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4th Rakhine National Day celebrated in Maungtaw

Men climb a greasy bamboo pole in Rakhine State yesterday as part of a traditional celebration of Rakhine State Day. The climbing of the pole to pick up the flag atop symbolises the unity or teamwork. **(NEWS ON PAGE-2) PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THANT**



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Uber starts ride-hailing service in Myanmar

RIDE-hailing giant Uber Technologies Inc. on Thursday launched its smartphone-based taxi service in Myanmar, which

becomes the 77th country for the firm to operate in since its founding in 2010.

The service is initially

available only in the country's commercial capital Yangon, where Uber is partnering with hundreds of government-regis-

tered taxi drivers, an executive of the U.S.-based firm said at a launch event.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



Mobile medical team provides treatment to the patients in Beya Village in Pauktaw Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dengue outbreak in Rakhine under control

A MOBILE medical team from the Western Command has provided treatment to patients at the dengue fever outbreak area in Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State.

The team arrived at the Beya Village and carried out medical test on the suspected patients,

confirming that 14 were infected with dengue fever while 48 with ordinary fever. The team has carried out preventive measures to control the mosquito-borne disease in the village. During the trip, the team also gave medical care to other villagers. The team got the information on the illness on April

11 and about 120 patients were suspected of being infected with the dengue fever in April. From 9 to 10 May, the medical team toured around nearby villages providing medical care to villagers and assisting those patients who need to be taken to hospital. —Myanmar News Agency ■

4th Rakhine National Day celebrated with enthusiasm in Maungdaw

THE 4th Rakhine National Day was celebrated at Thiri Mingalar Hall in Bandoola Park, Maungdaw Township yesterday morning.

Present at the ceremony were Rakhine State Hluttaw representatives, officials from the

department in the district, the Rakhine National Party chairman, members and more than 10,000 locals.

After the Rakhine Mingala Royal Drum corps opened the ceremony by reciting an ode, local participants observed a

minute of silence to pay respect to past Rakhine ethnic leaders.

U Maung Ohn, the alternative chairman, delivered the opening address and U Khin Maung Than, the chairman of Rakhine National Party, read the messages sent to the ceremony. The representatives of Rakhine State Hluttaw U Kyaw Saw Oo (Sittway), Thu Myat (MahaAungMyay) and Thar Hla (Yathedaung) conducted a paper reading session of the ceremony.

Afterward, the most outstanding students in Maungdaw during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years were presented honorary awards. The department of information and public relations also hosted a book exhibition and served the audience with cold drinks. —Maung Sein Lwin, Aung Kyaw Sein (Maungdaw) ■



Local men in a tug-of-war enjoying celebrations. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THANT (KYAEMON)**

Uber starts ride-hailing ...

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The launch comes less than a week after it carried out a 10-day trial run for technical feedback in Yangon, which has over 2 million daily commuters using public transportation.

Speaking at the ceremony in Yangon, Michael Brown, Uber's regional general manager for Asia-Pacific, said, "Uber's mission is to bring reliable transportation to everywhere for everyone and now I'm pleased to say that includes Yangon, Myanmar."

"Uber can create great benefit in terms of safety for the riders in Yangon and good economic opportunities for the citizens of Myanmar who can take advantage of our technology," he added.

There are more than 70,000 taxi drivers in Myanmar, and Uber has hundreds of driving partners as of Thursday,

according to company officials.

Using a smartphone to hail a taxi is still a relatively new concept in Myanmar, a country of over 50 million people which is still in transition from decades of military rule to an open, democratic country.

Currently there are two local app-based taxi services operating in Myanmar but the market potential is attracting international firms to the country.

Myanmar's mobile phone penetration rate has skyrocketed from around 7 percent a few years ago to nearly 100 percent by the end of 2016, with the smartphone adoption rate at around 70 percent, according to international surveys.

Uber's regional rival, Singapore-based Grab, launched its own trial service in Yangon last month. —Kyodo News ■

About 16 lakh stimulants seized in Buthidaung

ABOUT 16 lakh stimulant tablets were seized at 6-mile inspection toll gate in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, on the morning of 11 May.

Acting on an information, the border guard police force searched a Fuso container truck driven by U Lay Shwe

together with U Saw Yan Aung on board at 6-mile inspection gate at 10:50 am yesterday. The police discovered about 16 lakh stimulant tablets worth over Ks 3 billion in the search. Local police have taken action against them in accordance with the law. —Myanmar News Agency ■



The suspects, their truck and the confiscated drugs. **PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Industrial agriculture exhibition to be held in Shan and Mon states

AN industrial agriculture exhibition will be held in Shan State in June and in Mon state in October, said an official from the Myanmar Fruit, Flower & Vegetable Producers & Exporters Association.

The industrial agriculture

exhibition will be held by Myanmar Fruit, Flower & Vegetable Producers & Exporters Association with an aim to promote penetration of the market.

"During the past years, the exhibition was held with the assistance of international

organisations. This year too, international organisations have offered to participate in the exhibition," said the official.

The industrial agriculture exhibition can widen the scope of knowledge to connect the local market and the international

market, he added.

At the exhibition, vegetables, mangoes, avocados, flowers and other crops which are mainly grown in Shan state will be exhibited in Shan state. Durian, rambutan and pomelo which are mainly grown in Mon state

will be exhibited in Mon state.

The Myanmar Fruit, Flower & Vegetable Producers & Exporters Association holds similar agricultural exhibition three or four times per year in every state and region. —Min Thu ■

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ICRC delegation visits IDP camps in Rakhine State

A DELEGATION of the International Committee of the Red Cross visited camps of the internally displaced people in northern Rakhine on 9th May.

Led by Mr Peter Maurer, Chairman of the ICRC, arrived Sittway in Rakhine State on 9 May. During the visit to Thetkalpyin Camp in Sittway, they observed about livelihood, health and education of the IDPs there. In the evening, Mr Peter Maurer met with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and discussed about the work activities related to ICRC.

On 10 May, the Chairman

and members arrived Sintatmaw Camp in Pauktaw township and met with In -charge of the camp, Adukawrein (a) Khin Mg Hla and nine peoples, asking the electricity accessibility, social and health condition.

The Chairman also met with the village administrator U Tun Hlaing and 16 villagers of the Sintatmaw Village and discussed plan for conducting health care training.

The delegation returned Yangon following the visit to Sintatmaw Village.

—Myanmar News Agency ■



ICRC delegation meets with locals in Sintatmaw Village. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ywalut handicrafts at risk of fading away

YWALUT handicrafts are in danger of being lost as demand for them falls, said a local pipe and walking stick manufacturer.

Previously, traditional smoking pipes and walking sticks were made by virtually everyone in the village, but now only 10 villagers are currently making pipes and walking sticks, said U Man Ngwe Win, the pro-

ducer of 555 pipes and walking sticks.

"Teak, padauk and other hard wood are raw materials to produce the pipes and walking sticks. Also, Taw Thayet and pinlae ohn kyipaung have become scarce.

The skilled workers are also finding jobs abroad. So manufacturing of the traditional pipes

and walking sticks is in danger of extinction", he added.

Fifty years ago, the Myanmar government exported those pipes and walking sticks to Australia. So, the whole village relied on the pipes and walking sticks to make income.

Nowadays, foreigners are visiting Ywalut in Chanugzon to observe Myanmar handicrafts.

Currently, Japan provides both technical and monetary assistance for making the smoking pipes and walking sticks.

A special pipe sells for US\$150, while an ordinary one sells for US\$50.

Ten skilled workers can manufacture 50 finished pipes in 40 designs per day, said a local pipe and cane producer.—200 ■

Training to be held to conserve Ayeyawady dolphins with SMART technology

TO observe and conserve the Ayeyawady dolphin with SMART technology, 26 officers from Directorates of Fisheries of three Regions and States were trained as a second batch on May 8-9 under the arrangement of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), according to Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Officials from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has taught and educated 20 officers from Sagaing, 4 officers from Kachin State and 2 officers

from Mandalay Region at the Institute of Directorates of Fisheries in Sagaing Region, said U Han Win deputy head of Department of Fisheries in Myanmar.

Using the SMART technologies in the Ayeyawady dolphin conservation areas can give better results in seizing illegal fishing and maintaining law and order of those areas by getting the update information. SMART software application enables to collect the data by the SMART



The Ayeyawady dolphin is an endangered species with a population less than a hundred. **PHOTO: WCS**

Rangers in the conservation areas.

That can record threats to Ayeyawady dolphin, biodiversity, and natural distinct features, action taken against

illegal fishing and distances and frequencies of monitoring. As a result, management works on conservation of Ayeyawady dolphin will be more effective.—200 ■



The dented vehicles after the chain collision. **PHOTO: MPF**

Two vehicles crash on Ygn-Mdy Highway

A canter driven by San Wai crashed into the back of Honda fit driven by U Thet Soe Maung between mileposts 164/6 and 164/7 at 12:45 pm yesterday when the former driver lost control.

The canter overturned and the Honda fit also hit a Hilux parked beside the Yangon-Man-

dalay Highway.

No one was injured on board the vehicles but the vehicles were damaged. Thagara Highway Police have taken action against San Wai under section 297 of the Penal Code.—Nyi Nyi Than (Nay Pyi Taw) ■