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People protest against Koh Tao death sentences

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Four masked men attack civilian

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1 billion kyat jackpot of Myanmar state lottery attracts people's interest

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Transboundary Environmental Security in the Mekong River

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Tourists look at the photo entitled "Mogok Shan girl" at Yangon Photo Festival. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Yangon Photo Festival commences in downtown Yangon

YANGON Photo Festival kicked off yesterday at the Maha Bandoola Park in downtown Yangon for the first time, exhibiting a selection of the event's best photographs.

The exhibition also displays breathtaking portraits of Myanmar in the 1920s on

March 4 and 5.

The exhibition includes three exhibitions celebrating Myanmar's diversity, including "Frontiers Photographs (1918-1935)" by James Henry Green, a series of photographs by Bellay Studio taken in 1979 and a series of portraits from the

1990s, taken by Günter Pfannmüller and Wilhelm Klein.

The World Press Photo Exhibition will also take place at Maha Bandoola Park and will include screenings from celebrated photographers Steve McCurry and Hans Silvester.

The Yangon Photo Festival

was founded in the aftermath of the 2007 anti-government uprising known as the Saffron Revolution.

About 80 professional photographers from Myanmar and abroad participate in the festival.—*Phoe Khwar*

Malaysia's aid continuously supplied to Maungtaw's villages

LOCAL authorities delivered aid from Malaysia to the villages – Nwaryonetaung, Phasa, Sapagone, Donepipe, Watkyain, Thetkyaingnya, Yaynautngathar, Tamanthar and Khamaukseik town in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

The aid included food, drinking water and utensils.

Stability is very important for regional development and can be achieved only if the local residents cooperated. "It is necessary to follow the instructions issued by the responsible persons", said U Ye Htut, Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner who ex-

plained the reason for providing assistance from UN and UNHCR, the list of assistances and delivery programs to the villages.

The relief assistance donated by Malaysia to the villages were 6000 bags of rice, 1846 noodle packets, 975 packs of drinking water, 100 packs of tooth paste, 36 packs of tooth brush, 94 packs of towels, 35 packs of balm, 562 packs of detergents, 22 packets of soap, 8 packs of combs, 139 packets of women's sanitary towels, 50 packets of shaving sticks, 9 packets of nail clippers and 50 packets of slippers.— *Myanmar News Agency*



Local authorities provide aid from Malaysia to the villagers in Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State. Photo: MNA

KIA/TNLA combined forces attack military outposts

ABOUT 70 members of a combined force from the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and Ta'ang National Liberation Army attacked the Panlot outpost in Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State where the Tatmadaw column, in cooperation with local people's militia, is stationed to provide security measures for Lashio-Muse Union Highway at 4:40 am yesterday.

Meanwhile, another group of government troops which provides security for the locals in Kutkai Township and nearby areas joined with the ambushed Tatmadaw column and exchanged fire. The KIA and TNLA combined force withdrew from the skirmish due to the coordinated counter-attack of the Tatmadaw columns.

Similarly, around 15 members consisting of KIA and TNLA ambushed the Yinkwetaung outpost and the Namtkhaing Bridge Checkpoint where the government forces are deployed for security, using heavy and light weapons. During the attack, some service personnel and people's militia members sacrificed their lives for the country and weapons and related items were taken away by armed assailants. Mortar shell fired by KIA/TNLA combined force hit the hut and seriously injured three innocent workers from the Oriental Highway Co Ltd.

The Tatmadaw columns are conducting area clearance operations in the region as KIA/TNLA's attacks on the Union Highway and military outposts can be harmful to peace, stability and the peace process.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Moderate quake hits northwestern Myanmar

A moderate earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale hit the northwestern part of Myanmar yesterday morning, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

With an epicenter 45 kilometers northwest of Homalin Township, Sagaing Region and near Myanmar-India border, the quake jolted at 8:41 a.m. local time (0211 GMT). No loss of life or property has been reported so far.— *GNLM*

LOCAL Business

New Pathein Industrial City project to finalise next year

PATHEIN Industrial City project being developed in Ayeyawady Delta is planned to be finalised by 2018, according to Ayeyawady Development Public Co (ADC).

The Ayeyawady Development Public Co., Ltd. signed memorandum of understanding with Singapore-based Bok Seng Logistics Co., Ltd. which has about 40 years' experience in the logistics industry, to implement transport infrastructure that plays a crucial role in carrying out import and export businesses.

Mr Henry Ng, chairman of Bok Seng Logistics, pledged to share technology solutions for transportation and logistics sector.

The project implementer sets to spend approximately US\$100 million for the new development scheme which has currently been established in designated place



Scale model of New Pathein Industrial City Project being implemented in Ayeyawady Region.

PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

between Pathein and Kangyidaung townships.

“Operational stage of the

factories in the new industrial city after the completion of the project in 2018 will come up

with more job opportunities for local resident of the region, said U Nay Nay Hlwan Moe,

vice-chairman of the ADC.

The Pathein Industrial City Project aims to improve livelihood of the area's residents by attracting manufacturing companies to the region, to enhance the living standards of the local people and to enable investors to expand their manufacturing capacity in a new zone with ample labor supply.

Businesspersons from Taiwan, the U.S China and Thailand have been invited to invest in the new industrial port city.

The project will cover 2,200 acres of land in total. A new port which can handle cargo ship weighing 10,000 tonnes, two creek bridges, a waste water treatment plant, retaining walls and a power plant will be established within the project area under the new scheme.

—Myitmakha News Agency

Myanmar earns \$0.641m from external trade through Maungtaw last month

MYANMAR exported more than US\$600,000 worth goods to neighboring Bangladesh via Maungtaw border trade camp last month, according to an officer from the trade station.

The country predominantly exported a wide variety of dried fishes in February due to a high demand from Bangladesh, earning over \$500,000 only from dried fish export and \$30,000 from salt water shrimp export.

Currently, the trade between Myanmar and its neighbour is in

a normal condition.

Myanmar normally exports dried fishes, salt water shrimps, packages of candy, dried plums and bamboos to Bangladesh, one of the world's most densely populated countries.

Export trade between Maungtaw border trade camp and Bangladesh side reached more than \$870,000 in January.

The country is trading with its neighbor mainly through Sitway and Maungtaw border trade centers.

According to statistics of

the Ministry of Commerce, total value of cross-border trade at Maungtaw hit US\$8.5 million in the 2011-12 fiscal year, \$5.9 million in FY2012-13, and over \$2 million in FY2013-14.

The bilateral trade in FY2014-15 rebounded to \$7.774 million.

The figure for FY2015-16 was \$5.435 million. Between April and mid-February of this FY, the border trade reached \$5.058 million, including \$0.027 million from the import sector.—

KhineKhant

Trade value decreases despite increase in import value of re-exported sugar

ALTHOUGH the trade value of sugar imported through Myawady border trade camp has decreased, the sugar re-export to China has increased, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Sugar is mainly imported from Thailand through Myawady border trade camp, and Myanmar reexported them to China for a long time ago. Myanmar imported 5,548 tonnes of re-export sugar in the first week of February and imported 5,197 tonnes of re-export sugar worth US\$ 2.858 million in the second week. The volume of the imported re-export sugar has

decreased by 351 tonnes.

Myanmar exported 52,897 tonnes of re-export sugar worth US\$ 32.239 million to China via the 105th Mile Muse border gate between 4 and 10 February.

Although the trade value through Myawady border trade has declined, over 12,912 tonnes were exported to China through Muse border gate.

Moreover, Myanmar exported 52 tonnes of white sugar worth US\$ 0.034 million from Chin Shwe Haw.

Increase in re-export sugar to China vis Myawady border

gate, has caused higher volume of sugar cane export to Thailand. Myanmar has imported more tea, sesame and green beans, corn and onions than last year. Myanmar mainly exported fishery products such as fish, shrimps, crabs and cuttlefish and, agricultural products.

Myanmar trade value via Thailand has increased after Myawady-Dawna mountain crossing road was opened. The trade value via the border gate amounted to US\$723.732 million from 1 April 2016 to 17 February 2017.—*Min Min*

Action being taken against expired pesticide producers beginning from March

AGRICULTURAL Department is taking action for sale of expired pesticides and pesticides without market label starting from March, according to the crop protection branch under the department. Agricultural Department found that market label of some pesticides are different from that upon registration, the market labels are incomplete and pesticides are sold in advance while applying for registration. According to section 31 of the pesticides law, the pesticides are not allowed to be imported from abroad without registration.

“A combined team comprising staff from agricultural department is inspecting the pesticide shops in Tatkon township every month. They are checking that whether the shops are selling the legal fertilizer or pesticides or not, attending the CPA training or not and selling only the registered pesticides or not. There are over 38 pesticide shops in the town.

We are sending back the expired pesticides and incomplete market label to the pesticide companies,” said an official from Tatkon agricultural department.

“The agriculture pesticides companies are also allowed to send back the pesticide bottles which do not include registration number, manufacturing and expired dates, labels. Also, the companies have to pay the transportation costs when the shops send those kinds of pesticide bottles. The companies will not be responsible if the shop owners continue to sell such kind of pesticides,” said an official from Golden Key Co.Ltd. The agricultural department is taking action against the owners of the pesticide companies beginning from March if they find the shops selling pesticides under registration process and those without market label.—*Myanmar Alinn*



A farmer sprays pesticides on a plantation. PHOTO-AYE MIN SOE