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PAGE-6Hluttaw Representatives depart from the first day of the 5th regular meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw mulls US\$125 million loan for natural disaster relief

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its 5th regular meeting yesterday, declaring that it would focus on the issue of borrowing US\$125 million from the World Bank for the South East Asia Disaster Risk Management project, and signing the agreement on founding the Asia Region Forest Cooperation Organization.

In his opening address, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Mahn Win Khaing Than called on the Union Government, the parliament, the Tatmadaw, ethnic armed organizations, political parties and civil society organisations to keep on playing their respective roles in marching towards a federal democratic nation.

Following a clarification on using more than Ks11.3 billion from the reserve fund for unexpected natural disasters

by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved and documented the spending. The ministry provided more than Ks4.664 billion to farmers who lost crops due to floods last year and spent Ks2.471 billion on repairing and rebuilding bridges and roads damaged by the disaster. The issue of borrowing US\$125 million

from the World Bank for the South East Asia Disaster Risk Management project was also discussed.

According to loan regulations, the service charge of 0.75 per cent per year will be postponed for six years, and the repayment period is 32 years.

Thus, the long-term loan without interest can last for a total of 38 years.

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World's deadly disaster summit

TEPIC, Mexico — It is not just coincidence that no wealthy countries appear on the list of top 10 countries for disaster deaths in the last 20 years, which is led by Haiti, Indonesia and Myanmar. These three were hit hard by mega-disasters: the Haitian earthquake of 2010, the Indian Ocean tsunami, and Cyclone Nargis in 2008 respectively.

Cutting the human and financial cost of natural disasters, including more frequent extreme weather as the planet warms, will be in the spotlight next week as more than 5,000 experts gather in Mexico for a major U.N. conference.

Running from 24-26 May, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is the first international summit since the 15-year Sendai Framework was agreed in Japan in 2015, setting ambitious targets for governments to substantially reduce deaths and damage from disasters by 2030, among others.

Ahead of the Global Platform, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is co-hosting a conference on early warning systems from 22-23 May in Cancun, where a raft of events

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Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session's first day meeting held

THE 1st day meeting of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 5th Regular Session was held yesterday, with the swearing-in of the newly elected Hluttaw representatives, and on-the-record overseas trips of Hluttaw representatives among the issues discussed.

In his opening address, U Win Myint, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw said, "The Pyithu Hluttaw wholeheartedly welcomes and congratulates the presence of newly elected Hluttaw representatives in the previous by-election and newly substituted representatives from the Tatmadaw in the Hluttaw. Ten bills left at the end of the 4th regular session and new ones are to be discussed in the 5th regular session. There have been 3 motions left to be discussed during the 4th regular session and 22 other motions already ready to be discussed, altogether 25 motions. As regards questions, there have already been 164 asterisk-marked questions which are ready to be questioned, included 141 asterisk-marked questions left during the 4th regular session to be questioned in



Hluttaw representatives arrive to attend the 1st day meeting of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

the present 5th regular session. Now, we have seen vivid changes of political policy, attitudes and working process of countries across the world, with the changes of their political aims and objectives. Global countries were found to prioritise their national interests, hence the need for us to create our country into the one which can follow with the current of development in global changes. Laws need to be changed in accord with the changing time and conditions. In

changing political policies, economic systems and social lives as well, laws are required to be amended so as to be able to be adapted to current situations."

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw added, "So as to be in harmony with the changes, we ourselves must be able to accept the changes of our stereotyped mindsets. Now our country is making the nascent democratic transformation, accumulating immature experiences, hence the need for us to proceed to the

stage of democratic standards. We must overcome hardships and difficulties for building up a federal democratic union. As regards the Hluttaw representatives, they need to cooperate in making people develop democratic practices. Hluttaw representatives are required to be ideals who are well convinced of democratic responsibilities and obligations. For strengthening democracy culture, changes need to be accepted as the working process to be performed

further. So, we must continue to upgrade the socio-economic lives and to carry out the acquisition of democratic rights for our people as for the genuine representatives of the people."

Afterward, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw informed the performances of Hluttaw representatives during the 10 overseas trips between 4th regular session and 5th regular session, putting them on record.

At today's session, U Hla Kyaw, deputy minister for agriculture, livestock breeding and irrigation replied to the questions raised by U Khin Cho of Hlinebwe constituency as to whether there have been any plan to make researches and survey on decreasing production of fresh-water fish and prawn, situations on catch, gradual changes and increased breeding in the long term.

The deputy minister said, "Existing situation of fish resources in Myanmar Seas is generally measured by index on fishery, catch per unit effort—CPUE & MSY (Maximum Sustainable Yield).

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw holds first day meeting

THE fifth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its first day meeting yesterday morning at Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall in which representative reaffirmed their commitment to the public in a lawful, responsive manner.

Amyotha Hluttaw's speaker, Mahn Win Khaing Than said he believes that all the representatives have already surveyed public voices and desire in their respective constituencies.

He said that all the representatives have to act respectively according to the law, rule and regulation, the related committees' tasks besides making legislations, proposals and question on executing public's desires and difficulties and attending in this session will be perfect healthy and happy and may serve public's benefit.

Then, the representative of No 11 constituency in Rakhine State, Daw Htu May questioned about the plan to appoint a per-



The first day of 5th regular session the second Amyotha Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

manent doctor rapidly for the vacancy in Saku sub-hospital under the department of township medical services in Yanbye township in Rakhine State.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe explained on the question that they can only assign doctors in rotation without appointing permanent doctors in 15 of 40 sub hospitals in Rakhine State. As for Saku sub-hospital, it is to

service for only more than 4000 and has only five percent that uses hospital beds in average and being serviced by 12 medical staffs of 19 in the organisation chart and the ministry will respond for appointing doctor as suitable as possible.

Then, the minister answered the question on whether a plan is there to upgrade the rural health division from rural health care clinic in Kanphan

village and to open rural health care clinics in the villages of Kula, Htanndon, Ngarphakha, Bawukhu in Chephway township in Kachin State by U Yaw Nar, representative of No 5 constituency in Kachin State, that it could cover health care service to 823 peoples of 123 household in three villages, if a health care sub division in Sardulaw village instead of opening in Parkukhaw village and Ngarphakha village

which has few population and are included in the three villages. Sardulaw village is located among the two and a suitable place recommended by the health care officer for the State. Therefore, the ministry will present to open a new health care sub division in the village to the planning and scrutiny board for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

He said the ministry has approved an organisation chart which is formed with four nurses, a mid wife, one health care supervisor and two staffs for Htanndon's rural health care sub-division. Kula village is part of it and has 499 people in 61 households and only two miles away from the health care sub division where a mid wife is servicing. The road can be used for all season. Due to these conditions proposed by health care officer in the State, there will be no plan to open a health care sub division in Kula village.

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Meeting for accurate statistics held

THE Committee for Accurate and Quality Statistics meeting (2/2017) was held yesterday morning at the conference hall of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, with Patron of the Committee Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivering the opening speech.

The Vice President spoke on the importance for statistics to be accurate and authentic when laying down policies for the development of the nation, setting, planning and evaluating realistic project goals, selecting objectives to be given priority for national development. That is also why it is important for statistics to be authentic, punctual and swift in their report.

A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) is being drafted together with static firms while networking with Developmental Organisations to acquire the necessary trust funds and technology.

It is necessary to acquire statistics from the private



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addressing at the meeting for the Committee for Accurate and Quality Statistics at the Ministry for Planning and Finance yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

sector and for statistics to encompass all necessary sectors. Also necessary is to push for legal rights of statistics after ratifying of laws concerned to it. Equally important is for state and region ministries to work together in establishing a platform for stakeholders to participate.

Concerned government departments should also collaborate in gathering statistics for

reduction of natural disasters in accord with the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction and for the development of indexes within the national context.

The Vice President also stressed the importance of accomplishing SDGs goals and the Sendai framework, short and long term projects and developing indexes.

At the meeting, Union Min-

ster U Kyaw Win from the Ministry of Planning and Finance talked on the challenges and difficulties along with requirements they faced in getting accurate and authentic statistics.

This was followed by an address from Dr. Wah Wah Maung, Director-General of the Central Statistical Organisation, explaining the progress and completed projects of the various working groups.

Afterwards, the Union Minister discussed and replied to reports and questions from the participants.

The Vice President then spoke on the importance of strengthening realistic policies in fulfilling the requirements of the public and the necessity for accurate statistics.

The Central Statistical Organisation is also working on new laws concerning statistics which will be on par with international standards and will be ratified in the near future. For the completion and realization of the NSDS, ten subcommittees have been formed under the Committee for Accurate and Quality Statistics.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, ministers working in business sectors from Region and State Governments, Permanent Secretaries, Department Heads, and leaders and officials from the NSDS organization. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw Notification 18th May 2017

1. Union Election Commission received the letters of objection from 13 political parties and 14 individuals to take necessary actions against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, U Tin Oo, the Patron of the National League for Democracy, and U Win Htein, member of secretaries, accusing that their performances as regards the by-election held on 1st April 2017 are tantamount to violation of the prescriptions included in the Constitution, law on registration of political parties and Law on Union Election Commission.
2. Union Election Commission took time to study, scrutinize and assess the matter in detail in accord with laws, codes and prescriptions over performances of the accused, which were tantamount to violation of the prescriptions described in the letters of objection.
3. The UEC assessed and found that these letters of objection were attributed to the designation of 1st April 2017 as 2017 by-election day, according to the discussions.
4. Union Election Commission is the organization which has been exercising duties and authorities assigned upon by the Constitution and related laws openly, as regards the process on election. Designation of 1st April 2017 (Saturday) as 2017 by-election day was made according to some nationals' suggestions, saying that it coincides with the 2012 by-election day and they suggested that elections should not be held on Sunday. Union Election Commission hereby clarified that the designation of the election date is not due to the suggestions or instructions of the State Government, a political party or any individual persons.
5. It is customary for heads of the government, responsible persons of the winning party to make clarifications on the report of the one-year performances and further working process to the public.
6. It has been found that such letters of objection emerged due to the coincidence of designated date of 2017 by-election by the UEC with the time reaching one year period when the government took office. And, it has been found out that clarification of the State Counsellor and responsible officials of the winning party has not been tantamount to activities launching election campaign.
7. Accordingly, Union Election Commission hereby notified that there has no actions to be taken against the accused, over the letters of objection.—**Union Election Commission (Unofficial Translation)** ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe poses with other participants of the European Union Day celebration in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

European Union Day celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe attended a reception Wednesday at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw to mark European Union Day.

The National Anthem of Myanmar and the European Union Song were played at the reception to start the celebration.

The ceremony was opened

with greetings by EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia and Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe.

It was also attended by the chairman of the Union Election Commission, Union ministers, the National Security, chairmen of the parliamentary committees, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, MPs and guests.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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More than Ks20 million to be spent on upgrading public park in Maungtaw

MAUNGTAW Township Development Committee said it will repair the old Maha Bandoola Park in downtown Maungtaw, a town in Rakhine State, in the current fiscal year, its member said.

U Maung Tun Oo, an executive officer of the committee, said the project is estimated to cost over Ks24 million, adding that the project is a part of development plans of the Rakhine State government, which gave instructions on the development of new public parks and upgrading the old ones this FY, aiming to create more public locations for recreation.

Under the new plan, a wide range of children park materials and playground



Maha Bandoola Park in downtown Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THANT (KYEMON)**

equipment will be installed in the park, the municipal authority continued.

"The park has many shady trees, a hall and the sculpture of Maha Bandoola, the general of the royal Myanmar armed forces in the first Anglo-Myanmar war. The park was crowded with res-

idents over a past decade," said U Tha Hla San, one of residents.

The Maha Bandoola Park in Maungtaw Township was established in 1997. For the time being, there has no visitor in the park and the door is locked every day.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn) ■

Blue plaques erected at Yangon Stock Exchange

THE 18th commemorative Blue Plaque of Yangon was installed at Yangon Stock Exchange office building at the corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Road yesterday.

At the opening ceremony, U Phyo Min Thein, the chief minister of Yangon region, Dr. Than Myint Oo, the chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) and other officials cut a ribbon to open the commemorative ceremony.

Royal Philips Corporation (RPC) has partnered with YHT to install Blue Plaques that denotes a prominent historical sites throughout Yangon by providing a US\$75,000 fund.

Over 100 buildings have been intended to be designated as city heritage site around the Yangon region. The YHT is now taking care to maintain colonial buildings in the downtown area of Yangon.

The commemorative Blue Plaques have already been installed at Yangon City Hall, Ayeyawady Bank (AYA bank), The Armenian Church, Central Fire Station, General Post Office Yangon, Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank, Central Press, Sofaer Building, GTI Insein, Merchant Road building, Yangon General Hospital and the Yangon Stock Exchange office.— 200 ■

Motorbike fire breaks out in Buthidaung Town

A FIRE was broke out at a motor bike shop named Zaw Sann at the corner of Bogyoke road and Pyitawthar road in Myothitthuang

Ward of Buthidaung Town on Tuesday.

The fire was caused by a motorbike flame due to the overheating of its oil tank in

the shop and destroyed 6 shops altogether.

Total damage of fire is approximated to K 25 Lakh.—Myanmar News Agency ■

One dead, 14 injured in light truck crash

ONE person died and 14 others were injured when the driver of a light truck apparently lost control because of the right front tyre was flat and the truck overturned on Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

The light truck en route from Mandalay to Nay Pyi Taw driven by Hein Min Latt overturned between mile posts 229-1 and 229-2 near Tatkon Township

at 6:30 pm on 17 May.

Out of 20 passengers on board, one died and 14 others were injured but not seriously. The dead body and injured victims were taken by Phayataung highway police to 1000-bed Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital.

Police filed charges against the reckless driver under section 304 (A)/338/337 of the Penal Code.—Than Oo (Lemyathna) ■



Overturned light truck seen at Yangon-Mandalay Highway. **PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE**

Hepatitis C patients to receive free medical treatment

OVER 2,000 Hepatitis C patients will receive free medical treatment in the last week of May under the National Hepatitis C Prevention and Control Programme, said an official from the Ministry of Health and Sports which was briefed on the plan in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 May.

"Hepatitis C prevention is more important than the treatment. To prevent the hepatitis C infection, the health staffs need to promote providing of awareness health training courses and immunization of hepatitis C", the official said.

The plan is jointly conducted by the Public Health Department and an international donors' organization.

At the brief ceremony, the Union minister for Health and Sport said the future process and requirement related to hepatitis C treatment. At the brief ceremony, Dr. Than Tun Aung, Deputy Director-General from Public Health department explained the project concerning Hepatitis C Prevention and Control, Dr. Khin Sandar Aung, project manager explained the process of the providing hepatitis C free medical treatment, Dr. Win Naing, Prof. & Head Department of Hepatology, Yangon General Hospital explained the process of the hospital-based treatment programme, Prof Dr. Htay Htay Tin from National Health Laboratory explained the laboratory sector from the hepatitis C free medical treatment.—YCDC ■

CBM increases US dollar exchange rate to Ks1,367

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the US dollar exchange rate at a new high of Ks1,367 on 18th May, resulting in a rise in rate at the currency exchange market.

The CBM set the exchange rate at Ks1,362 on 16th and Ks1,364 per dollar on 17th May. As a result, the exchange rate has risen in the currency market. The rate climbs up from Ks1,358 to Ks1,367 per dollar on 18th May, according to a local private bank.

However, the US dollar index dropped to a six-month lowest of 97.77 point on 17th May. The US dollar index was on the rise in early March, but then dramatically fell.

With a jump of 10 dollars in the global gold price on 17th March, the domestic gold price reached around Ks905,000 per tical.

During April, the gold price hit the lowest rate of around Ks894,000 per tical and a record high of Ks911,800. The global gold prices per tical were Ks895,000 on 15th, Ks900,500 on 16th and Ks905,000 on 17th May. — Htet Myat ■



Despite the decline in car sales, numerous vehicles congest the roads of Yangon daily. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Auto market remains cool with high prices

The auto market not only in Yangon but also in other regions and states has been cool with the highest price rate in May.

With a new tax rate on car imports and a levy on cars with a slip starting from 1st April, the number of cars imported with a slip declined during the post-Thingyan period.

Only the cars imported during the pre-Thingyan period were found to have a deal with a high

price as the prices of the cars with slips after imposition of the new tax rate have not come out yet in the auto industry.

The sales of cars with slips are declining in the middle of May. Only cars such as the Honda Fit, vans and Beltas that have a Yangon license are in demand. But sales rate this year cannot keep up with that of last year.

Old buses later than 1995 models running under the Yan-

gon Bus System need to be deregistered by 20th June so as to receive a slip for family-used car in return for deregistration, according to the private car owners.

Returning slips for cars after deregistration of old buses later than 1995 models was started in November 2016. The owners of those buses will have their licences withdrawn if they fail to deregister by 20th June, plus no

granting of slips for the cars, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry, Transport and Communication.

Out of about 7,000 listed buses in Yangon Region, only 4,000 buses including old mini-buses, Dyna cars and BM buses are daily running. Those old buses will be slowly replaced with new buses purchased by the State and the private companies, it is learnt. —200 ■

Border trade with ITC hit over Ks3.7billion over a month of this FY

BORDER trade value with the use of the Individual Trading Card (ITC) amounted to over Ks3.7billion as of 5th May in the current fiscal year 2017-2018, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry. Export value with the use of ITCs from 1st April to 5th May this FY reached over Ks206million, whereas import value with ITC hit over Ks3.4billion.

Out of border trade camps, Myawady and Kan Pike Tee border trade camps are found to have the largest trade value us-

ing the ITC. Border trade values with ITCs as of 5th May in this FY were over Ks120million in Tamu, over Ks4million in Muse, over Ks2.57 billion in Myawady, Ks173million in Tachilek, over Ks54million in Lweje, over Ks462million in Kan Pike Tee, over Ks42million in Kawthoung, over Ks67million in Reed, over Ks198million in Maw Taung and over Ks1million in Keng Tung, according to the official statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

The Trade Department issued 292 cards from 21st

Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, 261 cards in 2013-2014 FY, 317 cards in 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in 2015-2016 FY, 248 cards in 2016-2017 FY and 16 cards as of 5th March in 2017-2018 FY, according to an announcement released by the aforementioned ministry.

A businessman can trade Ks3million a day with an ITC and then, the trade department granted trade up to Ks15million a day, which amounted to a five-day-trade-value. —Ko Khant ■

Online licences follow construction of Myawady Dry-Port

A plan is underway to construct a dry-port near Myawady trade zone and import/export online licensing system will be provided after the construction is completed, said an official from the Commerce Ministry.

The construction of the dry-port includes storage, with an aim to ensure the smooth flow of trade. This project will be jointly implemented by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and a detailed process is still under discussion. But some businessmen might be faced with the difficulties with an unfamiliar

online practice and the requirements of a secure network connection in the outskirts. "After the construction of the dry-port, an import/export licensing system including custom clearance will be conducted. We will make efforts to complete this construction in the short-term", said U San Phyo Wai, the assistant director of Myawady trade zone.

Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were solicited from those who wish to carry out this project. The dry-ports will be constructed to facilitate the shipment of cargo inland. —200 ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing signing the joint statement of the 14th ACDFIM. PHOTO: MNA

ASEAN military leaders for united change

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is in the Philippines, attended the 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Defense Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) held in Manila's Sofitel Hotel yesterday morning.

Chief of Staff of the Philippines Army General Eduardo M. Año delivered the opening speech. This was followed by the Philippines Army Deputy Chief of Staff (Intelligence) disclosing the results of the 14th ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting and the Philippines Army Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations) disclosing the results of the 6th ASEAN Military Oper-

ations Informal Meeting.

Next, General Eduardo Año and other military leaders discussed on various topics. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing spoke on possible cooperative strategies concerning maritime security in Southeast Asia.

Afterwards, discussions were made on the ASEAN militaries' 2017-2018 two-year project followed by the various military leaders signing the joint statement of the 14th ACDFIM.

General Eduardo Año then delivered the closing speech and transferred the role of host country for the 15th ACDFIM to Lt-

Gen Perry Lim of the Singapore Armed Forces.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing then met separately with Malaysia's Commander-in-Chief General Tan Sri Raja Mohamed Affandi Bin, a delegation led by Vietnam's Deputy Minister for Defense Lt-Gen Phan Van Giang, and a delegation led by Deputy C-in-C of Cambodian Armed Forces General Eth Sarath.

The Senior General discussed more goodwill tours between the countries, transferring of military trainees, joint security efforts and anti-terrorism efforts. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Vocational training to be opened in Rakhine State

RURAL Development Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will carry out 50 carpentry and masonry training courses in the 2017-18 fiscal year in Maungtaw, Buthidaung, Kyaukpyu and Thandwe, said U Tun Wai, Head of State Rural Development Department.

The Rural Development Department of Rakhine State was established in 2013.

The department has contributed to the need of infrastructure by building roads, bridges and rural housing. During the period from 2013-14 to 2016-17, 37 vocational training courses have been completed under the Myaseinyaung Project and has produced 1,300 trainees who now have access to jobs.

Another 50 training programmes will be opened, said U Tun Wai.

Up to now the rural development department of Rakhine State have produced over 1,000 successful trainees and will turn out another 2,500 trainees in carpentry

and masonry in Maungtaw, Buthidaung, Kyaukpyu and Thandwe townships.

The coming vocational training courses on carpentry and masonry will be conducted for 16 days between 18th May and 2nd June. Rural Development Department will hire four training teachers from Dual Tech and will spend Ks5.5 million to conduct the courses. The Rural Development Department will cover accommodation expenses and meals of the 50 trainees.

Forty trainees from Maungtaw and 10 from Buthidaung, 50 in total will attend the course.

The trainees are local residents from 17 villages in Maungtaw and Buthidaung.

The opening ceremony was attended by Rakhine State Chief Minister for Ministry of Security and Border affairs, Colonel Htein Lin, Head of State RDD, U Tun Wai, Maungtaw District Administrator, U Ye Htut and officials from departments concerned. —Maung Sein Lwin ■

World to tackle deadly disasters at U.N. forum

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will explore how to better protect people, infrastructure and services from disasters.

"Extreme weather causes serious destruction and major loss of life," Petteri Taalas, WMO secretary-general, said in a statement. In the run-up to the gathering, the WMO has released a list of the highest historical death tolls from extreme events such as lightning strikes, tropical cyclones and tornadoes. Here are some of them, alongside other facts on disasters:

* The deadliest tropical cyclone killed around 300,000 when it hit Bangladesh, then East Pakistan, in November 1970, the WMO says.

* The highest number of deaths caused by a tornado was about 1,300, in April 1989 when one ripped through the Manikganj district of Bangladesh, leaving 80,000 homeless.

* In November 1994, 469 people were killed in Dronka, Egypt, when lightning set oil tanks on fire. A single lightning strike on a hut killed 21 people in Manica Tribal Trust Lands in Zimbabwe, then Rhodesia, in December 1975.

* Natural disasters force some 26 million people into poverty each year, and cost the equivalent of \$520 billion in lost consumption, according to the World Bank.

* Around 11,000 people died in 2016 as a result of natural and manmade disasters, which cost \$175 billion in economic losses, according to reinsurer Swiss Re. Hurricane Matthew was the year's deadliest natural catastrophe, claiming around 1,000 lives, primarily in Haiti.

* Asia has the largest number of people exposed to natural disasters, but African countries are the most vulnerable to them,

mainly because of political instability, corruption, poverty and inequality, according to 2016 research by Verisk Maplecroft, a UK-based risk management company.

* India has a billion people at risk, with China, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan and Pakistan also ranked among the 10 countries with the most people exposed to natural hazards, Verisk Maplecroft data shows.

* The World Disasters Report 2016, issued by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, says only 40 cents in every \$100 of development aid is spent on preparing for disasters and trying to prevent them.

* The Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004, triggered by a 9.15 magnitude earthquake, killed around 226,000 people, one of the biggest natural disasters

in history.

* The number of weather and climate-related disasters more than doubled over the past 40 years, accounting for 6,392 events in the 20 years from 1996 to 2015, up from 3,017 in the period from 1976 to 1995.

* Of the 1.35 million people killed by natural hazards from 1996 to 2015, 90 per cent died in low and middle-income countries, according to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, which collects the data.

* Over those two decades, 56 per cent of deaths were caused by earthquakes and tsunamis, with the rest due to floods, storms, extreme temperatures, drought, landslides and wildfires.

* In 15 of the 20 years, the greatest loss of life was due to extreme weather events. —By Sophie Hares/Thompson Reuters Foundation ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw mulls US\$125 million...

FROM PAGE-1

Regarding the proposal sent by the president to the parliament yesterday, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win clarified that the Yangon City Development Committee, which would spend US\$104 million on its water supply project, supplying 40 million gallons of water per day beginning in fiscal year 2021-2022. "The YCDC has a target of earning Ks14.6 billion per year from selling 10 million gallons of water per day to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and would give back loans to the World Bank," said the deputy minister.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Planning and Finance would handle US\$20 million, he added. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Protesters rally in front of Kansai Electric Power Co.'s Takahama nuclear power plant in Fukui Prefecture, central Japan, on 17 May 2017, against the company's imminent restart of a reactor at the plant. **PHOOT: KYODO NEWS**

Nuclear reactor at Takahama plant restarted despite concern

FUKUI, (Japan) — Kansai Electric Power Co. restarted on Wednesday one of the two reactors at its Takahama plant in central Japan that had been suspended by a court ruling, despite protests from local residents over safety concerns that have risen since the 2011 Fukushima crisis.

The utility in the afternoon reactivated the No. 4 reactor in Fukui Prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast, which is expected to reach criticality Thursday morning and start delivering electricity next Monday. It aims to start a "commercial operation" in mid-June.

The reactor made an emergency shutdown due to a technical problem in February last year, just three days after resuming operation, and had remained halted along with the No. 3 reactor as the Otsu District Court decided against their operation the following month citing safety concerns.

The March 2016 decision by a district court in neighbouring Shiga Prefecture was the first injunction ever issued in the country to stop operating nuclear reactors. But the decision was repealed in March this year by the Osaka High

Court, which determined that necessary measures have been taken to prevent significant damage to the reactor core, enabling the latest restart. The power industry has welcomed the restart, expressing hope people will understand utilities have been making efforts to ensure the safety of their nuclear power plants.

Akio Ikemori, director general of the Kinki Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, the industry ministry's regional office in Osaka, said at a press conference that nuclear power is "important" to promote economic growth while

tackling global warming.

An official of Kansai Electric said it is likely to cut the company's electricity rates this summer after the other reactor suspended along with the No. 4 unit also resumes operating.

Around 70 protesters marched near the Takahama plant on Wednesday, criticizing the restart while the public remains deeply concerned about nuclear power in the aftermath of the Fukushima accident, which was triggered by a magnitude-9.0 earthquake and ensuing tsunami on 11 March 2011.—Kyodo News ■

Australia one of 'world leaders' for life expectancy: WHO

CANBERRA — Australia is one of the "world leaders" for citizen life expectancy, ranked only behind Japan, Singapore and Switzerland, according to the results of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) latest world health check.

Clean, pollution-free cities and a low smoking rate are contributing factors in Australia's exceptional life expectancy. But spokesperson for the WHO Dr Colin Mathers told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) that the world's overall life expectancy was also in-

creasing.

The data was taken from 194 WHO members. Although there are some very big health issues in Australia and lots of preventable causes of ill health, Australia is one of the world leaders (in life expectancy), Mathers said on Thursday. "It's an optimistic report. The world's overall health is improving. Obviously there are issues and problems and areas and topics where things are going backwards, but in the big picture global life expectancy increased by five years from 2000 to 2015."—Xinhua ■

High toxicity levels detected again at new fish market site

TOKYO — Toxic benzene at up to 100 times the government safety limit was detected again in groundwater samples collected in April at the planned relocation site for Tokyo's Tsukiji fish market, the Tokyo metropolitan government said Thursday.

Toxic arsenic exceeding the standard as well as cyanide, which regulations state should not be found at all, were also found in the survey conducted by the metropolitan government, it said at a meeting of a panel of experts.

The findings were re-

ported at the meeting held at Tsukiji market as the panel discussed measures to contain contaminated groundwater at the new site in Tokyo's Toyosu waterfront district, which was previously occupied by a gas production plant.

The plan to relocate the Tsukiji wholesale market, known for its daily fish auctions, by November 2016 has been stalled as Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, elected last summer, decided to postpone the move amid concerns about soil and air pollution in the Toyosu area.

—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO (1708)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO (1708) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.5.2017 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Living in Hope in the Twilight Years

Khin Maung Oo

Those who mainly accomplish the tasks of national building are the government & physical and mental workers serving at government services, state-owned businesses, enterprises and factories. Service personnel are meant for those who dutifully serve duties assigned upon them, abiding by governmental rules—laws, rules, regulations and prescriptions. As soon as they do not comply with these rules and regulations of the service personnel any longer, they become invalid from service personnel-hood.

All citizens are required to live in accord with laws and rules of the country. Being citizens among the people, service personnel also must keep national laws and rules, as well as rules, regulations and service eth-

ics simultaneously.

As a result, servicemen can enjoy the rights granted to citizens and service personnel concurrently as they honestly devote themselves to national duties starting from the time they join into these jobs. Though they have had the rights they deserve, it is not easy for them to have a secure guarantee each for their whole lives. Under the existing Myanmar Service Personnel Law, anyone has to retire on the superannuation pension from the service when they become 60.

Most of them have no abodes of their own. Unless they have grace and favor accommodations granted by the government or their work, they have to live in houses of parents or parents-in-law or in hired places. They find it difficult to support their families with their meager income,

not to mention to daydream purchasing a dwelling place of their own even if they have learnt to save money, spending their service life struggling for survival.

After 1988, service-men with long service-age were granted small plots of lands to build a plot each on, in Dagon Myothit (North) under service-personnel-owned-housing-estate project. Hence, their twilight years can be said to have shined, whereas present staff lost hopes for getting such chances as staff-owned housing estate projects like former ones vanished before them, since after that project.

To our great delight, we have heard the news that such kinds of housing estates are being built for governmental service personnel to live in their advancing age. Now,

service-men, who are going to retire on superannuation pension, are being scrutinized. Arrangements for service men to have a chance each to buy a low-price apartment can be said to be a guarantee for their twilight years.

During three months period, as of the first week of June this year, the project will be implemented nationwide and benefits can be enjoyed starting from the end of the present financial years. Though there may be several difficulties to do so, it is the heartening news for all remaining service personnel to hear that such estate projects will be regularly arranged for regular amounts of staff going to retire annually.

We must wholeheartedly welcome such a program which will guarantee for aged veterans in their fading part of their lives. ■

Who & How Shall Mandalay, the Last Fort of Myanmar's Culture be Safeguarded?

Hsuo Hngnet

These days the word, "The Town Elders" is being heard very frequently, as is the word, "Ward/Village Elders." We have already known that elders mean the old and respected people of the town or village, assumed to be as if our own parents. The moment we assert the term "like parents", it is not necessary to say these kinds of people must be endowed with the characteristics and ethic parents must have.

As known by all, parental duties include protecting one's offspring from any dangers not to reach them, leading their children to perform wholesome deeds, making them to learn, giving inheritance to invest as the capital for earning their living and marrying their progeny to suitable spouses. It need not be emphasized as to what parental fulfillment toward their own children are. Then, what are the responsibilities that town or village elders must fulfill toward their people? According to one of the parental duties—meaning "Protecting one's own children from incoming dangers," we suddenly come to realize that they will be able to safeguard their land, region they live in from any disastrous events.

For towns elders to control

Organizations in authority are required to perform duties assigned ex officio, but they cannot know the depth of conditions of the town or village, as much as town elders, hence the re-

quirement for town or villager elders to lead ceremonious events and adjust in town or village authorities' projects. For example, had authorities concerned arranged to celebrate a fun fair with the water irrigated after blocking water needed for farming land nearby, which are a major economic ground for the area, the above-said town or village elders are required to forbid it as per parental duties.

If Mandalay's Image, the last fort of culture is committed to be saved from being ruined, it is urgently needed to form a Committee for Conservation of Mandalay and its Culture.

In such a time when the whole populace live and sleep in insecure states, Peace Thingyan or Union Thingyan crammed with people had to be celebrated in Mandalay under the leadership of the town elders. This can be said to be a fulfillment of town elders in accord with the duty of leading their followers—townspeople to do wholesome deeds. It is a custom of town elders

to have adjusted Mandalay Thingyan which is usually observed annually like others to become more remarkable than usual.

For city dwellers living across the city to be able to take part in the water festival, arrangements were made to distribute water from the Mandalay moat to outskirts through pipes when the then town elders made an excellent suggestion to have concrete water tanks built for delivering water up to the places the water from the moat would reach for all-time use, not only for the use just in water festival periods. These were meritorious deeds that the then town elders did carry out.

Looking forward to people's interests

In the similar way, at the end of the World War 2, authorities arranged to celebrate victorious events over aligned forces' victory by running gambling houses. In answer to this news, town elders in Mandalay openly objected the plan, after releasing an announcement that they objected the arrangement with a view to looking forward to the interest of townspeople in Mandalay, as gambling may be followed by crimes, thefts and riots.

Due to the scourge of Second World War, the whole town was under the flaming war, with townspeople—some deceased and some departed. Such sufferings caused some youths to abandon themselves to despair and debauchery. In the midst of such situations, town

elders in Mandalay managed to rehabilitate youths by celebrating health and sports festival on 29th December 1945. This was also like the performance of town elders as if parental duties. They could manage to avert attention of youths with moral bankruptcy to sports, health and knowledge.

Over the remarkable contribution of Myanmar Artists from Mandalay toward Pyi Taw Thar Project in 1952 after gaining Independence, the then Prime Minister asked the artists as to which kind of help they wanted as the gratitude of their help, their immediate response was that they wanted to have survival of Myanmar Artistic School done, instead of demanding any kinds of leases or permits.

Outcome of Unity and Equality

Accordingly, the prime minister of vision granted to open a school for music, painting, sculpture and artistic plays that can teach many subjects on arts in Mandalay. Appointment of teaching staff in the school was not controlled by top-down management system. Instead, town elders took the responsibilities as they were well convinced of the actual situations as to who were the most suitable ones for the posts. The then town elders such as Sithu Maung Maung Kyaw, Lawyer U Khin Maung Dwe, Myanmar scholar Shwe Pyi U Ba Tin, and Principal of Mandalay University College U Ko Lay (Zayar Maung) selected to appoint teachers at the school.

SEE PAGE - 9

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



Floating garden to be established in Inle Lake

SAVE Inle Lake, the Inle farmer agricultural and development community, said it is working to establish a floating garden in Inlay Lake, a popular freshwater lake in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State.

With the aim of promoting the region's tourism sector and agriculture industry, the two-acre garden will be developed in a designated area near Inlay Ngapechaung Village with the use of eco-friendly floating agriculture technology, a member of the body said.

The project will start at the end of May with plans to cultivate strawberries and other crops.

Travellers and local growers will be allowed to observe the garden after completion of the project. Inle Lake is famous for its beautiful landscapes and culture and lifestyle of Intha people, who grow fruits and vegetables in floating farms.

A wide variety of fish and snail species have been found in the lake, which also hosts rare migratory birds.—200 ■



A woman rows her boat as she harvests tomatoes on Inle lake, in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State . **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Who & How Shall Mandalay, the Last Fort of Myanmar's Culture be Safeguarded?

FROM PAGE -8

This was the result from the right attitudes, unity and spirit of equality. This can be said to have been awarded as the best inheritance. Now, the school which commenced its teaching on 1st July, 1953 had produced many scholars and artists who brought about virtuous national characteristics for the nation.

With effect from 1990 or so till 2010, we witnessed much material destruction of ancient cultural heritages due to the so-called renovation and wrong decisions based on only one responsible person.

Thus, Mandalay lost a lot of ancient cultural and artistic heritages of great value. Not only material things but also cultures, traditions and types of ceremonial events of sentimental value had been destroyed.

No alternative but to bend our heads downward and shed tears

In circa 1990, many historical edifices such as “ဆီးပန်းနီ ဝိမာန်၊ ကနောင်မင်းအုတ်ဂူ” historically memorable images and characters of distinguished persons such as Bogyoke Aung San, Thakin Ba Hein, Myoma Nyein, 12 Blocks of Mandalay Zegyo, Zegyo Taiktangyi, Taiktanlay, Mandalay Centenary Ground, Names of Arzarni Road, Bogyoke Aung San Road were destroyed to disappearance from our memories with the historic “စည်ရှည်တံတားကြီး” destroyed on 29 December 2009 sorrowfully enough.



Without a genuine and strong organization of town elders, city dwellers in Mandalay or rather Mandalay-ians have no alternatives but to bend their heads downward and shed tears. And we had to sorrowfully sit down the destruction of traditionally prestigious festivals including Myanmar Water Festival.

Now, we have had two elected governments. As regards Mandalay regarded to be the Last Fort of Myanmar Culture, its future is not vivid as in the story of 6 Brahmins who lost eyesight, until now. It has not vanished from our vision, all of a sudden, but it is still

gradually disappearing before we recognize it. Every five years when a new government changes, if the Policy on Mandalay will be changed, it sure will be farther away from the right and systematic conservation of Mandalay City. For example, it reached for a century that U Pein Bridge had been maintained under the supervision of Reverend Sayardaws and Myanmar professionals. Regarding this, no voice was heard. Now as well, meeting, seminars and surveys have been being made repeatedly on conservation of U Pein Bridge with those from America, Japan & German who lack

knowledge on Myanmar Teak, Myanmar traditional crafts. Yet, the bridge is on the verge of collapse, before any results or papers are not reached.

Therefore, if Mandalay's Image, the last fort of culture is committed to be saved from being ruined, it is urgently needed to form a Committee for Conservation of Mandalay and its Culture, comprising of Governmental Representatives, those from Mandalay City Development Committee, based on venerable and respected doyens, scholars experts and youths of Mandalayites, after promulgating a law as promptly as possible.

Safeguard Mandalay

The committee will safeguard, conserve and upgrade Mandalay under the reins of the present government and the next ones. If so, our dignified figures need not condescend to take part in miniature events, as if a village elder with their turbans hoisted in the air ordered followers how and where to cater a feast. Concurrently, they need not worry about matters of slight importance such as standardization of pandels, programs for opening ceremonies. The Committee for Conservation of Mandalay and its Culture will lead these programs by keeping the royal style, maintaining typical Mandalay traditions without neglecting modernization too. The Committee itself is required to take the responsibility of the culture of Mandalay under any governments' rules. —(Translated by Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U))

Negotiations for protest in Nay Pyi Taw falters

NEGOTIATIONS between the Nay Pyi Taw Council and a Buddhist association over staging a peaceful protest in Nay Pyi Taw remained deadlocked yesterday after the two sides could not agree on the number of protesters who would be allowed to demonstrate.

At the negotiation table, authorities offered the association to stage the assembly with about 300 people, while the group led by U Kyaw Myo Thet demanded the Nay Pyi Taw Council allow

a peaceful assembly with about 15,000 people on 20th May 2017, according to a statement released by the authorities yesterday.

Following the failed negotiations, authorities called for further talks with a mutual understanding that an agreement would be attempted in good faith so that the protest becomes a lawful event.

During the negotiation, the two sides agreed that the duration of the peaceful assembly would last no longer than two

hours and on the wording of slogans and placards to be used during the protest.

"To successfully hold the second session of the Union Peace Conference- 21st Century Panglong in Nay Pyi Taw, the Union territory, and to provide the people with community peace, necessary measures will be taken in accordance with the law," said the statement. According to the statement, the protestors will march from Yangon to Mandalay.—GNLM ■

Military medical team provides care to victims of Pauktaw fire

A fire broke out in Pauktaw, Rakhine State, on 17th May, destroying 23 houses and one sentry post, and injuring 16 people.

The fire also caused losses worth about K15 million.

Following the fire, a mobile medical team of the Western Command and local military men gave treatment to the injured and carried out evacuation and resettlement of the people.

A total of 132 people including three injured people and 27 patients suffering from dengue



Local military men help the people of Pauktaw after the fire. **PHOTO: MNA**

fever received the medical care. The mobile medical team also made plans to send several patients to hospital.—MNA ■

Amyotha Hluttaw ...

FROM PAGE 2

Kanphan health care clinic is 30 miles far from NuZunbaw township hospital and take four hours. However, it is too difficult to travel in rainy season. If the clinic is upgraded to health care sub division, it could service for 2199 people in 349 households in three groups of villages. Due to difficulties in transportation, if it is upgraded, it could cover more health care service and the

State's health care department also agreed for upgrading. So, the ministry will arrange it in 2018-2019 fiscal year. Daw Thiriyadana, the representative for No 12 constituency in Mon State asked the question whether is there a plan to appoint more dental nurses who are needed in Dental unit in General Hospitals in the country including Beling township in Mon State. The Health minister answered that presently, 42 trainees are attending the two years diploma course of dental nurse

which is open once in every two year in Yangon and Mandalay and they will be appointed after completed in February, 2018.

The minister also answered the question for standard buildings for rural health care sub divisions in the villages of Thetyatabin, Dotekhanchaung, Shwepyi, Nargayar, Saparseik, Saphoethar and Kyauktan to be constructed in 2017-2018 fiscal year that the ministry has proposed Kyat 63 million each for civil servant housing, the health care build-

ings in Khwasone village, ngatapung village, Yaungsone village in Kyauktan township for 2017-2018 fiscal year and had also maintained rural health care subdivisions in Dokhan change and Kyauktan under maintain fund of Kyat 100 lakh each.

The minister also clarified the construction of standard health care buildings in Thetyatabin, Shwepyi, Nargayar, Saparseik and Saphoethar which would be prioritized for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. He also answered for

the health care buildings in Magwe region for 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Then, Dr Tin Tin Win, representative of No 5 constituency in Bago region has submitted a proposal for quality education, the fourth of the 17 millennium development goal, which includes democracy, reproductive health and civil ethic to enact in school curriculum at different level. The proposal is agreed to be discussed by the hluttaw and enrollment for discussion is announced.—Myanmar News Agency ■

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th Regular Session's ...

FROM PAGE 2

In 2013 and 2015, cooperation program for long-term sustainability of ecosystem in the Bay of Bengal had been carried out. For long-term production of freshwater fish and prawns, control of working forces of fishing, restriction of fishing equipments, techniques and fishing vessels, designation of season banned for fishing and areas banned for fish-

ing are being performed. And, actions are being taken against those who committed illegal fishing."

Then, U Hla Kyaw, deputy minister, replied to questions raised by U Khin Maung Thein of Sagaing Constituency as to whether there have been any plans for teaching staff from the University of Cooperatives to be allowed to sit for the promotion

exams in accord with the law, likewise teachers from other universities. As regard this, promotions are being given to those with prescribed qualifications, depending upon vacant posts. As types of the set-up between the present Cooperative College and other colleges differ from each other, provided that set-up of the college has been approved, promotions will be able to be carried out likewise other colleges.

In answer to the ques-

tion raised by U Kyaw Min of Letpadan Constituency, as to whether there have been any plans for heavy construction of road-cum-embankment to 23-mile-long embankment, on the eastern bank of the Aye-yarwady River flowing through Letpadan township and embankment on the eastern part of Myitmakha, heavy construction of road-cum-embankment had been being made, by dividing into five parts depending upon

the budget acquirement.

Afterward, U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation replied to the questions raised by U Kan Myint of Thayet Constituency and U Win Thein Zaw of Sal-yingyi Constituency, followed by putting forward the Law on Embankment (Bill) to Hluttaw.

Finally, Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee clarified the report on findings of the bill.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No. 12/2017
8th Waning of Kason, 1379 ME

Myanmar Public's Democratic Party approved

The Union Election Commission gave permission to Myanmar Public's Democratic Party to set up as a political party with the registration No.102 under Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law headquartered at Building No.3, U Ba Thin Road, Bago Street Ward, Htaukkyant in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region from the date of this announcement on 18 May 2017.

By Order,
Tin Tun
Secretary

The Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement No. (11 / 2017)
8th Waning of Kason, 1379 ME
(18 May 2017)

Permission to change the name of "Public Contribute Students Democracy Party" to "Public Contribute Student Party"

1. Public Contribute Students Democracy Party which has already been registered at The Union Election Commission under the section (9) of Political Parties Registration law with registration no. 82, submitted the application to change the existing name "Public Contribute Students Democracy Party" to "Public Contribute Students Party".

2. As Union Election Commission scrutinized the submission in accordance with the law and agreed the change of name, it is announced that the "Public Contribute Students Democracy Party" has been changed to "Public Contribute Students Party" starting from 18 May 2017.

By Order
Tin Tun
Secretary

The Union Election Commission

Brazil president taped discussing pay-off for witness in graft probe — O Globo

BRASILIA — Brazilian President Michel Temer gave his blessing to an attempt to pay a potential witness to remain silent in the country's biggest-ever graft probe, according to plea bargain testimony by a powerful businessman, newspaper O Globo reported on Wednesday.

Temer's office on Wednesday acknowledged he had met in March with the businessman, Chairman Joesley Batista of meat giant JBS SA (JBSS3.SA), but denied any part in alleged efforts to keep jailed former House Speaker Eduardo Cunha from testifying.

O Globo's report, which three sources familiar with the matter said was accurate, threatened to pull Temer into a corruption scandal that has already entangled several of his closest allies and advisors.

Leading lawmakers and a third of Temer's cabinet have already been caught up in an investigation of systematic bribery in return for political favours and contracts with state-run enterprises. But news that the president himself may have been party to a cover-up shook the scandal-weary nation.

Investors dumped Brazilian



A police officer uses pepper spray against a demonstrator during a protest against Brazil's President Michel Temer in front of the Planalto Palace in Brasilia, Brazil, on 17 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

assets in foreign markets after the news broke late in Brazil, as the prospect of Temer becoming enmeshed in a fresh political crisis clouded the prospects for his unpopular reform agenda, considered key to ending a deep recession.

Scattered protests sprang up in front of the presidential palace and along Sao Paulo's

main avenue as opposition lawmakers and even a high-profile ally called for Temer to step down.

"Given the gravity of the situation and the responsibility to keep Brazil from plunging into the imponderable, the only option is for President Michel Temer to resign," said Senator Ronaldo Caiado, leader of the

government-allied Democratas party in the Senate.

JBS, the world's biggest meatpacker, declined to comment. A senior JBS executive said there had been no formal communication about the matter within the company.

While the O Globo report described an unprecedented sting operation mounted by Brazil's

federal police in conjunction with senior JBS executives to snare several politicians, Temer was the one target that towered over the rest.

Batista used a hidden device to record an alleged discussion with Temer about hush money the executive was paying to Cunha, according to the newspaper. The report did not say what Cunha was asked to keep quiet about.

When Batista told Temer he was paying Cunha to remain silent, the president was recorded saying, "You need to keep that up, okay?" according to the newspaper, which did not say how it had obtained the information.

Cunha, once a powerful member of Temer's ruling party, has previously said he had compromising information about several senior politicians linked to a vast political bribery scandal at state oil firm Petroleo Brasileiro SA, or Petrobras (PETR4.SA). O Globo reported that Batista and his brother, JBS Chief Executive Wesley Batista, presented the recording to prosecutors as part of plea bargain negotiations underway since March. —Reuters ■

Sudan says hosts 140,000 South Sudanese refugees in White Nile State

KHARTOUM — The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in Sudan's White Nile State said on Thursday that the number of South Sudanese refugees in the state has amounted to 140,000, according to the latest statistics by Sudan's Commission of Refugees.

"The White Nile State has established eight camps to accommodate the continuing influxes of refugees from South Sudan," Mohamed Idriss Al-Sheikh, HAC commissioner in White Nile State, told journalists visiting the state.

He reiterated that local authorities are providing all services, including food, education, health and water, to the refugees.

The official also said there were no security problems inside the refugee camps in White Nile, denying previous reports about spread of diseases such

as watery diarrhoea because of the intensive presence of refugees.

The White Nile State has been witnessing continued influxes of refugees fleeing the war and famine in South Sudan.

Al-Alagaiya refugee camp of al-Jabalain locality, some 110 km south of Rabak, the capital city of White Nile State, is accommodating some 15,000 South Sudanese refugees.

"About 5,000 South Sudanese families live in the camp making a total of around 15,000 refugees," Abbasher Al-Nour, deputy chairman of Al-Alagaiya refugee camp, told Xinhua.

"The HAC provides all necessary services for the population in the camp, where until now, matters are progressing well without any security problems. There is a high level of coordination between all the security bodies, the HAC au-

thorities, the commission of refugees, the UN and national organizations," he noted.

Meanwhile, Martha Simon, a South Sudanese refugee living in Al-Alagaiya camp, told Xinhua that her family are feeling at home at the camp.

"We have been living in this camp for about three years. Everything is good and we do not feel like strangers because we were part of Sudan and we still feel like we are home," she said.

Adam Joub, another South Sudanese refugee, also expressed contentment.

"We headed to Sudan which received us without any complications. We receive all the necessary services and security is available. Our children receive proper education. We thank the Government of Sudan for this generosity," he said.—Xinhua ■

Germany is free to withdraw troops from Turkey's Incirlik, Turkish minister says

ANKARA — Germany is free to withdraw its troops stationed at Turkey's Incirlik air base if it wants to, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Thursday, adding Berlin should change its attitude towards Ankara.

In an interview with broadcaster NTV, Cavusoglu said Ankara was not attempting to blackmail Berlin by preventing German lawmakers access to Incirlik, where some 250 German troops are stationed as part of the coalition against Islamic State. Turkish officials have told Reuters that such a visit by German lawmakers would not be appropriate at the moment.

Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday said the German government had been evaluating possible alternatives to Incirlik for some time and was considering mov-

ing the troops to Jordan.

"If they want to leave, that is up to them," Cavusoglu said. "We are not going to beg. They were the ones who wanted to come and we helped them. If they want to go, we would say 'Goodbye'," he said.

Relations between NATO allies Germany and Turkey have deteriorated sharply after a series of diplomatic rows.

Most recently, Turkey has expressed anger that Germany is granting asylum to Turks accused of participating in a failed coup in July. The failed putsch prompted a purge of the Turkish military, judiciary and civil service. German officials have said more than 400 Turkish citizens with diplomatic passports and other government work permits have sought asylum in Germany since last year's failed coup. —Reuters ■

Support for Macron's party grows before French parliamentary election

PARIS — Support for French President Emmanuel Macron's new centrist party is growing before legislative elections next month, a poll found on Thursday, raising the chances that he will be able to win parliamentary backing for his reform plans.

A Harris Interactive poll found Macron's Republic on the Move party, together with allies, set to win the largest share of the vote in the first round of the National Assembly elections on 11 June.

Thirty-two per cent of 4,600 registered voters questioned planned to vote for Macron's party, it said.

That was up three points from a similar poll on 11 May and up six points from a poll on 7 May, the day that Macron defeated far-right leader Marine Le Pen to become French president. Macron, 39, who smashed the traditional left-right grip on French politics to win the presidency, gave ministerial jobs to conservatives, socialists and political newcomers on Wednesday, appointing an unprecedented all-stripes cabinet to bridge divides



French President Emmanuel Macron (R) greets people in the crowd after attending a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France, on 14 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

and broaden his support.

In a morning radio interview, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe dismissed a suggestion that the mixed government was an electoral gimmick, saying 'progress' was its unifying theme. "Clearly it is a government built to last," he told France Inter. "As the legislatures approach, this (government) is of course essential, and will determine everything that

happens afterwards. But the government is here to govern. It is here to prepare the recovery, it is here to create something, it is here to put projects in place." The new cabinet will meet for the first time on Thursday. Under the French voting system, if no candidate wins an absolute majority in the first round of voting for the National Assembly, the leading candidates go forward to a second round

on 18 June. The Harris poll gave no forecast of what would happen then or how many seats each party might win. But the poll's findings strengthen the chances that Macron will be able to count on parliamentary backing for his plans, which include corporate tax cuts, labour market reforms, and a 50 billion euro investment plan coupled with public spending savings.—Reuters ■

New Zealand cities strive to be cycle-friendly with e-bikes, cycleways

WELLINGTON — Cycle-share schemes, or e-bikes, for New Zealand's major cities, Auckland and Christchurch, have been considered, helping to ensure cycling is an everyday travel choice, Transport Minister Simon Bridges said on Thursday.

Current investigations into cycle-share schemes in both Auckland and Christchurch shows the increasingly significant contribution cycling is now making to the country's transport system, Bridges said.

The NZ Transport Agency and Christchurch City Council are investigating whether to introduce a cycle share scheme in Christchurch, and Auckland Transport is beginning a study into the introduction of a similar scheme for Auckland city center.

"We now live in a world where technology is creating new ways to connect customers and service providers. These technologies have also opened the door to new ways of solving some of our long-standing trans-

port challenges, with e-bikes already becoming part of the solution for cities around New Zealand," he said.

"Cycle share schemes are an important part of the transport system in more than 700 cities internationally, and they hold real promise here," Bridges said.

By researching the feasibility of a cycle share scheme for Auckland and in Christchurch, more integrated transport systems have been developed to give both residents and visitors more options about how they get around towns and cities.

Cycle share schemes also have the potential to add value and optimize investment in cycleways and shared paths, as these increase across the country. Cycling infrastructure and initiatives have been seen across New Zealand, with Bridges on Thursday marked the halfway point for the government's 333 million NZ dollars (230.72 million US dollars) Urban Cycleways Programme (UCP).—Xinhua ■

EU fines Facebook 110 million euros over misleading WhatsApp data

BRUSSELS — European Union antitrust regulators on Thursday said they would fine Facebook 110 million euros (94.4 million pounds) for providing misleading information over its purchase of messaging service WhatsApp in 2014.

Calling it a "proportionate and deterrent fine", the European Commission, which acts as the EU's competition watchdog, said Facebook had said it could not automatically match user accounts on its namesake platform and WhatsApp but two years later launched a service that did exactly that.

"The Commission has found that, contrary to Facebook's statements



WhatsApp and Facebook messenger icons are seen on an iPhone in Manchester, Britain, on 27 March 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

in the 2014 merger review process, the technical possibility of automatically matching Facebook and WhatsApp users' identities already existed in 2014, and that Facebook staff were aware of such a possibility," the Commission said.

The fine would not

reverse the Commission's decision to clear the purchase of WhatsApp and was unrelated to separate investigations into data protection issues, it added.

Reuters reported on Wednesday that Facebook was set to be fined.—Reuters ■

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Dated: 19th May 2017.

EU to back developing nations on climate with \$890 million package

BRUSSELS — The European Union will provide 800 million euros (\$891 million) to help 79 African, Pacific and Caribbean (ACP) nations implement a global deal to combat climate change.

The EU support comes as US President Donald Trump is considering whether to carry out a campaign threat to quit the landmark Paris Agreement, which agreed in 2015 to shift the economy away

from fossil fuels.

“We, developed and developing countries together, will defend the Paris Agreement,” European Climate Commissioner Miguel Arias Canete said on Thursday.

As a sign of closer cooperation with the ACP group “the EU has announced support of 800 million euros up to 2020, with around half earmarked for climate action,” the European Commission said in a



European climate commissioner Miguel Arias Canete leaves a news conference in Beijing, China, on 30 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

statement.

It said the EU will also provide 3 million euros to support Fiji, which will oversee United Nations negotiations in 2018. It did not detail how the rest of the money would be spent.

Trump has said he will decide on the Paris

Agreement after a Group of Seven summit in Italy on 26-27 May.

Canete called the Paris Agreement “irreversible and non-negotiable” as almost 200 nations attend UN talks in Bonn on a detailed “rule book” for the deal.—Reuters ■



Photo provided by Australian National University (ANU) shows a blue Morpho butterfly on a solar cell at ANU in Canberra, Australia, on 16 May 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

Butterfly wings to inspire new solar power technology: Australian researchers

CANBERRA — Butterfly wings could be used to inspire new technology in solar cells, according to researchers at the Australian National University (ANU) who said that “filtering” light could be a major feature of future solar projects.

Taking inspiration from the rare Peruvian butterfly, Morpho Didius, which has wings featuring tiny nanostructures which “scatter light to create a striking blue iridescence,” Dr Niraj Lal from the ANU’s Research School of Engineering said similar,

man-made nanostructures could be used to finely control the direction of light in further experiments in the fields of architecture and even stealth. “There’s a whole bunch of potential new applications using our light-control technique, including next-generation solar cell, architectural and stealth technologies,” Lal said in a statement detailing the research on Wednesday. “Techniques to finely control the scattering, reflection and absorption of different colors of light are being used in the next generation of

very high-efficiency solar panels.

“Being able to make light go exactly where you want it to go has proven to be tricky up until now.”

Lal said the aim of the ANU’s experiments was to absorb all of the blue, green and ultraviolet colours of sunlight in the “perovskite” layer of a solar cell, and all of the red, orange and yellow light in the “silicon” layer, known as a tandem solar cell with double-decker layers. He said perfecting this technique could open the door to applications in

architecture, whereby windows could filter certain colours of light, and stealth, such as by making opaque objects transparent to certain colours and vice-versa.

“We were surprised by how well our tiny cone-shaped structures worked to direct different colours of light where we wanted them to go,” Lal said. “Using our approach, a window could be designed to be transparent to some colours non-see through and matte textured for others, so there are very cool potential applications in architecture.”—Xinhua ■

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Will Smith brings fresh air of West Philly to Cannes jury

CANNES, (FRANCE) — Whooping with excitement and high-fiving reporters, Will Smith looked like he was ready to have fun as a member of the Cannes Film Festival jury that assembled in this French Riviera resort on Wednesday.

“West Philadelphia is a long way from Cannes,” said Smith, referring to the scrappy neighborhood in the northeastern US city where he grew up. “The Cannes Film Festival is the ultimate prestige in cinema.

“So I am excited to be here, more than anything to learn,” he told a news conference alongside other members of the jury that will decide which film wins the Palme d’Or award on 28 May.

Jury president Pedro Almodovar, the Spanish director who has been in competition at Cannes four times, said he hoped to discover what he described as a cinematic miracle.

“What I hope is that we’ll all feel the real emotion experienced by the first people to watch *Viridina*, *La Dolce Vita* or *Apocalypse Now*,” he said, naming the Palme d’Or winners from 1961, 1960 and



70th Cannes Film Festival - Opening ceremony and screening of the film ‘Les fantomes d’Ismael’ (Ismael’s Ghosts) out of competition - Cannes, France, 17 May 2017. Director Pedro Almodovar, Jury President of the 70th Cannes Film Festival, and jury members Maren Ade, Jessica Chastain, Fan Bingbing, Agnes Jaoui, Park Chan-wook, Will Smith, Paolo Sorrentino and Gabriel Yared pose on stage. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

1979. “I hope we’ll be like those spectators who will bear testimony to this kind of miracle.”

The twice Oscar-nominated Smith said he had hesitated

about accepting the invitation to be a Cannes judge when he realized it would take up two weeks of his time and would be spent mostly watching films.

“I was probably 14 years old the last time I watched three movies in one day!” he said.

Both Almodovar and Smith weighed in on the issue that has

dominated conversations so far at Cannes - the inclusion in the competition of Netflix films that will be streamed to subscribers and not shown in movie theaters in France.

New platforms for film distribution must play by existing rules, he said, which in France means Netflix would be banned from streaming its films for three years after a theatrical release.

Unless Netflix and the French cinema industry reach a compromise before next year’s festival, the video-on-demand company, which has become a serious movie producer, will not be allowed to compete in future.

But Smith said Netflix was not a threat to movie theaters, as people watched streaming video and also went to the cinema.

“In my home, Netflix has had absolutely no effect on what they (his children) go to the movie theater to watch,” he said.

“They go to the movie theater to be humbled in front of certain images and there’s other films that they prefer to watch at home and there’s really little to no cross.”—Reuters ■

‘Wizard of Lies’ tells Madoff story as ‘dark tragedy’ of betrayal



Robert De Niro as Bernard Madoff. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

NEW YORK — The latest film about infamous swindler Bernard Madoff, whose decades-long Ponzi scheme cost clients more than \$17 billion, ends with a question.

“Do you think I’m a sociopath?” Madoff, played by Robert De Niro, asks journalist Diana B. Henriques in a prison interview.

“The Wizard of Lies,” premiering on Time Warner Inc’s HBO on Saturday ahead of an international rollout, leaves the question unanswered. Almost a decade after Madoff was convicted of masterminding the biggest financial fraud in U.S. history, the filmmakers put their focus on the devastating consequences for his family. “This is a dark tragedy of a man’s betrayal of

his family,” said director Barry Levinson. “This was a man who ultimately destroyed his family, and the financial lives of thousands and thousands of people.”

“It’s not for us to decide he is or isn’t he (a sociopath), because if he were, so what? It doesn’t help anything,” said Levinson.

“Wizard of Lies” follows several documentaries, a stage play and a 2016 TV miniseries about Madoff, reflecting an enduring fascination with the quiet, fatherly figure and his apparent lack of remorse or explanation for his actions. Madoff, 79, is serving a 150-year prison term after pleading guilty in 2009 to multiple charges of fraud. His son Mark

committed suicide two years after his father’s arrest and his younger son, Andrew, died of lymphoma in 2014. Ruth, his wife of more than 50 years, has cut off contact with him. “I don’t know if I ever really came to understand him,” said De Niro, who is seen as an Emmy front-runner for his enigmatic portrayal of Madoff.

Henriques, the New York Times journalist whose prison interviews and 2011 book formed the basis for the HBO film, said that while Madoff became “a very easy target for anger and outrage” over the wider 2008 Wall Street meltdown, his story has a wider resonance. —Reuters ■

Pop star Katy Perry to join ABC’s ‘American Idol’ reboot

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Katy Perry will join reality singing competition “American Idol” on ABC, the network said on Tuesday, adding a big name with legions of young fans for its revival of the show.

Perry, 32, is the first major name to come aboard the reboot of the show, which was canceled by Fox Broadcasting last year after 15 seasons amid declining viewership ratings. The new “American Idol” will air in 2018. “I’m always listening to new music, and love discovering diamonds in the rough — from mentoring young artists on my label, or highlighting new artists on my tours, I want to bring it back to the music,” Perry said in a statement from ABC, which is owned by Walt Disney Co.

No other judges have been named yet. Grammy-nominated Perry has been a pop powerhouse since her breakthrough

single “I Kissed a Girl” in 2008, and is known for upbeat songs such as “California Gurls” and “Firework,” gimmicky outfits and vibrant, colorful performances geared toward a young audience. She has sold more than 100 million records worldwide. “American Idol,” a competition open to the public, launched the careers of singers such as Kelly Clarkson, Jennifer Hudson and Adam Lambert, aided by celebrity judges who alternately feuded and fawned over discovering new talent.

At its peak from 2005 to 2007, the show was watched by more than 30 million viewers, but by 2014 only 10.6 million viewers tuned into the “Idol” season finale. Overall television consumption has declined in recent years, hurting live shows as more home viewers watch on-demand content. —Reuters ■

Hotel de Crillon banks on recovery in Paris pulling power

PARIS — When Paris's landmark Hotel de Crillon reopens in July after a four-year 200 million euro (171.3 million pounds) re-vamp, it will be hoping to catch a rebound in the luxury hotel trade after a wave of bloody street attacks drove away big-paying tourists.

Industry figures suggest that tourism in the French capital is recovering after heavy falls in late 2015 and much of 2016, though some experts caution that luxury hotels may have to wait up to five years before trade returns to normal levels. With the luxury end of the market relying heavily on foreign visitors, the likes of Hotel de Crillon have been hit hardest by the drop in tourists after the Islamist attacks.

Occupancy rates of Paris luxury hotels fell 15 per cent to 52 per cent last year while revenue per available room sank by 22 per cent to 500 euros, its lowest level since 2009, according to data from research firm STR for luxury property specialist Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL).

However, those numbers have been on the rise in the first four months of this year, driven by a return of Russian, Chinese, Japanese and US visitors, said Christophe Laure, head of the French UMIH Federation for prestige hotels. Hotel de Crillon, which was built in 1758 and has applied for the right to join a select group of 23 French luxury hotels that can call themselves

palaces, is targeting an average occupancy rate of 55-60 per cent, managing director Marc Raffray told Reuters.

"A true tourism recovery is under way in Paris, which remains a special city and still makes foreigners dream. I am confident about our capacity to return in coming years to a cruising pace above that of the current market," Raffray told Reuters, citing "very encouraging" booking levels.

The 124-room Crillon, owned by a Saudi Prince and run by Hong-Kong based New World Group's Rosewood Hotels, is looking to attract guests from the United States, the Middle East and Asia's fast-growing wealthy elite.

Those wanting to follow in the footsteps of previous guests including pop star Madonna and former US president Bill Clinton since the building's conversion to a hotel in 1909 will have to pay rates that start at 1,200 euros a night and rise to 25,000 euros for the top floor suite named after composer Leonard Bernstein, who stayed there regularly.

However, the recovery of this top end of the market could yet prove a lengthy process, given the rise in luxury capacity in the French capital in recent years.

"I think it could take (Paris) palaces at least five years to return to average occupancy rates of 65-67 per cent," said Gwenola Donet, head of France for JLL Hotels & Hospitality.—Reuters ■



An exterior view shows the Hotel de Crillon, in Paris, France, on 17 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Shinya Furunaka (front) and Shunsuke Kido (R, back) check Suma Beach in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, western Japan, to see whether the place is accessible for wheelchair users in December 2016. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Universal design project aims to open beach to wheelchair users

KOBE — A group of volunteers are applying universal design principles to a beach in Hyogo Prefecture, western Japan, to allow people with disabilities to better enjoy the popular location. The group is led by two wheelchair users — Shunsuke Kido, a 31-year-old event producer in the prefectural capital of Kobe, and Shinya Furunaka, 37, a company employee in Suita, Osaka.

Kido has paralysis in his lower body from a spinal injury he suffered in a traffic accident in 2015

when he was working in Tokyo. Furunaka suffered a cervical spine injury in a river accident in 2003 but continues serving as a life saver as a member of the Kobe Life Saving Club.

Kido and Furunaka examined Suma Beach in Kobe in December together with owners of summer beach houses, life savers and other people concerned and found Furunaka was not able to climb a slope at the beach in his wheelchair.

"It appeared to be fine but it means assistance

would be needed," Kido said. The purpose of the tour was to check whether wheelchair users could reach the edge of the surf. Kido found his wheelchair stuck in sand on the beach and could not move. They took photos, also checking bathrooms and parking areas. At the beach they found problems from the perspective of universal design, a set of ideas to make buildings, products and environments accessible to all people including the aged and people with disabilities.

Kido had spent half

a year for his physical rehabilitation in Australia. At a beach in the country, he was able to proceed to near the water riding his wheelchair on plastic mats laid on the beach. "I was overwhelmed by senses of achievement and freedom beyond expression," he said. He hoped to lay the mats on a Japanese beach. After returning to Japan, Kido talked to his friends about his plan to make a Japanese beach accessible, selecting Suma Beach, with which he was already familiar.—Kyodo News ■

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(19-5-2017 07:00am ~ 20-5-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Day Life Of Kayan Padaung Tribe
07:55	Am	Dances of Myanmar "Lisu Traditional Dance"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Stories Of The Great Souls (Daw Saw Mone Nyin - A Living Literary Legend Of Myanmar)
08:53	Am	Kayah
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-1)
09:51	Am	Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	The Green Corner (Epi 3) Flower Wreath

10:33	Am	Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"
10:46	Am A	Licuala Palm Leaf
10:54	Am	Young Artist: Maw Thu Da Nu

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Thursday 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	New
07:27	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-3)
07:42	Pm	A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritages
08:03	Pm	New
08:26	Pm	The Stories Of The Great Souls (U Pyae Son)

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



Andy Murray of Britain reacts during his match against Gilles Muller of Luxembourg. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Nadal expects Murray challenge at French Open despite form dip

MADRID — World number one Andy Murray will be ready for Roland Garros despite his poor recent form, nine-time French Open champion Rafa Nadal has said.

Nadal has won all three clay competitions this season while Murray struggled in Madrid and Monte Carlo and lost out in the semi-finals in Barcelona.

Since the start of the year, Murray has won just one of seven tournaments but Nadal is confident the Briton will be prepared for the French Open, which starts at the end of the month.

"He's a great player, unbelievable player," said Nadal after booking his spot in the last 16 of the Italian Open on Wednesday. "He will be ready for Roland Garros."

He has one week and a half to practice, and he will be one of the candidates (for the title). —Reuters ■



Manchester United's Marouane Fellaini in action with Southampton's Steven Davis during Premier League at St Mary's Stadium, on 17 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Mourinho sweating over Fellaini injury after Southampton draw

LONDON — Midfielder Marouane Fellaini is doubtful for Manchester United's last league game and next week's Europa League final after sustaining an injury in Wednesday's goalless draw at Southampton.

Belgian international Fellaini was substituted in the 75th minute and had a brief talk with manager Jose Mourinho before walking straight down the tunnel with what appeared to be a

muscle problem.

"Fellaini, on top of his experience, he says it's not a tear," Mourinho told the club's website (www.manutd.com).

"He says it was a minimal thing but minimal can be a big thing. Let's wait for tomorrow but he needed to play."

Mourinho said that he had to give the 29-year-old playing time to prepare him for the remaining two games as Fel-

laini missed United's last three league games after picking up a red card in the Manchester derby in April.

"I couldn't protect him as he needed to play. He didn't play for three matches due to suspension. Players need not only to rest but also to play. He wasn't playing a lot so he had to play today. I don't blame myself or our decision," Mourinho said.

Mourinho also said that

defender Eric Bailly picked up a minor injury but was not too concerned about the 23-year-old who is ineligible for the Europa League final after being sent off in the semi-final.

United host Crystal Palace in their last league game of the season on Sunday before travelling to Stockholm to face Ajax Amsterdam in the Europa League final on 24 May. —Reuters ■



Conor McGregor (blue gloves) reacts to fight with Nate Diaz (red gloves) during UFC 202 at T-Mobile Arena Las Vegas, NV, on 20 August 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

McGregor signs deal for Mayweather fight

NEW YORK — The long-rumoured bout between undefeated American boxing champion Floyd Mayweather and mixed martial arts champion Conor McGregor is halfway to becoming a reality after the Irish signed a deal for the fight, it was announced on Wednesday night.

UFC President Dana White broke the news during a television interview for TNT following the NBA's Eastern Conference Finals

matchup. "The McGregor side is done, I'm starting to work on the Mayweather side now," White said. "I've got one side done. If we can come to a deal (with Mayweather) the fight will happen."

McGregor confirmed the deal in a statement released to Themaclife.com. "The first, and most important part of this historic contract has now officially been signed off on. Congratulations to all parties involved. We now await

Al Haymon and his boxer's signature in the coming days," the statement read. Terms of the deal were not announced. McGregor, 28, is the biggest pay-per-view draw in UFC's mixed martial arts while the 40-year-old Mayweather retired in 2015 with a 49-0 record. The two sides have been exchanging verbal spats and challenges for several months. The proposed bout would be straight boxing match. —Reuters ■