General Secretary of the Central Committee of Communist Party of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to visit Myanmar in near future

At the invitation of U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Mr Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Central Committee of Communist Party of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, will pay a State Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.

Pearl Auction ends

THE Myanmar Pearl Auction ended yesterday after three days and selling nearly all available pearl lots on auction. Union Minister U Ohn Win made an appearance to thank the participants.

The state-run auction, which has been held in Myanmar since 1964, is organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Myanmar Pearl Enterprise, was held under an open tender system at the Myanmar Gems Museum.

This year’s state-owned pearl stock was sold out for total revenue of about Euro 2.3 million. Since 1964, Myanmar has held 90 pearl auctions earning revenues of US$115 million.

Sixty-two companies participated this year. In southern part of Myanmar, there is Myeik Archipelago, formerly known as Mergui Archipelago in the Taninthayi Region. It consists of 800 islands and the total area is 25,600 sq. kilometres. Almost all of the islands were virgin lands and they have been well known since ancient times, because of their inhabitants, Pinctada maxima oysters.
Yangon Region honours monks and nuns

Yangon Region government honoured monks, nuns and layperson who were conferred on religious titles by the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at Chanthawgyi pavilion of Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein ushered monks led by Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title holder Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita, the presiding monk of Pariyatti School, a prominent Buddhist centre of learning, in Yangon, to the venue.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita administered the Five Precepts, followed by the recitation of Paritassas by the monks. The chief minister gave a brief account of the religious ceremony.

The Union Minister presented religious title and offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita and offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sirinda, the Chief Minister presented religious title and offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala. The Chief Minister and officials then presented titles and offertories to other title-holder monks, nuns and laypersons. Well-wishers made cash donations for the title holders. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sirinda delivered a sermon. Monks and nuns were then served with day meal.
—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar becomes member of World Organization of the Scout Movement

Myanmar was accredited 164th member of World Organization of the Scout Movement at the 41st World Scout Conference held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 13 to 20 August.

Myanmar Scout Federation chairman Dr Tin Nyo and party attended the conference and arrived back in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

Myanmar Women’s Chief Scout Dr Tin Hla Kyi, Myanmar Men Deputy Chief Scout U Tha Sein, senior scouts and youth scouts welcomed by at the Yangon International Airport.

The scout representatives of 160 nations attended the conference and nine nations including Myanmar were granted certificates and flags being recognized as members of World Organization of the Scout Movement.

Myanmar Scout Federation chairman Dr Tin Nyo and party met with World Organization of the Scout Movement chairman Mr Joao Armando Goncalves and Secretary-General Mr. Ahmad Alhens Dawai, South Korea Chief Scout and former secretary-general of United Nation Mr Ban Ki-moon and chief scouts of other nations and discussed matters relating to international incorporation of scout movement of Myanmar.—Myanmar Scout Federation

Of the 797 H1N1 suspected persons, 30 died of the virus and 297 were found positive in the whole country from 21 July to this date expect from Kachin and Kayah states that were free from the deadly influenza, according to the press release of the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday.

Nine patients were found H1N1 positive and one of them died when 24 suspected of H1N1 infection were tested during the two days on 19 and 20 August, the press release also said. Region/state-wise list showed Kayin State had 19 H1N1 suspected cases, 15 positive cases, and one death; Chin State had 66 suspected cases, 13 positive cases and 0 death; Sagaing Region had 23 suspected cases, 16 positive cases, and one death; Tanintharyi Region, had 25 suspected cases, 19 positive cases, and 0 death; Bago Region had 23 suspected cases, 17 positive cases, and two deaths; Mon State had 12 suspected cases, six positive cases, and one death; Rakhine State had 12 suspected cases, 4 positive cases, and 0 death; Yangon Region had 366 suspected cases, 83 positive cases, and seven deaths; Shan State (East) had 12 suspected cases, 3 positive cases, and 0 death; Shan State (South) had 14 suspected cases, 10 positive cases, and 0 death; Shan State (North) had six suspected cases, three positive cases, and one death; Ayeyawady Region had 86 suspected cases, 38 positive cases, and 12 deaths; and Nay Pyi Taw had 22 suspected cases, 17 positive cases, and 0 death.

Up to 2 pm yesterday, three inpatients were found infected at Waibagyi Hospital in Yangon, and 33 at hospitals in other regions and states totaling 36. A total of 185 have recovered from illness and have been discharged from the respective hospitals. There are also 16 outpatients. Countries bordering Myanmar and most of the Southeast Asian countries are also suffering from the infection of the seasonal influenza of the same type.—Myanmar News Agency
Information Ministry to restore former glory of Sarpay Beikman

With a view to making Myanmar Classic literature available to the public, Sarpay Beikman is planning to publish 100 Myanmar books series by collecting the best selection of literatures.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and other literati attended the third coordination meeting in connection with the holding of 100 Myanmar classic books series which was held at the Printing and Publishing department on Thein Phyu road in Yangon yesterday at 1:00 pm.

At the meeting, the vice chairman of the work committee Sayar U Tin Hlaing, also known as Lal Twin Thar Saw Chit, discussed and gave advises on the selection and publication of subject and category wise classic novels, biography, poems, literatures and knowledge, point-size and font for the 100 Myanmar books series. Then, U Than Ohn who was known as Mg Zayar, co-secretary 1 of the work committee discussed the list of topics and subjects which would be included in publishing 100 Myanmar books series such as novels, short stories, drama, prose, and essay during 20 century. The Director-General, Deputy Director-General and literati discussed the works to be carried out to get necessary books and documents, fonts and sizes, number of pages, coordination with experts, names and sizes for the book series.

Afterwards, the Union Minister gave the concluding remarks saying that the ministry mainly aims at restoring the former glory of Sarpay Beikman. The publication of 100 Myanmar book series will promote the roles of Sarpay Beikman. The plan to publish 100 Myanmar books will reinstate Sarpay Beikman in its past status. After the coordination meeting for publishing 100 Myanmar books series, another meeting in connection with the holding of a Printing Forum continued at the venue.

It was held jointly by the Ministry of Information and Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said that the purpose of the forum was to develop printing and printing enterprises in Myanmar. He expressed his hope that the forum will produce valuable suggestions. He spoke of the need to conduct research on the development of publication techniques and the publication sector’s contribution to the national economy.

Then, U Min Han, Chairman of Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association and U Thurain Tun, secretary, explained the arrangement for holding the printing forum, and the functions of the body.

Later, U Aung Myo Myint, director-general of Printing and Publishing Department, U Ko Ko Naing, deputy director-general and attendants discussed matters relating to distribution of 100 Myanmar books series and holding of a printing forum. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the Union Minister. —Myanmar News Agency

Level-1 contest of Peace music Festival continues in Yangon

Level-1 song contest of Peace music festival 2017 was held at the studio (A) of MRTV (Myanmar Radio and Television) located on the Pyay Road, Kamayut Township. Present at the contest were Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, region and state ministers, director general of MRTV, officials and invited guests.

Three singers each from five townships of Taunggyi, Mynitkina, Mawlamyne, Lashio and Pathein were selected from level-1 contest.

As there were a lot of participants in Yangon, two events were held for level-1 competition for Yangon.

The first contest was held on 13 August evening and the second yesterday. Each event in Yangon selected three singer. Similarly, level-1 song contest for Sittway Township will be held on 27 August.

The second event of level-1 song contest of Peace music festival 2017 in Yangon was broadcast from MRTV channel after its eight o’clock news and broadcast directly from Facebook pages of MRTV and Peace Music Festival.

The timeline announcements of Peace music festival 2017 are posted on time at Peace Music Festival Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/peacemusicfestival. Families of the festival and well-wishers are visiting IDP camps of the host cities and donating provisions. —Myanmar News Agency

Drug seized at the entrance bridge of Maungtaw

Maungtaw Police seized 194 amphetamine stimulant pills from two villagers from Ngan Chaung Village during a car inspection at the entrance bridge of Maungtaw, Rakhine State, yesterday. Police said the pills have a street value of Ks388,000.

Maungtaw Police conducted the vehicle search based on a tip. The car was being driven from Taunggyo to Maungtaw.

Police arrested the occupants of the vehicle, identified as Harlat, 19, and Shar Alom, 57, of Ngan Chaung Village, on suspicion of illegal drug crimes.

— A One Soe and Myo Thu Hein
Indawgyi Lake hosts rare species of water bird

Indawgyi Lake, located in northern Myanmar, is considered one of the country’s largest freshwater lakes. The lake, which is home to a variety of waterfowl, is sheltering 160 species of birds, including globally threatened species such as the minimalis. Over 10,000 plants will be planted along road to Alaungtaw Kathapa Pagoda this month

Local philanthropic organizations will plant over 10,000 plants along the Shwesapin Bridge Road located between Yinnabin Township and Pale Township, Sagaing Region in the last week of this month. Led by a Buddhist monk, a head of Shwesapin Monastery, government departments, local social organisations, donors and residents will participate in the environmental conservation programme scheduled for 27 August.

Wai Lu Kyaw, a film actor who also active in humanitarian and social relief works, will join the upcoming tree-planting event and along with other artists, will entertain participants with music and dances prior to the event.

The project will plant 3,000 teak trees, over 5,000 bamboo trees and 7,000 other shade varieties along the main road to Alaungtaw Kathapa Pagoda, a popular pilgrimage site.

The campaign also aims to promote understanding more about the benefits of trees, which include beauty, improved air quality and better protection against flooding and soil erosion.

Sayadaw Ashin Waipone, the leading monk of the campaign, has planted over 1,000 trees annually during the last six years along the road to the Alaungtaw Kathapa Pagoda.

Compensations for properties in Katha-Bhamo railway project to be offered

Railway authorities plan to provide compensation for properties within the Katha-Bhamo railway project area, said U Kamzar Mone, minister for Sagaing Region Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications will pay compensation to farmers impacted by the rail project after receiving of approval from the Central Farmland Management Body, which is currently calculating compensation amounts.

Agricultural subsidies for 308 acres of project-affected lands will be given to those growers under the 2012 Farmland Law and bylaws, U Kamzar Mone said.

The Katha-Bhamo railway project has been under way since 2016. According to a project survey, there are 20 project-affected farmers in Tokegyi Village-tract, 36 farmers in Moetayi Village-tract, 11 farmers in Chaungwila Village-tract, 58 farmers in Minlel Village-tract, 18 farmers in Hmatetaing Village-tract and 44 farmers in Meikthalin Village-tract.
High global gold prices drive local price increases

GOLD prices are increasing in Myanmar, reflecting global prices, according to gold market participants. On Saturday, the price of pure gold in Yangon was Ks916,000 per tical (or .578 ounce) compared to a global price of $1,284 per ounce, according to Aung Thamardi Gold and Jewellery Shop and Gold Refinery. On Friday, the local gold price was Ks920,000 per tical, according to local gold merchants. Local gold prices broke Ks900,000 per tical on 20 July and Ks912,800 on 10 August.

Natural gas exports more than $1 billion since April

NATURAL gas exports this fiscal year are worth US$1 billion, $90 million more than last year, according to the Commerce Ministry. Myanmar’s most productive gas fields include the offshore Shwe field, discovered in Rakhine in 2014 to supply China; the Yadana field, managed by Total Co. of France and supplying Thailand and domestic consumption; the offshore Yadana field in Taninthayi Region; and the offshore Zawtika field in the Gulf of Moattama and supplying Thailand. The Yadana field project, one of Myanmar’s largest gas fields, produces about 800-900 million cubic feet of gas daily. The field is set to potentially expand under an exploration project run by Total E&P Myanmar Co. Ltd. Woodside Energy of Australia announced on 14 August that will explore petroleum and natural gas prospects at offshore blocks A-7 and AD-5 in Ayeyawady Region next year. They are currently conducting environmental and social impact assessments. — Ko Htet

External trade over past four months in deficit of more than $2 billion

EXTERNAL trade over the past four months in the current fiscal year showed a deficit of more than US$2 billion compared to $1.3 billion during the same period last year, according to the Commerce Ministry. From 1 April to 11 August, Myanmar foreign trade was about $11.4 billion, which is $1.7 billion more than last year. Myanmar exports were worth $4.6 billion and imports were worth $6.7 billion. Trade value by sea routes was estimated at $8.8 billion and land ports of entry saw $2.6 billion.

Agricultural exports, Myanmar’s second largest, decreased about $30 million this year. This year’s deficit compares to $3.3 billion in FY2016-2017, $5.4 billion in FY2015-2016, $4.9 billion in FY2014-2015, $2.6 billion in FY2013-2014 and $9.1 million in FY2012-2013, according to the Central Statistical Organization (CSO). — Ko Khant

Ornamental fish selling well in Kanthaya area, Monywa

ORNAMENTAL fish from Yangon and Mandalay are available at the same place of Kanthaya area, Monywa town every Sunday starting from 6 August. Both the numbers of sellers and buyers increased yesterday, said Ko Hein, a pet fish seller.

When the-state-of-the-art ornamental fish stalls were opened on 6 August, there were only 7 shops. And now, the shops reached 10. Only 25 ornamental fish species including Commet fish, Gold fish are sold in this market. The prices of those fish range from Ks500 to Ks20,000 per head. A shop sold fish worth more than Ks20,000 on average. In addition to ornamental fish, glass fish tanks and aquatic feedstuff are also available at the shop, said Ko Hein.

Those pet fish stalls offer reasonable price because they want to create the recreation area for local residents. The ornamental fish including Gold fish, ornamental turtle and colorful prawn are sold from 8 am to 12 pm in the afternoon. The fish provided by the Fishery Department are planned to sell next week.

We can now buy the fish at same spot. Although there are high numbers of pet fish lovers in Monywa town, only small numbers of fish shops are found. The sales of fish is likely to increase as the news of fish stalls at the same place spreading around Monywa town, said a pet fish lover from Monywa town. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa)
India investigates after fourth big train accident in past year kills 23

NEW DELHI — India began investigating on Sunday a train crash in which 23 people were killed, the fourth major accident over the past year on the world’s fourth biggest rail network which is grappling with chronic under-investment and overcrowding.

The cause of the derailment about 130 km (80 miles) north of the capital New Delhi, in the state of Uttar Pradesh, was not known, said Northern Railways spokesman Neeraj Sharma.

Thirteen coaches of the train came off the tracks as it was heading to the Hindu holy city of Haridwar, police said. The toll rose to 23 dead with at least 123 people injured.

Sharma said rescue operations had ended and a safety commissioner would launch an investigation later on Sunday. The driver of the train would be one of the first people to be questioned, Sharma said. He said the death toll could rise.

A senior official in the Uttar Pradesh government, Arvind Kumar, told the Hindustan Times the train driver had slammed on the brakes after spotting maintenance work on the tracks that had not been properly signalled.

“It is too early to say what was the cause,” Sharma said when asked about the report.

Train crashes are all too common in India after decades of poor investment and rising demand, which usually mean packed trains are running on creaking infrastructure.

Saturday’s accident is at least the fourth major accident this year and the third in Uttar Pradesh in 2017.

A crash in November in Uttar Pradesh killed 150 people.

The network is in the middle of a $130 billion (£100.98 billion), five-year modernisation. In addition, the government launched a $15 billion safety overhaul in February after the surge in accidents blamed on defective tracks.

But in June, Reuters reported that the overhaul was facing delays as the state steel company could not meet demand for new rails.—Reuters

Hiroshima marks 3rd anniversary of deadly landslides

HIROSHIMA — A memorial service was held Sunday to commemorate the third anniversary of landslides that claimed the lives of 77 people in the western Japan city of Hiroshima.

“I don’t want anyone else to become a victim or a person feeling like us,” said 77-year-old Takako Miyamoto, one of the speakers at the event. She lost her husband after torrential rain caused a series of landslides in residential areas close to mountains in the city early on 20 August, 2014.

“It is really painful and sad to have our lives ruined after losing everything, with our dear old houses destroyed,” said Miyamoto, who also sustained a serious injury in the landslide.

Tocoming on recent natural disasters in other places in Japan including torrential rain in Kyushu last month, she said she “sincerely hopes that no one else dies in a disaster.”

About 400 houses were either washed away or damaged in the Hiroshima landslides.

“Residents are providing mutual support and the work to protect each other has progressed,” Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui said at the ceremony joined by some 600 people. “We’d like to support these efforts.”

The event was jointly hosted by the governments of Hiroshima city and prefecture in Asakita Ward, one of the hardest hit areas.

Bereaved families and residents visited the devastated sites early Sunday to offer flowers and pray for the victims. Some rubbed the names of victims listed on a monument and put their hands together in tears.

Residents of the devastated area were not informed of the landslide risk, as many of the sites were not designated as a warning zone in accordance with the law on prevention of landslide disasters.

Following the disaster, the state revised the law and obliged prefectural governments to swiftly make public the results of basic investigations of terrain and geological conditions. The revised law came into effect in January 2015.

According to the Hiroshima prefectural government, emergency work since the disaster to make 57 locations more resistant to landslides was completed in May this year.

The prefecture is expected to designate around 50,000 locations as landslide warning zones, but only about 40 per cent of the areas had been so designated as of 10 August. —Kyodo News

Philippines deploys troops to a 2nd province to fight bird flu

MANILA — The Philippines has deployed more troops to cull thousands of chickens one day after the farm ministry confirmed the spread of bird flu into a second province north of the capital, Manila.

More than 100 soldiers were sent on Saturday to the towns of Jaen and San Isidro in Nueva Ecija province after two cases of avian flu were detected in quails, army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Isagani Nato said in a statement.

The new bird flu cases were about 50 km (30 miles) from the initial outbreak in a swampy area of Pampanga that is a sanctuary for migratory birds from China.

Authorities have not determined the cause of the bird flu outbreak, nor the exact strain, on which tests are being done in Australia.

There has been no case of human transmission in either outbreak, and early tests have ruled out highly pathogenic H5N1 strain.

Nato said the deployment in Nueva Ecija followed a request from the Bureau of Animal Industry in the Department of Agriculture for assistance “after confirming a new incident of bird flu outbreak”.

He said troops were now undergoing training on how to do their jobs.

The 300 soldiers sent to Pampanga on Thursday culled nearly 30,000 chicken from a farm within a one-kilometre radius of the first bird flu outbreak.

The farm ministry said about 600,000 chickens on about 36 farms in Pampanga will be culled. It did not say how many will be culled in the second province.

—Reuters

Railway workers repair the tracks next to derailed coaches of a passenger train at the site of an accident in Khatauli, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, India, on 20 August 2017.
MELBOURNE — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull called on Sunday for developers to incorporate safety features into their projects to prevent militant attacks with vehicles and other weapons as he announced new plans to protect the public.

Turnbull unveiled Australia’s first national strategy to protect crowded places, which he said was initiated after an Islamist militant drove a truck into crowds in the French city of Nice in last year, killing 84 people.

It comes days after a similar attack in the Spanish city of Barcelona killed 13 and injuring more than 100, and follows a string of similar vehicle attacks around the world.

Turnbull told reporters the plan was designed for councils, businesses and venue operators to stop attacks with vehicles as well as with guns, knives or chemical devices.

Steps include the installation of bollards along main streets, and at shopping centres and outside sporting grounds.

Turnbull said while sites would be better protected, developers had to incorporate safety features into new projects on the drawing board.

“The best mitigation are done at the design,” he said.

“The most important thing is that, as you get new developments, new plans, that security measures are put in place at that time.”

“The threat is constantly evolving, and so what we have to do is make sure that we too are constantly improving and updating the measures we have to keep Australians safe.”

Australia, a staunch US ally that has sent troops to Afghanistan and Iraq, has been on alert for attacks by home-grown militants returning from fighting in the Middle East, or their supporters.

There have been several “lone wolf” attacks and officials say 13 significant plots have been foiled in the past few years.

In January, a man drove into pedestrians in the city of Melbourne, killing four and injuring more than 20.

Police said that incident was not terrorism-related but the city has put up about 140 concrete bollards around its centre.

Turnbull said the government was concerned about a young Australian who remains unaccounted for following the Barcelona attack.

The seven-year-old boy, Julian Cadman, who British media says has British and Australian nationality, was separated from his mother who was taken to hospital in serious condition.

“We pray that little boy will be found and be restored alive to his parents,” he said. — Reuters

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen held a get-together ceremony with about 4,270 garment and shoe factory workers here on Sunday, marking his start of weekly meetings with garment, shoe factory workers in the industry across the kingdom.

The prime minister announced the initiative earlier this month with the aim of increasing friendliness and better understanding the demands and concerns of workers.

Posting to his official Facebook page after the get-together ceremony at Koh Pich island in Phnom Penh, Hun Sen said he decided to let the workers use public transport services free for two years to help them reduce their daily expenses.

“Garment and footwear workers will be allowed to ride public busses free-of-charge for two years, starting from 20 August, 2017 to 20 August, 2019,” he said.

“They just show their labor cards when they ride the busses.”

According to the prime minister, from January 2018, the employers would be 100 per cent responsible for health insurance services for the workers, so they could save at least 2 to 3 US dollars a month.

Also, he said the workers would receive their pension from 2019 onwards.

Garment and footwear industry is Cambodia’s largest foreign exchange earner. According to government figures, the Southeast Asian country earned 7.3 billion US dollars from garment and footwear product exports in 2016, accounting for 74 per cent of the country’s total export.

The industry consists of some 1,100 factories, employing more than 740,000 workers, mostly females, and the monthly minimum wage for a worker is 153 dollars in 2017, up 9.2 per cent from 140 dollars in 2016.

Hun Sen said that garment and shoe factory workers could see their monthly minimum wages grow by at least 9.8 per cent to 168 dollars for 2018 from the current 153 dollars. — Xinhua

 DHAKA — A special tribunal in Bangladesh’s capital Dhaka has handed death penalty to 10 people for planting a 76-kg bomb in 2000 with a view to assassinating the then opposition leader and incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Dhaka’s Special Trial Tribunal-2 Judge Montaz Begum on Sunday handed down the verdict in presence of the several accused, who are members of a local banned militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jehad-al-Islami (HUJI).

Begum also sentenced one person to life term imprisonment and nine others to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment.

Subject to confirmation of the apex court, the judge said the death row convicts will be executed in firing squad.

The court also acquitted four other accused as charges brought against them were not proven.

The 76-kg bomb was found while a stage was being set up at a college ground in Bangladesh’s Gopalganj district, about 140 km away from Dhaka, on 21 July in 2000 where Sheikh Hasina was supposed to address an election campaign rally next day.

The bomb was recovered by law enforcers before Hasina addressed the rally there.

Of the 25 accused in the two cases filed over an attempted murder and explosives, HUJI chief Mufti Hannan has already been executed in another case for the 2004 grenade attack on then British high commissioner to Bangladesh.

Defence lawyer Faruk Ahmad told journalists that eight accused are currently behind the bar, one has been granted bail while 15 others are fugitives. — Xinhua

10 people awarded death penalty over plot to assassinate Bangladeshi PM Hasina

HEAVY RAIN TO HIT CENTRAL CHINA

BEIJING — Heavy rain will fall in parts of central China in the next 24 hours, the country’s meteorological agency said Sunday.

Southern parts of Anhui and Jiangsu, the eastern part of Hebei, and western part of the Sichuan basin will have thunderstorms and gales, the National Meteorological Centre said.

From 23-23 August, parts of the northwest and north China will see torrential rain, including northern Shaanxi, central and northern parts of Shanxi and central Hebei.

The meteorological agency warned the public to take appropriate precautions. — Xinhua
OPINION

21 AUGUST 2017

Just 30 minutes

Tin Maung Than

PEOPLE can obtain maximum benefits from regular physical exercise without sparing so much time for it. Generally, an adult may need just about 30 minutes of moderate exercise no less than five days per week as physical activity will make him feel better, gain extra energy and perhaps even enjoy longevity.

To stay healthy, a person needs regular exercise because physical activity can help him maintain a healthy weight, an important factor for today’s desk-bound people. According to medical surveys, exercise can prevent dreadful diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, some cancers and heart problems. What’s more, people who are leading an active life live longer and happier.

The main point here is that a person needs to find the most suitable exercise for him. Normally, brisk walking, hiking or even stair-climbing are among the best enchanted exercise for him. He can also take some advice from his family doctor or other physician to choose the best exercise for him and the amount of time and activity he needs.

Another bonanza is exercise and physical activity can provide an opportunity to relax, enjoy the open-air and natural scenery or spend an enjoyable time.

A day has 1,440 minutes and a person needs only 30 of them to enjoy all the benefits of physical activity.

We should exercise as the expressions composed in Myanmar National Anthem

By: Tommy Pauk

IN the opening speech of the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the “Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition” in Nay Pyi Taw on 11th August 2017, she had stressed the essence and powerful words composed in our National Anthem. She also exhorted us to practice and materialize in accordance with the words used in our National Anthem. Every Myanmar citizen salutes our national flag and sings our National Anthem on many significant occasions or daily school assembly etc., Even when Myanmar sports contingent participate in International games, they sing National Anthem and salute the national flag. Thus, we should bear in mind that we ought to safeguard our own independence with spirit of patriotism all the time indeed. Our National Anthem reflects the vow and duty of our forefathers and we must continuously vow with patriotism and union spirit as well.

We heard that Myanmar National Anthem fascinated the International visitors who watched and supported Rio World Olympic Games in August 2016. The tremendous news was that Myanmar National Anthem was selected as the second best enchanted anthem among 208 countries participated in the Games. Obviously, the strong tune and seriousness of Myanmar National Anthem attracted the international spectators. Therefore, we Myanmar were greatly proud of the standing of Myanmar National Anthem as a significant anthem which attracts the multi-national Olympic Games fans with tune and words.

International spectators and visitors were fascinated by Myanmar National Anthem in Rio Olympic Games. As we can hear many National Anthems of different nations or societies across the world, we notice that they do have qualities. Anyway, Myanmar National Anthem had captivated those attended Rio World Olympic Games in August 2016. We were very proud of the enchantment of Myanmar National Anthem on international people. We honor the composer and the tune player those who had made Myanmar National Anthem which depicts overwhelming characteristics. Myanmar National Anthem also reminds all Union brethren to have unity and to equally enjoy the legacy handed down from our forefathers of yore. Most importantly we must be obliged to safeguard our land as a national task, the Anthem highlighted. Our National Anthem, in fact, is some sort of guiding principle for us to comply with patriotism and unity among our national brethren consistently forever. Merely singing National Anthem is not enough to show that we love our country and we have to safeguard our country. Essentially, we might protect our country form the acts of disintegration of the union and uphold the union spirit from one generation to another.

Our National Anthem reflects the vow and duty of our forefathers and we must continuously vow with patriotism and union spirit as well.

We love our land because this is our real inheritance. We will sacrifice our lives to protect our country, This is our nation, this is our land and it belongs to us. Being our nation and our land, let us do good causes to our nation in unity! And this is our very duty to our invaluable land.

We shall love, forevermore Myanmar the land of our fathers of yore! We shall love, forevermore Myanmar the land of our fathers of yore!

Giving our lives for our union we fight, This is our country, our land, ours by right.

We, for her the tasks responsibly shoulder, As we’ll stand in duty to this, our precious land.

Myanmar National Anthem also reminds all Union brethren to have unity and to equally enjoy the legacy handed down from our forefathers of yore.
Union Minister visits elephant camps in Ayeyawady Region

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win met officials in Pathein, the capital of Ayeyawady Region on 18 August and discussed elephant habitat expansion, human-elephant conflicts, formation of Emergency Elephant Response Units-EERU, and anti-poaching teams and their functions.

He also dealt with the capture of orphaned elephant cubs, establishment of a system to report wild elephant rampages and human casualties, elephant camps for public recreation in Ngwehsaung, Thitgatoe and Moemahta.

The minister held informal talks with Rector of Pathein University Dr Nyunt Pe in which discussions were centred on regeneration, establishment and conservation of mangrove forests.

After inspecting the elephants at Ngwehsaung camp, he provided food, exercise books and stationary to families living there.

He visited a 150-acre commercial teak plantation at a forest reserve in Ngwehsaung Township, an other 150-acre commercial teak plantation at a forest reserve in Mmaung Township and a limestone hill in Kyangin Township which is providing raw material to a nearby cement factory. — Myanmar News Agency

Pearl Auction ends

FROM PAG-1

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, was renowned for its South Sea pearls in the 1800s, when the nomadic and sometimes enslaved Salon or Moken people, also known as “sea gypsies,” dived for natural pearls around the 809 islands of the Myeik Archipelago in the far south of the country.

The industry flourished with the advent of professional diving equipment, leading to attempts to regulate oyster harvesting by British colonial rulers.

The port of Myeik became a boom town, and Mumbai, then called Bombay, a center for pearl trading — which Indians still dominate today.

Myanmar’s celebrated return to the international fold has also helped.

“The lifting of sanctions allowed Myanmar pearls to be seen around the world and sold as Myanmar pearls,” said Craig Henderson, an Australian who spent five years as a pearl farmer in Myanmar.

“Deep golden [pearls] have suddenly become popular and are now the most valued.”

—MNA/GNLM

Suspected contraband confiscated in Mon State

LAW enforcement authorities confiscated about Ks183 million worth of unauthorized goods on 19 August in two separate inspection cases at a vehicle checkpoint at Maynchaung, Kyakto Township, Mon State on 19 August. At Yaypu checkpoint the same day, authorities confiscated Ks90 million worth of illegal goods in five different investigations.

These two inspection stations were reopened on 1 March, 2017 to deter the transport of illegal goods along the Yangon-Mawady road and Mandalay-Muse Pyidaungsu road. —GLNM

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Hlat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information:

1. Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.),
2. Real name and (if different) your pen name,
3. Your level of education,
4. Name of your School/College/University,
5. A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses,
6. A color photo of the submitter,
7. Copy of your NRC card,
8. Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.) — Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office.
Germany bets on second time lucky with migrant workers

GESCHER, (Germany) — As Germany struggles to absorb more than a million migrants from the Middle East and Africa, the government is hoping to avoid the mistakes it made half a century ago when it brought in a generation of guest workers from Turkey.

In the 1960s, hundreds of thousands of Turkish men were invited in to fill labour shortages. But Germany made no attempt to help them learn the language or upgrade their skills.

The result is that three million Turks in Germany are still struggling today. They are the least integrated minority, with an unemployment rate of about 16 per cent, almost three times the national average.

Now, two years after it threw open its doors to the latest migrants, Germany has devised an integration strategy based on language and job training intended to get the newcomers into work and off welfare. Among the changes are 600 hours of mandatory language lessons and fast-tracked work permits.

These measures are starting to show signs of success: a growing number of migrants are joining a labour market where a record 1.1 million jobs are unfilled.

“Things are very different here,” said Merhawi Tesfay, a 32-year-old Eritrean who was hired by Kremer Machine Systems, an engineering company in the town of Gescher in western Germany.

“In Eritrea you find work through word of mouth. Here you have the Job Centre and online job sites. Everything comes with too much bureaucracy and my German wasn’t good enough.”

Tesfay was hired initially as a trainee and then full-time, through ELNet, a government-funded project run by charities who assign mentors to refugees. He had been looking for work for almost three years.

Waves of migrants, many forced to flee Syria’s civil war, began arriving in large numbers two years ago, one of the biggest migration movements Europe had seen since World War II.

The challenge now for Germany, which took in the largest number of the incomers in western Europe, is to integrate them into society over the long term.

With its strong economy, Germany is better placed than many European countries, especially in southern Europe, to accept migrants. German unemployment is at its lowest since 1999 and seven straight years of growth mean the government can afford to put aside more than 10 billion euros a year for refugees.

“The lesson that Germany learnt is that integration is something you work on,” said Herbert Bruecker of Humboldt University of Berlin. “It doesn’t happen on its own.”

When the first Turkish guest workers arrived in the 1960s, German politicians, still preoccupied with rebuilding the economy after World War II, regarded them as a temporary measure. The perception was that Turks were guests who would go back home.

The Turks of course did not go home. And their wives and children began following them, just as the oil crisis of the early 1970s pushed Germany into a recession that cost many guest workers their jobs.

With low skills and little grasp of the language, many found it hard to find work again as Germany shifted away from industry towards automation and services.

This time, Germany has taken a different approach. One month after her decision to open Germany’s borders to refugees fleeing war and persecution, Chancellor Angela Merkel told parliament in September that Germany should learn from its mistakes with the Turkish guest workers and seek to integrate asylum seekers from day one. — Reuters

UK to release tranche of Brexit position papers

LONDON — Britain will issue a cluster of new papers this week to outline its strategy positions in divorce talks with the European Union, ranging from regulation of goods to data protection, the UK’s Brexit department said on Sunday.

Prime Minister Theresa May’s government wants to push discussions with the EU beyond a focus on settling divorce arrangements to its future relationship with the bloc to bring clarity to anxious businesses, citizens and investors.

Last week, Britain issued proposals for a future customs agreement with the EU and a solution for Northern Ireland to avoid a return of border posts with the Republic of Ireland which might inflame tensions.

Britain’s Brexit department said on Sunday it would issue two formal position papers this week along with a batch of proposals for discussions on future relations ahead of the next round of negotiations scheduled for later this month.

“In the coming days we will demonstrate our thinking even further, with five new papers — all part of our work to drive the talks forward, and make sure we can show beyond doubt that we have made sufficient progress on withdrawal issues by October so that we can move on to discuss our future relationship,” Britain’s Brexit minister David Davis said in a statement.

In July, the EU’s top Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, said talks on future relations had become less likely to start in October because of a lack of progress on issues such as how much Britain should pay to leave the EU, the future rights of British and EU citizens, and how to manage a land border in Ireland.

EU officials said progress had been difficult because Britain had no position at all on many issues and that an already-tight timetable could be delayed ahead of the scheduled March 2019 exit. The release of a swathe of papers this week underlines Britain’s desire to counter that criticism.

One will be a technical paper dealing with services associated with the production, sale and distribution of goods, along with their operation and repair; which Britain’s Brexit department said should form part of the exit negotiations.

“It’s basically about ensuring that when we leave there isn’t a situation where goods on the market that have been validated and checked, all of sudden we have a need for businesses to have to go through compliance checks,” a spokesman said. — Reuters

Iran protects nuclear deal from being torn up by US

TEHRAN — Iran’s President Hasan Rouhani said Sunday that Iran’s top foreign policy priority is to protect the nuclear deal from being torn up by the United States.

Rouhani indicated a week ago that Iran was ready to walk out on the nuclear deal if the United States continued to apply fresh sanctions.

But Rouhani has insisted the deal remains the preferred way forward.—Xinhua

115 militants killed in Afghan forces’ operations in 24 hours: govt

KABUL — Up to 115 armed militants were killed and 105 others wounded during operations launched by the Afghan security forces within a day, said the country’s Defence Ministry on Sunday.

“The Afghan National Defence and Security Forces conducted 20 clean up operations, 22 special operations and two night raid operations in 13 of the 34 Afghan provinces over the past 24 hours. As a result 115 militants were killed, 105 injured and three others arrested,” the ministry said in a statement providing daily operational updates.—Xinhua

Shipbuilding plant blast kills four workers in South Korea:

SEOUL— An explosion on an oil tanker at an STX Offshore & Shipbuilding plant killed four workers Sunday in Changwon, South Korea’s South Gyeongsang Province, Yonhap reported.

The victims, in 30s to 50s, were conducting painting inside a 12-meter-deep oil tank at 11:37 a.m. local time (0237 GMT) at the plant in Changwon city, some 450 km southeast of Seoul, Yonhap quoted sources from the national fire agency as saying.

The oil tanker, with the capacity of 74,000 tons, is scheduled to be delivered to a Greek shipping company in October. —Xinhua
Syrian army pounds rebel areas near Damascus after Russian brokered truce

AMMAN — Syrian jets and artillery struck rebel-held eastern Damascus suburbs on Saturday, a day after a Russian sponsored ceasefire with a rebel group agreed a halt of fighting in the last opposition enclave in the capital, rebels and witnesses said.

The Russian defence ministry said on Friday it had reached a ceasefire that took effect at 21.00 hrs Moscow time (1800 GMT) with Failaq al Rahman, the main Free Syrian Army (FSA) group fending off a two-month widescale Syrian army offensive in Jobar district and nearby town of Ain Tarma.

A spokesman for Failaq al Rahman said both Jobar, which lies some 2 km (1.2 miles) east of the Old City wall, and nearby Ain Tarma on the edge of Eastern Ghouta witnessed army strikes and shelling soon after the ceasefire went into effect.

“After the first few hours ... there were many violations mid-night they dropped barrel bombs and from the morning there have been strikes across the Ghouta,” Waed Alwan, spokesman for the group, said.

At least five civilians were killed in the towns of Hamouriya and Zalamka and fighters said there were several case of suffocation from rockets filled with chlorine that were fired at the front lines of Jobar and Ain Tarma, he added.

The Syrian army elite 4th Division has been trying unsuccessfully to storm Jobar and residents say the army has retaliated for its heavy losses by shelling residential areas, leaving scores killed and wounded since the campaign was launched.

Moscow said on Friday that the ceasefire meant an earlier one announced last month in Eastern Ghouta now included all the moderate opposition groups in the main rebel stronghold that stretches from eastern to north-eastern suburbs of Damascus.

The army has not commented on the latest Russian agreement with Failaq al Rahman whom it considers a terrorist group that threatens the capital. It however says it abides by truces Moscow has brokered.

Many fighters welcomed the ceasefire to help alleviate plight of civilians most hurt by aerial strikes but remain deeply sceptical about Russia’s readiness to get the Syrian army to stick to the terms of a cessation of fighting in several de-escalation zones that Russia has already announced.

Two years ago, Israel and Russia agreed to coordinate military actions over Syria in order to avoid accidentally trading fire.—Reuters

Moroccan asylum seeker ‘targeted women’ in Finland knife attack

HELSINKI/TURKU (Finland) — A Moroccan man who was arrested for killing two women in a knife rampage was an asylum seeker who appeared to have targeted women in Finland’s first terrorism-related attack, police and a Red Cross official said on Saturday.

The 18-year-old suspect, arrested in the city of Turku following Friday’s attack in which eight other people — six of them women — were wounded, arrived in Finland last year, police said. Police shot the suspect in the leg before his arrest. Police also arrested four other Moroccan men over possible links to him and issued an international arrest warrant for a sixth Moroccan, they said.

A woman plays a traditional Finnish string instrument, kantele, at the Market Square where several people were stabbed, in Turku, Finland, on 18 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Police investigated the centre in Turku, where flags flew at half-mast on Saturday, told Reuters the suspect was an asylum seeker. “I cannot comment on the application’s outcome,” Heimo Nurmi said. He said police visited the centre on Friday and had detained several people. “The arrests were non-violent,” he added. It was not clear if the attack was in any way linked to the suspect’s asylum application.

The case marks the first suspected terror attack in Finland, where violent crime is relatively rare. Police said they were investigating possible links to Thursday’s deadly van attack in the Spanish city of Barcelona. —Reuters

Children walk past rubble of damaged buildings at Ain Tarma, eastern Damascus suburb of Ghouta, Syria, on 19 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Israel’s Netanyahu to discuss Middle East with Putin

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will discuss the Middle East with Russian President Vladimir Putin when they meet in the Russian resort of Sochi next week, his office said on Saturday.

Israel is concerned Iran is trying to establish a permanent military foothold in Syria. Netanyahu said in a speech last week that Israel was watching developments and would act against any threat.

Iran, Israel’s arch-enemy, has been Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s staunchest backer and has provided militia fighters to help him.

Russia, also Assad’s ally, is seen as holding the balance of power in achieving a deal on Syria’s future.

Israeli leaders have pointed to Tehran’s steadily increasing influence in the region during the six-year-old Syrian conflict, whether via its own Revolutionary Guard forces or Shi’ite Muslim proxies, especially Hezbollah.

Netanyahu has said that Israel has carried out dozens of strikes to prevent weapons-smuggling to the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah via Syria.

Two years ago, Israel and Russia agreed to coordinate military actions over Syria in order to avoid accidentally trading fire.—Reuters
Boston march against hate speech avoids Charlottesville chaos

BOSTON—Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Boston on Saturday to protest a ‘free speech’ rally featuring far-right speakers who were confined to a small pen that police set up in the historic Boston Common park to keep to the two sides separate.

The rally never numbered more than a few dozen people, and its speakers could not be heard due to the shouts of those protesting it and the wide security cordon between the two sides. It wrapped up about an hour earlier than planned.

Protesters surrounded people leaving the rally, shouting ‘shame’ and ‘go home’ and occasionally throwing plastic water bottles. Police escorted several rally participants through the crowds, sometimes struggling against protesters who tried to stop them.

Some people dressed in black with covered faces several times swarmed rally attendees, including two men wearing the “Make America Great Again” caps from President Donald Trump’s campaign.

The violence in Charlottesville triggered the biggest domestic crisis yet for Trump, who provoked ire across the political spectrum for not immediately condemning white nationalists and for praising “very fine people” on both sides of the fight.

On Saturday, Trump on Twitter praised the Boston protesters.

“I want to applaud the many protesters in Boston who are speaking out against bigotry and hate. Our country will soon come together as one!” Trump tweeted. “Our great country has been divided for decades. Sometimes you need protest in order to heal, & we will heal, & be stronger than ever before!—Reuters”

Spain hunts for driver in van rampage, says Islamist cell dismantled

RIPOLL/BARCELONA, Spain — Police were searching on Saturday for the driver of a van that killed 13 people when it ploughed into a crowd in Barcelona and were trying to determine whether two other suspected Islamist militants linked to the attack had died or were at large.

The Spanish government said it considered it had dismantled the cell behind Thursday’s Barcelona rampage and an attack early on Friday in the Catalan seaside town of Cambrils.

Police arrested four people in connection with the attacks Barcelona and Cambrils, where a woman was killed when a car rammed passersby on Friday. Five attackers wearing fake explosive belts were also shot dead in the Catalan town of Ripoll.

“The cell has been fully dismantled in Barcelona, after examining the people who died, the people who were arrested and carrying out identity checks,” Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido told a news conference.

But authorities have yet to identify the driver of the van and his whereabouts are unclear, while police and officials in the northeastern region of Catalonia said they still needed to locate up to two other people.

Investigators are focusing on a group of at least 12 suspects believed to be behind the deadliest attacks to hit Spain in more than a decade.

In little more than a year, militants have used vehicles as weapons to kill nearly 130 people in France, Germany, Britain, Sweden and Spain.

None of the nine people arrested or shot dead by police are believed to be the driver who sped into Las Ramblas, leaving a trail of dead and injured among the crowds of tourists and local residents strolling along the Barcelona boulevard.

A Moroccan-born 22-year-old called Younes Abouyaaqoub was among those being sought, according to the mayor’s office in the Catalan town of Ripoll, where he and other suspects lived.

Spanish media reported that Abouyaaqoub may have been the driver of the van in Barcelona, but police and Catalan officials could not confirm this.

The driver in the Barcelona attack abandoned the van and fled on foot Thursday after ploughing into the crowd. Fifty people were still in hospital on Saturday following that attack, with 13 in a critical condition.

Many were foreign tourists.

The Mediterranean region of Catalonia is thronged in the summer months with visitors drawn to its beaches and the port city of Barcelona’s museums and tree-lined boulevards.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks in Cambrils and Barcelona, a statement by the jihadist group said on Saturday.

Police searched a flat in Ripoll, Barcelona’s Las Ramblas on Thursday.

Eighteen semi trucks set on fire in southern Chile

SANTIAGO — Eighteen semi trucks used to transport food were set on fire in a parking lot in the southern Chilean city of Temuco on Saturday, local authorities said.

The incident appeared to be intentional and the governor of the region of Araucania, Nora Barrientos, told local radio that evidence gathered at the scene linked the fires to Weichan Auka Mapu, a resistance group formed by the indigenous Mapuches.

Weichan Auka Mapu has previously claimed responsibility for arson attacks in southern Chile, where it wants to regain land lost during Chile’s nineteenth century expansion southward into Mapuche-held territory. Barrientos said authorities were investigating and evaluating legal actions.— Reuters
Solar eclipse presents first major test of power grid in renewable era

HOUSTON — As Monday’s total solar eclipse sweeps from Oregon to South Carolina, US electric power and grid operators have braced to their monitoring systems in what for them represents the biggest test of the renewable energy era.

Utilities and grid operators have been planning for the event for years, calculating the timing and drop in output from solar, running simulations of the potential impact on demand, and lining up standby power sources. It promises a critical test of their ability to manage a sizeable swing in renewable power.

Solar energy now accounts for more than 42,600 megawatts (MW), about 5 percent of the US’s peak demand, up from 5 MW in 2000, according to the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), a group formed to improve the nation’s power system in the wake of a 1965 blackout. When the next eclipse comes to the United States in 2024, solar will account for 14 percent of the nation’s power, estimates NERC.

For utilities and solar farms, the eclipse represents an opportunity to see how well prepared their systems are to respond to rapid swings in an era where variable energy sources such as solar and wind are climbing in scale and importance.

Power companies view Monday’s event as a “test bed” on how power systems can manage a major change in supply, a decision. As he said, he wants to be the one to announce what positive because it comes at a moment when the Taliban has never been stronger... We need a strategy to address all this, and fast,” Kugelman said.

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Trump has made Afghanistan decision after ‘rigorous’ US review – Mattis

AMMAN — President Donald Trump has made a decision on the United States’ strategy for Afghanistan after a “sufficiently rigorous” review process, Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said on Sunday.

However, Mattis did not provide details on when the White House would make an announcement or what the decision was on Afghanistan, where fighting still rages more than 15 years after US forces invaded and overthrew a Taliban government.

Soon after taking office in January the Trump administration began a review of US policy on Afghanistan, which has expanded into a broader South Asia review.

“I am very comfortable that the strategic process was sufficiently rigorous and did not go in with a pre-set position,” Mattis told reporters travelling with him aboard a military aircraft to Jordan.

“The president has made a decision. As he said, he wants to be the one to announce it to the American people.”

After Trump met with his national security aides on Friday to review an array of options for Afghan strategy, the White House said no decision had been made on whether he would commit more troops to America’s longest war.

However, Trump tweeted on Saturday: “Many decisions made, including on Afghanistan”.

US officials have told Reuters that the president was expected to be briefed on options ranging from a complete withdrawal of US troops in Afghanistan to a modest increase.

One US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Trump’s top national security aids are backing adding between 3,000 and 5,000 troops and allowing them to embed with Afghan forces closer to combat.

Kugelman, with the Woodrow Wilson Center think tank in Washington, said an extended strategy review was somewhat positive because it showed that all options were being considered. However, recent gains by Taliban militants made it imperative that a strategy be announced soon.

According to US estimates, government forces control less than 60 percent of Afghanistan, with almost half the country either contested or under the control of the insurgents.

“The Taliban insurgency has never been stronger... We need a strategy to address all this, and fast,” Kugelman said.

Trademark

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We’ve calculated that during the eclipse, that solar will ramp up at about 70 MW per minute,” said Greenlee. “And then we’ll see the solar rolling back at about 90 MW per minute or more.”

Power utilities say the focus will be on managing a rapid drop and accommodating the solar surge post the eclipse. Utility executives say they do not expect any interruption in service, but are prepared to ask customers to pare usage if a problem arises. “We want to assure our customers that we have secured enough resources to meet their energy needs, even with significantly less solar generation on hand,” said Caroline Winn, chief operating officer at utility San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

The event may cost me eighteen cents or thereabouts if my panels don’t produce solar for three hours,” said Strom. —Reuters
Nothing wrong in doing a two-hero film: Ayushmann

MUMBAI — Ayushmann Khurrana says an actor can be a part of a two-hero film if the script is good and doesn’t see any problem in that.

Recently, filmmaker Rohit Shetty had reportedly said his “Ram Lakhan” remake fell through because the male actors were insecure about working together.

In his latest, “Bareilly Ki Barfi”, Ayushmann is sharing screen with Rajkummar Rao for the first time on screen.

In an interview to PTI, Ayushmann says, “I’ve never done a two-hero film and its okay to do it. In ‘Vicky Donor’, Anushka, I thought, had a more author-backed role than me. But he wasn’t my contemporary. Rajkummar is. But if the script is good, then why not. Once in a while, it’s good to do a two hero film.”

The actor says he was the one who suggested Rajkummar’s name for the film, despite knowing that his character will get all the appreciation.

“I love him (Rajkummar) as a person and an actor. I was the one who suggested his name for the character. His role is more author-backed than mine. I knew he will get all the good reviews for acting in the film.

“I won’t be surprised if they say he stole the show because his role is like that, transition from a meek to an aggressive guy. I trigger that change but he is doing it,” the 32-year-old actor adds.

The “Meri Pyaari Bindu” star says he looks up to Rajkummar’s ability of transforming himself in all of his film.

“We are similar in a way but the kind of films we’ve done are slightly different. He has done mostly alternate cinema. I’ve done a mix of both. My films are somewhere in between good commercial success and are also content-based.

“I’ve always looked up to Rajkummar because he is so versatile. He changes so much in every film, which isn’t easy. He has brought this film together.

He looks up to the lead says he is good and doesn’t see any problem in doing a two-hero film if the script is content-based.

“Nothing wrong in doing a two-hero film: Ayushmann Khurrana”

Abba star asks fans to take a chance on new piano album

STOCKHOLM — It might take a few moments for fans of Abba star Benny Andersson’s to recognize the songs on his new album “Piano”.

Although it features Abba hits, including “Thank You For the Music”, and songs from Andersson's musicals and solo work, he performs them alone at the piano without any accompanying and without vocals. “The pieces I have chosen to play are an integral part of me”, Andersson said in an interview released by his record company.

“Piano” will be released on 29 September.

Comedian, civil rights activist Dick Gregory dies at 84

LOS ANGELES — Dick Gregory, a comedian who lambasted racism and played a prominent role in the 1960s civil rights movement after becoming one of the first black comics to perform for white audiences, died on Saturday at age 84, his son said.

“He was working for the US Postal Service and performing in front of largely black audiences for low pay when Playboy founder Hugh Hefner saw Gregory’s act and hired the comedian to perform at his nightclub in 1961. — Reuters

Comedian Dick Gregory receives his star on Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, California February 2, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dick Gregory was one of the first black comics to perform for white audiences. He died at age 84 on Saturday. — PTI

Directed by Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, “Bareilly Ki Barfi” released last Friday. The rom-com also stars Kriti Sanon. — PTI
Mooy strikes as buoyant Huddersfield edge Newcastle

LONDON — Promoted Huddersfield Town made it two wins out of two in the Premier League as a superb Aaron Mooy strike gave them a 1-0 win over Newcastle United on Sunday.

After their 3-0 win at Crystal Palace last week marked their return to the Premier League as a professional at the Brisbane International in January. The 31-year-old was beaten in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open warm-up by Milos Raonic on debut this year before going on to lose the final to Roger Federer at Melbourne Park.

Nadal, who lost to Australian Nick Kyrgios in the quarter-finals of the Cincinnati Open on Saturday, said he had thoroughly enjoyed his first taste of the Queensland Tennis Centre.

“Last year for me was the first experience and it was very successful,” he said. “The atmosphere is great and there’s a lot of nice people supporting the event.” The Brisbane International runs from New Year’s Eve to 7 January next year. —Reuters

Juventus survive VAR incident to beat Cagliari

MILAN — Juventus began their pursuit of a seventh successive Serie A title with a 3-0 home win over Cagliari on Saturday after the Sardinians missed a penalty awarded with the help of a video replay.

Mario Mandzukic, Paulo Dybala and Gonzalo Higuain scored for the Turin side in the match which kicked off the Serie A season, but the game could have taken a different course if Diego Farias had converted a spot kick for Cagliari when they were 1-0 behind.

Napoli picked up where they left off last season with another fine attacking display to win 3-1 at promoted Verona. Mandzukic broke the deadlock in the 12th minute when he volleyed in from Stephan Lichtsteiner’s cross. Serie A is among the leagues which are trialling a new system of video assistant referees (VAR) this season and they were brought into action for the first time just after the half hour mark at the Allianz Stadium.

Cagliari’s Duje Cop went down under a challenge from Alex Sandro and the ball ran on to Fari as who sent a deflected shot over the crossbar. —Reuters

Nadal returns to Brisbane to open 2018 season

SYDNEY — Rafael Nadal, who will return to the top of the world rankings for the first time in three years on Monday, announced on Sunday that he would be opening his 18th season as a professional at the Australian Open warm-up by Milos Raonic on debut this year before going on to lose the final to Roger Federer at Melbourne Park.

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Mario Mandzukic, Paulo Dybala and Gonzalo Higuain scored for the Turin side in the match which kicked off the Serie A season, but the game could have taken a different course if Diego Farias had converted a spot kick for Cagliari when they were 1-0 behind.

Napoli picked up where they left off last season with another fine attacking display to win 3-1 at promoted Verona. Mandzukic broke the deadlock in the 12th minute when he volleyed in from Stephan Lichtsteiner’s cross. Serie A is among the leagues which are trialling a new system of video assistant referees (VAR) this season and they were brought into action for the first time just after the half hour mark at the Allianz Stadium.

Cagliari’s Duje Cop went down under a challenge from Alex Sandro and the ball ran on to Fari as who sent a deflected shot over the crossbar. —Reuters

Nadal returns to Brisbane to open 2018 season

SYDNEY — Rafael Nadal, who will return to the top of the world rankings for the first time in three years on Monday, announced on Sunday that he would be opening his 18th season as a professional at the Australian Open warm-up by Milos Raonic on debut this year before going on to lose the final to Roger Federer at Melbourne Park.

Nadal, who lost to Australian Nick Kyrgios in the quarter-finals of the Cincinnati Open on Saturday, said he had thoroughly enjoyed his first taste of the Queensland Tennis Centre.

“Last year for me was the first experience and it was very successful,” he said. “The atmosphere is great and there’s a lot of nice people supporting the event.” The Brisbane International runs from New Year’s Eve to 7 January next year. —Reuters
MFF’s negotiation for Myanmar, Malaysia today’s men football match at 29th SEA Games

Kyaw Zin Lin

A special meeting between Myanmar and Malaysia to determine the placement of the fans for the upcoming Group A match at Shah Alam Stadium tonight was held at the secretariat hotel, Hilton Petaling Jaya, yesterday according to the official website of Football Association of Malaysia.

The meeting chaired by Secretary-General of the Youth and Sports Ministry, Dato’ Lokman Hakim Ali with the attendance of General Secretary of Football Association of Malaysia Dato’ Hj Hamidin Hj Mohd Amin and Myanmar Football Federation General Secretary, U Ko Ko Thein have reached the decision that Malaysian fans will enter through Gate B grandstand, Gate C and Gate D while Myanmar fans will enter through Gate A grandstand of Shah Alam Stadium.

Ticket counter will be opened at the stadium starting from 10 am and entrance gate will open at 5.00 pm today. ■

Myanmar beat Indonesia in Sepak takraw competition at SEA Games

Ye Yint Shine

Myanmar sepak takraw, or kick chinlone towards Indonesia team’s side. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Ye Yint Shine

Myanmar sepak takraw, or kick chinlone, men’s doubles team beat Indonesia 3-0 at the SEA Games in Titwangsa Stadium, Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Six teams are competing, including Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Myanmar will play the Philippines today; semifinal and final matches are scheduled for 22 August.

Sepak takraw is a sport native to Southeast Asia. Sepak takraw differs from the similar sport of foot volley in its use of a rattan ball and only allowing players to use their feet, knee, chest and head to touch the ball. ■

Myanmar gains silver from Wushu at SEA Games

Ye Yint Shine

Myanmar wushu martial artist Aye Thitsar Myint won a silver medal at the SEA Games Nanquan Wushu competition at Kuala Lumpur Convention Center (KLCC) in Malaysia.

Aye Thitsar Myint won 9.64 points for second place, while a Malaysia competitor won first place with 9.66 points. Viet Nam won third place with 9.63 points.

The SEA Games feature 17 wushu competitions. Myanmar has 11 Myanmar’s wushu competitors at the games. Wushu is a martial art with full-contact and form competitions. ■

Myanmar’s women’s football team loses to Vietnam at 29th SEA Games

Kyaw Zin Lin

Myanmar’s national women’s football team was defeated by Viet Nam 3-1 at the 2017 SEA Games at the UM Arena Stadium in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Viet Nam striker Pham Hai Yen scored the first goal after 18 minutes from the centre of the box.

Myanmar striker Win Theingi Tun tied the score by kicking a long range shot after 59 minutes. Nine minutes later Viet Nam’s Huynh Nhu scored the final goal of the match when she was left unmarked in Myanmar’s penalty area.

Myanmar has lost two games and won one. ■

Aung Thu and Win Theingi Tun stand as best goal scorers at 29th SEA Games so far

Kyaw Zin Tun

Myanmar footballers Aung Thu stands as highest goal scorer with four goals while Myanmar women footballer Win Theingi Tun also can snatch the best women football goal scorer with total five goals at 2017 Southeast Asia Game so far.

Myanmar team’s striker Win Theingi Tun got five goals from three matches. Win Theingi Tun scored two goals against Thailand, two goals against Malaysia and one goal against Viet Nam.

Among the men football goal scorers, Viet Nam footballer Nguyen Cong Phuong is second best goal scorer with three goals and Indonesia footballer Septian David, Myanmar footballer Aung Kaung Mann and Viet Nam footballer Doan Van Hau are in third places with two goals each. ■