year 2016-2017 and prices set by the price managing committees formed by governments of the states and regions according to the specified designs and standards.

The Union Minister said that in conducting departmental works, an open tender system based on the yearly permitted prices set by the states/regions governments was used and tender prices were not the same year by year or even within the same year for different tendering periods. There were instances of price being cheaper or higher than the previous year. The tenders issued were based on the permitted regional prices and if there were any excess funds,

arrangements were made to use it in additional works approved by the respective government during the budget year.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Win Khaing clarified the construction sector raised by U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency no. 2, Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency no. 2 and U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency no. 10.

The Bill Committee explained about the Pyithu Hluttaw bill to amend the Conservation of Water Resources and Rivers law and the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker made an announcement for Hluttaw representatives to submit their names if they wish to discuss about the bill. Next, Dr. San Maung Maung of Bago Region constituency no. 1 submitted a motion urging the Union Government to handle the lack of enforcement by the authorities and compliance by the people to the already enacted Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product law.—Myanmar News Agency ■

U Tin Oo's health improves

Ko Moe

ACCORDING to Dr Aye Ko Ko, superintendent of Yangon General Hospital, U Tin Oo, patron of the National League for Democracy is recovering from illness.

Dr Aye Ko Ko, said, "Ba Ba was receiving medical treatment at the intensive care unit (ICU) because of blood clots in the blood vessels to the brain. Now his health was found to have improved. We will have to attentively watch him for regaining 100% improvement on account of his old age," in the press briefing given at the YGH on May 19, as regards U Tin Oo, patron of NLD.

U Tin Oo must be kept in the ICU for one week or so and he will have to receive medical treatment at the hospital for two weeks to recover to his normal condition.

The medical team for U Tin Oo, patron of the NLD comprising 15 professors and medical

specialists including Dr Aye Ko Ko, superintendent of YGH is giving intensive medical care.

On May 17, at 11 pm or so, U Tin Oo slipped over in the bathroom of his residence, Shwe Taung Gyar 1st ward of Bahan township in Yangon, losing consciousness.

Just after the incident, he was hospitalized at the SSC hospital. At 2 am on May 19, he received medical treatment at the neurological care unit of Yangon General Hospital, and was continuing to receive the treatment at the ICU, at 8:30 am.

U Tin Oo aged 91 is suffering from heart disease and hypertension, so the special medical team comprising professors and specialists are giving medical treatment to U Tin Oo, according to the YGH.

It has been learnt that those who love U Tin Oo in Regions and States are praying for the speedy recovery of U Tin Oo's health.

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Over 600 jade mine licences in Kachin's Gem land to expire this month

THE licences of over 600 jade mining blocks in Lonekhin, Hpakant and other sites in Kachin State will expire this month, according to the Myanmar Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

It is announced that licences of over 500 jade mines in Lonekhin and Hpakant gem land, 10 in Mohnyin, 18 in Mogok, 17 in Mongshu and 53 in Hkamti will expire in May of this year.

The ministry granted permit to jade mining companies to operate in Lonekhin, Hpakant, Mohnyin and Hkamti in 2012. The mining companies in Mogok and Mongshu sought permission from the authorities in 2014.

More than 400 licences for jade mining sites located in Lonekhin, Hpakant, Hkamti, Mongshu, Mogok and Mohnyin mining areas in Kachin State expired last month.

The ministry granted seven-year permits and five-year



A jade stone being appraised at the 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE**

permits to jade mining companies to operate in Lonekhin and Hpakant gem land.

Myanmar, a resource-rich

country, is also known for its abundant supply of various gems producing regions and the world famous jades are

found in Lonekhin and Hpakant areas and world famous rubies in Mogok and Mongshu tracts.—Khin Khant ■

Import value reaches over US\$1.4billion; exports hit over US\$950million

THE value of imports as of 5th May in the current Fiscal Year 2017-2018 was over US\$1.4billion, whereas the export fetched over US\$950million, according to Commerce Ministry statistics.

External trade from 1st April to 5th May this FY amounted to over US\$2.4billion, which is up by over US\$320million from that of last FY.

There is a trade deficit of over US\$538million when the imports surpassed exports. The government is making concerted efforts to enhance the export sector and reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury imports.

The country exports agricultural products, forest products, fisheries products, minerals, animal products,

finished industrial goods and other products while capital goods, raw industrial materials and personal goods were imported into Myanmar.

Myanmar is conducting trade with foreign countries through both sea route and border trade camps. The border trade is flowing through 16 gates between Myanmar and the neighbouring countries,

with China via Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung, with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maese and Mawtaung, with cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh via Sittway and Maungtaw, and with India via Tamu and Reed border gates.—Mon Mon ■

Over 31,800 tonnes of fertilizer sent to Myanmar through border trade

OVER 31,890 tonnes of fertilizer were imported through border trade between 30th April and 6th May, which is up by over 560 tonnes compared to last week, according to the news of Commerce Ministry.

During the similar period, over 2,090 tonnes of fertilizer flowed into the country via sea

routes and the import volume showed a decrease of over 1,200 tonnes against that of last week.

The fertilizer sales in Yangon market remain constant with a steady price this week.

MAPCO is establishing a new fertilizer manufacturing plant in cooperation with Japan based Company Mitsui and Ger-

man chemical distributor Behn Mayer in Thilawa Special Economic Zone. This plant is likely to produce 150,000 to 200,000 tonnes of fertilizer a year, with a capacity of 50 tonnes per hour.

A new manufacturing plant under the name of Agri First Co., Ltd (AFC) is slated to be opened this Fiscal Year 2017-2018, ac-

ording to Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO).

Currently, fertilizer is imported from abroad. If this plant produces fertilizer, it can help reduce the import volume. Additionally, it ensures that growers have access to quality fertilizer at a cheaper price.—Htet Myat ■



A fish farm by Inn Pauk Wa Co Ltd in Rakhine State, which mainly does prawn and fish breeding in its abundant rivers and lakes. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Economic opportunities in Rakhine State

RAKHINE STATE is rich in natural resources. It has many rivers, lakes, ponds and is connected to the ocean. Good ports exist and as improvement to road links are being made, trade, local and foreign investments are increasing. The government is emphasizing on investment and trade in order to increase production in agriculture products as well as manufacturing and to increase job opportunities for locals by not only increasing local trade but also external trade with foreign countries.

Sittway Port

Sittway port is constructed with investment from India and was completed in 2017. Once the port is in operation 3,500-4,000 tons can be transported between Sittway and Paletwa while up to 20,000 tons can be transported from Sittway to Kolkata.

Kaladan Multi-modal project

Dredging was done throughout the Kaladan River from Sittway to Paletwa. Implementation of the inland water transport portion of the Kaladan multi-modal project will begin in 2017. The project directly connects by sea the Indian port city of Kolkata with Sittway in Rakhine State.

Sittway to Mizoram

A transport route from Sittway to India's Mizoram State via Kaladan River and road will be opened. Due to the Kaladan multi-modal project, the distance between Kolkata and Sittway reduces the previous land route by 1,328 km. The new route will also

increase trade between Myanmar and India.

India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway

Building of a road from India's Mizoram State to Paletwa will greatly support the development and trade in Rakhine State and Chin State. Rakhine State will have a rapidly increasing foreign investment and trade when Kaladan multi-modal project is combined with the trilateral highway linking Moreh in India to Measot in Thailand via Mandalay and Yangon.

Prawn and crab breeding is a successful business in Rakhine State and many local and foreign investors had invested in it.

Ponnagyun industrial zone

Ponnagyun is the nearest town to Sittway and 40 minutes on an all-weather-road is all it takes to travel. Process of setting up an industrial zone in Ponnagyun is underway. Ponnagyun industrial zone is on 1,833.15 acres of land situated right beside the Yangon-Sittway road.



Workers prepare prawns in a cold storage factory. PHOTO: MNA



Workers sort out prawns before processing. PHOTO: MNA

Variety of businesses

A variety of businesses, factories and workshops will be in the Ponnagyun industrial zone. In addition to textile plants, garment factories, electrical parts factories, consumer good factories, foreign and local investors are showing interest to invest more. Due to close proximity to road, rails and the Kaladan River,

land and water transport is very convenient and Ponnagyun industrial zone will develop rapidly.

Job opportunities

Once construction is completed, job opportunities for local youth will be created and unemployment reduced. The industrial zone will also develop MraukU Township and Kyauktaw Town-

ship adjacent to Ponnagyun.

Prawn and crab breeding

Prawn and crab breeding is conducted with foreign investment near Ponnagyun beside the Ponnagyun-Sittway road. Prawn and crab breeding is a successful business in Rakhine State and many local and foreign investors had invested in it. The products were exported abroad as well as being locally distributed.

Crab breeding with foreign investment in Kyaukphyu is providing jobs for local youth.

Salt water Tiger Prawn

Currently there are a total of 9,635 person conducting fish and prawn breeding on 156,538.64 acres of land in Rakhine State. Majority is prawn breeding and Tiger Prawn is mostly bred. Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Program (MYSAP) is implemented in cooperation with European Union and German state-owned organization GIZ and from 2016 to 2022 financial support and technical cooperation will be provided.

Agriculture and livestock zones

There are plans for an agriculture and livestock zones in Kyauktaw Township. Kisapanadi River flows through Kyauktaw Township where the weather is fine. Geographically, it is a flat plain area that had many good lands suitable for agriculture.

Local and foreign investors are interested in an agriculture zone with a huge land area and a livestock zones from which meat, fish, milk, and eggs can be produced.

SEE PAGE - 6



The Kaladan project on the Kaladan River will connect Sittway, the capital of Rakhine State, and the Mizoram in India. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Economic opportunities in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE -5

If the agriculture and livestock zones could be implemented, it will provide job opportunities for local rural youths as well as support regional development. Ground survey for Kyauktaw agriculture and livestock zone was conducted. Efforts are made toward implementation and once this is successfully done, economical agriculture and livestock businesses will flourish and raise the economy of Rakhine State from that sector.

Agriculture Science (Kyauktaw)

Once the Agriculture Science (Kyauktaw) school is completed, graduating youths will be able to utilize their knowledge effectively toward the development of the region as well as the entire State.

Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and Deep Sea Port Project

Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port projects are underway in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State. Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone is implemented in the vicinity of Thaing Chaung road junction in Kyaukphyu Township.

Ground works are being started and because of the special economic zone, there'll be increase in investment and trade in Rakhine State resulting in a rapid development of the economy.

Kyaukpyu Special Economic

Zone Management Committee and CITIC Group, the tender winner to implement the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone, were holding discussions for project implementation and project works will start soon.

More than US\$ 3 million worth of aquatic products exported through Maungtaw.

200,000 jobs in Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone

Once the works on Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone are implemented, about 200,000 jobs for locals will become available. As it will develop Rakhine State's trade and investment, efforts are made to implement it speedily.

100,000 jobs in Kyaukphyu Deep Sea Port

Construction of a deep sea port in Made Island, Kyaukpyu Township will start this year with foreign investment. Once the project is completed, it will be the driving force to develop the trade and economy of the entire Rakhine State and would provide

job for about 100,000 local youth.

Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and Kyaukpyu Deep Sea port projects are important for Rakhine State development and the government is pushing hard for speedy implementation.

During the first year of the incumbent government, discussions were held with tender winning company in order to start the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and Kyaukpyu Deep Sea port projects

Internal and external trade

In conducting internal and external trade, Rakhine State is linked with the entire country by road in order for the unhindered flow of commodities day or night. External trade is with Bangladesh and is cooperating to increase and improve trade between the two countries.

In order to balance trade, attempts are made to increase the export products of Rakhine State such as agriculture produce, foodstuff, fresh and dried fish.

More than US\$ 3 million worth of aquatic products exported through Maungtaw.

During the fiscal year 2016-2017, the most exported products through Maungtaw trade station are varieties of dried fish, sea water prawn and fresh fish totaling 3,539.18 tons that is worth US\$ 3.946 million.

Sittway trade station

At the Sittway trade station 2,101.5 tons or US\$ 2.278 million

worth of dried and fresh fish were exported.

Combined with Maungtaw trade station, a total of 5,640.68 ton or US\$ 6.224 million was exported.

Mingan Port

Trade between Bangladesh and Sittway is conducted through Mingan Port in Satkyayao creek.

With place to store goods and convenient berthing spots for vessels, Sittway trade station Mingan port is very convenient for commerce.

Maungtaw trade station

Millet was exported to Bangladesh from Maungtaw trade station. Cement, clothing, hand pumps and plastic goods are imported from Bangladesh.

Up to 13 March in the fiscal year 2016-2017, US\$ 4.352 million worth of trade was conducted through Sittway trade station and exceeded the monthly planned average trade amount by 54.396%.

Up to 13 March in the fiscal year 2016-2017, trade through Maungtaw trade station exceeded the monthly planned trade amount by 66.542%.

Trade in fiscal year 2016-2017 exceeded by 0.271% the trade in fiscal year 2015-2016.

Thazin Myay Trade Centre

Thazin Myay Trade Centre was established in Sittway on 8 August 2016 to support economic development in Rakhine

State, connect local businesses with foreign businesses and share news and data.

Enquiries can be made on economic and trade news and data

Thazin Myay Trade Centre responds to queries on economic and trade news and data, arrange discussion for business and trade, educate on economics, and arrange business meetings and discussions.

Establishment of Thazin Myay Trade Centre results in more meetings between Rakhine State Government, local and foreign businesses that in turn become a driving force for trade and investment.

In fact, some of the businesses who were in earlier meetings are already starting their works in Rakhine State.

Interest to invest in hotel, energy and mineral resources

Foreign businesses and companies are interested to invest in hotel, energy and mineral sector of Rakhine State and are already conducting discussions.

Kanyinchaung Trade Zone

Kanyinchaung Trade Zone is constructed as economic and trade zones are important for the success of trade and investment. The incumbent government pushed for the construction of Kanyinchaung Trade Zone in Maungtaw district.

SEE PAGE-7

Economic opportunities in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE -6

Construction of a modern marketplace

For regional development, Kanyinchaung Trade Zone and a modern marketplace were constructed in Kanyinchaung, Maungtaw district. In the trade zone there are cold storage, warehouse, fuel station, motel, restaurants and some were already constructed.

Two concrete jetties

Construction of two concrete jetties in Kanyinchaung Trade Zone was completed at the cost of Kyat 16.44 million. A 420 ft. long earth approach road is at the final stage of completion. A store and a sale rooms were already constructed in Kanyinchaung Trade Zone. Once the Kanyinchaung Trade Zone is completed, commerce, trade and development works will succeed rapidly in Maungtaw District.

Border trade

Border trade with Bangladesh is conducted mainly through Sittway and Maungtaw trade stations. In order to increase and ease trade, Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Commission on Trade was formed and meetings were held regularly.

Construction of Kanyinchaung Trade Zone and a modern marketplace will also support the increase in trade.

Sharing of trade data

Bangladesh is interested to import the natural gas, oil, mineral, marine and agriculture products of Rakhine State. Discussions were held to issue certificates/documents to ease loading and discharging goods at Bangladesh ports. Process is underway to exchange trade data regularly in order to balance the trade between the two countries.

Offshore gas field

Rakhine State is a coastal region and in the Myanmar territorial water off Rakhine State, there are a number of gas fields. In addition to these offshore gas fields, offshore oil exploration blocks also existed. Oil and gas

resources are nature's gift to Rakhine State.

Investment by foreign companies

Foreign companies are investing and producing oil and gas and the incumbent government is inviting more foreign investment as well as assisting the work of the companies already in Rakhine State.

Marble extraction and processing

Foreign investment conducted under the permission of the Myanmar Investment Commission in Rakhine State is in the mining sector. Myanmar Simco Song Da Joint Stock Co., Ltd. is investing US\$ 18.147 million in a marble extraction and processing project in Nayputaung quarry, Taungup Township, Rakhine State.

Exploration and production

In the Rakhine State energy sector Statoil Myanmar Private Limited and Conoco Phillips Myanmar E&P Pte. Ltd. is investing US\$ 323.65 million under the Foreign Investment Law to conduct oil and gas exploration and production.

Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte. Ltd., and BG Exploration & Production Myanmar Pte. Ltd. is also investing US\$ 290.1 million for gas exploration and production in Rakhine offshore.

Total investment of more than US\$ 10 billion

During the Fiscal Year 2016-2017, 27 projects in energy sector, one project in mining sector and one service sector project invested a total of US\$ 10.259483 billion in Rakhine State.

Hotel sector

From 1 April 2016 to end March 2017, 5 hotels and guesthouses with 193 rooms were granted permission to invest and there are now a total of 49 hotels and guesthouses with 1,540 rooms.

The newly permitted hotel and guesthouses are 2 guesthouses in Sittway with 30 rooms, a hotel and 3 guesthouses in Kyaukphyu with 93 rooms.



A fish pond is being dug with the use of heavy machinery in Maungtaw. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THANT



Thriving rice field in Sittway, Rakhine. PHOTO: MNA

Development in travel sector

As travel sector develop in Rakhine State, existing hotels and guesthouses are given permission to extend and added 16 rooms in Sittway and 53 rooms in Ngapali.

Ngapali beach

From 1 April 2016 to end March 2017, permissions were granted to build a 12 room hotel and a high-end guest house in Ngapali beach.

Ngapali beach is world-famous beach where local and foreign companies had interest to invest in hotels.

Alethanyaw beach and Kyaukpandu beach

Hotel business owners are interested to develop and invest in Alethanyaw beach and Kyaukpandu beach.

As travel business develop in one of the ancient cultural heritage site MraukU, a workshop was held with local and foreign entities to develop the hotel sector and was able to attract foreign investment.

Foreign companies are showing keen interest in constructing new hotels in MraukU Township.

Finland and Sweden companies

Ha Nam CMC Co., Ltd of Finland is planning a hotel service and Ziba Hotels and Resorts Co., Ltd of Sweden is investing

Foreign companies are showing keen interest in constructing new hotels and Mrauk U region.

to build a hotel. Another Swedish company D n A Hotels and Resorts Co., Ltd. is planning on investing in hotel business. To achieve growth in the travel business through creating new tour sites, site surveys were conducted to Rathedaung and Pauktaw Townships in northern Rakhine State and Gwa and Manaung Townships in southern Rakhine

State during the 1 April 2016 to end March 2017 one year period. Drawing up plans for local and foreign investment in the travel business will result in increasing investment in the travel sector.

Investment sectors

Now, foreign and local companies are making 10 investments in the hotel sector, 5 investments in the livestock breeding and marine sector, 2 investments in the construction sector, one in the production sector, one in other sector totaling 19 investments amounting to Kyat 111.3116 billion. During the first year of the incumbent government, up to February of fiscal year 2016-2017, 3 foreign companies and 136 Myanmar companies registered and started work.

Local companies

126 local companies invested during the fiscal year 2015-2016. In fiscal year 2016-2017 136 local companies invested bringing up the total by 10. Once all the different businesses develop, not only the socio-economic condition of the people of Rakhine State improves, it will also support the economic development of the whole country. ■

Any protest should be a lawful event

Tha Sein

With Parliament now in full session in the capital city of Nay Pyi Taw, we hope all members of parliament (i.e. MPs) will perform their tasks to the best of their abilities since they are widely regarded as good representatives of the people, who are well-versed in legislative matters.

Parliamentary debates should not be based on personal attacks on fellow parliamentarians but should be based on facts and figures to ensure that all debates serve the public interest as a massive driving force

towards the achievement of the country's inclusive and transformational vision.

Members of the public would benefit greatly if all parliamentarians utilize fully reason and wisdom in their deliberations of the budget bill and other important issues, such as land confiscation, natural disasters, internal conflicts and corruption.

The first day of the fifth regular meeting of the Parliament saw a series of political, social and economic issues being debated and discussed in the Lower and Upper Houses, for the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Parliament)

has been divided accordingly. This is in line with the country's parliamentary system. A number of elected MPs who have the habit of "going-to-the-source" for solving a number of problems may prefer to exercise their rights outside the Parliament.

Street demonstrations and protests are often used to score political points or to put pressure on the government. And with the country now in preparation for the successful holding of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong in Nay Pyi Taw, the Union territory, necessary measures

will be taken in accordance with the law to ensure that any protest to express strong disagreement with the government is a lawful event.

In that regard, elected members of Parliament have a crucial role to play in order to help bring about reconciliation and unity among the people, as the government's previous stance with regards to staging a protest remains unchanged. Seen in this light, we urge the government and elected MPs to cast aside their differences and work together in Parliament for the benefit of the country and the people. ■

Family medicine, family practice and family doctor—an inseparable triad

Dr. Aung Soe @ Aung Kyaw Moe

As World Family Doctors' Day falls on May 19, may I highlight some salient points on Family Medicine, Family Practice and Family Doctor. I would like to present some quotations:

Family medicine may be defined as a discipline concerned with the personal, primary, comprehensive and continuing health care of the individual in relation to his family, community and environment. (*College of Family Physicians, Singapore. 2002*)

Family Medicine is neither an amalgam of several disciplines or a unique discipline in itself. It is a discipline that transcends specialties as it integrates into a new whole. (*Dr. Wayne Watson/College of Family Physicians, Canada*)

The general practitioner deals with patients presenting with undifferentiated problems and provides continuing, comprehensive, whole-person care to individuals, families and their community. (*Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, 1991*)

"The General Practitioner provides personal primary and continuing medical care to individuals, families and a precise population irrespective of age, sex and illness. He will attend his patients in his consulting room, in their homes and sometimes in a clinic or hospital. His aim is to make an early diagnosis. He will include and integrate physical, psychological and social factors in his consideration about health and illness. He will

undertake continuing management of his patients with chronic, recurrent and terminal illnesses. He will practice in co-operation with other colleagues. He will know how and when to intervene through treatment, prevention and education to promote health of his patients and their families. He will recognize that he also has a professional responsibility to the community. (*General Medical Practice, Walton + Beeson, Oxford University Press 1986*)

The general practitioner/family physician cares for the individual in the context of the family, and the family in the context of the community, irrespective of race, culture or social class. He/she is clinically competent to provide the greater part of their care, taking into account the cultural, socioeconomic and psychological background. In addition, he/she takes personal responsibility for providing comprehensive and continuing care for his/her patients. (*A statement from WONCA, 1991*)

Family medicine has evolved at different rates in different parts of the world. For many decades the doctor that the people knew was the family doctor. He was the doctor that was around to look after all members of family "from cradle to grave", whether it was to deliver a baby into the world or to treat an illness or to provide counsel to terminal incurable elderly.

The development of medical science and the hospital at the turn of the 20th century led to better understanding of man, disease and ways of



dealing with medical problems. Family Medicine /General Practice has matured in the last (40) years or so.

The struggle to establish parity with specialization occurred in 1980 with the cry that "we are as good as you hospital specialists" and the struggle to establish independent departments or units of Family Medicine in medical schools. With the advent of the age of integration in the 1990s, it has been realized as an age of integration that family medicine needs to work closely with hospital specialist medicine because each complements the other. Both are needed for the total care of the patient long term and the movement of the patient between them must be seamless. Family medicine also links between the two worlds

of hospital based medicine and public health medicine. Family medicine has an important role of being the matrix that glues the various branches of medical sciences together.

The emergence of Family Medicine has been hailed as (a) a rediscovery of the human, social and cultural aspects of health and disease and (b) of recognition of family as a focal point of health care and (c) the right place for integrating preventive, curative and promotive services.

As its key concepts Family Medicine seeks to provide primary, personal, continuing and comprehensive care;

Primary Care

Family doctor is the doctor of first contact. In primary care, patients present with many and varied health problems, mostly undifferentiated illnesses. Family Doctor usually see patients with multiple problems, co-morbidities occurring simultaneously in one person. They perform screening and gate-keeping function of certain catchments population thus bringing down the work load and economizes secondary and tertiary care. This will result in more cost-effective medical care where only those who need specialized care are referred to the specialist or admitted to the hospital. Moreover, Family Doctor provides acute and emergency care. Early recognition of serious diseases and timely intervention is the best safeguard against complications in diseases.

Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Second Session)



US\$ 15.5 trillion to be invested in construction sector by 2030



The old Burma Railway Headquarters building is seen in Yangon on 27 April 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

THE volume of construction will grow to US\$15.5 trillion worldwide by 2030, according to PWC statistics. Companies from China, US and India can invest in the construction sector.

Although China is too slow to develop in housing, other basic building sectors such as health care and education are being developed in the construction sector.

The construction market in India will grow almost twice as fast as China to 2030. India's population is expected to grow by 165 million by 2030. And the population of the city of Delhi in India will become the world's largest city.

When it comes to Europe, England will stand at the top in biggest construction and real estate market in Europe and the world's sixth largest construction market by 2030, said Jeremy Leonard, Director of Industry Services, Oxford Economics.

Construction is expected to be one of the highest industrial sectors in the next 15 years. The highest industrial sector may bring the job opportunities, said Fernando A Gonzalez, the chief executive of global building materials company CEMEX.

Rapidly changing the urban system in Myanmar, construction sector need to construct basic buildings including health centres, educational and other social buildings. Moreover, Myanmar government is constructing the affordable housing project which is essential for local people. Private construction companies are also cooperating with the government construction department to construct the low-cost housing, affordable housing and condominiums. Therefore, these result can change Myanmar real estate sector, said Mr. Nitesh Khirwal, managing director of Housi.com.mm.—Min Thu ■

Family medicine, family practice and family doctor-an inseparable triad

FROM PAGE-8

Personal - Care

Personal care is essential in family practice. Modern medicine is characterized by specialization and commercialization resulting in fragmentation, depersonalization and sophistication of technology and high cost. That diversity and limitation of care in medical specialties has altered and created a new demand for the rapid return of generalists, who will give personalized and cost effective care through holistic approach. In personal care, the family doctor looks not only the individual patient but to the family as well. He sees not only the disease but the whole person in his total environment, (biopsychosocial factor). Holistic approach and trusted "doctor – patient relationship" enables family doctor to have a wider insight into their problems.

Continuing Care

Continuing care follows after the first contact with Family Doctor. He plans for the management: immediate,

short-term and long- term care, using his own skill and experience and also mobilizing talents and facilities around him.

Patients with chronic conditions e.g. hypertension coronary heart diseases, diabetes, asthma, heart diseases are seen by Family Doctor for follow- up and continuing care. Continuing care expands from the childhood through adult to the elderly. In fact, family doctor provides continuing medical care for the family "from cradle to casket" service, which is unique to family practice. Continuing care may provide in two aspects (a) care of chronic diseases in an individual (b) life- span care, care of an individual from childhood to elderly person.

The ongoing relationship between a doctor and the patient is of paramount importance. Prolonged contact means that doctor uses repeated opportunities to gather information at a pace appropriate to each patient, and to build up a relationship of trust. Thus Family Doctor develops considerable knowledge and understanding of the patient, the family and the whole environment.

Comprehensive Care

Comprehensive care depicts the wide scope of care extending from assuring the likelihood of a healthy gestation to helping patients die with dignity.

Comprehensive Care

These include:

- Multidisciplinary care; - medical, surgical, O&G, psychiatric diseases management, etc.
- Multifaceted care; - care of physical, mental and social disorders,
- Multipurpose care; - preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative care.
- Coordinated care; - care provided by many different care providers. For example cancer patient may need coordination of care by surgeon, physician oncologist, physiotherapist and social worker. FD takes sense of responsibility if he finds something is beyond his ability to ensure that the patient receives adequate treatment from someone experienced in that particular area. At the same time he must maintain an overall ongoing supervisory role.

The field of family medicine covers a very wide area.

"General Practice/ Family Medicine is traditional method of bringing primary healthy care to the community. (John Murtagh)

Primary care and Family Medicine (FM) involves the ability to take responsible action to any health problem the patient presents.

Family Practitioner (FP) deals with problem complexes, much ill- defined illnesses rather than established diseases. As the point of first contact and community- based practice, patients may present to him "anything under the Sun".

Broadly speaking, there is nothing that is not a "GP's business". If the problem is out of his capacity he may make appropriate referral to other health care providers.

On this auspicious Family Doctors' Day, may I encourage all General Practitioners to keep up Continuing Medical Education (CME) and endeavour individual efforts to welfare of general public as well as reducing burden to tertiary health centres. ■

Religious titles conferred on monks who passed Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examinations

A CEREMONY to honour 90 monks who passed the 69th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examinations organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture was held at the Mahapasana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba-Aye hillock in Mayangon Township, Yangon yesterday.

First, the congregation led by Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay received the Five Precepts given by the Moe Kaung Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Thudhama Sarabuwmsa. Afterwards, the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko read out the reports on religious affairs.

Vice President U Myint Swe presented the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida titles and certificates to the outstanding Members of the Sangha. Then, Union Minis-



Vice President U Myint Swe presents the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title and certificate to an outstanding Member of Sangha. PHOTO: MNA

ter for Information Dr Pe Myint Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung U Phyo Min Thein and officials presented religious titles and

certificates to the outstanding monks.

During the ceremony, the congregation led by the Vice President and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay donated offertories to the Sayadaws.

The Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examinations have been held in Myanmar for the last 69 years. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is quite different from other religious examinations because the candidates have to take 33 days to sit for this examination.

Up to now, only fourteen outstanding members of the Sangha have been presented the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida within the 68 years' duration of the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Pazundaung night market to be opened

THE Pazundaung night market will be opened with nearly 140 shops in the 10th Ward of Pazundaung township this month, according to an official from Pazundaung township Municipal Affairs Committee.

The Pazundaung night market spans Bo Myat Tun Road,

Mahabandoola Road, Anawaraha Road to Botahtuang Pagoda Road. The municipal committee will allocate shops to old shopkeepers under a lucky draw system. The committee plans to open the morning market from 6am to 11am and the evening market from 3pm to 11pm. The

night market will be opened with 138 shops, each shop measuring 8 square feet. "We are trying to open the Pazundaung night market this month. There are nearly 140 shops to be opened at the night market", said an official from Pazundaung township Municipal Affairs Committee.—200

Drugs seized near village bridge in Maungtaw

POLICE forces patrolling near the entrance to Taungpyoletwe in Maungtaw Township seized psychotropic drugs on 17 May. A Toyota Hilux passen-

ger vehicle was stopped near the bridge entering Taungpyoletwe at 6pm and a search of the vehicle revealed 950 R-psychotropic drugs worth Ks1.9

million were seized from Mahmud Ahrat. A case has been opened in Taungpyoletwe police camp for further investigation. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Solar power units to be installed in Kayin state

SOLAR power will be installed in five townships of Kayin state under the National Electrification Project (NEP), it is learnt. Authorities from Kayin state will install 11,772 units of solar power to 143 villagers from Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe, Kawkareik, Kya-in-Seikkyi and Thandaunggyi townships in Kayin state. The authority will also install 924 units to the public buildings of the villages free of charge.

Under the NEP project, the authority will install 2,062 units of solar power at 23 villages in Hpa-an, 1,063 units of solar power at 11 villages in Hlaingbwe, 6,197 units

of solar power at 73 villages in Kawkareik, 1804 units of solar power at 29 villages in Kya-in-Seikkyi and 316 units of solar power at seven villages in Thandaunggyi.

Moreover, the authority will install 156 units of solar power at primary schools, middle schools and high schools, 35 units of solar power at the village health care centre, 18 units of solar power at religious building, 715 units of solar power at the lamp posts during this month. To install the solar power in the villages, 60 per cent of the value of one unite will be provided by the government, 30

per cent by the World Bank and only 10 per cent by the public. The public can install the any solar power system among the tree systems. People can pay for the installation of solar power with installment system. For type 1, People have to pay Ks 9,000 for the first installment and Ks 10,000 for the second installment. For type-2, People have to pay Ks 15,000 for the first installment and Ks 15,000 for the second installment. For type-3, people have to pay Ks 21,000 for the first installment and Ks 24,000 for the second installment.—200

Senior General attends ACDFIM dinner



SG Min Aung Hlaing and wife receive commemorative gifts following the 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Defense Informal Meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended a formal dinner at the Sofitel Hotel hosted by Philippine Army's Commander-in-Chief General Eduardo M. Año and his wife on 18 May following the 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Defense Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM).

At the dinner, Deputy Commander-in-Chief Lt-Gen Salvador Melchor B. Mison Jr delivered the welcoming

speech.

The Senior General and entourage enjoyed the formal dinner with other ASEAN military leaders and their delegations.

The Army Band of Philippines Armed Forces (Air) provided music and entertainment at the dinner.

Yesterday, the Senior General met with embassy staff, military attache staff and their families. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Long queues as Iranians start voting in presidential election

DUBAI — Iranians voted in fiercely-contested presidential polls on Friday, standing in long lines to choose between Hassan Rouhani, the incumbent who wants normal ties with the West, and a populist challenger backed by powerful security hawks.

“Everyone should vote in this important election ... The country’s fate is determined by the people,” Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said, casting his ballot in Tehran as lengthy queues formed across the country of 80 million.

In a warning reflecting rising political tensions amid signs of an unexpectedly close race, Rouhani has urged Iran’s powerful elite Revolutionary Guards, believed to support his conservative opponent Ebrahim Raisi, not to meddle in the vote.

Suspicions that the Guards and the Basij militia under their control falsified voting results in favour of hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad led to eight months of nationwide protests in 2009. Dozens of people were killed and hundreds arrested, human rights groups say, in the worst unrest to hit the Islamic Republic.

“I am on my way to vote for Rouhani. I like his detente policy with the world. I know he is not a reformist but who cares. What matters is that he is not Raisi,” government employee Yousef Ghaemi, 43, said by phone in the



Iranian people stand in a queue to vote during the presidential election in Tehran, Iran, on 19 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

western city of Kermanshah.

“I cast my vote already — I voted for Raisi because he is a follower of Imam Khamenei. He will not confront the leader (Khamenei) if elected. He will protect our Islamic identity,” said Mehran Fardoust, 36, a shop keeper near the Imam Reza Shrine, in the holy city of Mashhad, Raisi’s home town.

Raisi, 56, and Rouhani, 68, traded charges of graft and brutality on television debates with an open vehemence unseen since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Both deny the other’s accusations.

State television showed lengthy queues forming outside polling stations in several cities and said 56 million Iranians out of the more than 80-million-strong population were eligible to vote.

“From the Revolutionary Guards to Friday prayer leaders, the hardline, unelected part of the establishment backs Raisi,” a senior former Iranian official told Reuters.

“But it is a risky decision. It might cause protests similar to those in 2009, as different walks of the society, desiring evolution inside the establishment, have

united against Raisi.”

The Guards hope that a win for Raisi will give them an opportunity to claw back economic and political power lost in Shi’ite Iran’s complex theocratic and republican governing structure since 2015, when Iran struck a nuclear deal with world powers that brought it out of international isolation.

Although Khamenei is guarded about his political preferences, he appears to back Raisi both as a presidential candidate and possible successor.

But in an apparent reference

to the 2009 disturbances, Khamenei, an unelected clerical hardliner who has the ultimate say in Iran, has previously warned he would confront anyone trying to interfere in the election.

Rouhani, who championed the deal to lift most sanctions on Iran in return for curbs on its disputed nuclear programme, is a staunch supporter of engagement with the West and liberal reforms to the economy, now dominated by state institutions.

He also says a hardline victory could put Iran back on a more confrontational, economically damaging course with the West, and would prevent the opening of society that a majority of Iranians, especially the youth, yearn to see.

But hardline rivals hammered Rouhani over his failure to boost an economy weakened by decades of sanctions, even after most were rescinded following the nuclear agreement.

Despite the removal of nuclear-related sanctions in 2016, lingering unilateral US sanctions that target Iran’s record on human rights and terrorism have kept many foreign companies wary of putting stakes in the Iranian market.

A protégé of Khamenei, Raisi focused his campaign on the economy, visiting rural areas and villages, promising housing, jobs and more welfare benefits for the poor.—Reuters ■

Libya asks Italy to arm anti-migrant smuggling patrol boats

TRIPOLI — Libya officially asked Italy on Thursday to arm Libyan naval boats of anti-migrant smuggling in the Mediterranean.

“These vessels are not armed and we are unable to use them for patrols as smugglers are increasingly armed,” Abdullah Tomia, head of a Libyan-Italian anti-migrant smuggling committee, said at a news conference in Tripoli.

“We were dealing with unarmed smugglers before the uprising. But now, we are fac-

ing fierce, armed gangs,” Tomia added.

Italian Interior Minister, Marco Minniti, visited Tripoli on Monday and met with the UN-backed prime minister, Fayeza Serraj. The two officials discussed mutual cooperation and the fight against illegal immigration.

The Libyan coastguard received four patrol boats this week repaired in Italy as part of a cooperation agreement against migrant traffickers.

The Italian-Libyan joint



Illegal migrants arrive after being rescued by Libyan coast guards in the sea off the coastal town of Guarabouli to the east of Libya’s capital Tripoli, on 18 May 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

committee also held a meeting last week to discuss illegal immigration and southern Libyan border security.

Due to the state of insecurity and chaos, Libya is a preferred point of departure for thousands of immigrants who

want to cross the Mediterranean towards Europe, many of whom drown on the way.—Xinhua ■

Accused Times Square driver's troubled past included Navy prison

NEW YORK — The driver of the car that careened through New York City's Times Square on Thursday was a US Navy veteran who had been arrested at least four times before for offences including drunk driving and threatening someone with a knife, according to police officials and public records.

Richard Rojas, 26, plowed into people on the sidewalk in his burgundy Honda sedan and sped three blocks through one of the city's busiest areas, killing one pedestrian and injuring 22 before crashing into a metal stanchion, police said.

Rojas returned from his Navy service with a drinking problem and had posted "crazy stuff" on social media, said a friend, Harrison Ramos, speaking to Reuters outside the apartment building where Rojas lives in New York City's Bronx borough.

"Don't make him out to be a terrorist or something," Ramos said. "He served his country and when he came back, nobody helped him."

Rojas attended col-



Richard Rojas is escorted from the 7th precinct by New York City Police officers after being processed in connection with the speeding vehicle that struck pedestrians on a sidewalk in Times Square in New York City, US, on 18 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

lege and works in real estate, Ramos said.

"He went through a real tough time," Ramos said, adding that he had lost contact with Rojas. "That's my friend. I care about him, and it hurts."

Only a week ago, Rojas was arrested at his apartment in the Bronx for threatening another man with a knife.

"Do you feel safe? You stole my identity," Rojas told the man, grabbing his neck in one hand while

brandishing the knife in the other, according to a police spokeswoman. She did not have additional details.

He was charged with menacing and possession of a weapon, according to court records. He pleaded guilty to harassment, a violation, and was not sentenced to any prison time.

Rojas was also charged with drunken driving in 2008 and 2015, according to New York City police. The state motor

vehicle department confirmed he was convicted of driving while impaired in both cases but still had a valid driver's license as of Thursday.

In the Times Square incident, Rojas was charged with one count of murder in the second degree, aggravated vehicular homicide and multiple counts of attempted murder, a New York police spokesman said in an email late on Thursday. —Reuters ■

Security experts find clues to ransomware worm's lingering risks

FRANKFURT — Two-thirds of those caught up in the past week's global ransomware attack were running Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system without the latest security updates, a survey for Reuters by security ratings firm BitSight found.

Researchers are struggling to try to find early traces of WannaCry, which remains an active threat in hardest-hit China and Russia, believing that identifying "patient zero" could help catch its criminal authors. They are having more luck dissecting flaws that limited its spread. Security experts warn that while computers at more than 300,000 internet addresses were hit by the ransomware strain, further attacks that fix weaknesses in WannaCry will follow that hit larger numbers of users, with more devastating consequences. "Some organizations just aren't aware of the risks; some don't want to risk interrupting important business processes; sometimes they are short-staffed," said Ziv Mador, vice president of security

research at Trustwave's Israeli SpiderLabs unit.

"There are plenty of reasons people wait to patch and none of them are good," said Mador, a former long-time security researcher for Microsoft.

WannaCry's worm-like capacity to infect other computers on the same network with no human intervention appear tailored to Windows 7, said Paul Pratley, head of investigations & incident response at UK consulting firm MWR InfoSecurity.

Data from BitSight covering 160,000 internet-connected computers hit by WannaCry, shows that Windows 7 accounts for 67 per cent of infections, although it represents less than half of the global distribution of Windows PC users. Computers running older versions, such as Windows XP used in Britain's NHS health system, while individually vulnerable to attack, appear incapable of spreading infections and played a far smaller role in the global attack than initially reported. —Reuters ■

Brazil's Temer refuses to resign in face of investigation

BRASILIA — Brazil's President Michel Temer on Thursday defiantly said he would not resign after the Supreme Court authorized an investigation into allegations he condoned bribes to a potential witness in a major corruption probe.

The investigation raised the possibility Brazil could see a second president fall in less than a year and sent Brazilian financial markets tumbling on doubts Congress would pass Temer's ambitious austerity agenda.

In a terse five-minute speech broadcast nationwide, Temer said he had done nothing wrong, that his presidency was helping turn around Brazil's stalled economy and he welcomed

an investigation so that he could prove his innocence.

"I did not buy the silence of anyone," Temer said, referring to the allegations made against him. "I will not resign."

A Supreme Court justice approved the investigation on Thursday based on plea-bargain testimony and an audio recording in which Temer allegedly conspired to obstruct justice with Joesley Batista, chairman of the world's largest meatpacker, JBS SA (JBSS3.SA), according to a report in the O Globo newspaper. When the audio recording was released to the public on Thursday it did not appear to contain any explosive proof that Temer committed a crime.

It was, however, just one piece of evidence Batista has offered prosecutors, with more to be released soon.

After listening to the recording, a spokesman for Temer said the president was more resolute than ever to fight the investigation and salvage his deeply unpopular presidency.

He said the tape proved he had not approved bribing the witness, former lower house speaker Eduardo Cunha. A one-time Temer ally, Cunha was convicted on corruption charges relating to Brazil's sweeping graft probe known as Operation Car Wash. The jailed politician's testimony could reportedly implicate scores

of politicians, including the president.

"There is no agreeing with payments for Eduardo Cunha," Marcio de Freitas, a spokesman for Temer said of the tape.

Still, the fact Supreme Court justice Edson Fachin, who has seen all the evidence Batista has presented, approved the Temer investigation, suggested there could be more material to come that could directly implicate the leader. Protests calling for Temer's resignation broke out in several cities Thursday, most attracting a few hundred people.

Activists from across the political spectrum called for large protests this weekend. —Reuters ■

Rescuers scramble to save woman trapped in Sri Lanka building collapse

COLOMBO — Rescuers were digging through rubble trying to save a woman they feared was trapped inside a collapsed wedding reception hall in the Sri Lankan capital on Friday, officials said after confirming that one man had been killed and 23 injured.

Police said construction work was under way to expand the five-storey building in Colombo when it collapsed on Thursday. Police, soldiers and firefighters were involved in the search for the missing woman.

A hospital official said one man was pulled alive from the debris after being

trapped for five hours but died soon after he was admitted to hospital. Police said 23 were injured.

"The rescue operation is continuing for the second day and military and rescue teams are removing the debris," police spokesman Priyantha Jayakody said.

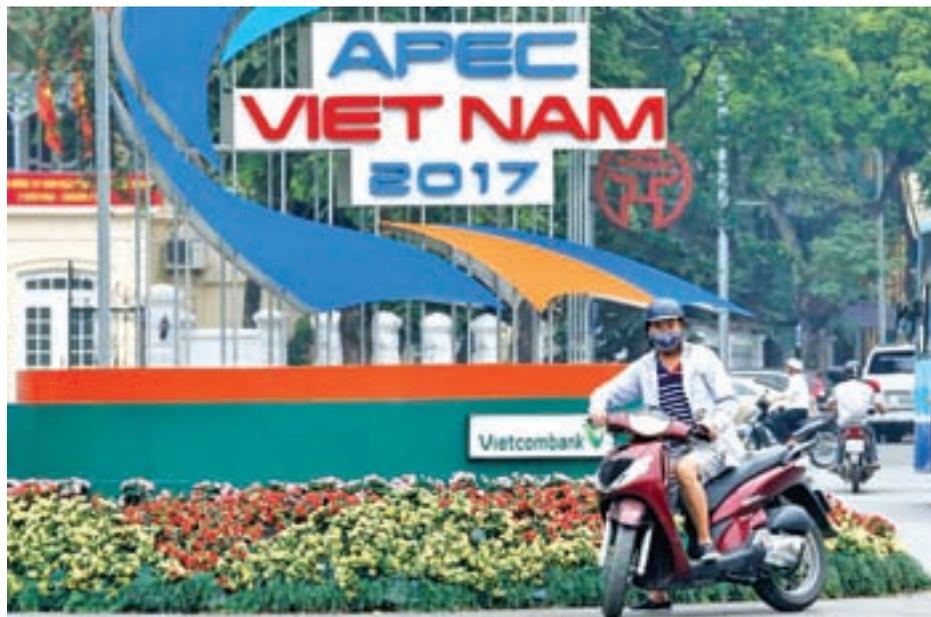
"Still one lady is missing and we are searching for her. We don't know if she is trapped inside," he said. The reason for the building collapse was not immediately clear but Jayakody said the weight of the new extension could have been the cause. —Reuters ■

TPP trade deal members seek to move ahead without United States

HANOI/TOKYO — Remaining members of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement are working on a statement to reaffirm their commitment to it despite the withdrawal of the United States, sources close to the discussions said.

Talks are happening on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting, the biggest trade gathering since US President Donald Trump upended the world order with his “America First” policy. The competing visions are evident at this weekend’s APEC meeting of ministers from countries that account for well over 40 per cent of world trade.

While new US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will hold bilateral talks with key countries, China will be pushing its favored Asian trade agreement as it puts itself forward as a global free trade champion. Meanwhile, Japan is leading the countries that still want to go ahead with a much more comprehensive TPP agreement, a deal Trump ditched in one of his first acts in office and which does not include China. Sources close to the discussions said the so-called TPP-11 states - the 11 members left after the United States withdrew - were planning a statement for Sunday that would say they



A motorbike waits in front of a sign promoting APEC Summit in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 17 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

were committed to moving ahead with TPP.

“There will be two main points: 1. To aim for an early entry into force of the TPP-11, 2. To bear in mind an environment where a signatory country can return,” said one source close to the discussions who was not authorized to speak to the media.

The agreement is due to come into force next year. Among the challenges is keeping on board Vietnam and Malaysia, who would have been big beneficiaries from the agreement if it included the United States.

Viet Nam would want to renegotiate requirements in areas like labour reform and intellectual property rights if it were to continue without US participation, said one Vietnam-

ese official who declined to be identified. Japan is still hopeful that the United States can be brought back to the agreement. But renegotiating the existing North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is a bigger immediate priority for Washington. In Hanoi, Lighthizer is due to hold bilateral meetings to start making official contact with key trade officials. Nearly all the other 20 members of APEC had requested bilateral meetings, US officials said. Main countries are China, Japan and South Korea, with which Trump wants to renegotiate a free trade deal. Canada and Mexico will be at the Asia-Pacific meetings and are also in the North American trade area. In other talks on the sidelines, Chi-

na will be driving for progress on its favoured trade deal for Asia: the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. The free trade agreement doesn’t cover as many areas as the TPP deal or demand tough conditions for members on issues such as protecting intellectual property, labour rights or the environment.

Doubts over TPP have given greater impetus to discussions which members hope to complete by the end of the year. But officials said there remained significant points of disagreement in the talks between Southeast Asian countries, China, India, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea. The United States has never been part of those discussions.—Reuters ■

Japan sees record employment for univ. graduates amid labour shortage

TOKYO — A record-high 97.6 per cent of new university graduates in Japan have landed jobs as of the 1 April start of the 2017 business year, government data showed Friday, reflecting demand from companies amid the nation’s labour shortage.

The rate increased 0.3 percentage point from a year earlier, up for the sixth consecutive year, in an annual survey conducted since 1997 by the labor and education ministries.

A labour ministry official attributed the strong figure to many students beginning job-hunting at an early stage, adding, “The ratio of job offers to job seekers remains high for university graduates and the trend is likely to continue.”

Businesses were also willing to hire students from high schools and vocational schools.

The employment rate among new high school graduates who sought jobs rose 0.3 percentage point from the previous year to 98.0 per cent, marking the seventh straight annual rise, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and the

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Kochi National College of Technology in western Japan, which trains engineers, received over 2,600 job offers for 93 students seeking employment.

“More companies, including those that used to seek only university graduates, have started posting vacancies (for vocational school graduates),” said Katsunori Yokoi, head of career support center at the school.

Tokyo Metropolitan Shiba Commercial High School attained a 100 percent employment rate for its graduates. Miki Kobayashi, senior teacher at the school, said, “Job seekers can make better choices as a number of job offers for infrastructure-related businesses and hotels increased in the run-up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.”

Meanwhile, some 9,900 new university graduates were estimated to remain jobless in Japan as of 1 April.

The survey involving interviews of graduates covered 24 randomly selected public universities and 38 private ones.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV INDUSTRIAL MERCHANT VOY. NO (00515)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INDUSTRIAL MERCHANT VOY. NO (00515) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

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 20.5.2017 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 SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Plan B drops first single in five years

LOS ANGELES — Music star Plan B has dropped his first single in five years titled “In The Name of Man” and he said his upcoming album will contain no rapping.

The 33-year-old musician, whose real name is Benjamin Drew, took to social media to announce his new single, which will feature in his upcoming follow-up album to 2012’s “Ill Manors”. In a photo posted on Twitter, he wrote, “Been in the studio recording the new album, directing the music video for the first single, and working with my charity Each One Teach One.—PTI ■

Vanessa Hudgens urges fans to ‘work hard’

LONDON — Actress Vanessa Hudgens has urged her fans to “stay committed” to achieving their goals.

The 28-year-old actress, who rose to fame after starring as Gabriella Montez in the Disney musical movie franchise “High School Musical”, said the best advice she would give to her young fans is to stay dedicated in order to reach their full potential, reported Contactmusic.

“Work hard. I think that it’s really easy nowadays to lose focus and have a short attention span. You have to stay really dedicated to your work and to growing and to learning. Stay committed!” she said.—PTI ■



Director Todd Haynes, writer Brian Selznick, producers Pamela Koffler and Christine Vachon, cast members Michelle Williams, Julianne Moore, Jaden Michael, producer John Sloss and cast member Millicent Simmonds pose at 70th Cannes Film Festival, Photocall for the film ‘Wonderstruck’ in competition, Cannes, France, on 18 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

‘Carol’ director returns to Cannes with hotly tipped ‘Wonderstruck’

CANNES, (FRANCE) — Cutting between black and white and color, silent and talkie, “Wonderstruck” was warmly received at Cannes on Thursday where it is already hotly tipped for awards.

Following on from “Carol”, which competed at the film festival two years ago, director Todd Haynes once again gives viewers an evocative vision of period New York - or in this case two: one in the 1920s and one in the 1970s.

A bleary-eyed audience at the 8.30am screening gave the movie hearty applause, enjoying its intertwined storylines, one of which plays as a black and white

silent movie of the period, the other bathed in the warm colors of 1970s American movies.

“It was an intensely cinematic idea on the page,” Haynes said of the script by Brian Selznick, based on his own book.

Selznick was also the author of “The Invention of Hugo Cabret”, a part novel, part picture book that Martin Scorsese turned into “Hugo”.

He used the same technique for “Wonderstruck”, which tells the two stories — that eventually meet — of a deaf girl and boy who run away from their troubled homes.

“For a filmmaker it was an

irresistible piece of material,” Haynes told a news conference.

Julianne Moore, whose first leading movie role was in Haynes’ “Safe” in 1995, plays two characters: a 1920s silent movie star who is the neglectful mother of her deaf daughter Rose, and, in the 1970s, Rose herself in her dotage.

Her two parts, one in which she can talk, but is in a silent film and therefore unheard, and the other in which she communicates only in sign language, is at the heart of the film.

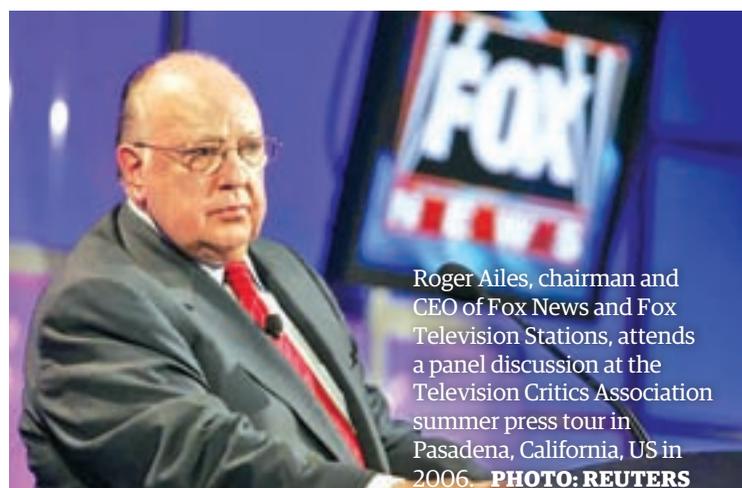
“It boiled down to how we communicate and what language is and how we effectively

use, our bodies, our hands, our selves, without spoken English,” she said.

Hollywood Reporter called “Wonderstruck” “a genuinely affecting story of children and family that doubles as a work of fabulous cinematic artifice”.

Variety said that, for all its attributes, the sum of the movie’s parts was that it did not quite make a great film.

“‘Wonderstruck’ is a movie that literally tries to add up, piece by piece, into a fully assembled puzzle of greatness, but the puzzle is less than transporting because you can still see all the seams.”—Reuters ■



Roger Ailes, chairman and CEO of Fox News and Fox Television Stations, attends a panel discussion at the Television Critics Association summer press tour in Pasadena, California, US in 2006. PHOTO: REUTERS

Loved and loathed, Roger Ailes transformed US media landscape

NEW YORK — Roger Ailes, who became one of the most powerful figures in both US politics and media by turning the Fox News network into a booming voice for conservatives before he was brought down by sexual harassment charges, has died at the age of 77.

Ailes worked as a media strategist for Republican Presidents Richard Nixon, Ronald

Reagan and George H.W. Bush before launching Fox News in 1996. His wife Elizabeth said in a statement on Thursday he was a patriot who was profoundly grateful for the opportunities his country gave him.

As founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Fox News, Ailes became one of the most influential figures in the Republican Party, and the network

was integral to US President Donald Trump’s successful run for the White House in 2016.

From the start, Ailes had a clear conservative vision of what he wanted Fox to be as he took the network to the top of the cable news ratings and made it a major profit center for Rupert Murdoch’s Twenty-First Century Fox Inc media empire.—Reuters ■

Hopes rise for safe birth by Japan's probably pregnant panda



A female giant panda named Shin Shin which zoo officials say may be pregnant is seen through a window glass at Ueno Zoological Park in Tokyo, Japan on 19 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — A female panda at a Tokyo zoo appears to be pregnant, zoo officials said on Friday, raising hopes for a safe birth five years after her first cub died within days of being born.

Ueno Zoo's 11-year-old panda, Shin Shin, has shown signs of being pregnant, such as dozing more and urinating less, although she currently has a good appetite, the deputy head of the zoo, Hirofumi Watabe, told reporters.

Shin Shin and her partner, Ri Ri, arrived from China in February 2011 and went on view to the public

soon after a devastating earthquake and tsunami the next month, providing Japan with some welcome news.

The birth of a cub to the panda couple in 2012 was the first panda born at Ueno Zoo in 24 years and was greeted with widespread excitement.

However, the tiny cub was found motionless and without a heartbeat on his mother's belly and, although moved to an incubator, efforts to revive the baby panda failed.

"The previous cub died after six days. Raising them

at the early stage is very difficult, so we want to properly prepare," Watabe said.

Panda pregnancies, rare in captivity and outside of China, are hard to establish or predict. If Shin Shin is pregnant, she is likely to give birth in early June or a bit later.

"Last time it didn't turn out well, but I think it will be OK this time," said Rie Nishimura, 40, who was with her three-year-old daughter Koharu among the crowds who came to see the possibly pregnant panda on Friday. —Reuters ■

Belgium extends commuter benefits to all electric bicycles

BRUSSELS — Belgium on Thursday extended commuter tax benefits for cyclists traveling to work on any electric bicycles.

Employers in Belgium can currently reward staff if they come to work on a bicycle, paying them for every kilometer they cycle, in an effort to promote environmentalism and a healthier lifestyle.

Commuters can get 23 cents (\$0.26) per km cycled between their home and their place of work.

The new law covers

electric bicycles that can reach up to 45 km per hour (28 mph). Those limited to 25 kmh were previously covered.

"We want to encourage cycling for commutes for obvious reasons, notwithstanding the type of bicycle used," Finance Minister Johan Van Overtveldt said in a statement.

Belgium paid out some 93 million euros in 2015 for more than 400,000 users of the scheme which has almost doubled since 2009. —Reuters ■

Global library curators vow cultural cooperation

BEIJING — More than 30 national library curators and representatives from 20 countries and regions in Asia and Oceania gathered in Beijing Thursday to discuss the building of sustainable regional library networks.

The participants from countries including Australia, Japan, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea, shared their experience in international cultural exchanges at the two-day conference hosted by the National Library of China (NLC).

The NLC is promoting the establishment of the "Silk Road" international library alliance, and most of the participating libraries are from countries along the Belt and Road, said its curator Han Yongjin.

"I hope our libraries can increase cultural communication to boost friendship and deliver benefits to all," Han said. The annual conference is held by the participating libraries in turn. This year was the third time the NLC has hosted the event. —Xinhua ■

National treasure Matsumoto Castle needs stronger quake resistance

NAGANO, (Japan) — Matsumoto Castle in central Japan is more vulnerable to earthquake than previously thought and requires work to strengthen its resistance, officials of the city where the national treasure is located said Thursday.

A recent earthquake resistance test has found that the castle's main tower could fall in the event of a quake measuring upper 6 or stronger on the Japanese seismic scale of 7, according to the officials of Matsumoto city's education board.

The test results



Undated file photo shows Matsumoto Castle in Nagano Prefecture, central Japan. Matsumoto city officials, where the castle is located, said on 18 May, 2017, that the national treasure is more vulnerable to earthquakes than previously thought and requires strengthening work to improve its quake resistance. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

showed the resistance levels at some parts of the main tower, or tenshu, are insufficient if the castle is

hit by a quake of this scale — nearly as powerful as the one that triggered a catastrophic tsunami in

northeastern Japan on 11 March, 2011.

The city in Nagano Prefecture will begin working shortly on enhancing quake-resistance structures of the castle and improving evacuation plans involving the major sightseeing spot.

Matsumoto Castle, which is believed to have been built more than 400 years ago, drew about 990,000 visitors in fiscal 2016 through last March. The last large-scale repair and maintenance work on the castle was conducted in 1950-1955. —Kyodo News ■

		10:56 Am	Moe La Win's Piano Melody 2 (Sonata by Mozart)
<p>Programme Schedule</p> <p>(20-5-2017 07:00am ~ 21-5-2017 07:00am) MST</p>			
07:03 Am	News	07:03 Pm	New
07:27 Am	Great Shwedagon - Charitable Associations	07:25 Pm	Alaungdaw Kathapa
08:03 Am	News	07:42 Pm	Guiding Star of Song Birds
08:26 Am	Manuha Temple Festivities	07:49 Pm	Today Myanmar: Waste to Energy
08:45 Am	YUFL	08:03 Pm	New
09:03 Am	News	08:25 Pm	Myanmar Music Icon Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-1)
09:26 Am	Hive Hunter	08:50 Pm	Next Weekend
09:46 Am	Cosplayer		
09:52 Am	Wet Markets of Yangon: Thirimingalar Market		
10:03 Am	News		
10:26 Am	Next Generation "Saw Noel (Violin)"		
10:36 Am	Family of Toys		
			<p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)-Today Repeat(09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)-Friday Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am)-Today Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</p>

Four-goal Kane helps Spurs punish Leicester

LONDON — A rampant Harry Kane netted four goals and livewire Son Heung-Min scored twice as Tottenham Hotspur thrashed Leicester City 6-1 in an action-packed Premier League clash on Thursday.

The match was an effectively a dead rubber with Spurs already assured of finishing second behind champions Chelsea but Kane produced a superb individual performance to go top of the scoring chart as in-form Son also impressed.

Having taken his tally to 26 league goals to move above Everton's Romelu Lukaku (24) and Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez (23), Kane vowed there would be no let-up in the final game of the season when Spurs visit relegated Hull City.

"I wanted to get one or two goals at least and take it (the battle for the Golden Boot) to the final game," the England striker told Sky Sports after firing Spurs ahead and rifling in a second half



Tottenham's Harry Kane scores their fifth goal to complete his hat-trick during Premier League at King Power Stadium, on 18 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

hat-trick. "I am in the driving seat but there's still one more game. I am not resting on my laurels but I hope to get four more.

"Hopefully I can get the Golden Boot and hopefully (Tot-

tenham goalkeeper) Hugo Lloris can get the Golden Glove (for the most clean sheets)."

Son set up Kane for a 25th-minute opener and made it 2-0 with a first-time shot on the

turn in the 36th minute as the visitors dominated the opening half with some crisp passing.

Ben Chilwell pulled one back for Leicester after the break before Kane made it 3-1 with

a close-range header and Son curled in the fourth with a neat low shot from 25 metres after some dazzling footwork.

The unstoppable Kane then put the icing on the cake with more clinical finishing in the closing stages, condemning Leicester to their first home defeat after five successive wins as Tottenham celebrated their 11th win in the last 12 games.

Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino heaped praise on Kane and stressed he was in no mood to sell him to potential bidders.

"He is great, he is one of the best strikers in the world," said the Argentine. "He will try to keep going in the next game and try to finish in the best way.

"It is very clear we will keep the players we want to keep and we will maybe sell the players we want to sell. We are so, so calm about our key players. They are happy here, we have an exciting project."—Reuters ■

Wawrinka falls in Rome, Djokovic into quarter-finals

ROME — Third seed Stan Wawrinka became the latest high-profile casualty at the Italian Open on Thursday when the Swiss was knocked out in the third round by American John Isner.

Isner took his ace count to 72 in three rounds as he powered past Wawrinka 7-6(1), 6-4 to reach the quarter-finals.

It was his first claycourt win against a top-10 player at an ATP Tour event and his reward is a clash with Croatia's Marin Cilic who beat David Goffin 6-3, 6-4.

World number two Novak Djokovic continued to look more like his old self after a slump as he saw off Spanish claycourter Roberto Bautista-Agut 6-4, 6-4 on Court Centrale to reach the quarters for an 11th successive year.

Favourite Rafa Nadal's impressive start to the claycourt season continued as he maintained his unbeaten streak on the surface this year with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over 13th seeded American Jack Sock.

He will now face Dominic



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball at the Rome Open, Rome, Italy, on 18 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thiem in the quarter-finals, with the Austrian having become a familiar foe after two previous meetings in the last three weeks.

Earlier there was disappointment for home fans as Fabio Fognini, who beat top seed Andy Murray on Tuesday, was outplayed 6-3, 6-3 by Germany's Alexander Zverev.

Fognini failed to reproduce the sparkling form that did for Murray and blew his top in the second set over a line call, arguing with umpire Mohamed Lahyani.

Lahyani got out of his chair to check a mark at Fognini's request, but told the Italian to "stop talking" after the Italian continued to vent his anger. —Reuters ■

La Liga title to be decided on dramatic last weekend in Spain

MADRID — The La Liga title is up for grabs along with two places in next season's Europa League as the season in Spain's top-flight league comes to an end on a weekend that also sees Atletico Madrid say goodbye to the ground that has been their home for the past 50 years.

The title race between Real Madrid and FC Barcelona takes pride of place on Sunday evening, with Madrid knowing a draw away to Malaga will assure them the title no matter what Barcelona do at home to Eibar. Real Madrid are still without Dani Carvajal and Gareth Bale, but will be full of confidence after their 4-1 win away to Celta on Wednesday night.

Malaga coach Michel Gonzalez, who was part of the Madrid side that lost two league titles when they lost to Tenerife at the end of the 1991-92 and 1992-93 seasons, recently caused controversy by commenting he is a "better Madrid fan," than Jorge Valdano, the man who led Ten-

erife to those wins.

Barcelona know the destiny of the title is out of their hands and all they can do is beat Eibar and hope for the best, although they will be without the injured Javier Mascherano for the game and Gerard Pique is still in doubt following a serious stomach bug. The battle for the Europa League sees Villarreal, Athletic Club Bilbao and Real Sociedad, who are separated by just one point, contest fifth and sixth place in the table to assure European football next season.

Seventh place could also give a place in Europe, but only if Barcelona defeat Alaves in the Cup final, so whichever of the three misses out is in for a nervous week of waiting to know whether their summer holidays will be cut short.

Villarreal face a difficult visit to neighboring Valencia in what will be Voro Gonzalez's last game in charge after a successful half season as caretaker manager.—Xinhua ■