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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 100, 10th Waning of Waso 1381 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Friday, 26 July 2019

State Counsellor congratulates new British PM Boris Johnson

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a congratulatory message to the Rt Hon Mr Boris Johnson on his election as the Leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.—MNA

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session holds fourth day meeting



Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: HTAN PHON**

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session held its fourth-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday. At the meeting asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a motion on fertilizers and pesticides tabled and the Hluttaw approves a bill.

Asterisk marked questions and answer

U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency first asked if there was a plan to relax a point in the 12 points designated for school buses and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied that there was no plan to do it.

U Win Win of Minbu constituency asked if there was a plan to dredge an area upstream of Mann Creek Bridge and to construct an embankment for river erosion heading toward Saku Town.

SEE PAGE-2

Residents near Bilin River alerted to possible flash floods

As of yesterday, the water level of Bilin River at Bilin, Mon State, has risen to about two feet below its danger mark, and it may reach its danger level over the next two days.

The people who live near the river banks and low lying area in Bilin have been warned to take precautions by the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

Meanwhile, the weather bureau forecast that isolated rainfall is expected over Mon State, with 100 per cent degree of certainty.

Others areas expected to be under the isolated heavyfalls are Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

Monsoon is strong to vigrous over the Bay of Bengal and moderate over the Andaman Sea.

The flood in Sagaing in upper Myanmar is receding and flood victims in some areas returned home, according to local authorities. —GNLM

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session holds fourth day meeting

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Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo answered that if the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation submit the matter to National Natural Disaster Management Committee in fiscal year 2020-2021 and the matter is to be conducted by Union fund it'll be conducted with the technical assistance of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

U Kyaw Shwe of Yanbye constituency on the other hand asked if there was a plan for Inland Water Transport to serve Dawrahta port in Yanbye and Honwa port in Kyauknimaw and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo answered that there is no plan to do such things yet.

On the question raised by U Than Nyunt of Pyu constituency on a plan to fulfill the requirements of farmers planting summer paddy in Pyu Township and to increase budget for irrigation water project, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that the matters will be conducted hundred percent depending upon increasing funding in fiscal year 2019-2020 and acquiring it.

U Kyaw Myint of Taikkyi constituency asked how the disagreement between farmers whose land were confiscated and used as fish ponds and fish production by fish breeders were being resolved. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw answered that the matter raised by 19 farmers were being reviewed by farmlands and other lands confiscation assessment committee. As for the other 3 farmers, the matter was not of farmland confiscation but a case of land dispute with fish breeders and will be handled by Yangon Region according to Freshwater Fisheries Law said the Deputy Minster.

U Tun Tun Naing of Kani constituency asked whether there was a plan for river water lifting project in Kani Township and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw answered that it will be conducted if there was allocation from State/Region fund and the route and place to conduct river water lifting will be reviewed.

Finally U Ohn Lwin of Nyaungdon constituency asked how difficulties faced in changing the name of a person or an organization on farm land operation certificate form 7 was handled. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that all levels of farmland management groups were changing the names and issuing form 7 and central farmland management group had instructed Nay Pyi Taw Council, State/Region farmland management groups to help toward sale, exchange, grant and lease farmlands according to 2012 Farmland Law.

Motion on fertilizers and pesticides

Next a motion urging the government to conduct training on proper usage of fertilizers and insecticide for safety of agriculture products, maintain the eco system and to prevent import of strong fertilizers and insecticides was tabled by U Myint Thein of Wetlet constituency and was supported by Dr Khin Maung Tint of Ayadaw constituency. As the Hluttaw decided to debate the matter Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

Hluttaw approves Myanmar Geoscience Council Bill

Afterwards Hluttaw approves the Myanmar Geoscience Council Bill submitted by Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Committee Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the bill will be handled according to Pyithu Hluttaw rule. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Amyotha Hluttaw

Fourth-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session held

THE fourth-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session was held at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning where a question and answer session was held and a bill tabled.

Question and Answer session

During the question and answer session U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency 3 and U Ye Htut of Sagaing Region constituency 5 raised questions on plan to build bridges in Chin State Thantlang Township and Sagaing Region, Yinmabin District, Salingyi Township and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that the bridges will be built after fiscal year 2020-2021 and fiscal year 2020-2021 respectively after the respective State and Region allocate budget for it.

Similarly U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8 asked a question on a plan to widen a road in Mon State Ye Township and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin answered that a budget will be requested in fiscal year 2020-2021 and depending upon available funding the road will be widened.

Questions raised by U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency 10 and U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6 on plan to officially recognize villages in Chin State Matupi Township and to create new town areas for Magway Region Minbu District Salin Township Salin Town were answered by Deputy Minister for Ministry of Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint in coordination with Chin State and Magway Region governments.

Word Change Bill

Following the question and answer session Deputy Minister for Ministry of Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint tabled Word Change Bill to the Hluttaw and Bill Committee member U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency 4 read and explained the committee report on the bill. Afterwards Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names. The fifth-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session is scheduled for 29 July 2019. —MNA



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung. **PHOTO: MNA**

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister Dr Than Myint receives Swiss Ambassador

UNION Minister for Commerce, Dr Than Myint received Swiss Ambassador Mr Tim Enderlin and party at Ministry of Commerce yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed promoting trade and investment between two countries, conducting training with technical help of Switzerland, scholarship and promoting travel between two countries. —MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Union Minister Dr Than Myint and a delegation led by Swiss Ambassador Mr. Tim Enderlin pose for a photo at the Ministry of Commerce. **PHOTO: MNA**

Correction

Please read "U San Win" instead of "U Than Win" in the second paragraph of the story titled "Pyidaungsu Hluttaw holds 4th day meeting of 13th regular session" in the 25th July Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. — Ed.

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Ministry of State Counsellor's Office celebrates 3rd anniversary with acts of merit

THE Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office commemorated their 3rd anniversary with a Waso robe and soon donation ceremony at the ministry building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The congregation led by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe received the Five Precepts from Pyinmana Maha Visuta Yama Zaygon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhajamaharatthaguru Dr Bhaddanta Kavithara and other Sayadaws.

Next, the Union Minister, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, directors-general and staff of the ministry presented Waso robes and offertories to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and congregation offered soon (day meal) to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. —MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and attendees receive the Five Precepts from Pyinmana Maha Visuta Yama Zaygon Monastery Sayadaw at the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Basic Education Dept discusses education reforms for current academic year



Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi addresses the coordination meeting for 2019-2020 academic year in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Department of Basic Education began the first day of their coordination meeting for 2019-2020 academic year at BEHS 6 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, the department's Director-General U Ko Lay Win and its deputy directors-general and officials, the deputy directors for education and planning of state/regional education offices, district education officials and others attended the meeting.

Speaking at the meeting, the Union Minister said they have successfully implemented the new KG curriculum during the 2016-2017 academic year, the new Grade 1 curriculum in the year after that, the new curriculum for Grade 2 in 2018-2019 academic year, and are implementing the new curricula for grades 3 and 6 this year. He said they will implement the new curricula for grades 4, 7 and 10 in the next academic year.

The Union Minister called for officials to carefully explain the changes to the curricula, examination models and completion certificates to the students, parents and general public.

He said the new curriculum incorporates 21st century methodologies that encourages student participation, cooperation, innovation and individual development through student-centred approaches.

Furthermore, the ministry has also distributed new teacher's manuals that explain the new methodologies and lesson plans for the teachers to follow through, said the Union Minister. He said they have also provided the necessary teaching aid for each grade. He said we must review the weaknesses and base changes on the strengths of the new curricula.

A survey by JICA (CREATE) showed that Grade 2 students preferred the new maths textbook over the old one, said the Union Minister. He said students who learned through the new textbooks also scored higher on their tests, as well as becoming more adept at solving logical questions.

The favoured new textbooks in descending order is Myanmar (25.9%), Art (25.8%), English (16.9%), Physical Education (8.1%) and Mathematics (8.0%), said the Union Minister.

He thanked JICA (CREATE), principals, teachers, parents, guardians and the general public for their cooperation on behalf of MoE. He remarked that private sector cooperation is also important for improving the quality of education.

The Union Minister urged attendees to discuss the difficulties present on the ground in detail and for teachers to enthusiastically learn and teach the currently implementing education plans.

Next, U Ko Lay Win and Deputy Director-General Dr Tin Maung Win explained the policies concerning the current education reforms and the ongoing tasks. The coordination meeting continues today. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



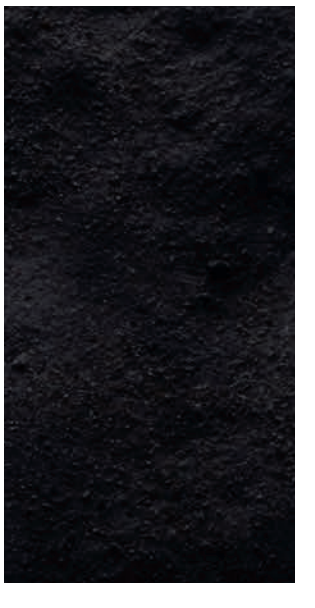
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Pyithu Hluttaw Dy Speaker receives HSF delegation

PYITHU HLUTTAW Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein received Mr Stefan Burkhardt, Department Head for South and Southeast Asia of the Hanns Seidel Foundation's Munich Office, in his office at the parliamentary building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they openly exchanged views on increasing HSF's support towards Myanmar's Hluttaws, enabling the public a better understanding of inner workings of Hluttaw through its beneficial programmes, providing technological support for Hluttaw representatives and staff of Hluttaw offices, and other Hluttaw affairs.

Present at the meeting were Daw Aye Aye Mu and U Tin Aung Cho, members of the Joint Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development, and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with Mr Stefan Burkhardt, Department Head for South and Southeast Asia of the Hanns Seidel Foundation. **PHOTO: MNA**

Constitutional Tribunal makes decisions on Submission No 1/2019, 2/2019

THE Constitutional Tribunal including Chairperson and all members made decisions on Submission No 1/2019 which was submitted by Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye and other 24 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and Submission No 2/2019 which was submitted by 25 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives including Dr Sai Sai Kyauk Sam at the Court room 1 of the Constitutional Tribunal Office, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives ICRC resident representative

UNION MINISTER of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received Mr Stephan Sakalian, ICRC resident representative for Myanmar at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed collaborative work of Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Rakhine State, assistance given to IDPs displaced by armed conflicts, humanitarian work in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states, work of ICRC through red cross activities, and collaboration with ASEAN. —MNA *(Translated by Alphonsus)*



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye shakes hands with ICRC resident representative for Myanmar Mr Stephan Sakalian yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun returns from ASEAN–China High level Media Forum

THE delegation led by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun came back yesterday after attending ASEAN-China High Level Media Forum held under the theme of "Connected for a Better Future" in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 23rd to 24th July.

The delegation was welcomed by officials of MOI. — MNA *(Translated by Alphonsus)*



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun arrives back from Jakarta after attending ASEAN-China High Level Media Forum. **PHOTO: MNA**

How to be prepared against floods

The following are suggestions for department officials, humanitarian organizations and the general public may follow to reduce losses incurred from floods and related dangers.

(1) Searching for source of floods and assessing possible solutions.
(2) Ensuring canals in wards, villages and townships have smooth waterflow.
(3) Digging out sand dunes that hamper flow of rivers.
(4) Building embankments along river banks.
(5) Repairing and maintaining levees.
(6) Planting trees to prevent soil erosion along river banks.
(7) Planting trees and plants to prevent top soil erosion.
(8) Storing necessary items for repairing dams and embankments in advance (e.g. sand bags, water pumps, shovels, spades, bamboo).
(9) Installing early warning systems and signals to notify flood warnings to residents in case water needs to be released from reservoirs and embankments from exceeding capacity.
(10) Preparing people living near dams and embankments from possible breaching and flooding through cooperation between relevant departments, organizations and local residents.
(11) Arranging for residents of annual flood-prone areas to relocate in time.
(12) Selecting emergency routes beforehand in regions prone to floods.
(13) Forming rescue teams and collecting adequate rescue equipment.
(14) Assembling regional military vessels and rowboats and distributing them equally.
(15) Distributing small boats, rafts, lifebuoys for families living near bodies of water and flood-stricken areas, especially life jackets where possible.
(16) Disseminating information on dangers of floods to wards, villages and schools and practicing role plays for better preparedness.
(17) Organizing early warning systems in townships, wards and villages.
(18) Ensuring the public is aware of emergency contacts.
(19) Having disaster response strategies in place.
(20) Having special response strategies for townships, wards and villages located near dams and embankments.

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Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win meets with Swiss Ambassador



Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win meets with Ambassador of Switzerland Mr Tim Enderlin in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win received Ambassador of Switzerland Mr Tim Enderlin at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed Switzerland's support to peace process in Myanmar, Rakhine State issues, giving humanitarian aid and training courses.—MNA *(Translated by TTN)*

Experts give talks on preservation of world heritage sites, Yangon's colonial buildings



Myanmar Tour Guide Association representative Daw Aye Nyein Thu who attended 2019 session of World Heritage Committee in Azerbaijan gives speech during the discussion in Yangon. **PHOTO: THAN SOE**

MYANMAR Tour Guides Association conducted a talks on conservation of the UNESCO named Bagan world heritage site and Yangon's colonial buildings, at Padonmar Restaurant in Yangon yesterday.

"On behalf of tour guides, I would like to say that I am immensely proud that Bagan has been included in World Heritage List. The effort to include Bagan in the list has been now a pride to the country. If a tourist asked if Bagan is in world heritage list, we answer that we are working on it. Now we have definite answer," said Chairman of Myanmar Tour Guide Association, U Aung Tun Oo.

Over 3 million tourists visit Myanmar yearly, and this year peak season, tour guides hope more will visit. This session of discussion is to find ways to preserve Bagan, in collaboration with Myanmar Tour Guide Association, as it is a nation heritage.

In the morning session, a representative of Myanmar Tour Guide Association, Daw Aye Nyein Thu, who attended 2019 session of World Heritage Committee in Azerbaijan, shared her experience.

International relationship officer of Department of Archaeology, discussed under the title of The Role of Tourism in Bagan World Heritage Site. She stressed that tour guides bear in mind to preserve Bagan.

In the afternoon session, Program officer of Yangon Heritage Trust, U Thurein Aung talked about colonial building and discussed art of preserving them under the title of Heritage Tourism in Myanmar.

Only if private organizations and locals cooperate with state there will be success in preservation ,and it is important to educated people on value of these building for effective preservation.

As tourism not only benefit tour guides and travel and tour companies but locals and the state, it is important to preserve heritage in the city and the world heritage site.

There are over 10,000 registered tour guides, and 2000 of them are based in Yangon. This session was held to add to tour guides' knowledge as to preserving Bagan and art of preserving heritage building in Yangon and to prepare for more tourists as Bagan has been designated World heritage site.—Than Htike *(Translated byAlphonsus)*

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Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs receives Bangladesh's Ambassador

U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at 2:30 pm on 24 July 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the discussion, they deliberated on the arrangements for the visit of high level delegation from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

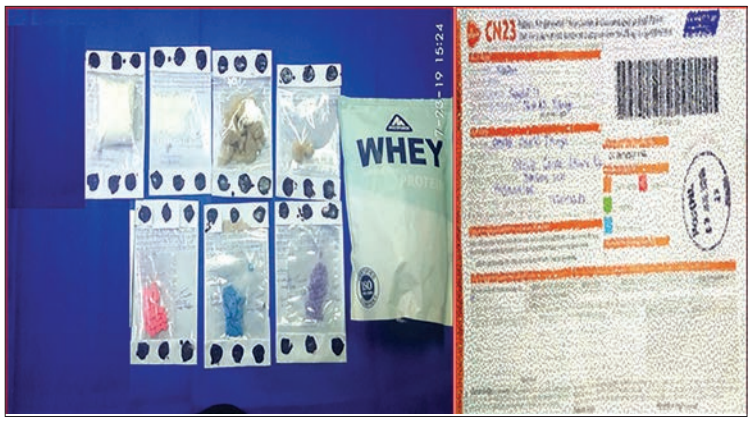
Permanent Secretary also mentioned that the Myanmar side has already provided Bangladesh with the village-wise list of verified displaced persons in seven batches for smooth repatriation. In order to accelerate the repatriation process, he reminded that Bangladesh should make returnees ready, family-wise and village wise, for repatriation from those verified list and that repatriation of the first batch of verified displaced persons to Myanmar should follow the bilateral agreements between the two countries. Furthermore, he reaffirmed the readiness of the Myanmar side to receive the verified displaced persons.— MNA

Illegal drugs smuggled through Yangon Post Office exposed

THE Yangon General Post Office in Kyauktada Township uncovered a parcel from the Netherlands containing 95g of ketamine, 40g of cocaine, and 96 ecstasy tablets yesterday.

The receiving address was labelled as Aung Thura, Orchid Condo in Ahlon Township. Staff of the post office informed the police when a man came to pick up the parcel bringing only a copy of the receiver's NRC card with him.

The man refused to open the parcel in front of staff and left the building. The post office reported the suspicious behaviour to the police, who confiscated the drugs, all worth K10 million. Police are continuing investigations into the case.—MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*



Illegal drugs confiscated at the Central Post Office in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

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

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City taxi registration, renewal deadline set for 30 September

By Nyein Nyein



Taxis run on street in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

THE deadline for city taxi registrations and renewals will be extended to 30 September, and actions will be taken against those who fail to register during this period, said U Hla Aung, Joint Secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority, at a press conference held on Wednesday.

According to the YRTA, over 5,000 taxis have yet to be registered or to have their registrations renewed. The transport authority announced the extension until 30 September through state-owned newspapers. Following the notification, 274 taxi were registered and 566 were renewed from 12 and 23 July, U Hla Aung continued.

City taxi registrations were begun in 2002 to bring transport services on par with Yangon's image as a commercial hub, and for regulating taxi services.

The YRTA was formed on 8 July, 2016 to improve transport facilities in Yangon for the convenience of the public. The authority is carrying out city taxi registrations.

In a bid to ensure discipline traffic regulations, the YRTA, through an announcement in state-owned newspapers, asked city taxis to initially register with the authority by 31 December, 2017.

However, the registration period was extended to 31 January, 2018. Some taxis tried to register on the last day, but their registration was incomplete, and they were allowed to complete the process by 6 April, 2018.

Those taxis which failed to register during the set period were notified of their licenses being revoked, according to the YRTA. At present, there are 66,673 registered city taxis in the Yangon Region, according to data from the YRTA. ■ *(Translated by EMM)*

5,000 acres of farmland aimed for modern farmland project in Shwebo District



Aerial view of farmland in Shwebo District, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: SOE WAI AUNG (KHINU)**

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are jointly carrying out the Agriculture Income Improvement project (AIIP) to boost agriculture incomes of residents in Shwebo District, Sagaing Region.

The 5,000 acres of farmland in Shwebo District are being used in the AIIP from the 2018-19 to 2024-25, according to Township Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department (IWUMD).

The 575 acres of land owned by 147 farmers near Latechin Village in Shwebo Township have been operating the modern farmland project since January 2019, and they are using irrigation water since 10 July, said U Tayzar Tun, Head of Township IWUMD.

Among the 5,000 acres, the remaining 4,425 acres will continue to be undertaken by the Working Committee, which included the chairman of the District Management Committee.

Targeted areas include 315.09 acres of Wetlet Township and 308.87 acres of Dabayin Township for 2019-20, 499.85 acres of KhinU Township, 417.37 acres of YeU Township and 485.71 acres of Taze Township for 2020-21, and 2411.19 acres of Shwebo Township for 2021-22, to be used in the AIIP project in Sagaing Region.— Soe Wai Aung (KhinU) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

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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.

Land compensation for New Yangon City Project being planned

By Nyein Nyein

A land compensation plan for New Yangon City Project is now being carried out, said U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister.

"Only after land compensation for the New Yangon City Project is carried out, can city mapping and other relocation plans proceed", he said.

AECOM group's urban master plan includes the creation of fundamental infrastructure, an economic development plan, environmental management plan, efficient transportation, and social and cultural heritage projects, said U Thein Wai, CEO of the New Yangon Development Company.

The master plan for New Yangon City aims to create a safe, smart, and livable city for up to 1.2 million Yangon residents. It is also expected to create 900,000 jobs by 2050, as per New Yangon City's Socio-Economic Study, conducted by McKinsey. ■ *(Translated by EMM)*

MRESA to host ARENA Convention & Exhibition 2019 in August

By Aye Yamone

MYANMAR Real Estate Service Association (MRESA) has agreed to host the ASEAN Real Estate Network Alliance (ARENA) Convention and Exhibition 2019, which includes eight ASEAN member countries.

ARENA Convention and Exhibition 2019 will be held at Novotel hotel, Yangon, on 23 and 24 August, it was announced on 24 July.

"ARENA Convention was first held in Thailand in 2016, then in Malaysia in 2017 and thirdly in Cambodia in 2018. This year, Myanmar will host the fourth ARENA Convention. This year's exhibition is expected to bring about changes in Myanmar's real estate sector, with over 400 entrepreneurs from eight ASEAN countries and 350 entrepreneurs from Myanmar in attendance. This exhibition is also expected to provide benefits in developing a strong real estate sector in the ASEAN economic zone through cooperation with property agencies, developers and construction contractors," said U Khin Maung Than, chairman of the Myanmar Real Estate Service Association.

ARENA was formed on 3 March, 2012, and stands as a regional grouping of eight National Real Estate Associations comprising the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Thailand, and Myanmar. The ARENA charter was ratified by the eight real estate chairmen of the respective national associations in Bangkok, Thailand in 2016.

There are over 20,000 members from eight member countries in ARENA.

"The Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia formed ARENA as founding members in March, 2012. This association has been implementing the AEC's objectives. We could say that this association is effectively cooperating to make the ASEAN economic zone a success, in respect to the real estate sector. So, we are still approaching Laos and Brunei, which are ASEAN member countries, for them to decide whether to join ARENA," said U Khin Maung Than.



Myanmar Real Estate Service Association (MRESA) holds press conference at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon.
PHOTO: SUPPLIED

ARENA is a regional group dedicated to helping its members in areas of networking, legislation, and improving marketing, training and cooperation. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Mandalay City hosts business forum on development of sugarcane market



Mandalay Region Government and businessmen hold meeting at the MRCCI in Mandalay.
PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

A COLLABORATION between the Mandalay Region government and businessmen resulted in a workshop being held on the long-term development of the sugarcane market, held on 25 July at Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI) in Chanmyaethazan Township, Mandalay Region.

U Aung Maung, Deputy Director-General of the Consumer Affairs Department; U Myo Thu, Director of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization; Daw Yi Yi Mon, Director of Regional Agriculture Department; U Ngway Soe, Deputy Director of Mandalay Region Trade Department; U Khin Maung Aye, chairman of Mandalay Region Sugar and Cane Commodity Depot Association; U Okkar Kyaw, general secretary of MRCCI; along with businessmen and sugarcane producers, attended the workshop.

At the meeting, U Aung Maung, Deputy Director General of the Consumer Affairs Department, delivered the opening speech, and U Myo Thu spoke about the situation in the market. Moreover, U Khin Maung Aye discussed current market and production difficulties, Daw Yi Yi Mon and Daw Ohnmar Soe talked about the development of sugar crops and long-term plans, and U Aung Myint Aye from Good Brothers Co, explained about supportive programs for sugar growers.

In addition, the speakers discussed the livelihood of sugar growers, the unsteady price of sugar, and the export and import sectors. U Aung Maung concluded the meeting.—Tin Maung (Mandalay sub-printing house)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Myanmar ships over $1.85 mln metric tons of rice to foreign countries, as of 14 June

OVER 1.85 million metric tons of rice and broken rice were exported to foreign countries in the nine-and-a-half months of the current fiscal year, earning US$562 million, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Between 1 October, 2018 and 12 July, 2019, over 571,310 tons, worth $171.57 million, were exported through border gates, while maritime trade export is registered at over 1.28 million tons valued at $390 million, according to data from the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar's rice is shipped to 61 countries, with China being the main buyer and accounting for over 32.9 per cent, followed by the Philippines and Cameroon in second and third places, respectively. Additionally, Côte d'Ivoire is ranked in fourth place, while Madagascar is the fifth largest buyer of Myanmar rice. European Union countries account for over 20 per cent of exports, while 25 per cent of Myanmar's rice export goes to African countries.

Myanmar's broken rice are mostly exported to Belgium, followed by Indonesia, China, the Netherlands and the UK, and distributed, in total, to 33 foreign markets.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tons of rice to foreign countries during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, which is the all-time highest record of rice exports. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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No doubt on Corruption Prevention Units, cooperate with them to reduce corruption

CORRUPTION is a headache for a democratic government which is working for the emergence of a clean government with good governance.

That is why the incumbent government is committed to fighting corruption as a national duty.

A country's economic dignity depends upon how free of corruption that country is.

Corruption Prevention Units have three duties: to scrutinize and explore corruption, to solve corruption problems; and to prevent civil servants from engaging in corruption. Corruption Prevention Units have been formed in 14 Union Ministries as pilot projects since January 2019. The number reached 32, with 18 ministries today as there were Union ministries that deliberately sought to include them.

> The farther the journey of democratic transition takes steps forward, the larger will be the risk among people who are involved in corruption.

Due to the successes in fighting corruption by the Anti-Corruption Commission-ACC, the public is increasingly aware of the dangers of corruption. At the same time, actions taken by ACC against those who are corrupt has alerted governmental departments and individuals to the danger posed by corruption.

The farther the journey of democratic transition takes steps forward, the larger will be the risk among people who are involved in corruption.

As democracy strides forwards during this transitional period, there is a better chance of being exposed, if corrupt. It is important for the CPUs to be alert, to keep their departments from the dangers caused by corruption and to work in the best interest of the public.

The concept of Corruption Prevention Units-CPUs evolved at Union Ministries to monitor internal bribery and corruption, and to take action under the Civil Service Personnel Law and Regulations, or refer cases to the Commission, which can then start an investigation and take action, as necessary, under the Anti-Corruption Law.

The CPUs will also be responsible for corruption risk assessments to determine areas of risk in their related fields, as an early intervention approach.

It was the people's wish that once the civilian government took their oath, it would transform the demoralized civil society into a society free from corruption. This was the simple and honest aspiration of the people.

Now is the time to eradicate corruption from society. It cannot be done only by the CPUs and ACC, and no one can root out deep-rooted corruption from the country within a single day. As there are two sides, with give and take in corruption, we need cooperation from the people and to develop methods for reducing corruption.

The nature of eradicating corruption is a long struggle between honesty and dishonesty. Honesty has risen from a long period of hiding, as seen by the increasing support of the public.

There is no doubt about CPUs. Please cooperate with them to return dignity to our country.

■■■

Public-Private Partnership



GRAPHIC: BT

By Lokethar

IN the newspapers recently there was a news item about some kind of partnership arrangements relating to the provision by private bodies of a service, which is within the competence of a public entity. Then there was an advertisement about the partnership by a competent public entity and a private service provider relating to an educational project. These could be within the area of Public-Private Partnership. There might be other projects as well which may be categorized as being of PPP modality that the public is not aware of.

Public-Private Partnership generally embodies a long term contractual relationship between the competent public entity and the private partner. The duration of the contract is a factor in ensuring the sustainability of the activities if the project is carried out effectively.

A Policy Document for Consultation relating to Myanmar PPP had already been developed under an United Nations Development Account as far back as 2016.

PPP projects, implemented through funds provided largely by donors, local or foreign, and supplemented by Government budget where necessary, could be an effective means of providing quality service, on behalf of the concerned public entity, in many areas including education, health, infrastructure, agriculture, rural development and so on.

According to the Policy Document, in the PPP modality, there are many technical aspects to the agreement, such as those relating to transparency and impartiality by the competent public entity in the selection of proposals and partners, monitoring allocation and effective use of the funds, timely delivery of the expected outcomes, quality assurance of the service/product, the safety of the public etc. There also needs to be delegation of authority by the public entity concerned to enable the private partner to implement the project. These matters and more have been presented in some detail in the Policy Paper.

To cover all areas of PPP, perhaps a Law Relating to PPP is needed as is recommended in the Policy Document. Thus an appropriate law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw would provide a legal mandate and guidance to public entities and private bodies concerned for carrying out PPP projects effectively.

■■■

A challenge against old age

By Prof Dr Maung

OLD age begins with birth. Human body is built up of millions of cells; each cell has a minute fire called mitochondria. Nourishment obtained from foods taken in and oxygen from breathing in are burnt in a minute fire, producing energy. A half of these energies is used to carry out cell functions; other half has changed into heat to maintain body temperatures.

Changing into oxygen molecules

Oxygen in the air is not completely burnt; 4% of oxygen has escaped from a minute fire to change into highly reactive oxygen molecules.

These oxygen molecules tend to burn with things met. But lineage molecules, cells covered with fats and protein molecules are burnt.

The burning process starts with the first inhaling of one's birth from the mother's womb. We survive due to the extinguishing systems which defend the burning destructions. However, the defending system deteriorates as we become older. The burning of the above-mentioned highly reactive oxygen molecules is one of the aging processes.

Horoscope age and body age

There are two types of lifespan: horoscope lifespan which shows year, month, day and hour. The other lifespan shows wounds and injuries of a man's lifecycle. Horoscope age and body age can easily be termed; the two terms are not always compatible. Looking young for one's age and old age clearly show the difference between the two. The process of getting older is comparable among the 75-year-old man, 15-year-old horse and 5-year-old cat.

The subject and process of getting old have been studied by researchers for a long time, but to no avail. However, one thing is sure that the process of ripe old age is a total result of many factors. Family lineage, nourishment, mental stress, daily habits, physical exercises, smoking cigars and cigarettes are bad habits and going to bed early and getting up from bed early are good habits. Up to now, how much does your body look young? However, no one can measure how old you are. But body age is estimated by statistical facts for speeding up getting old; it is a sort of fortune telling. According to a website www.biological-age.com, you can examine the body age. Even it is not exact, you can at least analyze yourself.

A challenge against old age

Even if old cannot be denied entirely, you could become old healthily. By understanding the attacking forces of old age when you are over 60 years old, you can help a lot in fighting against old age. When waging a war, the attacking forces of the enemies known in advance will bring a success.

> As humans become older, the strength of bones gets weaker especially among women. An act out of balance will break your bones. Vitamin-D will easily prevent from becoming stiff. Milk and yogurt will enrich with the help of lime.

The increasing of bodyweight

It is certain: the older you are, the more body weight you put on. As your body becomes fatter, diseases such as heart, hypertension, diabetes and rheumatic pains will follow. It is wise enough to maintain your body weight. There is a principle of maintaining a body weight: the bodyweight is the difference between energies received and used by the body. When getting older, the functions of all cells become slower, using less energy. The normal eating habits will create more fats in your body. That is why you should lead an active life: daily exercises and eating less are indispensable.

Self-defense strengths weaking

Self-defense systems weaken against germs from outside environs; it is an another form of old age. You easily fall into illness during the seasonal flu. At that time, you should stay away from a crowd form catching cold and having a good sleep.

Spongy bones

As humans become older, the strength of bones gets weaker especially among women. An act out of balance will break your bones. Vitamin-D will easily prevent from becoming stiff. Milk and yogurt will enrich with the help of lime. In Myanmar curries, dwarf catfish and many other kinds of fishes play a vital role in enriching bones. Another way of strengthening bones is to do a lot of muscle exercises. Waking, swimming, squats and lifting weights are easy of doing things.

Possibility of contracting cancer

Old age could bring a serious disease of cancer. Molecular malfunctions contacting with cancer-causing things for a long time, family lineage are original factors for the disease. But every old man, and man of family lineage do not tend to suffer from that disease. Some kinds of cancer are linked to lifestyles.

Cigarettes, alcohol, meat and obesity can cause lung, liver, stomach and colon cancer; women might suffer from breast cancer. Lifestyles and eating habits could prevent the possibilities of suffering from the serious disease.

Depression

Depression is a part and parcel of old age. For health, loneliness and life-suffering facts could cause depression; it is not known how it happens. Headaches, indigestion, memory loss and behavioral attitudes are outstanding characters for depression. To overcome loneliness, you should take part in religious and social affairs, close contacts with friends and colleagues or you could keep a dog or a cat to overcome it. Challenging old age is like fighting unsuccessful battles. If you cannot destroy them, you have to join them. True confronting old age means not only cooperation with it but also is willing to accept it. Peaceful mind and old age will first of all require a health body. We try to deny old age, but should try to accept it. Old age would burn our body by trying to know how it happens. We try to understand that old age is not exceptional to anyone and longevity and goodwill will be beneficial to mankind.

By this article, I want to share with you that old age will come to everyone. Confronting old age honestly means a challenge to it as well as acceptance of it. By trying to understanding our burning bodies vividly, Myanmar people will try to accept old age by a complete peace of mind.

Translated by Arakan Sein

■■■

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Thomas Karl Neisinger as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Thomas Karl Neisinger was born in November 1955 in Würzburg, Germany. From 1975 to 1982, he studied Law and Ibero-Romanistic. In 1982 and 1986, he passed the First and Second State Examination Law.

From 1983 to 1986, he had served as a Legal Clerkship. From 1986 to 1988, he served at the Foreign Department of a German Bank.

From 1988 to 2008, he served in various capacities at the German Federal Foreign Office and German Missions in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Warsaw, Poland. From 2008 to 2012, he also served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Germany in Madrid, Spain. From 2012 to 2015, he served as Director of the German Federal Foreign Office. Since 2015, he has been serving as German Ambassador to Cuba.

He is married and has four children.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 25th July, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is Strong to Vigrous over the Bay of Bengal and Moderate over the Andaman Sea.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 26th July, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Chin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas will be at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9– 11)feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (4-8)feet Gulf off Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

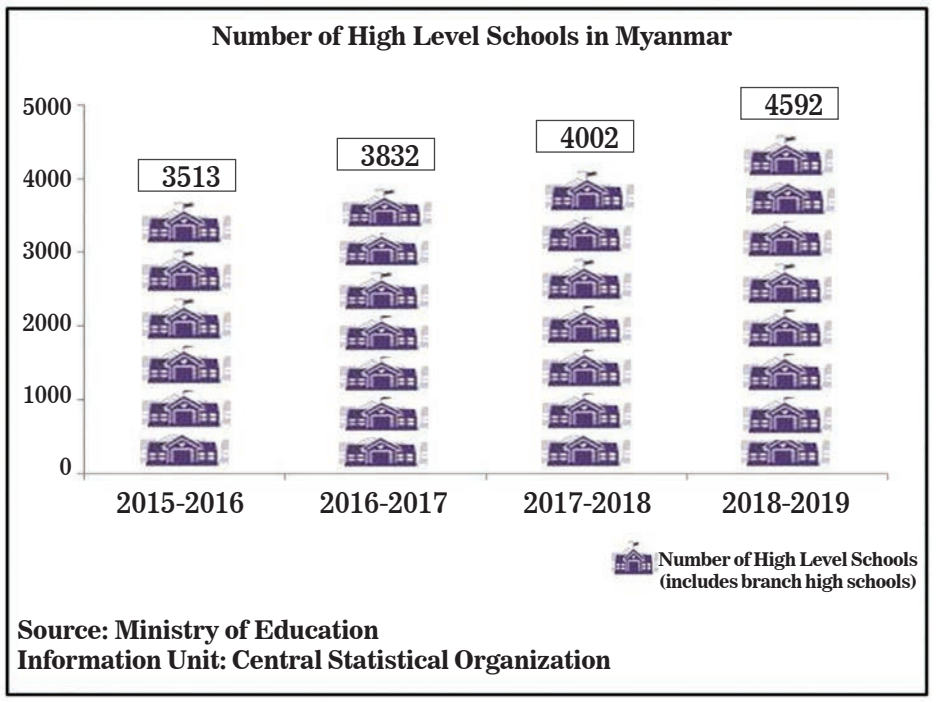
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Chin and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th July, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

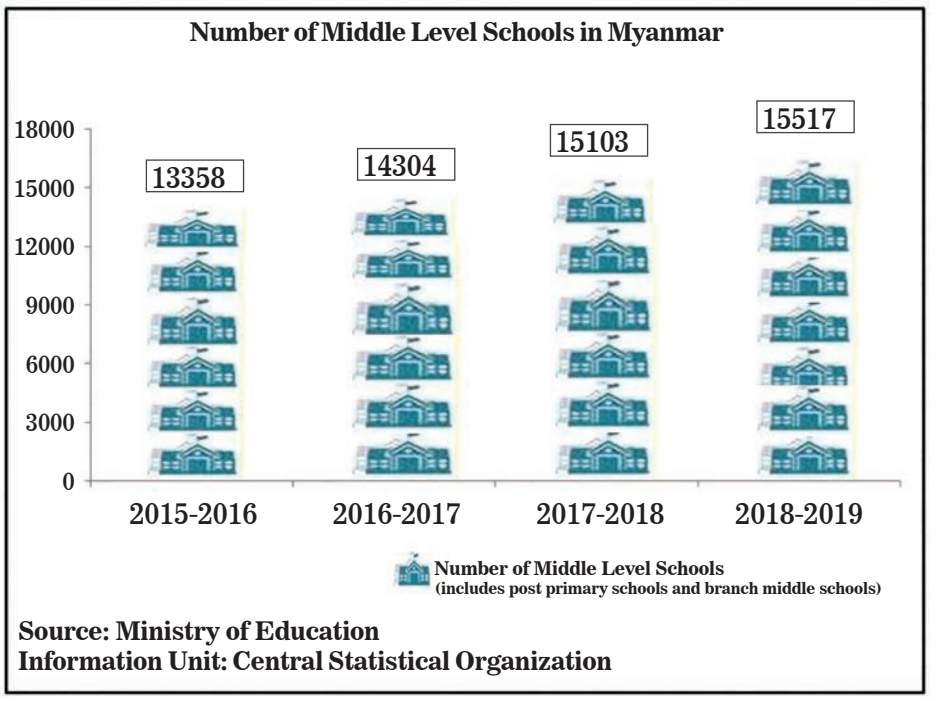
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th July, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at time. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th July, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Source: Ministry of Education
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization



Source: Ministry of Education
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization

Disease and dirty water: residents deplore life in Syria camp

AL-HOL CAMP (Syria) — Maha al-Nasser queues in front of a crowded clinic in Syria's Al-Hol camp, her frail daughter squirmingin her arms under the stifling desert heat.

"My daughter has suffered from convulsions and malnutrition," said 30-year-old Nasser, her face covered in a black veil.

"When she convulses, she loses consciousness and foam comes out of her mouth," she told AFP at the Kurdish-run camp in northeast Syria.

Nasser and her daughter Fatima are among tens of thousands of people who were trucked into Al-Hol earlier this year from the eastern Syria village of Baghouz. Kurdish-led forces expelled the last Islamic State group fighters from the riverside hamlet in March, after streams of people poured out of the jihadists' embattled holdout.

Months later, they are among the 70,000 people — mostly women and children — packed into the camp, where residents depend on aid and complain of endless illness, dirty water and boiling hot tents.

Fatima — now 14 months old — started showing signs of high fever months ago, but medication was not immediately available and her condition worsened, her mother said.

Despite two visits to a hospital outside the camp, her health has still not improved, Nasser added.

"The medical situation is bad," said the mother of six, whose husband is detained with other suspected jihadists in Kurdish-run jails. "Children constantly have diarrhoea. Disease is rampant in this cursed camp," she said.

In the courtyard of a medical centre run by the Kurdish Red Crescent, women dressed from head to toe in black clutch children, some wailing nonstop.

'A dustbowl inferno'

Once in a while, a member of the Kurdish security forces brings in a foreign woman from another section of the camp under tighter security.

The clinic's head Ramadan Youssef al-Daher said heat, poor sanitation and water shortages are contributing to the spread of diseases in Al-Hol.

He said his clinic sees around 50 children every day, many with cases of diarrhoea and malnutrition.

"Twenty children died this month, some during childbirth, others because of malnutrition," he told AFP.



Tens of thousands of people were trucked into Al-Hol from eastern Syria as Kurdish forces pushed to defeat the last scrap of the Islamic State group's 'caliphate'. **PHOTO : MNA**

At least 240 children have died en route or shortly afterarriving in Al-Hol, the United Nations says, since people started fleeing Baghouz late last year.

Most of Al-Hol's residents are Syrian or Iraqi.

And more than two-thirds are children, according to the UN Children's Fund. Foreign women and children are housed in a separate annexe, and most have little hope of returning home as Western countries have been largely reluctant to take them back.

Human Rights Watch on Tuesday described the camp as a "dustbowl inferno".— AFP ■

Russia hatches plan to become top tourist draw

MOSCOW — Fancy a tank ride in the snow, then a night in a Tsarist-era palace?

With ambitious plans to become one of the world's top 10 travel destinations, Russia is offering tours off the beaten track and lifting visa restrictions to attract more visitors.

A year after it successfully hosted the World Cup, the ex-Soviet country is looking for new ways to attract international visitors with the goal of more than doubling tourism revenues to $25 billion by 2035.

"Young people will now be able to see Russia in a way their parents could not," Maya Lomidze, executive director of the Association of Russian Tour Operators, told AFP.

Russia's rich cultural heritage and its spectacular scenery ranging from subtropical Black Sea resorts to Siberia's Lake Baikal and the volcanoes of Kamchatka make the country an obvious draw for visitors.

But the difficulty of obtaining visas, a lack of contemporary-style accommodation and transport links outside the main cities still put off many visitors.

Nearly 25 million tourists visited Russia last year, making it the world's 16th most popular destination, according to the World Tourism Organisation. They largely came from the ex-Soviet bloc and China.

During last summer's World Cup, Russia offered visa-free entry for international fans and Lomidze said the tourism sector had hoped for a substantial boost from the tournament played in 11 Russian cities.

"But the effect of the World Cup was practically reduced to zero by the eternal problems with visas," she said. Apparently aware of the problem, President Vladimir Putin has ordered the government to introduce electronic visas, which are free of charge and issued quickly, for citizens of a number of countries.

Electronic visas will come into force in October for stays of up to eight days in the former imperial capital of Saint Petersburg and the surrounding region, though Russia has not yet said which countries' citizens can apply. From July, there has been a similar deal for travellers from 53 countries visiting the Western exclave of Kaliningrad, formerly part of Germany.

Since 2017, nationals of 18 countries have been eligible to receive free e-visas to visit Russia's Far East including the Kamchatka region where tourists can ski and trek in pristine landscapes.

Arctic tours

Tour operators are seeking to diversify, luring visitors with Arctic tours featuring reindeer herders, rides in Soviet-era tanks or a night at a palace that belonged to Peter the Great. But Russia as a whole only spends around one million euros per year on promoting itself to visitors, according to estimates from the Association of Russian Tour Operators.— AFP ■

India farmers shocked as suspected meteorite crashes into rice field

NEW DELHI — A suspected meteorite the size of a football plunged into a rice field in eastern India, startling farmers, authorities said Thursday.

Onlookers said the light brown-coloured object sent them fleeing from the field when it fell at their rural village on Wednesday afternoon, sending up smoke.

"The farmers were working in the paddy field when this heavy rock fell from the sky with a very loud noise," Shirsat Kapil Ashok, the magistrate for Madhubani district in Bihar state, told AFP.

The villagers returned after the smoke subsided and pulled the rock out from its four-feet-deep crater.

"We saw it has very strong magnetic properties, some shine and weighs around 15 kilograms (33 pounds)," Ashok added.

The find is being analysed by scientists as a possible meteorite. Meteors are particles of dust and rock that usually burn up as they pass through Earth's atmosphere, with those that survive the fall known as meteorites.

In 2016 authorities in southern India's Tamil Nadu state said a meteorite killed a bus driver and injured three others.

While Indian scientists backed the claim of the regional authorities, the US space agency NASA later said did not believe the object was a meteorite.

In February 2013 a meteorite plunged over Russia's Ural Mountains, creating a shockwave that injured around 1,200 people and damaged thousands of homes.—AFP ■



Villagers and farmers gather around the crater formed when a suspected meteorite crashed into a rice paddy in Madhubani district in India's Bihar state. **PHOTO: AFP**

Alpine climbing routes crumble as climate change strikes

CHAMONIX (France) — High up in the natural wonder of the French Alps, the climbers who spend their days among the rock-faces and glaciers have come to a grim conclusion: the mountains are falling down around them.

In the Mont Blanc range, a magnet for mountaineers in the summer, many popular routes up or through the peaks have become too dangerous to take because of the risk of falling debris.

"It's going quickly. Ten years ago, I'd have never thought that it would accelerate like this," said Ludovic Ravanel, an academic at the University of Savoie Mont Blanc who has been studying major rockfalls in the area.

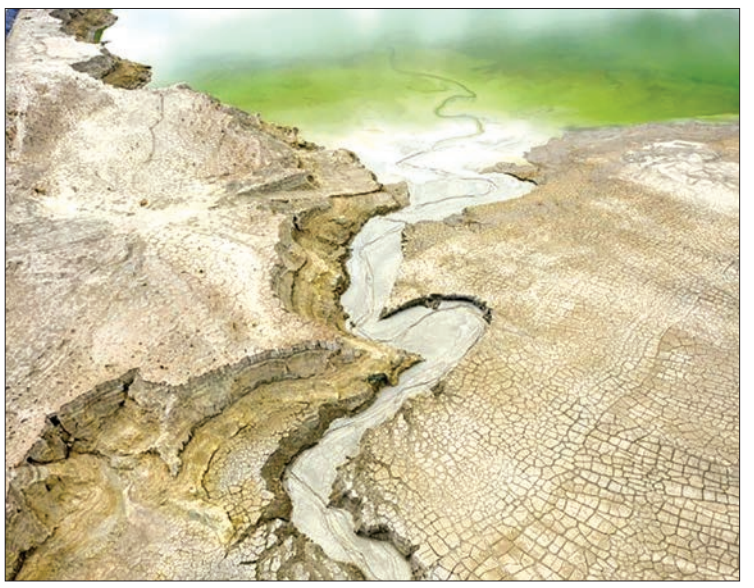
"And if you look at the predictions from my climatologist colleagues, for the next 10 to 20 years, it's only going to get worse," he told AFP.

In many areas of western Europe, climate change is happening too slowly to be noticed, although two record-setting heatwaves in June and July this summer as well as water shortages are focusing minds.

Around Mont Blanc, the warming has already left physical scars. In 2005, following a major heatwave two years earlier, a huge shard of granite called the Bonatti pillar suddenly collapsed, spewing 292,000 m3 of rock into the valley below and stunning the mountaineering community.—AFP ■



In the Mont Blanc range, a magnet for mountaineers in the summer, many popular routes up or through the peaks have become too dangerous to take because of the risk of falling debris. **PHOTO: AFP**



A tailings dam embankment used to store byproducts of mining operations, in this case of the extraction of copper, is pictured in Rancagua, Chile on 31 May. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chile's mining waste poses silent threat to humans on multiple fronts

REQUINOA (Chile) — From the sky, the glistening emerald ponds of northern Chile are almost beautiful, but closer to the ground they harbor an ugly and dangerous secret: the reservoirs, filled with toxic waste from the country's mining industry, are ticking time bombs.

Mines are the pillar of Chile's economy, but their by-products -- which accumulate in ravines, mountain areas, river beds and reservoirs, and which are often used to create tailings dams, pose a handful of problems for surrounding inhabitants.

Apart from the environmental threat, the recent collapse of two Brazilian dams that killed hundreds of people has triggered alarm in Chile, which produces approximately a third of the world's copper.

"It's not that it couldn't happen here but it would be very difficult," Chilean Mines Minister Baldo Prokurica told AFP.

In 1965, an earthquake measuring 7.4 on the Richter Scale collapsed a Chilean tailings dam leaving more than 300 people dead.

Prokurica said that since then, and precisely because of the country's seismic activity, measures have been taken to prevent another such accident.

Mining sites are built with the same anti-earthquake regulations as buildings, according to Gustavo Lagos, a professor of mining at the country's Catholic University.

Tailings dams are "under tight control. The problem is the little ones or those that have been abandoned," he told AFP.

Chemicals risk

After more than 100 years of mining activity, Chile has 740 tailings dams, according to the national geology and mining service.

Most are located in the country's northern Coquimbo, Antofagusta and Atacama regions as well as the country's metropolitan center. Of those, 469 are inactive and 170 abandoned. Critics of these dams say that collapse is not necessarily the biggest problem, and warn of the risk posed by chemical products used to separate the minerals from earth, which are considered particularly dangerous to health and the environment.

"These are sources of pollution for surface water, groundwater and dust that gets transported by the wind," said Lucio Cuenca, director of the Latin American Observatory for Environmental Conflict (OLCA).

Over the last two decades, the inhabitants of Caimanes, a town around 270 kilometers (170 miles) north of Santiago, has been fighting the El Mauro Dam, opened in 2008.—AFP ■

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Malaysia, China revive frozen rail project



China's Ambassador to Malaysia Bai Tian said at the ceremony that the relaunch "will set a new milestone in China-Malaysia friendship and cooperation". **PHOTO: XINHUA**

DUNGUN— Malaysia and China on Thursday officially revived their stalled rail project linking the east and west coasts of peninsular Malaysia after nine months of negotiations between the two sides.

Malaysian Transport Minister Loke Siew Fook said at the relaunch ceremony here that 85 percent of the cost of the revived East Coast Rail Link project will be financed by China's Export-Import Bank.

At a press conference later, an official said the financing cost of the project will be reduced by 12.6 billion ringgit (about $3 billion) to 24 billion ringgit through an additional agreement.

Loke also said the two sides have agreed to raise the involvement of Malaysian contractors in the project from 30 percent to 40 percent.

The line is targeted to be completed by December 2026.

The planned 640-kilometer railway between Kota Bharu in Kelantan on the east coast of Malaysia to Port Klang in Selangor on the west coast will be the first to connect the east and west of the country, reducing travel time between both cities to just four hours.

It was originally launched in August 2017 but was suspended in July last year, two months after a historic election in which the ruling party was ousted for the first time in 60 years.

New Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad had questioned the price of the deal and said that Malaysia could not afford such a costly project as it was still struggling to recover billions of dollars allegedly lost in a graft scandal involving a state investment fund.

However, in April this year, Mahathir announced that the two sides planned to restart the project.

China's Ambassador to Malaysia Bai Tian said at the ceremony that the relaunch "will set a new milestone in China-Malaysia friendship and cooperation" and "greatly beef up the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries." He added that, with the completion of the rail project, Chinese tourism arrivals will double or even quadruple in the years to come.

The rail project is the largest economic cooperation project between China and Malaysia.

Trade between China and Malaysia hit a high last year, exceeding $100 billion, about one-fourth of Malaysia's total foreign trade.—Kyodo News ■

Toyota to set up joint venture with Didi Chuxing, invest $600 mln

NAGOYA — Toyota Motor Corp. said Thursday it will set up a joint venture with Chinese ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing Technology Co. and invest a total of $600 million in Didi and the new venture as part of efforts to expand its business in China.

The venture, to be set up as early as this fall, will offer ride-hailing drivers a range of services that include vehicle maintenance, insurance and financing.

GAC Toyota Motor Co., a venture established by Toyota and China's Guangzhou Automobile Group Co., will also join the project, through which Toyota aims to promote the use of electric vehicles suitable for future mobility services in China, the world's biggest auto market.

Toyota and Didi have already cooperated in leasing vehicles to ride-hailing drivers since last year, as well as in the "e-Palette" project to develop electric and autonomous vehicles that can be used as mobile stores.

Global technology companies such as Amazon.com Inc. have joined the project. "We look forward to combining Didi's expertise in AI-based large-scale mobility operations and Toyota's leading connected vehicle technology to build a next-generation intelligent transportation framework for sustainable cities," Stephen Zhu, Didi's senior vice president, said in a statement. —Kyodo News ■

Boeing posts loss of 3 bln USD in Q2 from 737 MAX impact

SAN FRANCISCO — US top aircraft manufacturer Boeing Company on Wednesday posted a loss of about 3 billion U.S. dollars in earnings for the second quarter of 2019 as a result of the global grounding of 737 MAX airplanes.

Boeing said its quarterly revenue nosedived by 35 percent to reach 15.8 billion dollars, compared to 24 billion dollars in the same period of last year, as its best-selling 737 MAX jets remained grounded globally since mid-March this year over the two deadly crashes that killed 346 people in Indonesia and Ethiopia.

The company said the second-quarter revenue of 15.8 billion dollars and GAPP loss of 5.21 dollars per share reflected the previously announced 737 MAX charge that cut revenue by 5.6 billion dollars and earnings by 8.74 dollars per share.

Boeing said last week that it would take 4.9 billion dollars in after-tax charge to cover possible compensation to airlines that have canceled thousands of flights of the 737 MAX jets, two of which crashed in Indonesia last October and in Ethiopia in March this year.

Boeing said its Q2 revenue loss was partially helped by better operations earnings from its defense, space, security and service business, which increased 159 per cent to hit 975 million dollars, compared to 376 million dollars in the same period a year before.—Xinhua ■

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CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacturer Mac Cham (Asia) Co., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name-

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Mega Bisso 2	Shwe Biyam 20	Bispyribac - sodium 20% WP	Provisional	P 2017 - 3820
2	Mega Bisso 1	Shwe Biyam 40	Bispyribac - sodium 40% SC	Provisional	P 2017 - 3821

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to Joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address - Mega Grow International Co., Ltd.
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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (132 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (132 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO. (928S-930N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO. (928S-930N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-07-2019 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

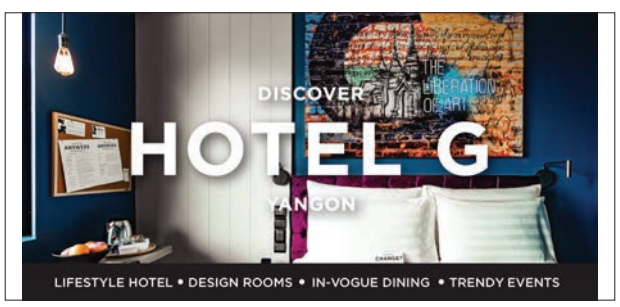
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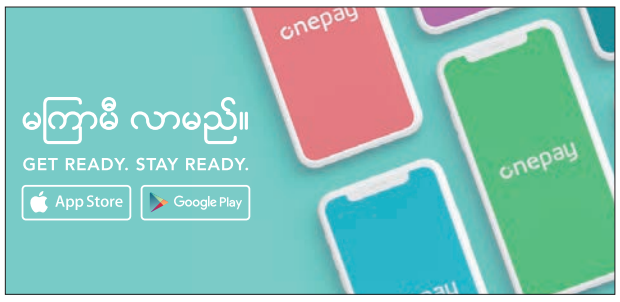
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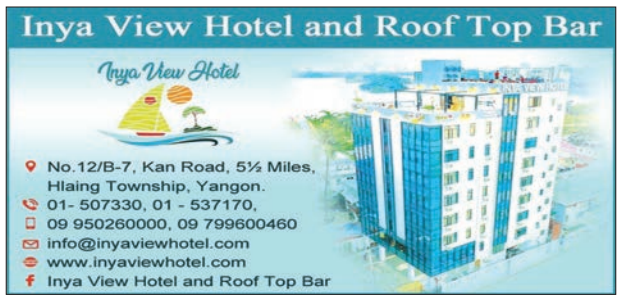
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A controversial bill giving India's government sweeping powers to designate individuals as terrorists passed a major hurdle in parliament. **PHOTO: AFP**

Opposition outrage as India terror bill passes first hurdle

NEW DELHI — A controversial bill giving India's government sweeping powers to designate individuals as terrorists passed a major hurdle in parliament Wednesday, as opponents warned the legislation was too broad and open to abuse.

It comes in the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resounding victory in general elections in May, and amid accusations that his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is trying to stifle dissent in the world's largest democracy.

The main opposition Congress party -- which led a parliamentary walkout as the bill was debated -- warned the proposed law was "draconian" and could turn India into a "police state".

The bill has to be passed by the upper house before it becomes law, with the government needing to court votes from smaller parties and independents for it to pass. Home Minister Amit Shah defended the bill in the lower house Wednesday, saying it was necessary to keep law enforcement agencies one step ahead of those deemed to be terrorists. "The only purpose of this law is to root out terrorism. We will ensure that this law will not be misused," he said, before the bill was passed by acclaim.

Opposition lawmakers remained unconvinced, however.

"Is this government assuring us that the law will not be misused in future?" asked Congress member Karti Chidambaram. "Are you putting processes in place under which misuse will not happen?" Under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, a person can be designated as a terrorist on broad grounds.

They include causing damage to any property, using criminal force against any public functionary or being likely to "strike terror in people".—AFP ■

Thailand set to be turned into developed country in 21st century: gov't policy

BANGKOK — Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Thursday pledged to turn Thailand into a developed country in the 21st century.

During Thursday's policy statement read out by the prime minister in parliament, Prayut expressed the government's vision to make Thailand a developed country and prepare the Thai people for it in the 21th century.

As part of the government's urgent policies, the prime minister announced that new learning platforms will be promoted for the people to get well versed in and updated with digital technology and innovation.

For instance, Prayut announced that computer coding will be taught at schools from elementary level while a new generation of researchers on digital technology and innovation will be largely supported to turn the country into a developed country in the 21st century.

The prime minister announced that his government has set the policy to steer the development of economic systems to be in line with the new era of economy which refers to the sharing economy, digital economy and bio-circular-green economy. Research and development on digital technology and innovation will be promoted with intent to eradicate social inequality and poverty among the people.

Digital technology and innovation will be largely applied in support of farming, manufacturing, exporting, logistics, online trading and servicing sectors under the government policy. Mechanisms based on technology and innovation will be built up to help with the upgrading of the potential and competitiveness of start-up and SME businesses, regarding product qualities, marketing and accounting, among others.

The government has set the policy to provide and develop accommodations and measures for businesses in trading, importing, exporting and logistics with the use of digital technology and innovation. That refers to online business transactions, artificial intelligence, internet of things and Big Data systems.—Xinhua



A woman walks past umbrella-shaped sunshades on a newly-built skywalk in Pathumwan district of downtown Bangkok, Thailand, 7 August, 2017. Photo: Xinhua

Fake news war divides, confuses in Hong Kong



While police and pro-democracy protesters have confronted each other on the streets, a fake news war has been fought online. **PHOTO: AFP**

HONG KONG — Chinese tanks at the border? False. Photo of a protester biting off a policeman's finger? Misleading. In polarised Hong Kong, a fake news fight for public opinion has become as crucial a battleground as the city streets.

During weeks of pro-democracy protests that have involved millions of people and frequently turned violent, online rumours and conspiracy theories have sowed confusion and deepened distrust.

From 2011 footage of South Korean soldiers misrepresented as an impending Chinese "invasion" to doctored photographs exaggerating the size of rallies, Hong Kong citizens have been bombarded with conflicting claims from both sides of the political divide.

The numbers signalling the impact of the disinformation can be shocking.

Footage of a convoy of Chinese tanks that posts claimed were being sent "to suppress Hong Kongers and cause bloodshed" quickly racked up more than 800,000 views on one Twitter account alone.

Hong Kong authorities have been forced to repeatedly deny claims circulating on social media -- most recently, that People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers had been brought in from the mainland to defend government buildings.

"There is absolutely no such thing and all these claims are totally false," Hong Kong's government said this week, responding to the allegations.

Police have also been the target of much fake news, including a video debunked by AFP that purportedly showed officers shooting a woman in the face. —AFP ■

Britain's Johnson rejects 'unacceptable' Brexit deal

LONDON — Britain's new Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday called the current Brexit deal negotiated with the EU "unacceptable" and set preparations for leaving the bloc without an agreement as a "top priority" for the government.

In a pugnacious debut in parliament, the former London mayor urged EU leaders to rethink their opposition to renegotiating the deal.

After installing a right-wing government following a radical overhaul, Johnson doubled down on his promise to lead Britain out of the EU by 31 October at any cost.

In case of a no-deal exit, he also threatened to withhold the £39 billion ($49 billion) divorce bill that Britain has previously said it owes the EU and instead spend the money for preparations for leaving with no agreement. Johnson told a raucous session of parliament in which he was repeatedly shouted down by opposing MPs that the draft deal his predecessor Theresa May reached with the 27 EU leaders would "sign away our economic independence".



Britain's new Prime Minister Boris Johnson made a pugnacious debut in the House of Commons urging EU leaders to renegotiate the Brexit deal. **PHOTO:AFP**

"Its terms are unacceptable to this parliament and to this country," Johnson said — a day after purging more than half the ministers in his predecessor Theresa May's team.

"Today is the first day of a new approach, which will end with our exit from the EU on 31 October," the 55-year-old said.

Right-wing government

Johnson has assembled a team of social conservatives and Brexit hardliners who argue that leaving the EU after 46 years without an agreement will be less painful than economists warn. The markets were relieved by the appointment of former Deutsche Bank Sajid Javid as finance chief.

The pound held steady against the dollar and euro as traders waited for Johnson's first policy moves. Other appointments were more divisive.

Brexit hardliner Dominic Raab became foreign secretary and Jacob Rees-Mogg — leader of a right-wing faction of Conservatives who helped bring about May's demise — as the government's parliament representative.

New interior minister Priti Patel has previously expressed support for the death penalty and voted against same-sex marriage. The Labour opposition-backing Mirror newspaper called it "Britain's most right-wing government since the 1980s".—AFP ■

Trump vetoes measures blocking arms sales to Saudi Arabia, UAE

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday vetoed three congressional resolutions barring billions of dollars in weapons sales to countries including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which are engaged in a devastating war in Yemen.

The resolutions "would weaken America's global competitiveness and damage the important relationships we share with our allies and partners," Trump said in letters to the Senate justifying blocking them.

It is the third time the president has employed his veto power since taking office.

The measures cleared Congress this month in a strong rebuke to Trump, whose administration took the extraordinary step of bypassing legislators to approve the sales in May.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had said the administration was responding to an emergency caused by Saudi Arabia's archfoe Iran.

But lawmakers including some Senate Republicans said there were no legitimate grounds to circumvent Congress, which has the right to disapprove arms sales.

Senator Lindsey Graham delivered a stinging rebuke to Riyadh last month, saying he hoped his vote against the sales would "send a signal to Saudi Arabia that if you act the way you're acting, there is no space for a strategic relationship."



Yemenis stand in the rubble of destroyed buildings in the Al-Nahda neighbourhood of the capital, Sanaa, following intensified Saudi-led coalition air strikes on 6 September, 2015. **PHOTO: AFP**

The senator was referring to last year's brutal murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey at the hands of Saudi agents, an incident that outraged lawmakers and triggered a full-blown crisis in Riyadh's relations with the West.

Critics also say the arms sales would aggravate the war in Yemen, where Saudi Arabia is leading a US-backed coalition that also includes the UAE in a battle against the Iranian-supported Huthi rebels.—AFP ■

At least 13 dead due to heavy rains in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO — At least 13 people were killed by mudslides after heavy rains hit the metropolitan region of Recife, in the northeastern state of Pernambuco in Brazil, local authorities said on Wednesday.

The Pernambuco fire department confirmed five deaths in Recife, three in Olinda and five in Abreu e Lima. Among the dead are a 15-year-old boy and a 21-year-old woman.

The heavy rain, which began falling in the late hours of Tuesday, caused large floods, fallen trees and mudslides in several towns, and disrupted Recife's metropolitan area, inhabited by some four million people. Landslides were also recorded in Jaboatao dos Guararapes, but causing no casualties.

In the municipality of Caetes, one was rescued from the rubble by local emergency service, the newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo reported.

Local authorities suspended classes in public schools.

According to Recife's civil defense, 101 millimeters of rainfall was recorded over a six-hour period.

That volume amounts to eight days of rain in this time of the year. The meteorological services forecast that the rain is to continue in the next few days. —Xinhua ■

WORLD BRIEFS

British navy to escort UK-flagged ships in Gulf strait

LONDON – Britain on Thursday ordered its navy to escort UK-flagged ships through the Strait of Hormuz after Iranian soldiers seized a tanker in the flashpoint Gulf region.

"The Royal Navy has been tasked to accompany British-flagged ships through the Strait of Hormuz, either individually or in groups, should sufficient notice be given of their passage," the defence ministry said in a statement to AFP.–AFP

Tunisia's Essebsi, world's oldest president, dies at 92

TUNIS – Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi, the North African country's first leader elected in nationwide polls, died Thursday at the age of 92, his office said.

The veteran politician, the oldest head of state after Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, came to power in 2014, three years after the Arab Spring uprising toppled longtime despot Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and sparked revolts in several Arab nations.

He had been hospitalised with a severe illness in late June and was returned to intensive care on Thursday. "Things are not going well," the leader's son Hafedh Caid Essebsi told AFP earlier on Thursday after he was readmitted.–AFP ■

France to develop anti-satellite weapons: defence minister

PARIS — France plans to develop anti-satellite weapons but will only deploy them in self-defence, its defence minister said on Thursday, as she laid out the country's new military strategy for space.

"If our satellites are threatened, we intend to blind those of our adversaries," Florence Parly said. "We reserve the right and the means to be able to respond: that could imply the use of powerful lasers deployed from our satellites or from patrolling nano-satellites."—AFP

Katsuki Kitano defeats Myanmar lethwei champ Tun Naing Oo with 1st round knock out

LETHWEI champion of Myanmar Tun Naing Oo lost to Japanese fighter Katsuki Kitano in the first round in LETHWEI IN JAPAN 13 Event at Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Japan yesterday.

There were three Myanmar lethwei fighters participating in the lehwei event: Tun Naing Oo, Saw Sawar and Saw Darwaik.

In the 65 Kg five round fight, Katsuki Kitano of Japan beat the Myanmar lethwei champion with a first round knockout. In the 74 Kg five round fight, Saw Sarwar (Myanmar) fought to a draw against Tokeshi Kohei of Japan.

In the 60 Kg five round fight, Kazuharu (Japan) lost to Pilao Santana (Brazil) with a 1st round knock out.

In the 64.5 Kg five round fight, Saw Darwaik (Myanmar) also competed to a draw against Higashi Shuhei (Japan).

In a three round fight in the 61.5 Kg event, Masanori Shimada (Japan) fought to a draw fight against Takuya Nishizawa (Japan). The lethewei fighters were entertained by the Myanma Orchestra and awards were presented by Myanmar Military Attaché' Brig-Gen Saw Lin.

With the supervision of the Myanmar Lethwei Federation, lethwei events will also be held in Japan on 2 October and in Taiwan on 20 October.—Maung Sein Lwin ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*



Myanmar's Saw Darwaik (red) lands a punch on Japan's Higashi Shuhei in the 64.5 Kg five round fight during LETHWEI IN JAPAN 13 Event at Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Japan yesterday. **PHOTO: SHIKELI (JAPAN)**

ISPE team wins U-18 Myanmar National League 2019



Champions of the MPT Myanmar National League (U-18) 2019, the ISPE team, celebrate their victory after receiving the prize and trophy at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNL**

THE Institute of Sports and Physical Education (ISPE) team won the Myanmar National League (U-18) 2019 by defeating Myawaday FC 3-0 in the final match for the tourney at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The win gave the ISPE team 40 points to take the champion position, while Myawady FC missed the championship by just three points.

Meanwhile, the third place team, University FC, earned 27 points.

After the final match, the awards ceremony was held.

President of the Myanmar Football Federation, U Zaw Zaw, presented the championship trophy to the ISPE team.

The team also received K 10 million as the winning reward, given by Marketing Director of the Myanmar Post and Telecommunications U Khin Maung Myint.

Officials also presented K 5 million plus medals to the Myawady team and K 2.5 million to the third placed team, University FC.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar team leaves Thailand for AFF U-15 Boys Championship 2019

THE Myanmar U-15 national football team left for Thailand yesterday from Yangon International Airport to compete in the AFF U-15 Boys Championship 2019, to be held in Chonburi, Thailand, from 27 July to 9 August.

The Myanmar youth players, along with members of the coaching staff, were seen off at the airport by General-Secretary of Myanmar Football Federation U Tin Myint Aung.

The Myanmar team is composed of 23 players.

Myanmar placed in Group A, together with Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Timor Leste and Viet Nam.

Meanwhile, the tough group B is comprised of the host Thailand team, Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos and Malaysia.

The Group Stage will commence on 27 July, while the Final will be held on 9 August.

Myanmar will play against Timor Leste on 29 August, the Philippines team on 31 August, Viet Nam on 2 August and Indonesia on 4 August.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar U-15 national football team and members of the coaching staff pose for a group photo at Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**