

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 40, 2nd Waxing of Nayon 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 27 May 2017



Hailing Union Peace Conference —21st Century Panglong (Second Session)



Representatives of ethnic groups arrive for meetings at the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Eight NCA signatories pledge to reach agreement in security sector

THE Peace Process Steering Team comprised of eight signatories to the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement discussed the political, economic, social, land and environment and security

sectors yesterday.

“Currently, we are discussing the wording in the political sector, including the names of parts of the Union. We have not yet finished the issue of

the Federation Union,” said Khun Myint Tun, Chairman of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization. “We need to take time for the security sector. We must discuss it until we reach

agreement,” he said.

Among the five sectors, the political and security sectors became hot issues at yesterday’s meeting, he said.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 5th regular session holds its 3rd day meeting

THE 2015-2016 annual report, the Maritime Zones Bill, a World Bank loan to be used for natural disaster management and a national education curriculum were discussed yesterday as the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 5th Regular Session held its 3rd day meeting at the meeting hall of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

At the meeting U Maung Maung Win, deputy minister for planning and finance, explained the annual report on government debt for the financial year 2015-2016 sent by the Union Government. U Aung Min of Zalun constituency, vice-chairman of the Joint Public Accounts Committee, read out the committee's findings and conclusion report (5/2017).

Mahn Win Khaing Than, patron of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, said any interested persons could enroll their names to second the report regarding the Joint public accounts committee's findings and conclusion report over the annual report on the government debt for the financial year 2015-2016.

Then, Dr Myat Nyanna Soe of constituency 3, in Yangon Region and secretary of the committee, read out the report on the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Draft Law committee's further findings and conclusion notes regarding Myanmar Territorial Sea and Maritime Zones Bill, which was a slightly different vision between Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.

Afterward, the Patron of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that any interested



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

persons could enroll their names to second the report.

U Maung Maung Win, deputy minister for planning and finance, then explained the discussions the Hluttaw representatives made on the second day of the 5th regular session, regarding the matter of borrowing loans amounting to US\$125 million from the World Bank to implement the project for the management on natural disasters in South-East Asia, sent by the President.

"Yangon is an axis of importance for national development, becoming a rapidly developing urban area. And the city's size is vast, producing 25 per cent of the GDP. According to the 2014 census, Yangon has a population of 7.36 million, but its basic infrastructure is in a dangerous situation, and urbanisation is also found to have not covered all the city

dweller. Moreover, the YCDC has been distributing water, maintaining drainage channels, disposing sewage and managing the tasks of throwing away trash. Yangon has been selected as it has potential capabilities of repaying loans from the World Bank. If the project has been implemented, six urban townships — Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botahtaung and Pazundaung will have benefits directly and other related townships will have indirect benefits. With the loan from the World Bank, Sanchaung township and others else will have the benefits of reducing floods", the deputy minister said.

Following that, Mahn Win Khaing Than approved the matter of getting loans of US\$125 million from the World Bank with a majority vote.

As regards Myanmar's

continual participation in a 2017 regional cooperative agreement (RCA) in substitution for the 1978 RCA, the regional cooperative agreement for research, development and training related to nuclear science and technology for Asia & the Pacific sent by the President, U Zaw Thein of Wakema constituency, Lt Col Zaw Tun Oo, Tatmadaw representative, Dr Tin Aung of Kyaukse constituency, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun constituency and U Sein Boh of Myawady constituency spoke in support of the matter.

Over the submission for Myanmar to take part in the signing made by Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, Hluttaw declared that it had been approved.

After that, as regards the report on the performance of national education policies commission during the six-month period of 2016 October to 2017 April, Dr Than Win of constituency 1 Mandalay Region, U Wai Sein Aung of Rakhine State constituency 1, Dr Hla Moe of Aungmyay Tharzan constituency, U Kyaw Naing of Yangon Region constituency 12, U Oo Tun Win of Kyauktaw constituency, U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi constituency, U Than Aung of Ngapudaw constituency, U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine constituency 3, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3 and U Aung Myo Latt spoke in support.

"I would like to suggest to the national curriculum com-

mittee that arts and science subjects need to be in harmony with the curriculum. It should not to be prioritised on science subjects excessively, because most of the present day's graduates lack knowledge on historical and geographical knowledge so much so that they fail to know whether there are the Four Great Rivers in Myanmar. So, it needs to be in harmony in drawing up respective curriculum, and they need to be close to our practical lives. Until now, we have had irrelevant syllabuses", said U Min Thein of the Taungdwingyi constituency.

Dr Hla Moe of Mandalay Region's Aungmyay Tharzan constituency suggested that a national curriculum committee should be formed with experts in respective subjects and enthusiasm in the subjects, instead of appointing high-ranking officials who have attained high educational degrees.

In response to the Union Minister for Education, Dr Myo Thein Gyi's submission of granting the ministry to take time for explanation over the Hluttaw representatives as regards the report on the performance during the six-month period of the national education policy commission, it was announced that the Hluttaw approved it.

It has been learnt that the 4th day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 5th regular session will be held on 1st June 2017.—Thura Zaw and Aye Aye Thant ■

U Win Myint receives European Parliamentary delegation

U WIN MYINT, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw received the delegation of the European Parliament for Relations with the Southeast Asia and ASEAN led by Mr. Werner Langen, Chairperson of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw at 1:00 pm yesterday.

At the meeting, they dis-

cussed matters relating to rule of law, democratic transition, legislation procedure, friendship and cooperation between Myanmar Hluttaw and the European Parliament.

Also present were U T Khun Myat, Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office and Mr. Roland Kobia, EU Ambassador to Myanmar. —Myanmar News Agency ■



U Win Myint shakes hands with Chairperson Mr Werner Langen in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives delegation of Members of the European Parliament and Indian Foreign Secretary

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received the delegation of Members of the European Parliament led by Dr. Werner Langen, Chairperson of the Delegation for Relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and ASEAN and Dr. S. Jaishankar, the Foreign Secretary of the Republic of India at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday in separate meetings.

At the meeting with the delegation of Members of the Euro-

pean Parliament, they discussed the promotion of cooperation and relations between Myanmar and the European Union, and the peace process and transitional matters in Myanmar.

The State Counsellor and Foreign Secretary of the Republic of India discussed matters relating to promoting bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries including energy sector, infrastructure and culture, trade, investments and matters on exchanged visits of high ranking representatives from both sides at the meeting.— Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Dr. Werner Langen. PHOTO: MNA

Northern Armed Groups: first step to end war taken

Ye Khuang Nyunt

Ta Pan Hla, the secretary of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), said an important first step toward ending conflict in northern Myanmar has been taken as a result of the Northern Armed Groups attendance at the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

Ta Pan Hla made the remark after attending a meeting with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday.

"We are here (at the meeting) because we firmly believe this is the first step in ending the ongoing civil wars. Battles on the ground need to stop at the same time with political di-

alogue," said Ta Pan Hla.

The State Counsellor met separately with the seven northern armed groups: the United Wa State Party/Army (UWSP/UWSA); the National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA); the Kachin Independence Organisation/Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA); the Shan State Army/Progressive Party (SSPP/SSA); the Ta-ang National Liberation Army (TNLA); the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the Arakan Army (AA) at her residence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Northern Armed Groups had attended the peace conference as special guests, and the State Counsellor extend-

ed an invitation to meet at her home the next day.

Zhao Guo An, Head of the Wa State External Relations Department, was realistic about the meeting and said more work still had to be done. "The main aim was to build mutual trust. Of course, her Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement is different from the book we wrote. We are not going to sign the NCA first. We will sign it after we amend it. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi discussed with China's President Xi Jinping about the One Belt, One Road policy. And there may be agreements between them because China urged us to participate in the peace process probably with their benefit and Myanmar's

benefit in mind," Zhao Guo An told reporters yesterday.

The book given to the State Counsellor is a compilation of agreements reached by the Northern Armed Groups at the 4th Pangkham Conference held in February 2017.

Zhao Guo An said he was willing to work toward peace.

"The UWSA and the Tatmadaw are on good terms. I don't think (it is likely) we will meet and that isn't surprising. They have their stand and we have ours. We will have to negotiate this of course. I also want everyone to have peace. I fully believe that if everyone works hard we will one day have peace," he added.

Secretary Ta Pan Hla from the TNLA said that the meeting with the State Counsellor was prompted by her invitation to discuss how to move forward. He believes the invitation was extended as a respectful gesture for the Northern Armed Groups attendance at the peace conference.

"There are benefits because discussions between (the Pa-laung State Liberation Army/TNLA) and other Northern Armed Groups and the government side were delayed for months. We hope we can move forward from this first step. There are many discussions to be made in the future," said Ta Pan Hla. ■

Eight NCA signatories pledge . . .

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In the political sector, there are 21 points to be submitted to the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

In the security sector, the representatives have discussed the "Only one Tatmadaw" issue.

For the security sector, there will be one paper from the group of the government, Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw, one from the ethnic armed organisations' group and one from the political parties' group.

"Today's meeting is the group discussion after our sector-wise discussion. The out-

comes from today's meeting will be discussed at the UPDJC tomorrow," said Khun Myint Tun.

The eight signatories to the NCA are the Chin National Front (CNF), the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP), the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), the Karen National Union (KNU), the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council) (KNU/KNLA PC), the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), and the Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO).— Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor hosts dinner for northern armed groups

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted a dinner for seven northern ethnic armed groups yesterday at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The seven groups are the United Wa State Party/Army (UWSP/UWSA), the National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA), the Kachin Independence Organization/Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA), the Shan State Army/Progressive Party (SSPP/SSA), the



Dr Tin Myo Win (centre) escorts representatives of the northern armed groups to a dinner with the State Counsellor. PHOTO: MNA

Ta-ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the Arakan Army (AA). The dinner was also attended by Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr Tin Myo

Win, Vice-Chairman of the commission U Thein Zaw, Leader of the adviser group to the Peace Commission U Aung Kyi, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Lian and officials.— Myanmar News Agency ■

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

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Yangon takes legal action against nearly 30,000 vehicles

The Yangon region government took legal action against nearly 30,000 vehicles which are parked on public roads for long periods, it is learnt.

As the number of cars in Yangon increased and parking became scarce, there were many quarrels over parking. Some companies and shops are taking up many of the parking spots on public roads, said a local living in Kyauktada township. Starting last month, the regional government took legal action against 29,007 vehicles which are being parked on public roads for a long time without

any reason from 1 April, 2015 to May 2017.

According to 2013 municipal law, the owners of any vehicles parked on public roads for a long time without any reason shall be given a punishment of one-year imprisonment and a minimum fine of Ks10,000 and a maximum fine Ks0.5 million.

According to section 19 of the municipal law relating to roads and bridges, anyone who uses municipal property for car parking shall be given a major fine. Drivers continue to park in public areas for long periods in every township.— 200 ■



Vehicles seen in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

Bomb blast kills one, injuring three in Kengtung

A bomb unearthed in Kengtung in eastern Shan State exploded while being observed by villagers on Tuesday, killing one and injuring three, according to local police source yesterday.

The bomb which is believed to be unexploded in the armed conflicts before 1988 was found by villagers in Pinn-tauk Village in Kengtung Town-

ship in eastern Shan State on Tuesday.

"A man named Ardele also known as Ali found an old unexploded bomb under the ground of the field and blasted when he brought it into the hut", said police officer Shwe Thein of Katthout police station.

Ardele and other three villagers checked and shook

the bomb and it exploded while Ardele stroke the bomb onto the ground inside the hut.

The four villagers got injuries in the explosion and Ardele died in the hospital while receiving medical treatment. The other three are not in critical condition, according to the police.—Yadanabon Daily Reported ■

Kokkowa Water Project aims for daily production of 240millions

The first phase of initial engineering process in Kokkowa water supply project is underway and is targeted to produce over 240 million gallons of fresh water per day, according to U Maung-MaungSoe, Yangon's Mayor and Chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

In the first phase of the project is targeted to pump 60 million gallons of water

per day and second phase for 60millions and it will go up to 120 million gallons in the third phase. After completing the project, groundwater consumption will also be reduced.

In Dagon (south), Lag-onpyin purified water factory and water supply station is also under construction with an aim for completion by 2022 and targeted to distribute 40million gallons of fresh water per day. 10million

gallons will be distributed to Thilawa Special Economic Zone and 30million gallons to the townships of Dagon, Tharkayta and Dawbon.

Even though there are pumping stations in Hlawga, Phoogyi, Gyoephyu and Ngamoeyeik distributing fresh water, they are unable to supply the increasing populations in Yangon, therefore new water resources have to be explored.—200 ■

School buses from South Korea soon to arrive

The fifty public school buses imported from South Korea will arrive in Myanmar at the end of this month, according to Dr. Maung Aung, Secretary from Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

The 29-seated buses are manufactured by South Korea's automaker Hyundai Mo-

tor Company.

Myanmar and South Korea government signed a contract on 10 May to trade 200 Hyundai buses which also involves Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and Daewoo Corporation.

50buses were already shipped from South Korea's

port and will reach in Myanmar in the end of this month. The school buses will be used to ferry students attending public schools.

Yangon Region government was planning to launch new school buses system in 22 public schools to reduce the traffic jams in Yangon.—200 ■

5th Myanmar Phar-med Expo 2017 to be held

THE 5th Pharmaceutical-Medical Industry Exhibition and Conference in Myanmar (Myanmar Phar-Med Expo 2017) will be held from 5 to 7 July in Rose Garden Hotel, according to the Myanmar Phar-Med Pre-Conference Workshop on 24 May.

This event will be conducted by VEAS Co. Ltd and involves health care seminars and information related to latest trends in healthcare business. medical laboratory experiments, dental healthcare, scientific treatments, new medicine and medicines for hospital and modern laboratory equipment and treatment equipment will also be exhibited.

"Myanmar Phar-Med Expo 2017 will be held for local businessmen and professionals from the health care industry to be able to review the constant changes in their sector, including medical production and equipment, in one place, without the need to travel abroad. New treatments and new products will also be displayed," said Dr. Htin Paw, Vice President of Myanmar Private Hospitals' Association.

Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association, dentists, medical professionals and officials at the Myanmar Phar-Med-Pre-Conference Workshop on 24 May discussed plans for Myanmar Phar-med Expo 2017 event and healthcare services of public and private hospitals in Myanmar.—200 ■



An aerial view of Yangon City with high-rise buildings. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH**

Yangon house rent market falls; apartment rent market seen well

THE house rental market in Yangon has declined lately, but the apartment rental market is growing.

Rental houses were in high demand in the past three months, but the market has

cooled recently.

During the same time, the apartment rental market gathered strength, with higher demand every month. The market is possibly developing during the wedding season,

said one real estate agent.

Most Yangon residents spend about Ks200,000 to Ks300,000 for a rental apartment. The rental market usually uses a six-month payment system.—YCDC ■

Over Ks7 billion in agricultural loans for monsoon paddies in Thaton Township

Thaton Township Myanma Agricultural Development Bank will disburse over Ks7 billion in agricultural loans for farmers to plant 2017 monsoon paddy, it is learnt.

The loans will be disbursed starting 22 May for about 47,500 acres of farmland to 5,376 farmers from 45 villages.

“We disbursed the loans for the farmers who do not have the investment to grow Monsoon paddy. If they apply for loans with full information, the loans with a very low interest rate can

be received. This year, the number of farmers applying for loan has increased because of the price of rice last year,” said Daw Aye Aye Thein, the manager of Thaton Township Myanma Agricultural Development Bank.

It is better for the farmers to use the loans only for farming sector. Thaton Township Myanma Agricultural Development Bank will take legal action against those who cannot repay the bank loans in accordance with existing law, she added.

The farmer will receive

Ks150,000 per acre of farmland up to a maximum of 10 acres. The loans will be disbursed till the end of June.

The local farmers have to apply for loans with Form 7, a recommendation letter from the monsoon paddy loan committee, a household list and a national ID. The beginning of the monsoon season in Myanmar, when there is a natural abundance of rain, is the farmer’s preferred time to plant rice, a staple food that is eaten at virtually every meal in Asia.—YCDC ■

Muse trade value increases by over US\$63million

The value of trade at the Muse border gate with neighbouring country China as of 19th May in the current fiscal year reached over US\$604million, which is up by over US\$63million when compared to the similar period of last year.

Out of 16 border trade gates, Muse performed the best with the largest trade value. Myanmar conducts border trade with neighbouring countries through 16 border trade gates.

China-Myanmar trade

flows through the Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung gates, while the country carries out border trade with Thailand via the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maese and Mawtaung border gates. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittwe and Maungtaung, while the country trades directly with India via the Tamu and Reed border gates.

Border trade from 1st April

to 19th May this fiscal year amounted to over US\$892million, an increase of over US\$94million from that of last year.

Trade value through Tamu, Hteekhee, Sittway, Kengtung and Chinshwehaw slipped a bit this year, whereas other border gates saw a rise in trade value.

External trade through both normal trade and border trade as of 19th May this FY fetched US\$3.7billion, up from US\$2.9billion last year, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.—Mon Mon ■

Domestic gold price on the rise with high global gold price

THE domestic gold price remains steady at above Ks900,000 per tical, with the global gold price on the rise, according to market statistics.

The domestic gold prices per tical were around Ks909,000 on 23 May Ks903,000 on the 24th and nearly Ks906,000 on 25th May. The global gold price rose to US\$1,259 per ounce on 25th May while the price on Monday was US\$1,253. During early April,

the domestic gold price hit a low of around Ks894,000 per tical while it soared to a record high of Ks911,800 on 18th April.

The US dollar exchange rate was around Ks1,361 in the domestic currency exchange market on 26th May. With a stable exchange rate in the currency market, the Central Bank of Myanmar continued to set a dollar exchange rate of Ks1,365 on 26th May.—Ko Htet ■

Coastal fisheries project implemented in Taninthayi Region and Rakhine State

A Denmark-Myanmar sustainable coastal fisheries project (2016-2020) is being implemented in nine villages of Taninthayi Region and Rakhine State, said an official from Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

To implement the Denmark-Myanmar sustainable coastal fisheries project in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region with the assistance of Denmark, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Embassy of Denmark in Myanmar and the fisheries department in December 2016. A

committee will be also formed to implement the project effectively. The sites for the project are in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region, with the aim of promoting the social economic sector and protecting the reproductive habits of fish for sustainable development of water and land resources.

The project is starting in two villages in the Myeik District and three villages in Dawei District of the Taninthayi Region, and two villages in the Sittway District and one village in Maungtaung District in Rakhine State.—YCDC ■

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- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Group discussion UPC-21st Century Panglong continues

THE Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong (Second Session) turned into third day, discussing five sectors: political, economic, social, land and environmental and security sectors yesterday.

The morning session concerning the political sector was presided over by Sai Aik Paung together with co-presidents U Kyaw Tint Swe and Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win.

In the discussion concerning the economic sector, the morning session was presided over by U Tin Htut Oo, with co-presidents Saw Ko Gyi Kyaw and U Thar Tun Hla.

In the discussion concerning the social sector, U Thein Swe presided over the morning session, with co-presidents Dr



Representatives discuss concerning the security sectors at UPC-21st Century Panglong yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Naw Kapaw Htoo and U Ar Dae Lae. In the discussion of land and natural environment sector, Dr Wah Wah Maung presided over

the meeting, with co-presidents Nai Hla Khaing and Pado Saw Bardi Phoe.

The discussion of the security

sector was presided over by U Nyunt Maung, with co-presidents Khun Okka and Brig-Gen Win Moe.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Curfew violator & one organizer to conscript for terrorist training arrested in Buthitaung & Maungtau Townships

LEGAL actions were being taken against one curfew violator in Maungtau township and another who organized to conscript for terrorist training in Buthitaung township, it was learnt.

On receipt of the news that Murmed Harsaung, a Mawlawi residing in Kantet village of Phokhaungchaung village-tract in Buthitaung township attended the terrorist attack training, organizing youths in the village

to conscript for the training, the combined security force of the area seized him at his residence at 5 pm on May 25.

And, security forces of the area in Maungtau township found Arnissa Oolar (a) Tin

Maung Win who lived in Gonenar village riding on motor bike leaving Pyin Phyu village for Maungtau at 9:40 pm on May 24. He was arrested for violating section 144, it was learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Japan's Kobelco to supply water treatment technology to Myanmar

YANGON — Japan's Kobelco Eco-Solutions Co. has won an order from Myanmar to supply technology for a water treatment plant in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone on the outskirts of the commercial capital Yangon.

Kobelco says its wholly owned Vietnamese subsidi-

ary, Kobelco Eco-Solutions Vietnam Co., received the order from Myanmar's Supreme Water Doctor Co., a main contractor for the water treatment plant being built in a residential and commercial area of the zone developed by a public-private joint venture between Japan and Myanmar.

The plant, utilizing Kobelco's energy-saving automation siphon filter technology, will have a daily capacity of up to 1,000 cubic meters of drinking water for homes, offices and other facilities in the area. The plant is scheduled for completion in November.

The order is the first from

Myanmar for Kobelco, a Kobe-based environment-oriented firm created through a consolidation of Kobe Steel Ltd.'s environmental business division and Shinko Pantec Co., a manufacturer of environmental equipment for water treatment facilities.—Kyodo News ■

One million acres of pulses to be planted in Sagaing Region this monsoon season

THE Agriculture Department said more than one million acres of beans and pulses are expected to be planted across the Sagaing Region in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Pulses are projected to be grown on a total of 1.162 million acres of agricultural land in eight districts in Sagaing Region, covering the Naga Self-Administered zone.

Under the plan, farmers will cultivate over 420,000 acres of green grams, 550,000 acres of pigeon peas, 2,342

acres of soya beans, 14,265 acres of cow peas, 13,426 acres of mung beans, over 12,000 acres of butter beans, over 10,000 acres of lab lab beans, 1,177 acres of rice beans and over 20,000 acres of others pulses.

According to estimates, there will be over 180,000 acres of plantations in Sagaing District, over 260,000 acres in Monywa District, nearly 193,000 acres in Yinmabin District, more than 300,000 acres in Shwebo District,

over 200,000 acres in Kantbalu District, 1,321 acres in Katha District, almost 14,300 acres in Kalay District, about 300 acres in Khamti District and 3,820 acres in Naga Self-Administered areas during the wet season.

Growers say that demand for pulses is on the rise both domestically and abroad. Myanmar's beans and pulses are mainly exported to India, followed by China, Indonesia, European countries and Japan.—200 ■

U Kyi Moe Naing meets group of Asia General Electric Co.Ltd (AGE)

U Kyi Moe Naing, chairman of the Electricity and Energy Development Committee met with a group of Asia General Electric Co.Ltd (AGE) in the Hluttaw building (I-8) meeting hall in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the technique and transformer production.—Myanmar News Agency ■

FDA to open laboratories in each Tsp

THE Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is planning to open laboratories in each township to provide testing and recommendations of foods, drugs, public goods and cosmetics within a short period of time, according to the FDA.

"Later, we will permit pri-

vate businessmen to run the laboratories. We are planning to open over 70 laboratory rooms in 2018," said an official from the FDA.

The laboratories provide quality control and analysis information that can be delivered in a short period of time.—200 ■

Fresh fish and meat to be sold at tax-free markets

Ko Moe

FISH and meat will be sold by using vehicles with freezer-containers at the tax-free markets in Yangon Region according to Fishery Department of the region.

The regional government and other township officials are negotiating to open promptly the markets in the Yangon Region and another similar markets may be implemented soon even in other regions and states.

"We are planning to do so for we want the public get safe and clean food.

Exporting foods have the required level of safety while the food of local markets are still weak in food hygiene and quality standard", said U Tun Win Myint, the officer of Fishery Department of Yangon Region.

By having such kind of exemplary tax-free markets, the consumers will have a chance to get fresh meats at reasonable price in one place, he added.

The officials are now cooperating with local and foreign technicians to improve Myanmar fishery. ■



New floating bridge providing access to Angkor Wat temple in northwestern Cambodia opens on 25 May 2017, for temporary use, replacing an ancient stone bridge that needs renovation. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Floating bridge to Angkor Wat temple opens to foreign tourists

PHNOM PENH — A floating bridge opened for use by foreign tourists and local visitors at Cambodia's famed Angkor Wat on Thursday, enabling them to reach the ancient temple while the original stone bridge undergoes renovation by Cambodian and Japanese experts.

The 170-meter-long, 8-meter-wide floating bridge, for which construction began last November, is built to accommodate up to 1,360 people at a time, according to officials.

The temporary bridge, built on 6,720 polyethylene airbags, is located to the south of the original Spean Harl bridge, also

known as the Western Causeway, which is used by millions of tourists every year.

The 200-meter overpass, with railings covered with Hindu devotional motifs, is set to undergo a second phase of repairs by experts of the Apsara Authority, which is responsible for maintaining and managing the World Heritage site, the Ministry of Fine Arts and Culture, and Tokyo-based Sophia University.

The first phase of 100 meters of causeway renovation was completed in November 2007 after 12 years of work, which was carried out mainly by Cambodians with funding from the

Japanese government and assistance from Sophia University.

The work, which included the training of specialists in civil engineering, architecture, and archaeology, served "as a symbol of the rejuvenation of the spirits of the Cambodians after the civil war," according to the university.

Under the second phase, which is expected to be finished by 2020, restoration work will be done on the remaining 100 meters using stone masonry techniques of the Angkor era, which began in the late 9th century and lasted until the late 14th century.—Kyodo News ■

Japan consumer prices rise in April, driven by energy costs

TOKYO — Japan's core consumer prices rose 0.3 per cent in April from a year earlier to mark a fourth straight month of increases, offering policymakers some hope a steady economic recovery will convince consumers to start spending again. But the increase was due largely to the fading effect of last year's energy price falls, underscoring the challenges the Bank of Japan still faces after years of heavy monetary stimulus to reach its ambitious 2 per cent inflation target.

When stripping away the effect of volatile fresh food and energy costs, consumer prices were unchanged in April from a year ago in a sign many companies remain wary of hiking prices for fear of scaring away cost-sensitive households.

"Retailers are struggling to raise prices because wages and household income aren't increasing much. They thus try to trim costs by keeping wages low," said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute.

"The positive economic cycle isn't kicking in yet," he said, adding that the BOJ will likely maintain its ultra-loose monetary policy for the time being.

With the economy showing signs of life, many analysts now expect the BOJ's next move to be a reduction — rather than an expansion — of its monetary stimulus. But BOJ officials have stressed that any reduction in stimulus would be some time away, pointing to the fact inflation remains distant from their target.—Reuters ■



A woman with a baby buggy looks at items outside a discount store at a shopping district in Tokyo, Japan, on 25 February 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

South Korea to pull back on use of water cannons, buses at protests

SEOUL — South Korean police aim to cut back on the use of water cannons and buses to rein in protesters, an official said on Friday, a move that could eliminate sometimes harsh crowd control tactics that have led to at least one deadly incident in recent years.

The government of liberal President Moon Jae-in, which took office on 10 May, has ordered a review of how the police force approaches protection of human rights, calling for specific steps to improve its record.

The National Police Agen-

cy will present its proposal on halting the deployment of water cannons and police buses to a panel that advises the government on formulating policy, an agency official said.

"I believe we will be given guidelines and direction regarding the matter," the official said, adding that the presentation of the proposal would be made on Saturday.

The official declined to be identified because he was not formally authorised to speak to the media.

Police tactics in South Korea

have often drawn criticism from local and international rights groups for being harsh and overly aggressive, often involving the deployment of more officers than protesters attending the rallies, for example.

In particular, the use of water cannons, often at close range, has been cited as endangering protesters' safety.

In 2016, a 68-year-old farm activist, Baek Nam-gi, died in hospital after being struck by a water jet at a violent protest rally and losing consciousness in a fall.—Reuters ■

Sri Lanka landslides, floods kill at least 25; dozens missing

COLOMBO — Floods and landslides in Sri Lanka have killed at least 25 people while dozens are missing after torrential rain, officials said on Friday, as soldiers fanned out in boats and in helicopters to help with rescue operations.

The early rainy season downpours have forced hundreds of people from their homes across the Indian Ocean island.

"There are at least five landslides reported in several places in Kaluthara," said police spokesman Priyantha Jayakody, referring to the worst-

hit district on the island's west coast.

"Rescue operations are still taking place."

The disaster management centre said 25 people had been killed and 42 were missing.

Military Spokesman Roshan Senevirathne said about 400 military personnel had been deployed with boats and helicopters to help the police and civilian agencies.

The wettest time of the year in Sri Lanka is usually during the southern monsoon, from May to September.—Reuters ■

Youngsters and Young Stars

Khin Maung Oo

A saying, “the Future belongs to our youths,” is an eternal truth for us. According to it, our forefathers’ future did descend from their ancestors including our parents, respectively. Usually, younger generations replace their ancestors, receive inheritances and take legacies of virtue and disadvantage, willingly or otherwise. Our futures were created depending upon the efforts and qualifications of our ancestors. And, there is also a well-known saying, “You reap what you sow,” meaning that you have to deal with the bad effects or results of something that you originally started. We gained our Independence due to the strenuous efforts and struggles of our forefathers, enjoying its fruits, and freedom. Right after our independence, the flames of civil war engulfed our country, and consequently

our national brethren have been suffering from scourges of the war for nearly 7 decades. In fact, their helter-skelter living in warring areas is attributed to mutual misunderstandings and self-centered decisions, which resulted in loss of opportunities and hopes for a brighter future.

Our national leaders, heads of government departments, and public service personnel from various government ministries have been contributing their physical and mental energies for the tasks of nation building. They must all have undergone many years of training and accumulated valuable life experiences which became very useful to shoulder the great burdens of national responsibilities. These abilities could not be achieved all of a sudden, with the magical chants of “Abracadabra.” In training public service personnel, moral cultivation and character building which

takes time should not be ignored, being of great importance. Accordingly, our youths must accumulate skills, abilities, capacity building and moral development. This is, in reality, deep and sober.

By saying this, we never mean to say that our youths are required to sacrifice their inborn rights, time and all of their enjoyments, as they prepare themselves for the future. While enjoying recreation, relaxation and pursuing their favorite hobbies, they must fulfill their needs. Today, most of the young boys and girls are found to have been pursuing their aims and goals, while some are passing through life without any hope or expectations. They think they do not have the right qualifications or talent to succeed in life. With these conceptions in their minds, they abandon themselves to despair.

To our great surprise, some well-

to-do youngsters spent lots of money on a famous overseas musical troupe, the other week. I would not like to blame them for doing so, and I know that these are their inborn rights. Skills, abilities, fame and popularity are not the God-given ones. These youngsters themselves can become young stars, famous and excellent singers, performers, and sportsmen etc. As a Myanmar saying goes, “Anyone can become an Enlightened Lord Buddha”. These youths should be well convinced that they can succeed to the very important positions as the older generation passes away gradually.

To sum it up, I would like our youngsters to use their hidden talents by averting their minds and attention from violent computer games which use up a lot of their time so that their efforts can become things of pride and value for our nation. ■

Coins Should Be Reintroduced in Myanmar

San Shwe Aung

Coins have been widely used in many countries since many centuries ago. The first coins were developed independently in Iron Age Anatolia and Archaic Greece, India and China around the 7th and 6th centuries BC. Coins spread rapidly in the 6th and 5th centuries BC, throughout Greece and Persia, and further to the Balkans. Ancient and early medieval coins in theory had the value of their metal content, although there have been many instances throughout history of the metal content of coins being debased, so that the inferior coins were worthless in metal than their face value. Most coins presently are made of a base metal, and their value comes from their status as fiat money. This means that the value of the coin is decreed by government law, and thus is determined by the free market only in as much as national currencies are used. These coins are monetary tokens, just as paper currency is. They are usually not backed by precious metal such as silver and/or gold, but rather by some form of government guarantee. Thus, there is very little economic difference between notes and coins of equivalent face value. In Myanmar coins were used several centuries ago, during the time of old kingdoms. But systematic coins were found with excellent craftsmanship during Kone Baung Dynasty. One Kyat coin with the year 1853 was crafted with the name of “Yadanabone Nay Pyi Taw” one Kyat value money (Din Gar). Since then we have had many coins minted and circulated under various government administrations in Myanmar.

When we were young, in early 1960s, we used to get pocket money in coins

such as 10, 25, 50 Pyas (100 Pyas=1 Kyat). In old days the value of Kyat is so strong that a primary school student who got daily pocket money of 50 Pyas was a hero! He could buy several snacks to the envy of fellow kids, yet he could save some Pyas after spending during school break. When I was attending primary classes, I used to get 25 Pyas pocket money from my parents daily, which is enough for quite a good amount of snacks from the school canteens. During our university days in 1970s we continued using coins. Bus rides were paid by coins to the bus conductors. Our afternoon tea, snack, cakes, fruits, pickles etc. were paid with coins. However, following depreciation of Kyats accelerated, from late 1980s coins started to disappear from the pockets of Myanmar people. Living costs have increased gradually in 1990s and the then government tried to revitalize the coins by introducing higher face value coins 1 Kyat, 5 Kyat, 10 Kyat, 50 Kyat & 100 Kyat in 1999.

1 Kyat Coin is made of	Bronze
5 Kyat Coin is made of	Brass
10 Kyat Coin is made of	Brass
50 Kyat Coin is made of	Copper-nickel
100 Kyat Coin is made of	Copper-nickel

At the same time paper money notes were circulated and it seemed that coins were not widely and abundantly available during late 1990s and early 2000. People therefore had to use the paper money notes instead of coins. Gradually coins started to disappear from the circulation until now. Nobody in Myanmar is using coins nowadays.

COUNTRIES THAT DON'T USE COINS



Coins circulated & used in 1960s & 70s

There are ten independent nations that don't use coins (or very rarely use them, such as with Vietnam or Guinea) as of 2012. These countries use paper money for all (or nearly all) currency transactions. In some cases, the nations used to produce coins, but inflation rendered them to be worthless (for instance, the highest denomination coin in Guinea is worth about 1 US cent).

1. Belarus
2. Cambodia
3. Congo, Dem. Rep.
4. Guinea*
5. Iraq
6. Laos
7. Somalia
8. Vietnam*
9. Zambia
10. Zimbabwe**

* Coins are in circulation but are very rarely used.

** Zimbabwe used only paper money until 2009 when external currencies, such as the US dollar or South African rand, replaced the Zimbabwe dollar.

ADVANTAGES OF USING COINS

Modern coins are minted using advanced technology with different strong metal such as copper alloy, brass, bronze, nickel and zinc alloy. The life

of the coins therefore are much longer (several dozen folds) compared to paper money note. The cost of minting a 100 Kyat coin might be slightly higher than printing a 100 Kyat money note. However, the circulating repeated usable life is perhaps 100 times higher than the paper note. This is one of the most important reasons for using coins for small value of currencies in many countries in the world. United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and many countries around the world are still effectively circulating and using coins. We have had coins in many centuries in Myanmar. Why should we stop using coins? Coins are very handy to use. If we had coins of 50 Kyat, 100 Kyat, 200 Kyat and 500 Kyat we could have had pleasant life in paying small fees in the vegetable and wet markets, local transport such as trishaw riding, paying bus fares, train tickets. Metal coins will solve the scarcity of some of small paper money notes currently being experienced by the public. Then again our primary school children will get their pocket money for their afternoon snacks from their parents 2x 500 Kyat coins or 3x 200 Kyat coins, should the government reintroduce coins in Myanmar. ■

Snr Gen accepts CPLA's trains, meets Indian Foreign Secretary

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, attended a ceremony for the handing over of locomotives and coaches to the Myanmar Tatmadaw from the Chinese People's Liberation Army held at the No. 1 platform of the Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station yesterday morning.

H.E. Mr. Hong Liang, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, explained the handing over of the locomotives and coaches, with Senior Colonel Xiong Shaowei, military attaché, handing over documents relating to the locomotives and coaches to Lt General Nyo Saw, the Quartermaster General. The Chinese military made a gift of the locomotives and passenger coaches to the Tatmadaw, with yesterday's ceremony making the exchange official.

With the ceremony complete, the Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services, high-ranking Tatmadaw officers, the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar, the military attaché, and their families left Nay Pyi Taw Rail-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greets the passengers on the new locomotives gifted by China. **PHOTO: MNA**

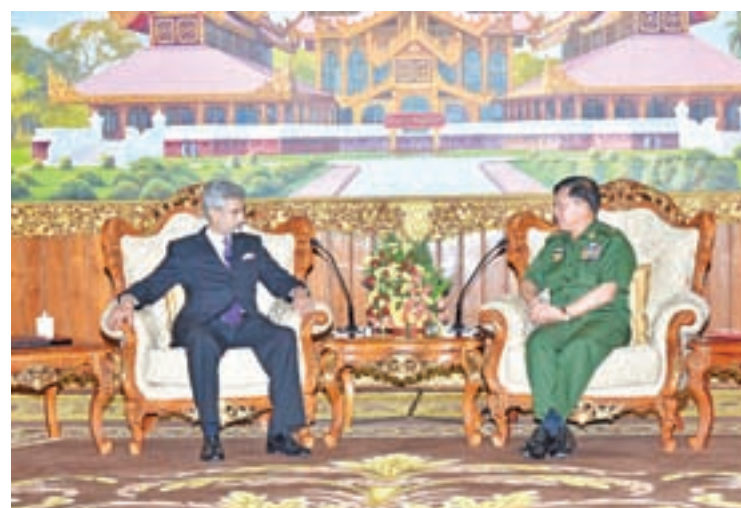
way Station for Tatkon railway station in the locomotive.

The locomotive and coaches handed over to the Myanmar Tatmadaw by the Chinese People's Liberation Army are two Dalian Brand 2000-HP locomotives, 10 Sifang Brand Passenger coaches with 68 seats each, and 10 Meishan Brand 32-ton covered wagon coaches.

In the afternoon, the C-in-C of Defence Services received H.E. Dr S Jaishankar, Foreign Sec-

retary of India, in Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the meeting, matters for upgrading relations and cooperation between the two armies, inter-exchanges of friendship visits, situations on peace process in Myanmar, achievement of good results through the discussion of security, stability, peace and development along the borders between the two countries and the Tatmadaw's support in demarcating be-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Dr S Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary of India, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

tween the two countries were discussed.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, also received Mr Dennis Shea, vice-chairman of the US-China economic and security review commission and party at 3 pm at the Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the meeting, Mr Dennis Shea explained that the commission has studied South-East Asia intensively and would like to give advice to Myanmar,

followed by questions about Myanmar by the commission members.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing clarified political and security situations, the Tatmadaw's role in 10 years, China's constructive outlooks over Myanmar's peace process, military relations between US & Myanmar and attitudes and outlooks of the Tatmadaw over human rights.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar seaman from sunken cargo ship return home

YESTERDAY, Thailand officials transferred 14 sailors rescued from the Myanmar cargo ship that sunk in 24 May near Phuket District to Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region.

The Aung Sein Myat, a wooden cargo ship, departed from Myeik and traveled to Penang in Malaysia via Thailand. On 24 May, after loading cargoes of cooking oil and other consumable goods in Penang, the cargo ship sank from damage to the ship's hull, 20 miles from Phuket in Thailand waters. A fishing boat nearby rescued 14

sailors from the sunken ship who were drifting on a lifeboat and left them with Thailand Coastal Guards. Officials transferred the men to Ranong near Myanmar's Border and arrived in Kawthoung yesterday evening, accepted by officials from Thai-Myanmar Border Committee.

Chief Administrator of Kawthoung District, U Kyaw Thet answered in an interview that the seaman gave been given needed support and send back to their families.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■



The 14 seaman who survived their ship sinking off the coast of Phuket, arrive in Kawthoung yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

La Villa project implemented near Ngwe Hsaung Beach

THE project known as La Villa is being implemented near Ngwe Hsaung Beach, in Patheingyi district, Ayeyawady Region. Ngwe Hsaung beach has become popular as a tourist destination, according to the developer iGreen.

The La Villa project is being implemented with an aim to earn more revenue for the government, to create job opportunities for local people and to develop the economic sector

and tourism industry, said U Kyaw Kyaw Naing, Project director.

The La Villa project is being implemented on 100-feet-high mountains, which are over 3,000 feet away from the beach near Bu Kwey Gyi village in Ngwe Hsaung town. The La Villa project is being constructed in line with international standards.

iGreen started the Lake View Villa Ngwe Hsaung Beach project on Ngwe Hsaung-Thin-

zin Village Road in Ngwe Hsaung township in 2016.

The La Villa Ngwe Hsaung project was started in January. The La Villa showroom will be opened at Melia Yangon Hotel on 27 and 28 May, according to iGreen.

The La Villa project will be built on 200 plots of lands measuring 3,750 square feet, 7,500 square feet, 15,000 square feet and 44,000 square feet.—The Mirror ■

Drugs discovered inside smuggler in Maungtaw

BORDER guards on the Maungtaw-Kyainchuang road were able to capture a smuggler yesterday morning after acting on a tip off, and discovered him transporting drugs inside his stomach.

Yesterday morning at 7, border guards stopped a motorcycle on the Maungtaw-Kyainchuang road but the driver fled

towards Kyainchuang when they began interrogation leaving his passenger behind. Officials pursued the fleeing motorcyclist and after interrogating the passenger discovered that the driver, whose name is Sirazull Issalam from Yaymyat Taung village, had promised the passenger, whose name is Rahama Ulla from the same

village, a payment of Ks50,000 if he agreed to transport drugs in his stomach to Danitaw near Zinpaingnyar village.

Officials were able to seize 30 jackfruit seed-sized plastic packets containing 48 WY/R psychotropic drugs each and with a total value of Ks2.9 million.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Britain's May asks G7 to back moves to tackle internet extremism

BRUSSELS — British Prime Minister Theresa May will urge the world's major industrialized nations on Friday to unite to force technology companies to tackle "extremist material" and stop militants who are moving their fight "from the battlefield to the internet".

A senior British government source said May, attending her first G7 meeting since becoming prime minister last year, will say social media are not moving fast enough to tackle what she calls an "evolving" threat, just days after a suicide bomb attack in the northern English city on Manchester killed 22.

"The PM will say that the threat we face is evolving, rather than disappearing, as Daesh (Islamic State) loses ground

in Iraq and Syria. The fight is moving from the battlefield to the internet," the government source said.

"If you have unity at the G7, and you are all sending out the same message, that we want internet companies, social media companies to step up ... then obviously that delivers a powerful message."

May has made tackling extremist material on the internet one of her main commitments after becoming prime minister in the aftermath of Britain voting to leave the European Union in June last year.

While Italy hopes the G7 meeting in Taormina, on the cliffs of eastern Sicily, will concentrate minds on Europe's migrant crisis, the British leader has said she wants to set out

her stall on measures to tackle internet extremism.

May's interior minister, Amber Rudd, said technology companies must cooperate more with law enforcement agencies after it was reported that British-born Khalid Masood, who plowed his car into pedestrians and fatally stabbed a policeman in parliament in March, had used encrypted messages moments earlier.

The Manchester suicide bombing has also focused minds, with May describing it as a callous attack on innocent children. Salman Abedi, a 22-year-old British-born man with Libyan parents, who blew himself up is suspected by the police and security services to have been working with a network of people who were inspired by

extreme Islamist ideology.

She will tell the leaders of the United States, Japan, France, Italy, Germany and Canada that technology companies should be encouraged to better develop tools that can automatically identify and remove harmful material, to block users who post extremist content and revise industry guidelines.

May, a former interior minister, will also reiterate that companies should "tell the authorities when they identify harmful material so action can be taken".

"This sort of material being on the internet is obviously harmful," the source said. "It's obviously in the past been linked to acts of violence and the less of this material that is on the internet, clearly that is for the better."—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Turkey has removed more than 4,000 judges, prosecutors after coup, minister says

ANKARA — Turkey has removed more than 4,000 judges and prosecutors on suspicion of links to last year's failed coup, Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said on Friday.

In a speech in Ankara, Bozdag said the judiciary had been cleared of supporters of the US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara blames for the 15 July attempted putsch. —Reuters ■

25 people including 18 soldiers killed in attack on army base in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, (Afghanistan) — Up to 25 people including 18 soldiers and seven Taliban fighters were confirmed dead as the anti-government militant group attacked an army in Afghanistan's Kandahar province on Friday, a local official said on the condition of anonymity.

"A Taliban terrorist group launched a coordinated attack on the army base in Zangitan area of Shah Walikot district in the wee hours of Friday during which 18 soldiers and seven Taliban rebels were killed," the official told Xinhua but refused to be named.—Xinhua ■

Gunmen attack killed 23 Christians in south Egypt: state TV

CAIRO — At least 23 Christians were killed and 25 others wounded on Friday when unknown militant opened fire on a bus carrying them to a church in Egypt's southern province of Minya, state-run TV reported.

The gunmen intercepted the bus, on the way to Samuel monastery south of Cairo, and opened the fire randomly, Xinhua reporter quoted a security source at the scene as saying.

The victims were transferred to Minya National Hospital.—Xinhua ■

G7 leaders brace for clash with Trump on trade and climate

TAORMINA, (ITALY) — Leaders of the world's rich nations braced for contentious talks with Donald Trump at a G7 summit in Sicily on Friday after the US president lambasted NATO allies for not spending more on defence and accused Germany of "very bad" trade policies.

Trump's confrontational remarks in Brussels, on the eve of the two-day summit in the Mediterranean resort town of Taormina, cast a pall over a meeting at which America's partners had hoped to coax him into softening his stances on trade and climate change.

The summit will kick off with a ceremony at an ancient Greek theatre perched on a cliff overlooking the sea, before the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States begin talks on terrorism, Syria, North Korea and the global economy.

"We will have a very robust discussion on trade and we will be talking about what free and open means," White House economic adviser Gary Cohn told



A military guard stands watch at the G7 summit in Taormina, Italy, on 26 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

reporters late Thursday.

He also predicted "fairly robust" talks on whether Trump should honour a US commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Trump, who dismissed man-made global warming a "hoax" during his election campaign, is not expected to decide

at the summit whether he will stick with the Paris deal, negotiated under his predecessor Barack Obama.

Even if a decision is not forthcoming, European leaders have signalled that they will push Trump hard on the Paris emissions deal, which has comprehensive support across the continent.

"This is the first real opportunity that the international community has to force the American administration to begin to show its hand, particularly on environment policy," said Tristen Naylor, a lecturer on development at the University of Oxford and deputy director of the G20 Research Group.—Reuters ■

UN rights boss decries civilian casualties in Syria air strikes

NEW YORK — The UN human rights chief called on all air forces operating in Syria on Friday to take greater care to distinguish between legitimate military targets and civilians in their escalating air strikes especially in the northeast against Islamic State.

“The rising toll of civilian deaths and injuries already caused by airstrikes in Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Raqqa suggests that insufficient precautions may have been taken in the attacks,” UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein said in a statement.

Air strikes in mid-May killed nearly two dozen farmworkers, most of them women, in a village

in eastern Raqqa and at least 59 civilians in residential areas of Deir al-Zor, Zeid said.

An air strike on Thursday evening killed at least 35 civilians, including family members of Islamic State fighters, in al-Mayadin, a town held by the jihadists near Deir al-Zor in eastern Syria, a war monitor reported.

A spokesman for the US-led coalition fighting Islamic State told Reuters that its forces had conducted strikes near al-Mayadin on 25 and 26 May and were assessing the results.

Zeid’s spokesman Rupert Colville told a Geneva briefing on Friday: “There are multiple

air forces operating in this part of Syria including the (US-led) coalition, mainly the coalition. We also understand that there are Iraqi airplanes as well.”

“I can’t begin to identify who is responsible,” he added.

Islamic State forces, fighting to keep their stronghold in northeast Syria, have carried out summary executions of civilians, including slitting the throats of eight men at sites of air strikes after accusing them or providing coordinates, Zeid said.

“Unfortunately, scant attention is being paid by the outside world to the appalling predicament of the civilians trapped in these areas,” he added.



United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein of Jordan address a news conference during his visit in Ethiopia’s capital Addis Ababa, on 4 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The UN human rights office also voiced concern at credible reports that Islamic State is preventing civilians from leaving areas under their control, noting that this violated international law.

“Unfortunately there is little doubt that ISIL (Islamic State) continues constantly to kill and endanger civilians, committing war crimes without any compunction whatsoever,” Zeid said.—Reuters ■

US military acknowledges over 100 civilians died in Mosul strike in March

WASHINGTON — A US military investigation on Thursday acknowledged that more than 100 civilians were killed in a US air strike on a building in the Iraqi city of Mosul in March during operations against Islamic State militants.

The probe concluded that the US strike in the Al-Jadida district inadvertently triggered explosives placed in the building by Islamic State fighters, causing it to collapse.

Local officials and eyewitnesses have said as many as 240 people may have died in the strike.

It appeared to be the single largest incident of civilian casualties involving the US-led coalition since it started operations against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq in 2014.

Prior to this investigation, the coalition said that at least 352 civilians had been killed since the campaign started. That estimate is far lower than those provided by outside groups.

Air Force Brigadier General Matthew Isler, who oversaw the investigation, told reporters that 101 civilians inside the building were killed, four civilians were killed in the neighbouring building, and 36 civilians were still not accounted for.

Prior to the March 17 strike, Iraqi forces were about 100 me-



A member of the Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) walks at the site after an air strike attack against Islamic State triggered a massive explosion in Mosul, Iraq, on 29 March 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ters (328 feet) away and could see two snipers on the second floor of the building. However, Isler said, there were blind zones and the forces could not see parts of the building.

The coalition had been monitoring the area since the operation for western Mosul began weeks before. However, for two days before the strike took place, the coalition did not have overhead surveillance of the area because of the weather,

Isler said.

When the 500-pound (227-kg) bomb was dropped on the building targeting the snipers, it triggered explosives inside the concrete structure, collapsing it onto civilians.

The United States and nearby Iraqi forces did not know there were civilians in the building or that it had been rigged with explosives, the probe found.

“This investigation determined that ISIS deliberately

staged explosives and snipers to harm civilians,” Isler said, using an acronym for Islamic State.

He added that the coalition took responsibility for the air strike.

The investigation found that the chemical signature found in the residues was not associated with the bomb used by the United States, but rather with explosives usually used by Islamic State militants.—Reuters ■

89 prisoners break out of Brazilian jail through 30-meter tunnel

RIO DE JANEIRO — At least 89 prisoners escaped from a prison in the northern Brazilian state of Rio Grande de Norte, getting out through a 30-meter tunnel, official sources said on Thursday.

According to the state government, the events happened on Thursday morning in the prison of Pernamirim, in the state capital of Natal.

The prisoners escaped through a tunnel of around 30 meters, which went from a prison wing to outside the walls. This is the biggest jailbreak in Rio Grande do Norte history, with just nine having been recaptured so far. According to military police, at least two cars and a motorbike were seen outside the prison being used to help the rescue. It added that the prisoners had changed clothes from their prison outfits to make their identification more difficult.

This is the second escape from the same jail this year, after 14 prisoners broke out in January, again through a tunnel. The prison is designed for a maximum of 436 prisoners, but it reportedly had 589 inmates at the time of the breakout.—Xinhua ■

US spacecraft finds cyclones, ammonia river on Jupiter

CAPE CANAVERAL, (FLA) — Jupiter's atmosphere features colossal cyclones and rivers of ammonia welling up from deep inside the solar system's largest planet, researchers said on Thursday, publishing the first insights from a NASA spacecraft flying around the gas giant.

The cyclones were discovered as the Juno spacecraft made the first of at least 12 planned close encounters with Jupiter, which scientists believe set the stage for the development of Earth and other planets in the solar system.

Juno found cyclones as big as 870 miles (1,400 km) in diameter swirling over Jupiter's north and south poles, the research published in this week's issue of the journal *Science* shows.

The spacecraft also detected an ammonia belt extending from the top of the atmosphere to hun-

dreds of miles into Juno's interior, as far down as Juno's instruments can see. Outside the band, Juno found other features in the atmosphere, rather than the expected homogeneous mix of gas.

"Jupiter is surprising us in almost every way," lead researcher Scott Bolton, with the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas, said in a phone interview. "We're seeing hints that it is pretty exotic."

Preliminary results suggest that Jupiter may have winds at all levels creating movement, an anticipated finding, he added.

Scientists expected Jupiter, which is more than 11 times the diameter of Earth, to be fairly uniform beneath its clouds. But "it doesn't look like its rotating like a solid body," Bolton said.

The findings released on Thursday were based on data collected when Juno



NASA's enhanced-color image of a mysterious dark spot on Jupiter shows a Jovian "galaxy" of swirling storms in this image captured by NASA's Juno spacecraft on 2 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

passed about 2,600 miles (4,200 km) around Jupiter's poles on 27 August.

During Juno's next flyby on 11 July, the spacecraft will pass directly over the planet's Great Red Spot, a massive storm south of the equator that has existed for centuries.

Scientists hope to learn how the storm main-

tains itself and if a mass of material underlies the churning clouds.

Juno is expected to continue its highly elliptical orbit around Jupiter for months, swooping close every 53 days to map the planet's interior so scientists can learn more about how and where Jupiter formed.—Reuters ■

German kindergartens must report parents for refusing vaccine advice under new law

BERLIN — Germany will pass a law next week obliging kindergartens to inform the authorities if parents fail to provide evidence that they have received advice from their doctor on vaccinating their children, the health ministry said on Friday.

Parents refusing the advice risk fines of up to 2,500 euros (\$2,800) under the law expected to come into force on 1 June.

Vaccination rules are being tightened across Europe, where a decline in immunization, has caused a spike in diseases such as measles, chicken pox and mumps, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

"Nobody can be indifferent to the fact that people are still dying of measles," German health minister Hermann Grohe told *Bild* newspaper. "That's why we are tightening up regulations on vaccination."

Italy made vacci-

nation compulsory this month after health officials warned that a fall-off in vaccination rates had triggered a measles epidemic, with more than 2,000 cases there this year, almost ten times the number in 2015.

Lack of public trust in vaccines has become an important global health issue. Experts say negative attitudes may be due to fears over suspected side-effects and hesitancy among some doctors.

In 10 European countries, cases of measles, which can cause blindness and encephalitis, had doubled in number in the first two months of 2017 compared to the previous year, the ECDC said last month.

That is leading to greater activism among parents and public health officials. Last week, a German court ruled that a father could insist that his child be vaccinated over the objections of the child's mother because it was in the child's interest.

—Reuters ■

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES –Individual Consultants)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Agricultural Development Support Project (ADSP)
Credit No.: 5624 MM

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is in the process of receiving funds from the World Bank toward the cost of the ADSP Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Project Management Unit now invites expressions of interest from qualified candidates for the National Procurement Officer (Ref # SC-17) position. Interested consultants must provide their updated curriculum vitae, indicating personal and technical skills, qualifications and experience in similar assignments.

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of 12 months with the possibility of extension, starting in July 2016. The location of work will be the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated July 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with procedures set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TORs) can be obtained at the address below during working days from 10:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail, or by Fax) by **16th June 2017, 14.00 hrs.**

Attn: Mr. Tint Lwin, Director of Procurement
Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Building No.43, Floor/ Room number: 1st floor, Office of Director of Procurement,
Nay Pyi Taw

Country: Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone: +95-67-410019, Fax: + 95-67-410509, E-mail:
tlwin4.irr@gmail.com

Macron offers Britain's May support in fight against terrorism

TAORMINA, (ITALY) — French President Emmanuel Macron offered to help British Prime Minister Theresa May marshal support in the fight against terrorism on Friday, days after a suicide bomber killed 22 people in Manchester.

May, at her first G7 meeting since becoming prime minister last year, was set to urge the world's major industrialized nations to encourage technology firms to stop militants moving "from the battlefield to the internet".

France has itself suffered multiple jihadist attacks, in which more

than 230 people have been killed since 2015.

"We know this kind of attack," the newly elected president told May at the San Domenico Palace Hotel, a former monastery in Taormina, Sicily.

"We will ... do everything we can in order to increase this cooperation at the European level, in order to do more from a bilateral point of view against terrorism. We will do that during the whole day, because that's the common challenge."

Sitting in front of the flags of France, Britain and the European Union, May said she was looking forward to wider discus-



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May and French President Emmanuel Macron talk during a bilateral meeting at the G7 Summit in Taormina, Sicily, Italy, on 26 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

sions at G7 "on how we can work further to defeat the terrorists".

While Italy hopes the G7 meeting on the cliffs of eastern Sicily will concentrate minds on Europe's migrant crisis, the British leader wants to set out her stall on measures to tackle the promotion and facilitation of radical ideologies through the internet.

"The PM will say that the threat we face is evolving, rather than dis-

appearing, as Daesh (Islamic State) loses ground in Iraq and Syria. The fight is moving from the battlefield to the internet," a senior government source said on Thursday.

"If you have unity at the G7, and you are all sending out the same message, that we want internet companies, social media companies to step up ... then obviously that delivers a powerful message."—Reuters ■



Melting ice shows through at a cliff face at Landsend, on the coast of Cape Denison, Antarctica, on 2 January 2010. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Norway's \$950 billion wealth fund commissions research on climate change

OSLO — The research arm of Norway's sovereign wealth fund has awarded grants for two projects on how climate change affects the economy and capital markets, it said on Friday.

The studies will be carried out at Co-

lumbia University and New York University, it added.

Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the world's

largest with assets of \$950 billion, has been built with revenues from the country's oil and gas industry.—Reuters ■

Man arrested for starting fire on bullet train

OKAYAMA, (Japan) — An elderly man was arrested Friday on suspicion of starting a fire on a shinkansen bullet train in the western prefecture of Okayama, police said.

The 80-year-old man, who identified himself as Yasuhiro Watanabe from Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, was arrested at JR Okayama Station, they said, adding he has admitted to the charge.

Watanabe was sitting in a window seat in the front car of an eight-car train bound for Kagoshima-Chuo Station in southwestern Japan when he set fire to papers on a seat with a lighter just before

the train was due to stop at Okayama.

Passengers nearby put the fire out, the police said, adding no one was injured in the incident.

According to West Japan Railway Co., the Mizuho No. 615 bullet train, carrying about 350 passengers, was cancelled following the incident. Subsequent bullet train services were delayed by up to 19 minutes, affecting around 4,600 people.

The incident took place on the JR Sanyo Shinkansen Line connecting Shin-Osaka in western Japan and Hakata in Fukuoka Prefecture,



Reporters gather on a platform at JR Okayama Station, western Japan, on 26 May 2017, after a shinkansen bullet train stopped there following a fire on a seat started by an elderly man. The man was arrested and no one was injured. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

southwestern Japan.

The bullet train was scheduled to travel beyond Hakata to Kagoshima-Chuo on the Kyushu Shinkansen Line.

In 2015, in the worst ever incident on a shinkansen train, a 71-year-old man set himself on fire on a bullet train travelling in Kanagawa Prefecture, killing both

himself and a female passenger as a result.

A total of 26 other passengers on board were also hurt.

After that case, railway operators stepped up security measures, including introducing cameras to constantly monitor the passenger cars of shinkansen trains.—Kyodo News

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (173)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (173) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV LE MIN VOY. NO (126)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LE MIN VOY. NO (126) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO,LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TAKESHIO VOY. NO (FBV 18525)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAKESHIO VOY. NO (FBV 18525) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 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 WILHELMSEN SHIPS
SERVICE (S) PTE, LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

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Diane Kruger plays agony of terrorism victim in German-language movie

CANNES, (FRANCE) — The suicide bombing at a pop concert in Manchester, England, temporarily drew attention at the Cannes Film Festival away from the movies and to the security threat that has bedeviled Europe.

The human cost of terrorism featured on the Cannes agenda on Friday, however, when acclaimed Turkish-German filmmaker Fatih Akin presented “In The Fade”, starring Diane Kruger as a woman whose husband and young son are killed in a bomb attack.

“Terrorism has become such a terrible, nearly daily thing that we live with, and what drew me to the part is that we never get to hear the story of the people that get left behind, we just hear numbers,” Kruger told Reuters in an interview.

Born and raised in Germany, Kruger moved to the United States in her early teens and had her breakout role as Helen in the 2004 blockbuster “Troy”.

“In The Fade” is not only Kruger’s first film in German, it is also the toughest.

“It’s probably the most emotional, hardest, physically challenging part I think I have ever played,” she said.

“Just holding that grief for this entire movie, the subject



Actress Diane Kruger poses. PHOTO: REUTERS

matter, obviously, physically being in every scene of a film, carrying a film like this was a first for me as well.”

It was at Cannes that the collaboration with Akin took root. When Kruger was on the festival jury in 2012, she sought him out

to say she would like to work with him. When Akin proposed the lead role in “In The Fade”, she could not believe it.

“I actually thought, when I got the script, he was kidding. I was like: ‘How did you think about me for this?’ It’s definite-

ly not the typical kind of part I usually get offered.”

Akin’s gritty realist style strips Kruger of any Hollywood glamour, and the grief and anger of her situation is etched onto her face.

For both actress and director, the film is timely and personal.

“Given the times we living in, I feel there this permission of being horrible to each other, of violence, of prejudice,” said Kruger, adding that she had witnessed Islamophobic abuse - central to the film - on the New York subway.

As the son of Turkish immigrants, Akin said he was driven to make the movie as a response to growing right-wing violence in his country.

“These people could have killed me, I could be one of those targets “ he said of neo-Nazis who have murdered several people for their skin color in Germany over recent years.

While anchored in Germany, the movie’s themes of terrorism and racism, should have a universal resonance. “I don’t consider it just a German matter, It’s a global matter,” Akin said.

“I had the opportunity to take a local case (to) tell something about the situation in the world.” —Reuters ■



PHOTO: REUTERS

Best crew ever: Priyanka on working with ‘Baywatch’ team

LOS ANGELES — Priyanka Chopra says she had the time of her life while working with the “best crew” on “Baywatch”.

The 34-year-old Indian star, who is making her Hollywood debut with the film adaptation of the popular ‘90s TV series, took to social media to share her experience of working on the project.

“All day @zacefron ! Best crew ever! #Baywatch-Today @therock ilfenator @aadaddario @thejonbass...” she wrote on Instagram along side a picture of the team.

The movie which also stars Zac Efron, Alexandra Daddario, Kelly Rohrbach and Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson is directed by Seth Gordon.

“Baywatch” is slated to hit theatres on 2 June in India.

The “Quantico” star plays the villain Victoria Leeds’ in the film. The global icon, who is making her way to Hollywood, has been receiving impressive reviews for her character in the film.—PTI ■

A ‘Pirates’ life for Depp as he sets sail in fifth film

LOS ANGELES — Dead men tell no tales, unless, of course, they are undead decaying pirates seeking mythical treasure in the vast fathoms of the sea in the fifth installment of Disney’s “Pirates of the Caribbean.”

“Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales,” out in theaters worldwide this weekend, sees Johnny Depp reprise his role as the hapless, swaying, slurring pirate Captain Jack Sparrow, once again roped into an adventure on the high seas.

Depp, who’s had a tough year in the headlines thanks to an acrimonious divorce from wife Amber Heard, as well as claims and counter claims about his behavior and lavish lifestyle, sat out media interviews for the



Actor Johnny Depp arrives at The Premiere of Disney’s “Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales” at Los Angeles, California, US, on 18 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

film in Los Angeles.

But his co-stars rushed to his defence and to deny reports, stemming from dueling court documents over his finances,

that he is fed his movie lines through an earpiece and was difficult and late while filming.

“Pirates” franchise producer Jerry Bruckheimer said Depp

is “not fed lines at all,” and credited him with crafting the tone of the franchise.

“(The pirates) are irreverent characters, something he totally created and the kind of irreverent fun attitude that all the movies have is because of Johnny,” Bruckheimer said.

He added that as long as Depp, 53, was aboard for more films, the “Pirates” saga has no definitive end.

“As long as the audience wants to come, we’ll be there, and Johnny wants to make it and Disney wants to finance it. I hope it goes on forever,” he said.

The “Pirates” franchise has grossed \$3.7 billion since the first film in 2003 and despite poor reviews, “Dead Men Tell No Tales” is expected to take in some \$80

million at the North American box office this weekend, trade publication Variety said.

“Dead Men Tell No Tales” introduces the franchise’s next generation; Brenton Thwaites, who plays the son of Orlando Bloom’s Will Turner and Keira Knightley’s Elizabeth Swann, and actress Kaya Scodelario, an intelligent, headstrong woman escaping accusations of being a witch.

The new characters link back to 2003’s “The Curse of the Black Pearl.”

“We talked a lot about the first film and that first-time high. We just felt that the balance was really right in that movie and we love it and we wanted to honor it,” co-director Espen Sandberg said.—Reuters ■

Baseball for the blind takes flight in Cuba

HAVANA — Yubis Zapata had to stop playing baseball when he lost his eyesight during military service due to an explosion, so for him, it is a miracle to be able to play once more, in Cuba's growing league for the blind.

Baseball has long been a national passion. The Communist-run country quickly adopted this version after it was developed in the 1990s in Italy, but it has only really caught on in recent years, spreading to all corners of the Caribbean island.

Players like Zapata are ambitious. Their dream is for blind baseball to be included in the 2020 Paralympics, and to bring home the trophy for Cuba.

"When you lose your vision, these first years are difficult," said Zapata, 41, at a training session in Havana where players wore white uniforms.

"When you get this kind of opportunity, it's fabulous. Your world didn't end, it continues."

The players, who are blind or visually impaired and wear colorful blindfolds while playing, say baseball has helped them refine their sense of orien-



Yaineris Veg, who is visually impaired, participates in a baseball lesson at the Changa Medero stadium, in Havana, Cuba, on 17 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

tation by sound.

The ball has bells inside so that fielders can hear where it lands and scramble for it. First base is a beeping mat, and players clap paddles at second and third base to orient runners.

There is no pitcher; the batter tosses the ball in the air and hits it. Fly balls are not allowed.

"This is different from conventional baseball - you have to be more concentrated," said Carlos Fuentes, 32, a physical therapist who lost

his sight in recent years. "This sport in a way has served me as rehabilitation, for spatial orientation."

The game was brought to Cuba by Italian coaches, who also provided the specialized equipment. Enthusiasts say it is more truthful to the original sport than its American parallel, beep baseball.

Havana coach Roberto Carmona says the game is played throughout Europe, Asia, in Cuba and Panama. But

for it to be included in the Paralympics, there need to be two teams per continent, which he is confident can happen by 2020.

Five Cuban provinces play the game, he said. There is no age or gender limit and even sighted people can play as long as they wear a blindfold.

"We met with the Italians recently and won three games," said Carmona. "Cuba could be the leader, not just in the region but the whole world. Baseball runs through Cubans' blood."—Reuters ■

Biggest exhibit of human-like fossils goes on display in South Africa

THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND, (SOUTH AFRICA) — An exhibit of the largest collection of fossils of close human relatives ever to go on public display opened on Thursday in South Africa, not far from the caves where they were unearthed.

Launched on "Africa Day" in an area named "The Cradle of Humankind," the exhibit coincides with the publication of a controversial paper that questions the widely-held view that humanity's evolutionary roots lay in Africa.

The displays contain more than 1,000 original fragments of Homo naledi, named in 2015 after a cache of its fossils was discovered in caves near the Sterkfontein and Swartkrans dig sites about 40 km (25 miles) northwest of Johannesburg.

Initially believed to be about 2.5 million years old, subsequent dating showed Homo naledi was roaming the African bush between 236,000 and 335,000 years ago, around the time that modern humans were emerging.—Reuters ■

Laura Yang (71 yrs)

Laura Yang, beloved second daughter of Yang Kyein Sai, Saophalong of Kokang and Lu Shwin Kyin, Mahadevi of Kokang, beloved sister of Jackie, Lena, Oscar, Helen, Faith, Elfreda and Ernest, passed away peacefully on 8th May, 2017, at Central General Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand. Her remains were cremated on 24th May 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.



mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule			
(27-5-2017 07:00am ~ 28-5-2017 07:00am) MST			
07:03	Am	News	10:34 Am The Third Prize Winner
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon-The Prayer Halls And Buddha Images (Part-2)	10:50 Am Myanmar Traditional Bullock-Cart & Equestrian Racing
07:51	Am	Next Generation "May Melody"	
08:03	Am	News	
08:26	Am	A May Yay Yin Nat Festival (Episode-1)	
08:42	Am	Welcome to the Southern most part of Myanmar	
08:53	Am	Next Generation: Nyan Kyal Say	
09:03	Am	News	
09:27	Am	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Aung Min Min	
09:41	Am	A bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-2)	
10:03	Am	News	
10:25	Am	Next Generation "Skater"	

MRTV Programme Schedule (27-5-2017, Saturday)	
6:00 Am	3:45 Pm
◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	◆ "Myanmar National League (MNL) (1) (2017) (LIVE Broadcast) (Yadanarbon FC Vs Yangon United FC)"
7:00 Am	◆ Teleplay
◆ Breakfast News	6:35 Pm
7:35 Am	◆ Tasty Trip
◆ Weekly Sport Info	7:15 Pm
8:30 Am	◆ TV Drama Series
◆ Peace Talks	8:00 Pm
9:15 Am	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
◆ Documentary (Rakhine State)	8:30 Pm
10:40 Am	◆ Peace Talk
◆ Poem For Children	9:00 Pm
◆ Health and Vegetables	◆ Documentary
12:30 Am	10:00 Pm
◆ TV Drama Series	◆ Musician's Talk
1:50 Pm	
◆ Talk on Old Film (Part-2)	

Murray struggles with illness on French Open eve

LONDON — World number one Andy Murray is battling to recover from illness before the French Open begins on Sunday, according to British media reports.

Murray has had numerous setbacks in 2017, with the 30-year-old diagnosed with shingles in February before sustaining a elbow injury in March that ruled him out of the Miami Open and Great Britain's Davis Cup tie.

Top-seeded Murray trained on Thursday, ahead of



Britain's Andy Murray. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

the main draw for the French Open later on Friday, and is also set to attend a pre-tournament press conference after the draw. —Reuters ■

Women's former world No. 1 Ai Miyazato to retire

TOKYO — Japan's former women's world No.1 Ai Miyazato, a nine-time winner on the US LPGA Tour, will retire at the end of this season, her management said Friday.

The 31-year-old will hold a press conference on Monday to announce her decision.

The youngest member of a golfing family from Okinawa, Miyazato shot to stardom in her rookie season in 2004, winning five Japanese LPGA tour titles and becoming the first teenager on either the men's

or women's domestic circuit to earn 100 million yen in one season.

A year earlier she became the first amateur player in 30 years to win on the pro circuit at the Dunlop Ladies tournament in Miyagi Prefecture, where she was attending high school at the time.

In February 2005, Miyazato represented Japan along with Rui Kitada and won the inaugural Women's World Cup of Golf.

She joined the LPGA Tour in 2006 and earned her first win in her fourth season at the 2009 Evian Masters in France, defeating Sophie Gustafson at the first hole of a sudden-death playoff.

In 2010, she won five tournaments on the LPGA Tour and rose to No. 1 world rankings, a position she would hold for 11 weeks during that season. Her last victory on the LPGA Tour came at the NW Arkansas Championship in 2012. Her best finishes in major tournaments were third at the Women's PGA Championship (2006, 2010) and the Women's British Open (2009). —Kyodo News ■



Ai Miyazato tees off at the ANA Inspiration in Rancho Mirage, California, in this file photo taken in April 2017. Her management said on 26 May that the former world No. 1 golfer will retire at the end of the season. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**



Arsenal's Aaron Ramsey celebrates with teammates after scoring their third goal during their Premier League at Emirates Stadium on 21 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Chelsea players wary of 'fantastic' Arsenal in final

LONDON — Chelsea have to put on a "high level" performance to beat a strong Arsenal side in Saturday's FA Cup final at Wembley, the Premier League champions' defender David Luiz has said.

In-form Chelsea are on course to win a domestic double and can select from a fully fit squad, while Arsenal are struggling with an ongoing injury crisis as four defenders are expected to miss the final.

"We have to concentrate to train hard every day to be in the best shape to play this final,"

Luiz told British media.

"I think when you play for a big club... we know we'll play against a fantastic team, fantastic players in good shape.

"They have fantastic players and an amazing coach, so we need to be in our high level to win this final."

Fellow defender Kurt Zouma added that Arsenal would be tough to beat as Chelsea aim to win the double for the first time since the 2009-10 season.

"We won the league and we are very happy with that

but we have another difficult game to play and if we get the double, it will be good for us," Zouma said.

"We haven't won the game yet, we haven't played yet. We are focussed. We know it is going to be difficult. We know it is just one game, one final and we know that finals are always tough.

"Especially when at Wembley. A big crowd, the stadium will be full and it is a London derby. So let's see what's going on there but we are ready to win." —Reuters ■

Barca favourites, but don't write off Alaves in Spanish Cup final

MADRID — FC Barcelona have their last chance at winning a major trophy this season when they face Deportivo Alaves in the final of the Spanish Copa del Rey (Kings Cup) on Saturday night.

After being knocked out of the quarter-finals of the Champions League and losing the Liga Santander to Real Madrid, the Cup would end a season on a high note for Luis Enrique.

It would also be the perfect send off for the Barca coach who will sit in the Barca dugout for the last time in the Vicente Calderon Stadium, ending a

successful three year spell at the club.

The match is also the last to be played in the Calderon, as Atletico Madrid prepare to move to their new Wanda Metropolitan Stadium for the coming season.

Barca are the clear favorites to retain the Cup, a competition they have won on 28 occasions, more than any other side in Spain, and which they also won in 2015 and 2016, beating Athletic Club Bilbao and Sevilla in the process. However, Luis Enrique will be without Luis Suarez and Sergi Roberto, both of whom are

suspended and consequently has to make changes in both attack and defence.

Lucas Digne will probably play at right back, while Andres Iniesta or Paco Alcacer will occupy the advanced role alongside Leo Messi and Neymar.

Although Barca are favorites, it would be an error to write Alaves off out of hand. The side coached by Manuel Pellegrino has been one of the revelations of the season in Spain finishing ninth in the table after winning promotion from the second division last season. —Xinhua ■