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Saturday, 15 June 2019

Fifth Myanmar-EU Human Rights Dialogue held in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin holds talks with a delegation led by European Union's Special Representative for Human Rights Mr. Eamon Gilmore at the Fifth Myanmar-EU Human Rights Dialogue at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, on 14 June 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Fifth Myanmar-EU Human Rights Dialogue was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, on 14 June 2019. The Dialogue was co-chaired by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation and Mr. Eamon Gilmore (former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland), the Eu-

ropean Union's Special Representative for Human Rights.

The dialogue was participated by Senior Officials from Ministries concerned from Myanmar and Mr. Kristian Schmidt, Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Myanmar as part of EU delegation comprised of EU Senior Officials and diplomats

from some EU member States based in Yangon.

During the dialogue, both sides exchanged their views on a wide range of human rights issues relating to labour rights, rights of women, children, migrants and people with disabilities, situation in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States, fundamental human rights, eco-

nomie and social rights, freedom of expression, countering hate speech, human rights cooperation in the multilateral fora, implementation of international human rights conventions and basic rights of ethnic groups, as well as updates on GSP engagement between Myanmar and the EU Enhanced EBA monitoring mission. —MNA ■

UPDJC Secretariat meeting likely in July

THE two-day unofficial meeting between the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee and the signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement concluded yesterday in Yangon, with the stakeholders proposing another meeting in July.

"A proposal was made to resume the meetings of the UPDJC Secretariat. After that, official meetings are expected to be resumed. Thereafter, the peace conference is expected to be resumed," said U Hla Maung Shwe, a Secretariat Member of the UPDJC.

During the two-day meeting, the group representing the Government presented four ways to resume the peace process.

On behalf of the group of political parties, U Sai Kyaw Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, said the four ways presented by the Union Government are very constructive.

The four ways cover how to implement the NCA and how to review it, how to cooperate in drafting the basic principles for a federal system, how to work in 2020 and post 2020, and how to carry out development, said U Sai Kyaw Nyunt.

The meeting also discussed the possible role of the non-signatories to the NCA in the peace making process, he said.

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Union Minister for Education meets rectors, professors from universities in Yangon

UNION Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi went to Yangon Education University, Yangon University and Yangon Distance University and met with officials of the universities yesterday morning.

At the meeting with rectors, pro rectors, professors (depart-

ment heads), teachers, union and students, union matters relating to teaching and management for higher education sector development, reform of distance university and opening subject wise online diploma courses were discussed.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the meeting with rectors and professors from universities in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye inspects storage of emergency aids in Yangon



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye inspects Yangon Central Depot at Yangon Region Disaster Management Department yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye went to inspect the Yangon Region Disaster Management Department Yangon Central Depot where emergency and relief supplies were stored to respond rapidly whenever disaster occurs.

The Union Minister inspected the storage of emergency and relief supplies while Yangon Region head explained about upgrade and maintenance of the depot, timely and quick distribution of emergency and

relief supplies upon receipt of news and information.

The Union Minister coordinated and remarked on preventing wastage and damage of stored supplies.

Next, the Union Minister met with Yangon Region Disaster Management Department personnel in the meeting hall where Region Head explained about central depot management works, arrangements made to open district and township offices and future work processes while the Union Minister

coordinated and discussed on salient matters.

In the meeting with the personnel, the Union Minister explained about duties, responsibilities, rules, regulations and ethics to follow and the work of the ministry and the departments under it. He also explained about capacity building courses to be arranged for the personnel and raised questions on the requirements of the personnel.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar Press Council holds meeting of four pillars

MEETING of four pillars arranged by Myanmar Press Council (MPC) was held at Pullman Hotel at the corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Region Chief Judge, region ministers, Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Hluttaw representatives, MPC Chairman and officials, departmental officials and news media personnel.

In his opening remark, MPC Chairman U Ohn Kyaing (Hanthawady U Ohn Kyaing) said democracy countries of the world today had accepted the free media as an important fourth pillar in a democracy system.

The fourth pillar – media – performs the duties of straightening the three main pillars of legislative, administrative and judiciary on behalf of the people.

News media perform in a timely manner the duties of providing news and information that the people should and ought to know and inform the Hluttaw representatives and government

members on news and information that benefit the people.

In providing news and information that people ought to know, news media personnel sometime came into conflict with or cause friction with the three pillars that were responsible in governing the country. The meeting held today will found the best solutions toward reducing and removing the occurrence of such conflicts and frictions.

The state and the government had prescribed exact and firm duties, responsibilities, rules, regulations and ethics for news media personnel and reporters to report and write news and information correctly and exactly. Furthermore MPC was formed according the law to control and manage this.

As there were some inconveniences for news media personnel in acquiring news and information, problems arises when news media personnel publishes wrong, inaccurate and incomplete news and information. MPC need to coordinated and resolve such matters. It was for the three primary pillars and the fourth pillar to meet and resolve difficulties and challenges faced

in the essence of democracy that this meeting was held said the MPC Chairman.

Next, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said the news media sector plays an important role toward a country's reform and transition, development, existence and sovereignty. That was why the fourth pillar of news media was added to the three main pillars. Administrative, judiciary and legislative sectors need news media in connecting and communicating with the people said the Chief Minister.

Afterwards, MPC Vice Chairman 1 Dr. Myo Thant Tin

explained about news media sector and MPC secretary U Kyaw Swa Min explained about how the meeting of the four pillars came about and the aim of it. Yangon Region Chief Minister took commemorative group photo with attendees and then continued the meeting.

In the afternoon session of the meeting, discussion was held among Yangon Region government members, officials from administrative, legislative and judiciary sector and news media personnel. The meeting was chaired by MPC joint secretary 1 U Myint Kyaw and MPC member U Zeya Hlaing.

At the meeting, difficulties faced by reporters in acquiring news, acquiring news in the Hluttaw, establishing contact persons in government departments, arrangement media meetings, issuing news about health matters in a timely manner were discussed and MPC Vice Chairman 2 U Kyaw Naing (Htat Myet) delivered a concluding speech.

MPC had held meetings of four pillars three times in Nay Pyi Taw and nine times in nine states and regions and this is the thirteenth time such meeting was being held it is learnt.—Min Thit (MNA) ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



The meeting of four pillars organized by Myanmar Press Council (MPC) in progress in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

UPDJC Secretariat meeting likely in July

FROM PAGE-1

“We are committed to reaching the goal of peace aspired by the people, though there are challenges, bottlenecks, and obstacles ahead for us on the road to peace,” said U Sai Kyaw Nyunt.

The stakeholders proposed that unofficial meetings of the Secretariat of the UPDJC be resumed in July.

U Sai Ngin, the Secretary-2 of the RCSS, who also participated in the two-day unofficial meeting and represented the group of signatories to the NCA, said the ethnic armed organizations will discuss the proposal made by the Union Government.

“The group of EAOs plans to form a negotiation team and hold unofficial talks with the Union Government to deal with the stalled peace process,” said U Sai Ngin.

Lt-Gen (Retd) Khin Zaw Oo, the leader of the group representing the government, stressed the need to delegate power to the stakeholders and designate the draft lines.

“Leaders of the stakeholders, especially members of the



The unofficial meeting between UPDJC and signatories to NCA held. PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

secretariat, should be given delegation power. Draft lines should also be designated. Or, the secretaries will remain at the level of just messengers,” said Lt-Gen

(Retd) Khin Zaw Oo.

The meeting was attended by 10 representatives of the government, nine representatives of the EAO group, and 10 repre-

sentatives of the group of political parties.

The two-day unofficial meeting was aimed at opening the door to all EAOs, including

those who had suspended their participation in official meetings.

The KNU failed to attend the two-day meeting. —Ye Khaung Nyunt ■ (Translated by GNLM)



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the celebration to mark 121st Philippines Independence Day. PHOTO: MNA

Philippines Embassy celebrates 121st Independence Day

THE Philippines Embassy celebrated the 121st Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence with a dinner reception at Sule Shangri-La Hotel yesterday.

The national anthems of Myanmar and the Philippines were first played, followed by separate speeches from the Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein

Gyi, and Filipino Ambassador Mr. Eduardo Eco Kapunan, Jr., after which they sliced the commemorative cake. The dinner reception then began.

Present at the ceremony were Union Ministers Dr. Win Myat Aye and U Thawng Tun, the Commanding General of the Philippines Air Force Lt-Gen Rozzano D Briguez AFP and

wife, who are here on a goodwill visit, Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and wife, Deputy Ministers U Tin Myint and U Ye Myint Swe, Tatmadaw officials, foreign ambassadors, attaches, UN department representatives and other invited guests. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■



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Myanmar Investment Commission approves investment proposal which will create over 300 job opportunities

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (9 / 2019) was convened at the meeting room of MIC in the morning on 14th June 2019 in Yangon. U Thaung Tun, Chairman of MIC and (10) members attended the meeting.

The meeting approved four

projects in industry sector, hotel sector and education sector.

The amount of USD (27.408) million and Kyat (14,519.68) million have been approved for above projects which will be create (316) job opportunities for citizens.—

MNA ■



Myanmar Investment Commission holds meeting (9 / 2019) in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung meets with Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung receives Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung received Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama and party at the office of Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed and exchanged views on the matters

on drawing a port master plan in marine transport sector, 30 train cars to be provided by Japanese government for using on the Yangon Circular Railway in train transportation sector, and developing infrastructure in communications sector.

—MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Officers with No. 3 Police Station in Chanayethazan Tsp charged with corruption

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has filed corruption charges against two police officers after its investigation team found them guilty of accepting K2.6 million in bribe to grant the bail of two detainees and releasing them.

The Anti-Corruption Commission had received a complaint against a police inspector and a sub-inspector with the No.3 Local Police Station in Chanayethazan Township for taking bribes from two detainees.

According to the complaint, the two police officers demanded a bribe of K150000 from a suspect arrested under Section 420 of the Penal Code, and K2.5 million from a suspect charged under Section 66 (c) of the Communications Law.

Following the complaint, an investigation team formed by the Anti-Corruption Commission launched a probe.

In a press release, the Anti-Corruption Commission stat-

ed the investigation team found that Sub-Police Inspector Kyaw Naing Oo had accepted three envelopes containing K50,000 from the first detainee as "pocket money" for an inspector, the head of the police station, and the head of the township police force.

The team also found that the Police Inspector had received K2.5 million from the second detainee, arrested for violating the Communications Law, to process his bail order and had demanded another K10 million for closing the case.

The Anti-Corruption Commission stated the two police officers were found to have abused their authority by taking the bribes.

Cases have been registered against the two police officers under Section 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law at the No. 3 Local Police Station in Chanayethazan Township.—

MNA ■ (Translated by Kaw Zin Lin)

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu receives deputy head of ICRC Myanmar

U NYI PU, Rakhine State Chief Minister, received Mr Enrique Ochoa Fernandez-Lomana, Deputy Resident Representative in Myanmar of International Committee of the Red Cross, and party at the guest hall of Rakhine State government office, in Sittway, Rakhine State yesterday.

During their meeting, they openly discussed about the vocational trainings as part of the humanitarian activities, health care, getting purified drinking water and environmental sanitation carried out in Rakhine State under Red Cross activity programme in collaboration of

Rakhine State government and ICRC, helping for displaced persons, fulfilling the needs of IDPs by Union government, state government and departmental state level in time, and providing and constructing shelters for them during the monsoon period.—

MNA ■ (Translated by TTN)



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu meets with Deputy Resident Representative Mr Enrique Ochoa Fernandez-Lomana in Sittway, Rakhine State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Daw Khin Kyi Foundation lends books to schools in Mudon

WITH the cooperation of Information and Public Relations Department of Mudon Township and mobile library of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, officials lent non-fiction and fiction aesthetics to schools in Mudon, Mon State yesterday.

With the efforts of the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, the books successfully arrived at affiliated Basic Education High School (Bo Tayza), No. (2) Basic Education High School, affiliated Basic Education High School (Nyaung Gone).

U Than Soe in-charge of the mobile library of Daw Khin

Kyi Foundation, expressed his feeling upon lending books to schools: "With the aim of the uplifting of levels of knowledge along with promoting reading habit of students, we will lend books to schools in the school opening season. By doing so, students will easily get the books without taking their time to go to any library."

There will be 300 books available for the 150 students and teachers for a period of 2 weeks. — MudonTsp IPRD ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Teachers and students lend books from the mobile library of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation in Mudon.
PHOTO: MUDON IPRD

NHK makes documentary about search of WWII Japanese soldier remain in Sagaing Region

Japan's NHK has been following Mr. Imoto, a Japanese citizen on a quest to collect the remains of Japanese soldiers who fell in Myanmar during WWII, on his journey in Yangon and Sagaing regions and Kachin and Mon states during the past ten days.

Yesterday, they uncovered the remains of a Japanese soldier in the compound of U Ye Tint's home in Mawlu, Sagaing Region.

British and Japanese troops engaged in serious clashes at Payar Lay Hill near Mawlu during WWII, where the

British set up a block code-named 'White City', that resulted in numerous Japanese casualties.

Mr. Imoto is searching for the remains of the fallen soldiers on behalf of their remaining families as he sympathizes with their wish to honour the remains according to their tradition. He is only conducting a search for the soldier remains and will leave negotiations to carry them back to Japan to the governments of both countries. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Mr. Imoto uncovers the remains of a Japanese soldier in the compound of U Ye Tint's home in Mawlu, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

Yangon event to discuss global affairs

Myanmar Observation Group is organizing the Global Affairs Discussion on 16 June at the headquarters of the News and Periodicals Enterprise on Theinpyu Road in Yangon.

Taking place at the NPE building's Shwe U Daung Hall,

the event will have two topics for discussions. U Aye Maung Kyaw, a member of the observation group will lead discussion on 'China-US Trade War' and U Moe Zaw Oo, an advisor at the Peace Commission, will head 'Yemen War and its Negative

Consequences'.

In addition, 50 experts will be attending and providing input on the discussions. Interested persons are invited to attend the discussion. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Ethnic photo contest winners to receive awards at Pan Pacific Yangon

THE prize awarding ceremony of the colour photo contest, 'Fun and Lively Ethnic Traditional Festival' will be held at Pan Pacific Hotel at 10 am, 16 June.

The photo contest was organized by the Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information and took place from 3 April to 2 May.

The contest aimed to bring the culture and traditions of ethnic lives to the limelight, foster better relations between different ethnic groups and help boost the travel and tour industry. The contest received 729 photo submissions from 206 contestants.

A panel of experts from the Myanmar Photographer Association and external professionals



‘ပျော်ရွှင်ဆင်နွှဲ တိုင်းရင်းသားရိုးရာပွဲ’
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judged the contest applications in Yangon on 19 May and announced the results of the top three winners and five special awards on 20 June.

Winners are invited to reg-

ister for the award ceremony by contacting the Contest Organizing Committee at 01-201936, 01-371740, 01-371342. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Phakant miners asked to halt operations from July to Sept, or face action

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanmar Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has directed mining businesses in Phakant area of Kachin State to temporarily suspend extraction of jade during the monsoon season, or face action.

The directive, issued on 12 June, is based on suggestions made by the Amyotha Hluttaw Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee to avoid all possible risks to miners and the environment from mining activities before the enactment of the Myanmar gemstone rules. At present, jade mining sites in Phakant area are facing the threat of landslides and collapse of mud filters, which can lead to deaths and cause severe damage to machines and property.

Under the directive, jade mining businesses have to suspend operations temporarily from 1 July to 30 September. During the three-month period, the concerned officials will take the necessary preventive measures after inspecting high-risk mining sites and studying the situation on the ground.

The main dangers posed by jade mining during the rainy season include landslides, mudslides, flowing of waste soil into

Phakant jade mining area in Kachin State. **PHOTO: U THAUNG NYUNT**

creeks, along with the risk of injury to miners and damage to mining machinery.

During the three-month period starting July, mining businesses will not be allowed to mine raw jadestones, dump waste soil, or remove raw jadestones from the soil dumps through any means. Officials have urged businesses to finish removing jade stones from the soil dumps before the suspension period starts. In case they require more time to finish their work, they will have to fence off their soil dumps.

In addition, jade miners will have to bring the raw jade stones

mined prior to the suspension period to Nay Pyi Taw after getting them evaluated, registered, and paying tax on them. Companies that are unable to complete these processes before the temporary ban is enforced will have to send a list of raw jade stones to the Jade Mining Division (Lonkhin) in advance.

Miners have also been asked to keep machinery such as bulldozers, excavators, and dump trucks in their compounds and take security measures for machines kept at mining sites. The companies will have to send a list of mining equipment being kept at mining sites to the Jade

Mining Division (Lonkhin) before 1 July. Use of heavy machinery for environmental conservation works will depend on the directives issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Kachin State government. Jade mining businesses have also been directed to send a list of security guards at their mining sites to the Mining Department before 1 July.

Phakant has more than 7,000 jade mining sites and over 3,000 gemstone mining sites, operated by over 800 companies.

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Officials provide relief supplies at MraukU IDP camps

OFFICIALS from the Disaster Management Department provide relief supplies and other necessary aids for a fresh batch of persons at internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps in Taungmyint and Teinnyo villages of MraukU Township in Rakhine State.

Daw Nan Moe Nwe, the Assistant Director of the department and other officials handed over 130 bags of rice along with items of clothing such as longyis, T-shirts, and towels for 436 people at the Teinnyo IDP camp and 42 bags of rice and other items for 140 displaced people at the Taungmyint IDP camp as part of their monthly ration.—IPRD

(Translated by La Wonn)

Officials provide relief supplies to IDPs in MraukU IDP camp. **PHOTO: IPRD**

Higher exports create shortfall, traders seek govt nod for chilli import

By Aye Yamone

WITH export demand for fresh chilli growing, the domestic market is facing a shortfall of the crop, prompting local traders to ask the Ministry of Commerce to import fresh chilli through the border to meet local demand, said U Khin Han, the chair of the Myanmar Onion, Garlic and Kitchen Crops Exporters' Association.

Myanmar mostly sends fresh chilli to neighbouring China and Thailand. Earlier, fresh chilli was priced at K1,500-K2,000 per viss (3.6 pounds). The price has currently increased to K8,500

per viss in the domestic market.

"We have asked the Commerce Ministry to grant permission for import of fresh chilli through the border checkpoints. The trade authorities will hold a meeting in Kyaukse soon to discuss the issue. If the government allows border imports, the price of fresh chilli is expected to decline by a certain degree in the local market. If permission is denied, chilli prices may cross K10,000," said U Khin Han.

China has increased imports of fresh chilli from Myanmar since the final week of February.

"China imports chilli chiefly

from Viet Nam and India. It is said that China cannot import sufficient amount of chilli from the two countries. These days, we have seen a significant increase in Chinese demand for the crop. Each Chinese importer has bought roughly 15 or 20 trucks of chilli," said U Khin Han.

At present, chilli is entering the Bayintnaung wholesale market from Maubin, Wakema, Hinthada, and Shwelaung areas, and chilli produced in the central arid zone will arrive in the market soon.■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Farmers pluck chillies from a plantation in NyaungU.
PHOTO: KO HTEIN NGATHAYAU

Open tender to be invited for competitive bidding of fish breeding ponds

THE Kalay District Fisheries Department, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, said it will sell fish breeding ponds in Kalay and Mingin townships of Kalay district for the 2018-2019 fishing season through competitive bidding.

The department also has a leasing system for the ponds.

The department will launch the open tender at its

office at 10 a.m. on 17 June, in accordance with the tender rules and regulations.

The department will lease four ponds under its system — the Kalay inn (fish breeding pond), Tein Hnyin inn, and Yazagyo inn at Kalay Township, and Pin Tin inn at Mingin Township. Each inn will require a 100-per cent deposit. The fish breeding ponds, or inns, which will be sold

through the tender system are Wae Daung and Laung Ka Taik in Kalaywa Township and Kan and Ngar Thaw Tay Chaung in Mingin Township.

"We will sell the fish ponds through competitive bidding to increase fish production from the grant ponds and to protect the boundaries of the ponds. We also want to protect against the decline in the number of fish species in the

leased ponds, prevent illegal fishing which affects fish species, and curb fishing in the no-fishing season," said U Soe Myint Thein, the Head of the Kalay District Fisheries Department.

If the winners of competitive bidding use prohibited fishing equipment, poison, mines and bombs for causing explosions, or resort to electric-shock fishing in their

ponds, the department will take legal action against them, in accordance with the Sagaing Region Freshwater Fisheries Act. Additionally, their fishing licenses will be revoked.

The department has also prohibited gold prospecting, mining, and digging of river sand and stones. —U Kyin Hsaw Twim ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Hunting for gems remains lucrative business in Mogok

MOGOK Township is well-known for its high-grade rubies and rich reserves of other precious stones. "During the rainy season, prospectors flock to the area around Kyatpyin Village, looking for gems.

This has prompted some villagers to mine the stones,

often with the help of their entire families," said U Maung Aye, a gem hunter from the village.

Gemstone hunters earn K5,000-K10,000 per day, and Mogok gems are not difficult to sell in the market, helping villagers to earn a living on a

manageable scale, he said.

Prospectors prefer to look for gems in the rainy season compared with any other season, when erosion makes it easier for them to find more gemstones.—Ngwe Ohe (Katha) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)



Workers search for rare gems around Kyatpyin Village in Mogok Township. **PHOTO: NGWE OHE**

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City Mart (China Town)	City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)	City Mart (Junction 8)
City Mart (FMI)	City Mart (St. John)
City Mart (Junction Square)	Ocean North Point (9 mile)
City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)	Ocean Shwegonedine

Ocean SUPER CENTER **City Mart Supermarket** **marketplace the City Mart**

United against corruption

WE HAVE been witness to the Anti-Corruption Commission dealing with corruption with an iron hand. Corruption and bribery are problems besieging not just Myanmar, but the rest of the world.

Corruption cannot be considered as just breaking the law. We all must realize that corruption can strike a severe blow to the development of the country and the livelihood of the people.

Now is the time to give serious attention to how the consequences of corruption can affect the people. It is obvious that dealing with the problem of immigration officers granting white cards to non-citizens in exchange for bribes is proving to be complicated, both in the country and in the international arena. Besides, similar cases are still happening in the country.

There have been cases of malpractices in the judiciary sector involving bribery. Cases of officials taking the law into their own hands have damaged the image of the judiciary, one of the four pillars of a democracy, and eroded the confidence of the people. They have also affected the rule of law in the country by and large.

Taking bribes for granting driving licenses can lead to deaths. We must think about how our country has suffered so far from the consequences of such actions.

Granting licences for food production without inspections and turning a blind eye to the trade of fake medicines for a bribe can cause heavy damages to the country and the people.

We must not forget that our country has suffered losses from illegal smuggling of our natural resources to neighbouring countries.

Drugs which entered our country after officials were bribed have caused a serious public health problem and have affected almost every community and family in some way.

Buildings which do not

meet the set standard and should not have been allowed to be constructed pose a threat to the safety of the people and the future of towns.

These are just some examples.

Corruption cases reflect that graft has been deeply rooted for decades in many areas. That is why it is necessary to create a culture of zero tolerance when it comes to corruption.

It is also important to take action against corrupt people. Only if the public collaborates with government to fight corruption can the standard of living rise, poverty be eradicated, and the economy move towards development. Strict laws, their enforcement without fear or favour, tough punishments from courts, and an effective administration are pivotal to achieve this goal.

We all have a common duty to unite and join hands with the government to fight against the scourge of corruption. A fall in corruption levels goes hand in hand with development.



The rabies problem is a menace to humans

By Khin Maung Myint



Giving food to stray dogs seen in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

TODAY the spread of rabies through dog bites are becoming menaces to the humans. Most people would agree that the stray dogs are nuisances, even if they are not rabid or do not bite anyone. In our country they can be found almost everywhere in the urban, the suburban and the rural areas. They are abundant in towns and cities, especially in the market places, on the roads and streets, inside some tea shops and roadside eateries. Most of them are infested with lice and one kind of skin infection or the other and thus they are very disgusting that no health-conscious person would like to get in contact with them.

According to a World Health Organization (WHO) fact sheet, just a contact with them could cause the rabies virus to be transmitted to humans. Rabies is an infectious viral disease that is almost always fatal following the onset of clinical symptoms. In up to 99% of cases, domestic dogs are responsible for rabies virus transmission to humans. It spread to people through bites or scratches, usually via saliva. The rabies can also affect both domestic and wild animals.

The worst case scenario would be to be bitten by a rabid dog, whether a stray or a house pet. The victim of a dog bite must try to get immediate treatment with a preventive injection as soon as possible. The injections are sometimes not readily available and are quite expensive too. One would be lucky if that dog didn't die in a few days after biting, otherwise one would be headed for big trouble, which could cost him his life.

Our roads and streets, especially in the crowded residential areas, are swarming with stray dogs and hence dogs' poo or feces are littered everywhere. Thus, their presence among the humans, especially at the markets and eateries are undesirable and unacceptable, as they can cause health problems.

According to one WHO report some years ago, a very high percentage about seventy or so of the stray dogs in Yangon were rabid. Thus Myanmar is classified as a high rabies endemic country. Although there are other animals such as, rodents, bats and cats, etc, which also carry rabies viruses, the causes of deaths due to rabies were mostly caused by dog bites. Rabies is a vaccine-preventable viral disease which occurs in more than 150 countries and territories.

Thus the following preventive measures should be taken in our country to minimize and eventually eradicate human rabies deaths altogether to be in line with the global "United Against Rabies" strategy. This is a common strategy formulated by the collaboration between the WHO, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) to achieve "Zero human rabies deaths by 2030"

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tions (FAO) and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) to achieve "Zero human rabies deaths by 2030"

Eliminating rabies in dogs

Rabies is a vaccine-preventable disease. Vaccinating dogs is the most cost-effective strategy for preventing rabies in people. Dog vaccination reduces deaths attributable to rabies and the (PEP) is needed as a part of dog bite patient care.

The PEP or post-exposure prophylaxis is the immediate treatment of a bite victim after rabies exposure. This prevents virus entry into the central nervous system, which results in imminent death. It consists of extensive

washing and local treatment of the wound as soon as possible after exposure and a course of potent and effective rabies vaccine that meets WHO standards administered immediately. Effective treatment soon after exposure to rabies can prevent the onset of symptoms and death.

Awareness on rabies and preventing dog bites

Education on dog behaviour



Veterinarians vaccinate and neuter stray dogs in Yangon. PHOTO: AFP

workers handling live rabies and rabies-related viruses; and people (such as animal disease control staff and wildlife rangers) whose professional or personal activities might bring them into direct contact with bats, carnivores, or other mammals that may be infected.

Pre-exposure immunization is also recommended for travellers to rabies-affected, remote areas who plan to spend a lot of time outdoors involved in activities. Immunization should also be considered for children living in, or visiting, remote, high-risk areas. As they play with animals, they may receive more severe bites, or may not report bite. Precaution is the best preventive measure.

Eradicating the stray dogs

In the past, the Yangon Municipal periodically culled the stray

dogs by poisoning them. However, as the times had changed and many dog lovers opposed such actions they are no more seen to be carried out. Recently, there are arguments on the social media concerning the eradication of the stray dogs. While the general populace want the stray dogs to be eradicated, the dog lovers are ardently against it.

In my opinion, the street dogs or stray dogs should be cleared from the roads and streets of the city for good, by one way or the other. There are many ways and means to do that without culling them. In most foreign countries they catch the stray dogs and impound them in shelters after immunizing them. Dog lovers who want to adopt them can go to those places to choose the ones they want to adopt. Those that are not

lem, because although they may not transmit rabies to humans, they would still be nuisances to the populace for quite awhile before they totally disappeared.

Although when the stray street dogs disappeared, there would still remain the pets of the dog lovers. Thus strict regulations should be in place to control the dogs and cats kept as pets. They should be properly registered and issued permits or licenses, which are subjected to renewals regularly after the pets are vaccinated to immunize them against rabies. Pets should have collars to indicate that they are properly registered and immunized. Pet owners should also be instructed as to the DOs and DON'Ts, while taking their pets out for walks. They should have leashes on at all times so that it would be easy

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 14th June, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 15th June, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in the whole country with regionally heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw and Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kachin and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9 -12)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of strong Monsoon.

FORECAST FOR Nay Pyi Taw AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th June, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th June, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th June, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Regions.

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May,

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Deputy Commerce Minister discusses intellectual property, rice quality with foreign delegates

THE Deputy Minister for Commerce, U Aung Htoo, met separately with delegations from the EU ARISE+ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights (EUIPO), US Patent and Trademark Office (USTPO), and Olam International Limited at his ministry yesterday.

During the meeting with EUIPO, the Deputy Minister held talks with Project Leader Mr. Tiago Guerreiro on technological support and equipment aid from the intellectual property office, capacity development for staff, providing courses to train experts on intellectual property, calling university graduates and

youths from external legal organizations for internship at the office, and disseminating information on intellectual property to the public.

Next, the Deputy Minister met with the USTPO delegation led by Ms. Kitisri Sukhapinda, the Intellectual Property Attaché for Southeast Asia. They discussed technological, financial and expert assistance from USTPO on handling the challenges of opening Myanmar's intellectual property office, support for opening front offices and desk offices for the intellectual property office in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, establishing a web-



Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo holds talks with USTPO delegation led by Ms. Kitisri Sukhapinda, the Intellectual Property Attaché for Southeast Asia yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

site for the office, implementing cyber security against online infringement, and systematically scrutinizing trademark applications.

The Deputy Minister exchanged views with Mr. Sameer

Kaushal during the meeting with Olam International Limited. They discussed cooperation in resolving the rice export issue in Ivory Coast that took place in April this year, gaining a foothold in the markets of Ivory Coast

and African countries, and coordinating meetings between representatives of Ivory Coast and Myanmar to reinstate trust in Myanmar's rice quality. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

South Korea's 'Law of the Jungle' films scenes in Kyaukse, Nyaungshwe

SBS, South Korea's national TV network, filmed scenes for its popular series, 'Law of the Jungle' at Dee Doke waterfall and the elephant camp near Kyaukse Town and Inle Lake in Nyaungshwe Township on 12 June.

The filming crew brought over 50 members and 3 famous talents to Myanmar and separated into two teams to begin filming on 9 June. They filmed

fishing and cooking scenes at the waterfall, bathing elephants at the camp, learning fishing skills from a local Inthar at Inle Lake, and harvesting tomatoes at a plantation.

The scenes will be included in episodes that will be broadcasted within this year on SBS. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



South Korean film crew feeding monkeys in Hlawga National Park in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Australian filmmaker lectures on combining animation in documentary filming



U Thein Naing, Director of the Film Development Centre, delivers the opening speech at the filmmaking workshop in Bahan, Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

AUSTRALIAN film expert Ms. Marisa Martin led a filmmaking workshop on utilizing animation techniques in documentaries at the Film Development Centre in Bahan Township yesterday.

Centre Director U Thein Naing delivered opening remarks and Ms. Esther Sainsbury, the First Secretary of the

Australian Embassy, invited Myanmar documentaries to participate in the Flickerfest Film Festival in Sydney.

During the workshop, Ms. Martin lectured on how animation can be incorporated into documentaries to enhance storytelling and visual style.

The workshop attracted

faculty and students of the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) and guests.

The Film Development Centre is under the Information and Public Relation Department of the Ministry of Information. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Pedestrian killed in hitting by bus in Thaton

A pedestrian died after being struck by a bus at 9:30 p.m. on 13 June in Nankhae ward, along the Yangon-Mawlamyaing highway in Thaton Town of Mon State.

The Shweli Yadanar passenger bus was on its way from Yangon to Mawlamyaing, when it hit a pedestrian, identified as Myo Kyaw, who sustained serious injuries and died on the spot.

The police have filed the case against the bus driver, identified as Than Htike Aung, under Section 279/304 (A) of the Penal Code.—Hlaing Tun Aung (Thaton) (Translated by La Wonn) ■

‘Mr. Green’: British environmentalist is Gabon’s new forestry minister



Manchester-born Lee White, a well-known conservationist, has been put in charge of Gabon’s forests. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIBREVILLE — Here’s your new job: You have to protect the country’s precious tropical forests. You have to stop illegal logging and fight the entrenched corruption backed by powerful forces which goes with it. By the way, you are a committed environmentalist — and you are foreign-born.

This is the challenge facing Lee White, a green activist born in Britain, who this week was named minister of water and forests in Gabon.

White, who has lived in Gabon for three decades and is a citizen, takes over one of the most sensitive jobs in the central African country.

Long-running tensions between logging and conservation have been sharpened by corruption and falling revenues from oil, Gabon’s main money-earner.

“My appointment was a surprise for many people here,” White admitted in an interview with AFP after President Ali Bongo Odimba appointed him on Monday.

He said Bongo had asked

him to “put an end to bad practices... (as well as) the corruption in the ministry”.

White acknowledged the scale of the tasks ahead.

“We have to sustainably manage the Gabonese forest to improve the living environment of the Gabonese people, to stabilise its natural treasures and to preserve our ecosystems,” he said.

Almost 80 percent of Gabon is covered by forests.

The forestry sector is a historic pillar of the economy, accounting for 17,000 jobs and 60 percent of output excluding oil.

About a quarter of Gabon’s population live in rural areas, and many people depend on the forests for food and livelihood.

At the same time the forests themselves are a treasure trove of biodiversity, much of it rare or endangered.

They are a haven for great apes, forest elephants and the black panther, as well as rare species of trees, some of them giants towering up to 60 metres (200 feet) high.

Manchester-born

White, 53, was born in the northwestern English city of Manchester but grew up in Uganda — in a biography he recalls fighting at school with the son of former dictator Idi Amin.

In 1989, he arrived in Gabon, where he studied for a doctorate in zoology.

He took up Gabonese nationality in 2008 and the following year took over as head of the National Parks Agency (ANPN), a massive conservation project of 13 wildlife zones set up by the late president Omar Bongo, the incumbent’s father.

He was decorated by Queen Elizabeth II in 2010 for his dedication to nature conservation in Central Africa.

Lee’s high-profile defence of the rainforest and wildlife — often with the verdant Raponda Walker Arboretum near Libreville as a backdrop — made him a familiar face in the national media, which dubbed him “Monsieur Vert” (“Mister Green”).

Bongo turned to him for the job after firing the last forestry minister over a timber-smuggling scandal.

Analysts say the job will require remarkable skills, juggling tact and principles, as well as rock-solid support from the top.

“This appointment can only be good news for protectors of the environment in Gabon,” said Gaspard Abitsi, director of a US-based NGO, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), in Gabon.

“He is perfectly familiar with the challenges of conservation on a national and international level.”—AFP ■



According to the study, spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature could be a crucial threshold for promoting health and well-being. **PHOTO: AFP**

How spending two hours a week in nature could benefit health and well-being

LONDON — Ready for a breath of fresh air? A large-scale British study has found that spending at least two hours per week in nature could be a crucial threshold for promoting health and well-being.

The study, carried out by researchers at the University of Exeter in the UK and published in the Scientific Reports journal, is based on data from almost 20,000 people in England from Natural England’s “Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey.” The researchers found that people who spend at least 120 minutes per week in nature were significantly more likely to report good health and greater psychological well-being.

The benefits apply to all manner of natural settings, such as town parks, woodlands, country parks and beaches. Plus, according to the researchers, the

120 minutes can be achieved with several shorter visits to natural settings, as well as urban green-spaces.

“The majority of nature visits in this research took place within just two miles of home so even visiting local urban green-spaces seems to be a good thing. Two hours a week is hopefully a realistic target for many people, especially given that it can be spread over an entire week to get the benefit,” explains Dr Mathew P. White of the University of Exeter Medical School, who led the study.

According to the researchers, the 120-minute threshold applied to all manner of individuals, including men, women, children, older adults, people across different occupational and ethnic groups, and even people with long-term illnesses or disabilities.—AFP ■

New animal species found in Corsica

CORSICA — Gray-tailed hair, ringtail, the “ghjattu-volpe” - “fox-cat” in Corsican - grows in his cage. In the forest of Asco, two agents of the National Office for Hunting and Wildlife (ONCFS) show AFP what they think is a new species of feline.

“For us, it is a natural wild species, which was known but not listed, because it is an extremely discreet animal, with nocturnal manners.

It is an extraordinary discovery,” enthuses AFP Pierre. Benedetti, chief environmental technician of ONCFS, on the site

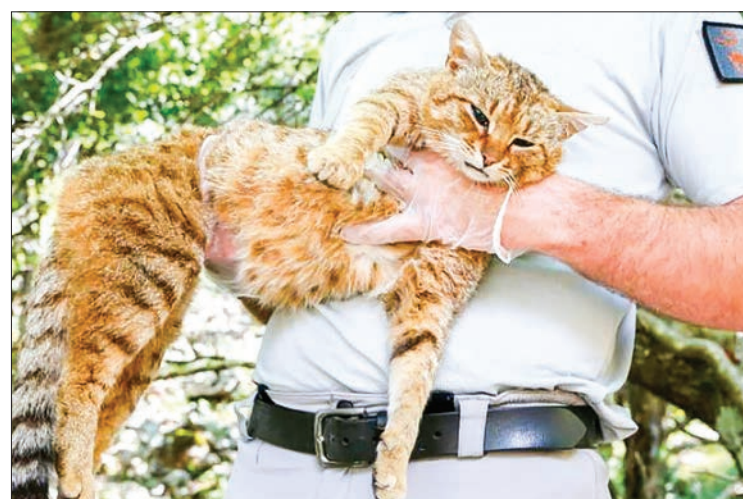
of the capture carried out without violence.

This undergrowth of Haute-Corse is accessible after 45 minutes of walk in the rocky and forested landscape of the Asco Valley, where one meets cows and rare hikers.

It is in this “steep mountainous” territory of 25,000 hectares, “far from the presence of man” and where there is “water and a plant cover to protect it from its main predator, the eagle royal” that the ONCFS has identified 16 fox-cats and has captured 12, including a female, explains to

AFP Carlu-AntoneCecchini, missionary forest cat at the National Office. All were released after a quick review.

Once asleep, the silky-haired feline, very similar to the classic domestic cat for the uninitiated, is studied by both agents: 90 cm from the head to the end of the tail, ears of ears “very wide”, short whiskers, canines “very developed”. “Tarsi of the hind legs always very black”, “red-rust colour on the belly”, the density of very important hair which preserves fleas, lice or ticks.



ONCFS has identified 16 fox-cats and has captured 12, including a female, explains to AFP Carlu-AntoneCecchini, missionary forest cat at the National Office. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tail “with between 2 and 4 rings and always a well black terminal sleeve”, “zebra on very characteristic front legs”—AFP



Dignitaries attend the ceremony to mark completion of building work for Residential Tower-1 in Yangon on 10 June. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Central Residential Tower-I near Yangon's Inya Lake complete

DEVELOPED by Marga Landmark, the 27-story The Central Residential Tower-I on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon is absolutely complete, providing luxury and comfortable facilities to high-income customers.

Superstructure works for the RI Tower has initiated since last September by Marga Landmark in cooperation with several partner companies, including Wong Tung & Partner, LWK & Partners, Meinhardt Ltd, Adrian L. Norman Ltd, Amenity Design and Royal Ace. The structural works of Tower — I was finalized within nine months. The building is now being completed with interior fit out and services and it is expected to be handed over to customers at the end of

this year.

To mark the completion of construction of the highest point of RI tower, a special plaque was placed on the 27th floor, the top floor of the building. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Union Construction Minister attended the ceremony hosted by the developer on 10 June.

More than 1,000 builders are involved in the construction of RI tower and 98 per cent of them are local workers. Under the project, the Central boulevard is home to Yangon's first open-space retail and dining promenade concept at the bottom of the central along Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road in Yankin Township, including lots of restaurants,

shops, cafés and bars.

The Central project also includes state-of-the-art building management system with intelligent temperature control, fire safety and security. It will house the finest amenities for the customers consisting of an outdoor swimming pool, a gymnasium, WiFi services, spa and sauna.

Marga came to Myanmar in 2013, operating business with over 200 office staff and more than 1,000 builders. It won six awards including the best developer, the special recognition in CSR and the best mixed-use development, at the Myanmar Property Awards celebrated in 2017.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Aeon plans to quadruple product sourcing from Viet Nam by 2025

HANOI — Retail giant Aeon Co. will seek to purchase \$1 billion worth of products from Vietnam in 2025, with the nation seen as having great potential as a supplier of quality food for Japanese consumers.

The company will double the value of products it procures from Viet Nam from the current level to \$500 million in 2020 and expand it twofold over the following five-year period, a senior Aeon official told a meeting of its suppliers in Hanoi on Wednesday.

The total value of Vietnamese goods imported for sale at

Aeon outlets in Japan rose 7.6 per cent in 2018 from the previous year to 26.5 billion yen (\$245 million), with clothing accounting for 55 per cent of the total.

"Food has room to grow further," said Eiji Shibata, executive officer and chief merchandising and logistics officer of the Japanese retailer, noting that the Aeon group's food sales make up about 70 per cent of the total in Japan.

"For example, we could ship organic vegetables from Vietnam with the help of cutting-edge refrigeration technology," he said.

Aeon, based in Chiba east

of Tokyo, held the annual meeting for the second consecutive year in Vietnam after previously doing so in China, Japan and elsewhere in Southeast Asia, according to the company.

About 240 suppliers to Aeon Vietnam Co, its local store operator, and Aeon Topvalu Vietnam Co, a product development and procurement arm established in 2016, gathered for the Hanoi meeting.

Amid the escalating US-China trade dispute, the Aeon group understands the value of Vietnam as a strategic base, Shibata said.—Kyodo News ■

Oil recedes after spiking on tanker attacks

LONDON — Oil prices retreated Friday on fresh weak demand growth concerns, having spiked the previous day following attacks on two tankers in the Gulf of Oman.

Global stock markets meanwhile fell on geopolitical fears, uncertainty over the China-US trade row and the gloomy outlook for the global economy, traders said.

In midday deals, London's Brent North Sea crude oil for August delivery dipped 10 cents to \$61.21 per barrel.

New York's West Texas Intermediate for July delivery dropped 25 cents to \$52.03.

Prices had spiked by more than four percent at one stage on Thursday as tanker attacks in the Gulf of Oman — in a major global shipping lane — flashed onto traders' screens.

"Oil prices may have spiked following the attacks but they have not risen too much considering the risk that an escalation poses," said Oanda analyst Craig Erlam.

"Perhaps this is a sign of how pressured oil prices are to the downside at the moment, with the US pumping at record levels and the global economy slowing."

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has accused Iran of responsibility for the Gulf tankers attack but Tehran denies this.

Economic risks

But the market retreated Friday as the International Energy Agency downgraded its forecasts for global oil demand growth.

The IEA cut its forecast for

demand growth this year for the second month straight — and trimmed its second quarter forecast as well.

The Paris-based energy watchdog blamed weakening economic sentiment as the global trade war helps slam the brakes on oil demand.

"Global slowdown fears and trade war risks have intensified which has led to the latest downward revision from IEA," Erlam told AFP.

"There is a real danger that further downgrades will follow if downside economic risks materialise."

Oil had already slumped Wednesday as soaring US crude inventories indicated weak demand growth in the top global consuming nation.

The IEA's monthly report comes a day after the latest tanker attacks, in the second spate of incidents in a month in the strategic shipping lane.

With some 40 percent of the world's seaborne oil passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a disruption to shipping could roil markets.

The attacks come amid rising tensions between Tehran and Washington as the US has intensified sanctions on Iran over its nuclear programme.

Hong Kong dips again

In Asia, the Hong Kong stock market was again on the back foot, losing 0.7 per cent, after the city was rocked this week by violent protests against government plans for a law that would allow extraditions to China and which observers warn could erode its attraction for businesses.—AFP ■



KNPC employees working on the new LPG TRAIN-4 Project at the al-Ahmadi refinery plant complex in Kuwait. **PHOTO: AFP**



Outgoing White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders says she loved her job, but she has been widely criticized for halting the long-established daily briefings. **PHOTO: AFP**

Trump announces exit of 'warrior' spokeswoman Sarah Sanders

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Thursday announced the surprise departure of his spokeswoman Sarah Sanders, after a combative tenure that saw her all-but kill off traditional White House briefings to journalists.

Sanders has been one of Trump's most loyal foot soldiers, almost constantly at his side during his tumultuous two and a half years at the White House and during the campaign before.

Trump announced her exit in a tweet and did not name a replacement.

"After 3 1/2 years, our wonderful Sarah Huckabee Sanders will be leaving the White House at the end of the month and going home to the Great State of Arkansas," Trump said, adding that he hoped she would run for governor of her state.

Sharp, sometimes acid-tongued, Sanders has not

been prone to the almost comic slip-ups that embarrassed predecessors in the job, such as short-lived Trump spokesman Anthony Scaramucci. But she has earned a reputation for bruising clashes with journalists whom she finds over-critical — often echoing her boss's attacks on unfavorable coverage as "Fake News."

At a White House event Thursday on reintegration into society for ex-prisoners, Trump interrupted proceedings to summon the "warrior" Sanders from the audience and lavish praise on her record. Calling her "a friend, a woman, a great, great magnificent person," Trump said, "she's very popular."

In fact, Sanders, 36, has a sometimes bitter relationship with the White House press corps and is seen as responsible for the demise of the formal daily briefing — practically an institution under previous presidents.

Pressed during one particularly combative briefing to distance herself from Trump's characterization of the media as the "enemy of the people," Sanders refused.

The last time she took to the podium for a back-and-forth with reporters in the White House briefing room was March 11. Instead, she communicates largely through interviews on the president's favorite TV network Fox News and short, informal briefings with other journalists outdoors. She has also been accused of telling repeated lies to reporters, although she denies this. Despite Sanders' damaged reputation in media circles, there had been no hint from the administration that her exit was imminent. Sanders' father Mike Huckabee is a former Republican governor of Arkansas, making her something of a member of conservative royalty.—AFP ■

Iran denies tankers attack as tensions soar

DUBAI — Iran dismissed as "baseless" Friday US accusations that it carried out twin attacks that left two tankers ablaze in the Gulf of Oman, escalating tensions across the region and sending world oil prices soaring.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned Washington would defend its forces and allies in the region, and the United States pressed its case as the UN Security Council met to address the incident — the second in a month in the strategic shipping lane.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted Friday that the US administration had "immediately jumped to make allegations against Iran without a shred of factual or circumstantial evidence".

He accused it of seeking to "sabotage diplomacy" amid a visit to Iran by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and "cover up its economic terrorism against Iran" in enforcing crippling unilateral sanctions.

With tensions spiralling between Iran and the United States, the European Union called for "maximum restraint" and UN chief Antonio Guterres warned

the world cannot afford a major confrontation in the Gulf.

Iran labelled the apparent attacks "suspicious," as its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei rebuffed overtures by Abe to open talks with US President Donald Trump.

Pompeo said there was strong evidence of Iran's culpability, after the US Navy said it had spotted an unexploded limpet mine stuck to the hull of one of the vessels.

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) released a grainy black-and-white video it said showed an Iranian patrol boat "removing the unexploded limpet mine" from the ship.

"It is the assessment of the United States that the Islamic Republic of Iran is responsible for the attacks," Pompeo announced.

"This is based on intelligence, the weapons used, the level of expertise needed to execute the operation, recent similar Iranian attacks on shipping, and the fact that no proxy group operating in the area has the resources and proficiency to act with such a high degree of sophistication," he said.—AFP ■



A picture obtained by AFP from Iranian News Agency ISNA on 13 June, 2019 reportedly shows fire and smoke billowing from the Norwegian-owned Front Altair tanker, one of two vessels hit by suspected attacks in the waters of the Gulf of Oman. **PHOTO: AFP**

Spanish court bans Catalan separatist from taking MEP post

MADRID — Spain's Supreme Court on Friday stopped Catalonia's jailed former vice-president Oriol Junqueras from taking up his post as a lawmaker in the European Parliament.

The court ruled against letting Junqueras out of custody on Monday to be able to go and swear respect to the Spanish constitution, a necessary step for all the winners of last month's European elections before they officially

become MEPs.

He faces a prison sentence of up to 25 years for rebellion and misuse of public funds over his role in a failed bid to prise Catalonia from Spain in October 2017, after a four-month-long trial that ended on Wednesday.

The sentencing of Junqueras and 11 other Catalan defendants is expected in the autumn.

The court said Friday's ruling wasn't "irreversible"

but just a temporary postponement given Junqueras's legal situation, until the sentence is passed.

The court ruled that allowing him to go to the Monday ceremony would kick off a process that would then see him head to Brussels to be sworn in as MEP in the European Parliament's inaugural session on 2nd July.

That, the court argued, would put the whole judicial process "in irreversible

danger" as Spanish authorities would lose "jurisdictional control" over the defendant, who has been in custody since he was arrested in November 2017.

The court argued that Carles Puigdemont, Catalonia's former president who fled Spain to escape arrest — and who was also elected to the European Parliament in elections on May 26th — was currently living in Belgium.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (922S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (922S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185



By Maung Thar
(Archaeology)

Sri Ksetra, World Heritage Cultural Site in Pyu Era

SINCE prior to the classification into the World Heritage Cultural Site by the UNESCO, Sri Ksetra (Thayekhittara, pronounced in Myanmar) situated at 5 miles far away from south-east of Pyay in Bago Region had already been famous as an ancient city of Pyu, in home and abroad. After the period of being acknowledged as the World Heritage Cultural Site Sri Ksetra, which had been an urban area in Pyu Era some 2000 years ago, became more well-known.

The name of Sri Ksetra brings about the meaning—the area endowed with the virtues of auspiciousness and glamour. The city had been built in a round shape, albeit not exactly as a circle. It had an area of 5.5 square miles in width and 8 miles 5 furlong in circumference. Out of three ancient cities of Pyu Era Sri Ksetra is the largest one. According to the index of the map, it is located at a degree of North Latitude 18 degrees 75 minutes & at a degree of East Longitude 95 degrees and 25 minutes.

Sri Ksetra, Beikthano & Hanlin which had been the first-ever acknowledged ancient cities

as the world heritage sites for Myanmar stretched out north to south. Sri Ksetra located at the Far South is 30 kilometers far from Beikthano and 400 kilometers from Hanlin.

Ancient Sri Ksetra

According to the Chronicles on Myanmar History, Sri Ksetra was learnt to have been built in BC 443 (i.e, 101 years after the Demise of Lord Buddha), and to have been ruled successively by the dynasty of Duttabaung King & ruined in the reign of “Thupyinyar Nagaraseinda” King. In fact, the history of Sri Ksetra had been mixed with oral histories generally accepted by the generation.

Sri Ksetra had been the most famous one of Pyu ancient cities which flourished between AD 1 Century and AD 9 Century in Myanmar. Historian Dr. Than Tun wrote in the article about Gyikwaytra, the Ancient Sri Ksetra City that it was built in later part of BC 200.

Dr. Than Tun wrote that Duttabaung, a vocabulary of ဌတ္တဘောင်, has not been a personal name, but just a honorable term meant for the King of great virtue, and Pyu races that ceased to exist in



AD 14 Century seemed to have professed Brahmanism earlier, later converting into Mahayana Buddhism.

Among the religious edifices built in Sri Ksetra there can be round pagodas and temples seen. These cultural artifacts became the proto types of architectural features of the edifices built during the period of Bagan Era, after Pyu Era. Pyu Kings used to build the then pagodas in the forms of tapering slowly to the bottom and stretching out slowly to the top (OR) in the octagonal types. Thus, in the Paper on Evidences of Cultural Heritage which went extinct in the intervening period between Pyu & Bagan Eras, the writer, “Minbu Aung Kyaing” stated that there had been 12 Pyu pagodas such as “Ngakywe Nadaung, Bu Phaya and Layhsudan” in Bagan.

were ruined by natural disasters and some people. Some parts of the remaining walls have been found to be 15 feet high and 17 feet wide. In the south & west the city had had double walls whereas the south-east part of the city had been tri-walled so that Pyu citizens could defend the city from the danger of external destructive forces.

As the Yangon-Pyay Railroad had been built through the ancient city of Sri Ksetra from the south-east direction to the north-west direction, the old city had been divided into two. The northern part of the track is low-lying area while the southern part is high compared to the location of the former.

The site of the old palace of 1700 ft in length and 1126 ft in width is situated at the south of the ancient city of Sri Ksetra. According to the chronicles of Myanmar History it had been

Ksetra city.

Bawbawgyi Ceti stands up as a cylindrical shape while Phayagyi & Phayamar Cetis stand up in mountain shape, tapering slowly to the top. According to oral histories Bawbawgyi, Phayagyi & Phayamar Cetis were included in the 9 pagodas built by Duttabaung King, during the flourishing period of Sri Ksetra.

Remains of religious edifices of Pyu Era which can be found in Sri Ksetra generally can be categorized into two kinds—a type of round pagoda called “Htupa” and Cave Shrine. In Myanmar Dictionary Htupa is defined as Htupa Ceti and Pahtou. Gu Hpaya is defined as a temple with a hollow vaulted base. Htupa (alias) round pagoda is a solid Ceti without a cave. Gu Phaya is a round pagoda below which Gandagudi meant for the special chamber for the use

nearby the city wall at the south-west of the ancient city Sri Ksetra is the most ancient one of the 3 round pagodas of Sri Ksetra Era. It had been vertically built like a tube on the 5th terrace of 240 ft in width. The Bawbawgyi Ceti of 153 ft in height had been built with a cave originally but the cave had been permanently un-hollowed later. The mini-pagoda made of quartz which was excavated in the ancient city of Sri Ksetra in 1909-1910 is the type of Bawbawgyi Ceti. And, in the book on the Ancient Myanmar Cities it has been expressed that Bawbawgyi-like Ceti images had been found in some cups of clay excavated in Sri Ksetra ancient city.

Bawbawgyi Ceti has been regarded to have been built in AD 600 & 700, by scholars. It is also said to resemble the type of Dammike Ceti in northern India. Its cylindrical type has been compared to the pagodas—Sanchi & Amarawady Cetis in semicircular shapes in India, built between AD 100 & 200.

Phayamar Ceti is situated beside Pyay-Paukkhaung Road, north-east of Sri Ksetra nearby the village “Koneyoe Twinpyay.” It has the cylindrical shape at the bottom with its upper part climbing up like a mountain gradually. Phayamar Ceti has 4 terraces in all, three of which have 16 angles each and the remaining terrace has a round shape. As it is 138 ft in height and its circumference is 316 feet, it can be of the same size as Phayagyi Ceti.

Phayamar Ceti, formerly called “Tharaima” built between AD 400 & 700 is assumed to have been built by Duttabaung King. In January, 1967 there was excavated nearby Phayamar Ceti—ancient artifacts of Pyu Era, an 11 inch-sized bell & 5 world-famous statues of dancers in Pyu Era.

Stone Burial Urns

Out of the excavations made by the Archaeological Department stone burial urns with inscriptions were found only in Sri Ksetra. Those were discovered nearby the Cetis—four at the Phayagyi Ceti and the other one at the place near Phayahtaung. Some of the letters inscribed on the stone burial urns could be deciphered. The four stone burial urns found near Phayagyi Ceti have been assumed to be those of the kings—Hari Gikrama King, Thiha Gikrama King & Thuriya Gikrama King, and the other one to be that of a royal next of kin or a queen.

On March 18 1993, another cylindrical stone burial urn with debris of the Buddha image inside it was excavated near the Phayahtaung Ceti, in the city wall of Sri Ksetra. Letters inscribed on stone urns found near Phayagyi Ceti and Phayahtaung Ceti had been proved to be same Pyu characters. According to the names inscribed on the 4 stone urns of Phayagyi Ceti Sri Ksetra can be assumed to have been ruled by Gikrama Dynasty. On each of the stone urns found at Phayagyi Ceti only a name has been inscribed respectively whereas on the Phayahtaung Stone Urn names of the kings were written in 5 lines.

On account of the kings’ names and dates of their demises, which had been inscribed on the stone urns discovered in Sri Ksetra, they have been regarded as the stone burial urns. However, Major Ba Shin, the historian wrote that at the time they had been found, no remains of bones and ashes had been inside, apart from some lumps of earth. Those lumps of earth may be the ashes of the deceased. At the same time some people did not accept the idea that those stone urns had been the burial urns.

Similarly it may be regarded that the urns had been used for a particular purpose, absolutely not as burial urns, as there had been found debris of the Buddha Image inside. Accordingly, researches should be made whether the-deceased-kings’-names-inscribed stone urns with religious or holy objects put inside might have been donated to the pagodas by the bereaved ones.

Phayahtaung Stone Urn had been exhibited at the National Museum in Yangon with one of Phayagyi Stone Urns shown at Nay Pyi Taw Museum and the three others at Sri Ksetra Museum at Sri Ksetra respectively.

Sri Ksetra had developed as an urban city in Pyu Era, leaving most of the artifacts of Pyu cultural heritage and evidences of Pyu cultures which had been extinct, hence a great help for researchers. With a view to maintaining the longevity of Sri Ksetra, researches on Pyu History have to be carried out further and further.

(Translated by Kin Maung Oo)
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Excavations in Sri Ksetra

Dr. E Forchammaer who was the first-ever appointed in-charge of the archaeological department in Myanmar made the ground survey of Sri Ksetra. In 1907 French General Leon de Beylie & Mr. Taw Sein Ko, high ranking executive officer of stone inscription in the country made excavations in Sri Ksetra. Following that period, Mr. Taw Sein Ko, U Lu Pe Win, Monsignor Du Roi Sel and other high ranking executive officers on stone inscriptions occasionally excavated in Sri Ksetra till the period before the World War II broke out, finding out evidences in Pyu Era from digging up 65 hillocks so far.

Sri Ksetra had been surrounded by 8 miles 5 furlongs long walls, and some of which

recorded that Sri Ksetra had 323 gates and 33 small doors. Yet, there were only 9 entrance gates found under the currently made ground surveys, namely Muhtaw & Twinbye gates at the north of the ancient city, Shwe & Moteshay gates at the west, Rahanda, Baluma & Thayawady Gates at the south and Nat & Naga Twant gates at the north.

3 Pagodas built in Triangular Position

Outside the city wall of Sri Ksetra 3 pagodas built since Pyu Era were located in a triangular position, viz. Bawbawgyi Ceti at the south of the old city, Phayagyi Ceti at the north-west and Phayamar Ceti at the north. However, other huge round pagodas like those Cetis had not been found inside the wall of Sri

of the Buddha has been built. As there is a cave under the Ceti, it is called Cave Shrine.

Phayagyi Ceti with 139 ft in length & 307 ft in circumference, which was a religious artifact of the middle part of Pyu Era built between AD 400 & AD 700 is situated beside Pyay-Aunglan Road. Previously it was called “Ayesay Ceti” or Maha Ceti. Out of the four terraces of the Pagoda, 3 terraces have 16 angles each & the remaining terrace is the round type of terrace. Nearby the Phayagyi Ceti there had been 4 stone burial urns and an earthen burial urn excavated circa 1920. The stone burial urns were engraved with the names of “Hari Gikrama King, Thiha Gikrama King & Thuriya Gikrama King,” respectively.

Bawbawgyi Ceti situated

Taylor's hat-trick helps Chin United beat ISPE F.C.

CHIN United bested Institute of Sports and Physical Education (ISPE) F.C. by 3-1 at their MPT Myanmar National League II 2019 match, held in Yangon yesterday. The win for Chin United was secured by key player Taylor's hat-trick.

The match proved to be an exciting one for fans with both teams playing well, using speedy attacks from the start. Chin United made strong counterattacks.

Chin United striker Taylor netted the opening goal for the team at 31 minutes.

In the later minutes of the first half, both teams got multiple opportunities to score but failed to convert. Chin United was still in the lead after 45 minutes of play.

utes of play.

The match became more heated in the second half, with both teams working hard to score. Chin United changed its tactic in the second half, and was rewarded with another goal.

Taylor bagged the second goal for his team with a marvellous pass through several defenders.

Down by two goals, ISPE mounted a concerted comeback effort. Their determined play resulted in a surprise goal at the 69 minute by Aung Zayya Phyoe.

But, at 84 minutes, striker Taylor landed the third and winning goal for Chin United.

At the final whistle, Chin United was leading by two goals.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Chin United striker Taylor (yellow) tries to make a pass during the Myanmar National League II match against ISPE F.C. in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNL**

Brazilian police file defamation complaint against Neymar's rape accuser

SAO PAULO — Brazilian police said on Thursday they had filed a defamation suit against the woman who has accused football star Neymar of rape, after she insinuated the force was corrupt.

During an interview with television channel SBT, Najila Trindade said: "The police are bought, aren't they? Or am I crazy?"

The police filed a complaint, issuing a statement on Thursday defending its "absolute transparency, neutrality and impartiality".

On Tuesday, Trindade had seen a third lawyer drop her case as Danilo Garcia de Andrade said he was no longer representing her.

The lawyer wanted to see the content of a seven-minute

video filmed during the model's second meeting with the Paris Saint-Germain star. Trindade maintains the recording—a few seconds of which have been leaked on social media—includes conclusive evidence that she was assaulted.

The accusation against Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar has grabbed headlines in Brazil, which is currently hosting the Copa America, a tournament the 26-year-old is missing due to an ankle injury.

Trindade filed the complaint against Neymar on May 31, saying he assaulted her after inviting her to visit him in Paris.—AFP ■



Football superstar Neymar: **PHOTO: AFP**

Teams invited for Futsal Open Cup in Mandalay

REGISTRATIONS for the MFF Warrix Futsal Open Cup 2019, scheduled to be held from 29 June to 21 July at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay, are open, with 19 teams having registered for the tourney so far.

The tourney, which is being supervised by the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), will feature 64 teams, so 45 slots are still open, said a source with the MFF yesterday.

Registrations started on 10 June and teams are required to register with the National Football Academy in Mandalay by 21 June, according to Myanmar Futsal officials.

The registration will be closed before the deadline if 64 teams are registered.

There will be 14 players and six coaches allowed on each

team.

To register, teams have to shell out K100,000 along with a deposit of K100,000.

Myanmar national futsal players and national league footballers are not allowed to take part in the tourney, which is only meant for amateurs players, said officials.

The jerseys worn during the tourney will be sponsored by Warrix Sports, officials said.

The winning team will get K3 million, the second placed team will receive K2 million, the third placed team will be awarded K1 million, and the fourth placed team will receive K500,000.

The team with the fewest penalties will win K3 million, and the best player and keeper will get K200,000 each, officials added.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Child's play: the kindergartens driving China's football dream

SHANGHAI — They do not know it, but they are a tiny part of President Xi Jinping's aggressive drive to make China a footballing superpower by 2050.

Xi's ruling Communist Party is ploughing money into grassroots football but it went a step further in March when it announced a pilot scheme of football-focused kindergartens.

At Kangcheng Kindergarten in Shanghai, 23 of the best boys aged six

and seven play football twice a week in what is their final year before primary school.

At some other kindergartens in Shanghai they play from as young as four.

Zhu Guanghu, president of the Shanghai Football Association, says that when it comes to coaching, it is a case of the earlier, the better.

AFP / HECTOR RETAMALSome

Shanghai kindergartens have football lessons for children as young as four.

"I personally think three-year-old children can play football as long as they can walk steadily and keep the ball at their feet," said Zhu, as a coach armed with a whistle goes through ball drills at Kangcheng Kindergarten.

"It's really important to lay the foundation for them at an early age."—AFP ■



China has introduced football-focused kindergartens in a bid to produce more players. **PHOTO: AFP**