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Monday, 15 July 2019

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects Biluchaung Hydropower Plant 2 in Kayah State



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the control room at Biluchaung Hydropower Plant 2 in Kayah State yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

VICE President U Henry Van Thio visited the Biluchaung Hydropower Plant 2 in Kayah State yesterday, and inspected the operations of generators and turbines, the power transmission infrastructure, the control room, Switch Yard, and the waterfall at the plant.

First, the Vice President viewed documentary photos on the overhaul of generators in the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Then, he and his entourage viewed a documentary video on the construction of Biluchaung hydropower plants 1, 2, and 3, renovations and information about them.

Later, the Vice President viewed the spill control tank, pipelines, and electricity transmission lines.

The Biluchaung Hydropower Plant 2 was established in 1954. Equipped with three generators, the station started operations in 1960, producing 84 megawatts of power. In 1970, the station was upgraded with three 28MW generators, and the work was completed and power supply was started in 1974.

Women's domestic vocational training school (Loikaw)

After the hydropower plant,

the Vice President and officials headed to the Women's Vocational Training School of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs in Loikaw.

After hearing a report presented by the principal of the school, the Vice President said the state has opened 45 vocational training schools with five objectives nationwide to create jobs for ethnic people in border areas.

He urged the trainees to have determination, sympathy, unity, patience, and understanding while acquiring vocational

skills at the school, and asked them to commit to establishing their own ventures in the future.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio also asked the trainers to consider the trainees as relatives when teaching them.

Later, the Vice President took a look at the products, including clothes and foodstuff, produced by the trainees.

The Women's Vocational School (Loikaw) was inaugurated in 1994, and offers courses on sewing, Kayah traditional weaving, and running machines to turn sheep wool into clothes.

More than 100 trainees have

been enrolled at the school in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

After the vocational school, the Vice President visited the Loikaw People's Hospital and inspected patient wards, the X-ray room, and laboratory, and donated cash to the hospital.

Meeting with local authorities, MPs

Afterwards, Vice President U Henry Van Thio held a meeting with the Kayah State cabinet, MPs, and officials working at the state, district, and township levels.

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Union Minister inspects preparation for broadcasting Hluttaw meetings live

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint inspected the preparation for broadcasting Hluttaw meetings live through Hluttaw channels at the Pyidaungsu, Pyithu, and Amyotha Hluttaws yesterday.

The Union Minister along with Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and officials arrived at the broadcast control room at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw at 2 p.m.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, U Myo Myint Maung, and officials from MRTV reported on the

preparation for shooting and live broadcasts, installation of devices, systems in use, networks, and backup systems.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and his entourage inspected the broadcasting control rooms, and the Information and Communications Technology section at the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws. They also inspected the media corner for local and foreign journalists at the Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA (Translated by Alphonsus)



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and officials inspect the broadcast control room at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Ohn Maung, the Ambassador of France, and attendees take the documentary photo at the ceremony for National Day of France in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

National Day of France celebrated in Yangon

A celebration to mark the National Day of France or Bastille Day was held at the Novotel Yangon Max in Yangon yesterday, with Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung and wife in attendance.

The event began with the national anthems of Myanmar and France.

Afterwards, Ambassador of France to Myanmar, Mr Christian Lechervy, and Union Minister U Ohn Maung extended greetings.

The Union Minister and wife, the Ambassador of France and wife, and attendees then had commemorative photos taken.

The Ambassador of France and wife then hosted the guests a dinner.

Also present at the event were Ambassadors and chargé d'affaires of foreign embassies in Yangon, representatives of UN agencies and invited guests.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Correction

Please read "Aid given to verified Myanmar nationals in Kayin State" in the headline and body of the story titled "Aid given to verified Myanmar nationals from Thailand" on page-2, 14 July Issue of the *Global New Light of Myanmar*.—GNLM

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Pyithu Hluttaw committees meet with Asian Development Bank delegation

PYITHU Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U Khin Maung Win, Banking and Financial Development Committee head Daw Khin San Hlaing, and Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee Chairman U Tin Htwe received Asian Development Bank-ADB delegation yesterday at the Hluttaw Building (I-2) in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the Bankruptcy Bill.

Also present the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin and members, International Relations Committee Secretary U

Bo Bo Oo, Banking and Financial Development Committee Secretary U Tin Tun Naing, Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee Secretary U Hla Than, and members of Citizen's Fundamental Rights Committee.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U Khin Maung Win and officials hold talks with Asian Development Bank-ADB delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Henry Van Thio meets with Kayah State cabinet, MPs, and officials working at the state, district, and township levels yesterday in Kayah State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects Biluchaung Hydropower ...

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Speaking at the meeting, the Vice President explained the purpose of his visit to Kayah State saying, he came to the state to fulfil the requirements for tourism and development of the state.

He quoted weather experts and stressed the need to use water effectively as the inflow of water into dams is expected to be lower because Myanmar is expected to see a short monsoon period this year.

He asked the authorities to raise awareness about water management among departmental officials and the people.

Boat Services from Moebayae Dam to Inle Lake in Shan State

The Vice President expressed his delight upon seeing the boat services operating from the sluice gates of the Moebayae Dam in Loikaw to Inle Lake in

Shan State, referring to them as “a new trip for development of tourism”.

The country has seen a high volume of rain in a short period due to the changing rainfall pattern, he said.

He urged the authorities to consider all possible ways to strengthen dams and sluice gates as flash floods are expected this season.

Prospects for development of tourism

The Vice President said he has noticed that community-based tourism at the Panpat Village-tract has increased manifold compared to his first trip. Kayah State has good prospects for development of tourism, he added.

Residents are enjoying the fruits of development such as upgraded roads, and access to electricity and drinking water, due to the joint efforts of the State and civil service organizations, said



Vice President U Henry Van Thio observes the products produced by the trainees of the Women's Vocational School in Loikaw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

the Vice President.

He pledged to open the Mae-sae Border Trade Camp as part of efforts for promoting tourism with Thailand.

At the meeting, Chief Minis-

ter of Kayah State U L Phaung Sho reported on the development tasks and attendees reported on farmland confiscation issues.

Kayah State Government answered the questions and the

Vice President attended to the needs. The Vice President left Loikaw in a motorcades and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw in evening.— MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Myanmar Muslim Business Entrepreneurs' Association holds Eid Festival Dinner Party



Eid Festival Dinner Party being held at the Strand Hotel in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Muslim Business Entrepreneurs' Association held Eid Festival Dinner Party yesterday at the Strand Hotel in Yangon.

Firstly, Ambassador (Retd) Dr Hla Maung, the Patron of Myanmar Muslim Business Entrepreneurs' Association, extended greetings.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko made a remark.

Ambassador of Turkey and Ambassador of Malaysia to Myanmar, chargé d'affair of the United States Embassy, and Chairman of Myanmar Inter-faith Dialogue Group U Thaung

Htike then delivered speeches.

Next, U Than Lwin, the Chairman of Myanmar Muslim Business Entrepreneurs' Association, gave words of thanks, and hosted the guests a dinner.

With the aim of building interfaith friendship and unity, the Myanmar Muslim Business Entrepreneurs' Association organized the ninth gathering of Eid Festival Dinner Party. The purpose of holding the event is to provide help in building interfaith friendship and unity in Myanmar, said retired Ambassador Dr Hla Maung. — MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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Two Loikaw children develop mild case of H1N1

TWO people have contracted the H1N1 seasonal flu in Loi-kaw, according to the state's Medical Services and Health Department.

Speaking at the department meeting hall, Department Head Dr Htay Lwin explained of the discovery at Loikaw General Hospital. He said the seasonal influenza occurs in the rainy and winter seasons and there have been 244 people across Myanmar who have caught the virus as of 13 July 2019. He said 43 people with the virus have died with the highest death rate from Yangon Region at 35, followed by 3 in Ayeyawady Region, 2 each in Bago and Sagaing regions, and 1 in Northern Shan State.

The doctor said the two residents of Loikaw who have contracted the virus are both children, One of them is eight months old and lived in Pan Kan



Head of Medical Services and Health Department Dr Htay Lwin and Physician Dr Sein Sein explain to the media about H1N1 seasonal flu virus found in two children in Loikaw. **PHOTO: LOIKAW THAR**

village-tract and the other is a twelve-year-old from Nanataw Ward's Group No. 15.

He said the two children are now in stable condition but warned everyone to exercise

caution as the seasonal virus can be fatal if left unchecked. He said it is important to practice preventive measures and seek immediate medical treatment when one contracts the virus.

Next, Head Physician Dr Sein Sein explained the preventive measures against the H1N1 virus and answered to questions from the media. —Loikaw Thar (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

One rescued, four feared dead in Phakant jade mine collapse

FOUR people are missing after a suspended jade mine collapsed near Ba La Kha Village in Phakant Township, Kachin State on Saturday, according to Phakant Township police force.

One has been rescued, and a search for the missing -- Tan

Gun, 25, Tu Rain, 28, Tan Gun, 24, and Sangan Tan Gun, 32, -- is continuing. The collapsed jade mine which has been suspended at that time is run by the company Phyto Thiha.

Phakant Township police led by Police Captain Min Zaw,

and officials have inspected the collapsed site, and identified the rescued as Naw San, 32. Naw San got injured and is now under treatment at the Hpakant General Hospital.—Win Naing (Kachin Myay) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Four people are missing after the suspended jade mine collapsed near Ba La Kha Village in Phakant Township, Kachin State on Saturday. **PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)**

Chemical-free fruits, vegetables on sale in Mandalay on Sundays

CHEMICAL-free fruits and vegetables are being sold at organic and natural food stalls in Mandalay every Sunday, according to residents. Organic produce is available at food shops in front of the Glocalizers and Natural Food Center, between 84th x 31st streets in Chanayethazan Township, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays. Retailers sell chemical-free fruits and vegetables grown in Mandalay and nearby areas, foodstuff, juice, and natural coffee powder at a special price on that day, when the market is busy with local buyers.

To motivate people to make healthier lifestyle choices, the government is making concerted efforts to cultivate more organic crops, which are in high demand in the export market.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) (Translated by KTL)

Three bodies found in Mingaladon Township

Two male bodies and one female body about 20 years of ages were found on Hlawgar roadside, 2 furlongs to south of Hlawgar Toll gate in Mingaladon Township yesterday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, Myanmar Police Force investigated crime

scene and found one female body lying on its back and two male bodies on their stomach without external injuries. Subsequently, the bodies were sent Insein General Hospital for investigation. The initial findings suggested that there was no

food in their stomachs and that they died of suffocation. No fatal stabs were found on heads and bodies. Three food packets near the bodies were also found. As there is sand on the bodies, it is possible that they died elsewhere and were brought to the spot by

car to be disposed of, according to the police. It was assumed that they were being smuggled in air-tight car trunk and consequently died of suffocation. Case has been open at Htauk Kyant police station to find out the links.—MNA (Translated by Alphonsus)

Foreign participation in YSX likely to bump up share prices: official

WITH foreign investors being allowed to buy shares listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange, the prices of shares are likely to rise as foreign participation in the stock market increases, said U Thet Htun Oo, the executive senior manager of the YSX.

“Normally, foreign participation in a stock exchange shows market potential. But, foreign investors will invest carefully in local companies before taking any major investment decision. If there is potential in their investment, they will consider it. If they closely participate in the stock market, the prices of shares will go up,” said U Thet Htun Oo.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, recently issued a press statement announcing that foreigners are now allowed to invest in shares listed on the YSX.

“Under the Myanmar Companies Law, foreigners are allowed to buy up to 35 per cent of the stocks of local companies. The securities companies and the YSX will monitor them so that they do not exceed this limit. Foreigners will be allowed to start trading shares on the YSX in three months, as some steps involved in opening up the stock market to them are still under process,” said U Thet Htun Oo.

At present, shares of five



YSX has increased the stock trade matching time from two to four per day. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), and TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd. — are being traded on the stock exchange.

There are three main steps involved in allowing foreign participation in the stock market, said U Thet Htun Oo.

“First, the Securities and Exchange Commission will release regulations and guidelines for foreign participation in the YSX, in accordance with the Companies law. Second, the YSX and Securities Companies will

draw up procedures and systems for controlling the daily trades of foreigners abiding by the rules and regulations. Third, all YSX-listed companies will have to register again with the DICA office and extraordinary meetings will have to be conducted to get approval for foreigners holding stakes in their respective companies,” he said.

To encourage trading, the YSX has increased the stock trade matching time from two to four per day. In addition to this, it also held a promotional event to attract new investors and encourage existing investors to trade more actively.

Investors in the Yangon Stock Exchange mainly concentrate on dividends paid by the companies, rather than capital gains from trading stocks.

In January, 89,576 shares worth K526 million were traded on the exchange, and the trade value slid to K409 million and K396 million in February and March, respectively, as share prices decreased. In April, 102,682 shares worth K506 million were traded on the YSX. The value of shares traded was the highest this year in May at K1.4 billion, with 275,325 stocks traded. In the month of June, 233,994 shares worth around

K1.32 billion were traded on the exchange, according to the monthly report of the YSX.

In June, the shares of FMI closed at K11,500, MTSH at K3,400, MCB at K7,900, FPB at K24,000, and TMH at K3,050. While the volume of trade was lower in June compared to May, the price of shares registered an increase.

“The YSX was launched three years ago to improve the private business sector. We disseminate the rules and regulations of the stock exchange through stock investment seminars,” said U Thet Tun Oo.

The YSX has also sought the government’s support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and to help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge.

More than 2.5 million shares of three listed companies were traded on the YSX in 2016, and their value was estimated at K70 billion. In 2017, despite an increase in the stock trading volume to 2.6 million shares, the value of shares traded was only K22 billion. In 2018, 2.3 million shares of five companies, worth K11.5 billion, were traded on the exchange, according to the annual report of the YSX.—Zar Ni Maung/ Ko Htet (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Agro exports cross \$2.6 bln in current fiscal year

MYANMAR’S exports of agricultural products from 1 October to 5 July in the current fiscal year increased to over US\$2.6 billion from \$2.34 billion registered in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018FY, according to trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best along with the natural gas sector. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses, corn, and rubber. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. But, the export market tends to be volatile due to unsteady global demand.

“Myanmar is faced with slower market information ac-



Farmers unloading harvested corn from a vehicle before sales on market. PHOTO: KO HTEIN (NGATHAYAUK)

cess, which sometimes poses obstacles in trade. Moreover, the country has poor logistics and warehouse infrastructure, which negatively affects the quality of

fruits,” said an official from the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association.

U Ye Min Aung, the president

of the Myanmar Rice Federation, said that quality control and food safety are key to export promotion. Therefore, good agriculture practices need to be fostered and

developed, he said.

Additionally, the country requires a specific export plan for each agro product, as they are currently being exported to external markets based on supply and demand. A contract farming system, which includes the regional and state agricultural departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups is required in order to meet the production target, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

Agricultural exports have not seen a remarkable increase in terms of trade value as China has been clamping down on illegal goods since the second week of October, 2018.

The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with challenges involving high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions.—Ko Htet

(Translated by EMM)

Over 500 residents evacuated due to flooding in Katha

THE breach danger mark of Ayeyawady river in Katha township, Sagaing Region is 1,040 cm. As it surpassed its breach danger mark and rose to 1,044cm yesterday evening, people from the local blocks and villages in low lying areas were evacuated.

The Department of Disaster Management reported that evacuation was carried out as follows: 9 households from Ye Lae Kyun on July 12th, 3 households from block No (4/5) on July 13th, 9 households from Ngwe Ni, 7 households from Lat Pan Zin, 5 households from Way Swal, 49 households from block No (8) on

and 22 households from Ye Lae Kyun village on July 14th. There were total of 104 households and 553 people evacuated.

The flood affected people were relocated to relief camp at Maha Lay Htat Monastery in 3rd block, Katha Township. This evacuation was the team effort of Township General Administrative Department, Township Fire Service Department, Myanmar Police Force, Department of Disaster Management, Information and Public Relations Department and philanthropist teams.—Han Myo Kyaw (Katha)

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Firemen evacuate local people in flooded area in Katha, Sagaing Region yesterday. **PHOTO: HAN MYO KYAW (KATHA)**

Farmlands in Shinbweyan ravaged by heavy rains

HEAVY rains in Shinbweyan on 14 July caused floods that submerged 250 acres of farmland in Shinbweyan Town, 300 acres in Kalone village-tract, and 550 acres in Tayone village-tract. Local authorities and business-

es banded together to rescue villagers trapped while out in the field and offered them humanitarian assistance. —Naw Yaw Baw (Psychology)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



An official delivers aid to the local people in Shinbweyan Town yesterday. **PHOTO: NAW YAW BAW (PSYCHOLOGY)**

Surbung Airport in Falam sees over 50 percent complete

About 53 per cent of the Surbung Airport in Falam has been completed, according to the Aviation Department.

The project was started in 2016, and out of 6,000 ft of runway, 4,000 ft have been constructed.

“Upon completion of the Surbung Airport, the socio-economy of Chin State would be uplifted and rescue works in Chin State would be sped up,” said Director U Kyaw Soe of the Department of Civil Aviation.

Falam Airport is situated in the middle of Chin State and towns such as Falam, Haka, Thantlang and Tiddim can reach all airports in other states and regions thorough here.

Once this airport is completed it will become the aerial gateway of Chin State and enable visitors to come much more

quickly.

Falam Airport is situated on Surbung mountain range located 8.5 miles northwest of Falam Town and is at an altitude of 6,000 ft above sea level. The airport runway is 6,000 ft long and 100 ft wide and is a Flexible Pavement type runway.

The permitted load of the runway is 50,000 pounds and the airport is constructed with a budget of K28 billion. The first phase will be completed in 2021, by which planes will be able to begin landing. —Yamanya

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



The view of Surbung Airport in Falam, Chin State which is under construction. **PHOTO: YAMANYA**

Chinese garden peas menace domestic farmers, merchants

THE entry of imported garden peas from China has driven the price of domestic chickpeas

from K85,000 per three baskets to K80,000 as Mandalay factories swap out the local variety for the

Chinese imports.

The imported peas are also selling at K78,000 per bag, a much lower price than the local garden peas which sell for K90,000 per bag, and could thus afflict local farmers.

“There was some apprehension among the local farmers and merchants when they heard rumours of foreign imports, around 50,000 tonnes, entering the country last month,” said U Soe Win Myint, who operates a major market stall under his

name in Mandalay.

He continued that wholesale associations from the countryside petitioned to relevant departments not to allow the imports to come in. But the Chinese imports came in by the truckload at this time and factories substituting them for local chickpeas hurt the chickpea growers in addition to the local garden pea growers, said U Soe Win Myint.

He said that there is ample domestic supply to meet local demand and deems these im-

ports as necessary. He added that while it is unclear if the Union Government receives any tax from the imports, it is certain that they are menacing local growers and merchants.

Garden peas are grown in Mandalay, Sagaing regions and Kachin State to supply local demand. They are planted in the months of Thadingyut and Tazaungmone and reaped in the months of Tabodwe and Tabaung. —Aung Phyto Kyaw (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Pakistan to pay foreign firm \$6bln over mine closure, World Bank says

ISLAMABAD (Pakistan) — Pakistan will have to pay almost \$6 billion in damages to a foreign gold mining firm whose dig was shut down by the government in 2011, the World Bank said Sunday.

The consortium Tethyan Copper company — of which Canadian gold firm Barrick and Chile's Antofagasta Minerals control 37.5 per cent each — is the largest Foreign Direct Investment mining project in the country.

More than a decade ago the group found vast gold and cop-

per deposits at Reko Diq, in the turbulent southwestern Baluchistan province, and had planned a hugely lucrative open-pit mine.

But the project came to a standstill in 2011 after the local government refused to renew the consortium's lease, and in 2013 Pakistan's top court declared it invalid.

On Friday, the World Bank's international arbitration tribunal committee awarded \$5.84 billion in damages to Tethyan, according to a statement from the company, because of the government's decision to shut down

the mine.

Pakistan's attorney general, Anwar Mansoor Khan, said in a statement they had noted the decision "with disappointment".

The country's legal experts were "studying the Award and reflecting upon its financial and legal implications," the statement continued.

Ivan Arriagada, Antofagasta's Chief Executive Officer, said: "We are pleased to reach this milestone after more than seven years of arbitration."

"We remain willing to discuss the potential for a negoti-

ated settlement with Pakistan and will continue to protect our commercial interests and legal rights until the conclusion of this dispute," consortium chairman William Hayes added.

It comes weeks after prime minister Imran Khan secured a \$6 billion bailout from the IMF, amid devaluations of the rupee and soaring inflation.

Barrick and Antofagasta say the proposed plant could produce 600,000 tons of copper and 250,000 ounces of gold a year.

But the mine is in Chagai district, one of the most deprived

parts of Pakistan and rife with Taliban, sectarian and separatist violence.

The provincial government is also a sleeping partner in the Reko Diq project with a 25 per cent stake.

Mining in Baluchistan is dominated by small companies focused primarily on marble and granite, experts say, which waste up to 80 per cent of potential because of poor extraction techniques.

Experts have called for more transparent policies to allow mining to flourish. — AFP ■

Bitpoint Japan finds extra \$2.3 mln of cryptocurrency stolen abroad

TOKYO — Cryptocurrency exchange operator Bitpoint Japan Co. said Sunday it found an additional 250 million yen (\$2.3 million) worth of digital currencies stolen after losing around 3 billion yen in an earlier hack.

The Tokyo-based company said the latest hacking was discovered at overseas exchanges that use the trading system provided by Bitpoint Japan.

The cryptocurrency exchange operator said Friday it suspended all transactions and services after it was hacked for 3.5 billion yen. The company said Sunday the initial loss is now estimated at 3.02 billion



Bitpoint Japan finds extra \$2.3 mln of cryptocurrency stolen abroad. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

yen. Bitpoint Japan stores five cryptocurrencies — bitcoin, bitcoin cash, ethereum, litecoin and ripple — in its so-called hot wallet

system that is connected to the internet, according to a press release issued by its parent firm Remixpoint Inc. — Kyodo News ■

China's bank profits to hold steady in 2019: report

BEIJING — Profits of China's banking sector are expected to maintain steady this year, with faster growth in asset scale and ample liquidity, according to an industry report.

The 2018 net profit of commercial banks reached 1.83 trillion yuan (around 266.6 billion US dollars), up 4.7 per cent year on year, said the report released by the China Banking Association.

In 2018, the bank provision coverage ratio, a measure of funds set aside to cover bad loans, rose 4.89 percentage points to 186.31 per cent.

The banking sector will

face the challenges of intensified competition for capital sources and flexible pricing of deposit interest rates in 2019, pushing commercial banks to improve financial services and diversify debt instruments.

Meanwhile, commercial banks will see more room for direct financing development due to regulators' support in equity financing and bond market.

By the end of 2018, commercial banks' liabilities amounted to 193.49 trillion yuan with the growth rate down 1.7 percentage points compared with 2017, the report said. — Xinhua ■

Singapore economy shrinks in warning for global trade

SINGAPORE (Singapore) — Growth in export-reliant Singapore suffered a surprise sharp contraction in the second quarter, official data showed Friday, sending a stark warning that US-China trade tensions are hurting the global economy.

The city-state's gross domestic product shrank an annualised 3.4 per cent, sharply down from 3.8 per cent growth in the first three months of the year and well off forecasts of a slight expansion.

On a year-on-year basis, it expanded just 0.1 per cent, the trade ministry said, marking the slowest rate since the global financial crisis in 2009 and also well short of estimates.

With its heavy dependence on foreign trade, Singapore is often seen as an indicator of the global economy's health. The

dismal figures were the latest sign trade tensions between Washington and Beijing are having a major impact on export-reliant economies across the world.

"The ongoing US-China trade war... is negatively impacting Singapore's key manufacturing and export sectors," said Stephen Innes of Vanguard Markets. And Chua Hak Bin, an economist at Maybank Kim Eng Research in Singapore, added: "Singapore is the canary in the coal mine, being very open and sensitive to trade." The data "points to the risk of a deepening slowdown for the rest of Asia", he added.

The key manufacturing sector was hard hit, contracting 3.8 per cent year-on-year, compared with a 0.4 per cent decline in the previous quarter. — AFP ■



File photo shows a general view of Singapore's financial business district is seen in Singapore on 12 July

Heavy rain a reminder to take precautions against landslides, flash floods

WE have seen some landslides caused by heavy rainfall, some wooden bridges getting washed away by flash floods, and erosion over the past several days in upper Myanmar.

Luckily, the disasters were small and there were no casualties. Let us consider that a warning though.

Most areas in the hilly regions are prone to landslides during times of heavy and torrential rains.

The Meteorological and Hydrological Department has forecast that isolated heavy rainfall is expected in the hilly regions and states of Upper Sagaing Region, and Kachin and Chin states, with a 100-per-cent degree of certainty. It would be worth noting that monsoon is generally strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

People residing near rivers and in low-lying areas must remain on the alert for flash floods, and take precautionary measures.

Residents in those areas need to be on the alert as there is threat of landslides and other risks. Caution is needed in some other areas, too, as an active seasonal rain front has caused rain to spread to the regions and states.

Normally, landslides are mostly reported in Chin and Shan states, while floods wreak havoc and destroy paddy fields in lower Myanmar.

It is difficult to predict exactly when and where such disasters will hit, even though such torrential rain is seen in the hilly regions, which are vulnerable to landslides, every year.

Whether rains will cause landslides depends on the local terrain and soil conditions. The soil in hilly areas has a tendency to crumble easily when it becomes saturated, and the capital city is particularly vulnerable to landslides.

In hilly areas, people living on mountain slopes are at risk of landslides when torrential rains fall.

As part of preparedness, it is important to carry out landslide drills for ensuring an immediate emergency response, which includes creating a precise and strong system.

Local authorities must monitor how residents respond to alerts and take the necessary steps to improve it.

Meanwhile, the water in the Ayeyawady River has reached near the danger mark in Myitkyina, Bhamo, Shweku, and Katha, and the Chindwin River in Kamti and Homelin.

The water level in Chindwin River at Homalin is expected to reach the danger mark over the next three days.

The Sittaung River in Bago Region and Kaladan River in Rakhine State are also rising.

People residing near rivers and in low-lying areas must remain on the alert for flash floods, and take precautionary measures.

The readiness for effective action, administrative management, and preparedness are as important as dealing with the aftermath of a disaster.

Change in electricity bill payments, and their view

The State has decreased its subsidy and everyone would accept it if it is explained properly. Which is why I said earlier to raise the price but not cut the power.

General Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe

By Shin Min

Continued from Yesterday
U Ko Ko (Industrial College):
Dr Aung Tun Thet, could you further elaborate your opinion on this matter?

Dr Aung Tun Thet: The price of something depends on supply and demand. Our country is developing and the demand for electricity is increasing along with it. People who've never had electricity before are beginning to use it.

Naturally, supply has to follow the increase in demand otherwise the price will be unstable. Successive government generations have resolved the demand and supply issue with subsidies. It's not just our country, other developing countries have subsidy rates too.

If everyone is just focusing their attention on the increase in price then it will be difficult in the long run. We must consider if the electric utility is public property or accountable to individual consumers.

It is considered public property in the past and the State subsidized it. No one dared to lower it from fear of political criticism. But now, they are reducing the subsidy and I think that's a very bold management choice.

There is a need to carefully explain why they are doing this and what benefits it will bring to the consumers. Everyone has their own self-interest. We discussed earlier how it's fine to increase the electricity bill as long as there will be no more power cuts.

In reality, the electric bill wasn't increased, the subsidy was decreased. They need to explain this clearly to the public.

There's another thing that's never mentioned, which I don't think will be accepted enthusiastically. Just as there is a responsible business there is responsible consumption. The consumer needs to act responsibly.

Some houses have air-con in every room operating 24/7, and it's the same thing in offices. Why? Because of the subsidy. In a way, this action is like increasing your discipline. People will criticize if it's said like that. They'll say it's approving with both eyes closed



Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing



Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet



Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe



Htet Htet Tun

but this isn't about showing approval. This is the reality of the current situation.

But we can't hear the voices of the people who have no electricity. The people speaking of protest have full lights at home and ample access to electricity. And it's because their subsidy has been decreased.

If the authorities can properly explain things then the people will at least understand why this is being done, which I believe is also the aim of the event we are attending right now.

U Ko Ko: Sayama, you look like you have something to discuss after the Deputy Minister's explanation. Could you share that with us?

Daw Khine Khine Nwe: I accept what the Deputy Minister said. The State has decreased its subsidy and everyone would accept it if it is explained properly. Which is why I said earlier to raise the price but not cut the power.

It will add to the cost of the consumer but if electric cuts continue after the price hike then diesel consumption will skyrocket. Businesses will have to spend 30 to 40 per cent more.

We are also using more machinery and computers so I'd like to request you to handle the voltage stability. The price will have to go up since the State has subsidized a lot, but how will you help us lower our costs?

Without voltage stability, our computerized machines would get damaged and frankly, there aren't enough technicians here to deal with the new technology.

Hence, we have to order them from abroad and that increases our costs.

Sometimes, we may have to call a foreign expert and that slows production, takes up more time and adds to our costs. That's why the State can increase the electric bill but how will it help to keep our other costs in check. If they can help prevent us from using diesel then I'm more than welcome to the idea.

duct a preliminary analysis when we decided to change the electric meter rates. We constructed a database detailing how many units each individual meter across the country consumes per month.

Then we analyzed the size of the working class demographic and how much electricity is being consumed. From these results, we had our first category of people who consume less than 30 units a month. This category houses

For the homes that can afford a lot of electric equipment and use a lot of electricity, we had to raise the rates for them a bit higher.

As an example, the textile industry requires a lot of human resources. We use machines that are one horsepower and they are very simple. But other businesses that use more power-consuming machinery will have to cover their costs through their products. It's worrying for the consumers.

One million people are in the household category and four million people receive electricity in the entire country. The one million category uses less than 30 units.

U Ko Ko: 25 per cent consuming only 30 units really is a low number. How did you gather that data? There are cities that receive electricity around the clock while others only get half a day. Do you think there are more people receiving only part time? Part-timers would consume less since they receive less time. Could you tell us how you came to the conclusion that

Deputy Minister: We had to con-

25 per cent of the people use only 30 units?

Deputy Minister: We only collected data from the areas that received 24-hour electric supply in the years 2017-2018. We didn't include the households that received limited power through diesel generators.

So, we based our findings on how much 24-hour electricity receivers use each month. That's why out of the 4 million who use under 30 units, only one million consume less than 30 units. We decided to bill them with the current rate at K35 so that the 25 per cent who already have access to electricity won't incur losses.

When we collected data nationwide, we searched for which townships and areas consumed less than 30 units. We found out there were a lot of households that use this amount in Hlithaya, Sanchaung, Kyimyindine and Hlegu in the Yangon Region.

Hence, we thought of a fair general concept for the entire country. To answer your question, there are many categories because if we continue the current K35 rate to protect low-income families then the subsidy amount will continue to be high.

If we want to reduce the subsidy then we need to amend the electric rates for some consumers. If we immediately charge them K80, K90 or K100 then it will be too big a change.

That's why we have the second group of users under 50 units. There are 360,000 households in that group and 9 per cent of people who already have electric ac-

cess are in it. We increased the base price by K15 so now it costs K50 per unit for them. So, that family will have to pay K300 more for 20 units than before.

Then there are 440,000 households that consume between 51 to 75 units. They make up about 11 percent. They will have to pay K1,175 more on average after the price changes.

There are 400,000 households that consume from 76 to 100 units, making up 10 percent, and so on and so forth. This is why there are many categories. For the homes that can afford a lot of electric equipment and use a lot of electricity, we had to raise the rates for them a bit higher.

Of course, we also had to factor in if so many categories would complicate calculating electric rates. We had to design computer programs for this and we will distribute them to all our offices.

However, we're also designing handy graphs for our rural offices that don't have computer systems. The logarithm will look at the rate on one side and the cost on the other. We didn't want to put extra work on our accountants.

Another method is a very easy and instantaneous formula that can be worked out with a calculator. We will hang these up in offices for the general public. We have considered how to reduce complications among the staff, avoid miscalculations and ensure there are no losses among the public.

Translated by Pen Dali

To be continued

Announcement on road closure on Martyrs' Day

Some Yangon roads will be closed on 19 July on account of the 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township from 4 a.m. till the completion of the ceremony.

While roads will remain closed, bypass routes will be kept open for vehicles passing through West Shwegondine Road to the Link Junction, Dhammazed Road and Inya Road junction, Dhammazed Road and U Wisara Junction, West Shwegondaing Road and U Wisara Junction.

Arzarni Road, and the eastern, western, and southern archways of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Arzarni Street, and the northern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwaysaykan Road) will also remain closed.

The Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

Announcement on closure of Bogoyoke Aung San Museum Road on Martyrs' Day

For the convenience of visitors headed to the Bogoyoke Aung San Museum on Martyrs' Day (19 July), the Bogoyoke Aung San Museum Road will be closed from 5 a.m. until the museum's closing time. Commuters are advised to use other routes while the road is temporarily closed.

Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

'Notice for visitors to Bogoyoke Aung San Museum'

You are respectfully requested not to bring the following items into the museum.

Mobile Phones and		Flower bouquet, flower wreaths and flower baskets	
Various kinds of Flags		Vinyls	
Bags, Slimbags, Wallets Etc...		Bottles and Cans	
Cameras		PVC and Steel pipes used as poles for Flags	
Matches/Matchboxes			

Visitors to the Bogoyoke Aung San Museum are requested not to bring drones or fly them.



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientists work on the orbiter vehicle of 'Chandrayaan-2', India's first moon lander and rover mission planned and developed by the ISRO, in Bangalore. **PHOTO: AFP**

India's space organization to launch moon mission

NEW DELHI — The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said on Sunday that it was all set to launch second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2.

The heavy-lift rocket GSLV-Mark-3 carrying Chandrayaan-2 will be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, off the Bay of Bengal coast in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, at 2:51 a.m. local time on Monday.

"The launch countdown of GSLV MkIII-M1/Chandrayaan-2 commenced today at 6:51 a.m. (local time). The launch is

scheduled at 2:51 a.m. (local time) on July 15 (Monday)," ISRO said. "UH25 (fuel) filling of liquid core stage (L110) of GSLV MkIII-M1 completed. Propellant filling of liquid core stage (L110) of GSLV MkIII-M1 completed."

Officials said the powerful 3.85-ton rocket will put Chandrayaan-2 in a highly elliptical orbit around the earth, following which its orbit will be raised through a series of maneuvers by remote by the ISRO scientists. Eventually, it will be taken out of the earth's orbit and

made to reach the sphere of influence of the moon.

Officials said the entire mission has a life of one year.

According to the state-run broadcaster All India Radio, President Ram Nath Kovind is scheduled to witness the launch from Sriharikota.

Reports said if India succeeds in this endeavour, it will become the fourth country to soft-land spacecraft on the lunar surface after the United States, Russia and China. Israel tried earlier this year but failed.—Xinhua ■

Flyboard takes inventor above Champs-Elysees

PARIS — A French inventor and entrepreneur on Sunday soared above the Champs-Elysees on a turbine engine-powered flyboard in front of President Emmanuel Macron and other EU leaders.

Former jet-skiing champion Franky Zapata, grasping a rifle in a sign of the possible military uses of his device, took to the air in a futuristic showpiece of the annual Bastille Day parade, an AFP reporter said.

French Armed Forces Minister Florence Parly told France Inter radio ahead of the parade that the flyboard "can allow tests for different kinds of uses, for example as a flying logistical

platform or, indeed, as an assault platform."

Zapata, who first developed his device flying above water, says that the flyboard has the power to take off and reach speeds up to 190 kilometers an hour (118 mph) and run for 10 minutes.

He is now eyeing a crossing of the English Channel which, for the first time, will require a refueling in mid-flight.

Zapata aims to make the crossing on 25 July, 110 years to the day after pioneering aviator Louis Bleriot made the first airplane flight across the Channel.—AFP ■



Zapata CEO Franky Zapata flies a jet-powered hoverboard or "Flyboard" prior to the Bastille Day military parade down the Champs-Elysees avenue in Paris on 14 July 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

NASA engineers install legs, wheels on Mars 2020 rover

LOS ANGELES — NASA engineers have installed the legs and wheels, known as the mobility suspension, on the Mars 2020 rover recently, according to a latest release of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

More than a dozen "bunny suit"-clad engineers integrated the rover's legs and wheels on 13 June in the clean room of the Spacecraft Assembly Facility at JPL, marking another milestone in the rover's building.

Adding to the complexity of the engineering team's integration effort was the "rocker-bogie" suspension system, which keeps the rover body balanced, enabling it to "rock" up or down, depend-

ing on the various positions of the six wheels, according to JPL.

Measuring 52.5 centimeters in diameter and machined with traction-providing cleats, or grousers, the current wheels are engineering models that will be replaced with flight models next year, said JPL.

Every wheel has its own motor. The two front and two rear wheels also have individual steering motors that enable the vehicle to turn a full 360 degrees in place.

Mars 2020 will launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida in July 2020. It is scheduled to land at Jezero Crater on 18 February, 2021.—Xinhua ■

Japan firms to offer telework to ease traffic jams during 2020 Games

TOKYO — Japanese companies are stepping up efforts to reduce traffic congestion during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, with some planning to offer telework and others reducing logistic operations.

More than 50,000 employees of Fujitsu Ltd.'s group companies and 34,000 workers of NEC Corp. will take part in the telework trial program led by the government and the organizing committee of the Tokyo Games.

The two companies are among 3,000 entities involving 600,000 people nationwide expected to join the program to be conducted between 22 July and 6 September, roughly a year before the start of the Olympics on 24 July next year. The participants nearly doubled from 1,682 entities and 300,000 people involved in the program last year.

Toyota Motor Corp. plans to allow 1,600 of its Tokyo-based employees to work from home

during the Olympics to avert heavy traffic, while office equipment maker Ricoh Co. will close its Tokyo headquarters office to save 2,000 of its staffers from traveling to work. Eight million people commute in the Tokyo metropolitan area per day, and the Olympic events will draw an additional

650,000 spectators and tourists to the area on peak days during the 2020 Summer Olympics between 24 July and 9 August, followed by the Paralympics from 25 August to 6 September, according to an estimate by Azuma Taguchi, a professor at Chuo University.—Kyodo News ■



A poster at a subway station in Tokyo promoting telework during late July through early September when the Japanese capital hosts the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

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Macron showcases Europe military prowess at Paris parade

PARIS—President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday sought to showcase European military cooperation in France's annual Bastille Day parade at a time of growing tensions between Europe and the United States.

Key EU leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, joined Macron in Paris to watch the parade down the Champs-Élysées that commemorates the July 14, 1789, storming of the Bastille fortress in Paris during the French Revolution. Some 4,300 members of the armed forces, including regiments from other European armies, marched down the avenue's famed cobblestones in a tradition that dates back to the aftermath of World War I.

Army dogs festooned with medals, members of France's celebrated Foreign Legion and

mounted cavalry in glittering uniforms brandishing ceremonial sabres all paraded in front of the high-ranking guests.

Meanwhile, French inventor and entrepreneur Franky Zapata showed off his futuristic flyboard, soaring above the Champs-Élysées and the assembled leaders.

"The army is transforming: it is modernising for our soldiers, our sovereignty and our independence," Macron told France 2 television in brief remarks. Standing in an open-top command car alongside France's chief of staff General Francois Lecointre, Macron was met with some jeers and whistles from supporters of the "yellow vest" movement who have staged weekly protests against the government since last fall.

Two prominent members of the movement, Jerome Rodrigues and Maxime Nicolle, were



French President Emmanuel Macron surveys the troops with next to French Armies Chief Staff General Francois Lecointre. PHOTO: AFP

both detained by the police, sources told AFP.

'Europe never so important'

Closer European defence cooperation has been one of Macron's key foreign policy aims and the president shows no sign of wavering despite growing political turbulence in Germany and Britain's looming exit from the European Union.

At the 2017 parade, Macron's guest of honour was the newly

inaugurated President Donald Trump as the young French leader sought to take the initiative in forming a bond with his US counterpart.

But since then ties between Trump and Macron have soured over the US pullout from the Paris climate accord and the Iran nuclear deal, as well as France's new law for a tax on digital giants, mostly US companies.

"President Trump has been an excellent ambassador for a

Europe of defence," Armed Forces Minister Florence Parly told the Parisien newspaper Sunday, pointing to "questions, even thinly veiled threats he made towards Europe or on the durability of American commitment".

Macron, who pushed the idea of the European Intervention Initiative (EI2) to undertake missions outside of existing structures like NATO, insisted on the importance of European defence cooperation. —AFP ■

EU urges Moscow to continue to respect nuclear missile treaty despite Putin pullout



EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini urged Russia to address the serious concerns surrounding its new ground-based missile system. PHOTO: AFP

BRUSSELS—The European Union on Sunday (July 14) urged Russia to ensure continued respect of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, after Moscow suspended its participation in the agreement.

"We are deeply concerned over developments with regard to the INF Treaty, which could end on Aug 2, 2019," EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said in a statement.

"The upcoming days represent the last opportunity for

dialogue and taking the necessary measures to preserve this important component of European security architecture," Ms Mogherini added.

Russia and the United States have both suspended their participation in the Cold War-era treaty, which bans a whole class of nuclear-capable missiles. Each accuses the other of having violated the accord.

On July 3, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law a Bill formalising its

suspension.

Washington meanwhile says it will quit the deal for good on Aug 2 unless Russia destroys a controversial new missile system it says breaches the accord.

Ms Mogherini said the EU strongly urged Russia "to effectively address the serious concerns repeatedly expressed" about the ground-based missile system 9M729.

Russia should take "substantial and transparent actions" to ensure compliance with the treaty, she added in the statement.

The INF treaty was signed in 1987, towards the end of the Cold War, between US president Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. It banned ground-launched missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometres.

It is considered a cornerstone of the global arms control architecture and its looming demise has triggered fears for the future of the New START treaty between Russia and the United States, which caps nuclear warhead numbers. —AFP ■

Merkel urges Germans to stand up to right-wing extremists

BERLIN—German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday that Germans must stand up to right-wing extremists and honor the failed assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler 75 years ago.

On July 20, 1944, a bomb in a suitcase exploded in Hitler's office, but the Nazi leader survived the attack with only mild injuries. The plot's orchestrator, German army colonel Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg, and some 200 co-conspirators were executed. In her weekly video podcast, Merkel paid tribute to those who opposed Hitler's rule, saying they followed their conscience and thereby shaped a part of Germany's history that otherwise would have been solely defined by the darkness of National Socialism. Merkel said Germany owes them a debt of gratitude, noting that the country's post-war Basic Law may not have come into existence without such actions.

The chancellor mentioned the murder last month of German



German Chancellor Angela Merkel. PHOTO: AFP

politician Walter Luebecke, who was believed killed with political motivation by those with links to neo-Nazi extremism. Merkel said his killing showed how important it is to support those who assume political responsibility, and it requires a clear response from everyone in the society. The chancellor invited all Germans "to do their part in our society to ensure that democracy is strong, that civil society is strong and that right-wing extremism has no chance." The Germany government will hold a ceremony to commemorate the failed assassination attempt on July 20 and Merkel will lay a wreath for those who resisted Nazi's rule. —Xinhua ■

Armed man dead after attacking US immigration jail



There had been protests outside the Tacoma facility immigration in 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

TACOMA—An armed man who attacked a US immigration detention facility with “incendiary devices” has been shot dead after a confrontation with police in the northwestern city of Tacoma, authorities said.

Officers arrived at the Northwest Detention Center early Saturday after a report the man—armed

with a rifle—had set a car on fire and had attempted to ignite a large propane tank, the city police department said in a statement.

The man, who was carrying flares and a satchel bag in addition to his weapon, died of gunshot wounds after officers arrived on the scene, police added. The assailant was identified by

police as 69-year-old Willem Van Spronsen. He had previously been convicted of obstructing a police officer after an altercation during a protest outside the facility last year, according to local media reports. None of the officers involved in the shooting was injured. All four men were placed on administrative leave in line

with regular department policy, police said.

Immigration has been the subject of a divisive political battle in the US, which has struggled for more than a year with a migration crisis on its southern border as thousands of people travel to the US each month. Demonstrators across dozens of US cities protested against nationwide raids planned for Sunday that President Donald Trump has promised would lead to the mass expulsion of undocumented immigrants.

GEO Group, which operates the Tacoma center on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, said reports of overcrowding and the detention of unaccompanied minors at other immigration centers had endangered its staff. —AFP ■

Bangladesh's former ruler Ershad dies at 89

DHAKA—Hussain Mohammad Ershad, the former military chief who ruled Bangladesh from 1982 to 1990 after a coup, died in the capital Dhaka on Sunday after a prolonged illness, according to the Bangladesh Army's Inter Service Public Relations Directorate. He was 89.

The chairman of the Jatiya Party and the leader of the opposition in parliament was hospitalized late last month and later reportedly put on life support.

In 1982, the then army chief of staff came to power in a bloodless coup, later becoming the country's president. Ershad resigned in 1990 following a sustained campaign by opposition parties to oust him.—Kyodo ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (644 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (644 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Dated 15th July 2019

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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.

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AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0174-504W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0174-504W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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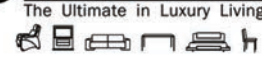
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I'VE been to Shwebo frequently for many times and many reasons. But I never went around Shwebo to view the sites. This time I intentionally seek out places to visit in Shwebo and found that there were many places of interest.

Shwebo that had five names

When the word Shwebo is mentioned, everyone immediately link it with U Aung Zeya or Alaungpaya who founded the Konbaung Dynasty or the Third Myanmar Empire. The earlier two empires were the First Myanmar Empire founded by King Anawrahta and the Second Myanmar Empire founded by King Bayint Naung. In our history lessons we remembered Shwebo being called as Moksobo, Yadana Theinkha, Konbaung, Yangyi Aung and finally Shwebo. After U Aung Zeya became the first king of the Konbaung Dynasty, he turned his village Moksobo into royal capital or



72 hours in Shwebo

By **Thiha** (the Traveller)



Tomb of U Aung Zeya

Nay Pyi Taw in Myanmar Era (ME) 1115 or 1753 AD. After the reign of three kings the capital was moved to Sagaing and Shwebo remains in history as a town that was once the capital of the country. (Translators' note: Historical records said the capital was moved to Sagaing after King Alaungpaya passed away)

Going to Shwebo

Shwebo is a town in Sagaing Region 110 km north-west of Mandalay. There are direct bus services between Shwebo and Yangon. Some who want to make the journey at ease rent a saloon car in Mandalay avoiding a long ride on the direct bus. As there are a number of places to visit, I'd suggest a two night three day stay in Shwebo.

Shwebo Palace and palace ground

Shwebo Palace and palace ground is a must for visitors to go.

Although it was rebuilt, it was not rebuilt completely like Mandalay Palace. Only some important portions were reconstructed but it was enough to imagine how the original palace would have looked during its golden time. Another important place in the palace ground is near the entrance gate. It is stone pillars surround a tomb where U Aung Zeya was buried. Some say he was buried near Kin Village in Mon State Bilin Township but I'll not take side on which one was the actual burial place. The palace and the palace ground lies to the west of Shwebo Myoma market. The palace was surrounded by a wall and a moat but the walls are now almost entirely gone. But some parts of the wide moat are still in existence. One such part is a section near Maw Daw Myin Thar Town Corner Pagoda.

Phaya Koe Hsu stone remain of Sayadaw

Another peculiar place

to visit is in the compound of Phaya Koe Hsu monastery. The monastery is situated beside the road to a cemetery outside Shwebo. In the monastery compound, kept in a glass coffin lay the body of Sayadaw U Nareindati that had turned into stone after passing away. A short biography of the Sayadaw was displayed beside it.

Land of pagoda

Myanmar being a land of pagoda, there's no shortage of pagoda to visit in Shwebo. Maw Daw Myin Thar Town Corner Pagoda was where pagoda festival was held annually for people far and near. East of this pagoda is Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda. It was one of the many pagodas built by King Alaungsithu of Bagan dynasty. A cave type Shwe Daza Pagoda is also another pagoda built by King Alaungsithu in Shwebo. Near Shwe Daza Pagoda is Chan Tha Gyi Chan Tha Ya twin pagodas and going on further is Zabu Simi Pagoda reportedly built by the parents of King Alaungpaya. These are some of the many pagodas in and near Shwebo.

World Heritage Pyu ancient city Halin

Another place to visit near Shwebo is a more older ancient Pyu city of Halin. The ancient Pyu city of Halin is 45 minutes by car from Shwebo and was about six miles away from Wetlet town. The ancient city was discovered in 1905 and a sys-

tematic mapping of the area was conducted in 1960-1962. According to carbon dating in 1979 the city was dated to AD 6 period at the latest. The ancient Pyu city Halin was designated as World Heritage. Part of the brick wall of the city could be seen.

Hot springs and small wells

There were many hot springs in the area. During winter time, local villagers as well as visitors can be seen enjoying a bath in some of these hot springs.



Small wells.

Small wells are one more unique thing in the area. These small wells are made up of five small holes that are only deep enough to put in an earthen pot. Once a pot of water was fetched from the well, the water in the well rise back to the same level before the water was drawn out from the well. Another uniqueness of the five small holes is the temperature differences of

the water in the holes. It was like having an electrical temperature control of piped water in a modern house. The only difference was that the water in these holes being heated naturally and one with the most appropriate temperature for a person could be chosen as a bathing hole for that person.

Victory Land Shwebo and Shwebo Thanaka

Shwebo is a Victory Land where U Aung Zeya repulsed the invaders and founded the Konbaung dynasty as King Alaungpaya. Some local visitors came to step on the Victory Land as U Aung Zeya did in order to achieve their own version of successes and glories. Some took away a handful of earth for keepsake. There were even private boarding schools for students sitting for the matriculation examination. Even though the teachers and students plays the main role on whether the students passes the examina-

tion, the fact of attempting to pass it while living and studying on Victory Land may have lent some moral support to both. As for me, I simply bought some Shwebo Thanaka that was one of the most famous Thanaka in the country, as a souvenir and gift for my friends back home.

Translated by Handytips





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Myanmar U-19 beat Singapore national team 5-0 in friendly match

THE Myanmar U-19 women's football team beat the Singapore women's national football team by five goals in a friendly match on 13 July at the artificial turf in Bahan Township, Yangon.

The friendly match was preparation for the Singapore team for the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) Championship 2019, which is scheduled to take place in Thailand from 15 to 27 August, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Myanmar dominated the

play from the kick-off, with Moe Moe Than, Swe Mar Aung, Lin Myint Moh, Thazin Aung, and San Thaw Thaw scoring the goals for the team.

The friendly match was organized by the Football Association of Singapore. Last year, Singapore national youth teams had come to Myanmar for friendly matches with Myanmar women's football teams.

This is the third time the Singapore women's national football team has made a friendly tour to Myanmar.

The trip has been funded

by the Football Association of Singapore, the MFF stated. The Myanmar U-19 women's team comprises 30 outstanding youth players, and is headed by head coach Daw Thet Thet Win.

The team has been training since 1 July and is preparing to take on Asian giants Japan, China, and South Korea in Group B of the Asian-level tourney — the AFC U-19 Women's Championship, which is scheduled to take place from 27 October to 9 November in Thailand. — Lynn Thit (Tgi)



The Myanmar U-19 players (green) celebrate their win after beating the Singapore national women's team by 5-0 in a friendly match. **PHOTO: MFF**



Zwekapin United's Aung Wunna Soe (green) tries to get the ball past Yangon United's Anderson West (white) during the national league match yesterday on Yangon United turf. **PHOTO: MNL**

Mg Mg Lwin goal lifts Yangon to 1-0 win against Zwekapin United

A late goal by Mg Mg Lwin helped Yangon United secure a victory over Zwekapin United in the Week 16 match of the Myanmar National League yesterday at the Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon.

In the early minutes, Yangon United relied on the 4-4-2 set formation, but their strategy did not work well, and Zwekapin United managed to keep the pressure on Yangon United from the start.

Yangon missed a goal chance at 31 minutes, when Kosuke delivered the ball towards Sylla, and Sylla sent a header towards the goal, but the ball hit the bar and bounced back.

Two minutes later, Sylla once again had a goal chance in the goal area, but Zwekapin defenders cleared the ball away.

The first half ended with no score. In the second half, Yangon United changed their tactics, and resorted to active play. The team landed their first and the only goal scored in the match at 60 minutes, when Yangon United was awarded a free kick and Mg Mg Lwin landed the ball directly into the net.

The goal raised the team's spirits, and Yangon United created more chances in later minutes of play.

Zwekapin United also tried to score, with strong attempts by former Yangon United players, including star player Kyi Lin.

But Yangon's defense ward off Zwekapin's attacks wisely, and the match ended 1-0 in favour of Yangon United. — Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Grassroots football festival to be held in Shwebo this week

A grassroots football festival and an MPT U-14 football tournament will be held in Shwebo this week, under the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation and the Myanmar National League, according to the tourney's organizers. The grassroots football festival will be held today, and the U-14 Football Tournament 2019 will be held from 16 to 24 July. The festival and tourney are aimed at encouraging the development of football for youths, officials stated.

As part of the grassroots football events, a two-day Grassroots Coaching Course began yesterday at the indoor stadium in Shwebo, according to the Myanmar National League. A total of 50 trainees, including 34 physique teachers from the Department of

Basic Education and 16 from the Sports and Physical Education Department and local football associations are attending the course for supervising the grassroots football festival in Shwebo.

The course includes theory and practical modules, and is being conducted by the in-charge of the MFF Grassroots Department and the Technical Department, U Bhone Nyunt Ko. In addition, Myanmar National League Sponsorship Project Director U Thike San Tun is conducting a session on 'Event, Sponsorship & Marketing'. An MFF MPT Grassroots Football Festival and MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2019 were kicked off at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on 3 July. — Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Hamilton wins record sixth British GP, extends F1 lead

SILVERSTONE (United Kingdom) — Lewis Hamilton made the most of a favourable safety car intervention on Sunday to claim a record sixth British Grand Prix victory at a packed Silverstone.

The defending five-time world champion clocking fastest lap on his final lap to finish 25 seconds clear of Mercedes team-mate and nearest title rival Valtteri Bottas after an action-packed contest. The Briton moved 39 points clear of the Finn behind in the title race, but Bottas was unlucky with the timing of the safety car which effectively gave Hamilton a free pit stop.

Charles Leclerc of Ferrari was third.

Pierre Gasly finished fourth ahead of his Red Bull team-mate Max Verstappen, whose race was compromised by a late collision when Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari drove into him, and Carlos Sainz of McLaren. It was Hamilton's seventh win in 10 races this year and the 80th win of his career. He had shared the British Grand Prix record of wins, on five, with fellow-Briton Jim Clark and Frenchman Alain Prost. Daniel Ricciardo was seventh for Renault ahead of Kimi Raikkonen of Alfa Romeo, Daniil Kvyat and his Toro Rosso team-mate Alex Albon.

"What a day," said Hamilton. "To all the crowd, thank-you so much for coming out." Hamilton,

who stopped on his slow-down lap to collect a British 'Union Jack' flag, added: "I love you Silverstone. I appreciate everything and the opportunity to be a part of this. 'I couldn't have done this without these guys or without my team.'"

A glum Bottas said: "Congrats to Lewis...It wasn't my day." A much happier Leclerc said: "It's probably the race I've enjoyed the most in my career."

The safety car was deployed when Antonio Giovinazzi spun into a gravel trap in his Alfa Romeo — gifting Hamilton a 'free' first, and only, pit stop. The luckless Bottas, on a two stop strategy, had already pitted before the incident. — AFP ■