FIVE MORE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES REQUESTED P-5 (BUSINESS)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Lofven at the Government Rosenbad in Stockholm, Sweden, yesterday. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

State Counsellor: UN Rakhine probe would have increased tensions

A United Nations decision last year to send an international fact-finding mission to investigate allegations of abuse by security forces against Muslims in Rakhine State is not in keeping with the needs of both communities in Rakhine State, said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday.

Myanmar's diplomatic and political leaders as well as government officials from China and India had rebuffed the mission.

"We did not feel it was in keeping with the needs of the region in which we are trying to establish harmony and understanding, and to remove the fears that have kept the two communities apart for so long," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said to reporters in Stockholm after a meeting with Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Lofven.

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83 of 122 bodies from downed military plane recovered

THE remains of 24 more victims of a Chinese-made Y-8-200F military transport plane that crashed into the Andaman Sea on Wednesday were discovered yesterday, according to a statement by the office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, bringing the total number of bodies to 83.

A total of 122 people, many of them military officials and their families, were aboard the plane when it crashed last week.

The bodies were found by Tatamadaw forces, which have been searching the area off the coast of Dawei with sonar equipped naval vessels, divers, local shipping vessels. On the beaches, ground troops and citizen volunteers also searched.

The newly recovered bodies include 15 children, 28 women, and 38 men, including four Tatmadaw officers and nine soldiers of lower rank, and two unidentified bodies.

The remains were sent to Dawei Tatmadaw Hospital for identitification.

To date, 35 victims have been cremated. —Myanmar News Agency ■

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Flooding, irrigation, crop insurance discussed at Pyithu Hluttaw

Kyaw Thu Htet (MNA)

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. **PHOTO: MNA**

LAND use in Nay Pyi Taw, reduction of flooding and the repair and construction of irrigation ditches were among the issues discussed at yesterday' meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

A total of eight questions were answered, one report approved, one motion put forward and receipt of one bill was acknowledged yesterday.

U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation replied to the question raised by U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri constituency, "Nay Pyi Taw Sein Ta Lone Mango Zone is the currently uncultivated land and it is free from the cultivated area without permission. As for those who would like to make joint-venture plantation with the forest department in the forest land related with those areas, they are required to submit to the respective department in accord with rules and regulations. It has been decided to withdraw the lease of using the land unless any crops had been grown on the land till the end of 4 designated years. And, it has also been instructed to working committees for the management committees on vacant, fallow and virgin land in Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states to systematically carry out the tasks of withdrawal of leased land & to give out certificates of lease after making systematic measurement of the land which is actually-used on the ground."

The deputy minister also replied to a question raised by U Kyaw Lwin Aung of Sedoktara constituency. "Arrangements had been made to reduce floods happening near Sedoktara town which is related to the catchment area of Kyee On Kyee Wa Reservoir. In the rainy season to come as well, necessary measurements will be made by closely watching the situation. In case untimely rainfall causes natural disasters, help will be provided under the instruction of the national management committee of natural disasters."

Afterward, U Hla Kyaw replied to the question of U Kyaw Tin of Saw constituency.

"As regards the repairs of embankments and digging up the irrigation ditches, Peinhne embankment and Palwei embankment, which were currently under the control of the region, will be repaired as needed. According to the survey, up to five new reservoirs need to be built, but it is unlikely to implement and the cost of the project does not cover the benefits to be acquired. But irrigation ditches in Tay village and San village irrigation channels from Yaw creek to Pinhtaung creek are likely to be implemented, so designs are being drawn. Depending upon the budget allotment in the FY 2018-2019 of the regional government, arrangements will be carried out."

The deputy minister then replied to the question raised by U Thaung Htay Lin of Patheingyi constituency. "Instructions had been given out to townships to take action against the uses in other ways without permission with a view to prevent the land damage ruin of lands, in accord with rules and laws. And regional government's management committees for farming land instructed districts and townships management committees for farming land to scrutinise and take action against those who are abusing farming lands in other ways without permission, under section 19 of Land Law", the deputy minister said.

The deputy minister also replied to queries raised by U Win Myint Aung of Dapayin constituency, U Sai Ba Thein of Lang Kho constituency, U Sein Aung of Paletwa constituency and U Tin Nu (a) U Tin Nu Aung of Manaung constituency.

U Myo Zaw Oo of Lewe constituency put forward a motion to urge the Government to promptly implement the giving of crop insurance for the sake of farmers who suffer nationwide from natural disasters and insects, with the Hluttaw deciding to second and to enroll the names of representatives for discussion. U Myo Zaw Oo said that farmers are suffering floods, torrents, droughts and risks of insects annually, hence the need to implement for ensuring crop insurances under the joint-venture programme between the government and the private sector in protection for farmers' losses.

Today's meeting performed the tasks of approving the report of Pyithu Hluttaw international relations committee, informing the receipt of law on repatriation of culprits (bill) sent by Amyotha Hluttaw with the amendment attached and announcing to enroll the names of parliamentarians to submit the motion for amendment.

Amyotha Hluttaw

Reproductive health education discussed at Amyotha Hluttaw

Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

New buildings for a high school in Rakhine State, a bill amending the Myanmar Coastal and Inland Water Transport License Law, and reproductive health courses were among the issues discussed at yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

With regards to a question by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11 on any plans to construct a 120 ft x 30 ft reinforced concrete building to replace an old, damaged and dangerous building at Chaungwa Basic Education High School (sub), Chaungwa village tract, Yanbye Township, Rakhine State during the 2017-2018 academic year, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said Ks137 million was allocated from the 2017-2018 education budget to construct new school buildings in Yanbye Township, Rakhine State.

He added that there were four buildings in Chaungwa Basic Education High School (sub) and the 120 ft x 30 ft brick structure with zinc roofing, plywood walls and two storeys was built in 1980 and has deteriorated. It could be considered in a dangerous state, the Deputy Minister said.

The school, without including the dangerous building, had sufficient teaching areas and it was not given priority in the 2017-2018 academic year fund.

In the coming 2018-2019 FY, funds will be included to construct a 120 ft x 30 ft reinforced concrete building, the Deputy Minister said. Next, Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, notified the Pyithu Hluttaw that it was sending back with amendments a bill amending the Myanmar Coastal and Inland Water Transport License Law approved by Amyotha Hluttaw. An announcement was made for hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to submit their names.

Hluttaw representatives then debated a motion tabled by Dr. Tin Tin Win of Bago Region constituency 5 to be included under the heading of general subject matter in Myanmar's college, high school and middle school curriculum "reproductive health", "people's ethic (Pyithu Niti)" and "democracy" for Quality Education, goal number four of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10 said that, according to the 2015-2016 health study, there is a rise in youth pregnancy this year as well as a rise in the incidence of aborting of unwanted pregnancies resulting in deaths of unborn children and mothers, abandoning of newborns and child rapes. Therefore the inclusion of "reproductive health" education in the school curriculum would help prevent these problems. Furthermore, it will train and educate the youth on equal rights of different sexes, understanding and acceptance of the differences in sex that will prevent sex-based violence resulting in responsible youths capable of working for the country.

U Hwei Tin of Chin State constituency 11, Dr. Khin Maung Win of Taninthayi Region constituency 11, U Hla San of Magway Region constituency 1, U Zon Hle Htan of Chin State constituency 4, U Shan Awl of Chin State constituency 2, Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency 2 and U Min Oo of Bago Region constituency 6 debated further on the motion.

Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun responded to the comments made on the motion and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw recording the motion.

The 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 13th day meeting will be held on 13 June.

State Counsellor: UN Rakhine probe would have increased tensions

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"It would have created greater hostility between the different communities," said the State Counsellor.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said she would only accept recommendations from a separate advisory commission led by former U.N. chief Kofi Annan.

"I think we should really give the commission a chance to show whether or not they have done their work properly instead of condemning from the beginning," she said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement on 24th March following the UN's announcement which stated that the establishment of an international fact-finding mission would do more to inflame, rather than resolve, the issues at this time.

"It is also not in accord with the situation on the ground and the national circumstances. Given this, and the government's very real and serious efforts to build stability and find lasting solutions, Myanmar has dissociated itself from the resolution as a whole", the statement read.

A number of the UN human rights commission member countries, including China and India, have also dissociated themselves from the resolution or voiced their opposition to the establishment of such a mission.—GNLM and Reuters ■

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (L) and Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Lofven (R) hold a news conference, at the government building Rosenbad in Stockholm, Sweden, on 12 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Sweden's Foreign Minister Ms. Margot Wallstrom (R) stand outside the Foreign Ministry in Stockholm, Sweden on 12 June 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor meets Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Ms. Margot Wallstrom, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Stockholm, Sweden, yesterday at 11:00 am local time.

Present at the meeting were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister from the Office of the President U Min Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Sweden U Kyaw Swa Min and other officials. After the meeting, the State Counsellor attended a luncheon hosted by the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar's first graders receive first new curriculum in 20 years

MORE than one million first grade schoolchildren will receive new textbooks starting this month based on a curriculum developed by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since 2014.

The joint MOE-JICA project, called the project for Curriculum Reform at Primary Level of Basic Education (CREATE), is the first major reform of Myanmar's first grade curriculum in about 20 years.

The textbooks are colorful with many pictures and designed to be accessible and attractive to young children. The textbooks will be delivered with detailed teacher's guides for each subject.

The CREATE project was developed by 40 Japanese and overseas curriculum experts and more than 60 Myanmar academics.

The textbooks were reviewed and approved by the National Curriculum Committee formed by the National Education Policy Commission.

The new primary education curriculum includes 10 subjects: Myanmar, English, mathematics, science, social studies, morality and civics, life skills, physical education, performing arts and visual arts. The national curriculum will be taught alongside a local curriculum, which will be developed by each State and Regional Government.

JICA prepared for the introduction of the curriculum by organizing a series of MOE trainings for township, district, state and region education officials. Union ministry officials also attended trainings.

Following these managerial sessions, the educational reformers hosted in-service trainings for teachers across the nation from 23 January to 26 May.

These trainings were offered at the Union level, the state and region level, the township level and school and family level training. The in-service trainings reached teachers from all categories of grade one schools including monastic and private schools.

The reform group also organized curriculum trainings at Myanmar's education colleges so that it is the basis of teacher training programs in academia.—GNLM ■

Children learn lessons at a school. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY JICA**

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From unsightly alley to mural-rich mew

An artist paints a mural in the alley between 31st and 32nd streets in Pabedan Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

By Ko Moe

THE alley between 31st and 32nd streets in Pabedan Township, Yangon has recently undergone an urban makeover.

What was once a dark, fetid alley is now an eye-catching walkway, with paintings and murals replacing trash and vermin, thanks to a project aimed at transforming alleyways into urban art galleries.

The creators of the art consist of children from international schools, cartoonists, painters and other artists including members of the Pabedan Township Painting & Sculpture Association, who enthusiastically took part in the project.

The thinking behind the project was that throwing trash into an already littered alleyway was easy. But maybe littering a pristine area would be more difficult, organizers reasoned.

"Such a campaign was initiated with the intention of changing people's mindsets. So long as back alleys are dirty, people will continue to throw trash away into them. Presently, no one throws rubbish there any longer. Gardens, playing grounds and libraries will be created for children", said U Than Naing Oo, Yangon Region Hluttaw Representative of constituency 1, Pabedan.

It has been learnt that the recently transformed back alley will be opened at the end of June.

"(After the) back alleys were concreted and sanitised, the Our House team offered us a chance to transform them into playgrounds for children. So, in consultation with authorities concerned, such a plan was initiated." The project was implemented in cooperation with the NGO Our House, with 80 per cent of the expense paid by Our House and the remaining 20 per cent paid by the township. ■

Emergency response training course open at Muse

AN emergency response training course is underway at Muse City Hall in Shan State, according to a report yesterday in the Myanma Alinn Daily.

One-hundred sixty trainees from Karyakan Parahita Foundation, a local group that provides food and blood donations to hospitals and educational services to children, are attending the course, which began 7 June and will end 13 June. The workshop is being co-sponsored by the foundation and the Myanmar Rescue Federation.

Muse District Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Kyaw Tun and Myanmar Rescue Federation official U Win Khaung, the patron of the Myanmar Rescue Federation gave the opening speech.

Myanmar Yadanar Shwe Khit company also co-sponsored the training course.— GNLM ■

Land surveyed prior to dry port project near Mandalay

By Aung Thant Khine

TRANSPORT authorities said they are working to build dry ports in the Yangon and Mandalay regions as a part of project to boost the country's international trade and logistics services, said a spokesperson from Myanma Railways (MR).

Land surveying has been performed on 75 acres of land in Yankin Ward in Myitnge Town near Mandalay beginning in the first week of this month, said U Myo Win, general manager of the MR (Upper Myanmar).

The authorities chose two logistics companies — Singapore-based Kerry Logistics Network Co and citizen-owned Resources Group Logistics Co — to implement the project.

The two-year project will start only after finishing the land surveying and clearing squatters from the project area. The Singaporean company will develop infrastructure on 42.674 acres of land and the Myanmar company will start construction on 18.47 acres and 13.96 acres.

Under the intergovernmental agreement on dry ports signed by Asia-Pacific countries, the Myanmar government approved the building of the inland ports in major cities.

The dry port development project is the first of its kind. Dry port, an inland intermodal terminal directly connected by road or rail to a seaport, can serve as a place through which cargo can be transported.

Thanks to the new dry port, beans from Monywa town and sesame from Pakokku town will be transported directly to Singapore, U Myo Win said. ■

Labours carry the bags of onion at Bayinnaung Market in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

Increased Myanmar onion exports improve prices

Increasing Myanmar onion exports to China and Thailand pushed prices higher during late May, according to Ministry of Commerce statistics published in Myawady newspaper yesterday.

From 20 May to 26 May, 1,205 tons of Myanmar onions worth US$465,000 were exported through Muse border into China and 30 tons worth $12,792 were exported through Myawady border into Thailand, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Onion prices were high due to high demand in local market and export to Thailand and China, according to an official at a Pakokku Township wholesale market in Magway Region. The official said that nearly 130,000 tons of onions entered the Pakokku wholesale market on a daily basis.

During the rainy season, onions arrive in Pakokku from Yesagyo Township in July and August for sale in November and December. In the cold season onions cultivated in November and December arrive from Pauk Township and are sold in March and April.

Cold season onion yields decreased this year due to the rain during the cultivation period.—200 ■

Japan merchants show interest in Myanmar black sesame seeds

JAPANESE merchants expressed interest in Myanmar's black sesame seeds, according to Mandalay merchants interviewed for yesterday's edition of Myanma Alin Daily newspaper.

Japanese merchants are seeking at least 100,000 tons annually from Myanmar if they meet their quality standards, a Mandalay sesame merchant said.

"Japanese businessmen will purchase as many black sesame seeds as we can supply," said U Min Soe, a sesame merchant from Mandalay. "However, our production still does not meet demand yet. We can produce only over 8,000 tons for Japan every year."

Locally produced sesame seeds generally do not meet Japanese quality standards. Myanmar lacks effective pest control, packaging, manufacturing, processing and storage techniques he said.

Myanmar sesame seed growers still use traditional drying methods instead of mechanized dryers. Improper storage and packaging causes waste, said U Kyaw Lin, director of Ayeyamyay Sesame Enterprise.

Some merchants are reported to use toxic pesticides which are banned in Japan and other export markets, or falsify packing weight or seed grade. Merchants said that sesame exports would benefit from a stronger contract farmer system between growers and shippers. Myanmar's sesame seeds are currently shipped to 12 countries, including Japan. —Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

Investors invited for Agriculture Master Plan

Businessmen are being invited to invest in the Agriculture Master Plan, which is under implementation in Yangon Region, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), as stated on Saturday's edition of Myawady Daily.

The agricultural sector will be systematically implemented through the Agriculture Master Plan. Local and foreign investors can join the agro projects in Yangon Region and the project plans can be submitted to UMFCCI through dialing 09-450200670 and/or emailing committeeaffairs@umfcci.com.mm.

The submitted facts and reports will be reviewed by a committee to be added onto the Agriculture Master Plan, which is being drawn up by UMFCCI and Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee in cooperation with Yangon Region government.—200 ■

Five more Special Economic Zones requested

A request to establish five more Special Economic Zones has been submitted to Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), according to the Myawady newspaper.

Currently, Thilawa, Dawei and Kyaukpyu SEZs are under implementation. Out of the three, the Thilawa SEZ has started operation while the other two zones are under discussion to commence their operations, it is learnt. A report to set up a new port terminal and SEZ in Mon State, a Mandalay SEZ, Bago SEZ, Myawady SEZ and Ayeyawady deep sea port and SEZ has been submitted to MIC by members of the private sector, said U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of MIC.—200 ■

Huts occupied by squatters cleared

Authorities demolished about 400 huts occupied by squatters in outskirts of Yangon yesterday and the remaining huts will be cleared next days, according to official source.

There are more than 16,000 huts flanking the Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Hlegu Township.

"The area occupied by squatters is the site chosen for a project of the State. This is the second time that the area is occupied by the squatters," said U Yu Khaing, Director of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development. The authorities has also urged the squatters to sue those who sell the plots to them illegally.

There were a few people living in the huts and most of the huts were built for selling others, a squatter said.

Four men and one woman were detained yesterday in the operation for disturbing an express bus and attacking a police.—Than Htike (Hlinethaya)

Workers demolishing one of many huts built by squatters on a State owned project site near the Yangon-Mandalay Highway. **PHOTO: THITSAR**

Senior Level Official Management Course No 9 Opened

OPENING ceremony for senior level official management course No 9 was held at the Kaytumadi hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar) in Hlegu township.

Present at the opening ceremony were Dr Win Thein, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board, and members U Win Maw and Dr U Pwar, scholars from EDS Business School of Malaysia, director-general of the department of civil service selection and training, rector of CICS (Lower Myanmar), responsible officials and 58 director-level trainees.

In the opening address, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board said, "With a view to promoting the capacities of the senior level officials in the management sectors of the governmental organizations to be able to shoulder the great burden of the country in future, the present training was opened. During the 8-week period of the training, the EDS Business School (Malaysia) will conduct the subject "Developing a good to great culture for civil service effective supervision and team leadership methods for civil service with UNDP to conduct "public administration, responsiveness trainings, code of ethics, anti-corruption and competency frameworks." And, EU (GOPA) will conduct "Irish Competency Frameworks and Health Management." Experts from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Central Bank of Myanmar, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Union Auditor General Office, Ministry of Commerce and Union Civil Service Board will discuss curriculums and syllabuses compiled in accordance with the international standards. I hereby would like to urge the trainees to energetically take part in the discussions so as to be able to upgrade the dignity of the ministries and the nation.

Arrangements had been made to be better in accord with the suggestions of Core Group, depending upon the experiences, opportunities and weakness encountered in previous trainings. Upon completion of the course, positions and qualifications acquired in the training had been reported to the President Office, and their respective ministries, hence the need for the trainees to try hard in the courses."—Myanmar News Agency ■

Lt-Gen Sein Win accepts cash assistance for the families of victims from the Y-8 plane crash. **PHOTO: MNA**

Cash assistance donated for aircrew, military personnel and families onboard Y-8 Tatmadaw transport plane crash

Yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win accepted cash assistance donated for aircrew, military personnel and families onboard the crashed Y-8 Tatmadaw transport plane.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi donated Ks 1.22 million and acting Myanmar Police Chief Police Major General Aung Win Oo donated Ks 17 million on behalf of Myanmar Police Force it is learnt.—Myuanmar News Agency ■

Participants cycling at the opening ceremony of the 4th Myanmar-Thai cycling tour in Kawthoung. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**

Myanmar- Thai friendship cycling tour held in Kawthoung

Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

The opening ceremony of 4th Myanmar- Thai Friendship cycling tour was held in front of clock tower at Annawa Ward, Kawthoung at 9:00am on 11 June, at attendances with deputy commissioner in Kawthoung District, Ranong Province Governor, officials from Hotels and Tourism department of Myanmar and Ranong, Tourism Association and Union, Chamber of Commerce, Grand Andaman Football United and bicyclists from Ranong Province cycling teams, and bicyclists from Myeik and local residents.

Kawthoung district's deputy Commissioner U Tin Thein Maung gave an introductory speech. Then, Ranong Province Governor Mr. Chatuphot Piyamputtra thanked and started the tour by planting two countries' flags. A total of 466 bicyclists from Myeik, Kawthoung and Ranong including Malaysians took part in the 27 kilometers Long friendship cycling tour through roads in Kawthoung Town.

Afterwards, the cycling teams visited to Home for the Aged and gave donations.

This is a fourth tour and aims to strengthen the friendship in ASEAN families, promote travel between peoples on the borders and to develop border trade. ■

2017 South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair

By Than Oo
(Ley Myat Nar)

The opening ceremony of the 2017 South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair (SSACEIF) was held in Kuming Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Center Hall (7) in Kunming City, China yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint left for Kunming on 11 June to attend the 7-day SSACEIF.

Attending the conference were Yunnan's governor and officials, Ministers for Commerce, Ministers for Planning, Ministers for Investment and Deputy Ministers from South and Southeast Asian nations, business owners, various company officials and media personnel.

Mr. Chen Hao, the Communist Party Secretary of Yunnan, the Pakistani Consulate of China and Deputy Minister for Planning and Investment of Laos gave opening remarks. The expo is now in its 25th year and brings together South and Southeast Asia commodities in one place. This year is also the first time for an Investment Fair to be included.

This year's expo will feature industrial produce and raw materials, pharmaceutical products and numerous exhibition booths on education. Myanmar will also be exhibiting its products in 34 booths from 125 of its business persons with administration from the Ministry for Commerce. The booths from Myanmar will feature finished handicraft products, jade, ruby and other precious gems, Myanmar's pearls and agricultural products. The expo will be held till 18 June. ■

Nay Pyi Taw car accident victims get cash assistance

An accident involving a Mandalar Min express bus and a truck carrying workers occured yesterday morning near Dekkhinathiri market, Dekkhinathiri Township, in Nay Pyi Taw council area.

The Mandalar Min express bus 6M/---- driven by San Tun Aung was travelling along Moe Thauk Pan road from south to north toward Dekkhinathiri ward while the Faw truck 7H/---- driven by Shan Lay @ Lwin Moe Hein, aged 26 (father U Chit Oo) of Thirimingalar village, Shwe Ge Inn village tract, Dekkhinathiri township was travelling along Artharwaddy road from east to west ran into each other at the junction of Moe Thauk Pan road and Artharwaddy road and one male and one female on the Faw truck were killed on the spot. A total of 47 persons were injured in the car accident and were hospitalized in Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed hospital, Dekkhinathiri 50-bed hospital and Lewe township 100-bed hospital.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung presents cash assistance to the relative of a victim. **PHOTO: MNA**

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and members of the council visited the families of the two fatal victims and injured victims of the accident in the hospitals and provided cash assistance to them.—District IPRD ■

Press Release

Myanmar, Israel sign Mutual Visa Exemption

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the State of Israel, desirous of enhancing and further developing the friendly bilateral relations existing between the two countries, H.E. U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union Of Myanmar and H.E Mr. Daniel Zohar Zonshine, Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Republic of the Union Of Myanmar signed the Mutual Visa Exemption Agreement for Diplomatic and Service/ Official Passport Holders, each in English , Myanmar and Hebrew languages on the 12th June 2017 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, regarding with duration of stay not exceeding 90 days. The mutual visa exemption agreement will facilitate travel procedure for the holders of diplomatic and service/ official passports of the two countries.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Over Ks 3 billion to be spent for rural development

Sagaing Region Planning and Financial Department will spend a total of Ks 3.133 billion on the rural development in Pale township, Yinmabin district in Sagaing Region in FY2017-2018, according to a report in Myanma Alinn Daily.

The planning department will spend Ks 2.063 billion of Union government budget funds on building and renovating a women domestic vocational training center, constructing roads to connect the villages between Thitgyidine, Yaytha, Hsegyi and Sityin, building Pale Township schools, building a rural health center and its housing for employee, building a new ward for Pale General Hospital, building a traditional dispensary and its housing for employee and upgrading the Monywa between Pale and Gangaw road, said Daw Su Su Win, assistant director from Sagaing planning department. Moreover, the department will spend Ks 1.070 billion of regional government funds to upgrade the North Yamar dam, provide assistance to flood victims, upgrade the entrance road to Moe Kaung village, renovate the concrete entrance road to Aima village, build a house for the township administrator, erect the office of township livestock breeding and veterinary department building, build a garden to house 100,000 seeding plants, and install a transformer and 400 V power cables between Pale and Min Dinebin line and LaeNgok and Pale.— GNLM ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV NESHAT VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NESHAT VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.6.2017 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SIGAP VOY. NO (08)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIGAP VOY. NO (08) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 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 MERIDIAN SHIPPING AGENCIES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

Rays of Light on Union Peace is Imminent!

Khin Maung Oo

OUT of all problems every country in this world is facing, racial and religious ones can be said to be the most sensitive and dangerous. A problem may be solved to perfection, but sometimes it tends to last long due to instigations of external destructive elements wishing to exploit benefits out of their targeted country by creating racial and religious conflicts. Myanmar is a sovereign Nation where ethnic national races have lived in peace throughout history. That is, Myanmar is a country of Myanmar nationals. On this planet, there is no country to which alien people did not come to settle by moving from their original locations. Since the time of colonial rule, many foreigners came to our country to work on farmlands, thus becoming naturalized, with many returning home many years later. As known by all, our Myanmar people have been living with new settlers for years without violent armed conflicts, apart from outbreak of verbal conflicts on rare occasions. Yet, unlike previous trivial events, there occurred a violent armed attack on October 9, in 2016 in Maungtaw region, Rakhine State. In the attack, some border security police were killed with many weapons and ammunitions looted by terrorists.

So as to arouse misunderstanding and anger among international communities and institutions, several global media agencies exaggerated the story by spreading invented stories with the technique of photoshop, to add verisimilitude. Sorrowfully enough, an external figure took part in the propagandist campaign intending to cause a great racial and religious conflict. Our State leaders tried their best to solve the problem in a calm manner without losing composure by forming an investigation committee on Rakhine State Affairs led by Vice-President U Myint Swe. An advisory commission led by H.E Mr. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations had been formed earlier even before this outbreak of violence. While our State leaders and responsible officials were making strenuous efforts to extinguish the flaming conflicts, internal destructive elements tried to incite racial riots. Their ultimate aim was to exploit the communal problems for their own personal advantages and benefit from any form of unrest that might result.

As known by all, State leaders, the government, Tatmadaw and leaders of national ethnic armed groups are striving continuously for bringing about Union Peace which the whole populace has been yearning for so many decades.

We all believe that the peace process has already reached the penultimate stage though 7 proposals on politics have not been approved yet as agreements. This also can be said to be within our reach very soon, because our national leaders will be more convinced of the fruits of Union Peace. The peoples of the world dislike wars, accepting the fact that any war cannot produce any goodness, only bloodshed, death and misery.

Last but not least, I hereby want to urge all subversive elements to give up their destructive deeds if they love younger generations including their descendants. They should embrace the path of peace if they want new comers to enjoy the brighter future which Union Peace will bring forth. We welcome you with open arms if you have decided to join in the efforts of our leaders with new minds and new ideas to work for peace and stability. Failing that, there will be no place for you to hide here because you and your deeds are like "an elephant in the living room." ■

Historical data from Shwe Nat Taung Pagoda

Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja,
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

IN his capacity as the Director General of Archaeology Department the writer had to accompany the state leaders and state guests to famous historical sites in the years 1990-1993. He visited Shwe Nat Taung Pagoda in the town of Shwe Taung in the Pyay District not less than three times giving him a good chance to study its history.

Accordingly to its legends and history, Shwe Nat Taung hillock was called ''Devagiri'' in Pali. Deva means Deva nat-spirit and Giri means ''hill''. So in Myanmar it is ''Nat Taung''. Later when a gilt pagoda was built on its summit the ''Shwe'' [gold] was added to its name.

Due to the passage of time, vagaries of climatic condition and over loading of increasing religious monuments on it the hillock began to crack and disintegrate. Therefore the state leaders, the Department of Archaeology and the public both clergy and lusty made a combined effort to carry out all round repair and renovation works at the Pagoda hill.

On his first visit the writer with his collegues and staff of the Department carried out a thorough survey of the site. He noticed that Shwe Nat Taung Pagoda Hill was the historic site of religious, archaeological, historical and cultural significance which needed special and immediate conservation and preservation.

There are three legends and three histories of this site-namely…

1. Ancient legend and history
2. Old legend and history and
3. Legend and history written in Pali language.

Besides, the writer's library research discovered a book Shwe Taung Myo, Shwe Nat Taung Zaditaw Thamaing by Thakhin Aye, 4th Reprint, 1967 Shumawa Press.

Despite some discrepancies between them, the writer gives the following brief of which all three versions agree. ''A year after Lord Gotama Buddha had attained enlightenment, in the Maha Sakarat year 104. He made a dhamma duta journey [Buddhist mission] from Weiluwun Vihara [monastery] at Rajagraha Kingdom to Devagiri hill [today Shwe Nat Taung hill] alone. No, disciples nor monks accompanied him. At that time, where today we have the town of Shwe Taung is existed Kinsanagiri village. Kinsana means gold. Giri means hill. So in Myanmar it was the village at the gold hill or Shwe Nat Taung Ywa. The villagers were nat spirits worshippers. In the month of Tabaung [March] they held the annual festival of Nat spirit at the Nat Shrine on the summit.

When Lord Gotama Buddha arrived at that site, all devas, Brahmas of the universe gathered to welcome him and to listen to his teachings. The entire hill was brightened with the light says of the devas and Brahmas. The villagers were awakened by the sounds and lights from the hill. The following morning, they all came up the hill to visit their Nat shrine.

To their amazement they saw Lord Gotama Buddha assuming a deva was seated on a couch created by Sakka Deva [Thunder god]. When the villagers saw the Buddha as Deva they thought that the Nat spirit they had been worshipping was now revealing his identity. But when Lord Gotama Buddha began to preach his dhamma, some villagers understood his teachings and they began to observe and practice Pancha Sila [Five moral Precepts]

and believed in the Trinity of the Buddha the Dhamma and the Sangha.

After seven days of preaching his dhamma, Gotama Buddha was about to return home on the 8th day. At the behest of the villagers, Lord Gotama Buddha left his living Image dressed like a Deva for the villagers to worship. The villagers enshrined the living image in a stupa built of brick and cement. Now the Nat spirit festival which they annually held in Tabaung on the hill summit was replaced by Shwe Nat Taung Pagoda Festival. Previously this hillock was bright with gold yellow light the villagers believed to have been emitted from the Image of the Nat spirit they worshipped. So they named the hillock ''Shwe Nat Taung'' Gold yellow hillock of Nat-spirit. Now the Stupa enshring the live Image of Gotama Buddha on it came to be known as Shwe Nat Taung Paya. Golden yellow Nat-spirit hillock with a stupa enshring a living Image of Lord Buddha.

SEE PAGE 9

119th Philippines Independence Day was held

UNION MINISTER for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu and wife Daw Khin Thida were welcomed by Philippines Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Eduardo E.Kapunan at a ceremony to mark the 119th Philippines Independence Day which was held in Novotel Hotel in Yangon at 6:30 pm on 12 June.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Murder in Maungtaw

A man died from injuries incurred after a quarrel with his brother on Sunday in Shita village, Maungtaw, Rakhine State.

An investigation revealed that the quarrel happened at about 10:30am between two brothers, Ei Mhan Husein and Swe Yauk Tusaung, concerning the plowing of a paddy field. Ei Mhan Husein died as a result of stab wounds to his face, neck and back alleged dealt by his brother.—Myanmar News Agency ■

3.4 mln stimulant tablets seized in Sittway

THIRTY-FOUR lakh stimulant tablets worth Ks6.8 billion were seized at Yay Chan Pyin Port in Sittway, Rakhine State on Sunday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, border guard police stopped and searched a vehicle driven by U Aung Saw Than from Padalake village at about 11:30 am at Yay Chan Pyin Port. Police discovered the stimulant tablets in hidden compartments beneath the floor of the vehicle.

Upon interrogation, the suspect admitted that U San Aung Kyaw from Ponnagyun gave him Ks4 lakh to drive the vehicle to Myoma Market in Sittway. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Illegal timber caught on Mandalay-Muse highway

THE Yaypu Joint Investigation Force, in cooperation with various government departments, has confiscated timber being transported with no legal documents from Mandalay to Muse between 9 and 10 June.

The joint investigation force apprehended a six-wheeled truck on 9 June and three small vehicles on 10 June, all illegally transporting timber from Mandalay to Muse. Confiscated from the vehicles were 57 logs of tamalan weighing 4.6792 tons and 14 logs of various padauk wood or rose wood weighing 0.6558 tons. The Customs Department announced that the estimated value of the confiscated timber is around Ks 52.7092milllion.

Illegal timber seen on a truck on Mandalay-Muse highway. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

The Customs Department was able to cooperate with Yaypu Joint Investigation Force and prevent 13 cases of illegal trading of Ks 131.4358million worth of commodities on 11 June and cooperate with Mayanchaung Investigation Station and prevent 8 cases of illegal trading of Ks 18.5million worth of commodities. — 001 ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Qatar Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Qatar Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Hassan Bin Mohamed Rafei Al Emadi at the Hluttaw Building (I-11) in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 June.

During the meeting, the Qatar Ambassador said that Qatar is stable and peaceful, Myanmar nationals in Qatar are safe and have food security. Qatar will correctly resolve the situation while friendly nations are helping with understanding and Qatar is doing its part for world peace and security. — Myanmar News Agency ■

One illegal emigrant arrested in Maungtaw

ACTING on a tip-off, a man was arrested on the road of Maungtaw-Agnu in Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State as he illegally went to the bordering country on 11June.

A man named Murmud Eisalam from Parseik village has been cancelled from nation's household lists since 20 July 2005 as he illegally emigrated from Myanmar. The suspect was being filed and announced as a boarder displaced emigrant. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Historical data from Shwe Nat Taung Pagoda

FROM PAGE 8

The town near it must have acquired its name Shwe Taung Myo [Golden Hill town] from the name of the hill. In pre-war days this town was famous for producing Shwe Taung longyi for men's nether wear-silk material of light brown colour with gold square pattern. Long lasting washable and fit for daily wear as well as for special occasion. In the post war period another name of both domestic and foreign fame the name of noodle food Shwe Taung Khauk Swe. Special wheat noodle with coconut milk and chicken curry seasoned with other appetizing ingredients. At the Trade Expo held in Osaka and Tokyo, Japan in 1965-6 entrepreneurs from Shwe Taung town introduced Shwe Taung Khauk Swe at the Expo. It gained popularity with the visitors. Since then Shwe Taung Khauk Swe retains its popularity not only in Myanmar and Japan but also in other foreign lands.

Successive renovators and repaires of this pagoda date back to as early as King Dwattabaung of Pyu Period of Myanmar history. He was the King of Sre Kestra city Kingdom. He made his two chief queens Vishnu and Sanda Devi to send out their kinsmen in quest of the long forgotten and lost Shwe Nat Taung Pagoda. They found it and recovered it from the jungle and restored it to its glory by repairs and renovations 182 Sacred Buddha relies kept in a gold container studded with 9 precious gems were enshrined in the stupa, with three stupa shaped covers each swallowing the other respectively-gold, silver and cement concrete. The cement concrete stupa was 15 cubits in height. The lands upon which the shadows of the stupa fell at the time of sunrise and sunset were turned into glebe land and donated to Buddhist religion by King Dwattabaung. The revenue collected from the areas around the Shwe Nat Taung hillock were donated for the maintence of the pagoda and for the holding of the annual pagoda festivals.

In Bagan Period, the son of King Narathihapate King Thihathu, the Lord of the city Pyay carried out the will of his royal father. He sold out the ruby ring of the father to repair and renovate Shwe Nat Taung Pagoda, raising its height to 44 cubits. King Tabin Shwehti of Taungoo who founded the second Myanmar Emipre repaired and renovated the Shwe Nat Taung Stupa and gilt it with gold.

In Konbaung Period, the son and crown Prince of King Bodawpaya [Badon Min] Thiri Maha Dhamma Vizaya Thiha Thura on his return from Rakhine State bringing Maha Muni Buddha Image to the capital Amarapura, visited Shwe Nat Taung Stupa and fully gift it with gold. He also built in the precincts of the Pagoda gold gilt spired halls, covered corridors, ascending steps and a grand prayer hall with traditional designs and decorative arts.

Right now, at the time of the writer's visit, the pagoda is 64 cubits high, [without the decorative umbrealla].

With its decorative umbrella it is 80 cubits high 17 minor stupas surround the main stupa, 15 gold floral stands, 14 gold umbrellas, 15 assembly halls including three storeyed halls are found on the spacious pagoda compound.

Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May alongside Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, greets Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn (not pictured) in Downing street ahead of the Somalia Conference, in London, Britain on 11 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Britain's PM May to face party lawmakers after election disaster

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May will try to convince lawmakers from her Conservative Party on Monday that she should remain as leader after a disastrous gamble on a snap election that weakened Britain's hand just days before formal Brexit talks.

May looked set to face criticism and anger from Conservative MPs at a private meeting in parliament over her handling of an election that lost the party its parliamentary majority.

The Conservatives won 318 seats out of the 650 in last Thursday's vote, meaning they now require support to govern and have chosen the eurosceptic Northern Irish Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which has 10 seats, for that.

However, despite the shock result and speculation there could soon be a leadership election, May's position appeared safe for at least the immediate days ahead.

"I don't detect any great appetite amongst my colleagues for presenting the public with a massive additional dose of uncertainty by getting involved in a self-indulgent Conservative Party internal election campaign."," Graham Brady, chairman of the 1922 Committee of Conservative lawmakers, told BBC TV. If she fails at the meeting to reassure lawmakers that she can govern effectively however her critics are likely to step up calls for her to go.

Senior figures, including Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson who is touted as the favourite to replace May should she be forced out, have pledged loyalty and called on colleagues to rally behind her.

In a further bid to win over disillusioned lawmakers, May appointed Michael Gove, a long-serving cabinet minister with whom she has clashed in the past, as environment minister while two of her closest aides, who many blamed for the election result, resigned.

However, George Osborne, a former finance minister who is now editor of London's Evening Standard newspaper and a vocal critic of May, said she appeared a "dead woman walking".

On Tuesday, May is due to meet the DUP leader Arlene Foster to finalise a deal to ensure support for May's minority government on major issues.

Brexit Secretary David Davis said that some policies planned before the election would be pruned back.

The political turmoil comes a week before Britain is due to start negotiating the terms of its exit from the European Union in talks of unprecedented complexity that are supposed to wrap up by the end of March 2019, when Britain actually leaves. That timeline now looks even more ambitious than before, not least because May's electoral debacle has emboldened those within her own party who object to her "hard Brexit" approach of leaving the European single market and customs union.

"The interpretation that we have put on it ... is that people voted for three things in essence, control of borders, control of laws, control of money," Davis told BBC radio.

"In order to deliver that you can't do that inside the single market, so what do you do, you try and have the best possible access from outside."

Davis also said walking away without securing a deal with the remaining 27 EU states remained a possibility.

The uncertainty has hit business confidence, according to a survey by the Institute of Directors (IoD). It found a negative swing of 34 points in confidence in the UK economy from its last survey in May.

The pound slid to its lowest level for nearly two months after the vote, but the fall was much less severe than the one sparked by the Brexit vote in June 2016. On Monday, the currency was under pressure once again. "It is hard to overstate what a dramatic impact the current political uncertainty is having on business leaders, and the consequences could – if not addressed immediately – be disastrous for the UK economy," Institute of Directors director general, Stephen Martin, said.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Pepper spray used on protesters in central Moscow -Reuters witness

MOSCOW — Pepper spray was used on protesters in central Moscow on Monday after crowds of people responded to a call by Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny to hold a protest, a Reuters witness reported from the scene.

It was not immediately clear who sprayed the gas.—Reuters ■

Pakistan identifies Chinese who Islamic State claims to have killed as 'preachers'

ISLAMABAD — Two Chinese nationals abducted and killed in Pakistan last month, whose murders were claimed by Islamic State, were preachers who abused the visa system, Pakistan said on Monday, contradicting earlier reports they were teachers. The Pakistani interior ministry identified the two as Lee Zing Yang, 24, and Meng Li Si, 26.

It said they were pretending to be learning the Urdu language from a Korean national but "were actually engaged in preaching". It did not say what kind of preachers they were. The two were abducted on 24 May in Quetta, the provincial capital of Baluchistan province.—Reuters ■

US: No civilian casualties officially reported in Afghan incident

WASHINGTON — US military officials have not received any official reports of civilian casualties in the wake of an attack on a US-Afghan convoy in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province, the Pentagon said on Monday. In a statement, the Pentagon said the convoy "returned fire in self-defence" when it was attacked by a roadside bomb and small arms fire. A provincial official in Nangarhar said as many as three Afghan civilians were killed in the Monday morning incident.—Reuters ■

Fighting breaks out amongst Syrian rebels in city of al Bab

A Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighter walks past a crater in Raqqa's western neighbourhood of Jazra, Syria on 11 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

AMMAN — Turkish-backed rebels fought each other on Sunday in the Syrian town of al Bab in the first bout of rebel fighting since they seized the town this year from Islamic State militants, rebels and witnesses said.

It was not clear what triggered the armed clashes between rival rebel groups who hold sway in the city since it was seized last February from Islamic State militants.

Turkey sent warplanes, tanks and artillery into Syria last year in support of the Arab Sunni rebels, an operation dubbed "Euphrates Shield" which was aimed at driving both Islamic State and Kurdish militia forces away from its border.

Checkpoints were spread by the Turkish-controlled military council that runs the city where thousands of people have been returning in recent months with the gradual resumption of basic services, a resident who was contacted in the city said.

The heavy clashes left several dead and scores injured, another rebel source said.

Rebel infighting has been a major weakness of the revolt against President Bashar al Assad's rule since its earliest days, with rebel factions divided by both ideology and local power struggles.

In the last few days deadly clashes have also broken out in the town of Maarat al Numan in the northwestern province of Idlib between Tahrir al Sham, a merger of jihadist groups spearheaded by a former al-Qaeda offshoot, and a Western-backed Free Syrian Army group.—Reuters ■

Iran police kills four Islamic suspects in south — media

ANKARA — Police in Iran killed four Islamic State suspects, two of which were foreigners, in the southern province of Hormuzgan and seized explosives, guns and the group's flag, an Iranian news agency said on Monday.

A major security operation is underway after 17 people were killed last Wednesday in suicide bombings and gun attacks in Tehran, the first to be claimed by the hardline Sunni Islamist group Islamic State inside Iran, a Shi'ite power.

"Police forces clashed with the four men and killed them in a mountainous area in southern Iran," the semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted a local police chief as saying.

Two of those killed were not Iranian, he said. Guns, ammunition, explosives and the flag of Islamic State were seized during the operation, Tasnim reported, citing the police chief.

Hormuzgan, which borders Pakistan and Afghanistan, is home to a Sunni minority and has seen previous clashes between security forces and Sunni insurgent groups.

The authorities say Iranian security forces killed the mastermind of the attacks on Saturday and that more than 50 suspects have been arrested around the country.

Iran accuses Saudi Arabia of funding hardline Sunni militants, including Islamic State, and in the wake of last week's attack pointed the finger at its regional rival. Riyadh has denied involvement in the attacks. —Reuters ■

Egypt to keep administration of Red Sea islands after Saudi transfer

CAIRO — Egypt will keep administrative control over two Red Sea islands it plans to transfer to Saudi Arabia, according to a government report advising parliament on the terms of the agreement. The report is the first indication Egypt intends to maintain some control over the uninhabited islands, whose transfer to Saudi Arabia sparked fury among many Egyptians and was declared illegal by an Egyptian court. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's government announced last year a maritime demarcation accord with Saudi Arabia, which has given billions of dollars of aid to Egypt, ceding control of the Tiran and Sanafir islands to the Gulf kingdom. Parliament on Sunday began discussions about the accord ahead of a vote, whose timing has not yet been announced. The government submitted the report to parliament to answer questions from lawmakers who had objected to the transfer, with some arguing that ceding territory amounted to treason.

"The agreement only ends (Egyptian) sovereignty and does not end the necessity of Egypt protecting this area for reasons of Egyptian and Saudi Arabian national security," the report said. It said Egyptians would not need visas to visit and Cairo would maintain administrative control but not sovereignty over the islands, which are situated in the narrow entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba leading to Jordan and Israel.—Reuters ■

Ministry of Construction
Department of Highways
(Invitation for Open Tender)

1. Open tender applying prequalification method is invited by Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction, Naypyitaw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for up grading DaikU — Sittaung Road with the part of proceeds of the Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction under JICA ODA Loan, Japan.

Sr.	Name of Work	Length	Type of Work
1	DaikU-Sittaung Road [PW-16 (1)] (Mile 9/2+356' — Mile 15/0)	5 Mile 5 Furlong 304 Feet	18 Feet Wide Bituminous road
2	DaikU-Sittaung Road [PW-16(2)] (Mile 15/0— Mile 21/4+540')	6 Mile 4 Furlong 540 Feet	18 Feet Wide Bituminous road

2. Distribution period of Tender Documents - (14-6-2017) to (21-6-2017)
3. Last Submission Date of Tender Documents - 12:00 noon on (7-8-2017)
4. Opening date of Tender - 13:30 pm. on (22-8-2017)
5. Tender Documents can be purchased with fifty thousand kyats (50000 Ks.) at the following address and for the detail information, please contact the office within office hours.

Tender Selection Committee, Department of Highways
Office No.(11), Naypyitaw
Tel: 067-407658,067-407583

Blasts rock besieged city as Philippines marks independence day

MARAWI CITY, Philippines — Bomb blasts rocked Marawi City in the southern Philippines on Monday as the national flag was raised to mark independence day, almost three weeks after hundreds of Islamist militants overran the town and hunkered down with civilians as human shields.

Rescue workers, soldiers and firemen sang the national anthem and listened to speeches as three OV-10 attack aircraft darted through the cloudy sky, taking it in turns to drop bombs on areas where fighters are still holed up.

"To our Muslim brothers there, we want to tell them to stop their meaningless fight because we are all Muslims," Vice Provincial Governor Mamintal Adiong Jr. told the gathering.

Flag ceremonies are normally performed twice a week, but this was the first in the mainly Muslim town since 23 May, the first day of the siege, when the militants killed and abducted Christians, and torched a cathedral.

Almost the entire population of about 200,000 fled from the lakeside town on the Philipppines' southernmost island of Mindanao, but beyond the checkpoints fencing it off there are still some 500-1,000 civilians trapped or being held hostage.

As of Saturday the number of security forces killed in the battle for Marawi stood at 58. The death toll for civilians was 20 and more than 100 had been killed overall.

An abandoned hospital window is seen full of bullet holes, as government soldiers continue their assault against the Maute group in Marawi City, Philippines on 12 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The seizure of Marawi by fighters allied to Islamic State, including some from the Middle East, has alarmed Southeast Asian nations which fear the ultra-radical group— on a backfoot in Iraq and Syria — is trying to set up a stronghold on Mindanao that could threaten their region.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte said on Sunday he had not expected the battle for Marawi to be as serious as it has turned out, adding it had now emerged "that Baghdadi himself, the leader of the ISIS, has specifically ordered terroristic activities here in the Philippines".

Duterte did not say how he knew that Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, whose movement is commonly referred to as ISIS, had given instructions for the attack on Marawi. Foreign Affairs Minister Allan Peter Cayetano said in an independence day speech in Manila that the militants' had planned to take over at least two or three cities in Mindanao.—Reuters ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Innisfree Corporation, a company registered under the laws of the Republic of Korea, which is located at 100, Cheonggyecheon-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

INNISFREE

Reg. No. 3444/2017

In respect of **Class 3:** Cosmetics; cosmetic preparations for skin care; make-up preparations, namely, make-up base; make-up powder; mascaras; creamy foundation; lipsticks; nail polish; beauty masks for cosmetic purposes; shampoos; dentifrices; perfumery; tissues impregnated with cosmetic lotions; cosmetic soaps.

Innisfree Corporation claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the mark as mentioned above. **Innisfree Corporation** reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For **Innisfree Corporation**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated:13th June 2017.

Resignation of Director

"Hayman Capital Co. Ltd. announcing changes in Board of Directors. According to company news Mr. Hugo Willem Minderhoud resigned from the position of the member of the Board of Directors since 1 April 2017. All other Board members remain unchanged..

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO (1710)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO (1710) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.6.2017 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 SINAR BATAM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GLODEN SEA
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER PROGRESS VOY. NO (058)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER PROGRESS VOY. NO (058) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 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 CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

Merkel lauds Macron's election victory as "strong vote for reforms"

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel called the victory of French President Emmanuel Macron's party in the first round of parliamentary elections a "strong vote for reforms" and a senior official signalled Berlin's willingness to deepen cooperation.

France is Germany's second-biggest trading partner and the strong support for pro-European centrist reformer Macron has sparked hopes that Berlin and Paris will spearhead a broad-based economic revival in Europe and a push for more integration in the euro zone. Projections after the first election round on Sunday showed that Macron's fledgling party is set to trounce France's traditional main parties and secure a huge majority to push through pro-business reforms. "Chancellor Merkel: My heartfelt congratulations to @EmmanuelMacron to the great success of his party in the first election round. Strong vote for reforms," the government tweeted. Merkel and Macron agreed last month to draw up a roadmap to deeper EU integration and suggested the bloc's treaties may change to facilitate even more ambitious reform. The finance ministers of both countries, Wolfgang Schaeuble and Bruno Le Maire, have set up a joint working group that will present ideas by July on deepening euro zone integration. Germany's Deputy Finance Minister Jens Spahn said he hoped that Macron would now be able to quickly implement reforms that would boost growth in France's economy.—Reuters ■

French President Emmanuel Macron waits for guests to leave at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France on 12 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Norway proposes ban on full-face veils in schools

OSLO — Norway aims to ban face-covering Muslim veils in kindergartens, schools and universities, the government said on Monday, the latest European nation to propose restrictions on wearing burqas and niqabs.

France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Bulgaria and the German state of Bavaria have all imposed restrictions on wearing full-face veils in public places.

Norway's minority government, a coalition of the centre-right Conservatives and the populist Progress Party, said it was confident it would find opposition support for the move.

"We have every reason to believe this will be approved by parliament," Education Minister Torbjoern Roe Isaksen told Reuters.

Norway, which will hold elections on 11 September, will be the first country in the Nordics to introduce a ban on burqas for both adults and children.

"Face-covering garment such as the niqab or burqa do not belong in Norwegian schools. The ability to communicate is a basic value," acting Minister of Immigration and Integration, Per Sandberg, told a news conference.

Employees who insist on wearing a veil would risk losing their jobs, and students could face expulsion from university, he added. —Reuters ■

IEE Study of 3D Seismic Survey in Offshore Block MD-2 and MD-4 by eni

Eni Myanmar B.V. (Eni) is planning to conduct a 3D Offshore Seismic in the Rakhine Basin & MD-04, located in Gulf of Mottama, Myanmar. This is scheduled to commence in November 2017. An Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for the proposed activity has been prepared by Eni Myanmar, Environmental Resources Management (ERM) , and Resource & Environment Myanmar (REM) and was submitted to the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) on 16th May, 2017.The report is publically viewable at the following locations:

- Eni Myanmar's office in Yangon: Sakura Tower, 6th floor – Office# 0602,339 Bogyoke Aung San Rd., Kyauktada Todwnship, Yangon, Myanmar
- Dawei District General Administrative Department Office
- Yebyu District General Administrative Department Office
- On eni's website as follows: https://www.eni.com/en-IT/media/focus-on/eni-myanmar.page.

Feedback on the report can be submitted to eni in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: info.enimyanmar@eni.com.

Padamyar FM Media Co.,Ltd.

Padamyarfm Radio Station

Invitation for Open Tender

Open Tenders are invited for Supply of Studio Furniture and Equipment for the Relocation, Installation of New Radio Studios in US Dollars.

Interested companies may obtain Tender Applications and Specification Documents at our Padamyar FM Office as following address during office hours on 22.6.2017 and 23.6.2017 or may request to send Tender Documents by Email Address to admin@padamyarfm.com and may inquire further detailed information to office Phone Numbers and Email Address.

Padamyar FM Media Co., Ltd.

Shop House (4), 3rd Floor,Junction Square Compound,Between Pyay Road and Kyun Taw Road,Kamayut Township, Yangon.Phone No. 01-2306011, 01-2306012

Tender Closing Date & Time - 15.7.2017 (Saturday) , (16:00) Hrs

Open Tender Committee,
Padamyar FM Media Co., Ltd.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr No	Tender No	Description
1.	12(T)11/MR (YUG)17-18	Axle Shaft and Ball Bearing (46)Items

Closing Date & Time- 12.7.2017(Wednesday)(14:30)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 12.6.2017 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department; Myanma Railways, Corner of 51th Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994

Holding Public Participating Meeting for Development Phase of a 2x640MW Ultra-Supercritical (USC) Coal Fired Power Plant

TTCL Public Company Limited (TTCL) is planning to develop a 2x640MW Ultra-Supercritical (USC) Coal Fired Power Plant (the Project), located near Wutgyi village, Hpa-An Township, Kayin State.

Under Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar TTCL is undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study with Environmental Resources Management (ERM). The purpose of the EIA is to understand how the Project may impact the environment and the people living and working close to the Project area and identify ways to manage any changes that may occur through the development of mitigation measures.

To present the result of the scoping phase 'Public Participation meeting' will be held in Hpa-An township as well as in the villages within the study area in June 2017.

Contact Details:
TTCL Public Company Limited (TTCL)
Yangon Office,
16B, 16th Floor, Centre Point Tower, No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
e-mail : htetaung.m@ttcl.com
Website:http://www.ttcl.com

Louisa Johnson splits from Daniel Elliot

LONDON — Singer Louisa Johnson has parted ways with her long-time boyfriend Daniel Elliot. The 19-year-old songstress announced her break-up with her beau of two years at the Summertime Ball held at Wembley Stadium, reported Daily Mirror.

"We actually aren't together anymore. I'm single. I'm not going into it but I'm feeling chilled," Johnson said.

The former couple met in a restaurant while Johnson was competing on "The X Factor" in 2015 and moved in together in 2016.—PTI ■

'How I Met Your Mother' finale was like a slap in the face for fans: Alyson Hannigan

LONDON — Actor Alyson Hannigan said she did not agree with the way hit TV show How I Met Your Mother ended and felt the climax was like a slap in the face for the ardent fans of the series.

The 43-year-old, who played Lily Aldrin on the CBS sitcom, said the hour-long finale was cut down significantly during the editing process, which resulted in the abrupt ending, reported Digital Spy.

"It just seemed too quick. Obviously it was a tear-jerker, but with all the stuff that got cut out it was too fast. You're just like, 'Wait, what happened?!' "There was a funeral scene (that got cut), and all this stuff that I think the audience needed. They needed that time to process that information, instead of having it slap them in the face," Alyson said. The actor added she did not think Barney (Neil Patrick Harris) and Tobin (Cobie Smulders) should have got married in the show. "I liked Barney and Robin. But in my heart, I always wanted her with Ted (Josh Radnor). I just feel (Barney and Robin) shouldn't have gotten married."

The show went on for nine seasons from 19 September, 2005 to 31 March, 2014.—PTI ■

The cast of "Dear Evan Hansen" poses with their various awards at 71st Tony Awards in New York City, US on 11 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

'Dear Evan Hansen,' Bette Midler, 'Oslo' win big at Broadway's Tony Awards

NEW YORK — "Dear Evan Hansen," the teen-angst driven musical about a high school outsider, won the top prize at Sunday's Tony Awards, Broadway highest honors, while JT Rogers' Mideast peace accord drama "Oslo" was named best play.

The surprise hit musical won a total of six Tonys, including best musical actor for 23 year-old newcomer Ben Platt in the title role, featured actress Rachel Bay Jones, as well as best book, score and orchestrations.

As widely predicted, Bette Midler won her first competitive Tony as best actress in a musical for "Hello, Dolly!".

Living up to her bawdy reputation, Midler delivered a speech laced with mild profanity to the star-laden audience at Radio City Music Hall, chastising the orchestra as its music welled when she spoke at length.

"Hello, Dolly!" won four Tonys, including best musical revival.

"It's a very tough schedule," Midler, 71, said backstage, noting she is "a woman of a certain age." But she said the experience had been "life-affirming and life-changing," telling reporters between tears, "It's more than I deserve."

On stage she praised the old-school musical as a balm for "these terrible, terrible times."

Actors Cynthia Nixon, Kevin Kline and Laurie Metcalf all won Tonys for performances in plays.

Kline won the lead actor Tony for his turn as an egocentric actor in Noel Coward's "Present Laughter."

"I want to thank everybody," Kline said, adding "we don't do this alone." Like many other winners, he made a pitch for the National Endowment for the Arts, which is facing funding cuts under the Trump administration, saying without it "half the people in this room wouldn't be here."

Former "Roseanne" star Metcalf won her first Tony after several nominations, taking best actress in a play for "A Doll's House, Part 2," a lively, fast-paced sequel to the Henrik Ibsen classic.

Nixon was named best featured actress in a play for a revival of Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes," about a greedy southern family's underhanded business practices.

The actress lauded Hellman for her "eerily prescient play."

Noting one of its lines about people who "eat the Earth" and others who "watch them do it," Nixon praised "the people who in 2017 are refusing to just stand around and watch them do it."

Michael Aronov was a surprise winner in the featured actor category for his kinetic performance as an Israeli negotiator in "Oslo," a behind-the-scenes look at the 1993 Middle East peace accords.

"Oslo" playwright Rogers, making his Broadway debut, thanked "The ladies and gentlemen who believed in democracy, who believed in peace, who believed in seeing their enemies as humans. I give this up to you."

Gavin Creel won best featured actor in a musical for "Hello, Dolly!" and "August Wilson's Jitney" won best revival of a play.

First-time Tonys host Kevin Spacey kicked off the show with a medley of songs referencing his self-doubt about successfully hosting the annual awards show compared to past hosts Neil Patrick Harris, James Corden and Hugh Jackman. —Reuters ■

Katy Perry bids to end bad blood with Taylor Swift, gets no response

LOS ANGELES — Katy Perry is ready to bury the hatchet on her long-running feud with pop rival Taylor Swift, calling her a "fantastic songwriter" and saying she thinks both can be examples of strong women in the music industry.

But Swift, 27, had yet to respond to the olive branch on Sunday and end the bad blood between two of pop music's biggest female singers.

"I am ready to let it go," Perry said in a global podcast on Saturday to promote her new album "Witness."

"I forgive her (Swift) and I'm sorry for anything I ever did, and I hope the same from her. I love her, and I want the best for her. And I think she's a fantastic songwriter," Perry, 32, added.

The feud, which started as a dispute over back up dancers, has dominated the personal and professional lives of the two singers for more than three years and played out in their songs.

Swift on Friday released her back catalog to streaming services, after eschewing most such platforms for three years, on the same day that Perry released her new album "Witness" in what was widely seen as a bid to steal Perry's thunder. Swift's 2014 single "Bad Blood" was believed to be directed at Perry. Perry described her new single, "Swish Swish," released last month, as "a great anthem for people to use whenever somebody's trying to hold you down or bully you."

In her Saturday podcast, Perry said she hoped both she and Swift "can be representatives of strong women that come together despite their differences." "I just really truly want to come together in a place of love and forgiveness and understanding and compassion," Perry said.

Swift, who has not released an album since 2014's best-selling "1989" and has adopted a low public profile in recent months, stayed silent on her social media accounts at the weekend. —Reuters ■

14-year-old pro shogi player Fujii wins 25th straight match

14-year-old Sota Fujii, youngest professional "shogi" Japanese chess player, reviews a match against Ryuma Tonari, 27, in Tokyo on 10 June, 2017, after extending his record winning streak since his debut to 25. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO — The youngest professional shogi player, 14-year-old Sota Fujii, won his 25th consecutive match Saturday, and now holds the record for the second-longest winning streak in the chess-like Japanese board game.

For his 25th straight victory, Fujii, a junior high school student, beat Ryuma Tonari, 27, in a qualifying round of the Eio title at the Shogi Kaikan in Tokyo. Both players are ranked fourth dan.

In the morning, Fujii defeated Hirotaka Kajiura, 21, also fourth dan, to tie the old record of 24 for second-longest winning streak. The record for the longest winning streak — 28 consecutive victories — is held by 56-year-old Hiroshi Kamiya, an eighth dan player.

Fujii won his debut match in December against Hifumi Kato, a ninth dan player, after becoming a professional player at the age of 14 years and 2 months in October. And he has not lost a match since.—Kyodo News ■

Quake simulators draw foreign tourists to disaster learning centres

TOKYO — Earthquake simulators have become a tourist draw at disaster education centers across Japan, with a growing number of foreign visitors eager to learn about the hazards of life in a seismically active country.

With the number of foreign visitors increasing rapidly, some of the centers have started developing multilingual services.

In April, at the Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Center run by the Tokyo Fire Department, some 30 high school students from Australia experienced a simulated level-7 jolt — the highest on the Japanese seismic intensity scale, felt in the March 2011 quake that devastated northeastern Japan.

When the simulator began to rock, students could not stand on their feet and ducked under tables screaming.

It was the first day of a two-week school trip during which they would also visit places including Kyoto and Hiroshima.

After the simulation, a teacher leading the group said it was a valuable experience for students because earthquakes are not as common in Australia, adding it was the first time for them to feel such an intense jolt. According to an official at the learning center, 74,000 people visited the facility in a year through March 2016, and 18,000 of them were foreigners, although it has not taken any steps to promote it overseas.

"It seems visitors have been spreading the word through social networking services," the official said.

Similar safety learning centres with disaster-simulation programs outside Tokyo have also been drawing a number of foreigners.

The number of foreigners who visited the Sapporo Citizens Disaster Prevention Centre in Hokkaido grew sixfold in 2016 from 2003 when the facility was opened. —Kyodo News ■

US bars throwing 'covfefe' parties for televised Comey testimony

WASHINGTON — US bars are offering $5 Russian vodka drinks, "impeachmint" cocktails and free drinks with every presidential tweet to draw crowds on Thursday to watch fired FBI Director James Comey's televised testimony to Congress.

Television "watch parties," typically hosted for sporting events and awards shows, are planned at homes and bars across the country for Comey's 10 am EDT appearance before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

During "the SUPER BOWL of Washington," as it was billed by the Axelrad Beer Garden in Houston, the former director will testify that US President Donald Trump tried to get him to scale back the agency's investigation into Russia's alleged interference in the 2016 US presidential election. "Join us for an early morning beer and engage in friendly debate with fellow patrons," a post on the Axelrad Facebook page said.

The bar also is serving a drink called the impeachmint. In Washington, Shaw's Tavern was one of several bars promising to open its doors a half hour before Comey begins speaking, with a $10 "FBI" breakfast special. In this case, FBI stands not for Federal Bureau of Investigation but French toast, bacon and ice cream.

"Grab your friends, grab a drink and let's COVFEFE!" the tavern said on Facebook, referring to a truncated Trump tweet last week with that word that left some people scratching their heads.

The Partisan bar just off the tourist-rich National Mall will offer "The Last Word" and "Drop the Bomb" cocktails and "The Patriot" breakfast sandwich. "We've got two TVs in our bar and we're going to have the audio on full blast," said Molly Hippolitus, a spokeswoman for the bar's owners. "I'm expecting a pretty good mix, a bipartisan crowd to show up."

The Union Pub in Washington planned to buy patrons a round of drinks every time Trump, a frequent tweeter, makes a post on Twitter during Comey's testimony.—Reuters ■

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(13-6-2017 07:00am ~ 14-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	The Crocodiles of Meinmahla Island (1)
07:39	Am	The Crocodiles of Meinmahla Island (2)
07:52	Am	Welcome to Saga PreFecture
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Journey for Healthy Futu (The 36th Geumsan Insam Festival) Day2
08:46	Am	Diary of a Fisherman
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Strokes of Myanmar
09:53	Am	Today Myanmar: Water Hyacinths
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	Impressionist Myanmar Master Artist - U Lun Kywe
10:44	Am	The Beauty In The North Of Myanmar

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day out With Sarah (EP-5)
07:52	Pm	Soft Drinks without Vendor
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste of Myanmar (Rice Salad with Vegetables)
08:46	Pm	Aye Aye Soe: Myanma Pioneer Female Bodybuilder

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

MRTV Programme Schedule (13-6-2017, Tuesday)

6:00 Am
♦ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
7:00 Am
♦ Breakfast News
7:35 Am
♦ MRTV Travelogue
8:35 Am
♦ Law Affairs
9:10 Am
♦ Documentrary (Mandalay Palace)
9:35 Am
♦ MRTV Youth's Programme
10:30 Am
♦ Analysis for Myanmar Movie
12:30 Am
♦ TV Drama Series
1:00 Pm
♦ Radio Drama
1:50 Pm
♦ Yes or No Talk Show (Part-2)
1:30 Am
♦ Tasy Trip
2:15 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
3:15 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
4:35 Pm
♦ Mono Classical Songs
4:50 Am
♦ Catch Asia NEWS
5:20 Am
♦ Football Magazine
5:45 Am
♦ 2019 Asia Cup Qualification **(Live) (Macao & Myanmar)**
8:00 Pm
♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report
9;00 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series

Nadal now favourite for Wimbledon with Federer, says Wilander

PARIS — Rafa Nadal's 10th French Open triumph will send the Spaniard into Wimbledon next month as a favourite for the title alongside Roger Federer, Mats Wilander told Reuters on Sunday.

Nadal returned to his brutal best at Roland Garros this year, dropping only 35 games en route to the title and getting a 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 win over Stan Wawrinka in the final.

Not only did the victory give Nadal a professional-era record of 10 titles at the same slam it restarted his grand slam collection after three years without a major.

Wilander thinks the 31-year-old Spaniard could now go on a roll.

"Absolutely he is one of the main favourites now for Wimbledon," three-times French Open champion Wilander, hosting Eurosport's flagship "Game Set and Mats" programme in Paris, said as he digested Nadal's return to his Roland Garros throne.

Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates with the trophy after winning the final against Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka at Roland Garros, Paris, France on 11 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"He has taken confidence away from Wawrinka, from (Andy) Murray, even though he didn't play him. And Roger Federer is a very happy man that he didn't come to the French because his confidence has not been dented.

"Nadal has changed his game and he is playing way more aggressive, closer to the baseline, it's a different Nadal.

"He'll go to Wimbledon with so much confidence. For me he's favourite with Federer but Federer won't have the confidence of coming in as French Open champion."

Nadal has won Wimbledon twice but not since 2010 when he beat Tomas Berdych. Injury problems to his knees and wrist have stalled his collection of major silverware which now stands at 15 — second on the all-time list behind Federer's 18.

Wilander believes time away from the court after finishing last year early has helped the Mallorcan to return to his formidable physical peak.

"Tennis players don't need to hit that many tennis balls but when they have a chance to get in the gym and work on the lower body and core that's what helps. Nadal's flying on the court and that gives him that extra confidence.

"I'm not that interested in the numbers...10, 11 or nine. But what this title has done is restart his campaign.

He hadn't won a slam in years. Now he's going to be thinking going into the next three slams Novak (Djokovic) held all four.

"Rafa could arrive here next year in May with 18."

Wilander said Nadal's resurgence since pulling out of the French Open last year with a wrist injury — he also reached the Australian Open final and is back at number two in the rankings — is down to former world number one Carlos Moya joining his team. "I never agreed with people who said Rafa should stop working with Toni (Nadal), but having his friend Carlos there and Francisco Roig means that they talk to Toni and give some new ideas and then Rafa trusts the plan. "There has been a clear change since Carlos came in." —Reuters ■

Myanmar golf players will soon be able to participate in international tournaments by earning world ranking points. **PHOTO: MGF**

Myanmar's local golf tournaments enter World Amateur Golf Rankings

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club (R&A) and the United States Golf Association (USGA) have made the decision for the 2017 domestic golf tournament in Myanmar to be included on the World Amateur Golf Rankings. Myanmar golf players will soon be able to achieve world ranking points and enter international tournaments.

Golf tournaments in Myanmar this year are mainly sponsored by Mottama Holdings Co.,Ltd, Myanmar Zwe Mann, MWD Bank, Phyo Si Thu, Teak Plantation & Bago Yoma Eco Resort (Myanmar), KBZ Bank and Innwa Bank. Two tournaments have finished and the third tournament will be held in Bago from 15 to 18 June.— Phoe Thaw Zin ■

Myanmar battles Macau for AFC qualification

THE third round of the AFC Asian Cup qualification continues today and will pit Myanmar's team against Macau. The game will be played at 6pm Myanmar Standard Time.

The third round divides the teams into six groups of four to play home-and-away round-robin matches, and they compete for the remaining slots of the 2019 AFC Asian Cup. Myanmar's team is placed in Group A with India, Kyrgyzstan and Macau. Both Myanmar and Macau lost 1-0 in their opening matches but Myanmar suffered more embarrassment when it lost in its home field.

Myanmar needs to win today's match if it hopes to make it pass the qualification rounds.

In the 2010 AFC Challenge Cup Myanmar won against Macau with a 4-0 score. In activation of the match, Myanmar practiced in Singapore and played two games with Singapore's selection team that both resulted in a draw and lost 1-0 to Singpore Niigata club.

Today's game will be broadcasted live from MRTV and there will be a minute of silence at the start of the game to honor the people who lost their lives in the Y-8 plane crash earlier this week.

Gerd Friedich, coach of the Myanmar team, said, "This match is important for both the teams since we both lost our opening matches. We lost to India in the final minutes of the game and we're still not over that. I've talked to players to be constantly vigilant and not make the same results in this match." —Nyi Myat Thaw Da ■