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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 54, 11th Waning of Nayon 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 9 June 2018



President U Win Myint, the State Counsellor, vice-presidents and attendees of the meeting on discussing Rakhine, national security and international relations pose for photo. **PHOTO: MNA**

Meeting held to discuss Rakhine issue, national security, international relations

A meeting to discuss the Rakhine issue, national security and international relations was held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Those at the meeting also discussed the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the formation of an Independent Commission of Enquiry, the Shangri-La Dialogue and related issues, as well as the border and Rakhine State security matters.

The meeting was attended by President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, vice presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Commander-in-Chief of Defence

Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Vice Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army), Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win, Union Minister for Border

Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Union Minister for the State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and Deputy Minister for Office of the President U Min Thu.— Myanmar News Agency

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Low-pressure zone likely to form in north Bay of Bengal

A low-pressure zone may form over the northern section of the Bay of Bengal since yesterday afternoon, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department said.

Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in the Mandalay Region, as well as in the re-

maining regions and states, with heavy rainfall in the Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, and Rakhine and Mon states, and isolated heavy rainfall in Nay Pyi Taw, the Magway Region, Chin and Kayin states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent,

said the weather bureau yesterday. Also, a monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

The department urged people to heed its daily announcements and be alert to possible flooding.—GNLM ■

Missionary Sayadaws receive homily from Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery Sayadaw

A CEREMONY to receive homily of member Sayadaws of Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Ovadacariya Committee and Sayadaws who were over 25 years in service for missionary work in the border and hilly regions was held yesterday at the Convocation Hall of State Pariyatti Sasana University in Yangon.

During the meeting, Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery Sayadaw of Bhaddanta Sandima Bhivamsa preached homily whereas Chairman of Theravada Buddhist Missionary Ovadacari-

ya Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Kumara explained the purpose of holding this ceremony.

Then, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko urged the members of Sangha to deal with religious issues and presented offertories.

Present at the meeting were Ovadacariya Sayadaws led by Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery Sayadaw of Bhaddanta Sandima Bhivamsa, Chairman of Theravada Buddhist Missionary Ovadacariya and member



A ceremony to receive homily of member Sayadaws of Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Ovadacariya Committee held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Sayadaws, Sayadaws who were over 25 years in service for missionary works in the border and hilly regions.

Union Minister for Re-

ligious Affairs and Culture, Directors-General of Department of Religious Affairs and Department for the Promotion and Propagation of Sasana,

Pro-rector (Admin) of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University (IBT-MU) and officials also attended. — Myanmar News Agency ■

MECA holds prayer session in Yangon



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko delivers the message of thanks at yesterday's prayer session in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE MYANMAR Evangelical Christian Alliance (MECA) held a prayer ceremony for the State and for good health at National Stadium (1) Thuwunna in Thingangyun Township, Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At the ceremony, Rev. Morris Liana delivered a message of greeting and offered the prayer.

Also, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko delivered a message of thanks on behalf of the people of Myanmar to

MECA for offering the prayer. He further said he wishes for the Christians of Myanmar to live according to the teaching of Christ and serve for the wellbeing and progress of Myanmar, as well as their religion.

Afterwards, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivered a message of greeting and Rev. Dr. U Tin Maung Tun issued a prayer for the State.

The ceremony will continue until 10 June. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Second session of Czech-Myanmar Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation meeting held

A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung attended the second session of the Czech-Myanmar Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation meeting held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 4 to 6 June.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic Mr. Vladimir Barti and public and private sector representatives. Discussions included bilateral economic cooperation, increasing trade, cooperation in agriculture, industry, technology, minerals, environmental protection, healthcare, travel, banking and investment.

After the conclusion of the second session of the joint commission for economic cooperation meeting, the deputy minister for planning and finance and the Czech Republic deputy minister for industry and trade signed and exchanged the minutes of the second session of the Czech-Myanmar Joint Commission for



Deputy Minister U Set Aung (Left) and Mr. Vladimir Barti (Right) sign the minutes of the 2nd session of the Czech-Myanmar Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

Economic Cooperation meeting.

The joint commission for economic cooperation meeting was held alternatively in Myanmar and the Czech Republic to increase bilateral cooperation in trade, and to ease and smooth trade and investment. The first session of the joint commission for economic cooperation meeting was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, in October 2016.

While Deputy Minister U Set

Aung was in the Czech Republic, he met separately with Czech National Bank Vice-Governor Mr. Vladimir Tomsik and Deputy Minister of Finance Mrs. Lenka Dupakova, and discussed matters related to the Czech Republic and the international economy, financial matters, the effect of protectionism and bilateralism, financial policy and works related to the financial policy. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Six people missing, one found alive at Chaut Creek

Six people are still missing and one was found alive at Chaut Creek after they were swept up in a flood at Chaut Creek near Thiegone village in Saw Township in Gangaw District, Magway Region.

Four schoolboys, two school-

girls and one woman who lived in Saw Township and Kanpetlet Township were caught in the strong currents of the water as they were crossing the flooded creek.

Governmental officials and locals carried out search and

rescue operations and they found Ma Pa Manar, a fourth standard student alive near the Thiegone cemetery.

The search and rescue operations are continuing for the other missing six people. — Kyaw Zayya/MDN ■

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Myanmar, China celebrate Paukphaw Friendship Day in Yangon

Myanmar-China Paukphaw Friendship Day was observed in Yangon, and was attended by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor and wife Daw May Yin Tun.

Also present at the ceremony were Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo of the office of Commander in Chief (Army) and wife, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Thet Pon and wife, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, cabinet members of the Yangon Region Government, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Lin Naing Myint, lawmakers, Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and wife, departmental officials, the chairman and members of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association, along with diplomats and guests.

At the gathering, Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang and Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe delivered addresses.

Also, Chairman of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association U Chit Sein delivered a speech.

At the ceremony, the Embassy of China in Yangon pre-



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe addresses the Ceremony of Myanmar-China Paukphaw Friendship Day in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA



Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang addresses the Ceremony of Myanmar-China Paukphaw Friendship Day in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

sented Myanmar-China Paukphaw friendship awards to 10 associations, including the Myanmar-China Friendship Association.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe accepted K80 million donated by the Myanmar-China Paukphaw Friendship Fund for internally displaced persons and those affected by disasters in Myanmar.

China gained its independence on 1st October, 1949, with Myanmar recognizing the in-

dependence of China on 18 December 1949, becoming the first country in Asia to recognise the independence of China.

Myanmar and China established diplomatic ties on 8 June, 1950. In 1954, the then prime ministers of Myanmar and China signed the five principles of Peaceful Coexistence and declared it to the world.

Myanmar-China relations has since been promoted to a strategic Paukphaw level.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Foreign countries welcome establishment of Independent Commission of Enquiry, MoU between Myanmar, UN Agencies concerning Rakhine issue

Foreign countries welcomed the establishing of an Independent Commission of Enquiry and the Memorandum of Understanding-MoU on assistance to repatriation process between Myanmar government and the UN agencies.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population of Myanmar, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) agreed on the texts of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for repatriation and resettlement of the displaced persons to Rakhine State.

Japan

The statement released by the Foreign Ministry of Japan, said the Government of Japan welcomes these as important key progress towards improvement of the human rights and humanitarian situation and the “voluntary, safe and dignified” repatriation of the displaced persons to Rakhine State.

Japan expect that the Independent Commission of Enquiry will implement a credible and transparent investigation and that appropriate measures will be taken as a result of the investigation, said the statement.

The statement also said

that MOU would be the foundation for these UN agencies to conduct activities in Rakhine State for the first time since the attacks in August 2017.

People's Republic of China

Foreign Ministry of China, said on 7 June, that China welcomed the memorandum signed between the UNHCR, the UNDP and the government of Myanmar, saying that it shows that all parties are committed to resolving the issue through dialogue and cooperation.

China hoped that the government of Myanmar could closely cooperate with relevant UN agencies and earnestly

implement the memorandum, said the ministry.

As a friendly neighbor to Myanmar and Bangladesh, China has been closely following the evolution of the situation in the Rakhine State and playing a positive part in seeking a proper settlement, said the Foreign Ministry of China.

China stands ready to work with the international community and continue to play a positive role in providing an enabling environment to promote dialogue between Myanmar and Bangladesh, seek a practical solution to the issue, maintain long-term stability in the Rakhine State, and realize

prosperity and development for the Rakhine State, said Foreign Ministry of China.

France

Embassy of France also released a statement to welcome the MoU between the government and UN agencies.

This tripartite agreement is an important step toward preparing the conditions necessary for the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of the displaced persons, said the statement.

In this respect, France continues to support the work of the UN and the humanitarian organizations on the ground.— GNLM ■

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the Global New
Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at
No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan
Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light
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you submit a text longer than 500 words
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edited.

Anti-Corruption Commission chairman receives US Ambassador

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi received Mr. Scot Marciel, the US Ambassador to Myanmar, and his delegation at the Anti-Corruption Commission's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting,

they discussed the work and investigations conducted by the Anti-Corruption Commission, protecting those who lodge complaints and carrying out a survey of the public's view on corruption.—
Myanmar News Agency



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi meets with Mr. Scot Marciel, the US Ambassador to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Over 153,000 foreigners visit Myanmar through Tachilek border in six months

OVER 153,000 foreigners visited the country while entering through the Tachilek land border in Shan State in eastern Myanmar, and the Mae Sai border on the Thai side, during the current six-month financial year, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Between 1 April and 7 June this year, a total 153,247 tourists, including 150,063 day-trippers and 1,787 visitors who joined the Mongphyat-Kengyung trip, entered the country through the Tachilek border gate to visit the town's well-known destinations on a one-day return visit or overnight trip. Most of them came from neighbouring Thailand, China and third-world countries. The ministry reported that the number of international visitors who entered the country from Tachilek Town in the first week of this month exceeded 15,000.

The town's well-known destinations among tourists are Talaw Market, Mahamyatmuni Pagoda, Shwed-



Visitors from neighbouring countries are seen in Tachilek. **Photo: MOHT**

agon Pagoda, the ethnic village and Chinese temples.

International tourist arrivals from the borders are increasing each year. Foreign travellers visit the country to enjoy its natural

scenery, including its highlands, mountains, rivers, forests and animals. The diverse range of culture, traditions and lifestyles of the rural communities in Myanmar are also major attractions.

The tourism authorities are now focusing on developing eco-tourism, as well as coastal, marine and community-based tourism in some states and regions.—GNLM ■

Raw opium worth Ks11 million seized in Mongphyat Township



Ma Eaena is seen on her motorbike.

A woman was arrested by the township police after she was found in possession of a cache of raw opium worth Ks11 million in Mongphyat Township in eastern Shan State on Friday morning, according to the police.

Led by Police Sub-inspector Han Moe Lwin, the Mongphyat Township police stopped

a suspicious-looking motorbike, driven by Ma Eaena, 30, during their daily patrol near Myoma Market in Zaytan Ward at around 2.30 a.m. on 8 June. On searching the vehicle, the police found raw black opium weighing some 11 kilograms in the backpack of the suspect.

According to the investigation, Ma Eaena lives in Wanek-

yauk Village in Mongkhun Village-tract, Kengtung Township.

The police have filed charges against Ma Eaena under Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. The investigation is ongoing, as police seek to arrest all those involved in the case.—Township IPRD ■

MI to reduce age limit for civil servants' life insurance

By May Thet Hnin

MYANMA Insurance has submitted a plan to the government to change the government service personnel life insurance into a short-term scheme, said U Khin Maung Win, general manager of Myanma Insurance.

Earlier, civil servants could get their payout on government service personnel life insurance from 18 to 60 years. Now, it has amended its age limit and civil servants can claim it as they wish, for instance through the

3-5-10-year-scheme.

"We have submitted it to the authorities concerned. Upon approval, we will sell short-term insurance to civil servants," he said.

Earlier, civil servants could make an insurance claim only after the age limit, except in case of death or dismissal from service.

This kind of long-term scheme might result in inflation as the value of currency varies over the years. This being so, most of the civil servants did not want this insurance.

This new type of insurance offers short-term claim. Those who have insurance for a full service term will get incentive with their minimum premium payable being incentives.

As the government service personnel life assurance was a long-term scheme, only a quarter of civil servants bought this insurance.

"Offering a short-term scheme and incentive is likely to attract more insurance buyers. The government service personnel life insurance is compulsory

under Chapter VI, Section-13 of the Myanmar Insurance Law 1993. However, there is no punishment for not buying it. We will persuade the civil servants to buy this life insurance," said U Khin Maung Win.

Additionally, Myanma Insurance is preparing to provide new insurance schemes such as weather index-based crop insurance and cattle insurance. It is also updating and renewing old insurance policies.

The health insurance was amended to the new

version recently, said U Khin Maung Win.

"This new type of health insurance will cover medical treatment at hospitals and clinics," he maintained.

Myanma Insurance will extend its service and introduce new schemes in keeping with the current ages, after receiving suggestions from foreign experts. Currently, Myanma Insurance provides 29 types of insurance. It earned Ks61 billion during the last 2017-2018 fiscal year. ■

Myanmar-India border trade exceeds \$24 million since April

BORDER trade between Myanmar and India reached US\$24.46 million in the current interim fiscal year, increasing by \$11.87 million compared with the same period last year, according to the statistical report released by the Ministry of Commerce this Friday.

Over the first 62 days of this FY, Myanmar exported \$21.25 million worth of commodities to India, whereas the value of imports from India reached \$3.212 million.

The two countries conducted border trade mainly through the Tamu and Reed cross-border trade camps. A major part of bilateral imports and exports are delivered through ships.

India largely exports medicines, oil cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials to Myanmar. Its imports from



Myanmar-India friendship bridge between India and Myanmar. **PHOTO: IPRD**

Myanmar include areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other fruits and vegetables, besides human hair, fishery and forest products.

Myanmar's border trade with China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh through all land borders totalled \$1.274

billion, including \$789.33 million in exports and \$485.03 million in imports. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), India's investment in Myanmar at the end of the 2017-2018 FY was \$10.993 million through three investment projects.—Khine Khant ■

Myanmar's external trade exceeds \$5.8bn

MYANMAR'S foreign trade totalled US\$5.873 billion in the current transitional fiscal year, registering a trade deficit of over \$1 billion, according to the commerce ministry's weekly report issued on 8 June.

From 1 April through 1 June this year, the country imported \$3.477 billion worth of commodities from international traders and exported \$2.396 billion worth of domestically-produced products.

The current external trade value rose by \$824 million, compared with the same period last year, resulting in a trade deficit of \$1.081 billion, increasing slightly by \$70 million against the same period last FY.

Myanmar conducts overseas trade with international trade partners, mainly through

sea ports. The value of the nation's trade included \$4.599 billion via non-border trade and \$1.274 million through border trade.

According to the ministry's yearly report, the country's trade deficit was \$3.973 billion in the last financial year. The ministry's statistics indicated that the country had a trade deficit of over \$91 million in the 2012-2013 FY. The trade deficit increased to \$2.5 billion in the 2013-2014 FY. It continued to rise to \$4.1 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY and \$5.5 billion in the 2016-2017 FY.

The country chiefly imports capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer products. Its exports include agricultural products, animal products, minerals and forest products.—Swe Nyein ■



An ocean liner carrying containers is seen in the Yangon River. **PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE**

Myanmar-Australia trade tops \$170 million in FY2017-18

TRADE between Myanmar and Australia exceeded US\$170 million at the end of the 2017-2018 financial year, according to the monthly statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

During this period, Myanmar exported a wide range of products, including \$21.901 million to Australia, while imports from Australia reached \$149.003 million. In the final month of 2017-18, bilateral trade totalled

\$13.279 million, including \$1.643 million in exports and \$11.636 million in imports. Australia imports crustaceans, fish, seafood and vegetables from Myanmar, and exports wheat medicaments for veterinary purposes, pigments and paints, as well as varnish and coal.

Trade between the two countries was \$77.673 million in the 2011-2012 FY, \$86.009 million in the 2012-2013 FY, \$102.063

million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$74.012 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$84.655 million in the 2015-2016 FY and \$144.385 million in the 2016-2017 FY.

Australia continues to help Myanmar adopt inclusive economic growth by supporting a policy environment that provides incentives for responsible foreign direct investment, trade and economic reforms.—Shwe Khine ■

Trade Mark Ads

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Returnees pledge to abide by the rule of law

Following is the interview with returnees from Bangladesh

MYANMAR and Bangladesh signed an arrangement for the return of displaced persons from Rakhine State on 23 November 2017. When they return, according to the repatriation agreement of 1993 signed by the two countries, no action will be taken against those who did not participate in terrorist acts.

Currently, a few returnees who were not involved in terrorist acts have returned to their villages in Maungtaw Township, and our news team has conducted interviews with them.

Ima Nur Song
Formerly from Shwezar Village-tract, Shwezar Ale Village
Present - at his home in Shwezar Village-tract

I returned from the other shore. My family has stayed in Bangladesh. I came back to live in my home in Myanmar and I will call back my family. As they are staying in a camp, I'm waiting for them to be included in the list of refugees. I'll be welcoming them. Everything is fine here. After we return to Myanmar, we will abide by the government rules on NVC (national verification card). For my livelihood, I'll continue to work as a fisherman, as I had done before.

Sufra Bi Bi
Formerly from Kanyintan Village-tract, Maung Ni Village
Present - at her home in Kanyintan (Myoma)

I returned from Bangladesh. As I'm from Myanmar, I want to live in Myanmar. I went to Bangladesh for medical treatment. I'll live according to the government rules and laws. I'll have to discuss my family about the NVC. I want the people in Bangladesh to return to Myanmar.

Faruds
Formerly from Myoma Taung ward, Fayzi Village
Present - Kanyintan (Myoma)

Currently, I'm staying in



Ima Nur Song



Ouda Hussan



Nor Gumullah



Sufra Bi Bi



Faruds



Mahmut Ilias



Mahmat Ayud



Mahabi Zul Rahman



Mahmat Jubar

Myoma Kanyintan with my father. I went to Bangladesh to help, and accompany my sister whose hand was broken. She was in a hospital for six days, and after she was discharged we returned to Myanmar. The hospital is quite a distance from the camp, where people who fled from Myanmar are staying. I didn't stay there.

I heard many people are staying there. I also heard that they are being provided support by Bangladesh. I live in Myanmar, and I like it here. I'm the only one who has an NVC. in my family. My father did not apply for it. As I'm staying in Myanmar, I will abide by the rules here.

Nor Gumullah
Formerly from Nyaungchaung Village-tract, Nyaungchaung Village
Present - Nyaungchaung Village

I went to Bangladesh for medical treatment. While taking treatment, I stayed in the Balukhali camp for a couple of days. I stayed at the head of the administration office. I have no plan to go to Bangladesh again. At the refugee camp, I did not have any relatives or friends. I stayed there only for my treatment.

My family is in Maungtaw.

My family members have to apply for the NVC. I work as a daily wage labourer. Now, I'm thinking of opening a shop. I would like to ask those on the other side to return.

Ouda Hussan
Formerly from Kyaukpyinsate Village-tract, Taung Village
Present - uncle's home in Kyaukhlayga Village

I stayed in Bangladesh for two months with four family members. I asked them to come back with me, but they didn't. As I have an NVC, I'll stay here. No one, including the Bangladesh authorities, have asked me to return. I came back of my own volition. Myanmar is better for my life and security.

Mahmut Ilias
Formerly from Shwezar Village-tract, Shwezar North Village
Present - Shwezar North Village

I was detained when I returned from Bangladesh after staying there for five days. I went there on 15 February 2018. My family is in Maungtaw.

Now I hold an NVC. The NVC will be helpful. My family does not have it and I don't know why. I pedal a trishaw for a living. At the moment, I don't

have a trishaw, so I'm thinking of driving a taxi for income. If those who fled after the event return, I'll welcome them.

Mahabi Zul Rahman
Formerly from Ngakhuya Village-tract, Taung Village
Present - Ngakhuya Village-tract, Hmowin Village

I stayed in Balukhali refugee camp with my family. As I did not want to continue to live there, I returned. I fled to Bangladesh with my family after the events that happened here. Turkey is providing assistance in the Bangladesh camps. I heard that some other countries are also providing assistance, but I don't know which countries, exactly.

I came back to Myanmar alone. I previously had a shop here, but it was destroyed in a fire. I have no job now. The Myanmar government has provided me with pots, pans, spoons, plates, rice, cooking oil, peas and clothing. I just want to stay in Myanmar. As for my family, it is their wish. My children are attending an Arabic school there. I've already made the NVC.

Mahmat Ayud
Formerly from Shwezar

Village-tract, Shwezar North Village
Present - Shwezar North Village

I stayed in Bangladesh for five days. When I returned here, I was caught. I did not go there to do anything. I went there in the second month of this year. I have a family photo shop in Maungtaw.

Mahmat Jubar
Formerly from Alethankyaw village tract, Mawtula village
Present Kanyintan (Myoma)

I was in Bangladesh for two years. I returned from Bangladesh and stayed in Kanyintan village. I'm here for one year now.

At the moment, I'm not doing anything. It is better for me to stay in Myanmar than Bangladesh. When my household list was deregistered, I told the administrator and lived in Kanyintan. I have a card from Bangladesh to stay there. If I didn't have such card, I would be arrested by police there.

Now that I have an NVC, I wouldn't go to Bangladesh anymore. I'm trying to bring my family back from Bangladesh. I want them to come back here.

I have no money or home, so I'm staying with a relative here.

He has a car, so I'm working as a 'spare' (driver's helper). I'm alone and lonely here. If my family returns here, I'll be happy.

Abdu Rahein
Formerly from Oodaung village tract Paskori village
Present - Alethankayw Osmoho village

When the incidents happened here, I went to Bangladesh and stayed in the Bakkhali camp. I had no work there and stayed with my family. Bangladesh authorities didn't tell us to go back. I returned on my own free will.

I'm happy to stay in Maungtaw. If I can bring my family back here and start a life here again, I'll be happy. I want them to come back. If we stay in Bangladesh, we have to abide by the rule there, and if we stay in Myanmar, we have to abide by the rules here.

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Upgrade of irrigation facilities welcomed

AGRICULTURE is the key to Myanmar’s economic development, as its economy is based upon farming. The agriculture sector contributes 25 per cent to the gross domestic product (GDP) annually, with 18.9 per cent coming from paddy farming and 8.2 per cent from livestock breeding and fisheries.

Agricultural progress is a potent force to reduce poverty in developing countries. Sustainable efforts to reduce poverty can be made by increasing agricultural productivity and the incomes of poor farmers.

To turn these goals into action, the Ministry of Livestock,

Agriculture and Irrigation actively cooperates with experts within and outside the country, development partners, investors and farmers.

Climate change damages crops every year in Myanmar, and so the Agriculture Research Department has developed 25 hybrid strains that are climate-resilient crops suitable for the soil in the country.

Another important factor for agricultural development is water. As global warming is already affecting our planet, farmers are facing scarcities of water. In some areas, there are limitations to accessing natural water.

The Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Irrigation has started implementing the community-based project in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, with US\$80 million in assistance from the World Bank and a \$400 million loan from the World Bank.

Of the 63 townships selected under the agreement signed with the Italy Development Coopera-

tion Agency, Saw, Htilin, Pauk, Patupi, Tunzan, Kyunhla and Kanni townships would be provided with cash assistance.

For the development of agriculture, the government borrowed a \$36 million loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). In the first phase, the government has revitalized the agricultural sector by spending \$18.7 million, while the remaining cash would be spent on agricultural development in eastern Shan State.

The foreign loan obtained by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Irrigation is being spent to upgrade irrigation facilities, which have been in use for 10 to 37 years.

As part of the efforts to reduce poverty, the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Irrigation has upgraded water supply systems in 23 townships, with the use of more than 2.6 billion yen from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

The country witnessed a 70-year record high in rice exports during the 2017-2018 fiscal year, following the construction of improved water supply facilities, which directly benefited more than one million acres.

Myanmar needs to maintain this type of production in the coming years to further expand and strengthen the market. Besides this, the upgrade of water supply facilities nationwide would surely benefit the agriculture sector in the future.

Lawyer and Fake News

By U Han Nyunt (Law)

Foreword

As the writer was travelling for a while, articles could not be contributed for some time. Now, it is the pleasure in sharing an article.

Fake News

“Sea of fake news is there everywhere. Wherever you go, false news follows you.”

Bogus is always a sham, and that at the end, the truth is out in the surface.

There are people who consider “fake” to be “genuine”. These people are born to tell others all the “phony” items, making the world upside down. Some spread the fake news like wild fire through the Facebook, while others walked through the ward and village scattering around fake stories.

The Intent of Fake News Distributors

What is the intention? You name it, they have it all.

It is the act of hurting, humiliating, degrading, embarrassing, defaming, and devastating to a person; a team; or an organization.

Witnessing on a Wrong Standpoint

False Evidence

CHAPTER XI of Penal Code

191. Giving false evidence.

192. Fabricating false evidence.

193. Punishment for false evidence.

194. Giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of capital offence: if innocent person be thereby convicted and executed.

195. Giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to pro-



cure conviction of offence punishable with transportation or imprisonment.

196. Using evidence known to be false.

197. Issuing or signing false certificate.

198. Using as true a certificate known to be false.

199. False statement made in declaration which is by law receivable as evidence.

200. Using as true such declaration knowing it to be false.

201. Causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information, to screen offender- if punishable with less than ten years’ imprisonment.

202. Intentional omission to give information of offence by person bound to inform.

203. Giving false information respecting an offence committed.

204. Destruction of document to prevent its production as

evidence.
205. False personating for purpose of act or proceeding in suit or prosecution.

Of Cheating

All cheating are clarified in sections 415; 416; 417; 418; 419; 420 of the Penal Code.

Of Defamation

On all defamation are clarified in sections 499; 500; 501 and 502 of the Penal Code.

Telecommunication Law

Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law stated that “anyone found guilty of extorting, coercing, restraining wrongfully, defaming, disturbing, causing undue influence or threatening any person by using any telecommunications network shall be punished with a maximum three years in prison, a fine or both.”

Responsibilities and Codes of Conduct to be complied by News Media workers—

9. A News Media worker is responsible to comply with the following codes of conduct—

(g) Writing news which relate to the interest of the public, writing style which deliberately affects the reputation of a specific person or an organization or generates negative impact to the human right shall be avoided.

Even if no one cares to take legal action

The person who committed immoral, unethical and wicked act is bound to get a backlash and reaction, pushing him or her into a dark nightmare throughout the life until the last breath. This is the law of nature.

Facebook

There are two billion Facebook users, and 1.5 billion YouTube users. As of April 2017, (700) million people are using Instagram, and (328) million people are using Twitters. More and more people are now using social media.

The Good and the Bad

The Facebook brings all the good things as well as all the bad things. It all depends on how the users handle the social networking website with the innate and inborn state of mind. However, one should consider for the good of others and the development of the world.

The Facebook users must avoid an act that hurts others; that damage business of others;

that tarnishes the image of the country and the national races; that provokes the upheavals among the populace; that supports war and conflict.

The fake news will surely bring havoc and destruction.

Evaluation needed

One must never accept fake news lightly. Assessment and evaluation are needed whether the news is right or wrong. It is just common sense being accepted by all normal people.

Be careful of fake news

The Voice Journal printed on 21 May 2018 carried news article entitled “Be Careful of Fake News” written by Moe Yan Kha.

“The news contents seen on the Facebook should be judged and tested with the term IM-VAIN”

(I) = Independent; the source of the news should be independent.

(M) = Multiple; there should be more sources supporting the information.

(V) = Verify; it would be more reliable by checking the information with other available evidences.

(AD) = Authoritative / Informed; news from official sources are more reliable than the unconfirmed source of news.

(N) = Name; the news supported with the name of the reporter is much more reliable than the news without a name.

“The assessment and evaluation entitled [Think before You Trust] was clarified at the Digital Resource Center regarding journalism under the Stony Brook University based in New York”. It is indeed very interesting article.

Think Before You Trust

The article heading “Think before You Trust” is indeed very much adorable and knowledgeable. It means that one should believe when the information is really reliable. It is very clear and has a lot of meanings. Indeed the words of the wise men. Everyone should accept this norm.

Nowadays, all the youths are mostly educated, sophisticated, stylish and urbane. Therefore, they must never ever take it for granted what was lightly written or casually talked about.

All the fake news is spreading like wild fire across the country, and therefore, it is very must essential to think before you trust.

Justice is guarded by angels

Each and every appalling and malice act is sure to bounce back in an equal and opposite reaction.

This wonderful age and era is enveloped and decorated with that of simplicity, transparency, critical thinking, enquiring, being systematic, sharing loving kindness, having compassion, negotiation, observation, discussion, contemplating, being stable, having maturity, coping with modernity, and swiftness. Don’t they (the wrong doers) know this condition and circumstances on reality?

They are out there to demolish and destroy the community and society with all the malice and hatred.

The writer of this article would like to conclude as follows.

All the wicked, malicious and nasty acts are bound to return back to the senders without fail.

Be advised never ever involve in bad acts.

Loving kindness is the most precious response and reaction.

Translated by UMT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Home Affairs
Order 3/2018
10th Waning of Nayon, 1380 ME
8 June 2018

Removed from list of unlawful associations

The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma-NCGUB which has been declared by the President as an unlawful association under the Unlawful Associations Act is now declared to be no longer an unlawful association with effect from 8.6.2018.

By order,
Lt. Gen Kyaw Swe
Union Minister

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Home Affairs
Order 4/2018
10th Waning of Nayon, 1380 ME
8 June 2018

NCGUB declared no longer terrorists

The President has announced that the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma-NCGUB and its members who have been declared as terrorists under the Anti-Terrorism Law are no longer terrorists with effect from 8.6.2018.

By order,
Lt. Gen Kyaw Swe
Union Minister

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 8th June, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 9th JUNE, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region, Chin and Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasionally Squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (10 - 14) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th JUNE, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th JUNE, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th JUNE, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Naypyitaw, Mandalay and Yangon Regions

Meteorology and Hydrology Department

Coordination meeting held for all-round youth development festival

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended a coordination meeting in the Mandalay Region government's office meeting hall yesterday afternoon to conduct an all-round youth development festival in Mandalay.

Present at the meeting with the union minister were Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, other region ministers and officials.

In his opening speech at the meeting, Dr. Pe Myint said the coordination meeting was held to successfully convene an all-round youth development festival in Mandalay. The youth festival is being held, with the aim for youth to share among themselves knowledge, skills,

ethics and values, as well as to establish a future Myanmar society based on their views and ideas.

Every country and government strives towards the development of its youth, who will formulate and create the destiny of their country. Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung said 26 per cent of the population in Myanmar were aged between 15 and 29. The Mandalay all-round youth development festival will be held with the aim of supporting the youth fully to acquire skills and knowledge.

All the necessary support and assistance will be provided for a successful festival, said the chief minister.



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses at the meeting for all-round youth development festival in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Also, Information and Public Relations Department Director General U Ye Naing explained the work processes to hold an all-round youth development festival.

Following this, the attendees discussed the youth festival, and the union minister and

region chief minister also joined in the discussion.

The all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) will be held in Mandalay for three days, and discussions reviewed activities for literature, sports, arts, information technology, education and information pro-

grammes, and job fairs.

The all-round youth development festival (Yangon) was held in Yangon University from 1 to 3 December 2017. This year, the youth festival (Mandalay) will be held with pomp and ceremony. — Mandalay Sub-Printing House ■

Returnees pledge to abide by the rule of law

FROM PAGE-6

Zahid Hussein
Formerly from Myinlut Town, Shida Ward
Present - Alethanyaw Village

I went to Bangladesh after the incident here, and returned after a month. My relatives and siblings were here, and I returned to meet with them. In Bangladesh, I stayed in the Tankhali camp. As I just returned, I have no work. I'm staying with a relative. I use a boat to cross back to Myanmar from Tankhali village. When I was there, I didn't know of the agreement reached by the two countries. My family is in Bangladesh. If this side is ready, and they are willing to come back, I'll welcome them.

Solyusalem
Formerly from Tawlya village tract, Zula village
Present - Kanyintan village

I was in Bangladesh for six to seven months. I stayed in the Musoni camp. My daughter is here in Myanmar, so I returned. Previously I was in construction work and it was quite good. It is convenient to stay here. I came back here via Gawduthara. Bangladesh authorities are not urging us to return to Myanmar.



Abdu Rahein



Zahid Hussein



Mahmut Sweyus



Solyusalem



Mahmat Zabir



Nassar Ullah

I now have an NVC. I knew when I was in the Bangladesh camp that if I'm to stay here, I'll have to abide by the laws here. I already submitted an application to bring back my family. We will abide by the laws here. It is better for us to stay here, rather than Bangladesh. If allowed, I'll bring my family back.

Nassar Ullah
Formerly from Thu Oo La village tract, Kanpyin village
Present - his home is in Thu Oo La

I did not tell my parent when

I came back here, and sneaked away. In Bangladesh, I stayed in the Jamtoli camp. I have no work now. Before all of this, I was a carpenter. If the state allow, I want to call back my family. I returned from Bangladesh without anyone asking me to do so. There were no announcements or notifications in the camp informing us about the procedure and process to return. I now have an NVC. I'll ask my family to make applications for the NVC. Rice and pots were provided in the Hla Phoe Khaung Transit centre. My biggest wish is to see my fam-

ily. If they come back, everyone will be happy.

Mahmut Sweyus
Formerly from Thu Oo Lavillage tract, Kanpyin village
Present - his home is in Thu Oo La

When area clearance was conducted after the terrorist incident, we fled out of fear. But it was not good there. So I returned on a small fishing boat, without my parents knowing.

In Bangladesh, I was in a camp called Jamtoli. As it is not my country, it was not con-

venient. I worked as a carpenter for a living. I returned back alone and I'm ok here. I want to call back my family. I didn't hear or know about any plans for us to come back here. There were no notices or notifications. I stayed in a camp for seven and a half months. I accept and agree to return according to procedures. I want to make an NVC for my family

Mahmat Zabir
Formerly from Thu Oo Lavillage tract, Kanpyin village
Present - his home is in Thu Oo La

When the terrorist incident occurs, I fled to Bangladesh with my family out of fear. But I'm not happy there. I'm happy in Myanmar. I stayed in the Jamtoli camp while I was in Bangladesh.

In the past, I was a farm worker. Now I have no work. My family is still in the Jamtoli camp. If permitted, my family is ready to come back. I came back from Bangladesh, and along the way I went out through Lamtabali village.

The Bangladesh government is not urging or encouraging us to return. I did not know about the procedure for returning when I was in Bangladesh. I had no time to make an NVC for my family.—News Team ■

Argentina and IMF agree on \$50 billion loan: minister

BUENOS AIRES — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed with Argentina to a standby loan of \$50 billion over a three-year period, Finance Minister Nicolas Dujovne said on Thursday.

“We have looked to the IMF to avoid a crisis,” the minister told a news conference in Buenos Aires, adding there would be an “immediate” payment of \$15 billion. “We are engaged in the construction of a normal country. It support for our program,” he added.

At the end of March, Argentina suffered a crisis of confidence that caused it to lose more than \$10 billion of central bank reserves and saw the peso plunge by nearly 20 per cent.

That led Latin America’s

third-largest economy to ask for IMF assistance to help the country face mounting inflation, budget deficits and a weakening currency. “We are going to reinforce the autonomy of the central bank,” said its chairman, Federico Sturzenegger, who lead the conference alongside Dujovne.

Dujovne added that Argentina has set a target of 17 per cent inflation for 2019, 13 per cent for 2020 and 9 per cent for 2021.

Argentina’s annual inflation target was 15 per cent for 2018, but had reached almost 10 per cent by April. “We are going to have increased inflation,” Dujovne acknowledged.

The government has so far not managed to limit persistently high inflation, which has exceeded 20 per cent for more than a



Argentina’s Central Bank Governor Federico Sturzenegger (L) listens while Finance Minister Nicolas Dujovne speaks during a press conference in Buenos Aires, on 7 June 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

decade, a key aim of President Mauricio Macri’s center-right government. A path to reduce the budget deficit and balance the budget by 2020 was also agreed with the IMF. The agreement revises the budget deficit target, before debt payment, to 2.7 per

cent of GDP in 2018, compared to 3.2 per cent previously forecast.

Opinion polls said as many as 75 per cent of Argentinians opposed any agreement with the IMF, which many link to painful memories of past economic and social crisis that culminated in

2001 with a sovereign debt default, for which many Argentinians blame the IMF.

Thousands demonstrated in Buenos Aires in late May against an IMF bailout, marching to government offices and brandishing anti-IMF banners.—AFP ■



The seizures netted live animals, as well as eggs and bones, worth an estimated \$50,000. **PHOTO: AFP**

Malaysia seizes over 600 protected animals

KUALA LUMPUR — More than 600 protected animals, including geckos, snakes and tarantulas, have been seized in a series of raids in Malaysia, officials said Friday. Tropical Malaysia is home to a kaleidoscope of exotic animals, but the illegal wildlife trade remains a major problem as many of the creatures fetch a high price on the black market.

The seizures from late May to early June netted live animals, as well as eggs and bones, worth an estimated 200,000 ringgit (\$50,000), said wildlife department chief Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim.

Three people were arrested in the raids. Some of the animals

were destined to be sold as pets while others were to be eaten, said Abdul Kadir.

In the first raid, over 240 animals were found in a house in the northern city of Ipoh. They included geckos, tarantulas, tortoises, iguanas and scorpions.

A second raid in Selangor state saw 385 live animals, mostly frogs and snakes, and 30 eggs seized. A gibbon and two civet cats were seized from a man in the state of Negeri Sembilan in a third raid. People caught illegally keeping protected animals face a maximum jail term of three years and a maximum fine of 100,000 ringgit.—AFP ■

Mediterranean could become a ‘sea of plastic’: WWF

MARSEILLE — The Mediterranean could become a “sea of plastic”, the WWF warned on Friday in a report calling for measures to clean up one of the world’s worst affected bodies of water.

The WWF said the Mediterranean had record levels of “micro-plastics,” the tiny pieces of plastic less than five millimetres (0.2 inches) in size which can be found increasingly in the food chain posing a threat to human health.

“The concentration of micro-plastics is nearly four times higher” in the Mediterranean compared with open seas elsewhere in the world, said the report, “Out of the Plastic Trap: Saving the Mediterranean from Plastic Pollution.”

The problem, as all over the world, is simply that plastics have become an essential part of our daily lives while recycling only accounts for a third of the waste in Europe.

Plastic represents 95 per cent of the waste floating in the Mediterranean and on its beaches, with most coming from



Plastic pollution like discarded bottles along the the Mediterranean coast have turned the sea into one of the world’s worst affected bodies of water. **PHOTO: AFP**

Turkey and Spain, followed by Italy, Egypt and France, the report said.

To tackle the problem, there has to be an international agreement to reduce the dumping of plastic waste and to help clear up the mess at sea, the WWF said.

All countries around the Mediterranean should boost recycling, ban single-use plastics such as bags and bottles, and phase out the use of micro

plastics in detergents or cosmetics by 2025.

The plastics industry itself should develop recyclable and compostable products made out of renewable raw materials, not chemicals derived from oil.

Individuals too have their role to play, making personal choices such as to use combs or kitchen utensils made of wood, not plastic, the WWF said.—AFP ■

Tempers fray, fists fly in India's daily battle for water

NEW DELHI — When the water truck finally chugged into the Delhi slum, there was a stampede. It is a scene repeated daily across India as temperatures rise and the vital resource gets ever scarcer.

Young men clambered onto the roof and jammed a tangle of multicoloured hosepipes inside, passing the other ends to friends waiting with containers in the shouting crowd below.

All 10,000 litres were gone in minutes, lugged away in jerry cans and buckets dangling on bike handlebars. As the lorry left, people ran after it, desperate for any last drops.

"It's a real battle, every man for himself," Raj Kumari, one of dozens of people in the Sanjay Camp slum who wait hours for this brutal daily ritual, told AFP.

"There are fights and arguments, even injuries," the young woman said. "We have to get (our containers) filled even if someone gets crushed or loses an arm or leg."

No one was hurt this time but injuries are common and anger is growing at the authorities.

Earlier this year a 60-year-old man and his student son died in the capital after scuffles over a water tanker, reports said, prompting protests by hundreds



For many in Delhi, the daily water run is a mad and sometimes dangerous scramble. **PHOTO: AFP**

of angry locals.

Elsewhere, scores of people in the northern city of Jammu this week blocked an express train to Delhi in a protest against water shortages.

And in the Himalayan hill resort of Shimla, the former summer capital of the British Raj, residents staged street demonstrations after water ran out.

Foreign tourists were asked to cancel bookings, hotels began

closing and police had to escort water tankers through Shimla's winding streets.

Ever hotter, ever thirstier Summer temperatures in parts of India are currently passing 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) and data show that the country of 1.25 billion people is getting hotter.

A 2017 study by the Indian Institute of Science said that the frequency and magnitude of heat-

waves accompanied with drought had increased over the past three decades.

The India Meteorological Department said in 2017 that 2016 was the warmest year since 1901. India's top five hottest years have been recorded in the last 15 years.

Several million people rely on daily visits by tankers and on bore wells for their daily needs. The supply from pipes is puny, irregular and often filthy.

Millions of farmers are almost entirely dependent on monsoon rains for irrigation. Water levels in some key reservoirs have plummeted in recent years, particularly during long summers. Experts blame the shortages not just on the changing climate but also on inadequate planning, especially in India's fast-growing cities whose aged infrastructure cannot cope.

Experts also say that water-intensive farming, especially for rice and sugar cane to feed India's growing population, has depleted and polluted the underground water table.

Studies by the United Nations and other groups have warned that the country's water crisis will worsen unless action is taken. Back in the Delhi slum, 29-year-old labourer Yogendra Kumar said, "We spend around four hours on most days doing this."

"Most people get enough supplies to last a few hours. They will start queueing again around 2:00 pm, for the same routine," he added.

"There are days when families don't get water. You have to save some water to use on the days when you don't get any," added fellow resident Shashi Kumar Singh.—AFP ■

Ortega, bishops discuss Nicaragua violence but fail to reboot talks

MANAGUA (NICARAGUA) — Nicaragua's Catholic bishops on Thursday met with President Daniel Ortega over reviving stalled talks to quell a political crisis rights groups say has left 134 people dead — but emerged from the closed-door meeting without a formal plan to head back to the negotiating table. Ortega requested a "period of reflection" to consider a proposal from the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference (CEN), which said the bishops had presented "the pain and anguish of people who have suffered in recent weeks" during the "frank and sincere meeting." The CEN did not elaborate on the details of its plan, but in a statement said it "reflects the feelings of many sectors of Nicaraguan society" and was awaiting a reaction from Ortega, whose leftist administration is linked to the bloody unrest.

Silvio Jose Baez, the auxiliary bishop of Managua, said Ortega "asked us for a period of reflection to give us an answer,



Demonstrators protect themselves from tear gas and bullets in the flashpoint Nicaraguan town of Masaya — violence in the country since April has left at least 134 people dead. **PHOTO: AFP**

which we asked he give us in writing" — after which they will consider the feasibility of renewed negotiations.

Bishops had called off the talks last week after a crackdown on a protest led by victims' mothers left at least 16 people dead,

and said they would not resume until the government ends the repression. The opposition had hoped Ortega would commit to ceasing violence and agree to resume dialogue on a democratization process for the country, former diplomat Carlos Tunner-

mann, who represents civil society in the broader talks, told AFP.

Prior to Thursday's discussion, vice president and official government spokeswoman Rosario Murillo — Ortega's wife — said "we are going to that meeting to define the point, the

agenda, the mechanisms, to work for peace."

'Blatant disregard' of rights

The meeting came as the United States upped pressure on Ortega's government by imposing visa restrictions on police and other officials linked to repression. "The political violence by police and pro-government thugs against the people of Nicaragua, particularly university students, shows a blatant disregard for human rights and is unacceptable," US State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement. Nauert did not name the individuals, but said they included national police and health officials, along with others at the local level — "those directing or overseeing violence against others exercising their rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression." The Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights said 134 people had been killed in the violence since protests started on 18 April.—AFP ■

Iraqi refugee held in France on suspicion of IS 'war crimes'

PARIS —An Iraqi refugee in France thought to be a former senior member of the Islamic State group has been arrested in Paris and indicted on suspicion of "war crimes" over his alleged involvement in a massacre in his country. The 33-year-old man, referred to as Ahmed H, is accused of having participated in the June 2014 capture and execution of an estimated 1,700 young, mainly Shiite army recruits from the Speicher military camp to the north of Tikrit. Ahmed H was arrested in March and indicted days later on a range of charges including "killings in connection with a terrorist group" and "war crimes", and placed in pre-trial detention, the Paris prosecutor said. The case



The Camp Speicher massacre was one of ISIS' worst atrocities. PHOTO: AFP

highlights fears by Western intelligence agencies that jihadists have been able to take advantage of the migrant crisis to enter Europe. Having arrived in France in the summer of

2016 Ahmed H obtained refugee status a year later and was given a 10-year resident card, a source close to the investigation told AFP on Thursday. Shortly after being granted his refugee

status, Ahmed H was identified and followed by intelligence services, who then notified judicial authorities.

According to a source close to the investigation, Ahmed H has denied any

involvement. French authorities have revoked his protected status since his incarceration. His lawyer Mohamed El Monsaf Hamdi did not want to comment immediately when contacted by AFP. The Camp Speicher massacre was considered one of IS's worst crimes after it took over large parts of Iraq in 2014. One of the sites of the massacre was the former river police building inside former president Saddam Hussein's palace complex in Tikrit. Video footage subsequently released by IS showed an assembly-line massacre in which gunmen herded their victims towards the quay, shot them in the back of the head and pushed them in the water one after the other.—AFP ■

Death toll of Guatemala's volcano eruption rises to 109

GUATEMALA CITY — The death toll from the eruption of a highly active volcano near Guatemala's capital rose to 109, said the country's disaster and forensic agency Inacif earlier on Thursday.

The National Forensic Sciences Agency said morgues had received the remains of 109 victims of Sunday's eruption.

The agency said seven of the latest victims were put in a temporary morgue placed near the impact zone, in the now-devastated community of San Miguel Los Lotes in Escuintla, south of the capital. —Xinhua ■

US suicide rate on rise: health agency

WASHINGTON — The suicide rate across the United States has risen 30 per cent since 1999, and nearly 45,000 people took their lives in 2016, officials said Thursday.

Suicide presents a "growing public health problem," with significant increases in 44 of the 50 states, said the report by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Earlier this week, American handbag designer Kate Spade, 55, took her own life, sparking renewed calls for mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

Suicide is "a tragedy for families and communities across the country," said CDC principal deputy director Anne Schuchat.

"From individuals and communities to employers and healthcare professionals, everyone can play a role in efforts to help save lives and reverse this troubling rise in suicide."

Suicide is the 10th lead-

ing cause of death in the United States, and is rarely caused by a single factor, experts say.

The study, which spanned 1999 to 2016, found that more than half of people who killed themselves did not have a known diagnosed mental health condition at the time of death.

Contributing factors included "relationship problems or loss, substance misuse; physical health problems; and job, money, legal or housing stress," said the report.

The most common method of suicide involved firearms. The highest suicide rate from 2014-2016 was in Montana, where 29.2 residents per 100,000 people took their own lives. It was lowest in the US capital, Washington, with 6.9 suicides per 100,000 residents per year. The biggest spike in suicides since 1999 was in North Dakota, where suicides rose 57 per cent.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V YONG SHENG V-101

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YONG SHENG V-101 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCOL (HKG)
INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT CO, LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY.NO. (056N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY.NO. (056N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER ABLE VOY.NO. (0244-482)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ABLE VOY.NO. (0244-482) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V HUNSA BHUM VOY.NO. (421)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HUNSA BHUM VOY.NO. (421) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T./A.I.P.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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

The 'It' crowd vies for glory in three-decade tag game

HOLLYWOOD — Like scraped knees, hide-and-seek and hopelessly deflated soccer balls, tag has been a creative solution to playground boredom pretty much since they invented childhood.

But for one group of middle-aged men the fun never got stale, and they have spent the past 28 years locked in a game of tag so epic it has been turned into a Hollywood movie.

"Friendships aren't all about laughs," says Mike Konesky, one of the 10 friends from America's Pacific Northwest who are the inspiration for "Tag," being released by Warner Bros. on 15 June.

"Life gets complex and no matter what it has thrown at us, we've been there for each other. And the game has always been there, too."

The high jinks started at their high school in Spokane, Washington, but the so-called Tag Brothers carried on through college, weddings, children, new jobs and new cities.

It's the same game seen in schoolyards the world over, except that it is only played in February, meaning the person who is "It" at midnight going into 1 March carries the shame for the next 11 months.

The participants — among them a tech executive, an aerospace engineer and a Catholic priest — get tagged when they are at the office, conducting job



The original group of tag-playing men who were the inspiration for the movie 'It'. PHOTO: AFP

interviews, burying relatives or asleep in bed.

'Hunting season'

One of the friends, Joe "Joey T" Tombari, describes playing the game as like being "a deer or elk in hunting season."

The competition initially ended on the last day of high school in 1982 but a reunion eight years later sparked the idea to reinstate the game, each player signing a "Tag Participation Agreement."

The ambushes have been impressively creative over the years. Tombari was once star-

tled by a friend who had flown into California from Seattle and was lying in wait in the trunk of a neighbor's car.

The friend jumped out and tagged Tombari, whose wife was so startled that she fell and tore a knee ligament.

One of Mike Konesky's best tags involved sneaking into another player's bedroom in the dead of night when he left his front door unlocked.

Patrick Schultheis once refused to help a colleague change his tire, suspicious that he was being set up, and often spends the whole of February in Hawaii

to avoid getting tagged.

When his father died, he even insisted on putting the funeral in play, noting that the old man had found the game hilarious. He was tagged as he sat on the front pew with the other mourners.

Their story was broken in 2013 by Russell Adams of the Wall Street Journal, who was surprised by the huge reaction to his article.

'Dad bods'

"It didn't take long to know that this story wasn't going to disappear with the next day's

paper," he wrote recently.

"Colleagues told me this was 'a total Will Ferrell movie,' which sounded too good to be true. Then movie people started calling."

Ed Helms leads an all-star cast in "Tag" as Hogan "Hoagie" Malloy, who brings the gang together for the wedding of their buddy, Jerry (Jeremy Renner), the only player who has never been "It."

The film, Jeff Tomsic's directorial debut, takes place over three days and was shot during the summer in and around Atlanta, Georgia, co-starring Jon Hamm, Isla Fisher, Rashida Jones and Hannibal Buress.

The tags in the film often seem like free-for-all brawls but required meticulous planning and no small amount of physical work by the cast.

There are pursuits in and out of a newspaper office, a hospital, people's apartments and a cemetery. There is a country club brawl, a crazy golf cart chase, and some cunning booby traps.

"There was a lot of running, a lot of falling, tripping, a lot of dad bods flailing about in various states of not being in shape," Hamm said.

"And the problem with being in your 40s is your face does not look good in slow motion."

There's a lot of things that move that you just wish wouldn't." — AFP ■

Saint Laurent offers trippy Wild West collection in New York

NEW YORK — Making an unusual stop in New York, Saint Laurent offered up a cosmic Western spring-summer 2019 collection for men that showcased designer Anthony Vaccarello's rock-and-roll aesthetic.

After unveiling new lines twice at the Eiffel Tower, the venerable French fashion house opted to cross the Atlantic for its first-ever runway show in the Big Apple.

To achieve the maximum Manhattan effect, the catwalk was in New Jersey, offering a spectacular view of the New York skyline, with the Statue of Liberty nearby and the towering skyscrapers in the distance.

Vaccarello has often shown menswear and women's ready-to-wear on the same stage, but the Belgian designer split the two this time around.

His decision did not in any way keep female top models -- including rising star Kaia Gerber, Cindy Crawford's daughter -- from strutting their stuff in Jersey City late Wednesday.

Men and women sported dark trousers, most of them skinny pants, and black cowboy boots.

Saint Laurent's particular brand of rock chic, first minted by Hedi Slimane and now taken up by Vaccarello, called to mind the distinctive looks of music greats like the Ramones, Iggy Pop and Johnny Cash.

The Belgian designer even dared to send out a group of models in nothing but trousers and boots -- and a few necklaces with a Native American flair barely covering their chiseled torsos.

Red bandanas, metallic accents on shoulders, leather laces and wide-brimmed hats bolstered the Western look.

Next spring, Vaccarello's urban cowboy will wear belted jackets embroidered with silver studs, breaking up the primarily black palette. The slim models projected a self-confident air in front of a packed crowd that included musician Sean Lennon, American actor Ezra Miller ("Justice League") and French actor Louis Garrel. Saint Laurent breathed life into the idea



Belgian designer Anthony Vaccarello unveiled his spring-summer 2019 menswear collection for Saint Laurent in New York -- with a trippy Western vibe. PHOTO: AFP

for a mid-season Fashion Week, following in the footsteps of New York designer Alexander Wang, who has already abandoned the traditional runway calendar. Backed by the Council of Fashion Designers of America, this

initiative has so far only attracted a handful of names presenting 2019 collections. The others are still sending out "cruise" or resort collections in the gap between usual Fashion Weeks. —AFP ■

‘Dacre’s poison’: Daily Mail editor leaves divisive legacy



The Daily Mail’s parent company announced that its long-time editor Dacre would “step back” from day-to-day editorial duties in November. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON—A decisive force in the Brexit campaign, Daily Mail editor Paul Dacre leaves behind a divisive legacy as his tenure at the helm of the influential tabloid comes to an end after 26 years.

Lord Rothermere, head of the Daily Mail’s parent company, called him “the greatest Fleet Street editor of his generation” and supporters and critics alike called it the “end of an era”.

Under his leadership, the paper became known for its

virulent right-wing campaigns against immigration and its anti-EU views, wielding an influence over Britain’s Conservative Party that was reminiscent of a bygone time of all-powerful newspaper barons.

Kevin Maguire, associate editor of the left-wing Daily Mirror newspaper, described Dacre as the “Godfather of Fleet Street” and said that “catastrophic Brexit was his last hurrah”.

Ahead of the 2016 EU mem-

bership referendum, then prime minister David Cameron, who supported Britain staying in the bloc, asked Dacre to “cut him some slack” in the campaign, the BBC reported.

After Dacre refused to budge, Cameron asked Lord Rothermere to sack him which made the editor “incandescent” and his resolve to campaign for Brexit “stiffened”, a source told BBC Newsnight.

Late Thursday, Rothermere announced that current editor of the Mail on Sunday Geordie Greig will step into the role, potentially signalling an end to the Daily Mail’s firebrand style under Dacre.

Although owned by the same parent company as its daily sister title, the Mail on Sunday has historically pushed a more liberal agenda and was staunchly pro-remain in the run up to the Brexit vote -- one of the issues said to have fuelled a bitter rivalry between Dacre and Greig.—AFP



in
Picture

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and his wife are welcomed by Philippines Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Eduardo E. Kapunan, Jr. at a ceremony to mark the 120th Philippines Independence Day which was held in Melia Hotel in Yangon on 8 June. **PHOTO: MNA**

Not read a book lately? Blame Netflix, says study

FRANKFURT— Are you all caught up on your favourite Netflix show, but that novel on your nightstand is gathering dust?

You’re far from alone, according to a German study released Thursday decrying a “dramatic” decline in book readership as more time is spent online.

The number of people buying books in Germany plummeted by nearly 18 per cent between 2013 and 2017, the study commissioned by the German Publishers and Booksellers Association found.

The drop was even steeper at 24 to 37 per cent among those aged 20 to 50— the same age group that now spends more than three hours a day on the internet.

“There’s growing social pressure to constantly react and be tuned in so you don’t get left behind,” Boersenverein head Alexander Skipis said in a statement accompanying the study, titled “Book buyers, where are you going?”.

Streaming services like Netflix with their binge-worthy television series in particular “exert a great appeal” and frequently replace books as a pastime, it said.

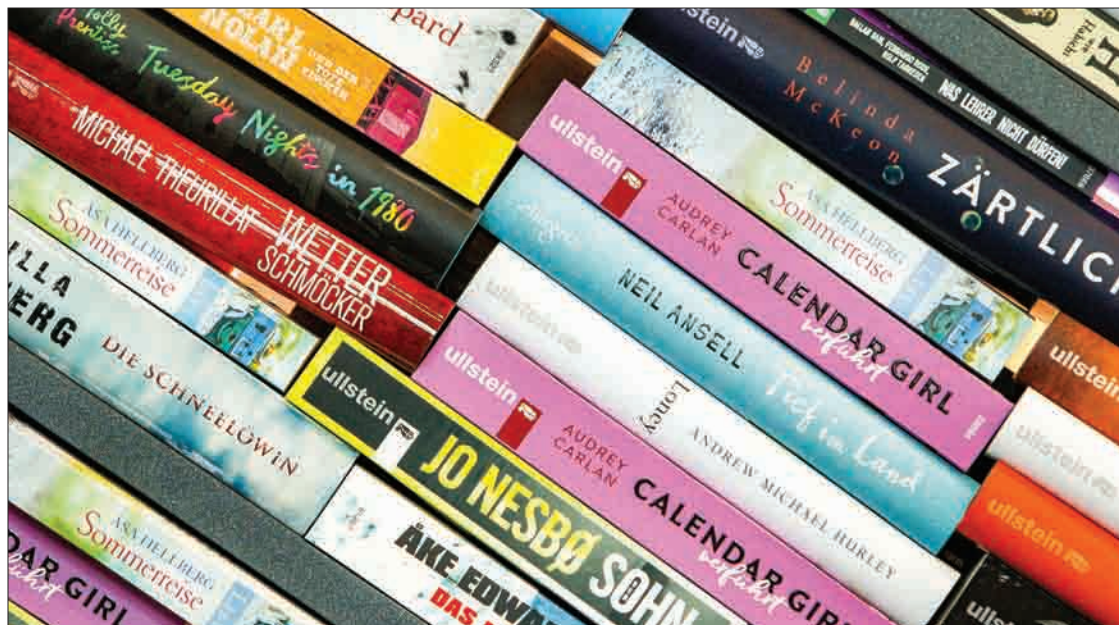
The findings are likely to make for grim reading in a country that prides itself on being well-read and is home to the world’s largest book fair.

The study, for which the GfK polling firm questioned 25,000 people, revealed that the long-held truism that every second German was a book buyer no longer stood up.

Last year just 44 per cent of Germans over the age of 10 -- or 29.6 million people -- bought a book. On a brighter note for the industry, those that are still bookworms are reading and spending more than before.

The average customer bought 12 books last year, up from 11 in 2013. The total amount spent jumped from around 117 euros (\$138) to 137 euros.

The story is similar among



The long-held truism that every second German is a book buyer no longer seems to hold up. **PHOTO: AFP**

e-books, with customer numbers slipping nearly eight per cent between 2016 and 2017 to 3.5 million, but the amount of titles purchased per person went up.

Reacting to the findings, the Publishers and Booksellers Association said the industry should seize the opportunity to

present books as an antidote to today’s hectic, digital world.

“People are yearning for a time-out,” said Skipis, stressing that all age groups reported having a “very positive” attitude towards books.

Some respondents offered their own suggestions for how

to better incorporate books in their lives. These ranged from apps that made personalised recommendations to encounters with fans and authors to make the reading experience more interactive, and putting books in unexpected places like the gym.—AFP

Myanmar women's football team to play friendlies in Thailand

THE Myanmar national women's football team will train and play friendly matches in Thailand from 11 to 17 July, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

Myanmar will play two friendlies with the Thailand women's national football team, as well as one friendly match with a Thailand women's club, said an official from MFF.

A total of 24 players will be part of the team on the friendly tour, noted the MFF.

The goalkeepers on the team are May Zin Nwe, Zar Zar Myint and Thin Thin Soe.

The defenders include Aye Aye Moe, Khin Than Wai, Ei Yadanar Phyto, Wai Wai Aung, Khin Myo Win, Zin Mar Win, Nge Nge Htwe and Yamin Lwin.

Khin Moe Wai, Naw Arlu

War Phaw, Nilar Myint, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Thandar Moe, Nu Nu, Khin Mar Lar Tun, Thin Thin Yu and Than Than Htwe will make up the midfield.

The strikers are Win Theingi Tun, Yi Yi Oo, July Kyaw and Nilar Win.

The Myanmar national women's football team will be trained by new head coach U Win Thu Moe, according to MFF.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Big teams meet in week-15 MNL matches

THE week-15 matches of the MPT Myanmar National League (MNL) will start today with powerful teams set to lock horns with each other this week. The MNL games are expected to be a thriller, as defending champions Shan United will meet well-known Yadanarbon FC, while Yangon United will play against Aye-yarwady.

GFA will battle it out with Sagaing United at Thuwunna Stadium at 4pm today. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV and For Sports.

On 10 May at 3:30 pm, Yangon United will take on Aye-yarwady United at Aung San

Stadium, while Hanthawady United will be up against Magwe FC at Grand Royal Stadium. Also, Rakhine United will play against Zwegapin United at Waitharli Stadium. Some of the matches will be available for live streaming on the MNL Facebook page, according to the MNL.

The matches that will be played at 4pm on 10 May are Yadanarbon versus defending champions Shan United at Mandalathiri Stadium, which will be broadcast live on MRTV, while Myawady United will compete against Southern Myanmar at Thuwunna Stadium.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Del Potro has 'nothing to lose' against 'king of clay' Nadal

PARIS — Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro said that he will have "nothing to lose" in his French Open semi-final clash with Rafael Nadal on Friday, after not even knowing whether he would play in the days before the tournament.

The former US Open champion, who almost retired from the sport two years ago after persistent wrist injuries, had said he would make a "last-minute decision" on his Roland Garros participation after suffering a leg injury at the Rome Masters.

But fast-forward 12 days and the affable Del Potro is preparing to take on 10-time champion Nadal in his first French Open semi-final since 2009.

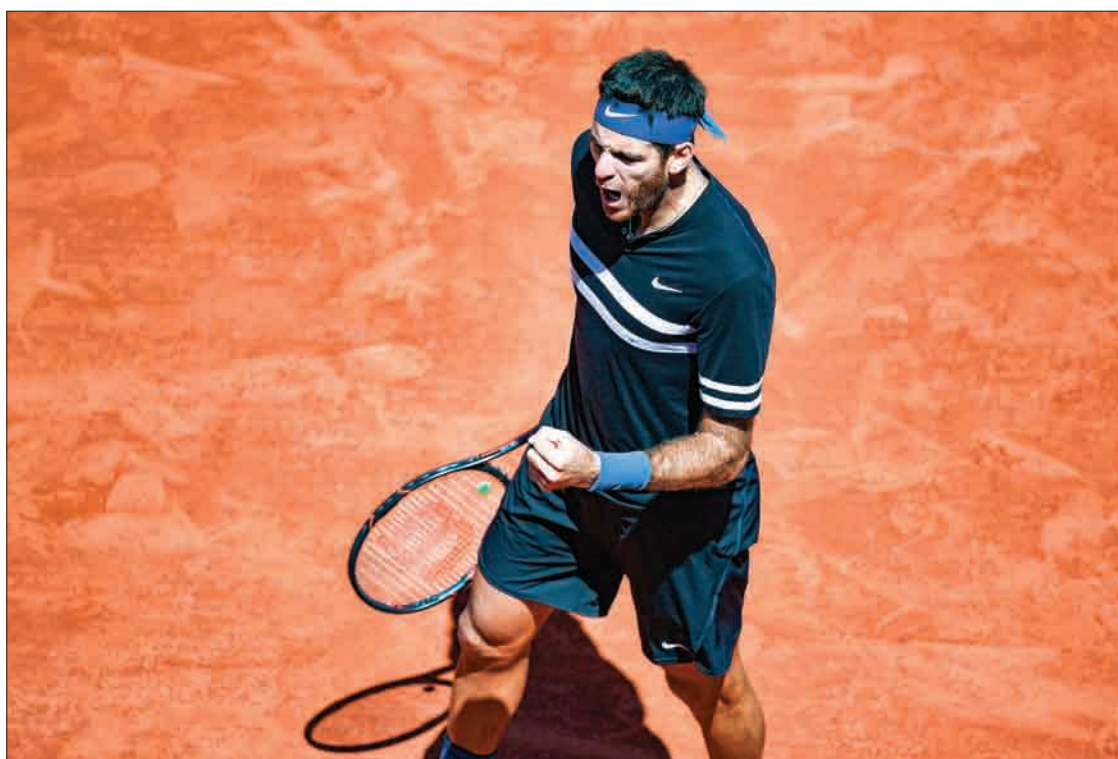
The enormity of the situation clearly dawned on him after beating Marin Cilic in the quarter-finals on Thursday, as he sobbed tears of joy at the side of the court.

"I'm feeling so, so happy to make the right decision to play here. I am doing well," he said after edging out third seed Cilic 7-6 (7/5), 5-7, 6-3, 7-5.

"I came here without big expectations, just seeing how my body feels match by match.

"Now I'm (in the) semi-finals, which means something great to me. So I have nothing to lose tomorrow. We'll see what can I do against the king of clay."

The fifth seed, who stunned Roger Federer to win the 2009 US Open at the age of 20, said he nev-



Del Potro is in the French Open semi-finals for the first time since 2009. PHOTO: AFP

er imagined that the likes of the 20-time Grand Slam champion and Nadal would still be standing in his path at major tournaments almost a decade later.

"I thought that after nine years I will play a different one, not Rafa or Roger," he added.

"But all my semi-finals in Grand Slams were against them. The last one in US Open I lost against Rafa. In Wimbledon I lost against (Novak) Djokovic. Here with Federer.

"It's amazing for the tennis, the tennis world."

Del Potro will be playing in

a Grand Slam semi-final for the fifth time when he steps onto Court Philippe Chatrier, with a place in the final against either surprise package Marco Cecchinato or Dominic Thiem up for grabs.

But reaching such heady heights would have seemed a long way off when he started his 2016 season ranked outside the world's top 1,000.

"Everybody knows that I was close to quitting this sport two years ago, but then I, for one reason, I never give up," said Del Potro.

"And I have been trying and trying every day to fix my problem in my wrist. And in the end, I got it, and now I'm having a great present, looking forward for the future."

Nadal has never failed to win the title when reaching the last four at Roland Garros, but knows that Del Potro, who he has lost to five times, is a dangerous opponent.

"Del Potro has achieved great victories this year. He has fantastic potential," said the 16-time Grand Slam champion.

"I have to play aggressively.

If I play defensively and I don't take intensity, I will be lost." Cecchinato has 'lots in his favour'

World number 72 Cecchinato stunned Roland Garros on Tuesday by following up his surprise wins over top-10 seeds David Goffin and Pablo Carreno Busta with a breathtaking victory against 12-time major champion Djokovic.

The Italian, who had never won a Grand Slam match before the tournament, faces seventh seed Thiem in the last four.

Gustavo Kuerten clinched the first of his three French Open crowns as a little-known 66th-ranked Brazilian in 1997.

"It's kind of the same run. The advantage, of course, is you play (with) nothing to lose," said Kuerten, who went on to become the world number one.

"You know, you have a lot in (your) favour. And the lack of experience and knowledge of being on these last rounds, that's always the risk. But I think he's very enthusiastic."

But Austrian Thiem will see this as a fantastic opportunity to reach a maiden Grand Slam final, after losing to Djokovic and Nadal at the semi-final stage in each of the last two years in Paris.

"I think for me it's time to move on to make a great step, because I'm turning 25 (in September). I'm not that young anymore."—AFP ■