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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 19 May 2018

Religious titles conferred on monks

Eighty-eight members of the Sangha who passed the 70th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture were honoured yesterday in Yangon.

The ceremony held at the Mahapasana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba-Aye hillock in Mayangon Township was attended by members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Command Maj-Gen Thet Pon, Yangon Region Chief Judge, officials and laypersons.

At the ceremony, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pananinsara Bhivamsa.

Afterwards, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, Chair of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, delivered the Ovadakahta (speech) and

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The congregation led by Vice President U Myint Swe donates offertory to winners of the Tipitakadhara Examination in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

VP U Henry Van Thio inspects development works in Tonzang, Chikha

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, who was in Tonzang Town, Chin State, inspected the development works in the two towns on 17 May.

The Vice President was accompanied by Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Lwal, Chin State Hluttaw Speaker U Zo Bwe,

Deputy Minister Rear Admiral Myint Nwe, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, state ministers and other officials.

In the morning, the vice president and his delegation arrived at the construction site of Tonzang Town's multi-purpose

natural disaster shelter building and inspected the construction work. During the inspection, the Vice President remarked that the multi-purpose natural disaster shelter building can be used effectively by the local people.

Next, U Henry Van Thio vis-

ited Chikha Town, where he was greeted with a traditional dance. He then reached the Khenman Village, where he was greeted again with a traditional dance, after which he inspected the development works in the area.

At the site where a My-

anmar-India border market is planned to be constructed, Ministry of Commerce Permanent Secretary U Toe Aung Myint explained the ongoing negotiation and coordination works for the market.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds second-day meeting

By Myo Myint,
Myothu Hein

THE second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its second-day meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday.

At the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the Hluttaw had approved the second amendment to the Civil Services Personnel Law and the Explosive Materials Bill.

Next, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval for the proposed appointment of U Tin Maung Myint as a member of the Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar.

The Hluttaw also agreed to the matter of reorganising Vice Chairman (2) in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee after the agreement of the Hluttaw was obtained.

Later, the Hluttaw representatives from Tatmadaw Col. Myint Han, Col. Khin Maung Tun and Lt-Col. Hla Naing, U Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho of Dawbon constituency, Daw Nam Kham Aye of Namtu constituency and Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3 discussed the matter of putting on record Recommendation 205, the Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, sent by the President. Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe also discussed and explained the matter after which the Hluttaw put the matter on record.

Following this, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin explained that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was utilising Ks319 million from the emergency fund of the 2017 Union Budget Law, and the Hluttaw announced the matter would be



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

put on record.

The Hluttaw also approved the reorganising of National Education Policy Commission, sent by the union government, after it was explained by Ministry of Education Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun. In his explanation to the Hluttaw about the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission 2017 Annual Report, chairman U Win Mra said the commission was conducting more works annually, and the cooperation of the government, union ministries and the state/region governments was required. It was observed that some departments responded to the commission after they were informed about the complaints received about them.



Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe. **PHOTO: MNA**

State-owned and private media were also asked to investigate and expose human rights abuses, allowing the commission to respond to them in a timely manner. The Hluttaw then requested the Hluttaw representatives who

wanted to discuss the report to enrol their names.

The Protection of Wildlife and the Conservation of Natural Areas Bill, sent back by the President with remarks, was discussed by U Maung Soe @ U Soe Thein of Taninthayi Region constituency 10, and the Hluttaw's approval was obtained after the bill committee tabled a motion.

With no one objecting to the motion, the Hluttaw announced its approval for Myanmar to adopt the third protocol to amend the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement, sent back by the President.

The third-day meeting of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session will be held on 22 May. ■

Third meeting held for Rakhine State documentary

A THIRD MEETING to produce a documentary depicting Rakhine State's beauty, richness of natural resources, and its simple, honest and friendly local ethnic nationals was held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Patron of the Movies and Documentaries Production Steering Committee, said the documentary would enhance the image of Rakhine State, depict the people living in harmony, show the geography of Rakhine State and serve as a record of the ethnic nationals in Rakhine State.

The movies will be screened in country, as well as promoted on the international stage, said the union minister. The minister also mentioned the establishment of movie studios and training schools for the develop-



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses the third meeting for creation and production of a Rakhine State documentary. **PHOTO: MNA**

ment of the movie industry, and weekly news and interviews in state-owned media and MRTV about press shows and soon-to-be-screened movies.

Next, Rakhine State Movies and Documentaries Production Steering Committee Chairman

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Rakhine State Documentaries Production Work Committee Chairman and Director-General U Myint Htwe and Rakhine State Movies Production Work Committee Chairman U Ye Naing discussed

their respective sectors.

This was followed by a discussion of the theme, script and actors by Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon's patrons director Baji U Soe Moe and U Aung Lwin, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon Chairman U Zin Wine,

Shwe Than Lwin Media Co. Ltd Chairperson Daw Myint Myint Win on behalf of the Rakhine State Movies Production Work Committee member U Kyaw Win of Shwe Than Lwin Media Co. Ltd, Rakhine State Documentaries Production Work Committee member U Win Maw of Forever Group Co. Ltd., Rakhine State Movies Production Work Committee member director U Zinyaw Maung Maung and other attendees. Also discussed was the production of movies and documentaries on Rakhine State, the development of the Myanmar movie industry, and the establishment of movie studios and training schools. The minister coordinated and provided additional discussion. After the meeting, the minister and his delegation visited the Myanmar Media Development Centre (MMDC) training school at the Junction Square Shopping Mall. — Myanmar News Agency ■



I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:

1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
3. Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)



That is why in the coming year 1380, our Union Government has decided to keep in high regard the need for “collective strength” to overcome our country’s challenges.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

State Counsellor receives Myanmar Consul in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, delegations from International organizations separately

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Peter Chung, Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 a.m. yesterday; Mr. Mark Andrew Green, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), at 11:00 a.m. on 18th May 2018 and Ms. Laura Londen, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at 2 p.m. on the 18th May 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw separately.

During the meeting with Mr. Peter Chung, matters related to investment in the education sector, establishment of international schools in Myanmar and attracting more investments from Canada to Myanmar were cordially discussed.

During the meeting with Mr. Mark Andrew Green, Administrator of the USAID, they discussed existing and future development assistance programmes including food security, agriculture, health and humanitarian assistance by the USAID.

Moreover, they exchanged views on Myanmar’s endeavours and challenges regarding the repatriation of displaced persons from the Rakhine State as well as possibilities of creating jobs and livelihood opportunities for both communities to live peacefully and harmoniously in the Rakhine State.

During the meeting with Ms. Laura Londen, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the UNFPA, they exchanged views on the cooperation programme with the UNFPA including 2014 population and housing census, data analyzing, family planning, quality of life and reduction of maternal mortality.—Myanmar News Agency



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Peter Chung, Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Mr. Mark Andrew Green, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Ms. Laura Londen, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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edited.in
PictureA brief but sometimes intense rainstorm caused flooding in some parts of Yangon yesterday afternoon, including the intersection of Baho Road and Bagayar Road in Sanchaung. **PHOTO: MARK ANGELES**

US, Germany to buy organic tea from Myanmar

The United States and Germany have proposed to buy fresh and dried organic tea leaves from Myanmar this year.

"The US and German companies have shown interest in buying certified organic tea. Germany has proposed to buy small amounts eventually," said U Tun Myaing, chairman of Myanmar Tea Growers and Exporters Association.

The US has proposed to buy 20 tonnes of fresh tea leaves, while Germany has proposed to purchase a few tonnes of dried tea leaves.

In 2016, Myanmar exported five tonnes of dried tea leaves to Germany and 10 tonnes of fresh tea leaves to the US.

Although the US had proposed to buy 10 tonnes of fresh tea leaves in 2017, exporters failed to meet the

demand because of delays in receiving the organic certificates by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA).

Earlier, tea exports only required certificates issued by the Agriculture Department, but buyers have been demanding additional certificates from the FDA, as of last year. Only three tea production companies in Myanmar are certified for the organic farming of tea.—GNLM ■

Eight injured in bus accident on old Yangon-Mandalay highway

At least eight people were injured when a bus flipped over on the old Yangon-Mandalay highway in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, on Friday morning, according to police.

The accident took place between milepost 333/3 and 333/4 on the road near the Power Full filling station at 10.10 am on 18 May.

Travelling towards Nay Pyi Taw from Meiktila, a passenger bus carrying 15 people and driven by Hein Boe Aung, 26, flipped over and onto the shoulder of the road after he lost control, according to police.

The accident left eight



people injured, including four men and four women, who are now being treated at Meiktila Hospital.

Police have registered the case and ordered investigations to determine the cause

of the accident.

Police have filed charges against the driver under Section 279/ 337 and 338 of the Penal Code, charging him with reckless driving.—Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila) ■

FDIs invited for insurance sector

The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) is planning to attract Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) into the insurance sector, following the opening up of the education sector in April 2018, according to a report in Myawady Daily on 17 May.

"DICA will invite FDIs for the insurance sector. Foreign investors have been visiting Myanmar to discuss investments in the country. We cannot confirm everything because we are still observing the sectors that can be developed through FDIs," said U Thant Sin Lwin, Deputy Director-General of DICA. Foreign investments can develop the sector. Some investors who visited Myanmar and discussed investments are planning to submit a proposal soon, he added.

Those interested in investing in the education sector must contact the Myanmar Investment Commission and the Ministry of Education.—GNLM ■

Land to be arranged to construct industrial zones in Bago Region

The Bago Region government will make land available for the construction of industrial zones in Bago Region. The Bago Region does not face scarcity of land to implement industrial zones. Many investors from China and South Korea visited Myanmar recently to invest in the implementation of industrial zones in the country.

"It is not difficult for us to make land available in Bago Region to implement the industrial zones project. If they need land in Bago Region, our regional government can arrange it. No land has been set aside for industrial zones in Bago Region, but the government has defined industrial areas.

If industrial zones are developed, our region will also develop, and it can create job opportunities for the local people," said U Nyunt Shwe, Bago Region minister for planning and finance. The region government is scrutinising the contracted land, which has been granted to implement the project in the industrial areas.—GNLM ■

Exports rise \$299mln in current FY, trade deficit up \$153mln

MYANMAR's exports reached US\$1.4 billion over the 41 days in the current transitional fiscal year, up by \$299.4 million over the same period last year, according to the latest weekly trade report from the Ministry of Commerce.

The country's imports during the period were \$2.2 billion, which showed an increase in value of \$453 million as against the same period last year.

The gap between imports and exports, as of May 11, was \$808.5 million. The current trade deficit was marginally higher at \$153.8 million, in comparison with the same period in the last

year when the country had a trade deficit of \$654.7 million, the data showed.

The major commodity groups showing positive export growth between 1 April and 11 May include animal products, fisheries, minerals and manufactured goods, whereas exports of forest-based products, agricultural goods and miscellaneous decreased \$61.7 million, compared to last year.

Myanmar chiefly imports three groups of commodities, including capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer products, which saw an increase in value from both public and



File photo shows workers sort fish at a fish market in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

private sectors during the one and a half months of this financial year.

The country's import value is annually greater than its exports, causing a trade deficit. It

suffered a total trade deficit of more than \$3.9 billion last fiscal year. —Shwe Khine ■

Trade in turmeric roots cools in domestic market

TRADE in turmeric roots grown in Shan State has cooled in the domestic market, according to local retailers.

The market sees a steady decline in trade, as the demand for turmeric roots dwindled. The major buyers are from Yangon and Mandalay, who bought not only turmeric, but also ginger from Shan State, followed by buyers from Mawlamyine and Pyay towns.

According to the trade record, only 500 tons of turmeric was sold last month. In April, the price for a viss (3.6 pounds) of turmeric was sold at Ks900-Ks1,500, depending upon its quality and freshness.

In the export market, China, India, Singapore and Malaysia are the main overseas buyers for the country's higher quality turmeric roots.

When compared with pre-

vious years, there is very little export demand for turmeric this year, according to a retailer. Turmeric roots are widely used in the manufacture of medicines. The spice is an important ingredient in treating arthritis, stomach aches and diarrhoea. Turmeric is used not only as a principal spice, but also in religious ceremonies in Southeast Asia.—Khine Khine ■

Rice market cools down in Yangon this week

THE domestic rice market has cooled, having seen a decline in the arrivals of both low and high quality rice this week, according to a wholesale center in downtown Yangon.

Based upon quality, the current wholesale prices of high-quality rice remained between Ks55,000 and Ks34,000 per bag. The current prices are not different from that of last week's rice selling prices, however, the price of newly harvested Pawsan Rice rose to Ks38,500 this week, from Ks37,000 last week.

The current prices of low-quality rice also remained unchanged, in comparison with last year. Depending upon

the quality, a bag of rice sold for Ks19,700-Ks22,500, while newly harvested, low-quality rice sold for Ks23,000-Ks22,700 per bag.

For the time being, the local rice market is expected to remain cool, and anticipates a decline in the arrivals of both low and high quality rice this week, according to wholesalers.

The country normally exports rice, parboiled rice, sticky rice and broken rice to overseas buyers, including in the Ivory Coast, Singapore, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Russia and some European states, China and Bangladesh.—Swe Nyein ■

Sino-Myanmar border trade through Muse gate tops \$577mln this FY

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and the People's Republic of China through the Muse border reached US\$577.8 million this fiscal year, an increase by over \$163.9 million compared to the same period last year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Situated between Myanmar and China, the Muse border trade camp has the highest volume and value of total border trade, compared to other

trade camps. The trade value of commodities being transported through the Muse station between 1 April and 11 May this year included \$396.8 million in exports and \$181.064 million in imports.

Despite an increase in the value of bilateral exports during the period, the imports coming through the Muse trade station saw a slight decrease in value, by \$3.6 million against last year.

This time last year, the total

border trade value at Muse was \$412.9 million, including exports worth \$229.6 million and imports worth \$184.7 million.

According to the ministry's statistical report, the trade value of Muse was \$2.829 billion in FY2012-2013, \$3.517 billion in FY2013-2014, \$5.318 billion in FY2014-2015, \$5.377 billion in FY2015-2016, \$5.361 billion in FY2016-2017 and \$5.822 billion in FY2017-2018.—Khine Khant ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Trade Mark Ads

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Religious titles conferred on monks

FROM PAGE-1

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko supplicated a report on religious affairs.

Vice President U Myint Swe presented the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title and insignia to Ashin Sihta Nanna Linkara of Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Monastery in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Commander Maj-Gen Thet Pon, Yangon Region Chief Judge and officials also presented certificates to the monks. The Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examinations have been held in Myanmar for 70 years.

The Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination takes 33 days.

In the 70th examination, 307 monks took part, an increased from the 291 who took the examination last year. —GNLM ■



A ceremony to confer religious titles to winners of the Tipitakadhara Examination is held in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar

Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Commission for Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Thura U Shwe Mann received Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama at the Hluttaw Building Hall I-11 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They discussed matters related to legal affairs, and the boosting of bilateral relations and cooperation at the meeting. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference arrives

At the invitation of the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, a delegation led by Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Mr. Wang Zhengwei arrived in Yangon yesterday.

The delegation was welcomed by Amyotha Hluttaw's Hluttaw Rights Committee Secretary U Maung Maung Latt, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and officials at Yangon International Airport. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Mr. Wang Zhengwei welcomed by Amyotha Hluttaw's Hluttaw Rights Committee Secretary U Maung Maung Latt and officials. **PHOTO: MNA**

KNU resolves political problems through political means

By Ye Kaung Nyunt

The Tatmadaw had announced its agreement to temporarily halt the construction of Kepu-Lwemupalaw road to enable the locals to move and live freely in the region after Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with Karen National Union (KNU) Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Poe in Yangon Command on 17 May.

After the announcement by the Tatmadaw, KNU also announced the Tatmadaw's agreement to suspend the construction of the road in the Lwemupalaw area under the control of the KNU and to withdraw the Tatmadaw forces assigned for security reasons in the area, allowing the locals to move and live freely in the region. The announcement added that KNU will establish a federal union based on democracy and a federal system with a policy aimed at resolving

political problems through political means.

Union-level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) secretary (1) Dr. Shwe Kha said, "Yesterday, leaders from the two sides met. After both sides knew about the true situation, construction of the road was temporarily halted. The forces deployed there will be withdrawn. Now is the time when the locals are farming, so a decision was made for the locals to be allowed do their work in peace. When the top leaders met, the problem is resolved. Due to this, the local commanders are not required to meet as scheduled on the third week of May."

The Tatmadaw previously said the reason for constructing the road in Papun District, Kepu and Lwemupalaw area was to supply the Tatmadaw forward positions before the rainy season, causing KNU Brigade (5) some concern and prompting skirmishes starting from 5 March. ■

VP U Henry Van Thio inspects development works in Tonzang, Chikha Townships

FROM PAGE-1

Later, at the Chikha Town Road Department guest house, Ministry of Construction State Director U Kyaw Myo Htut explained to U Henry Van Thio the plan to upgrade some 90 miles of road, namely, 30 miles of Tiddim-Tonzang-Chikha road, 30 miles of Haka-Matupi road and 30 miles of Matupi-Paletwa road to an 18 feet wide concrete road and 12 feet wide asphalt road; the works conducted to clear in a short time the Kalay-Falam road blocked by a landslide; and the status of conducting preventive measures, such as widening the road and constructing retaining walls. Ministry of Construction Permanent Secretary U Win Tint provided additional explanations wherever necessary.

The Vice President said that more efforts must be made to ensure the roads, which are the main transport mode for the people of Chin State, are easily accessible throughout the year. Improving the road communication will help promote the socio-economic development of (Chin) state and its people, the vice president said.

The Vice President and his delegation then reached Chikha Town's 16-bed station hospital, where they encouraged and presented cash support to the patients undergoing treatment and donated Ks1 million for medicines required in the hospital to the hospital officials. The vice president also inspected the site, where the hospital extension will be constructed.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits the construction site for the natural disaster shelter in Tonzang, Chin State. PHOTO: MNA

In the afternoon, the Vice President inspected the upgrading of the Tiddim-Chikha road and the 450-feet-long double bailey Natzan bridge over Manipur River near Natzan Village. The Vice President said the road must be constructed according to the set norm and stressed on its long-term durability.

Later, the Vice President and his delegation arrived in Tonzang Town's 25-bed Township People's Hospital, where the hospital superintendent Dr. Htan Shan Khaing and other officials explained the status of constructing the extension ward and providing medical care to the people. Following this, the Vice President encouraged the local people undergoing treatment in the hospital and presented them



Vice President U Henry Van Thio is welcomed by local people in Chikha Township, Chin State. PHOTO: MNA

with cash support.

Following this, the Vice President reached the Tonzang silkworm plant farm, where farm officials explained and demonstrated the planting of silkworm plant, also called Morus or Mulberry plant, and the silkworm breeding house. The vice president said planting silkworm plants would increase the income of the local families, and it could replace

the slash-and-burn farming system. He asked for the farms to be systematically upgraded and to inform the people in a timely manner the latest research findings so that the planting of silkworm plants can be done in an economically viable manner.

The Tonzang silkworm plant farm is situated beside Tiddim-Tonzang road at the entrance to Tonzang Town and was estab-

lished in 1965. Tonzang Town is some 4,800 feet above the sea level, and the weather and location is ideal for silkworm plants and silkworm breeding. It has the potential to become a cash crop for local farmers and during the 1979-1980 period, more than 80,000 silkworm cocoons were produced here.

In the evening, the Vice President went to Tiddim's 100-bed people's hospital to inspect the healthcare services provided there, encouraged the patients undergoing treatment and presented them with cash assistance.

Later, the Vice President inspected the construction of the two-storey eight room staff house. The house was constructed in the 2017-2018 fiscal year using Ks200 million.—MNA

Maungtaw students complete basic firefighting course



Maungtaw Township Administrator U Myint Khaing presents prize to a outstanding trainee. PHOTO: THET LWIN SOE (IPRD)

By Naing Lin Kyi, Zin Oo

A completion ceremony for a pre-summer basic firefighting course for Maungtaw Township students was held in Maungtaw District Maungtaw Township Fire Services Department office yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Maungtaw Township administrator U Myint Khaing delivered a course completion speech, and prizes were awarded to outstanding trainees of the pre-summer basic firefighting course for students.

Next, winners of best prizes in the subjects on firefighting and search & rescue were presented

with awards, while course trainees were presented with course completion certificates by the head of the Maungtaw Township police force, the executive officer of township development committee and the township Fire Services Department head.

Maungtaw District Fire Services Department head U Thant Sin said, "Under the guidance of Rakhine State minister for security and border affairs, the course was conducted for students in Maungtaw to be ready to prevent the outbreak of fires in the summer. In Maungtaw region, natural disasters like storms are

encountered yearly, and whether it is a natural disaster or an outbreak of fire, the course was conducted with an aim to have cooperation between township and district and to benefit the school and the local area." The township fire services department usually conducts these courses, but no courses were held in 2016 and 2017. This year, a total of 40 trainees attended the two-week course that was held from 7 to 18 May. Similarly a pre-summer basic firefighting course for students in Maungtaw District Buthidaung Township was held from 7 to 18 May.

Mutual respect, understanding can help overcome bilateral challenges

HUMAN habitation and building of any structure within 150 feet of the Myanmar-Bangladesh border is prohibited by bilateral agreement. Myanmar has demanded Bangladesh to remove bunkers and some houses on their side of the border in restricted areas as the construction violates the bilateral border agreement.

It has been discovered that Bangladesh has been helping illegal occupants on the Myanmar side of the international border line in building shelters, which is a blatant violation of Myanmar's territorial integrity and sovereignty. This action must stop immediately.

We need cooperation from Bangladesh in removing structures recently built in the non-construction zone of the border line, since the construction of those structures breached Article 14 of the "Treaty between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the Demarcation of the Land Section of the Boundary North of the Naaf River" signed in 1998.

We would like to urge Bangladesh to provide information on its readiness to commence the repatriation process including the completion of transit camps on the Bangladeshi side as well as the promotion of awareness among the prospective returnees on the bilateral agreements between the two countries and the agreed verification forms to be shared with them.

Bangladesh is altering the truth and vilifying the Government and the people of Myanmar to solicit international condemnation and to exert maximum political pressure on Myanmar. We need full and sincere cooperation of the Government of Bangladesh if the repatriation process is to be successful.

Myanmar reiterated its readiness to accept the verified displaced people from Bangladesh and urged the Bangladeshi side to commence the repatriation of the earlier verified 778 Muslims and 444 Hindus as well as 1,101 verified persons (as of 2 May 2018) out of 8,032 persons received from the Bangladeshi side.

We would like to urge Bangladesh to provide information on its readiness to commence the repatriation process including the completion of transit camps on the Bangladeshi side as well as the promotion of awareness among the prospective returnees on the bilateral agreements between the two countries and the agreed verification forms to be shared with them.

We are seriously concerned that Bangladesh is unwittingly allowing extremists to operate in this part of the region. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) is already gaining a foothold in the camps, and soon it will become a stronghold of terrorism and extremism. Recently, on 9 May, a group of 4 to 6 terrorists entered into one of the refugee camps in Balukali and dragged Mohamed Faisal Ulhaq, 46, out of the camp and stabbed him to death. It was reported that he was advocating for return of IDPs to Rakhine among fellow displaced people in the camp.

Only a balanced and constructive approach will lead us to the right solution of the extremely complex and politically most sensitive problem of Rakhine State. ■

Pros and cons of coal-fired power plants

By Khin Maung Myint

WHenever a coal-fired power plant project was planned to be implemented, there would always be opposition in some countries. The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and environmental activists will demonstrate vehemently against their constructions. Such incidents are common in our neighbouring country since a long time ago. That trend had now crept into our society too. We had been witnessing the demonstrations and activities to oppose the constructions of coal-fired power plants becoming popular in our country in the recent years.

I have been an ardent advocate for the control of climate change and had persistently written in many of my articles related to the climate change, to substitute the fossil fuels, including coal, with renewable or green energies, such as: solar, wind, hydro and geothermal energies. These fossil fuels are great emitters of CO2 and other gases that constitute the greenhouse gases, which contribute to the global warming—the root cause of the climate change.

However, after coming across a very interesting piece of information on the Internet about how the greenhouse gas emission of coal-fired power plants can be reduced to the near-zero emission level by the latest technologies, my opinion of the dangers of the coal-fired power plants is somewhat changed. I started to weigh the pros and cons of the use of coal-fired power plants. If that claim made by some experts should prove to be true, it would be really an encouraging breakthrough that would benefit, especially the developing countries including ours, greatly. To appreciate which aspect outweighs the other, it would be necessary to

know what are the pros and cons of coal-fired power plants.

Coal-fired power plants are a type of power plant that make use of the combustion of coal in order to generate electricity. Records show that their use provides around 40% of the world's electricity and are primarily found in developing countries. Countries such as South Africa use coal for 94% of their electricity and China and India use coal for 70-75% of their electricity needs. Among them, the amount of coal China uses far exceeds most other countries. We all know that electricity is the most essential commodity and a great driving force for developments, it helps to increase quality of life and reduce poverty in those regions, where it is available. Though the use of coal provides access to electricity to those who previously didn't have it, the adverse effect is, it produces large quantities of different pollutants, which reduce the air quality and adversely impact on the climate.

Here, it would be necessary to discuss the conversion of the coal to electricity. The coals must be transported to the site of the power plant, either by train or ship. Once there the coals are unloaded. They are then pulverized into a fine powder by a large grinder. This ensures nearly complete burning of the coal in order to maximize the heat given off and to minimize pollutants. The pulverized coal is then fed to a boiler, where combustion occurs and this provides heat to boil the water in the boiler, producing steam. The steam then travels through a turbine, causing it to rotate extremely fast which in turn spins a generator, producing electricity. The electricity can then be input to the electrical grid for use by the society. Since they require plenty of water to be circulated in this cycle, coal power plants need to be located near a body of water.



Largest coal-fired power plant in Laos

Large quantities of water are often needed to remove impurities from coal, in the process known as coal washing. For instance, in China, around one-fifth of the water used in the coal industry is used for this process. This process helps to increase the thermal efficiencies to a higher level and reduce air pollution, as it eliminates around 50% of the ash content in the coal, resulting in the less emission of greenhouse gases.

When power plants remove water from the environment, fish and other aquatic life can be affected, along with animals relying on these sources. Pollutants also build up in the water that power plants use, so if this water is discharged back into the environment it can potentially harm wildlife there. Thus the discharging of water from the power plants and coal washing requires monitoring and regulation. When the water in our rivers, lakes, and oceans becomes polluted; it can endanger wildlife, make our drinking water unsafe, and threaten the waters where we swim and fish.

Also, the use of coal have many associated environmental impacts on the local ecosystem. It is universally accepted that the coals are packed with carbon and other matters that become great pollutants when burned. The burning of coal releases many pollutants - oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and sulfur (SOx)-

and particulate matter. They also emit greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane (CH4), which are known to contribute to global warming and climate change. To help reduce the emission of these pollutants, power plants require technology to reduce the output of these harmful molecules.

The above mentioned adverse effects of the coal-fired power plants are the disadvantages, but there are also many significant advantages. As for the plus side or the pros, it is undeniable that they made electricity readily accessible for those who never had that opportunity before. Electricity is the indispensable driving force for the development and the economy of a country, which would help enhance the quality of life and reduce poverty. With the outmoded coal powered plants, the cons may outweigh the pros and strengthen the opponents' stand to oppose the coal power plants. However, if we could introduce the modern and advanced types of coal-fired power plants, which are eco friendly, these cons would be cancelled out by the pros.

Today, researchers had found that improving efficiency can increase the amount of energy that can be extracted from a single unit of coal. A one percentage point improvement in the efficiency of a conventional pulverized coal combustion plant results in a 2-3% reduction in

CO2 emissions. If the current average global efficiency rate of coal-fired power plants could be raised from 33% to 40% by deploying more advanced technology it would cut two gigatonnes of CO2 emissions, which is equivalent to India's annual CO2 emissions. Improving efficiency increases the amount of energy that can be extracted from a single unit of coal.

Deploying high efficiency, low emission coal-fired power plants is a key first step along a pathway to near-zero emissions from coal with carbon capture, use and storage. This high efficiency, low emission technologies or the "clean technologies" are commercially available now and, if deployed, can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the entire power sector by around 20%, while allowing affordable energy for economic development and poverty reduction. In addition to the significant benefits from reduced CO2 emissions, these modern high efficiency plants have significantly reduced emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter. Besides the climatic benefits of reduced CO2 emissions, reduction in these pollutants is of additional importance at the local and regional level in addressing the air quality and the related health concerns.

In conclusion, I would like to suggest that we should study our neighbour, Laos, which is rapidly

developing. To my knowledge, that landlocked small nation, without much natural resources like our country, had developed in leaps and bounds in a very short time. What could have propelled them ahead so fast? Well, in my opinion, though they already have numerous hydro electricity plants producing more electricity than their needs, they built a modern coal-fired power plant in 2015 to augment the electrical power generation. It comprises three 626 Megawatts generators—quite a large one too. It was a result of high demand from Thailand, where there are shortages as they are unable to build coal-fired power plants due to strong oppositions from the NGOs and environmental activists. Though they lacked the natural resources, Laos had made up for that handicap by investing in the electricity exporting business, which supplemented their economic growth significantly. Opponents of the coal-fired power plants should realize that if that power plant in Laos, which utilizes the "clean technologies" is alright for them, it would be okay for us too. ■

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 22/2018

4th Waxing of Nayon, 1380 ME
18 May 2018

Appointment of member of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 327 and 332 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Tin Maung Myint has been appointed as member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Committee for Development Policy announced Myanmar has fulfilled all three LDC graduation criteria for the first time

MYANMAR has met all three eligibility criteria for the first time to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status according to the assessment mentioned in the recent Report of Committee for Development Policy (CDP) of the United Nations.

It was stated in the report of the meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Committee for Development Policy held in March 2018 which was issued at the UN Headquarters in New York on 19 April 2018.

According to the 2018 Triennial Review, a country has to meet three eligibility criteria for LDC graduation, namely (i) Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of US\$ 1230 or above (ii) Human Asset Index (HAI) of 66 or above and Economic Vulnerable Index (EVI) of 32 or below.

At the 2018 Triennial Review, Myanmar's Gross National Income (GNI) per capita stands at US\$ 1255 while it holds 68.5 points in Human Asset Index (HAI) and 31.7 points in Economic Vulnerable Index (EVI). Therefore, CDP recommended in its report that Myanmar has passed all three graduation criteria. This is the very first time Myanmar meets all LDC graduation criteria since it was listed in LDC in 1987.

If Myanmar continues to meet at least two out of the three criteria again in the 2021 Triennial Review by sustaining its current development momentum, it will pave the way for Myanmar to graduate from the LDC status in the following years, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—Myanmar News Agency

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

Sherpa shortage takes a toll on Everest

EVEREST BASE CAMP (Nepal) — The Everest industry is suffering from a dangerous shortage of its most important resource: experienced Sherpa guides.

Ethnic Sherpas from the valleys around Everest have become synonymous with high altitude climbing. With their unique ability to work in a low-oxygen, high altitude atmosphere, they are the backbone of the industry, hauling clients and equipment to the top of the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) mountain.

The number of Everest climbers has more than doubled in two decades, however, and the Sherpa supply has not kept pace. Raw recruits are now being used to reach the top and it has already taken a toll.

Dawa Sange Sherpa, 20, summited Mount Everest last year — a first for him and the climber he was with. On the way down, the cold, lack of oxygen and exhaustion took hold. The pair collapsed just below the summit and were found hours later, barely alive. “My friend said to me, ‘He’s done’. But I found a small pulse in him,” said guide Ang Tshering Lama, who found Sange.

Everest victim

Lama dragged the unconscious Sange back down the mountain while others helped his client.

Both had severe frostbite. Sange lost all of his fingers, spelling the end of his short career on Everest.

Sange was not meant to be guiding that year. He was planned to be carrying equipment up the mountain, a job many young



A climber walks through base camp below Everest, which is suffering from a dangerous shortage of its most important resource: experienced Sherpa guides. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sherpa do before graduating to become guide.

“I was in the second team, in which untrained Sherpa usually carry the equipment and food from the base camp to camp two, three and four,” Sange said.

But his employer, Seven Summit Treks, the largest Nepal-based expedition operator, had more than 60 clients on Everest and needed someone to take a paying climber to the top.

Head of Seven Summit Treks Mingma Sherpa said Sange was ready to be a guide and had previously summited Everest. Sange said he had not.

Nine other Sherpa from Seven Summit Treks were rescued on Everest that year, but Mingma denied there were any problems.

“A Sherpa can summit five times, eight times but sometimes he gets a problem. That’s

the body,” he said. With the climbing season barely started, so far this year at least four Sherpas from Seven Summit Treks have already sustained frostbite, according to base camp sources.

‘Risky business’

No qualifications are needed to work on Everest. Some expedition operators require staff to do one of two short courses for mountain workers. Others do not. Dawa Steven Sherpa of Asian Trekking requires all staff to have done the NMA course. He said that budget expedition operators hire inexperienced Sherpa to cut costs.

“As long as his name is Sherpa,” he quipped of the recruitment criteria.

Experienced Sherpa guides can make up to \$10,000 in the April to May climbing season, more than 14 times Nepal’s

average annual income. The lowest paid will barely scrape together \$1,000 for two months’ risky work.

“It’s the fault of the clients as well if they just close their eyes and go cheap,” said Lama, who rescued Sange.

Seven Summit Treks — which charges about \$20,000 to climb Everest, less than a third of other operators — blames rivals for the shortage, accusing them of not investing in the next generation of Sherpa guides.

“They take only experienced Sherpas. They don’t want to spend extra money to train new Sherpas,” Mingma said.

Phurba Tashi Sherpa, head Sherpa with the Himalayan Experience company, who has summited Everest 21 times, said it was becoming more difficult to find experienced Sherpa for his team.—AFP ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Over 47 kg of drugs seized in SW China

KUNMING — Police in southwest China’s Yunnan Province have caught one suspect and seized 47.446 kilograms of drugs, local police said Friday.

Earlier this month, police in Dehong prefecture received information that someone was planning to transport a large amount of drugs across the border into China.

On May 11, police caught a man allegedly carrying over 45 kilograms of opium and more than two kilograms of methamphetamine on a motorcycle in the city of Ruili.

The case is under further investigation. Yunnan is a major front in China’s battle against drug crime, as it borders the Golden Triangle known for its rampant drug production and trafficking.—Xinhua ■

Two civilians killed in shelling in eastern Ukraine

KIEV — At least two civilians were killed and two others wounded early Friday during a shelling in the village of Troitske in Ukraine’s conflict-hit eastern Lugansk region, authorities said.

Yuriy Garbuz, head of the Lugansk regional military-civilian administration, said on Facebook that Troitske was attacked by 122-millimeter-caliber artillery shortly after midnight, with at least 15 shells landing in the village.—Xinhua ■

Five dead in E China traffic accident

NANCHANG — Five people were killed in a traffic accident in east China’s Jiangxi Province, local authorities said Friday.

The accident occurred Friday noon when a car collided with a truck on the Hukou section of the S214 provincial road.

Two people died at the scene and three died later in hospital.

An investigation into the cause of the accident is underway.—Xinhua ■

Speeding truck knocks down Hindu pilgrims in India, killing 11, injuring 19

NEW DELHI — At least 11 Hindu pilgrims were killed and 19 others injured on Friday after a speeding dumper truck ran into a huge group of pilgrims marching toward a shrine in northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, officials said.

The accident took place outside Bichai-Tanakpur in Champawat district, about 312 km south-east of Dehradun, the capital

city of Uttarakhand. “Today in a horrifying incident here, a rashly driven dumper truck rammed into a group of pilgrims walking towards Purnagiri shrine,” Hemant Kumar Verma, additional district magistrate in Champawat told Xinhua over telephone. “Eleven pilgrims were killed in the accident and 19 others injured are undergoing treatment at different hospitals.”

According to officials, the group comprising of around 250 pilgrims were walking barefoot as part of the pilgrimage when the vehicle hit them.

The victims were identified as residents from neighbouring Uttar Pradesh’s Bareilly district.

Reports said the driver of the vehicle fled the spot. However, police said they were trying to ascertain his details and

would arrest him soon. Eyewitnesses said following the accident shrieks and cries of injured triggered a chaos in the locality. Police have registered a case and ordered investigations to ascertain the actual reason behind the accident. Deadly road accidents are common in India often caused due to overloading, bad condition of roads and reckless driving.—Xinhua ■

Trump dampens chances of trade deal with China

WASHINGTON— US and Chinese officials face a new round of tough trade talks on Friday as President Donald Trump discounted chances of a deal, but Beijing extended a potential olive branch.

Trump met with a Chinese delegation headed by Vice Premier Liu He on Thursday as talks aimed at easing frictions between the economic powers got underway.

“The two sides agreed to continue the discussions on Friday,” the White House said.

But speaking earlier in the day about the prospects for the talks to be successful, Trump was not optimistic, saying: “I tend to doubt it.”

“China has become very spoiled... Because they always got 100 per cent of whatever they wanted from the United States,” he said. Trump unleashed a barrage of criticism against former US administrations for allowing Beijing to take advantage of the United States.

“We have been ripped off by China. And an evacuation of



The US has threatened to impose 25 per cent punitive duties on up to \$150 billion in Chinese goods while China has targeted \$50 billion in American exports. **PHOTO: AFP**

wealth like no country has ever seen before given to another country that's rebuilt itself based on a lot of the money that they've taken out of the United States,” he said.

“Trade has been a total one-way street,” Trump said. “And I

explained to (China's) President Xi (Jinping) that we can't do that anymore.”

But hours later, China's commerce ministry announced that it was terminating its anti-dumping and anti-subsidy probe into US sorghum imports, saying punitive

measures would increase costs for the Chinese livestock industry and consumers.

Provisional duties had been imposed last month. Tariffs on sorghum would hurt farmers in states such as Kansas, Texas, Colorado and Oklahoma, which

are also major Republican-leaning states that make up Trump's electoral base.

Separately, the Chinese delegation has offered a \$200 billion reduction in its annual trade surplus with the US by increasing American imports and other measures, according to Bloomberg News, which cited a Trump administration official. Such a reduction is among a list of US demands.

‘Meet each other halfway’

Trump also had harsh words for the European Union, which is likewise at loggerheads with Washington over US export tariffs on steel and aluminum.

“The European Union has been terrible to the United States on trade,” he said. “They've been terrible to our workers.”

China's Liu held talks with Trump and other top US officials, saying the two countries should “meet each other halfway, respect each other, and work together to push forward bilateral ties in a healthy and stable manner,” according to China's official Xinhua news service.—AFP ■

Sri Lanka elephants face plastic danger foraging dumps for food

COLOMBO — At a garbage dump in central Sri Lanka a herd of wild elephants forage among a mountain of rubbish, swallowing dangerous scraps of plastic mixed with rotting food in what experts warn is an increasing problem for the revered animals.

Due to illegal dumping near wildlife sanctuaries, hundreds of Sri Lanka's estimated 7,500 wild elephants now scavenge at rubbish tips and many are being made sick by what they eat, Jayantha Jayewardene, an expert on Asian elephants, said.

“Sri Lanka considers elephants to be a national treasure, but we see these animals reduced to eating rubbish,” Jayewardene told AFP Thursday.

“They have become docile and got so used to tractors bringing them garbage.”

A herd of 20 wild elephants at Habarana in the east of Sri Lanka has become totally dependent on rubbish and behaved almost like domestic animals waiting for tractors to tip the garbage.

“These elephants no longer forage in the jungle. They are like zoo animals. It is a sad sight to see national treasures picking through rotting rubbish,” he said.

The animals can be seen



Hundreds of Sri Lanka's wild elephants now scavenge at rubbish dumps, risking their health due to plastic scraps mixed with rotting food. **PHOTO: AFP**

covered in smelly garbage and rooting among piles of plastic bottles, a far cry from the majestic jumbos portrayed in travel brochures.

Jayewardene said the solid waste included plastic scraps despite a government ban on non-biodegradable polythene. Hundreds of elephants elsewhere are also known to forage at doz-

ens of rubbish tips near elephant habitats.

“Elephants are getting sick by eating plastics,” he said. “We don't, however, have post mortem evidence yet of polythene causing deaths, but this is a real concern.”

The government last year banned the open dumping of garbage near wildlife sanctuaries to discourage elephants from

risking their lives by foraging for rotting food.

At one dump in Digampana, 160 kilometres (100 miles) northeast of Colombo, an elephant was recently seen trying to open a plastic sack to get at an onion and ended up swallowing the plastic as well.

The government has ordered electric fences be erect-

ed around more than 50 dumps near elephant habitats to keep the roaming beasts away. Some have not been put up while others are ineffective, according to local residents. “Around 300 wild elephants are hanging around them (dumps),” the government said in a statement issued last year. “When elephants consume bacteria-infested waste... it shortens their lifespan.”

The problem is worse for a herd of spotted deer at Koneswaran in the northeastern district of Trincomalee where frequent deaths have been reported due to plastic poisoning.

Local wildlife officials told AFP that there was no effective enforcement of the garbage ban.

Sri Lanka cracked down on haphazard disposal of garbage after 33 people were buried alive when a huge 90-metre (300-foot) rubbish tip at the edge of the capital Colombo collapsed destroying more than 100 homes.

Since then, plastics have been banned and prosecutions been threatened for illegal dumping. But enforcement remains a problem. Elephants are venerated in Buddhism, the majority religion in Sri Lanka, and are protected by law.—AFP ■

Trump promises North Korea's Kim can stay in power

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump tried to put his summit with Kim Jong Un back on track Thursday, offering the North Korean leader guarantees of staying in power if he abandons nuclear weapons. As prospects for a historic summit next month between the two leaders dimmed, Trump told reporters that if the meeting were to go ahead successfully, Kim “will get protections that will be very strong.”

“He’d be in his country and running his country. His country would be very rich.”

But the pledge came barbed with a warning that if diplomacy fails, Kim could suffer the same fate as Libya’s Moamer Kadhafi, who was overthrown and killed by rebels. Trump’s comments came as Pyongyang appeared to cool to the idea of the sit-down in Singapore on 12 June, denouncing US demands for “unilateral nuclear abandonment.” Trump suggested Kim’s apparent about-face may have been at the behest of Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

“It could very well be that he’s influencing Kim Jong Un,” Trump said, citing a recent meeting between the pair; their second



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un addresses members of the military in Pyongyang. **PHOTO: AFP**

in a month’s time. “We’ll see what happens.” For decades, Washington has watched in horror as North Korea — propped up by trade with China — has made a series of technological leaps toward building a missile capable of carrying a nuclear weapon to US cities.

That grim achievement is now within reach, prompting Trump to launch a campaign

of “maximum pressure” on the regime, coupled with the offer of talks. A series of landmark meetings between Kim and his South Korean counterpart and between North Korean and US officials had made diplomacy look like the more likely avenue.

Libya model

After the months of photo-ops and diplomatic backslap-

ping, a North Korean official was quoted as saying the summit may not go ahead.

The official also groused about Trump’s National Security Advisor John Bolton, who referred to Libya as a model for denuclearization.

In 2003, Kadhafi agreed to the elimination of his country’s nuclear program and chemical weapons arsenal to gain sanc-

tions relief. But Trump, and Pyongyang, appeared to zero in on what happened a decade later during the Libyan revolution, when NATO-backed rebels ousted the government and killed Kadhafi. “The Libyan model isn’t a model that we have (in mind) at all when we’re thinking of North Korea,” Trump said while sitting at arm’s length from Bolton in the Oval Office.

“If you look at that model with Kadhafi, that was a total decimation. We went in there to beat him,” Trump said.

“Now, that model would take place if we don’t make a deal, most likely,” he warned Pyongyang. “But if we make a deal, I think Kim Jong Un is going to be very, very happy.”

Although the Kim-Trump summit remains up in the air, preparations are continuing.

“North Korea is actually talking to us about times and everything else as though nothing happened,” said Trump.

“We are continuing to negotiate in terms of location... where to meet, how to meet, rooms, everything else and negotiating like nothing happened.”—AFP ■

Exploding e-cigarette killed Florida man, coroner says

MIAMI — An exploding e-cigarette killed a Florida man and set fire to his apartment, an autopsy has found.

In what is believed to be the first death from a vaping pen explosion in the United States, 38-year-old Tallmadge D’Elia died when two pieces of the e-cigarette lodged themselves in his cranium, the Pinellas County medical examiner said. D’Elia was discovered when firefighters broke into the burning apartment in St Petersburg, Florida, on 5 May. The fire was found to have been caused by the exploding device, and resulted in 80 per cent burns to his body. The lethal vaping device was identified as a Smok-E Mountain brand, which is manufactured in the Philippines, according to the local Tampa Bay Times newspaper. It said the device was known as a “mechanical mod” e-cigarette, which lacks some of the safety features that other makes have, including computer chips to prevent them from overheating.

“A regulated device typically contains electronic circuitry,



According to FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, there were 195 fires and explosions involving electronic cigarettes between 2009 and 2016 in the United States. **PHOTO: AFP**

built-in safety features, and adjustable power settings,” Gregory Conley, president of the American Vaping Association, told AFP.

“In contrast, a mechanical mod is unregulated and works simply by drawing the power of

a battery to an atomizer,” he said.

“If the battery in a mechanical mod over-discharges and the device doesn’t contain enough air holes to allow the battery to vent, there is a risk of explosion.” The coroner’s report did not specify

what made the vape pen explode. The Smok-E Mountain brand’s Facebook page had been taken down on Thursday. According to FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, there were 195 fires and explosions in-

volving electronic cigarettes between 2009 and 2016 in the United States. None of them was fatal, although a fire safety officer who studied the cases told the Tampa Bay Times they could result in “horrific injuries” to the face, and to the thigh and groin area if they exploded in users’ pockets.

The Food and Drug Administration warns that the devices can explode and cause severe injuries, noting that while the exact causes of such incidents remains unsolved, they appear to be mostly linked to lithium-ion batteries, which are also used in cell phones. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said that “e-cigarettes have the potential to benefit adult smokers who are not pregnant if used as a complete substitute for regular cigarettes and other smoked tobacco products.”

However, a study carried out on mice, and reported in the National Academy of Sciences’ publication PNAS in January, showed that vaping can increase the risk of certain types of cancer and heart disease. —AFP ■

Biggest eruption at Hawaii volcano since it became more active

HAWAII — Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupted from its summit early Thursday, shooting a huge plume of ash miles into the sky and prompting authorities to urge area residents to take cover.

The Hawaii Volcano Observatory said the explosion within Kilauea's Halemaumau crater -- the biggest since the volcano became more active on 3 May -- had produced a volcanic cloud that reached as high as 30,000 feet (9,000 meters) and was drifting downwind to the northeast.

"Not your average wake-up call at the Kilauea Volcano summit," the US Geological Survey said of the 4:17 am (local time) blast that lasted a few minutes. The Observatory said residents living along the path of the ash plume should take shelter, and maintained a code red aviation alert signaled on Tuesday, meaning no air traffic was permitted in the area. "At any time, activity may again become more explosive, increasing the intensity of ash production and producing ballistic projectiles near the vent," it said in a statement.

Authorities by afternoon said weak winds and rain meant that ash fallout from the latest eruption was largely contained in areas around the Kilauea summit. "We've had reports of light ash fall in



Lava from the Kilauea Volcano burns vegetation between two fissures on Hawaii's Big Island on 16 May 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Hawaii's Volcanoes National Park and we expect that folks may be experiencing trace ash fall around Volcano Village," Michelle Coombs, a volcanologist at the US Geological Survey, told reporters at a daily briefing. "We expect activity could wax and wane like this in the near future," she added. Kilauea is one of the most active volcanoes in the world and one of five on Hawaii's Big Island. It started erupting on 3 May, prompting about 2,000 people to flee from their mountainside homes. The latest steam-driven burst on Thursday came two days after Halemaumau crater sent "ballistic blocks" of rock and another

massive plume of volcanic ash shooting into the sky.

Kevin Kushel, a resident of the island, told AFP that Thursday's plume of smoke could be seen miles away.

"I just went to Pahoa and it's a smoke-filled nightmare, the likes of which I've only imagined from reading about Pompeii," he said.

Precursor to major eruption

Scientists believe the volcanic activity may be a precursor to a major eruption similar to the one that shook the island in the mid 1920s. But they say they expect no loss of life given that the most exposed residential areas have been

evacuated and the region where the volcano is located -- on the southeastern part of the island -- is not densely populated.

Geologists say the latest eruptions are being caused by lava levels substantially draining at the summit.

"The magma is something like 300 or 400 meters below the surface, and when that happens, ground water can get that close to the volcano where the magma is and it can heat up steam... and issue out of the ground explosively," Ken Rubin, who heads the department of geology and geophysics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, told AFP.—AFP ■

Friend of Paris knife attacker charged, two women held

PARIS — A friend of the man who carried out a deadly knife attack in Paris was charged Thursday with "associating with criminal terrorists" while two women were detained for questioning as the investigation gathers speed.

Khamzat Azimov, a 20-year-old naturalised Frenchman of Chechen origin, killed one man and injured five others in the busy Opera district of the French capital on Saturday night before being shot dead by police. The Islamic State group has claimed the attack.

Abdul Hakim A, also a Chechen-born French national, was detained Sunday in the eastern city of Strasbourg, where the two men grew up, and charged with "associating with criminal terrorists with plans to attack people," a judicial source said.

Both men, who were close friends, had appeared on French terror watch lists, although nei-

ther had a prior criminal record.

"He has denied any implication in either preparing or carrying out the acts as well as any recent links with Khamzat Azimov, claiming not to have seen or been in contact with him for several months," France's top anti-terror prosecutor Francois Molins said.

But he added that examinations of telephone networks showed that shortly before the attack, Hakim A has sent his sister a text message of "a jihadist chant regularly used by the Islamic State".

Investigators want to determine if Hakim A "may have influenced Azimov in his jihadist quest or knew he was planning this attack," the source said.

During a search of his home in Strasbourg police found seven cellphones but were unable to locate the phone he used most often, sources close to the case said.—AFP ■



A friend of the man who carried out a deadly knife attack in Paris was charged with "associating with criminal terrorists" while two women were detained for questioning as the investigation gathers speed. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1085 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1085 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V .TROGIR VOY. NO. (1126)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V .TROGIR VOY. NO. (1126) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CA SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (023 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (023 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AIPT 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.

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The LA cottage where Meghan learned how to take tea with the Queen

LOS ANGELES— Months before meeting the Queen for the first time and having a “cuppa” with her Majesty, Meghan Markle brushed up on tea drinking etiquette at a cottage near Los Angeles -- where she was apparently a natural.

“Well, she learned it all here,” Edmund Fry, the British-born owner of Rose Tree Cottage in Pasadena, told AFP in an interview this week. “On a scale of one to 10, by the time she finished coming to us, I would say she would probably be a 9.5.

“But I have to say that because I want her to come back for the other half point.”

Fry said the California-born actress, who will marry Prince Harry this weekend, on several occasions visited the picturesque tea room — decked out with all things British — where she was given the inside track on tea drinking. “She came with friends and was very relaxed and very



Edmund Fry displays the proper way to hold a tea cup at The Rose Tree Cottage in Pasadena, near Los Angeles. **PHOTO: AFP**

much in control,” he recalled.

He said he shared some tips on the quintessential tea expe-

rience with the soon-to-be new member of the royal family, as she munched on traditional finger

sandwiches and scones.

No slurping or dribbling

“I do believe that I men-

tioned, as I always do, that the handle of the cup is always left at three o'clock of course ... and the spoon always needs to be left at six o'clock and 12 o'clock,” said the 77-year-old, who dresses in tails and white gloves while serving and educating his customers.

He added that Markle seemed like a natural on her repeated visits and was unlikely to make any faux pas -- like slurping or using her napkin to blow her nose or wipe her glasses -- while sipping tea with the Queen.

“I remember telling her one of the habits in this country is people tend to get much more palsy walsy with their cup ... and they move it in front of them,” Fry said, raising his eyebrows in despair.

“Maybe it's because they have a tendency to dribble, I'm not sure,” he added.

“But this is not a good thing to do.”—AFP ■

Meghan Markle, Grace Kelly: stars who became royalty

PARIS— Meghan Markle is not the first American actress to give up her career for the love of a prince. More than six decades ago her fellow countrywoman Grace Kelly walked away from Hollywood to take on a new role as princess of Monaco.

And despite marked differences in the two women's trajectories, royal observers say Markle, like Kelly, could bring a welcome dash of modern flair to a royal family better known for hewing to tradition no matter the cost.

“Meghan Markle is the Grace Kelly of the iPhone generation,” said Ana Romera, a monarchy specialist in Spain.

It was a photographer for French society magazine Paris Match who orchestrated Prince Rainier's first meeting with Kelly, muse of Alfred Hitchcock, during the Cannes film festival in 1955.

At 26 years old, Kelly was at the height of her career, having just won an Oscar for her role in “The Country Girl” alongside Bing Crosby. Less than a year later she had married into royalty: love at first sight for some, a marriage of convenience for others.

But no one doubts that Rainier's union with one of the bright-



Meghan Markle's wedding with Britain's Prince Harry has evoked comparisons with another royal tie-up: Grace Kelly's 1956 marriage to Prince Rainier of Monaco. **PHOTO: AFP**

est stars of the silver screen put his domain on the map.

“Grace Kelly gave a spectacular boost to the image of the tiny principality. After the wedding tourists started coming in force, hoping to see the royal couple,” said Bertrand Tessier, a French journalist who wrote a book on Kelly.

But the price of this success was the end of Kelly's dreams of continuing to act. “The prince absolutely did not want his subjects to see his wife kissing another man, even if it was only the movies,” Tessier said.

“This was the most dramatic moment of Grace's life. She

had been sure she would be able to quickly return but realised it wouldn't happen,” he added.

“She had to choose whether to be a princess or an actress, but she couldn't be both.”

‘A new chapter’

History now seems to be repeating itself, but with a few twists.

Markle, who met Harry on a blind date two years ago, has said she will abandon acting to take up humanitarian work.

“It will be a new chapter,” said the 36-year-old, who will no longer be part of the hit US law series “Suits” in which she starred for seven seasons.—AFP ■

Cumberbatch Cold War thriller is snapped up at Cannes

CANNES—A Cold War spy thriller starring “Sherlock” star Benedict Cumberbatch has been one of the big sellers at the Cannes film festival, reports said Thursday.

“Ironbark” is based on the story of British spy and businessman Greville Wynne, who handled the double agent Oleg Penkovsky, a Russian military intelligence officer who tipped off Britain and the US about Soviet missiles in Cuba.

The information he fed through Wynne -- who was arrested in Budapest and sentenced to eight years in prison in 1963 -- was among the most important of the Cold War.

Rights to the film were sold out across the world, according to Variety, with distributors FilmNation later posting on Facebook

that it “has been a pretty good Cannes”. The US company has also sold out the rights to the starry all-female big-budget spy caper “355” starring Jessica Chastain, Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard and Fan Bingbing, which was unveiled at Cannes.

Another Soviet era movie, “Gareth Jones”, about the Welsh writer of the same name, has also sparked a lot of interest at the festival.

The journalist, played by James Norton of “McMafia” fame, helped expose the Holodomor, the man-made famine that many blame on Stalin in early 1930s Ukraine in which millions died. Polish director Agnieszka Holland has wrapped shooting in Poland and Ukraine, with finals scenes due to be filmed in Scotland later this month.—AFP ■



Benedict Cumberbatch plays a Russian military intelligence officer who tipped off Britain and the US about Soviet missiles in Cuba. **PHOTO: AFP**



Over 120 Buddha images from Nyaungyan Period discovered in PyinOoLwin

Over 120 Buddha images from the Nyaungyan period (1605-1752) in Myanmar history were discovered at a village in PyinOoLwin Township recently during the conservation of two pagodas.

The villagers found the Buddha images when they cleared a banyan tree which covered the two pagodas at the Shwelamin Monastery in Pinlein East Village in PyinOoLwin Township.

The antiques were found

inside the relic chambers of the two pagodas. The villagers made the conservation efforts following a suggestion from a 80-year-old villager that there were two pagodas under the banyan trees.

“The Buddha images are from the Nyaungyan Period, and they are believed to be about 400 years old,” said Tanmawady U Win Maung, a prominent expert for historic architecture in Myanmar. —Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House) ■



The two pagodas are believed to be constructed about 400 years ago during the Nyaungyan Period. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

Ceremony for completion of EQ course for Law Enforcement Officers held

A completion ceremony for the Emotional Quotient (EQ) or Emotional Intelligence for Law Enforcement Officer multiplier course (3/2018) was held at the Yangon Region Police Force southern district training depot in Thanlyin Township yesterday morning.

Yangon Region Police Force Chief Win Naing delivered a speech at the ceremony attended by chiefs of District and Township Police, police officers from the office of the chief of southern district police force, training instructors and trainee officers totaling 70. Yangon Region Police Force Chief presented training certificates to a representative of the trainee officers.

The training was conducted by 20 trainee officers from 30 April to 18 May, it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Allan Carr: The rise and fall of a Hollywood hedonist

LOS ANGELES—Armed with a bulging contacts book and a luxury pad with its own disco overlooking Beverly Hills, bombastic impresario Allan Carr threw the Hollywood parties that defined the 1970s.

The producer launched countless careers with stage and screen hits like “La Cage aux Folles” and “Grease” but was as notorious for his diamond-encrusted caftans, garish yellow Mercedes and lifelong battle with obesity.

The mogul and bon viveur hosted debauched soirees where the cocaine, free champagne and even freer love attracted a galaxy of stars, from Rita Hayworth to Warren Beatty and Mick Jagger.

“Glamor is entertainment. That’s what entertainment is about... It’s the American Dream come true,” Carr, who died in 1999, says in an archived interview unearthed in a new documentary.

Available from video streaming services from 5 June, “The Fabulous Allan Carr” doubles as

a history of the gay experience in Hollywood, both in the carefree pre-AIDS 1970s and in the dark days that lay ahead.

Carr’s kitschy parties often turned into all-gay affairs after the stars went home, where entertainment industry bigwigs would mingle with the young, muscular, flaxen-haired men he called his “twinkies.” “Although it was no secret that Allan Carr was gay, he never formally acknowledged it publicly. The word ‘flamboyant’ was used to describe him, a code word,” says the film’s Emmy-winning director Jeffrey Schwarz. “Using humor and outrageousness to gain entry into a conservative industry, Allan Carr furthered the acceptance of gay identity just by being himself.”

Star-maker

Born Allan Solomon to a Jewish family in Chicago, Carr worked at Playboy before reinventing himself as a party planner, arranging a black-tie evening for Truman Capote in an abandoned Los Angeles jail.

His talent agency managed

Tony Curtis, Peter Sellers, Joan Rivers and “Mama” Cass Elliot, and he is credited with discovering numerous other stars, including Olivia Newton-John, Mark Hamill and Steve Guttenberg.

Carr impressed with his marketing know-how on several of Bee Gees manager and Hollywood producer Robert Stigwood’s movies, including rock opera “Tommy” and “Saturday Night Fever.”

For his next project, an unfancied musical called “Grease,” Stigwood entrusted Carr not only with the marketing and premiere party, but also writing the screenplay and co-producing.

Shot over two months in LA for \$6 million, it was eviscerated by critics but ended up grossing \$400 million and was the most successful movie musical of all time until “Mamma Mia!,” 30 years later. Carr’s showmanship was never in doubt but his instincts as a producer were notoriously inconsistent. Among his biggest flops was the flamboyant, spectacularly awful \$20 million Village People origin story “Can’t Stop

the Music,” a big screen musical brought out in 1980, long after disco went out of vogue.

In 1983 Carr came back fighting with a hugely successful musical version of the Broadway play “La Cage aux Folles” that ran for five years, picking up six Tony Awards.

Cringeworthy

“It was a revolutionary portrayal, made more poignant by the fact that it was released at the height of the AIDS crisis. Allan Carr was the last great showman of the 20th Century,” said Schwarz. His reputation for lavish parties brought ABC calling, and in 1989 he created a 61st Annual Academy Awards that he promised would be a transformation from the dry, staid production it had always been.

Instead it was a laughing stock, culminating in a cringeworthy duet with squeaky-voiced Eileen Bowman and a tone deaf Rob Lowe that prompted the New York Times to award it “a permanent place in the annals of Oscar embarrassments.”—AFP ■



Allan Carr, pictured in an undated photo, was a mogul and bon viveur who hosted debauched soirees where the cocaine, free champagne and even freer love attracted a galaxy of stars. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar to play friendly with national football team from China

AS part of the preparation for international football tournaments that will be held later this year, the Myanmar men's national team will play a friendly with China's national team in Nanjing, China on 26 May, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Myanmar's national team will be in camp in Yangon on 20 May and will start their training for the match on 21 May, said a football official.

Myanmar team will be headed by its new head coach Antoine Hey. The team will leave for China on 24 May and will test a friendly match on 26 May, he added. The Chinese Football Association was founded in 1924 by the People's Republic of China and joined FIFA in 1931.

Although China lost all their matches and failed to score a goal in their FIFA World Cup debut in 2002, qualifying for the



Myanmar national football team seen at an international football match. PHOTO:MFF

tournament has been considered the greatest accomplishment in the country's football history.

China has won the EAFF East Asian Cup twice, in 2005 and 2010, and have been run-

ners-up at the AFC Asian Cup twice, in 1984 and 2004. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Week 12 MPT MNL matches start today

THE Week-12 matches of the MPT Myanmar National League (MNL) 2018 will feature the marquee teams including defending champions Shan United and former champions Yangon United and Yadanabon United, according to the MNL.

Today's matches involve young, up-and-coming teams to be played in Yangon and other cities.

Rakhine United will play against Southern Myanmar FC at Waitharli Stadium at 3.30 pm, while Sagaing United will play against Magwe FC at Monywa Stadium at 3.30 pm.

Also, Zwegapin United will also play against Hanthawady United at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon today at 4pm. The match will be broadcast live on For Sports and MRTV.

The other matches will also be live streamed on the MNL Facebook page.

Tomorrow's matches involving the top teams are potentially thrilling matchups.

Defending champions Shan United will play against well-regarded Ayeyarwady United at Taunggyi Stadium tomorrow at 3.30pm. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV and For Sports.

Also tomorrow, Yangon United will play GFA FC at 4 pm at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, while Yadanabon FC will play against Myawady FC at Mandala Thiri Stadium in Mandalay at 4pm.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Controversial cull strengthened Super Rugby, says Stormers coach

CAPE TOWN — Super Rugby's controversial axing of three teams has left the southern hemisphere league much stronger and more competitive, Western Stormers coach Robbie Fleck said on Friday.

Fleck refused to comment on speculation that other South African teams would follow the Cheetahs and Southern Kings, both cut last year, to Europe's

PRO14. But he said the move to slim Super Rugby from 18 teams to 15, which also involved the acrimonious exit of Australia's Western Force, had improved the level of competition.

"With those two South African sides and the one Australian side exiting, it's made the competition tougher," said Fleck, ahead of Saturday's game against Japan's Sunwolves in Hong Kong.

"There's certainly no more easy games and with the improvement of both (Argentina's) Jaguares and the Sunwolves it certainly now is a competition that I think that people want to watch and that we want to be involved in.

"The future of Super Rugby, I won't comment on that but right now I feel that they've made the correct changes in terms of the

format." The way forward for Super Rugby remains unclear, after years of expansion ended abruptly following recognition that the globe-spanning competition had become unwieldy. Governing body SANZAAR has said all options are on the table, including contraction and renewed expansion. The United States is reportedly one area of interest for the competition.—AFP ■

Nadal eases past Shapovalov, Djokovic back challenging in Rome

ROME — Rafael Nadal brushed aside Canadian teenager Denis Shapovalov with a 6-4, 6-1 victory at the Italian Open as Novak Djokovic showed he is on the comeback trail by reaching his first quarter-final of 2018 on Thursday.

The 31-year-old Nadal will face Italian Fabio Fognini in the last eight as he looks to retake the world number one ranking

from Roger Federer by winning an eighth Rome title this week.

Nadal has already won his 11th titles in Monte Carlo and Barcelona during the current clay-court season, but has lost in the quarter-finals in each of the last three years in Italy.

He was far too strong for Shapovalov, taking the opening set with a break in the seventh game before racing through the

second to gain a measure of revenge for his shock defeat by the 19-year-old in Montreal last year.

"I think Rafa played incredible today," said Shapovalov. "He's been playing at a really high level for this whole clay season. So, you know, it's credit to him. He was just simply too good today."

Top seed Nadal recorded his 20th clay-court win of the year while Shapovalov will at least

have the consolation of becoming the Canadian number one on Monday. "It was a solid match for me," said Nadal. "I started with some mistakes on the return. But with my serve, I didn't lose many points. "At the beginning, I really think that he was serving big. I got the break in the 3-all. And then the match changed. He probably stopped to serve that big a little bit, and I was a little bit more

relaxed." The Spaniard will next take on Fognini, a player he holds a 10-3 record against including five straight wins in their most recent matches.

Fognini got past Germany's Peter Gojowczyk 6-4, 6-4.

Meanwhile, Djokovic moved into his first quarter-final since Wimbledon last July when he defeated Spain's Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-1, 7-5.—AFP ■