THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 17, 9th Waxing of Kason 1379 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Thursday, 4 May 2017

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed at the Rome Fiumicino International Airport by Myanmar Ambassador and other officials. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor arrives in Rome

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in Italy yesterday afternoon after leaving Brussels, Belgium earlier in the day.

The State Counsellor was welcomed at Rome Fiumicino International Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to Italy U Myint Naung and wife, Mr. Andrea Cavallari, a senior officer of the protocol department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Italy and Myanmar embassy staff. The State Counsellor met in the afternoon with Former Italian Prime Minister Mr. Romano Prodi at the Boscolo Hotel.

Accompanying the State Counsellor were the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Myanmar Ambassador to Italy U Myint Naung and other officials.

After her visit to Italy, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will travel to Britain.

During her visit to Brussels, she clarified the government's efforts for transition to democracy, national reconciliation, efforts being made on the road to eternal peace and stability and development in Rakhine State. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint of the Ministry of Information addresses the audience at the World Press Freedom Day 2017 event held at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

World Press Freedom Day event held in Yangon

Win Nandar

THE third of May is World Press Freedom Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 and supported by the UNESCO General Assembly. An event has been held in Myanmar every year since 2012, and yesterday it was held at the Chatrium Hotel.

Ambassadors from foreign embassies, resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNESCO, Myanmar media organizations, civil societies and invited persons attended the event.

In his opening speech to the event, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said the theme for World Press Freedom Day 2017 "Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies" is very appropriate for Myanmar and observed that it was created to reflect the world's international situation.

He said the present world is unjust and not peaceful, while the societies are non-inclusive, to which the role of the media is to help develop it into a peaceful, just world with inclusive societies. He added that in the country today, individuals and organisations who wish well for the country and the government are all aiming toward a peaceful, just and inclusive society.

In the World Press Freedom Index published annually by Reporters without Borders (RSF), Myanmar was 169 out of 179 countries in 2011-2012. In 2013, 2014 and 2015, it was at 151, 145 and 144, respectively.

Myanmar press freedom ranking jumps, reaching No 3 in ASEAN, just behind Indonesia and the Philippines, according to the latest survey by Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF).

> Myanmar press freedom ranking jumps, reaching No 3 in ASEAN, just behind Indonesia and the Philippines

By 2016, it was at 143, making gradual progress. This year, the progress was 12 more levels to 131. "Having achieved 131 out of 180 countries isn't much to be proud about, but it is progress that we can be happy about", the minister said. "We will not be satisfied with this and will cooperate with local and international organisations to support the advancement of the freedom of journalists and media organizations".

Ms. Renata Dessallien, the UNDP Resident Representative, read the UN Secretary General's World Press Freedom Day 2017 message which said journalists go to the most dangerous places to give voice to the voiceless and need leaders to defend a free media that is crucial to counter prevailing misinformation. Ms. Renata Dessallien said media freedom in Myanmar is progressing well and last year AP in Myanmar received its first Pulitzer prize.

It also stepped up to 131 in the World Press Freedom Index, jumping 12 steps, but there are 130 countries ahead of it and much need to be done.

"Myanmar has reached a certain stage in media freedom and it is very important in the transition to democracy", Ms Dessallien said.

The UNESCO Resident Representative Ms. Min Jeong Kim then read the message of the UNESCO Director General.

Minister Counsellor Mr. Johan Hallenborg of the Swedish Embassy said that the news media must not use their skill for hate-speech and need to be straightforward.

Later, representatives from the Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Journalist Network, Myanmar Journalists Union, Burma News International (BNI) and National Management Degree College (News and Media Department) read their World Press Freedom Day messages.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Proposed appointment of Nepalese Ambassador agreed upon

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr. Bhim K. Udas as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Bhim K. Udas was born in 1950. He received a Bachelor's Degree of Arts from the Tribhuwan University, Nepal in 1970 and a Master's Degree from the University of Peshawar, Pakistan in 1983.

He served in the United Nations World Food Programme for 30 years from 1981 to 2010 at different positions in the Russian Federation, Jordan, Switzerland, Armenia, Italy and Pakistan as well as in Myanmar (October 2003-September 2006), India (August-October 2009) and South Africa (September 2006-December 2010). He also served as Honourary Consul of Jordan until February 2017. He is married. —Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Appointment of ambassador agreed upon

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mrs. Riikka Laatu as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Yangon.

Mrs. Riikka Laatu was born in 1956 in Karvia, Finland. She received a Master's Degree in Geography from the University of Helsinki. Prior to joining the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, she worked at the University of Helsinki as a Lecturer in Geography.

Mrs. Riikka Laatu has been working in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland since 1985, and served in various capacities.

From 2007 to 2011, she served as Permanent Representative of Finland to FAO and the other United Nations Organizations in Rome.

Afterward, she served as the Director, Unit for Sectoral Policy in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Helsinki, from 2011 to 2013. Since 2013, she has held the position of Deputy Director General, Development Policy.

She is married, and has three adult children. —Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

U Tha Aung Nyun concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Fiji

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tha Aung Nyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Commonwealth of Australia, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Fiji.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Myanmar Gazette

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Dr. Daw Sandar Oo, Director-General, Budget Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance as Managing Director of Myanma Insurance from the date she assumes charge of her duties. —Myanmar News Agency ■

CBM Governor, US Ambassador hold talks

U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, met with a delegation led by US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel in Gankaw Hall of CBN Bank in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed policies of the CBM, management of financial organisations, the rate of development in Myanmar's economy and financial sector, improving monetary transactions in trade deals between Myanmar and other countries, ways in which banks can support small and medium enterprises, status of foreign investment in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, improving infrastructure throughout the country, and endeavours by CBM in providing American scholarships for the development of human resources in Myanmar. The meeting began at 11 am and ended at 12:05.

Also in attendance were Vice-chairman U Sett Aung and the Director-General from the office of Chairman Daw Myint Myint Kyi. —Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi with former Italian Prime Minister Mr. Romano Prodi, left, and other officials at the Boscolo Hotel in Rome. **PHOTO: MNA**

JMC-U holds 10th meeting in Yangon

THE Union Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) launched its 10th meeting in Yangon yesterday, expecting to approve directives for monitoring works at the village-level and draft of the rules for security and formation of the Local Joint Monitoring Committee (JMCL) and the landmine clearance issue.

In the first day of the three-day meeting, the participants approved directives for monitoring by both sides at the local level, said Dr ShweKhar, Secretary-1 of the JMC-U.

Lt-Gen YarPyai, Chairman of the JMC-U, called on signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement to follow the points in the agreement, stressing the need to clear up doubts when they arise at the ground level.

In his opening remarks, Saw Zet I Poe, Vice-Chairman-1 of the JMC-U, stressed the importance of cooperation from the people in implementing the NCA, urging the local people in the conflict areas to participate in joint monitoring works of the ceasefire agreement. Local Joint Monitoring Committee-L will establish 10 local offices.

The JMC set up a budget of US$6.5 million for the first year contributed by international donors. Representatives of the JMC will hold a meeting next week to discuss the establishment of the 10 local-level offices of the JMC. —Ye KhaungNyunt ■

Secretary of Maungtaw Investigation Commission meets United States Ambassador

SECRETARY of Maungtaw Investigation Commission, U Zaw Myint Pe met with Mr. Scot Marciel, United States Ambassador to Myanmar, at the President's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting with U Zaw Myint Pe, Mr. Scot Marciel, United States Ambassador, discussed matters relating to the tasks of the Maungtaw Investigation Commission and exchanged views what he wants to know.

Present at the meeting was Dr. Daw Thet Thet Zin, member of the Maungtaw Investigation Commission. —Myanmar News Agency ■

U Zaw Myint Pe (Centre), US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel (Left) and Dr. Daw Thet Thet Zin. (Right) . **PHOTO: MNA**

Outstanding students in Ngwehsaung and Bagan camp on sightseeing tours

Students observe arts at Bagan Archaeological Museum.
PHOTO: MNA

OUTSTANDING students who are currently staying at Ngwehsaung and Bagan camp visited places of local interest and observed livelihoods of local people separately yesterday.

Firstly, they went to Yuzana sea prawn breeding farm and observed the R.O water purification system that is necessarily in the breeding process. They also viewed the latest technology performed with the special purifier donated by Morkwater Solutions from Germany that turns the sea water to fresh water step-by-step using solar power and kills microbes. After that, they visited Thazin village and examined the fishery products by the local people and officials from the fishery department explained the procedures. "By visiting the villages, the outstanding students will sympathize the local people's livelihood and they will have a vision to improve it as much as they can in the future," said, U Nyan-Thein, an official of the camp. In the evening, they also visited the Hotel zone and bought traditional presents. Outstanding students from Bagan camp also visited interesting places and religious centers in Bagan and Chauk regions respectively in the morning. At first, they went to Salay Wooden Monastery also known as Yoke SoneKyaung and saw various arts made from carvings.

Then they visited Shin Pinsar Kyo Hla Pagoda. In the afternoon, they visited Bagan Archaeological Museum, Thiri Zaya Bhumi Bagan Golden Palace and old palace excavation site, accordingly.—Min Thit and Naing Lin Kyi ■

Rice farmers loading a small truck with sack of rice at work harversting rice near Kangyidauk Township in Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: GNLM/ PHOE KHWAR**

Agricultural service centres to be established in 33 places within four years

Agricultural service centres will be established in 33 sites in states and regions within four years, said an official from the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The agricultural service centre will be set up with an aim to provide services to local farmers and to develop the farming sector and rice sector.

"We have already requested that private companies provide loans to implement the project in 33 places", said U Ye Min Aung, the general secretary from MRF. The agricultural service centres will distribute pedigree seeds for local farmers, build goduwns for storing crops and rice drying machines in the post-harvest period, provide transplanting machines, tractors and harvesting and threshing machines, implement a contract farming system, distribute and sell fertilizer, rice milling and generations of electricity from rice husks. The agricultural service centres will be set up with the open tender system. An estimated cost of the project is US$12.148 million. A total of 33 projects will cost US$400.884 million.— Min Min ■

Over Ks58 billion to be spent to supply electricity to rural areas

Over Ks58 billion will be spent to supply electricity to 1,233 villages in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, said U Khant Zaw, the Director-General from Department of Rural Development.

To supply electricity to the villages, the government will provide Ks11.06 billion, while the remaining amount of Ks47.76 billion will be granted by the World Bank. The electricity supplying project is expected to be completed in June, 2018.

"To start the project as soon as possible, we invited tenders starting on 27 February 2017. The tender was opened on 27 April. We are now making arrangements to enter into a contract with the selected company. We will start to check the sample before installations starting in October," said U Khant Zaw.

Home solar power systems will be supplied to 95,639 houses in 1,298 villages in 127 townships, while small-scale electric power lines will be installed in 5,184 houses in 34 villages.

The department will also supply electricity to public buildings such as schools, health care centres, religious buildings and street lamp posts.— 200 ■

Government exceeds revenue target in fiscal 2016-2017

The government exceeded revenue targets in the revised budget in the fiscal year 2016-2017. The revenue from all sectors was Ks360 billion higher than the target set by the government, said an official from the Internal Revenue Department.

The revenue target according to the revised budget was Ks5 trillion in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The government had collect revenue of over Ks1.62 trillion from commercial taxes, Ks30 billion from lottery taxes, over Ks37 billion from stamp duty taxes, Ks600 billion from special commodity taxes and over Ks2.37 trillion from incoming taxes, for a total of Ks4.66 trillion.

Although the revised budget targets revenue of Ks5 trillion, the revenue earned was over Ks5.4 trillion. The revenue of the Myanmar government is the lowest when compared to other Asian countries.

Therefore, the government needs to ensure full collection of all the taxes due and to expose tax evaders.— 200 ■

Yaba pills seized in Mandalay and Yangon

An anti-narcotic squad from northern Mandalay searched a suspicious looking man called Wai Lwin Oo at Shwe Taung tea shop at the corner of Manawhari street and 49th street in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay on 2 May. Police discovered 1,585 yaba pills and a phone handset from him.

Another anti-narcotic squad from Yangon (East) searched Ma May Thada Htet and Ma Than Than Khaing on the road in front of No.44, 157th street in Tamwe Township, Yangon. Police found 2,000 yaba pills and a phone handset from them. Then, police also searched apartment of Ma May Thada Htet on the third floor at No.44, 157th street in Tamwe Township, Yangon and found Kyaw Thu, the husband of Ma Than Than Khaing in possession of 1,780 yaba pills.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■

Kyaw Thu, Ma Than Than Khaing and Ma May Thada Htet. **PHOTO: MPF**

Super Custom overturns on Ygn-Mdy Highway

A Super Custom heading from Mandalay to Nay Pyi Taw driven by Hlaing Thin hit a road-divider and overturned when the right wheel burst out between mile posts 235/7 and 236/0 at 7:45 am yesterday.

Out of seven passengers, a sangha, four women and a man were injured. The injured people were taken by Phayataung highway police to 1000-bed Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital. Police have taken action against the reckless driver under sections 337/338 of the Penal Code.—Nyi Nyi Than (Nay Pyi Taw) ■

YSX hit all-time stock trading low in April

STOCK trading on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) reached its lowest value of about Ks1. 2billion in April when compared to monthly stock trading values over the past 14 months.

First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and FPB are currently trading their shares on YSX.

Last year, the monthly stock trading values by FMI on YSX were over Ks24 billion in March and over Ks5.8billion in April. With MTSH entering YSX on 20th May, stock trading values of FMI and MTSH amounted to over Ks16billion in May and over Ks6.8billion in June and over Ks3.7 billion in July. After MCB listed on YSX, the monthly stock trading values were over Ks2.9 billion in August, over Ks2.4 billion in September, over Ks4billion in October and over Ks2.2 billion in November. YSX stock trading in December hit an all-time low with a trading value of only Ks1. 5billion last year, it is learnt from the monthly reports of YSX.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

With the debut of First Private Bank (FPB) on YSX, stock trading in January and February 2017 hit over Ks6billion and over US$3.3billion in March.

The stock trading on YSX in April hit the record low of over Ks1.2 billion in the past 14 months, according to the stock trading data of YSX.

A total of 5,227shares worth Ks70,749,500 were traded on 3rd May 2017, with trading volumes of 3,226 shares from FMI, 1,527 shares from MTSH, 44 shares from MCB and 430 shares from FPB. The share prices are Ks16,000 for FMI, Ks4,100 for MTSH, Ks9,000 for MCB and Ks29,000 for FPB at the closing time. —Mon Mon ■

Thailand CRC Sports to expand into region

CRC Sports Co, the sports retailer and distributor in Thailand, is reportedly extending its investments into Myanmar, Cambodia and Viet Nam.

The CRC Sports Company targets the top spot in the ASEAN region by 2020 and also aims to rank among the top 50 players list worldwide.

As an effort for this plan, the CRC Sports Company has opened more outlets in Viet Nam and are eyeing Myanmar and Cambodia to open more stores as the two countries have the economic opportunities for investors.

The CRC Sports is a leading sports retailer and distributor in Thailand, the second largest company in ASEAN after Indonesia's Mitra Adiperkasa and listed at 59th place worldwide.

In order to strengthen its role in the market, 400 million baht will be allocated to renovate its existing branches and open 29 more outlets in Thailand. The company will also try to grow its online business. It will attempt to reach its target of 250 stores by 2020, with an estimated 178 branches in Thailand by the end of this year. — Ko Khant ■

3,400 jobs created by recently permitted enterprises

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) permitted 20 more enterprises under the Foreign Investment Law and the Myanmar Citizens Investment Law in the current Fiscal Year 2017-2018, creating 3,424 job opportunities, it was learnt at the MIC meeting held on Tuesday.

There are 11 Myanmar citizens enterprises, seven joint ventures and two foreign-owned enterprises in various fields including: manufacturing and marketing; international port service; a medical clinic; electricity generation; real estate, hotel services, network facilities service and a forest reserve, according to an announcement of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). Over US$160million of investments were permitted to put into Myanmar and a total of 9,478 job opportunities were created from the 17 permitted enterprises, according to the very first Myanmar Investment Commission meeting held on 5th April in the current FY.

The FDI flowing into the country in the previous FY 2016-2017 hit over US$6.8billion, which exceeded the expectation of US$6billion, mostly into industrial manufacturing and transport and communication sectors. The foreign investments enter these sectors; oil and gas, power, transport and communication, manufacturing, real estate, mining, hotel and tourism, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, industrial estate, construction and other services, according to DICA. Foreign direct investment (FDI) of over US$6billion is likely to flow into the country this Fiscal Year 2017-2018, according to the DICA. —Ko Htet ■

India, Myanmar chambers of commerce sign MoU

Ko Moe

Myanmar's large, inexpensive labour force and proximity were cited as major reasons for increased investment by manufacturing entrepreneurs from India.

Mr Rafeeque Ahmed, Chairman of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), said yesterday that entrepreneurs in India are preparing to set up factories for producing bean-based foodstuff of high value.

"Myanmar is a country with potential prospects for economic development. Businessmen in India are preparing to produce bean-based foodstuff in the country for sale in the local market and simultaneously for export to India," Mr. Ahmed said at the ceremony of the signing of an MoU between SICCI & UMFCCI and Business Matching held at the Office of UMFCCI on Wednesday. In addition to factories producing bean-based foodstuff, it has been learnt that other entrepreneurs are also interested in investing in Myanmar to produce leather goods such as shoes and purses. "Myanmar is a specially favoured country of the WTO (World Trade Organisation)", said Mr Habib Hussain, Director of the AV Thomas Group which manufactures and exports leather goods to the U.S., Japan and EU countries. "Besides labour charges in Myanmar are very cheap compared to those from other countries. These are attracting many countries to invest." It has also been learnt that the manufacture of drugs, agricultural tools and equipment, and bilateral cooperation in the sector of services on technology have made potential progress.

Under the MoU signed between SICCI & UMFCCI, matters on promotion of investments and trade between two countries and meeting of entrepreneurs from two countries, holding emporiums, interexchange on facts of economy and markets were agreed upon. India is fourth on the list of countries with the most investment in Myanmar. The amount of India's investment was aboutUS$2 billion in the 2015-2016 financial year, it was learnt. ■

Xi, Duterte discuss Korean Peninsula, S China Sea by phone: Xinhua

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Philippine counterpart Rodrigo Duterte held telephone talks on Wednesday in which they discussed Korean Peninsula tensions, the South China Sea issue and bilateral ties, China's state-run media reported.

The two leaders, who met in person twice last year and reached agreements that "greatly improved" ties between the two countries, also discussed regional cooperation in East Asia, the Xinhua News Agency report said.

Regarding their territorial disputes over islands and reefs in the South China Sea, Xi noted that a channel of dialogue and consultation has been set up.

"Duterte said he was happy to see Philippine-China friendship and solidarity enhanced and their exchanges and cooperation in various areas restored and pushed forward," the report said.

In Manila, the presidential office released a photo of Duterte speaking with Xi, who it said initiated the call. It said he thanked China for inviting him to tour a Chinese warship that made goodwill visit to the Philippines along with two others earlier this week.

It was not immediately clear what they discussed regarding the Korean Peninsula, but their conversation took place just days after Duterte and US President Donald Trump spoke by telephone on that and other issues.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (R) speaks with China's President Xi Jinping over the phone while with Christopher 'Bong' Go, Special Assistant to the President, in Davao City, southern Philippines on 3 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Just ahead of that conversation, the Philippine leader had told reporters he would appeal to Trump not to go to war with North Korea as it could spell disaster for the whole region, especially if China were to "come to the rescue" of its neighbor.

Ties between the Philippines and China sharply deteriorated in 2013 when the previous Philippine government filed a case with the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague questioning China's encroachment inside the Philippines' 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone.

China responded by driving away Filipino fishermen at hotly contested Scarborough Shoal, which it earlier seized effective control over, and by halting agricultural imports.

In July last year, the court ruled in Manila's favor by invalidating China's sweeping claims over almost the entire South China Sea and calling for Filipino fishermen to be allowed access to the shoal.

Duterte came to power just two weeks before the ruling, however, and since then he has drastically changed the country's approach to its disputes with China, setting them aside indefinitely in favor of repairing damaged bilateral ties.

China has since stopped blocking Philippine vessels at Scarborough Shoal and promised to resume imports of Philippine produce, while Duterte secured up to $24 billion worth of investment and financing commitments when he visited Beijing and met there with Xi last October.

He has said he has no intention to raise the South China Sea issue unless China starts extracting resources from the Philippine-claimed areas. —Kyodo News ■

Bangladesh signs deals with Chinese, Thai firms for building metro rail project

DHAKA — The Bangladeshi government has signed three deals with Chinese and Thai firms on the country's first-ever metro rail project.

Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), a Bangladeshi state-owned enterprise founded to implement the metro rail lines across the Dhaka city, signed the separate contract packages (CPs) including CP-2, CP-3 and CP-4 worth over 58.26 billion taka (about 719 million US dollars) with the firms, Italian-Thai Development Public Company Limited, a Thailand-based construction firm, and Chinese state-owned Sinohydro Corporation Limited.

Under the deals, the firms will build metro rail tracks, stations and depot of the long cherished 20.1-km Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6 that will link north Dhaka with the south through 16 stations.

According to the project, the package CP-2 is for the civil and building works of the Depot, CP-3 and CP-4 is for the construction of metro rail tracks and elevated stations.

Officials of DMTCL, Italian-Thai Development Public Company Limited, a Thailand-based construction firm, and Chinese state-owned Sinohydro Corporation Limited signed the agreements on behalf of their respective sides at a ceremony on Wednesday in capital Dhaka.

Sinohydro signed the deal worth 15.96 billion taka for CP-2 while Italian-Thai Development Public Company Limited signed deal for all the three packages.—Xinhua ■

Cambodia ready to host World Economic Forum on ASEAN: minister

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia is ready to host the World Economic Forum on ASEAN, which is scheduled from 10 to 12 May in Phnom Penh, government officials said on Wednesday.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Lao Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank President Jin Liqun will be among the 620 participants attending the forum, said Cambodian Transport Minister Sun Chanthol.

He said the participants include political and business leaders, civil society and other key researchers from around the world.

According to Chanthol, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen will open the forum on 11 May under the theme "Youth, Technology and Growth".

"This forum will be a good opportunity for Cambodia to showcase its investment potential to foreign investors, and to attract more foreign investors and tourists to Cambodia," he said at a press conference.

In order to promote Cambodia's tourism, after the forum foreign participants will be granted free air-tickets from Phnom Penh to northwestern Siem Reap province to see the famed Angkor archeological park.

The World Economic Forum was established in 1971 as a non-profit foundation with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The forum holds annual meetings in Davos, Switzerland, but also convenes regional meetings each year across Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Last year, the World Economic Forum on ASEAN was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.—Xinhua ■

Thai news organizations urge govt to scrap media control bill

BANGKOK — Thirty media bodies in Thailand marked World Press Freedom day on Wednesday by calling on the military government to scrap legislation that seeks to tighten control of news reporting in the Southeast Asian country.

The call came days after a junta-appointed reform panel approved a bill to regulate the media that has drawn opposition from rights groups who say it is designed to boost state interference and curb independent reporting.

If adopted, the bill could establish a regulatory panel of 15 people, including two state officials and seven media representatives, to oversee all media platforms in Thailand, whether print, broadcast or online.

"The bill is essentially designed to facilitate political interference in the media and restrict press freedom," the Thai media organizations said in a joint statement.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha talks to media at a polling station during a constitutional referendum vote in Bangkok, Thailand on 7 August, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The military government on Wednesday called off an event hosted by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand (FCCT) focusing on the as yet unsolved disappearance of a revolution plaque commemorating the end of absolute monarchy in 1932 — a subject on which the junta has largely evaded questions.

In a statement, the FCCT said, "(The club) stands by its colleagues in Thailand's domestic media as they struggle to maintain professional standards and editorial independence in particularly challenging times."

Thailand's military government, which took power in a bloodless 2014 coup, has attracted international criticism for curbing free speech and threatening press freedom.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said the government had no intention to silence media with the bill, but regulations were needed to push up the quality of the media.

The media is "an important part of the government's work", Prayuth told reporters at an event to mark World Press Freedom Day. "So I want the press to be balanced while working with the government for the people."

The government will now review the draft bill, before it goes to the National Legislative Assembly, a parliamentary body appointed by the military, for approval and passage into law, he added.

Thailand fell six places this year to rank 142 out of 180 countries on the World Press Freedom Index of the Paris-based group, Reporters Without Borders.—Reuters ■

Indonesia threatens to cancel Masela gas contract if Inpex dawdles

JAKARTA — The Indonesian government threatened Wednesday to cancel contracts on an onshore liquefied natural gas facility if the contractors, Inpex Corp of Japan and Royal Dutch Shell of the Netherlands, do not immediately conduct preliminary works.

Energy and Mineral Resources Ignasius Jonan was referring to the long-awaited Masela gas-block development in Indonesia's eastern province of Maluku. The government has asked Inpex and Shell, which hold 65 and 35 per cent stakes, respectively, in the block, to conduct a preliminary front-end engineering design, or pre-FEED, to determine the production capacity of the LNG plant and the buyers of piped gas.

"If Inpex takes too long to conduct the pre-FEED, I will cancel the contracts. My patience is wearing thin," he told reporters.

"I have been the energy and mineral resources minister for six months and they still haven't started it yet," he added. The government has given two options on the plant capacity to the companies: 7.5 million tons per annum with 474 million standard cubic feet of gas per day, or 9.5 million tons per annum with 160 million standard cubic feet per day.—Kyodo News ■

Invitation to young writers for new Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is now accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its new weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform starting in May.

Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150 NgarHtatGyiPayar Street, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information:

(1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.),
(2) Real name and (if different) your penname,
(3) Your level of education,
(4) Name of your School/College/University,
(5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses,
(6) A color photo of the submitter,
(7) Copy of your NRC card,
(8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).

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

"Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629."
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Emergence of jewels–youths of great value for future

Khin Maung Oo

Civil ethics means habits, behaviors and principles for citizens to follow while living in a society. Only if it is spread through teaching, can people learn to abide by it. In the early years of monastic education and basic education schools, it was emphatically taught. Yet, in teaching it, making children who are still immature learn civics is likely to be effective while teaching adults cannot give results as expected.

Prior to 30 years ago, students in basic education primary schools were taught civil ethics, which deeply impressed on children's minds. When they have grown up, they became civilized and well-behaved citizens.

In later years following that period, civil ethics was no longer taught in schools, hence most of today's youths are found to lack the knowledge of moral principles, polite behaviors and social ethics.

Civil ethics is a code of conduct and moral principles for us to keep in our social environment and it teaches us how to behave and conduct ourselves in our society. In essence, it is the good conscience for people to bear in their minds. Civics knowledge gives us a desire to get involved if one encounters something unfair; it also teaches us to respect and show pity and kindness towards the aged, and those who are weaker than us.

In transforming a country from a dictatorship to a democracy, change of attitude is of great importance. Accordingly, we must try to accomplish the task of changing minds and attitudes of children, youths and adults. We need to make sure that when these children grow up they will become good citizens who are polite and civil.

At one time in the past, teachers were asked to teach students civics written by Sayar U Ohn Maung. This book which was very well written gave very good examples for each of the lessons clearly and effectively. Thanks to the concerted efforts of teachers, a whole generation of civil and polite citizens were produced.

It has been found that civics is being taught as an additional subject in international school curriculums, in the interest of the country and its people.

Till circa 1980, civics was taught in Myanmar so those who became grown-ups in 1988 were found to be well versed civics.

However, we came to notice that today's people have very little knowledge of civics. Due to the deterioration of moral standards and ethical behavior, it is a sorrowful thing to see rude, selfish and disgusting deeds increasing in our social environment.

Therefore, we must welcome the revival and restoration of good habits, which are the result of civics lessons, with open arms. On knowing that tests on civics and programs for nurturing good civil habits will be held in Yangon under the aegis of Yangon City Mayor, all of us —teachers, parents and people are required to join and support it which is nearly on the verge of extinction now. ■

Myanmar Requires Direct Selling Law

Maung Htay Oo (St. John)

Since the time human stepped on their earliest platform of developing social culture, the inventors, producers and distributors have tried to sell their productions by practicing various means such as advertising and luring with showy incentives.

Nowadays, in the world of highly developed political and social system, the sellers try to meet the consumers direct and are enticing the customers to buy their products through explaining, discussing between sellers and customers, sharing knowledge, guaranteeing the customer's right and giving services in various ways. Thus, the direct selling system has developed in many countries.

A Union Minister said that all the countries in the world except 16 countries including Myanmar have enacted the Direct Selling Law to protect the right of buyers.

What is Direct Selling

Direct Selling is a means in which sellers or producers or inventors themselves make home visit; organize village-wise or ward-wise grouping of people; deal direct to consumers through telephone, internet, news media; make contact through newspaper, journals, fliers to explain about their products and its benefits for the users, and to discuss between sellers and buyers till buyers come to agreement to buy, but with some guarantee by sellers for the user's right. Such type of selling is called direct selling.

> Direct Selling is actually a system that can engender the beneficial result for the users, however if the main player of the system ie. sellers are so greedy and selfish the buyers or consumers has to suffer the adverse effects generated by the system.

Is Direct Selling In Compliance With The Democratic Norm

All democratic countries are exercising the market economy that dictates the competitive market in service and goods.

Competitive market generally brings about the welfare of the people.

In market economy everybody or any organization has right to do commerce freely and independently so long as it does not go against the prevailing law and orders.

As the producers and sellers are in keen competition to produce or invent better quality of goods or services at their utmost capacity and furthermore they usually give some options and guarantee for their products, the consumers or users are having chances to choose their best taste in buying things or services.

Hence, in this developed world competitive introduction to their new products and competitive service provision has led to direct dealing with the end users ushering in an emergence of Direct Selling System in the market economy.

Therefore, the Direct Selling system can provide the chances for the users to choose freely and at their discretion in buying goods or services, thus creating the benefits of consumer people.

Direct Selling is one of the new product in the system of free and competitive market economy, so it can be said as one of the essence of democracy.

SEE PAGE 9

3rd batch training for upgrading leadership capacities conducted

THE opening ceremony of 3rd batch training for upgrading leadership capacities opened under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Border Affairs, was held Tuesday morning at the central training school in Yangon.

The ceremony was attended by responsible officials, authorities concerned from the Nippon Foundation, the International University in Japan and the AAT Business Center and trainees.

At the ceremony, Dr. Min Thant, principal of degree college of capacity development for ethnic youths, made an opening address, with Mr Takehiro Umemura, Programme Director of the Nippon Foundation.

The training will be opened for 12 weeks, to be attended by 39 trainees, 18 male and 21 female. Out of them, 10 or 20 trainees will be selected for a one-week-study tour to Japan, it has been learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Youth Delegation consisting of 16 ethnic students from different part of Myanmar led by Lay Kyun Thu Foundation chairman Dr. Mya Thida, vice-chairman Daw Khin Yi and patron Daw Htike Htike Phyo left by air for China yesterday to visit Xian and Beijing from 3 to 10 May. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

Myanmar Requires Direct Selling Law

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Side Effects

Direct Selling is actually a system that can engender the beneficial result for the users, however if the main player of the system ie. sellers are so greedy and selfish the buyers or consumers has to suffer the adverse effects generated by the system. This is the side effect of the Direct Selling System. In this situation the Law of Direct Selling is sine qua non to protect and safeguard the buyers from being swindled.

By enacting the Direct Selling Law, the consumers will get the following benefits.

1. The Direct Selling Companies, producers or inventors shall be officially registered so as to not be able to avoid the accountability and responsibility of sellers.
2. The sellers shall be absolutely honest and sincere in explaining the benefits and harmful effect of their products.
3. Under the law, the sellers shall be taken action if they commit cheating concerning with the genuine properties of their products and if they don't tell or keep secret about the possible side effects of the products.
4. The buyers shall have the right to return the product within a specified time limit on condition that the product remains the same as original one. The sellers shall refund the whole amount of money that buyer has paid.
5. On condition that the product of direct seller doesn't meet the quality that direct seller has expressed in their explanation or in their ads or in discussion meeting, direct seller shall legally require to indemnify the buyer for their grievances and losses.
6. All the products under Direct Selling System shall have the certificate from the Consumer's Right Protection Association, guaranteeing the clearance of harmful contents in the product.
7. All the direct selling products shall be legally imported materials and tax shall be paid to the State for the direct selling products.

In conclusion, It is suggested to enact the Direct Selling Law as soon as possible so as to be able to protect the consumers from any kind of cheating and fraud and the Direct Selling System to emerge as clean, proper and reliable way of commerce in the market economic system of the country.

(Translation by: Khin Maung Win)

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A combination of file photos showing Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow, Russia on 15 January 15, 2016 and US President Donald Trump posing for a photo in New York City, US on 17 May, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Trump, Putin discuss Syria ceasefire in first talks since US air strikes

WASHINGTON/MOSCOW — US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday moved to ease the tension from US air strikes in April against Russian ally Syria, expressing a desire for a Syrian ceasefire and safe zones for the civil war's refugees.

The two leaders spoke by phone for the first time since US relations with Russian were strained by the US attack on a Syrian airfield. They two leaders set the foundation for what could be their first face-to-face meeting in July.

Statements from both the White House and the Kremlin suggested the two leaders had a productive conversation that included North Korea and fighting Islamist militants throughout the Middle East.

A senior Trump administration official said Putin had requested the call and described it as an effort to present his ideas for Syria.

Trump ordered 59 cruise missiles launched in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack that the United States blamed on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The attacked prompted protests from Assad ally Russia, which blamed Syrian rebels for the use of outlawed nerve gas and said Assad was not at fault.

The White House said the two leaders agreed that "all parties must do all they can to end the violence" in Syria.

"The conversation was a very good one, and included the discussion of safe, or de-escalation, zones to achieve lasting peace for humanitarian and many other reasons," a White House statement said.

Trump during his presidential campaign last year frequently said he wanted safe zones established for Syrian refugees, paid for by Gulf states, to alleviate any need for the refugees to move elsewhere, including to the United States.

Candidate Trump had also expressed a desire for a US alliance with Russia to fight Islamist militants, a goal that has been elusive since he took office on 20 January.

With a ceasefire ever elusive in Syria, the White House said Washington would send a representative to ceasefire talks in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Wednesday and Thursday.

The State Department said acting Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Stuart Jones will attend as an observer.

The decision to send Jones to the talks, even as an observer, is an indication that the United States is taking the Astana talks more seriously. Previously, the US ambassador to Kazakhstan George Krol had attended the talks as an observer.

The Kremlin said Putin and Trump agreed to step up dialogue on finding ways to strengthen a ceasefire and give it stability.

"The aim is to create the conditions for the launch for a real resolution process in Syria. This means that the Russian foreign minister and US secretary of state will effectively inform the leaders about progress in this direction."

The White House statement said Trump and Putin also "spoke about how best to resolve the very dangerous situation in North Korea."

With North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs posing a major global challenge, the two leaders also discussed how to go about resolving a crisis that has raised tensions throughout the Asia-Pacific.

Trump told Reuters in an interview last week that a "major, major conflict" was possible with North Korea, amping up pressure on Pyongyang to stand down and for China to rein in the north.

"The dangerous situation on the Korean peninsula was discussed in detail. Vladimir Putin called for restraint and for the level of tension to be reduced," the Kremlin said.

The two leaders also discussed having a their first face-to-face meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Hamburg on 7-8 July , the Kremlin said.— Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Merkel backs minister after officer's arrest over possible attack

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel fully supports her defence minister in her efforts to clear up the circumstances surrounding an officer who was arrested on suspicion of planning a racially motivated attack, her spokesman said on Wednesday.

"The German Defence Minister has the full support of the German chancellor and the whole German government to shed light on all facets of the case of Franco A, as far as the German armed forces is concerned," Steffen Seibert said at a government news conference.—Reuters ■

UK wants generous deal for EU residents post-Brexit

LONDON — Britain's intention in negotiations over the post-Brexit status of European Union nationals already living in the United Kingdom is to give them very similar rights to those they enjoy now, Brexit minister David Davis said on Wednesday. Davis said it was important to quickly resolve the issue of what would happen to EU nationals living in Britain and to Britons living in other EU countries after the United Kingdom exits the bloc in 2019 because uncertainty was causing those people anxiety.— Reuters ■

Greek court blocks new extradition request for Turkish soldiers

ATHENS — A Greek court on Wednesday blocked a second request by Turkey for the extradition of soldiers who fled to Greece in July after the failed coup attempt.

It applied to three of eight soldiers who fled. Extradition of three others was blocked last week. The case of the remaining two is pending. Turkey alleges the men were involved in efforts to overthrow President Tayyip Erdogan and issued a second extradition request in January after Greece's top court ruled against the first, covering all eight. — Reuters ■

More than 50 miners trapped in explosion in Iran, some feared dead

TEHRAN — More than 50 miners were trapped after a huge explosion in a coal mine in northern Iran on Wednesday, and some were feared to have died, state media reported.

The reports said more than a dozen injured people had been transferred to hospital after the blast at 12:45 pm local time in the Zemestanyurt coal mine in Golestan province.

State news agency IRNA quoted a local official as saying some of the trapped miners may have died in the explosion. A rescue operation was under way.

Iran extracted 1.68 million tons of coal in 2016, an increase on previous years, thanks to an easing of international sanctions.

It exports only a fraction of the coal and uses most of it in domestic steel production. —Reuters ■

Syrian armed opposition suspends participation in Astana peace talks

ASTANA — The Syrian armed opposition said on Wednesday it had suspended its participation in peace talks being held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, and demanded an end to government bombing of areas under its control.

A source close to the talks told Reuters that the armed opposition delegation had so far not left the building where the talks were being held however, while a senior official from Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry told reporters he expected the Syrian armed opposition to return to the talks on Thursday.

"The delegation has suspended its participation after presenting a memorandum for a total commitment to stopping (government) bombardments," Ahmad Ramadan, a spokesman for the opposition Syrian National Coalition (SNC), said.

He gave no further comment.

In a phone call on Tuesday, US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin moved to ease the tension from US air strikes in April against Russian ally Syria, expressing a desire for a Syrian ceasefire and safe zones for the civil war's refugees.—Reuters ■

South Sudanese judges on strike over poor salaries

JUBA — Judges in South Sudan have gone on strike over poor pay and living conditions, a spokesman for the judges union said on Wednesday, raising the risk of impunity in a country already convulsed by criminality and war.

South Sudan, the world's youngest country, descended into civil war in 2013 after President Salva Kiir fired his deputy, unleashing a conflict that has spawned a patchwork of armed factions.

The conflict has slashed oil revenues and paralysed agriculture, spurring hyperinflation that has has rendered many civil servants' salaries almost worthless, said Guri Raymondo, a spokesman for the judges' union.

"A junior judge today receives about $15," Raymondo said. "If you go to the market now you cannot buy anything with that money."

A kilo of rice costs 130 South Sudanese pounds. There are 14.5 pounds to the dollar on the black market. Courts already faced a huge backlog, Raymondo said, since the nation of 12 million people only had 274 judges on the payroll in its last budget. Out of those, some had resigned, some were sick and others had gone on leave, he said.

"We are not saying all the demands should be resolved in one day, but for example, a judge needs the provision of courtrooms, a means of transport that will take a judge from his house to court, we need office stationery, we need papers so that we can give our service to our people," Raymondo said.

He said the judges, who went on strike on Tuesday, also wanted the chief justice to resign, saying he was not prepared to oversee reform in the judicial system. The government said it was waiting to hear from a committee set up by Kiir to resolve the issue.

"We have to wait for the final recommendation of the committee," presidential spokesman Ateny Wek Ateny said.

The fighting has forced more than 3 million people to flee their homes and plunged parts of the country into famine, creating Africa's biggest refugee crisis since the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

Stories of atrocities by armed men are commen, and the UN has said that ethnic killings are taking place. Reports of gang-rape and banditry, often by soldiers or rebels, are also widespread.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GLODEN SEA

Phone No: 2301185

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

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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
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AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 27 VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 27 VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

TRADEMARK CAUTION

SA Marine Myanmar Co., Ltd ., a corporation incorporated in Myanmar, and having its registered office No.(708), Condo (A), Tekathoyeikmon Housing, New University Avenue, Bahan, Yangon Country, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

Reg. No. 4/3937/2017 (7 April 2017)

In respect of "Consultancy regarding boat transport" in **International Class 35** and "Boat transport" in **International Class 39**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the said Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, *H.G.P*
For **SA Marine Myanmar Co., Ltd.,**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **4th May 2017** lmm@kcyangon.com

Russia may build unique seismic survey submarine

MOSCOW — The Russian Advanced Research Fund and the Rubin Central Design Bureau for Marine Engineering have developed a project to build a unique nuclear-powered submarine for seismic surveys, Rubin Chief Designer Yevgeny Toporov told Izvestia daily on Wednesday.

The construction of the submarine that has no analogues in the world is planned to start in 2020, the chief designer said.

According to a source in the industry, the construction of the submarine that will have no analogues in the world is planned to start in 2020. **PHOTO: TASS**

"This ship will cost 60% less than a combat submarine," Toporov said. "We don't have any armaments aboard it," he added.

The submarine-scanner is a typical nuclear-powered underwater vessel featuring some changes in its design. As its main feature, it has special seismic sensor wings that are hidden in their inoperative state between the submarine's outer and internal hulls. They open in their working position to form a scanning surface of hundreds of square meters, the newspaper said.

The submarine's sensors allow it to "look into" the seabed and develop its three-dimensional model.

As Head of the Fund's Project Group for Physical and Technical Research Viktor Litvinenko told Izvestia, the submarine will specifically engage in the prospecting of natural resources.

According to the newspaper, the submarine will have a displacement of no less than 14,000 tonnes, a cruising capacity of 90 days and a crew of 40. It will be able to submerge to a depth of 400 metres. —Tass ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Myanmar Rouge Eclat Limited, a company incorporated in **Myanmar** and having its registered office at No. 8, Khattar Street, Thiri Khaymar Ward, San Chaung Township, Yangon is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

Yangoods

Reg. No.4/3910/2017 (6.4.2017)

In respect of "Precious metals and their alloys; Jewellery, precious and semi-precious stones; Horological and chronometric instruments" in **International Class 14**;
"Paper and cardboard; Printed matter; Bookbinding material; Photographs; Stationery and office requisites, except furniture; Adhesives for stationery or household purposes; Artists' and drawing materials; Paintbrushes; Instructional and teaching materials; Plastic sheets, films and bags for wrapping and packaging; Printers' type, printing blocks" in **International Class 16**;
"Leather and imitations of leather; Animal skins and hides; Luggage and carrying bags; Umbrellas and parasols; Walking sticks; Whips, harness and saddlery; Collars, leashes and clothing for animals" in **International Class 18**;
"Furniture, mirrors, picture frames; Unworked or semi-worked bone, horn, whalebone or mother-of-pearl; Shells; Meerschaum; Yellow amber; Containers, not of metal, for storage or transport" **in International Class 20**;
"Textiles and substitutes for textiles; Household linen; Curtains of textile or plastic" in **International Class 24**;
"Clothing, footwear, headgear" in **International Class 25**; and
"Advertising; Business management; Business administration; Office functions" in **International Class 35**.

There is an earlier registration of the trademark above in Myanmar as Registration No. [**4/10634/2015]** of which the following goods and services, namely; "Decorative item, Stationery and gift".

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, *H.G.P*
For **Myanmar Rouge Eclat Limited**,
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 4th May 2017 kmma@kcyangon.com

TRADEMARK CAUTION

PT. Sanghiang Perkasa, a company incorporated in Indonesia and having its registered office at **Graha Kirana building floor 5, suite 501, Jalan Yos Sudarso Kav. 88, Jakarta Utara 14350, Indonesia** is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:

PRENAGEN

Reg. No. 4/14879/2014 (10.10.2014)

MILNA

Reg. No. 4/14880/2014 (10.10.2014)

All in respect of "Pharmaceutical and veterinary preparation; Sanitary Preparation for medical purposes, food for babies, dietetic food substances adapted for medical or veterinary use, Dietary supplements for human" all included in **Class 5**; "Dried and cooked fruits and vegetables, jellies, jams, milk and milk product" all included in **Class 29**; and "Coffee, tea sugar, tapioca, rice, sago, flour and preparation made for cereals, bread, pastry and confectionery, yeast, baking powder, candy, noodle and Ice Cream" all included in **Class 30**.

ENTRASOL

Reg. No. 4/14881/2014 (10.10.2014)

In respect of "Pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations; Sanitary Preparations for medical purposes, dietetic food and substances adapted for medical or veterinary use; dietary supplements for human" all included in **Class 5**; "Dried and cooked fruits and vegetables, jellies, jams, milk and milk products" all included in **Class 29**; "Coffee, tea, sugar, tapioca, rice, sago, flour and preparations made from cereals, bread, pastry and confectionery, yeast, baking powder, candy, noodles and Ice Cream" all included in **Class 30**; and "Mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic beverages, fruit drinks and fruits juices, syrups and other preparations for making beverages" all included in **Class 32**.
Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Marks shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Htoo Htoo, ***H.G.P***
For **PT. Sanghiang Perkasa,**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Dated **4 May 2017** hh@kcyangon.com

TRADEMARK CAUTION

SEKISUI KAGAKU KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA (doing business as SEKISUI CHEMICAL CO., LTD), a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 4-4, Nishitemma 2-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 530-8565, JAPAN (the "**Registrant**") is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

SEKISUI

Reg. No.4/3909/2017 (6.4.2017)

In respect of "pipe couplings, not of metal; Junction, not of metal, for pipes; Pipe gaskets; Pipe jackets, not of metal; Pipe muffs, not of metal; Joint packings for pipes; Watertight rings; Reinforcing materials, not of metal, for pipes; Sealant compounds for joints; Fillers for expansion joints; Semi-processed synthetic resins; Valves of rubber or vulcanized fiber; flexible pipes, not of metal; Flexible plastic tubes; Acrylic foils, sheets, plates, and film to be used in interlayers in the manufacture of laminated glass; plastic film for use in glass laminations for residential and commercial windows and doors; plastic interlayer for use in laminating safety glass; laminated plastic film for use in home or auto windows for sound control; laminated plastic film for use in home or auto windows for sun control; solar plastic film for use in glass laminations; plastic sheet and film for use in making laminated safety glasses; semi-processed plastic film other than for wrapping; semi-processed plastics; resins in extruded form for general industrial use, synthetic resins in extruded form for general industrial use; building insulation for insulating buildings against moisture; soundproofing materials for buildings and machinery; valves of rubber or vulcanized fiber [not including machine elements]; gaskets; Pipes for plants; joint packings; electrical insulating materials; plastic sheeting for agricultural purposes; Plastic foam; Plastic intermediate film for safety glass; plastic semi-worked products; Adhesive tapes for wrapping and packing; Seals; Pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes used in manufacturing process of electronic parts such as semiconductor wafers and ceramic capacitors; Synthetic resin marking film coated with adhesive agents; plastic semi-worked products in sheet form; masking tapes for painting; drain traps [valves], not of metal or plastic; Hydraulic pipes, not of metal; Water pipes, not of metal; Composite materials of resin and plastics; Glass fiber reinforced plastic composite materials; adhesive tapes for industrial purposes; Water soluble plastic film; Foamed resin sheets; Non-flammable urethane products; Reinforced urethane boards; Hollow fiber membranes of plastic; Plastic pipes for lining the inner surface of a sewage pipes and plastic pipe joints used with said plastic pipes; Vibration-damping plastic sheets; Soundproofing materials of rock wool [not for building purposes]; chemical fiber, not for textile use; insulating gloves; floating anti-pollution barriers; rubber [raw or semi-worked]; rubber cords and laces; Asbestos cords and strings; fire hose; Sound absorbing materials for floors, walls and ceilings" included in **International Class 17**.
Notice is hereby given that the Registrant claims the colors in respect of and as represented in the abovementioned trademark.
Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, *H.G.P*
For **SEKISUI KAGAKU KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA (doing business as SEKISUI CHEMICAL CO., LTD),**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 4th May 2017 kmma@kcyangon.com

Assange lawyer asks Swedish court to tear up detention order

STOCKHOLM — Julian Assange's lawyer has requested a Swedish court rescind a detention order against the WikiLeaks founder over an alleged rape and allow him to go to Ecuador to be safe from extradition to the United States.

Assange, 45, has been holed up in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London since 2012, after taking refuge there to avoid extradition to Sweden over allegations of rape, which he denies.

He fears Sweden would in turn hand him over to the United States to face prosecution over WikiLeaks' publication of thousands of classified military and diplomatic documents in one of the largest information leaks in US history. Lawyer Per Samuelson said the United States had now openly said it wants to arrest Assange. "Given that the US is obviously hunting him now, he has to make use of his political asylum and it is Sweden's duty to make sure that Sweden is no longer a reason for that fact he has to stay in the embassy," Samuelson said.

"If they rescind the detention order, there is a possibility he can go to Ecuador and then he can use political asylum in an entire country."

CIA Director Mike Pompeo last month called WikiLeaks a "hostile intelligence service", and Attorney General Jeff Sessions, responding to a question about Assange, said the administration was stepping up its efforts against all leaks of sensitive information.

"Whenever a case can be made, we will seek to put some people in jail," Sessions said. Samuelson said Sweden's Supreme Court had previously rejected a similar request for the detention order to be torn up on the grounds that there was little chance that Assange would be handed over to the United States. "With the Supreme Court's own reasoning, his detention should now be rescinded because we can now prove that the US is hunting Julian Assange," he said. He said it was unreasonable to demand that he should give up the 100 percent security of political asylum in Ecuador in exchange for the lower protection given by Swedish rules on extradition to the United States.

Samuelson said he expected the High Court to consider the request in the next few weeks.

Assange was questioned in November in Ecuador's London embassy over the alleged rape, and Sweden is now considering whether to proceed with its preliminary investigation. The offence is alleged to have occurred in 2010.

Samuelson said Swedish prosecutors would still be able to pursue their investigation against Assange even were he to be allowed to go to Ecuador.

"If they want to charge him and go to trial, that can happen just as well with him at liberty in Ecuador since that's the only place he can be," Samuelson said. "It does not mean there would be any disadvantage to Sweden."—Reuters ■

Japan's leading postwar architects take center stage in London

This photo taken on 4 April, 2017, shows a teahouse specially built by Terunobu Fujimori for a new exhibition on Japanese architecture at London's Barbican Centre. The event showcases some of Japan's most innovative designs since World War II. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

LONDON — Londoners are currently being treated to a major showcase of Japan's most innovative and unusual homes.

An exhibition recently opened at London's Barbican Centre focusing on the country's most celebrated domestic architects since World War II.

Visitors are shown a wide variety of influential and extraordinary Japanese family homes constructed since 1945.

Many of the exhibited works from over 40 architects — which include installations, models, drawings, photographs and films — have never been seen in Britain before.

And the curators have tried to show how social and economic change has influenced designers over the decades. Celebrated architects such as Tadao Ando, Toyo Ito and Kenzo Tange are featured, as well as figures less well-known outside Japan.

The exhibition shows how a shortage of postwar housing led architects to design prefabricated, modular homes, and this practice has continued to evolve up to the present day.

The 1960s brought about radical, futuristic designs and this is perhaps best reflected in the work of Kisho Kurokawa with his Nakagin Capsule Tower in Tokyo. It was seen as the future of urban living with 140, single-room capsule dwellings, now largely in disuse.

The 1970s heralded a move toward more enclosed designs with higher walls and fewer windows at street level. The next decade saw a shift toward homes that were more open to the outside world.

At the heart of the gallery is a full-size recreation of a famous design by Ryue Nishizawa for his client Yasuo Moriyama.

Moriyama's home was redeveloped to make way for 10 distinct and small living spaces which could be rented out. All are linked through small courtyards. The design is meant to replicate the local neighborhood. Also occupying the main floor space is a large teahouse, with a hand-charred timber exterior, and garden designed by Terunobu Fujimori.—Kyodo News ■

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Dated **4 May 2017**

Midler, Groban score Tony nominations, 'Sunset Boulevard' snubbed

NEW YORK — Cate Blanchett, Sally Field and Bette Midler received acting nominations for Broadway's Tony Awards on Tuesday, while "Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812" led the pack with 12 nods including the top prize, best musical.

Close behind was the hit revival of "Hello, Dolly!" which took 10 nominations, including one for lead actor David Hyde Pierce. He will compete against Josh Groban making his Broadway debut in "Natasha, Pierre," a lavish spectacle based on a snippet of Tolstoy's "War and Peace."

"Groundhog Day The Musical," "Come From Away" and teen-aged angst drama "Dear Evan Hansen," which won rave reviews and took nine nominations, were other best musical nominees.

Best play nominees were led by "A Doll's House, Part 2" with eight nominations including ones for stars Laurie Metcalf and Chris Cooper, "Oslo," about the 1993 Oslo peace accords, Pulitzer Prize winning drama "Sweat" and "Indecent."

Actresses Bette Midler, Sally Field and Cate Blanchett are seen in a combination of file photos in New York, US on 2 May, 2016, Hollywood, California, US on 24 February, 2013 and in Hollywood, California, US on 14 November, 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Only three shows were nominated for best musical revival: "Falsettos," "Miss Saigon" and "Hello, Dolly!". In a year crowded with dozens of new plays and musicals, major productions of "Cats," "Sunset Boulevard" starring Glenn Close, "A Bronx Tale" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" were shut out.

Big names appearing this season who were not nominated included Diane Lane, Mark Ruffalo and Allison Janney.

The best play revival nominees were "Present Laughter," "August Wilson's Jitney," "Six Degrees of Separation" and "Lillian Hellman's The Little Foxes," which won nominations for actresses Laura Linney and Cynthia Nixon. Nixon, who has been exchanging roles with Linney during the play's run, said she found out about her featured actress nomination by text message and had not yet heard from Linney. "I'm sure we will be chatting this morning," she added.

Joining Midler, whose turn in "Hello, Dolly!" has been breaking box office records, as best actress in a musical, are Patti LuPone and Christine Ebersole in "War Paint," newcomer Denée Benton for "Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812" and Eva Noblezada in "Miss Saigon."

Blanchett, who made her Broadway debut in "The Present," is joined by Jennifer Ehle ("Oslo") in addition to Field ("The Glass Menagerie"), Linney and Metcalf. Best play actor nominees included Denis Arndt in "Heisenberg," Kevin Kline in "Present Laughter," Jefferson Mays in "Oslo" and Corey Hawkins in "Six Degrees of Separation."

The Tony Awards will be presented on 11 June at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall in a ceremony headlined by film and stage star Kevin Spacey. —Reuters ■

Mexican singer Luis Miguel surrenders to US marshals

LOS ANGELES — Mexican singer Luis Miguel surrendered to US marshals and was released on bond on Tuesday after an arrest warrant was issued for him in April in a case where he is suspected of failing to pay more than $1 million to his former manager.

The Grammy Award-winning singer, whose full name is Luis Miguel Gallego Basteri, appeared at federal court in Los Angeles on Tuesday. The arrest warrant had been issued for failure to appear at court hearings in the case, the US Marshals Service in Los Angeles said.

There was no lawyer listed for Miguel in federal court filings. The singer was ordered by a US judge in New York to pay the money to the former manager, William Brockhaus, and the case was later transferred to federal court in California.

Miguel, known as "El Sol de Mexico" or Mexico's Sun, rose to fame with hits such as "La Incondicional" (The Unconditional) and a Spanish cover of 1978 hit "Blame it on the Boogie," gathering legions of fans. —Reuters ■

Johnny Depp is a gentleman, says Javier Bardem

LONDON — Spanish actor Javier Bardem says his "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales" co-star Johnny Depp is a gentleman who cares about people.

The 48-year-old actor says that during the shoot of the film he grew very fond of Depp, reported Contactmusic.

"With Johnny you can tell there is a very sensitive person there, a man who cares about people. That hasn't changed.

Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. **PHOTO: PTI**

Then there is the world outside the film studio, and I won't comment on these things because I don't know anything about them. But, Johnny I know is a gentleman," Bardem says. "An exemplary actor with a sense of comedic timing quite like no other. He's hilarious," he adds.—PTI ■

Singer Janet Jackson to go back on tour after time off for family

LONDON — Singer Janet Jackson has announced she is going back on tour later this year, returning to the stage in the United States and Canada after taking time off to give birth to her first child.

US singer Janet Jackson performs on stage during her "Number Ones – Up Close and Personal" tour at the Royal Albert Hall in London, on 30 June, 2011. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

In a video message to fans, the pop star also referred to media reports that she had split from her Qatari businessman husband Wissam Al Mana, saying: "Yes I separated from my husband, we are in court and the rest is in God's hands".

Jackson, 50, last year said she was postponing her "Unbreakable" music tour due to a "sudden change" in the couple's plans to start a family. She gave birth to son Eissa in January.

"I'm continuing my tour as I promised, I'm so excited," the singer said in the video posted on her Twitter feed, thanking fans for their patience and support.

"I decided to change the name of the tour, 'State of the World' tour. It's not about politics, it's about people, the world, relationships and just love."

The youngest child in the famed musical Jackson family, the Grammy Award winning singer began her "Unbreakable" tour in summer 2015.

She will kick off the four-month, 56-date North American "State of the World" tour on 7 September in Lafayette, Louisiana. "I am so excited," Jackson said. "I cannot wait to see you on stage September 7th."—Reuters ■

Miles Daisher performs a BASE jump at The Treasury in Petra, Jordan on 11 April, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Miles high on Lost City jump

PETRA, JORDON — American Daisher celebrates BASE jump 4,300 in iconic location Petra.

Red Bull Air Force Team member Miles Daisher chose Petra, one of the Wonders of the World, as the stunning location to celebrate his 4,300rd BASE jump and make history.

The American legend, who has completed a staggering 7,200 skydives in his career as well, travelled to Jordan intent on becoming the first to BASE jump Petra with amazing scenery at the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Thankfully for the Georgia native, the weather obliged to help make his BASE jump from the top of The Treasury in the depth of the Lost City that extra bit special.

The iconic Treasury dates back to first century BC and is perfectly hidden beneath high reaching mountains in the South of the Jordanian desert, positioned at the end of a main narrow route that no cars can access. Carved deep into a rose rock face and concealed in a high-walled ellipse of a valley, both the Bedouins and the mountains of Petra have protected it from wind and rain.

Setting up his early morning gear inside an opening of the mountain over The Treasury, Miles waited for the right blow and speed of wind to let go with the help of his teammate Andy Farrington.

With no tourists in sight and the light yet to reach the top, Andy leaned over the edge on a rope and held Miles' parachute to secure a static line for him to jump.

Once they were happy with the conditions at 7am, Miles then said "See ya" to Andy and BASE jumped - a leap of faith that Indiana Jones would have been proud of. Thankfully, after going 32 kilometres per hour in a circular motion across the 100-feet wide space between the valley and The Treasury, he landed perfectly right in front of the doorway in less than 15 seconds.

The extreme challenge for Miles was in the short length and altitude of the jump along with the incredibly tight space that left him with little room to escape the walls of the limestone mountains.

Afterwards, Miles enthused: "My heart is coming out of my chest. The lowest I've ever BASE jumped over land!—Reuters ■

Ancient mummies rot as Yemen war vexes even the dead

SANAA — Famine and disease haunt the living, but not even the dead are spared the calamities of Yemen's two-year-old civil war.

Ancient mummies are withering away in a major museum for lack of electricity and preservative chemicals from abroad — a sign that the conflict is harming not only the country's present and future but also its rich past.

The dozen spindly corpses, curled into the fetal position or swaddled in baskets, belong to a lost pagan civilization around 2 1/2 millennia ago — long before the advent of Islam.

Lying beneath glass panes within the archaeology department in the capital Sanaa's main university, the mummies might have spent their eternal slumber blissfully unaware of the otherworldly warplanes pounding their homeland. A Saudi-led military coalition has carried out thousands of air strikes in a bid to dislodge Yemen's armed Houthi movement from the capital. The conflict has killed at least 10,000 people and unleashed a humanitarian crisis.

But a timeless enemy, abetted by the disorder of war, threatens the mummies' repose. "The mummies have started to decay and are infected with bacteria. This is because we don't have electricity and the machines that are supposed to maintain them," said Abdelrahman Jarallah, head of the university's anitiquities department.

"We need some chemicals to sanitise the mummies every six months, and they aren't available due to the political situation."

Power cuts plague Sanaa, sapping the dehumidifiers that help preserve the "Hall of Mummies." Funding to government bodies like the university have suffered from a struggle between Yemen's warring parties for control of the central bank.

Antiquities experts are appealing to the university and the culture ministry for funding and equipment to better fend off the microbes eating into the mummies' flesh. But the coalition's closure of Sanaa airport and a near-blockade over a key Red Sea port — aimed at stopping weapons shipments — have cut off imports of specialty goods like the chemicals needed to ward off the microscopic menace. Sheba and other Yemeni kingdoms once provided the frankincense and myrrh hauled by desert caravans to perfume the temples of the Holy Land and ancient Rome. Modern combat, however, is disfiguring important cultural treasures. Air strikes have levelled medieval mudbrick towers in Sanaa's old quarter, a medieval mosque and an Ottoman fort.—Reuters ■

MRTV Programme Schedule (4-5-2017, Thursday)

6:00 Am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:00 Am
- Breakfast News

7:35 Am
- NRC Programme

8:35 Am
- Documentary

9:10 Am
- Documentary

9:20 Am
- Beautiful ASEAN

10:30 Am
- MRTV Worker's Programme

11:10 Pm
- Teleplay

12:30 Pm
- TV Drama Series

1:00 Pm
- Myanmar Movie (Part-1)

2:20 Pm
- TV Drama Series

3:05 Pm
- Documentary

3:40 Pm
- Documentary

4:35 Pm
- Documentary "traffic" (an mtv exit special)

5:50 Pm
- NHK Programme " The World of Flawering Plants" (The Role of Flowers)

6:15 Pm
- Football Magazine

6:30 Pm
- Current Affairs

7:15 Pm
- TV Drama Series

8:00 Pm
- News/ International News/ Weather Report

9:35 Pm
- Documentary
- TV Drama Series

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(4-5-2017 07:00am ~ 5-5-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Epi-1)
07:45	Am	Five-Star Ocean Liners in Myanmar Waters
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Super Traditional Fencing Form (Ep-3)
08:42	Am	A Happy Visit to Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw)
08:53	Am	Myanmar Harpist
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "Myanmar Pottery"
09:48	Am	Creative Collage Artist: Zwe Yan Naing
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Pole Star for the Blind
10:54	Am	Traditional Snacks

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat
(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Ep - II)
07:42	Pm	Maha Muni Pagoda
07:50	Pm	A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Tapestry-A Unique Combination Of Painting and Craftsmanship
08:44	Pm	Beach Food Delivery
08:54	Pm	Kayah

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Murray confident that Sharapova will play at Wimbledon

Maria Sharapova of Russia. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

STUTTGART, GERMANY — Maria Sharapova is still waiting to hear if she can play at the French Open later this month but men's world number one Andy Murray expects her to be at Wimbledon in July.

Sharapova returned last month from a doping ban to reach the semi-finals at the Stuttgart Open, but did not earn enough points to qualify for Roland Garros and is reliant on a wildcard for the qualifying tournament.

The French Tennis Federation will announce their decision on 16 May.

Murray, however, said he expected the five-times grand slam champion would be on the grasscourts of south-west London.

"I think there's a good chance Wimbledon would give her one (a wild card) to get into qualifying," Murray told reporters at an event for June's Aegon Championships tournament at the Queen's Club in London.

"I think we've got to wait and see what happens because there might not even be a decision to be made because she might be in the main draw after Madrid or Rome, so there's a good chance she can get in by right."

The Russian can qualify for the main draw at Wimbledon by reaching the semi-final of either the Madrid or Rome tournaments.

The rankings deadline for Wimbledon qualification is 29 May. Murray, who sustained an injury in March, returned to action at the Barcelona Open last month and said he was feeling good as he looked ahead to Roland Garros. "I feel much better than I did three or four weeks ago," he added.

"I feel like physically I am getting back to where I need to be and I feel like I am able to put in the work I need to, to be able to play my best tennis." —Reuters ■

Myawady FC beats City Yangon FC 4-3 after penalty shoots

THE second day play-off matches of Aung San Shield started yesterday and Myawady FC defeated City Yangon 4-3 after the decisive penalty shoots.

Both teams concluded elite players and played responsively until the last minutes of the match. Although City Yangon got chances to have shining passing and crossing in the penalty area by the expatriate players just after the kick-off, they could not transform any chances to goals. Myawady FC defenders also made good clearances within the dangerous area. Myawady FC got an opener at 39 min. The opener was created by the striker Kaung Si Thu from the corner kick ball.

In the second half, the City Yangon changed their game tactic and possessed more accurate pitching than in the first half. Ann Nat from the City Yangon FC equalized at 52 min by the penalty shoot. Both teams played interchangeably until the last min of second over-time with 1-1 result. One protection ball by goalkeeper from Myawady makes 4-3 end result in penalty shoots and ensures Mywady FC to step up the next step. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Myawady FC players take a group photo after the competition. **PHOTO: MFF**

Talent-packed squad as key to Real success as Ronaldo — Ramos

Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo scores their second goal during the match of UEFA Champions League Semi Final First Leg between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid at Estadio Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid, Spain on 2 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

BARCELONA — Cristiano Ronaldo hogged the headlines after his hat-trick against Atletico Madrid put Real Madrid on the verge of the Champions League final, although captain Sergio Ramos believes an effervescent squad was a crucial factor behind their success.

Real shook off the absence of record signing Gareth Bale and an injury to Dani Carvajal in the first half to crush Diego Simeone's usually resilient side, scoring as many goals on Tuesday as Atleti had conceded in their previous seven games.

Real's least experienced defender Nacho Fernandez was called on to deputise for Carvajal in the unfamiliar right-back role while the display of Isco was viewed by many in the Spanish media as an upgrade on Bale, and 21-year-old Marco Asensio caused Atleti numerous problems down the left when he came on. "The squad is the key to our success, having substitutes that always make their presence felt and play as well as those of us who play more often," Ramos told reporters. "This is the path we need to follow, where everyone is committed and ready to do their part. It's difficult at Madrid to keep everyone happy because everyone is so good but those demands and the level of competition makes everyone eager to play and make the difference."

Barring a remarkable turnaround in next Wednesday's semi-final second leg at the Vicente Calderon, Real will reach a third Champions League final in four years, while they are on course to win a first domestic league title since 2012.

"It was one of those games where everything went well, it was an impeccable performance," said Ramos. "We kept a clean sheet and as well as Cristiano's goals, which will grab the front pages, you have to highlight the mentality of the group, our efforts, our willingness to press Atletico high in their own half." Atletico also had injury problems going into the game and were missing both of their right backs in Juanfran and Sime Vrsaljko as well as Jose Gimenez. Yet Simeone's side looked flustered, while there was a remarkable freshness to Madrid, which Ramos said was down to Zinedine Zidane's rotation policy. The Frenchman, who is on track to become the first coach to successfully defend the European Cup since AC Milan's Arrigo Sacchi in 1990, has carefully managed his squad throughout the season.—Reuters ■