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Work committee on land and environment holds the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 7th May 2017, discussing the paper on land sector submitted from Shan State. The meetings of each committee of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee – UPDJC will be held from 8 to 9 May and the secretariat meetings of the UPDJC will be continued from 10 to 13 May. **(FULL STORY ON PAGE-3) PHOTO: AYE THAN**

New Holland Agriculture to deliver 600 tractors to Myanmar government

THE goal of the AMD retail selling project is to develop the nation's crop production with agricultural mechanisation.

At the signing ceremony, U Soe Hlaing, director general of AMD, commented, "The delivery of 600 tractors will take us another step forward in Myanmar's wide-reaching agricultural modernisation program. This project will play an essential part in improving our country's crop quality, crop yields, and food se-

The delivery of 600 tractors will take us another step forward in Myanmar's wide-reaching agricultural modernisation program.

curity." CNH industrial business director for agriculture, South East Asia, Pakistan and Japan Emre Karazli commented, "New Holland Agriculture shares the Myanmar government's commitment to promoting agricultural mechanisation and we are very proud to be part of this initiative.

The tractors we are supplying, from our plants in India and Turkey, will be a big help in modernising and upgrading farming practices." New Holland worked

together with Yangon-based CPCL, its authorised Myanmar distributor since 2012, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd., to supply AMD with a total of 600 tractor units.

The total number of machines to be delivered under this program will include 500 units of 75-hp TT75 tractors made in India and 100 units of 90-hp TD90 tractors made in Turkey.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Ceremony for electrification of Se Kone and Kyar Kan villages

A ceremony to celebrate the availability of electricity in Se Kone village and Kyar Kan village of Ahlae village tract in Meiktila Township was held yesterday morning.

The installation of two 11KV transformers at the villages was executed and supported by the government and the donors from the villages.

At the victory ceremony of Se Kone village, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, the regional Minister for Electricity, Energy and Construction and chairman of the village lighting committee U Soe Naing cut a ribbon and NLD Central Committee Member and spokesperson U Win Htein pressed the button to start the flow of electricity from the 200KVA transformer.

“The development of the electricity, infrastructure and transportation sectors of the country should be carried out not only by the government but also needs the strength of the public. The development processes will be quicker and more successful with the cooperation between



NLD Central Committee Member and spokesperson U Win Htein and officials formally open the two 11KV transformers in Se Kone village in Meikhtila Township. **PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKHTILA)**

the government and public”, said Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung.

An NLD spokesperson requested that the new source of power should be used carefully.

“Now that the electricity is available in Se Kone village, it should be used safely for home

use as well as for industrial use”, said NLD spokesperson U Win Htein. He also expressed his heartfelt thanks to the donor villagers who helped get electricity to the village.

The government provided Ks79 million from its fiscal year 2016-2017 budget for part of the

cost of the transformer.

At the victory ceremony for the electricity availability in Kyar Kan village, NLD Central Committee Member and spokesperson U Win Htein, a donor; CEO of RGK and Z&A Group, U Zeya Thura Mon and chairman of the electricity availability commit-

tee of the village, U Than Lwin together cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony.

U Than Lwin, chairman of the village lighting committee, gave a certificate of honour to U Zeya Thura Mon, who donated Ks80 million for the installation of the transformer in the village. U Win Htein, NLD spokesperson, donated five footballs to the village high school headmistress for student football players. U Win Htein, NLD spokesperson, the Region Chief Minister and the cabinet members also donated foods and robes for the monks from Kyar Kan village’s monastery and also met with elderly residents of the village.

The transformer in Kyar Kan village also distributes electricity to nearby villages including Tharyar Kone and Lup Kode Pin villages.

Altogether, 65 households in Kyar Kan village, 13 households in Tharyar Kone village and 37 households in Lup Kode Pin village have gained access to electricity. — Chan Thar(Meikhtila) ■

12,000 stimulant tablets seized in Maungtaw

POLICE seized 12,000 stimulant tablets found in Shwezarmyauk village in Maungtaw township, Rakhine State.

A combined force including Border Guard police inspected a house owned by Marmatarsung, 55, according to authorities. Police discovered pink pills with the label “WY/R” in

blue plastic containers normally used to store rice.

The 12,000 tablets are worth Ks24million. Drug accessories were also seized. Marmatarsung was arrested by the Pyiphyu Police force and was sued under the law. —State Counsellor Office Information Committee ■



Marmatarsung,55, is seen together with seized drug. **PHOTO: MPF**

Buried body found in Maungtaw Township

On receiving report of the discovery of a buried corpse in Don Kal-ar (south) village in Maungtaw township, Rakhine State, security personnel from Kyeinchaung Police station went to investigate

on 6 May and found a body of a man aged about 35 years old wrapped in white linen buried in a 4 ft deep hole covered with earth and branches. The body was found with 3 stab wounds on

the torso and a cut wound on the left wrist. The body was sent to Maungtaw hospital and further investigations are underway.— State Counsellor Office Information Committee ■

Firewood theft in Kinchaung village in Maungtaw

A man in Kinchaung village in Maungtaw has been charged with theft after being caught trying to steal firewood, police said.

Zarhaittusung, 32, of Tatoo Chaung village, illegally cut firewood on a firewood farm not owned by him, police said. The

firewood farm is owned by U Thein Kyaw in Myoma-8 ward in Maungtaw. The guard of the firewood farm, Maung Soe, 24 and three men witnessed the stealing of firewood.

In the process of attempting to arrest him, he allegedly resisted with knife. Maung Soe

then struck the would-be thief in the head with a piece of firewood, Zarhaittusung suffered a head wound and a cut on one finger and was sent to a local hospital. He is now in Magyichaung village and is being sued.— State Counsellor Office Information Committee ■

One man killed in storm in Loikaw

A MAN was killed when a tree fell on the light truck in which he was a passenger during a violent storm in Kayah State yesterday.

At least two others suffered injuries as a result of the storm.

Wind, thunder, lightning, heavy rain and hail fell on Loikaw township in Kayah State yesterday. Strong wind caused lamp posts and trees to topple.

A tree fell on the light truck in which U Thein Soe, 46, was riding near Naungyar Lake in Dawku ward. U Thein Soe was a junior engineer from No. 2 Lawpita Hydropower Plant. Another passenger in the vehicle suffered injuries to the midsection and was transported to Loikaw General Hospital.

During the same storm,

lightning struck the head of Daw Sue Hmyar, 36, while she was at a farm near Kanni village in Lawpita. She received medical treatment at Loikaw General Hospital. Kayah state chief minister U L Phaung Sho and other officials went to the scene and later visited the injured at the hospital. —Kayah State Information and Public Relations Department ■



Dr. Hlan Mhon Zarkhon (Centre) participates together with members of the UPDJC's work committee on political affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE THANT/MNA

Voices of attendees of UPDJC's work committees

THE work committee meetings of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) were held yesterday morning at the Nay Pyi Taw National Reconciliation and Peace Centre. The following are the comments and explanations of the attendees.

Dr. Hlan Mhon Zarkhon of the Work Committee on Political Affairs said this is the second meeting of the work committee. In the first meeting, 20 basic policies were drawn out of five papers from regionally held national-level political discussions and one paper from the Tatmadaw. In this meeting, reviews and discussions will be conducted on papers submitted based on these 20 basic policies.

He said the duty of the work committees are to combine the suggestions in the papers from the national level political discussion into 3 proposals and submit to the secretariat of the UPDJC.

UPDJC secretariat would discuss the proposals comprehensively and submit the results to Union Peace Conference-21st

Century Panglong 2nd meeting.

"There were agreements and disagreements in the discussions. We review the areas where there are agreements and disagreements", said Dr. Hlan Mhon Zarkhon.

"For example, on the first basic policy, there seems to be similarity in the five papers from regionally held national level po-

Some suggestions are against the federal system, democratic system, union system, and Our Three Main National Causes and thus were left out.

Dr. Hlan Mhon Zarkhon

litical discussions and one paper from the Tatmadaw, but in fact they are different in some small ways. Out of this, we select three points that are nearest to being the same and provide an explanation of why it was selected".

Compared with other sectors, political affairs got the most suggestions from the national-level political discussions.

Some suggestions were left out at the committee level because the political dialogue process and the peace dialogue process is based on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

"The guideline to our committee in paragraph 1 of the NCA said the the Republic of the Union of Myanmar should be aligned towards the three main national causes in forming a federal union that provided full guarantees on democracy, national equality and self-determination that in turn is based on the principles of freedom, equality and justice", Dr. Hlan Mhon Zarkhon.

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UPDJC's work committees hold meetings

Thura Zaw and Me Mhwa Thant (MNA)

THE work committee meetings of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee were held yesterday morning at specified places in National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. The government, ethnic armed groups, political parties and members of Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee attended the meeting.

Political Affairs

Dr. Hlan Mhon Zarkhon led the work committee on political affairs discussion and Brig-Gen Tin Aung, Brig-Gen Hla Than Maung, U Htay Win Aung, U Aung Lwin Oo, Dr. Sai Oo, Saw L Klo Say, Saw San Nyein Thu, Saw Kuu Ku, Sai Bho Aung, Dr. Tu Ja and U Aung Kyi Nyunt attended and discussed about the previous committee's 20 basic policies.

Social Affairs

Similarly at work committee on social affairs U Sai La and U Naing Ngan Lin led the discussion and Maj-Gen Nay Lin, Daw Zin Mar Aung, U Naing Swe Oo, Khun Thomas, Daw Aye Thida Myint, U Tin Swe, U Hsam Hsaung Kar and U Shwe Min reviewed the results of the previous committee.

Economic Affairs

In the work committee on economic matters, U Hla Maung Shwe, Daw Saw 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 discussed about the paper on economic sector submitted from Shan State.

Security Affairs

Similarly, in the work committee on security matters, Maj-Gen Soe Naing, U Myo Win and U Tar Hla Pe led the meeting 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 and Daw Nan Khin Sein Myint discussed about committee's policy on defence under the title of national defence matter.

Matters concerning with land and environment

In addition, the work committee on policies concerned with land and natural environment was led by U Aung Soe and Khun Myint Tun and Brig-Gen Aung Thein Oo, U Soe Win, U Zaw Min Latt, Dr Wah Wah Maung, U Sonny, Saw Daniel, Sai Sai Win, Daw Dwe Bu, U Hla Khaing, Khun Tun Shwe and U Eik Hsaw discussed about the paper on land sector submitted from Shan State.

The meetings of each committee will be held from 8 to 9 May and the secretariat meetings of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee will be continued from 10 to 13 May. On 16 February 2017, the work committee of Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee formed 5 work committees based on subjects to be discussed in the political meeting. ■

Splendid and Opulent Moment Wedding Facilities

Bridal Dressing Room | Centerpiece Pinspotting Light | Following Spotlight For Couple Walk | Stage Setup
Ice Carving | Couple Walkway Stage | PA System | Live Recording | LCD Projector | Wedding Cake | Standard
Flower Deco | Photo Shooting Scenery | One Night Stay With Breakfast | Newlyweds Dinner | Champagne



Sapphire Ballroom



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Pontaloke Lake replenished with water supply

WITH a new supply of water pumped from a nearby river, Pontaloke Lake in Pindaya in the Danu Self-administered Zone, which dried up in 2016 due to severe hot weather, has been given new life.

The new facility was opened on 5 May, with a ceremony attended by local authorities and donors.

After the water disappeared, the lake was dredged by local people at the cost of more than K90 million.

KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation then funded Ks70 million for a project to pipe water from the Zagyi Yayhtwe River into

the lake while the Shan State Government spent Ks43 million on building a power supply system for the facility.

The site was officially opened by U Sai Shan Tit Lone, Shan State Minister for Finance, Dr. Tun Hlaing, Shan State Minister for Inn ethnic people, U Nyi Lay, also known as U Nyi Nyi, a member of the executive committee of the Danu Self-administered Zone, Dr Than Min Htut, chairman of the committee on restoration of Pontaloke Lake and Daw Sandar Win, a member of the BFM and General Manager of Kanbawza Bank-1 in Taunggyi. —Thura Lwin (Eco) ■



Local ethnic dance troupe performs at the ceremony to open the water supply facility for Pontaloke Lake. **PHOTO: THURA LWIN**

Voices of UPDJC's work committee ...

FROM PAGE-3

“Some suggestions are against the federal system, democratic system, union system, and Our Three Main National Causes and thus were left out. We are selecting basic policies that provide full guarantees on democracy, national equality and self-determination in a federal union. In fact the committee is conducting its work based on the guideline of the fundamental policies included in the NCA”.

U Myo Win of the Work Com-

mittee on Security Affairs said the previous meeting had already defined what to discuss. There were two topics, national defence and national security, of which discussions were held on defence policy matters under the title of national defence.

There were standards set on drawing up a defence policy paper. Based on and in accordance with these standards, ethnic armed groups and political parties each submitted a paper on defence policy last week. The

papers were obtained from national dialogue and will be submitted to the union level for further discussion.

U Naing Ngan Lin of the Work Committee on Social Affairs said the committee will issue the basic principles based on the regional paper from Shan State. At this meeting, discussions would be held until basic principles were achieved on resettling and rehabilitation of internally displaced person (IDP).—Mi Mi Phyto, Aye Aye Thant, Hmay Kyu Zin (MNA)

Five electro-diesel locomotives arrives



The electro-diesel locomotive is being unloaded from a vessel. **PHOTO: MOTC**

FIVE electro-diesel locomotives with 2000 HP purchased from China arrived at Thilawa Port on 1st May and are unloaded from ship on 6th May.

A total of 22 locomotives have been ordered from the company and seven firstly arrived.

Those locomotives are running No 5 up train and No 6 down train on Yangon-Mandalay Railway line and No.71 up train and No 72 down train on Yangon-Pyi Railway line.

The recently arrived locomotives are designated to oper-

ate through both high land and flat land. They will also be used in necessary part of Myanmar Railway Line.

The remaining ten will be installed at Nay Pyi Taw train engine factory, it is learnt. —Tin Soe (Myanmar Alinn) ■

Customs duties unpaid goods worth over Ks 1,400 million seized in April

ILLEGAL goods for which the customs duties were not paid were seized in April, said an official from Customs department. The seized goods are worth over Ks 1,400 million.

The customs department seized the illegal goods worth Ks 1462.105 million for failure of producing any legal export/import documents.

The seized good entered via airport, ports, special patrol gates and Yay Pu checkpoint as well as through the checkpoints in other regions from 1 to 30 April.

The customs department seized Ks 9.36 million worth illegal goods from Yangon International airport, Ks 14.808 million worth illegal goods from Yangon Airport store, Ks 6.35 million worth illegal goods from Yangon port, Ks 0.4 million worth illegal goods from Yangon post office and Ks 63.515 million worth illegal goods from special patrol.

Mandalay customs department also seized the illegal goods worth Ks 376.835 million in 27 cases.

Yay Pu checkpoint seized the illegal goods worth Ks 310.756 million in 43 cases and Mayanchaung checkpoint seized illegal goods worth Ks

481.325 million in 895 cases.

Bago Region customs department seized the illegal goods worth Ks 36.927 million in five cases.

Muse township customs department seized the illegal goods worth Ks 85.611 million in 20 cases. Myitkyina township customs department seized the illegal goods worth Ks 9.358 million in three cases.

Bhamo township customs department seized the illegal goods worth Ks 8 million in two cases. Tamu township Customs Department seized the illegal goods worth Ks 0.769 million in one case. Kengtung township Customs Department seized the illegal goods worth Ks 1.104 million in two cases.

Hpa-an township Customs Department seized the illegal goods worth Ks 33.258 million in four cases.

Mawlamyine township Customs Department seized the illegal goods worth Ks 3.95 million in two cases.

And Myawady township Customs Department seized the illegal goods worth Ks 24.829million in two cases, according to the Customs Department statistics. — The mirror ■



Botataung container yard in Yangon PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Normal trade hit over US\$1.4 billion as of 28th April this FY

NORMAL trade value from 1st to 28th April in the current fiscal year 2017-2018 was US\$1.44 billion, which is up by over US\$380 million compared to the same point last year, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

Exports through sea routes fetched over US\$535 million, whereas imports reached over US\$900 million. In the same period, the value of trade through border camps was over US\$420 mil-

lion. External trade amounted to over US\$1.8 billion, an increase of nearly US\$400 million than that of last year. The country exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, animal products, forest products, finished industrial goods and other products while capital goods, personal goods and raw industrial materials are imported into Myanmar.

Myanmar is conducting border trade with China through

Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung while the country is trading with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese border gates. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtau, while the country trades directly with India via the Tamu and Reed border gates. —Mon Mon ■

Import value goes up by over \$200 million in April

THE TOTAL value of import reached US\$1.090 billion in the first month of the current financial year and the figures are \$206 million matched against the same time of last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported. Between 1st and 28th April of this year, Myanmar bought \$393.359 million worth of capital goods, \$438.577 million worth of intermediate goods and \$258.720 million worth of consumer goods from foreign

trade partners, predominantly from its neighbours. The import value by government sector was \$38.288 million last month while the private sector imported a wide range of products worth \$1.052 billion. When compared with the same period of 2016-2017 FY, the import value totaled \$884 million, including \$31.243 million from the government sector and \$852.911 million from the private sector with the country importing

\$335.859 billion worth of capital goods, \$335.124 billion worth of intermediate goods and \$213.171 billion worth of consumer goods.

Personal goods, agricultural machinery, construction materials, household goods, foodstuff, luxury goods, automobile and electronic devices have mostly been imported from international trading partners from Asia, Africa, Europe and Western states. —Nyein Chan ■

Siemens's cranes to be equipped at Myanmar ports

Cranes provided by Siemens along with its technology will be used at Myanmar ports in cooperation with Myanmar Mahat Htun (MMH) and Siemens.

Myanmar Port currently has a capacity to hold 20 small tankers weighing 220,000 deadweight tonnage (DWT). Through collaboration between MMH and Siemens, MMH will equip ports with cranes that feature Siemens' technology, which would enable them to upgrade their services, improve productivity, and facilitate the processes. With the ex-

pansion of ports, Yangon Port is targeted to be able to hold much more minimum DWT, with an expectation to place in or near the top spot among the ports of Southeast Asian countries.

"We believe Siemens' innovative technologies can enhance productivity, energy efficiency and flexibility. At the same time, it can meet the highest international safety standards and increased competitiveness in the market.

Along with MMH and the MPA, we aim to enhance port optimisation to reliably handle

increasing traffic and surging trade volumes," said Christian Beckers, Head of Business Development, Digital Factory and Process Industry and Drives, Siemens Myanmar and Cambodia.

Siemens, with over 100 years of experience in the port industry, has extensive knowledge of control and the automotive drive application for the cranes, it is learnt. The cranes developed by the technology of Siemens are able to provide energy efficiency and safety service in the port industry.—200 ■

Price manipulation in industrial zone to be supervised

AUTHORITIES will inspect and supervise operations to ensure there is no price manipulation in industrial zones, said an official from the Ministry of Industry.

If businessmen fail to set up a business in an industrial zone during a prescribed period of time, the government will confiscate the land. The effort is being undertaken with an aim to minimise and eliminate price manipulation.

Those legitimate entrepreneurs who actually want to run a business in an industrial zone have to purchase the land at an exorbitant price from those

who have previously purchased the land but have not started a business and instead are manipulating the price of the property. This has led to complaints about not having vacant land, and have caused production costs and commodity prices to rise.

There are 21 industrial zones across the country: Eastern, Western, Southern and Northern Yangon, Mawlamyine, Taunggyi (Ayeyathaya), Monywa, Kalay, Pakokku, Yenangyoung, Mandalay, Myingyan, Meiktila, Pyi, Myaung Mya, Patheingyi, Hinthada, Myeik, Hpa-an, Yadanapon and Nay Pyi Taw Industrial zones, it is learnt. —200 ■

mySamsung programme launched

THE mySamsung platform launched in Myanmar offering access through a mobile application ("app"), or via a web portal at mysamsung.com to both its new and existing customers.

mySamsung helps customers manage their Samsung products and warranties, provides direct access to customer support, and shares useful tips and tricks so customers can get the most out of their Samsung products. The introduction of mySamsung in Myanmar marks the expansion of the programme, which presently serves 5 million users across nine countries in the region – Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand. In Myanmar, mySamsung will be available

both in Zawgyi and in Unicode. The mySamsung platform provides Samsung customers in Myanmar with an enhanced ownership experience, whether in using their Samsung products or by value-adding to customers' lifestyles. Ko Zarni Win Htet, Head of IT and Mobile Channel at Samsung Myanmar said, "This is an ownership experience that gets better, as you get more out of your device. Imagine being able to access a single platform, where you can get everything from assistance in setting up your device, to managing and optimizing it. That's what mySamsung is about – building a conversation and improving the experience our customers have with Samsung in Myanmar." —GNLM ■



PHOTO: SUPPLIED



Policemen investigate the blast site in Manila, the Philippines, on 7 May 2017. Two people were killed and four others injured, including a policeman, in twin blasts that rocked Quiapo District in Manila on Saturday, police said. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Blast rocks Manila, killing two

MANILA — Two people were killed and four others injured in a blast that rocked Quiapo District in Manila on Saturday afternoon, police said.

Police said the explosion of

the still unknown type occurred around 5:50 pm in Norzagaray Street in Manila City.

Police are investigating the blast.

Last Friday, 14 people were

injured in a blast in the same district as the Philippines was hosting the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Manila. —Xinhua ■

213 escapees from Indonesian prison rearrested, 234 still at large

JAKARTA — At least 213 inmates who escaped from an Indonesian prison on Sumatra Island on Friday afternoon during a riot triggered by bad conditions have been recaptured, a government official said Saturday.

According to I Wayan-Dusak, the country's director general of prisons, 447 inmates escaped from SialangBungkuk Prison in Pekanbaru.

"So 234 others are still at large," Dusak said.

The breakout occurred after Friday prayer when a riot erupted inside the prison

caused by bitterness among inmates over conditions at the facility. The prison, built to hold 350 inmates, contained 1,870 prisoners at the time of the riot, with only six prison staff working there.

As prison staff were dealing with the riot, many inmates broke through the prison gate and ran away, according to a senior government official.

Overcrowding is a common problem in Indonesian prisons and frequently causes riots. Prison breakouts are also common in the country. —Kyodo News ■

Over 100 snow leopards living near Urumqi: wildlife watchers

URUMQI — More than 100 snow leopards are estimated to be living in mountainous areas east and south of Urumqi, capital of China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Staff with Wildlife Xinjiang, a non-governmental organization, studied about 10,000 photos taken by infrared cameras and identified 30 snow leopards, said Xing Rui, head of Wildlife Xinjiang.

The organization estimates the total number of snow leopards in the area is more than 100, said Xing.

Starting in 2014, cameras were deployed over a 100-kilometer area in mountain areas south of Urumqi.

"Photos have captured these animals seeking food and roaming around. Some show snow leopard mothers taking their cubs to look for water,"

said Xing.

"There is a remarkable concentration of snow leopards here," Xing said.

Snow leopards are endangered species listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

They live in the Himalayas of central and south Asia at an altitude of 2,500 to 4,500 meters. They have been spotted in China's Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan, Tibet, Yunnan and Xinjiang.

According to Wildlife Xinjiang, compared to those living on the Qinghai-Tibet plateau, snow leopards living in the Tianshanmountain are active in a smaller area due to the harsh environment.

The mountainous area near Urumqi may be one of the main habitats for snow leopards, Xing said.—Xinhua ■

Low-level sandstorm observed sweeping across wide areas of Japan

TOKYO — A sandstorm was observed Sunday stretching from western to northern Japan, including the Kanto region, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The agency said yellow sand, which is carried on winds from China, is expected to be observed Monday mainly in western Japan and warned of possible disruption to transportation due to poor visibility.

In the city of Kumamoto in the Kyushu region, visibility was recorded at a low of 8 kilometers at 3 am and 6 am Sunday, according to the agency.

When visibility is recorded at less than 10 km, a haze becomes apparent when looking over long distances.

On Sunday, the sand cloud was observed in Hokkaido, Tohoku, Chubu, Kansai and Kyushu. It was also seen in Gunma and Ibaraki prefectures in the Kanto region.

The airborne sand was observed in western Japan on Saturday for the first time this year, the latest recording since 1967 when statistics became available.



The southwestern Japan city of Fukuoka is shrouded in yellow sand on 7 May 2017. The sandstorm covered a wide area of Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

On Thursday, China's pollution-choked capital Beijing was hit by a severe sandstorm which

caused flights to be canceled and saw locals urged to stay indoors.—Kyodo News ■

India's green car plan prioritises electric vehicles over hybrids

NEW DELHI — India's most influential government think-tank has recommended lowering taxes and interest rates for loans on electric vehicles, while capping sales of conventional cars, signalling a dramatic shift in policy in one of the world's fastest growing auto markets.

A draft of the 90-page blueprint, seen by Reuters, also suggests the government opens a battery plant by the end of 2018 and uses tax revenues from the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles to set up charging stations for electric vehicles.

The recommendations in a draft report by Niti Aayog, the planning body headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are aimed at electrifying all vehicles in the country by 2032 and will likely shape a new mobility policy, said government and industry sources.

The report's focus solely on electric vehicles marks a shift away from the current policy that incentivises both hybrid vehicles — which combine fossil fuel and electric power — and electric cars, and is worrying some automakers.

"India's potential to create a new mobility paradigm that is shared, electric and connected could have a significant impact domestically and globally," said a draft version of the report, titled Transformative Mobility Solutions for India, which will be made public this week.



Pawan Goenka (C), president of Mahindra's automotive and farm equipment sectors, stands next to Mahindra's concept electric sports car 'Halo' after its unveiling during the Indian Auto Expo in Greater Noida, on the outskirts of New Delhi, India, on 6 February 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

India's plan to leapfrog hybrid technology comes after China announced aggressive measures last year to push sales of plug-in vehicles including subsidies, research funding and rules designed to discourage fossil-fuel cars in big cities.

It would also mark a radical response by India as it looks to cut its oil import bill to half by 2030 and reduce emissions as part of its commitment to the Paris climate treaty.

Officials acknowledge the

blueprint faces challenges.

High battery costs would push up car prices and a lack of charging stations and other infrastructure means car makers, who have been consulted on the proposals ahead of publication, would hesitate to make the necessary investment in the technology.

"If we accelerate electric vehicle growth it will be a disruption for the auto sector and would require investment, but if we're not able to adapt quickly we risk being net im-

porters of batteries," said a government source involved in the plans. "There has been resistance from car makers."

India's top-selling car-maker Maruti Suzuki (MRTI.NS) has invested in so-called mild-hybrid technology, which makes less use of electric power than full hybrids, while Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) sells its luxury hybrid Camry sedan in the country.

Mahindra & Mahindra (MAHM.NS) is the only manufacturer of electric vehicles in India.—Reuters ■

Two killed in police raid on militants' hideout in western Bangladesh

DHAKA — At least two suspected militants were killed on Sunday after Bangladeshi police stormed a house in the western Jhenidah district, where members of the banned Neo-JMB group were holed up.

The district's police chief Mizanur Rahman told Xinhua that the militants were most likely killed in "suicide explosions."

Based on a tip-off, security forces had surrounded the house early Sunday.

A huge blast and sporadic gunshots were heard from the house.

Two police officials sustained bullet injuries as the suspected militants opened fire at law enforcers after they encircled the house, Rahman said.

According to the official, police were primarily sure that the slain militants were members of "Neo JMB."

The Neo-JMB, an offshoot of the banned militant outfit Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh, was blamed for the deadly July 1, 2016 attack on a Spanish cafe in Dhaka, which killed 22 people, mostly foreigners.

Last month police found at least 17 large containers of hydrogen peroxide, a chemical used to make bombs, from a suspected militant den in the district.

Over the last few months, Bangladeshi police have conducted series of large-scale operations against militants, in which dozens of suspected militants were killed.—Xinhua ■

India forms committee of doctors to tackle gas leak incident

NEW DELHI — Indian Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda said he has constituted a five-member committee of doctors from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to deal with New Delhi's gas leak incident, officials said Sunday.

Around 475 people mostly girl students and seven teachers, at two schools — Rani Jhansi Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya and Government Girls Senior Secondary School — near Railway colony in Tughlakabad area of

South Delhi were rushed to hospitals on Saturday following a gas leak in the vicinity.

The students from classes 6-12 complained of breathlessness and irritation in eyes, following which authorities raised an alarm and sought help from administration. The students were admitted in four nearest hospitals.

"Team of AIIMS doctors have visited the Tughlakabad depot, Delhi gas incident spot," Nadda said. "They also checked

the victims and confirmed that all of them are out of danger."

Officials said the AIIMS team was constituted to deal with any eventuality.

The gas leak was detected around 7:30 am local time when morning assembly and some class work was going on inside the schools.

Apart from police and fire service officials, teams from National Disaster Response Force have reached the location to control the leak.

The gas leak was said to be Chloromethyl Pyridine, a chemical used in manufacturing insecticides and pesticides.

While the number of students admitted in the hospitals was increasing, Nadda ordered federal government-run hospitals to remain vigilant for extending help to the victims.

Police officials have registered a case in this regard and initiated investigations into the incident.

Delhi government has also

ordered a magisterial probe to investigate the matter.

Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia visited hospitals to meet the victims.

Reports said many students were discharged from the hospitals, however some were kept under observation.

Chemical gas leak in Bhopal city of India in 1984 killed 25,000 people, and is considered to be the world's worst industrial disaster.—Xinhua ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Be kind but firm

Dr. Nu Nu Win

There is a saying in Educational Psychology when we are discussing about how to control the class and students. It is very clear to see its meaning - you should be kind to your pupils, but at the same time you should keep your discipline and say your words firmly. If not how could a teacher control his class to be well-disciplined during class hours? Discipline and class control are very essential for a class and without these a teacher cannot teach his students properly and with maximum efficiency.

Nowadays, this saying "Be kind but firm" is useful not only for a teacher in his classroom, but also for a Government to keep its citizens well-disciplined in so many different ways. There are quite a lot of disciplines a citizen should follow according to his role in his country. Disciplines to obey law and order, dis-

cipline to queue up at bus-stops or for buying tickets or things, discipline to keep while driving a car, traffic disciplines, discipline to keep the environment clean and healthy and so on.

As most of our Myanmar people were so used to living an undisciplined way of life for more than many decades under the military dictatorship, it is not easy to them to behave in a disciplined manner now that we are under a democratic government. Those who were so used to behave in an undisciplined manner for long years find it difficult to follow the very simple rules of good citizenship such as throwing away garbage into the garbage bins, keeping one's surroundings clean and clear, etc., although they are very simple things to do.

Another way of keeping discipline they are not used to do is "queuing" whenever we need to do so. I think queuing at a bus stop is still not being done up till today. At the rush hours,

everybody wants to go to the office or to go back home as early as they can, so they rush onto the bus as much as they can without thinking about anyone else. Here, we don't use the "after you" policy. Instead we use the "after me" policy. Good discipline begins in the home and in the classrooms. Parents, teachers and students alike should change their attitudes for without correct attitudes our efforts to build a just, equitable and prosperous federal democratic Union would become a very difficult task.

That is why, the writer urges the new Union government (both at the Union and the State and Regional levels) to keep firm discipline for only in this way we can punish the law breakers in all fields. If our laws are just and enforced with impartiality without showing favour to anyone, we will reach our goal of a more stable, fair and prosperous Union sooner rather than later. ■

Defining "Love towards the country"

Myint Htwe (Hotel & Tourism)

From being conceived in a mother's womb to their demise, it is "love" that a divine force is growing in us as time goes past by. Love makes everything before us beautiful and simultaneously peaceful. Devoid of love, our planet becomes a deprived one for us to live in.

Love is defined in many ways, thus love differs from each other, depending upon animate beings and inanimate things beloved. Love is a mentally sensitive feeling that comes from the inner heart. Though it differs from each other, such as parental love, fraternal love, romantic love, fondness toward one's pets, favorite things or deeds or hobbies, there is an analogy with these different kinds of love. That is none other than Cetana / tendency to do with the intention of performing long-lasting benefits of those we love.

Among them, the most obvious kind is the spirit of encouragement toward sports we like, in watching international games & sports, if you ask me. When countries vie for a thing, men have a tendency to see their teams or groups defeat opponents, feeling chauvinism.

Out of filial affection, children want their parents to live in wealth and peace, as do parents toward their offspring to excel others, out of parental love. A citizen's desire for his coun-

try to defeat its rivals in competing for a trophy is attributed to his excessive love toward his nation.

It is necessary for us to assess ourselves as to whether we have learnt to love our families, our wards, our townships, regions & state and our country in a rightful way. If we really do and implement what we want, with the spirits of sacrifice,

Had these travelers cut branches of the tree for the acquisition of their solitary shade each, we should note that the persons in question, the tree itself and their posterity will no longer have shade.

rehabilitation and honesty, it is a sure thing that we will have development ranging from our family level to the level of the country. Provided that we are endowed with the virtues of effort, intellect & acquired knowledge and unswerving enthusiasm, we will surely reach our destination in a short period of time.

Though we are equipped with intellect, acquired knowledge and enthusiasm, voidance of our deeds or

effort will not bear fruits of result for us as expected, or vice versa.

Our country naturally abounds with natural resources. Despite the fact that we possess these, due to the lack of abilities to apply intellect and enthusiasm or excessive selfishness, our country lagged much behind other ones without natural resources, which could manipulate intellect & enthusiasm rightfully, in our global village.

We need to review repeatedly as to whether we really love our nation, which mistakes we did, what we still need, what kind of changes we must do and how we will proceed. It will never be late for us to abandon our bad ideas and deeds.

As regards Myanmar tourism sector, the country has abundant natural resources, including snow-capped mountains in the far north and picturesque coasts and views in the far south, which are not yet ruined. High mountains covered with ice, falls, streams and springs, lakes & ponds of great beauty, rivers flowing beautifully along curved waterway, lime stone caves, thousand-year-long cultural heritages, different species of plants and animals, animals living in water, coral reefs, islands, customs, traditions and cultures of national ethnic people are gifts given by natural or tourism resources or natural characteristics.

SEE PAGE 9



The agreement is part of the government's initiative to usher in agricultural mechanization in Myanmar. **PHOTO: NEW HOLLAND**

New Holland Agriculture to deliver 600 tractors to Myanmar government

FROM PAGE-1

New Holland Agriculture will also provide training in the operation and maintenance of the vehicles to ensure that investment in the new machinery delivers the highest possible returns.

The Myanmar Government has made it more affordable for farmers to invest in new tractors by creating an instalment payment scheme for their purchases. For the AMD program, Yoma Bank offers farmers a financing option based on a 10 per cent down payment with the balance payable at six monthly intervals over three years. Before this program was introduced, farmers

who traditionally ploughed and harvested their land using traditional farming methods found it difficult to access mechanisation; this program will stimulate the process.

The agriculture sector is the backbone of the Myanmar economy, contributing 38 per cent of gross domestic product, accounting for 25 to 30 per cent of total export earnings. Key government agricultural policies are to encourage transformation from conventional to mechanised agriculture, to assist in lowering production costs, increasing high-quality crop production. — Far Eastern Agriculture ■

Defining "Love towards the country"

FROM PAGE 8

Yet, due to needs in acquired knowledge and enthusiasm, we are not still in a proud situation, compared to other countries.

As described above, what we must review is to assess as to which mistakes we did, whether our hotels and air lines are giving pleasant services, whether our tourism industry have responsibility and accountability to the full.

On hearing about various news and information that globe-trotters desirous of visiting our country averted their trip programs from the original ones due to high prices and rental fees in transport and hotel room charges, we felt distress. Expenses for 4 night - 5 day - visit in our country is equivalent those for 8 night - 9 day-visit in another country, thus Myanmar tour programs turned to the countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia and so on. Expenses for local tours are greater than those for foreign trips. Following averted tours to other countries by foreign travelers, aversion into foreign trips for local tours by our local people, our country lost the chance of earning foreign currency and its money went abroad as inflow money.

It is impossible to con-

trol prices as we are going under the market economic system. Had entrepreneurs performed their deeds fairly both for their own sakes and in the interest of others, it can change into the betterment. With the rising oil prices in global markets, they raise oil prices in the country, hence transport charges rose up, causing commodity prices to soar high. But, though global oil prices dropped local prices of transport charges and commodity prices which rose up with oil prices remained stable in a high position. It became a burden for consumers.

As regards this, Union Minister himself had ever adjusted over high prices, but it was not successful as hoped, as entrepreneurs were reluctant to follow the adjustment. Only if government, those from private sector, the people will cooperate with willingness not only in tourism but also in all economic sectors, will our all-inclusive implementation of our aims and objectives be able to be successful. Here, I used the word, "all-inclusive," with great stress so that our State Leaders can notice to carry out the things to be done promptly.

During water festival period, hotel rents soared up more than two times the nor-

mal rates. In this ways, hotel rents rose up from \$ 250 to \$ 500 and above. More influx of visitors has been expected, but it they will not be able to come again.

How will we define quality tourist? Will we call quality tourists to those who are rich and capable of spending much? Will we want the said kind of tourists to visit us as frequently as possible, in case they had destroyed our cultural heritages, customs and traditions? As for me, I want to name a tourist who keeps travel ethic "Quality Tourist," regardless of his volume of spending.

If and when this kind of Quality Tourist becomes the kind of Quantity Tourist, that is, tourist influx increases, I dare say our tourism industry will develop rapidly.

In reviewing influx of tourists in ASEAN Countries in 2016, it has been found that Thailand got 32.59 million visitors, Malaysia 26.76 million, Singapore 16.40 million, Indonesia 12.02 million, Vietnam 10.01 million, Philippines 5.97 million, Cambodia 5.01 million, Laos 4.23 million, Myanmar 2.9 million and Brunei 0.22 million respectively. At the countries with huge amount of tourist influx, tourism-related businesses see scenes of frenetic activities from dawn to late hours

of the night, almost every day. At the sight of such a scene, I greatly felt sorrow for our country rich in natural resources given by the Nature.

Very recently, a Japanese woman named Ms. Yoshiko aged 83 visited Myanmar, remembering that she was well treated by Myanmar people on her way while retreating to Thailand on foot from Kalaw's Japanese military hospital in Shan State, where she served for 3 years or so, due to the surrender of the Japan in the war

On arrival at Myanmar, she ordered her son to bury her cremation ashes at the foot of the pine tree in front of the Japanese military hospital (American Missionary School). In answer to her dying wish, her son, Mr Kazuhiro came to Kalaw to bury his mother's cremation ashes when she died at 86. Though she worked for her Father Country's sake in Myanmar, during her stay in Myanmar for 3 years or so at the time of Second World War, she had cremation ashes buried on Myanmar's Land in remembrance of her gratitude toward Myanmar and Myanmar people. On seeing the event, I came to liken her gratitude toward Myanmar people as a stranger to our Myanmar jet set society who

were born in Myanmar, lived in this country, lived on Myanmar's food and exploited Myanmar's mineral resources.

The big and shady tree with phenomenal branches cast a cool shade over travelers and passers-by under the tree. Had these travelers cut branches of the tree for the acquisition of their solitary shade each, we should note that the persons in question, the tree itself and their posterity will no longer have shade. All the travelers and passers-by who are taking shelter under it are responsible for conserving this tree for the survival and sustainable development of the tree.

Though we claim that we really want to take part in the task of developing the country through Myanmar's tourism industry, we need to be well convinced as to whether we really love our country and how we define love toward the country. In finding out the solution as to why we lag much behind others, we find that insincerity on morality is the key point. If we really love our country, we must get rid of our evil spirits of pursuing a present-but-brief benefit. If we really love toward our country.

(Translation by:
Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U))

WORLD
BRIEFS

Cambodian PM returns home after hospitalized for 5 days in Singapore

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen returned home on Sunday after having been hospitalized in Singapore with “extreme exhaustion” for five days.

“I have returned to Cambodia with very good health,” he wrote on his official Facebook page, along with a pair of pictures showing him sitting on a sofa with his grandchildren at his mansion in Phnom Penh. —Xinhua ■

Islamic State attacks kill two at Iraqi base where US advisers stationed

BAGHDAD — At least two people were killed and six injured when multiple Islamic State suicide bombers attacked a base in northern Iraq where US military advisers are stationed, security sources said on Sunday.

In addition, two of the militants died when they detonated their vests at the entrance to the K1 base overnight, and three more were killed by Kurdish peshmerga forces who control the Kirkuk area where it is situated.

“They were wearing uniforms like the Kurdish peshmerga and had shaved their beards to look like us,” one officer told Reuters. —Reuters ■

France confirms release of citizen kidnapped in Chad

PARIS — A French national abducted in Chad in March has been freed, the office of French President Francois Hollande confirmed on Sunday.

“The President of the Republic has learned with great satisfaction about the release of our compatriot who was abducted in eastern Chad and then taken by his captors to Sudan,” the Elysee Palace said in a statement.

Hollande also hailed efforts of “all the actors involved to give a happy end to this abduction.” —Xinhua ■



French presidential election candidate Emmanuel Macron, head of the political movement En Marche!, or Onwards!, casts his ballot to vote in the second round of 2017 French presidential election, at a polling station in Le Touquet, France, on 7 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Macron favourite in opinion polls as France elects new president

PARIS — After a tumultuous election campaign filled with scandal and surprises, the French public began to vote on Sunday on whether a pro-European Union centrist or an anti-EU, anti-immigration far-rightist will lead them for the next five years.

Opinion polls indicate they will pick Emmanuel Macron, a 39-year-old ex-economy minister who wants to bridge the left-right divide, resisting an anti-establishment tide that has seen Britons vote to leave the EU and Americans choose

Donald Trump as US president.

But should an upset occur and National Front candidate Marine Le Pen win, the very future of the EU could be on the line. Macron, who wants to deregulate the economy and deepen EU integration, has a 23- to 26-percentage-point lead over Le Pen in the opinion polls.

Forecasts proved accurate for the presidential election's first round last month, and markets have risen in response to Macron's widening lead over his rival after a bitter television debate on Wednesday.

“We increased our equity exposure and added some French stocks after the first round. The major political risk of a Le Pen victory appears to be disappearing,” said Francois Savary, chief investment officer at Geneva-based fund management firm Prime Partners.

In a campaign that has seen favourites drop out of the race one after the other, Le Pen, who wants to close borders, ditch the euro currency and clamp down on migration, is nevertheless closer to elected power than the far right has ever been in West-

ern Europe since World War II. Even if opinion polls prove accurate and France elects its youngest president ever rather than its first female leader, Macron himself has said himself he expects no honeymoon period.

Abstention could be high, and close to 60 per cent of those who plan to vote for Macron say they will do so to stop Le Pen from being elected to lead the euro zone's second-largest economy rather than because they fully agree with the former banker-turned-politician. —Reuters ■

Nazi memorabilia at German army base escalate far-right scandal

BERLIN — German investigators have found Nazi-era military memorabilia in a barracks, similar to that found in the garrison of an army officer arrested on suspicion of planning a racially motivated attack, the Defence Ministry said.

The discovery broadens a scandal about right-wing extremism in the German army

that has hurt Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen, a close ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel, less than five months from a national election. Spiegel Online reported that a display cabinet containing Nazi-era Wehrmacht helmets stood outside the canteen at the Fuerstenberg barracks in Donaueschingen, in southwest Germany. In addition,

pictures of soldiers from the Wehrmacht — the Nazi regime's army — hung on the wall of a room in the barracks, where Wehrmacht pistols, more helmets and military decorations were on display.

Investigators found a similar room at a barracks in the French town of Illkirch, where the officer arrested last week on

suspicion of planning a racially motivated attack was serving in the German-French Brigade.

A Defence Ministry spokesman told Reuters the objects found at the barracks in Donaueschingen did not include Nazi items punishable under German law such as swastikas. Possession of regular Wehrmacht items is not an offence. —Reuters ■

Flooding forces Mosul residents to flee war in rickety boats

MOSUL, (IRAQ) — The Iraqi man laid the body of his wife, wrapped in a black shroud, gently on the bow of a small wooden boat and held onto it as a second man rowed slowly to pick up the man's three children standing a few metres away.

The two teenage girls and young boy climbed in, careful not to disturb the balance, for the crossing taking their mother, killed in an air strike this week, to the east bank of the Tigris River.

This crossing is no ancient rite, however.

It is an extra hardship heaped on the family by the flooding of the Tigris and the disassembly of the last pontoon bridge linking the two sides of Mosul, where US-backed Iraqi forces have been fighting to oust the Islamic State militants who seized the city in 2014.

Loading up everything from clothes and food to injured or dead relatives, hundreds of families exhausted by war have been crossing the river on small, rickety fishing boats capable of



Displaced Iraqis react before crossing the Tigris River by boat after the bridge has been temporarily closed, in western Mosul, Iraq, on 6 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

holding only five or six people.

Many have been leaving the Musherfa district of western Mosul after US-backed Iraqi forces took it from Islamic State on Friday, hoping to reach the

relative safety of the eastern banks of the river.

"We suffered Islamic State's injustice, and now that we are free we were promised five bridges," said 45-year-old

Mushref Mohamed, an ice factory worker from Musherfa. "Where are the bridges? We have been waiting for two days."

"So many of my neighbours and friends died. We were freed,

but we are not happy because we lost the people closest to us."

The flooding has cut off all crossing points between east and west and forced the military to dismantle the makeshift bridges linking the two sides of Iraq's second-largest city.

Mothers carrying babies, men in wheelchairs, and families of up to 15 people have been paying 1,000 Iraqi dinars (\$0.86) per head to make the short journey, with many needing to make two or three trips.

Even soldiers carrying green army crates full of military documents and cigarettes have had to use the boats. The army initially planned to transport people using steamboats when they took down the pontoons, but now say they have run out of gas.

"We came from the early morning at 7am and have been waiting until now. It is noon. The steamboats do not have gas. This government cannot provide gas?" asked Mohsen, a pensioner from the Wadi Hajar area in west Mosul.—Reuters ■

Nigeria exchanges 82 Chibok girls kidnapped by Boko Haram for prisoners

ABUJA/MAIDUGURI, (NIGERIA) — Boko Haram militants have released 82 schoolgirls out of a group of more than 200 whom they kidnapped from the northeastern town of Chibok three years ago in exchange for prisoners, the presidency said on Saturday.

Around 270 girls were kidnapped in April 2014 by the Islamist militant group, which has killed 15,000 people and displaced more than two million during a seven-year insurgency aimed at creating an Islamic caliphate in northeastern Nigeria.

Dozens escaped in the initial melee, but more than 200 remained missing for more than two years.

Nigeria thanked Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross for helping secure the release of the 82 girls after "lengthy negotiations", the presidency said in a statement.

President Muhammadu Buhari will receive the girls



Members of the #BringBackOurGirls campaign rally in Nigeria's capital Abuja to mark 1,000 days since over 200 schoolgirls were kidnapped from their secondary school in Chibok by Islamist sect Boko Haram, Nigeria, on 8 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

on Sunday afternoon in the capital Abuja, it said, without saying how many Boko Haram suspects had been exchanged or disclosing other details. A military source said the girls were brought on Sunday morning from Banki near the Cameroon border to Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state where

the insurgency started.

The release of the girls may give a boost to Buhari who has hardly appeared in public since returning from Britain in March for treatment of an unspecified illness.

He made crushing the insurgency a pillar of his election campaign in 2015.

The army has retaken most of the territory initially lost to the militants but attacks and suicide bombings by the group have made it nearly impossible for displaced persons to return to their recaptured hometowns.

"The President directed the security agencies to continue in earnest until all the Chibok girls have been released and reunited with their families," the presidency said.

More than 20 girls were released last October in a deal brokered by the International Committee of the Red Cross. Others have escaped or been rescued, but 195 were believed to be still in captivity.

Buhari said last month that the government was in talks to secure the release of the remaining captives. Although the Chibok girls are the most high-profile case, Boko Haram has kidnapped thousands of adults and children, many of whose cases have been neglected.—Reuters ■

Syria fighting eases as Russian deal takes effect

BEIRUT — Fighting between Syrian rebel and government forces eased on Saturday as a Russian-led effort to shore up a ceasefire took effect, although battles continued on important frontlines near Hama and Damascus, rebels and a war monitor said. The deal to create "de-escalation" zones in the major areas of conflict in western Syria took effect at midnight. The initiative was proposed by Russia, President Bashar al-Assad's most powerful ally, with the support of Turkey, which backs the opposition. Iran, Assad's other major ally, also backed it.

Political and armed opposition groups have rejected the proposal, saying Russia has been unwilling or unable to get Assad and his Iranian-backed militia allies to respect past ceasefires. The Syrian government said it backed the proposal but said it would continue to fight what it called terrorist groups across the country.—Reuters ■



Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh talks to journalists during a meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, Austria, on 30 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran says \$55 oil price suitable, sees supply cut extension

TEHRAN — Iran sees \$55 per barrel as a suitable price for crude oil, and believes that OPEC and non-OPEC producers are likely to extend output curbs to support prices, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh was quoted as saying on Saturday.

"The price range of \$55 per barrel would be suitable for oil," Zanganeh said, according to the oil ministry's news website SHANA.

Oil prices closed higher on Friday, rebounding from five-month lows, following positive US jobs data and assurances by Saudi Arabia that Russia is ready to join OPEC in extending supply cuts to reduce a persistent glut.

Brent futures gained 72 cents, or 1.5 per cent,

to settle at \$49.10 a barrel.

Zanganeh said members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have signaled that they are leaning towards extending the supply cuts, SHANA reported.

"I think non-OPEC oil producers will also second (an) extension of the plan," said Zanganeh, speaking on the sidelines of an energy fair in Tehran.

OPEC and non-OPEC ministers are due to meet on 25 May.

They appear likely to extend their agreement to limit supplies beyond its June expiry to help clear a glut, three OPEC delegates said on Thursday, downplaying the chance of additional steps such as a bigger cut.—Reuters ■

'Mother' should not be used to describe a bomb, Pope says

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis on Saturday criticised the naming of the US military's biggest non-nuclear explosive as "the Mother of All Bombs", saying the word "mother" should not be used in reference to a deadly weapon.

The US Air Force dropped such a bomb, officially designated as the GBU-43 Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) on suspected Islamic State fighters in eastern Afghanistan last month. The nickname was widely used in brief-

ings and reporting on the attack.

"I was ashamed when I heard the name," Pope Francis told an audience of students on Saturday. "A mother gives life and this one gives death, and we call this device a mother.

What is happening?"

Pope Francis is set to meet US President Donald Trump on 24 May in a potentially awkward encounter given their opposing positions on immigration, refugees and climate change.—Reuters ■



Migrants wait to disembark from the Malta-based NGO Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) ship Phoenix after it arrived with migrants and a corpse on board, in Catania on the island of Sicily, Italy, on 6 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Three thousand migrants rescued in the Mediterranean — coast guard

ROME — Around 3,000 migrants were rescued in the Mediterranean on Saturday as they tried to reach Europe, Italy's coast guard said in a statement. The people were picked

up in more than 20 separate rescue operations involving the Italian coast guard and navy, the EU's EUNAVFOR mission in the Mediterranean, European Union border agency

Frontex, NGOs and merchant ships. The coast guard gave no details of the nationalities of those rescued.

According to the International Organisation

for Migration, so far this year 43,490 migrants have arrived in Europe by sea as of 26 April.

More than 1,000 have died or are missing.—Reuters ■

Trump advisor meets with key critic of Venezuela's Maduro

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump's national security advisor met on Friday with the president of Venezuela's opposition-led National Assembly and they agreed the political crisis in Caracas should be brought to a quick and peaceful conclu-

sion, the White House said on Saturday.

National security advisor HR McMaster and Venezuelan National Assembly President Julio Borges discussed "the need for the government to adhere to the Venezuelan Constitution,

release political prisoners, respect the National Assembly, and hold free and democratic elections," White House press secretary Sean Spicer said in a statement.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, facing weeks of anti-government

protests, on Monday announced the creation of a new popular assembly which foes decried as a power grab aimed at sidelining the National Assembly.

Borges responded by calling on Venezuelans to rebel.—Reuters ■

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Dated 8th May 2017

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Some of the nearly 400 dead birds which crashed into the American National Building are shown in Galveston, Texas, US, on 4 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nearly 400 migratory birds die from striking Texas skyscraper

LOS ANGELES — Nearly 400 migratory birds of brilliant plumage were killed when they smashed into an office tower in Texas while flying in a storm, officials said on Friday.

Office workers arrived at the tallest skyscraper in downtown Galveston on Thursday morning and found the birds with feathers of blue, green, yellow and other hues dead on the ground, said Josh Henderson, animal services supervisor for Galveston police.

The birds were coming from Central and South America and arrived in the

coastal city of Galveston, likely fatigued from their flight over the Gulf of Mexico. The birds migrate to several areas across North America during the warmer months of the year.

“These are showy, beautiful birds that bird watchers really get excited to see,” said Richard Gibbons, conservation director at the Houston Audubon.

More than 20 species were represented among the 395 birds that died, Henderson said. The biggest group was Nashville Warblers, followed by Blackburnian Warblers.

Henderson said he did not know if all the birds were flying together or if they struck the office tower at different times.

A storm was battering the city, which probably forced the birds to fly low, Gibbons said. In the dark, they may have mistaken the skyscraper’s lights for the sun or moon, he said.

“It was really a freak accident,” said Gibbons, whose organization has called for tall buildings to limit their lighting at night to avoid such mishaps.

Three surviving birds were taken to a wildlife centre.—Reuters ■

Kenya launches new HIV drug, self-testing kit

NAIROBI — Kenya’s ministry of health on Thursday launched a new drug and self-testing kit to aid HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment interventions.

Director of Medical Services in the Ministry of Health Jackson Kioko said Kenya was the second African country after South Africa to roll out a new HIV pill and self-testing kit as efforts to eliminate the disease gathers steam.

“Kenya has made significant breakthrough in the fight against HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. The launch of HIV pill and self-testing kit are an addition to the existing arsenal to combat this killer disease,” Kioko said.

The HIV drug Pre Exposure Prophylaxis is

meant for high risk groups like sex workers, teenagers and gay communities whose vulnerability to the virus is high.

Kioko said Kenya’s regulatory authorities have approved the pill.

“The Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is a critical intervention in HIV prevention. It is only meant for HIV negative people and has over 96 percent efficacy,” said Kioko.

He revealed the HIV pill is already being sold at selected private health facilities for 0.20 US dollars but will soon be available for free in government-run health facilities.

Likewise, the HIV self-testing kit will be available at pharmacies and private clinics at a

cost of 8 dollars and will help reduce the number of Kenyans who are not aware of their status.

Kioko said the ministry of health intends to avail self-testing kits to an estimated 400,000 HIV-positive individuals unaware of their status.

“The self-testing will be accompanied by a confirmatory test in government laboratories. It is integrated in Kenya’s AIDS Strategic Framework that aims to reduce new infections by 75 per cent,” said Kioko.

Kenya has an estimated 1.5 million people living with AIDS and two thirds of them are already enlisted in a treatment programme subsidised by the state.—Xinhua ■

35 killed in school minibus crash in Tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM — Thirty-two schoolchildren, two teachers and a minibus driver were killed in Tanzania when their vehicle plunged into a roadside ravine in the northern tourist region of Arusha on Saturday, a senior police official said.

“The accident hap-

pened when the bus was descending on a steep hill in rainy conditions,” Arusha regional police commander Charles Mkumbo told Reuters by telephone.

“We are still investigating the incident to determine if it was caused by a mechanical defect or human error on the part

of the driver.”

The students killed in the accident, which occurred at about 9:30am in Karatu district, were standard seven pupils, aged 12 to 13, from the Lucky Vincent primary school on their way to visit another school, Mkumbo said.—Reuters ■

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 10th May (Wednesday) 2017 “FULL MOON OF KASON”, under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

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'Alien' director Ridley Scott 'heads for wider universe' in latest installment

LONDON — Ridley Scott, the English director of three of the sci-fi horror "Alien" films, says he is heading into a wider universe with the latest in the series: "Alien: Covenant."

The franchise has produced nearly 40 years of sequels and prequels, numerous books, toys and video games. The 2012 prequel "Prometheus" marked Scott's return to the story, 33 years after the original.

"Alien: Covenant", the sixth installment, is set 10 years after Prometheus with a colony ship headed to a remote planet with a sinister inhabitant.

"I think we open up into a much larger universe than we ever did before," Scott told Reuters on Saturday.

"The others did all-action 'Shoot-em-up, shoot-em-up, kill, kill, kill', but I thought they should have answered various questions from the first one," he added.

"That would enable us to open up that universe in a much more interesting way other than just monsters chasing people in corridors.

"This one has really gotten into creation," he added.

The film stars Michael



Director Ridley Scott and wife Giannina Facio. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fassbender, Katherine Waterston, Billy Crudup and Danny McBride.

The cast believes this is the

scariest Alien yet.

"I was exhausted at the end. It's absolutely grotesque," said Crudup.

"Alien: Covenant" is due to be released next Friday in Britain and the following week in the United States.—Reuters ■

I respect all artistes who speak their truth: Miley Cyrus



PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES — Miley Cyrus has said she respects all those artistes who speak their truth, after the singer faced flak for saying she does not like Hip-Hop music anymore in an interview.

The 24-year-old songstress took to Instagram where she clarified her comments.

"... To be clear I respect ALL artists who speak their truth and appreciate ALL genres of music (country, pop, alternative... but in this particular

interview I was asked about rap) I have always and will continue to love and celebrate hip hop as I've collaborated with some of the very best!" wrote Miley.

The "Wrecking Ball" singer called out media outlets for focusing on "the most sensationalised part of the conversation" to grab more eyeballs.

She added, "I am proud to be an artist with out borders and thankful for the opportunity to explore so many different styles/sounds.—PTI ■

Prabhas thanks Rajamouli for giving him 'Baahubali'

MUMBAI — "Baahubali 2" has become the first Indian film to cross the Rs 1,000 crore milestone at the international box office and actor Prabhas says he cannot thank director SS Rajamouli enough for giving him a character of a lifetime like Baahubali.

The 37-year-old actor, who is currently holidaying in the US, wrote an emotional Facebook post where he expressed his gratitude to his admirers from around the world for their immense love and support.

"To all my fans, a big hug to each one of you for all the love that you all have showered on

me. I have tried my best to go through a lot of the efforts that you all have put to express your affection for me from different parts of India and even overseas. I am truly overwhelmed with everything.

"The journey of 'Baahubali' has been a long one but among the few things that I will take away from this, is all of you.

Lots of love back to you all," wrote Prabhas.

The actor thanked Rajamouli for his unwavering belief in him.

"A big thank you to SS Rajamouli sir for believing in me

to carry his huge vision to the masses, giving me a once-in-a-lifetime character of Baahubali and making the entire journey so special."

Producer Karan Johar made the news official when he took to Twitter to announce that "Baahubali: The Conclusion" has become the first Indian film to gross Rs 1,000 crore internationally.

"The biggest milestone has been reached by the biggest blockbuster of Indian cinema!!!! #1000croreBaahubali @ssrajamouli," wrote Johar, alongside the poster of the film.—PTI ■

Miranda Hart to make TV comeback with her mother

LONDON — Actress Miranda Hart is set to make her TV return alongside her mother, Diana Margaret Luce.

Both Miranda and her mother will star in a brand new gardening series "Down the Garden Path", reported Digital Spy.

The show will see the pair visit celebrity gardens, while helping people get their own plots of land into shape.

"I may not know a thing about how to garden but my mum is amazing. She fills me with immense joy and laughter as she talks about her passion.

The innuendos in gardening never seem to stop," Hart told Sun.

The series is going to have three installments and will be produced by Miranda and David Walliams' production company, King Bert Productions.—PTI ■

Striving for peace, A-bomb survivor performs Hiroshima-period piano

TAKAMATSU, (Japan) — A jazz pianist who was exposed to the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima inside his mother's womb has played a piano that similarly survived the nuclear attack over 70 years ago, with resolve to convey the importance of peace to younger generations.

Toshihiko Yoshii, 71, is scheduled to perform at 20 piano recitals this year within the western Japan prefecture of Kagawa, where he currently lives, using the piano partially damaged by the blast.

Yoshii's pregnant mother experienced the world's first atomic bomb attack on 6 August, 1945, at her home in the city of Hiroshima while airing out the bedding. He was born on 3 February the



Photo taken in March 2016 shows jazz pianist Toshihiko Yoshii playing a piano that survived the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Yoshii, an unborn child at the time of the attack, is scheduled to give 20 piano recitals in 2017 within the western Japan prefecture of Kagawa, using the piano partially damaged in the attack. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

following year. Yoshii suffered symptoms believed to stem from his exposure to radiation, such as leucopenia and a weakened immune system.

After graduating from Hiroshima University, Yoshii performed as a pianist in Tokyo for 20 years. He then moved to Kagawa, his parents' hometown, and has been based there since.

The veteran musician encountered the piano in March 2008, when he was invited to play it at an event for atomic bomb survivors. Since then, he has held more than 100 concerts in Japan and abroad using the piano.

When he encountered the piano, "I felt that I was destined to play this piano, which survived the atomic bombing just

like I did, and to push for peace," Yoshii said. At the musical events, he has encouraged children to touch the marks left by pieces of glass that got stuck in the piano in the bomb blast in the hopes they would learn the reality of a nuclear attack firsthand.

In 2014, Yoshii launched a national organization for atomic bomb survivors exposed to radiation inside their mothers' wombs. Currently he heads a group of people in Kagawa who suffered an atomic bomb attack before.

This year marks the 10th year of his peace promotion activities with the piano. "As I've gotten old, I may no longer play the piano soon. I hope the piano will reach many children," Yoshii said. —Kyodo News ■

Gov't plan in 2014 nixes idea of female branches of imperial family

TOKYO — The government proposed in 2014 a plan that does not favor creating female branches of the imperial family, while allowing females to still take part in the family's activities, a government source said Saturday.

The administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe drew up the draft Cabinet decision on the female members who, under current law, have to leave the imperial family after marriage.

Debate on having them retained as princesses comes against the backdrop of a decline in the number of imperial family members.

Only males can ascend the throne in Japan. But the plan was never adopted by Abe's Cabinet as his government prioritized other issues such as the passage of draft security legislation, which enables Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense.

Once a bill to enable the one-off abdication law applicable only to Emperor Akihito clears parliament

as planned, the government may revisit the set of proposals to tackle the shrinking number of imperial family members.

Giving female members such imperial duties, even after they marry commoners, will not require any change in current laws including the Imperial House Law, the source said, adding the government will shoulder the expenses for their tasks.

In March, a Diet proposal was presented to Abe calling for launching debate on retaining princesses as imperial family members by establishing branches for them even after marriage.

A government advisory panel issued in the following month a final report underscoring the need to swiftly take measures to reverse a decline in the number of imperial family members.

But it did not suggest creation of female branches.

Of the 19 imperial family members, 14 are females, of whom half are unmarried. —Kyodo News ■



Cyclists wearing vintage clothings take part in the annual Tweed Run bicycle ride in London, Britain, on 6 May, 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(8-5-2017 07:00am ~ 9-5-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News	(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
07:27	Am	Innovative Handiworks Based on The Art of Line Drawing	(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
07:45	Am	Village Belle	Prime Time
08:03	Am	News	07:03 Pm News
08:26	Am	Swan Hein Cave	07:27 Pm Food Trip (EP-6)
08:44	Am	Next Weekend	08:03 Pm News
08:52	Am	Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"	08:26 Pm Discovering Tribes: Tai Khun (or) Gon: their life and customs (Part 1)
09:03	Am	News	08:44 Pm Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
09:27	Am	On the River	08:55 Pm Now in Yangon
09:48	Am	Artistic Erosion on Steel: Kyi Wynn	
10:03	Am	News	(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
10:25	Am	Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab	(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
10:38	Am	Conflict & Solution Between Man & Elephant	(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
10:55	Am	[Doctor] [Painter]	(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Rampant Real thrash Granada after Barca down Villarreal

BARCELONA — Real Madrid produced a ruthless first-half display to thrash already-relegated Granada 4-0 on Saturday and remain on course for a first league title in five years, while Barcelona hammered Villarreal 4-1.

James Rodriguez put Zinedine Zidane's side in charge in the third minute by bundling in Lucas Vazquez's arrowed cross and then headed in a cross from forgotten man Fabio Coentrao to double their lead in the 11th, scoring for the fifth time in four games. Alvaro Morata followed the Colombian's early strikes with two goals of his own in the 30th and 35th to kill off Tony Adams's sunken side and put Real level on 84 points with champions Barca.

"Every opponent gives you a difficult game but we started the game really well and scored early," said Morata.

"We've got difficult games to come but we're very good, we have 24 players that always want to play and we need to keep going like this and go for the league title."



Barcelona's Lionel Messi scores a goal. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Barca lead the standings due to their superior head-to-head record although Real have a game in hand and will win a first domestic title since 2012 if they take seven points from their remaining three games.

Real could also win a league and European Cup double for the first time since 1958 as they are 3-0 up in their Champions League semi-final tie with Atletico Madrid, with the second leg taking

place on Wednesday.

Barca's formidable front three of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar all scored as the champions inflicted the heaviest league defeat of the season on Villarreal, who have the second best defensive record in Spain's top flight.

Neymar was in sensational form in his second game back from suspension and nudged Barcelona ahead in the 21st min-

ute after pouncing on a deflected pass from Messi.

Cedric Bakambu fired Villarreal level in the 32nd after beating the offside trap to latch on to a clever through ball from Roberto Soldado.

Barca were temporarily punctured by the leveller but a marvellous piece of skill from Messi allowed them to restore their lead on the stroke of half-time with a shot from the Argen-

tine which flew beyond Andres Fernandez with the help of a deflection.

Suarez powered the ball under the Villarreal goalkeeper in the 69th to score his third goal in two games and the 100th for the feted front three this campaign, while Messi grabbed the fourth with a deft chip from the penalty spot in the 82nd.

"We played very well with and without the ball and scoring four goals against this Villarreal side shows how well we did," Barca coach Luis Enrique told reporters. "Our pressure was key and we produced a complete performance against a great side."

Atletico Madrid beat Eibar 1-0 with a second-half strike from Saul Niguez to move five points clear of fourth-placed Sevilla and tighten their grip on the last automatic Champions League berth.

Saul met a cutback from Diego Godin first time to send the ball into the bottom corner in the 69th minute. Uruguayan defender Godin was sent off in injury time for picking up two bookings inside three minutes.—Reuters ■

Summer season body building and physique sport competition concludes

SUMMER Season body building and physique sport training for 2017 concluded yesterday at the Aung San Stadium in Yangon, with a competition for the sport.

A total of 34 athletes participated in the contest to mark the concluding the training which was conducted by Myanmar Body Building & Physique Sport

Federation.

In the 55-kilo category, Aung Htut (Bahan) won the first; and Ohn Kyaw (Hlaing) the second and Aung Thura (Tamwe) the third. In the 60-kg category, Soe Myint (Thakayta) stood first; Zaw Min Htaik (Pabedan) second and Aung Naing Win (VH) third. In the 65-kg category, Htein Win Aung (Kamayut)

stood first, Win Min Oo (Sangyoung) second and Wunna (Insein) third.

In the 70-kg category, Kyaw Htet Aung (Bahan) won the first; Aung Tun (PBON) the second and Kyi Naing Soe (Ahlon) the third. In the above 5 ft-3 inches-height category for women, Chan Yati Aung (Thanlyin) won the first, Yin Min Paing (Thakayta) the second and May Thae Ko the third.

In the below 5ft-3 inches-height category for women, Lin Kyi Pyu Aung stood first, Yati Naing Oo (Ba-han) the second and Amara (Thakayta) the third.

The winners were awarded with prizes by Min Zaw Oo, Daw Khin Tint Wai and Dr Thazin Lwin, Professor and Head of Department of the Yangon University of Distance Education, of the MBPF. —Saw Thein Win ■



Dr Thazin Lwin, Professor and Head of Department of the Yangon University of Distance Education presents the first prize to Kyaw Htet Aung (Bahan) for the 70-kg category. **PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN**

Chin United beats Nay Pyi Taw FC 3-1

CHIN United FC defeated Nay Pyi Taw FC by a score of 3-1 last night in a sometimes physical football match at Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon.

In the No. 12 scored match of the 2017 Myanmar National League, Chin United made a comeback in the second half with two goals against Nay Pyi Taw.

In the first half neither team could penetrate, resulting in a slow match during which the ball was often kicked back to defenders and the goalkeeper.

In the second half, the match heated up as a result of the goal scored by the striker Suan Lam Mang of Chin United FC at the 49 minute mark. The goal was scored with a tricky shot kicked by the striker through multiple Nay Pyi Taw defenders. After this goal, Nay Pyi Taw players seemed to get anxious about the



The Chin United player tries to head the ball during the match. **PHOTO: MFF**

match and this resulted in physical play.

At the 56 minute mark, Chin United was awarded a penalty kick after a Nay Pyi Taw defender hurt a Chin United striker. The striker Annan kicked the ball directly to the net. The left winger Be Be scored the third goal for the Chin United FC at the 70 min-

ute mark.

With a comfortable lead, Chin United reduced their power and Nay Pyi Taw scored with a penalty kicked by Taka Mu at 78 minutes.

As a result of the win, Chin United FC received 10 marks and was able to be released from the relegation zone.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■