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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Myanmar military delegation visits India's Adani Ports, solar panel unit



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits the Adani Ports and Logistics in Mundra, India. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

A MYANMAR military delegation, led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is currently visiting India, arrived at Adani Ports and Logistics in Mundra, India, on 27 July.

The delegation took a special flight to Mundra, where they were welcomed by Rear Admiral Sanjay Roye form the India Navy.

During the visit, the delegation observed the security measures and operations at the deep sea port.

Adani Ports and Logistics is located in the Gulf of Kutch and is equipped to handle diverse vessels. It is also one of the main points for transport of goods to India, and has storage facilities for crude oil, vehicles, and other export and import goods.

Adani Ports is also the world's largest coal import terminal and supplies coal to the Adani and TATA coal-fired power plants. The two power plants are generating 8,600 MW of electricity, with the least damage to the environment, to meet Indian demand. After the visit, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited the Special Economic Zone and Solar Panel Manufacturing Unit in Mundra, where the officials concerned gave details on the generation of solar power, and the Senior General and officers asked questions. The SEZ and Solar Panel Manufacturing Unit produces solar panels all year round, and the panels can generate 1.200 MW of power.

The solar panels, which can produce power without battery, are also exported to Britain, US, and other European countries, according to the report of Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA ■

(Translated by KZL)

At least 19 killed in landslide at Hpakant jade mine

AT least 19 people, including 16 security guards employed with a mining company and three policemen, were reportedly killed yesterday in a landslide at a jade mine in Hpakant, Kachin State.

Around 1.45 p.m. on Sunday, the cliff along the mine collapsed, falling around 500 ft into the lake, killing 16 security guards and five policemen with it, according to the local authorities. Two of the policemen were rescued later.

"So far, the bodies of 13 security guards have been retrieved from the mud lake, and the rescue operation is on to find the remaining three security guards and the three policemen," according to the Hpakant Township Information and Public Relations Department.

"The two injured policemen, Constable Hsan Win and Constable Wai Yan Ko Ko, were taken to the Hpakant People's Hospital," according to the Fire Serves Department. Three security guard posts and one four-wheel drive car were also buried in the accident, according to the authorities.

SEE PAGE-2



Cash donated for Eternal Peace Pagoda

A ceremony of cash donation for the Eternal Peace Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw was held at the Yangon office of Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs yesterday afternoon.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Virira, the donor and the leading monk of Mokkanin Parittaya Monastery in Yedasha Ward in Bahan Township of Yangon, explained about the donation.

The donation of K.30 million by Sayadaw was accepted by Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, and he returned a honour of certification for donation.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko accepts the cash donated by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Virira for Eternal Peace Pagoda.
PHOTO : MNA



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and officials meet with flood victims in Magwe Region yesterday.
PHOTO:MNA

Magwe flood victims get relief aid

DR Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, provided flood victims in Magwe Region with relief assistance yesterday.

The Ayeyawdy water inundated some areas of Magwe Region, forcing the locals to take temporary shelters.

The Union Minister comforted the flood victims at Shinpin Shwe Sawlu Religious Communal Building in Phaung Linn village of Salin Township, and gave K. 2,906,400 for 471 households from seven village-tracts.

He also donated K.6.4 million for construction of retaining wall at the pagoda.

The Union Minister and party also arrived at the aged caring center under construction in Sinbyukyun Township, and donated K.1 million cash funds for the center.

They also met flood victims at Minbu Monastery (Lower) and gave K.214,200 for food, and snacks and toys for the children.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

IDPs, flood victims in Palatwa provided with cash, aid

Chin State Government handed over K236 million and aid donated by ministries to the people displaced by armed conflicts and flood victims in Palatwa on 27 July.

At the meeting, U Soe Htet, Chin State Development Affairs, Electricity and Industry Minister, explained the purpose of their visit to Palatwa and to meet with the residents.

He said the authorities will carry out to improve the rule of law, education, health and transportation sectors in the township.

Palatwa Township Administrator U Koe Aung reported to the Chin State government on situation of providing aid to the IDPs and flood victims and an engineer on construction of a bridge across the Kaladan River.

At the meeting, local people reported on needs for development of the township.

Cash amounted to over K236 million, food and clothes donated by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Border Affairs, Chin State government and donors were distributed to the IDPs and flood victims. Chin State IPRD

(Translated by KZL)

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At least 19 killed in landslide at Hpakant jade mine

FROM PAGE-1

On July 15, another deadly landslide had led to the death of four persons. A landslide in April had killed 54 persons and buried dozens of vehicles. Landslides in Hpakant kill dozens every year. — Tar Lin Maung (IPRD) ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



The site where deadly landslide happened at Hpakant jade mine in Kachin State on Sunday.
PHOTO : TAR LIN MAUNG (IPRD)

Myanmar, China to vamp up cooperation on public security

Upon the invitation of China's Minister for Public Security, Mr Zhao Kezhi, a delegation led by U Thein Swe, the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population, travelled to China from 23 to 27 July.

The Union Minister first met with Deputy Minister Mr Xu Gan Lu of the Ministry of Public Security at the ministry's meeting room in Beijing on 24 July.

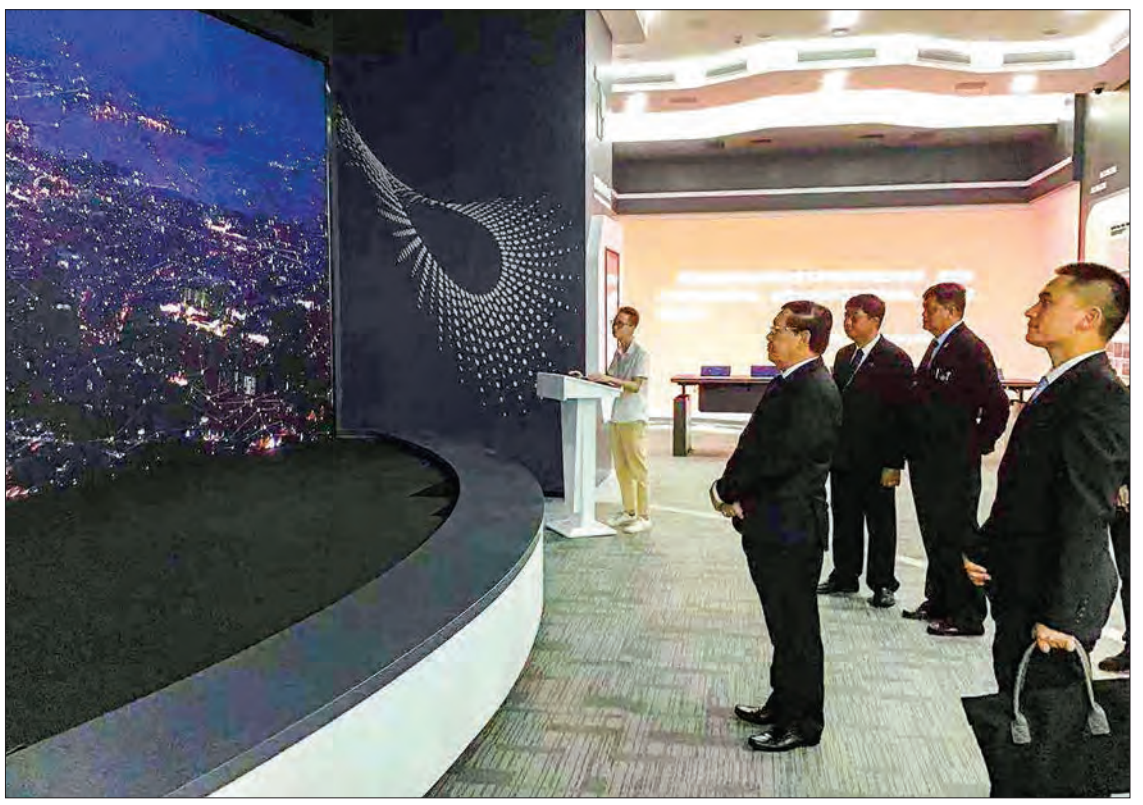
During the meeting, they discussed the agreements between the two nations to provide annual trainings to staff members, controlling illegal immigration at the border, reviewing and deporting each other's citizens if they have immigrated illegally, exchanging information on transnational criminals and cooperating on exposing them, and collaborating on immigration tasks in dealing with trafficking in persons, illegal drugs and arms.

U Thein Swe then met with Mr Zhao Kezhi later in the evening, where they discussed similar causes for cooperation to combat illegal immigration and transnational crime.

On 25 July, the Union Minister met with Mr Zhao Haishan, departmental head for public security, in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, where they discussed matters on immigration.

On 26 July, the Union Minister visited the command center of the public security department. Mr Zhao Haishan and officials demonstrated the artificial intelligence used in their immigration control system, the system to monitor offenders, established networks, and a system to exchange news received on the ground in real time.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met with Mr Li Chunsheng, the Vice-Governor of Guangdong province and its director of public security, where they discussed possible cooperation with Myanmar on the rule of law and apprehending foreign crime suspects.



Union Minister U Thein Swe visits the command center of the Public Security Department in Guangdong Province, PRC. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Vice-Governor also said he will follow the agreement made by the both countries' leaders to collaborate with relevant ministries of Myanmar and will organize training courses for this purpose.

Union Minister U Thein Swe and delegation arrived back in Myanmar on 27 July. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar commits to significant reduction of hepatitis

WORLD Hepatitis Day 2019 was commemorated at the University of Nursing, Yangon yesterday.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe delivered a speech at the event. He said WHO began commemorating World Hepatitis Day in 2010 to raise awareness of the medical condition, with Myanmar joining in 2013.

The Union Minister said his ministry has been collaborating with World Hepatitis Alliance and their motto – 'Finding the missing millions' – to educate the public on hepatitis and healthcare, provide medical examinations, disease prevention and treatment since 2018. He added that they will also take action in line with this year's motto: 'Invest in Eliminating Hepatitis'.

The Union Minister says they regularly improve their work in accordance with guidelines distributed by WHO, including the 'Simplified Treatment Guidelines for Hepatitis C Infection (2017)' and 'Simplified Treatment Guidelines for Hepatitis B Infection (2019)'.

Surveys by the Department of Public Health, Department of Medical Research and Myanmar Liver Foundation in 2015 revealed that 6.5 per cent of Myanmar's population had hepatitis B and 2.7 per cent had hepatitis C, said the Union Minister.



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the event to mark the World Hepatitis Day 2019 in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

He said one in ten people with the medical condition are unaware of having it and thus fail to receive medical attention in time. He said the ministry administers free vaccinations for hepatitis B for newborns and infants ranging from 2, 3 to 6 months old.

The Union Minister said they opened treatment centers for hepatitis C in seven hospitals in Yangon, Mandalay regions and Nay Pyi Taw in 2017 and then in Myitkyina and Mawlamyine in 2018.

He said they were able to provide treatment to 5,000 patients with hepatitis B as of May 2019 and have plans to open new treatment centers in August and September this year.

The Union Minister said Myanmar Liver Foundation cooperates with the ministry to provide check-ups for hepatitis, administer vaccinations and treatment to people through their 23 township branches.

The Union Minister urged everyone to actively participate in ensuring the virus that causes hepatitis is vanquished and removed as a threat to public health by 2030. Next, Myanmar Liver Foundation President Dr Khin Pyone Kyi delivered a speech, WHO's representative in Myanmar, Dr Stephen Paul Jost, read a message send by WHO's Region Director for Southeast Asia, and Myanmar Liver Foundation's Executive Secretary Dr Sithura read a message sent by World Hepatitis Alliance President Mr Michael Nimberg.

This was followed by the liver foundation's chairman of the board, Dr Tin Nyunt, explaining about the foundation's ongoing tasks and hepatologist Prof Dr Win Naing giving a lecture on liver cancer.

The event offered medical checkups for hepatitis to 227 people and administered 223 vaccines for hepatitis B.

On 27 July, the Union Minister delivered a speech at the Officers Installation Ceremony (2018-2019) as a guest of honor. The ceremony was organized by Rotary Club of Yangon, Rotary Club of Central Yangon and Rotary Club of Greater Yangon.

The ceremony was attended by the chief ministers of Kayah, Chin and Mon states, regional government ministers, ambassadors, and the leaders and members of Rotary groups from around the world. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Myanmar rice export tipped to reach 2 mln tonnes

MYANMAR'S rice export is expected to reach two million tonnes this fiscal year, said U Myint Cho, Deputy Director General of Ministry of Commerce yesterday. The country's staple crop export reached 3.6 million tonnes in 2016-2017 fiscal year, and declined to 2.4 million tonnes in the following fiscal year.

"Myanmar has shipped 1.514 million tonnes of rice and 381,000 tonnes of broken rice from 1 October to 19 July this fiscal year, receiving US$573 million from rice export. A total of rice export this year is likely to hit two million tonnes at least," said the deputy director general at the 21st regular meeting of Myanmar Rice Millers Association held in Yangon. The Ministry of Commerce is inspecting the rice mills to be able to produce good quality rice that depends on the systematic production processes.



Farmers plant rice in a paddy field in Phaluu Gyi Village, Myawady District, Kayin State. **PHOTO: TUN TUN OO**

According to the statistic of previous fiscal year, Myanmar has 1,441 registered rice mills with the daily capacity of 15-tonned output each, and total production was 41,000 tonnes per day. The ministry is also negotiating with China to export more rice after inspecting 42 modern mills in the country, although only 11 companies were allowed rice export to China in 2014.—Myint Maung Soe ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Water outflow from spillway at Kyeeohn-Kyeewa Dam, no cause for alarm yet

KYEEOHN-Kyeewa Dam in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, overflowed 2.1 feet above its 340 feet mark yesterday morning and officials put up green flags to notify local residents of the emergency level 1 situation, according to the local irrigation and water management department. Despite water from the dam flowing into the spillway, authorities say there is still nothing to worry about and that the emergency level was only announced in accordance with the natural disaster prevention guidelines.

The notification process of the overflow of Kyeeohn-Kyeewa Dam to the public is divided into three stages.

The first stage is when the water starts rising above the designated level and green flags are set up to show emergency level 1.

The second stage is when water flowing into the spillway reaches the maximum high flood level and is likely to flood areas south of the dam. Yellow flags are set up at this stage to signify emergency level 2.



Kyeeohn-Kyeewa Dam in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, overflows 2.1 feet above its 340 feet mark yesterday. **PHOTO: NYAUNGU**

The third stage is when the overflow exceeds the maximum high flood level and can potentially damage the spillway. Red flags are set up to announce a state of emergency level 3.

U Aung Thu Lin, head of the local irrigation and water management department, said they will continuously notify the people of the dam's situation and possible emergency status. —NyaungU ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Suspects Khun San and Khun Sai seen with illegal drugs seized from them. **PHOTO : KO YE**

Illegal drugs seized in Waingmaw, Yebyu Tsps

POLICE confiscated 2.409 kilos of heroin worth K192,722,000 hidden in a motorcycle driven by a man identified as Khun San near Bala Min Htin inspection gate in Waingmaw Township at 9:30 a.m. on 27 July. In a separate case, police in Yebyu Township searched the hut of a man identified as Myint Tun in Bawar Village at 2 p.m. yesterday and confiscated 14.204 kilos of the drug ICE worth K56,816,000. The two man are being charged under The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Ko Ye ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Pumpkin growers in Lewe facing losses due to poor harvest

PUMPKIN growers in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw, said they are facing losses due to a poor harvest this season on account of heavy rainfall.

U Kyaw Lwin, a grower from Kuthabeik Village in Lewe Township, said: "Heavy rains this planting season have led to an increase in production costs, resulting in a decline in production." There are more than 350 households in Kuthabeik Village. This year, the village cultivated pumpkins starting April. The fruit is harvested between July and September. Every year, the villagers sell pumpkins to other regions and states through the Meiktila wholesale and retail markets. This year, the growers have continued to sell pumpkins to Mandalay, Monywa, Myingyan, Taungtha, Kyaukpadaung, Kume, Mahlaing, Thazi, and Wundwin townships through Meiktila. Depending on their freshness, large-sized pumpkins are currently priced at K1,400 per fruit, medium-sized pumpkins are fetching K1,300, while small-sized pumpkins are selling for K700 in the domestic market. — Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Farmers prepare to send pumpkins to the market in Lewe Township after the poor harvest this season.
PHOTO: THEIN MYINT KYAW (MEIKTILA)

Current trade deficit declines by almost $2 bln

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 October and 19 July in the current 2018-2019 Fiscal Year has touched US$27.8 billion, registering a trade deficit of $1.14 billion, according to a trade report issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

The current trade deficit went down by $1.99 billion or 63.58 per cent, in comparison with the corresponding period last 2017-2018 FY, when the country's trade deficit exceeded $3 billion.

In the past nine and a half months, Myanmar exported domestic products with a value of $13.37 billion and imported foreign commodities amounting to $14.51 billion. This FY saw a decrease in value of external trade by $12.9 billion from a year-ago period. When compared with this time last FY, the country's exports went up by $992 million but its imports down by over $1 billion. Myanmar delivers goods from both maritime route and border trade camps. During the period, the country's maritime trade totalled $19.53 billion, which saw a decrease of $12.03 billion than that of last FY. However, its border trade rose from $7.15 billion to $8.34 billion. The ministry's annual trade report indicated that the country registered a trade deficit of $1.036 billion during the 2018 mini-budget period. In the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, the country suffered a trade deficit of more than $3.97 billion, decreasing by over $1 billion matched against that of the trade deficit of $5.2 billion in the previous 2016-2017 FY, Myanmar is putting concerted efforts to reduce the trade gap by promoting the country's productivity in an anticipation of healthy exports.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Export of manufactured goods up over 43% on 13-19 July

MYANMAR'S export of manufactured goods stood at almost US$179.7 million during the week between 13 and 19 July, up by almost $54.3 million, or 43.3 per cent, from this time last 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The current figures included $48.78 million by the public sector and $130.9 million by the private sector. From the corresponding period last FY, the country's export of the same totalled $126.34 million only from the private sector.

From October through July this 2018-2019 FY, the country's exports of manufactured goods reached $7.6 billion, including public sector's export of $3.01 billion and private sector's export of $4.47 billion. The total export of manufactured goods this FY showed an increase of $1.37 billion against the same time last FY. Myanmar exported manufactured goods amounting to $4.53 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period between April and September, with the public sector earning $1.6 billion and the private sector fetching $2.932 billion.

According to the ministry's annual statistical report, the country earned $6.9 billion from the export of manufactured products in the 2017-2018 FY, $5.7 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, $6.5 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, $4.6 billion in the 2014-2015FY, $4.4 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, and $4.08 billion in the 2012-2013 FY. —Khine Khant ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Exports at Muse down over 18% in current FY

MYANMAR'S export of goods to China from through Muse border has reached US$3.9 billion so far in the current Fiscal Year 2018-2019, decreasing by $910 million or 18.6 per cent, from a year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Between 1 October and 19 July, the Myanmar-China border export via the Muse gate totalled $2.55 billion while the bilateral import stood at $1.42 billion. Compared with the corresponding period last 2017-2018 FY, the value of bilateral export decreased by $997 million, however, the bilateral import rose by $87 million.

At this time last FY, Myanmar's export to China from the Muse were $4.88 billion, with the export of $3.55 billion and import of $1.33 billion. Border trade between the two countries is mainly conducted through five gates —Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chinshwehaw, and Kengtung. Of them, the Muse gate sees the highest trade, in terms of both volume and value.

In the October-July period, the bilateral trade between China and Myanmar through the border gates topped $4.85 billion, with trade totalling $135.8 million at Lwejel, $455.4 million at Chinshwehaw, $276.4 million at Kanpiketee, and nearly $6.9 million at Kengtung.

Myanmar usually exports agricultural products, minerals, marine and forest products, along with manufactured goods to China. At the Sino-Myanmar borders, eel, crab, watermelon, muskmelon, mango, rice, and cattle are marketable export products.

Myanmar predominately imports consumer goods, raw materials, construction equipment, automobiles, motorbikes, and capital goods from its largest neighbour.—Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Deadly violence mars start of Afghan election season

KABUL — The start of Afghanistan's election season was marred by deadly violence Sunday, just hours after President Ashraf Ghani insisted "peace is coming" to the war-torn nation.

At least two people were killed and 25 others wounded in an attack targeting the Kabul office of Ghani's running mate, Amrullah Saleh.

The violence came on the official starting day of campaign season for the upcoming presidential elections, serving as a grim reminder of Afghanistan's woeful security situation and the sort of mayhem and murder that have beset previous polls.

The attack began around 4:40 pm (1210 GMT), when a huge blast struck near the Green Trend office, a youth- and reform-focused civil society organisation Saleh heads. He escaped without serious injury, his office said.

Three hours later, the attack was still ongoing. No group immediately claimed responsibility.

"The security forces have cordoned off the area. The security forces are trying to kill the attackers as soon as possible," interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said.

Health ministry spokesman Wahidullah Mayar said at least two people had been killed and 25 wounded.

Earlier on Sunday, a buoyant



President Ashraf Ghani is hoping to fend off challenges from 17 other candidates to score a second term. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ghani kicked off his campaign by insisting "peace is coming" and that pivotal talks with the Taliban would take place.

He is hoping to fend off challenges from 17 other candidates to score a second term at twice-postponed presidential elections now slated for September 28.

On Saturday, Ghani's peace minister, Abdul Salam Rahimi, said direct talks would take place with the Taliban within two weeks as part of a larger, US-led push for peace.

Such a development could be crucial, as the Taliban — who now control or influence about half of Afghanistan — have so far refused to speak to Ghani's government, as they consider the Kabul administration illegitimate.

Despondent voters

War aside, the country faces a host of major issues ahead of the election, including rocketing crime, a lacklustre economy, soaring unemployment, and crumbling infrastructure.

Voters are despondent about the prospects of a fair election, and many worry about a repeat of the sort of violent attacks on previous polling stations by the Taliban and other insurgent groups trying to undermine Afghanistan's fragile democracy.

Ghani insisted this year's election would be "clean", but distrust is rife.—AFP ■

Deployment of 10,000 fresh troops sparks fear in Indian Kashmir



Officials said the movement of troops - set to rise to 20,000 - was to relieve exhausted personnel deployed since local civic polls last year and now monitoring an annual Hindu pilgrimage. **PHOTO: AFP**

SRINAGAR (India) — Tensions in Indian-administered Kashmir rose on Sunday (July 28) over the weekend deployment of at least 10,000 paramilitary troops to the troubled region despite authorities' assertions the move was routine.

India maintains a deployment of 500,000 soldiers in the Muslim-majority Himalayan region, which has been divided between the South Asian nation and Pakistan since their split in 1947.

The region has seen a resurgence of hostilities in recent years, while locals are fearful about the loss of special privileges after India's Supreme Court last year began hearing a case challenging a constitutional provision.

Officials said the movement of troops - set to rise to 20,000 - was to relieve exhausted personnel deployed since local civic polls last year and now monitoring an annual Hindu pilgrimage.

"Troops have been working constantly for seven months. Some have to go on leave and some for training outside," Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh told AFP.

"We have requisitioned for 200 companies (20,000 troops), more might arrive."

A senior security official, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, said the deployment was to guard against possible protests about a decision or event, without giving further details.

He added that India's security set-up in Kashmir was "being re-oriented like never before". Locals told AFP they were worried Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government wanted to set aside a constitutional provision - Article 35A - which would allow Indians from outside the disputed territory to buy land there.

The deployment follows the uproar sparked by US President Donald Trump after he claimed during a meeting with Pakistani PM Imran Khan that Modi asked him to mediate in the Kashmir dispute.

India has long insisted the issue can only be resolved bilaterally, and strenuously denied Trump's claims.

India and Pakistan have been fighting over Kashmir, a part of which is also controlled by China, for decades.

In February, a suicide bombing claimed by a Pakistan-based militant group killed 41 Indian troops in Indian-controlled Kashmir, prompting tit-for-tat airstrikes between the two countries.

India's part of Kashmir was brought under New Delhi's direct rule in June 2018 after Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) withdrew support for its local partner and dissolved the elected local government.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump rejects charges of racism after accusations of 'hate agenda'

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump pushed back on Sunday (July 28) against charges that he was racist and promoting a "hate agenda" to win reelection following his attacks on a prominent black lawmaker and his constituency.

In a series of tweets, Trump had on Saturday taken aim at Democratic Representative Elijah Cummings, a high-profile critic of his administration whose district covers much of the majority black city of Baltimore, Maryland.

After calling Cummings' district a "rat and rodent infested mess" where no one would choose to live, Trump insisted on Sunday that he was just telling things as they are.

"There is nothing wrong with bringing out the very obvious fact that Congressman Elijah Cummings has done a very poor job for his district and the City of Baltimore," Trump said, without providing evidence to support his claim.—AFP ■

Cautious hopes before new round of US-China trade talks in Shanghai

BEIJING — US trade negotiators return to China this week for a fresh round of talks in a new city, but experts warn that a change of air is unlikely to quickly solve an impasse between the world's two biggest economies.

The meetings in Shanghai on Tuesday (July 30) and Wednesday will be the first face-to-face discussions since negotiations collapsed in May after President Donald Trump accused China of reneging on its commitments. Washington and Beijing have so far hit each other with punitive tariffs covering more than US$360 billion (S$493 billion) in two-way trade in the tense stand-off.—AFP ■

After a year of Trump pressure, US Fed struggles to communicate



New York Fed President John Williams. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON—For the first time since the Great Recession a decade ago, the US Federal Reserve is poised to cut interest rates, shoring up America's defenses as the global economy weakens.

It will mark a striking about-face for the central bank, reversing a rate increase announced just seven months ago.

And the policy flip comes as the central bank has suffered a number of awkward stumbles in communications, as it has tried to communicate confidence in the economy, while at the same time a readiness to support continued expansion.

Fed officials have had to backtrack and clarify recent statements, and amid President Donald Trump's blistering, year-long public campaign against Fed Chair Jerome Powell, one central banker seemed to offer himself as an alternative for the leadership position.

Meanwhile, although the rate cut this week is almost universally expected, economists disagree on whether the Fed is making the right move. Indeed, cutting rates now could appear highly unusual: the Fed has never done so with unemployment so low.

New York Fed President John Williams, the influential vice chair of the Fed's monetary policy committee, said this month that acting quickly to cut the key lending rate could "vaccinate" an economy against "disease" later on. But his office later scrambled to clarify that the comment was referring to the history of monetary policy and was not a prediction of how the Fed would act on 31 July.—AFP ■

China, Singapore conduct joint exercise on urban counter-terrorism

SINGAPORE — A bilateral army exercise between the Singapore Armed Forces and the People's Liberation Army of China started here Saturday at Singapore's Jurong Camp with an emphasis on urban counter-terrorism cooperation.

Some 240 personnel from the two sides are participating in Exercise Cooperation which will last till 5 August. They will engage in tactical training such as urban rappelling, live firing and surveillance before a combined urban raid.

Commander of the 3rd Singapore Division, Brigadier-General Frederick Choo, and Deputy Political Commissar of China's Southern Theater Command Army, Major-General Liu Jia, officiated at the opening ceremony.

Choo noted in his speech that they value greatly the close bilateral ties between Singapore and China and Exercise Cooperation is one of the cornerstones of the bilateral defense relations.

"Besides sharing operational experiences, one key highlight of Exercise Cooperation has always been the cultural exchange that takes place between our two peoples and the deep friendship that we forge along the way," Choo added. Liu Jia, for his part, said China and Singapore have enjoyed long history of friendship, and hoped that the milestone military exchange will enhance communication and coordination as well as promote understanding between the two sides so as to jointly write a new chapter of the friendship between the two militaries. Exercise Cooperation was first launched in 2009 in Guilin, China, and it is in its fourth edition this year.—Xinhua ■

Iran ships stranded in Brazil are set to depart: officials

RIO DE JANEIRO—Two Iranian ships stranded off the coast of Brazil for weeks were setting sail Saturday, officials said, after a court ordered state oil giant Petrobras to fuel up the vessels.

The bulk carriers had been stuck at Paranagua port in the southern state of Parana since early last month after Petrobras refused to provide fuel for fear of breaching US sanctions on Iran.

The ships dragged Brazil into a global standoff which has seen rising tensions and fears of a military clash involving Tehran and Washington, which imposed a raft of punitive measures on Iran and companies with ties to the Islamic republic.

US President Donald Trump has placed crippling sanctions on Iran since he pulled the United States last year out from a landmark multinational pact. The deal had lifted sanctions on Tehran in exchange for a freeze on its nuclear program.

The port administrator said that the ship Termeh left around noon, headed to another Brazilian port where it would be loaded with corn. The Bavand, which already has its cargo, will leave for Iran Saturday night. The journey home takes approximately 30 days, the administrator added.A spokesperson for Eleva Quimica, the Brazilian company which contracted the vessels, said refueling started in the early hours of Saturday, with the Termeh receiving 600 tons and Bavand 1,300 tons of fuel.

Petrobras, whose stock is listed in the US and in Sao Paulo, confirmed it was refueling the ships.The Supreme Court order came after Iran's top envoy to Brazil told Bloomberg that Tehran could suspend imports from Brazil if the issue was not resolved. —AFP ■



The Bavand, one of two Iranian ships stuck for weeks off the coast of Brazil, is seen anchored in the southern port of Paranagua. **PHOTO: AFP**

Main section of China-Laos Railway bridge over Mekong River completed



With the concrete beam of the last span over Mekong River put in place, the main section of Luang Prabang cross-Mekong River railway bridge has been completed on Sunday, seven months ahead of schedule. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

VIENTIANE —With the concrete beam of the last span over Mekong River put in place, the main section of Luang Prabang cross-Mekong River railway bridge has been completed on Sunday, seven months ahead of schedule.The closure of the Luang Prabang Mekong River Super Major Bridge, one of the two cross-Mekong bridges along the China-Laos Railway, indicated that the railway project construction has made major progress in the 2019 civil engineering schedule.

The 1,458.9-meter bridge lies in the north of the Luang Prabang Ancient Town, a world heritage in Laos, some 220 km north of the capital Vientiane, with five main piers including 34 spans planted in Mekong River.According to the Laos-China Railway (LCRC), which is in charge of the construction and the operation of the railway, the Luang Prabang cross-Mekong River bridge is a challenging task among over 160 bridges of the railway, involving the most complicated bridge building techniques. With engineering quality borne in mind, the Chinese engineering teams have overcome the difficulties brought by the Mekong River with its turbulent current, rapidly rising water level in rainy seasons and non-overburden riverbed. The teams have also overcome the technical difficulties in building trestle bridge for pier construction. —Xinhua ■

Saving lives by increasing tax on tobacco products

MYANMAR recorded an estimated 69,554 new cancer cases, with 51,059 people dying of the disease, in 2018. Not only has the figure risen steadily since, but it has also been predicted that cancer deaths will increase by over two-thirds by 2030.

Therefore, awareness needs to be raised among the people of Myanmar about cancer to help them understand the harmful effects of tobacco and betel use, the early signs of cancer, and the need to seek proper medical advice at an early stage.

If one does not know the early warning signs, the value of early intervention, or the risks of smoking or chewing betel, one's behaviour will not change.

> The current taxation on tobacco and tobacco-related products has shown that it is not effective in controlling the disease. Therefore, the time has come to draw up strategic plans for higher taxes on tobacco and other carcinogenic products.

Among Myanmar men, the most prevalent forms of cancer are lung and oral cancer, which are linked to smoking and chewing of betel nut.

According to surveys, smoking and tobacco use, including chewing of betel quid, had increased from 4.9 per cent in 2007 to 8.3 per cent in 2016 in the 13-15 age group.

Over 12 billion rolls of cigarettes are consumed in Myanmar every year.

According to one research, 85 per cent of betel quid chewers prefer tobacco-added quid. Moreover, signs of oral cancer development can be found in 8.5 per cent of the chewers. Similarly, a joint research conducted by Japanese experts and the Myanmar Dental Association in Mawlamyine and Hpa-an in 2015-2016 had showed that 7.6 per cent of chewers had signs of oral cancer growth. If not properly treated in the early stages, they could develop into full-blown cancer.

These figures show the extent of the cancer problem in Myanmar. The cancer development rate among people who chew betel quid with added tobacco is 29 times higher than among non-chewers and six times higher than among tobacco-free chewers.

The situation has raised alarm and led to calls for taxation on tobacco and related products, along the lines practiced in other countries, to control the increasing rate of throat and oral cancers caused by chewing betel quid.

Increased taxes on cigarettes, tobacco, and alcohol in neighboring countries have resulted in reduction in the use of these tobacco-related substances.

The current taxation on tobacco and tobacco-related products has shown that it is not effective in controlling the disease. Therefore, the time has come to draw up strategic plans for higher taxes on tobacco and other carcinogenic products. A tax on such products should be incorporated into health policies. We must not forget that cancer is a major, but preventable threat affecting the lives of our people.

Education proposal in Hluttaw to narrow disparity in quality of education between urban and rural areas

By Moe Kay Naing

TO PERFORM the major task of legislation, balancing power and representing the respective constituencies, the Pyithu Hluttaw MPs could successfully conclude the 12th regular session of Hluttaw on June 5 after it began on April 29. They raised queries and submitted proposals to make a balance between the legislative estate and other pillars. It was found that some acts of approvals and records through constructive debates among the Hluttaw representatives or the union level executives have substantial impacts on the respective sectors and the people.

Education queries and proposals

On the sixth-day meeting of 12th regular session, U Nyan Hein, Pyithu Hluttaw MP from Thanbyuzayat Township Constituency, submitted a proposal, saying that "The Union Government is urged to adopt and implement a policy to prioritize on local ethnic graduates in the recruitment process for basic primary teachers who are constantly required for the schools in the villages of ethnic areas". Education issue was seen as one of the prioritized topics in every Hluttaw regular sessions. Out of 131 asterisk questions in this session, 18 queries were concerned with education; Out of 14 proposals, four of them were related with this topic. These questions and proposals have reflected the requirements, pubic voices and the highly interest of Hluttaw representatives in this issue.

Education and teacher's value

Intelligence is an underlying need for everybody from birth to death. Education is of importance not only for an individual but also for the socio-economic development of a country. The role of teachers, similar to the education, was also spotlighted by an MP of Gwa Township Constituency in his supporting discussion. He defined 'teacher' as a person who is endowed with the capacities to manage in developing intelligence, knowledge, skills and opinions of the learners at a certain education level. Duty transfers for teachers and the needs of school children should be synchronized in rural schools, while teachers are willing to perform their duties regardless of places and times in accordance with their profession.

Challenges of teachers

On 15th day of the Hluttaw session, a Tatmadaw representative and other six MPs supported and urged to pass an education proposal as a move to inclusiveness of education for the children in far-flung areas in the education age of increased production through skill development. Quoting a report of Education Policy Commission that was submitted in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 11th regular session, the MP discussed this proposal. The report discloses the existing problems at basic education schools in Yangon and Mandalay, proposes possible solutions to tackle these problems. The MP also suggested to do similar analysis at the rural schools in the situations of a wide gap in healthcare services between the urban and the rural areas. It is correct. People in ethic areas are experiencing different types of problems from their counterparts in urban areas. Some of the problems include language communication, the lack of teachers, accommodation for teachers in remote areas, funding and the establishment of mutual understanding between the parents and the teachers due to language barrier. These issues have large impacts on the education gap between the urban and the rural areas, local development and peace-building efforts.

Troubles for rural education

The MP specifically highlighted that the language barrier is one of the reasons the ethnic children stayed away from the classes as they do not understand the meanings of lessons written in unfamiliar language for them. Th MP also discussed some problems, including the completion rate of ethnic children primary education level, the gap in age and knowledge between the children of rural and urban areas, hiring unexperienced teachers by the parents to fill the vacancies of teachers and failing to meet teaching schedules on curriculum. The MP also urged to appoint local graduates for those schools, and they should be given training on Myanmar language course in school holidays, if necessary, after testing the proficiency.

Sharing same feelings between teachers and school children

Poor in accommodations for teachers healthcare services, teaching aid, transportation and livelihoods for the families left at the homes are distracting teachers to work in remote areas. About one-third of basic education schools are located in the areas of severe weather conditions and difficult transportation. There are no enough teachers at these schools. These situations have forced the families of little interest in education to withdraw their children from schools. The feelings of children in ethnic areas could only be understood by the local teachers. The children would also admire the teaching profession that requires good volition, interest and sacrifice. By these moral virtues, the welfares for ethnic people could be promoted continuously. In addition, unbalanced ratio of female and male teachers is a challenge for the education of ethnic children. More male teachers will be needed for the far-flung areas to address this problem.

> The MP specifically highlighted that the language barrier is one of the reasons the ethnic children stayed away from the classes as they do not understand the meanings of lessons written in unfamiliar language with them.

Effective education foundation

The idea of MP who submitted the education proposal can be outlined that a concrete foundation for education would be set up by appointing local graduates in the schools of ethnic areas to overcome the hurdles in attracting children to primary schools due to the language barriers. Only then, the children will easily understand the teaching of local teachers and quickly know the subjects. They will enjoy school and the concept of knowledge, preventing them from turning into truants and dropouts. In the next step, the increasing relationships among teachers, children and parents will surely reduce the prevailing problems. It is very satisfied for education to see such discussions and proposals of MPs in the Hluttaws.

Difficulties in accommodation

A discussion of an MP also reflected the undertakings of Education Ministry to attract all the school-age children to the schools, and could help prevention of early dropouts. Furthermore, teachers from the cities and urban areas hesitate to work in remote areas as they worry about difficulties in transportation, accommodation and relationships with the local people. Accommodation cannot be provided to them sufficiently despite the ongoing measures for this. Vacancies should be fulfilled in time. Duties of female teachers must be substituted when they take maternity leave. The MP suggested the appointment of local teachers to address such problems.

Discussion reflected on the existing situations

Another MP also discussed poor in education quality and development sector in rural areas due to these challenges and problems could be tackled collaboratively by the skills of devoted teachers and the enthusiasm of children. The MP also expressed his belief that outstanding students could be generated by appointing local teachers, while appreciating the efforts of the State in preservation of ethnic cultures and traditions. In supporting discussion of other MPs, they presented their reviews on the implementation of government in education sector. They acknowledge generating teachers from education colleges, hiring teachers on daily wages, all-inclusive education programmes, and designing curriculum for ethnic subjects.

Th MP also discussed the appointment of teachers from nearby areas, even if there is no opportunity to get the local teachers; transfer is to be made only at the end of each academic year; psychological relations should be taken into account between the teachers and the children. Another MP also presented the ways to adjust rules and principles in recruitment process of teaching training school in Hakha, Chin State, in which the number of selected candidates were remarkably lower than that of applicants. The MP also suggested the local applicants should be prioritized in selection procedure. The Tatmadaw representative made a supporting discussion about the existing education policy and the student-centered teaching method, with remarks on the possible difficulties in selecting local graduates for teachers in every area of the country, the duty substitutions in understaffed schools and formation of monitoring bodies in respective townships.

Experiences in some countries and their implementation

Problems of teachers in far-flung areas can also be found in other countries. Some common difficulties are taking place in Indonesia, India and Nepal where the teachers are not willingly to work in remote areas. These problems are being solved by hiring daily waged teachers, increasing education budget, the allocation of special budget by the central governments to attract them, the enactment of teacher law and the regular support for transfer (based on the location and status of schools). Myanmar Government has gradually increased education budget, (80 percent of capital budget for education was spent for basic education in 2019-2010 fiscal year), conducted Diploma in Teaching Education courses for matriculated students, the Pre-Primary Teacher Training courses for the graduates and one-month training course for daily-waged teachers. Moreover, teachers in remote areas are encouraged with special assistance and the non-local teachers are provided with safe and free accommodation. In addition, the government is working with UNESCO (STEM) to narrow gender gap in appointing teachers in the future.

Proposal was approved

After the supporting discussions on the proposal, the Deputy Minister for Education remarked on the proposal, confirming that his ministry is emphasizing on the local people in recruitment for education programme, as well as their qualification. The Deputy Minister also said he acknowledged the benefits of ethnic teachers, and agreed to put it in the education policy for implementation. The Pyithu Hluttaw MPs also agreed to approve the proposal.

Education is important for conserving a State, the development of people and valuable traditions. The discussions of MPs in the Hluttaw about this proposal can be regarded as a move to foster a sector and to get closer cooperation among respective sectors. In the discussions, the MPs and the respondents to the proposals were found to have their good willingness for the welfares and benefits of the children and the parents in remote areas, knowledge and their far-sightedness. Approval on this proposal could help in developing human resources, and supporting local development programmes. Peace and development cannot stand separately, and it will absolutely guarantee for the lasting peace that our people ever expect in the Union.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 28th July, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 29th July, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Naypyitaw, (Northern and Eastern) Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Southern Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7–9)feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast and about (4-6) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th July, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th July, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

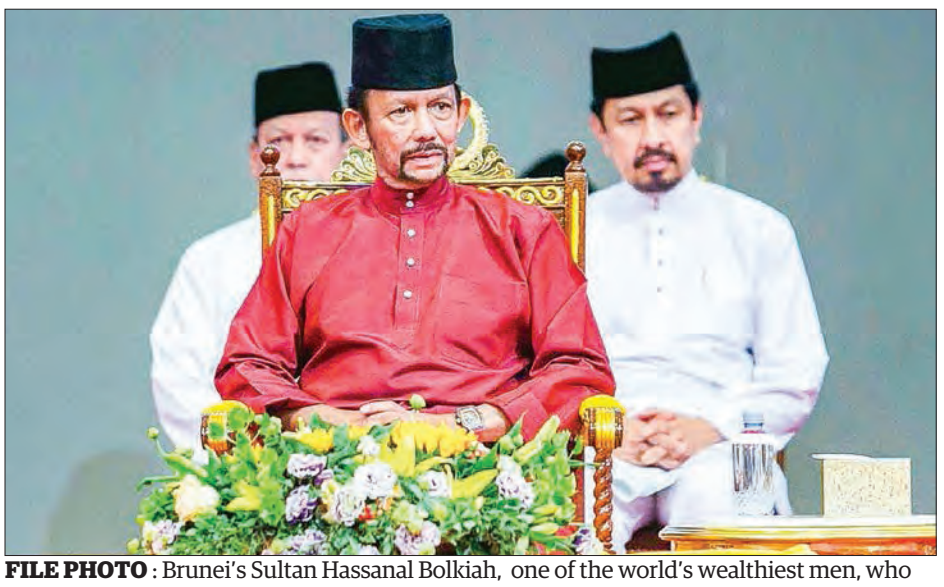
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th July, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: **(1)** Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), **(2)** Own name and (if different) your penname, **(3)** Your level of education, **(4)** Name of your School/College/University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— **Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar**

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Brunei holds ceremony for monarch



FILE PHOTO : Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, one of the world's wealthiest men, who has been on the throne over five decades. **PHOTO: AFP**

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—Brunei held a ceremony of meeting and greeting the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and other members of the royal family at the Taman Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien here on Sunday, with the Sultan witnessing a 15-minute special display by around 500 participants, some of whom had spent two months rehearsing the performance.

The meet-and-greet event is part of annual tradition during the Sultan's birthday celebration. The monarch turned 73 on July 15, 2019, and he is the world's second longest-reigning present-day monarch after Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

One of the more unique features of this event is the chance for the local people to personally hand out letters to the Sultan, without going through bureaucratic channels, often voicing their daily grievances and hardships. The meet-and-greet event was held in the Brunei-Muara District, the sultanate's main administrative district.

Prior to this, similar meet-and-greet ceremonies were held in the other three districts of Belait, Temburong and Tutong.

During the meet-and-greet event, the people were divided into several camps, comprising of mukims (administrative divisions of each district), villages, clubs and organizations, government agencies, and private sectors.— Xinhua ■

Heatwave threatens to accelerate ice melt in Greenland

STOCKHOLM—After breaking records over Europe, the heatwave has swept over Scandinavia and is predicted to move towards Greenland, according to the World Meteorological Organization."As it is forecast to move over the Arctic it will potentially bring a large amount of energy that will melt ice, both sea ice in the Arctic Ocean and the ice sheet surface over the next 3 to 5 days," Ruth Mottram, a climate scientist with the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI), told AFP.

That heat will add to a summer where the melting season started early and "persistent warm conditions have led to a very large loss of ice".According to DMI's models an estimated 170 gigatonnes of water have been added to the world's oceans from melted ice and snow between July 1 to July 26.100 gigatonnes contribute to about 0.28 millimetres (0.01 inches) of global sea level rise.The expected average would be of about 60 to 80 gigatonnes of ice over the same period."So we're well over what we would normally have", Mottram said, emphasizing that the rate of melting can vary greatly from one year to the next. — AFP ■

Israel, U.S. successfully test Arrow-3 missile defense system

JERUSALEM—Israel and the United States successfully conducted tests of the advanced anti-ballistic missile system "Arrow-3," the Israeli Ministry of Defense said on Sunday.

Israel's Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Benjamin Netanyahu said that "in recent weeks, we have carried out three pioneering secret experiments of the Arrow-3 missile.

These experiments were held in Alaska, in full cooperation with our great ally the United States. They were successful beyond any imagination."



Israeli soldiers walk near an Israeli Irone Dome defence system (L), a surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, the MIM-104 Patriot (C), and an anti-ballistic missile the Arrow 3 (R) during Juniper Cobra's joint exercise press briefing at Hatzor Israeli Air Force Base in central Israel, on 25 February, 2016. **PHOTO: AFP**

Netanyahu added that "today Israel has the ability to act against ballistic missiles that could be launched against us from Iran or anywhere else. This is a great achievement for the security of Israel. All of our enemies should know that we will overcome them in both defense and offense."— AFP ■

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Poland needs to save water for (non-)rainy day

WARSAW—With his two fishing rods planted firmly on the bank of the Vistula river, 85-year-old Tadeusz Norberciak peers at rocks exposed on the dry riverbed, a telling sign of Poland's looming water crisis.

"I can't remember water levels being as low as what we've seen in recent years, it's tragic", says the pensioner, sporting a fisherman's vest and cap for protection against the blazing sun."Further north, it's even worse, the Vistula looks like puddles," he told AFP on a part of the waterway passing through the capital Warsaw.Hundreds of rivers and in Poland are drying up little by little.According to experts, the central European country of 38 million people risks a serious water crisis in the coming years. — AFP ■

Hong Kong protestors defy ban, march again against extradition bill

HONG KONG—Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of central Hong Kong on Sunday to protest against alleged police violence while continuing to call for the withdrawal of a controversial extradition bill.The crowd, without police approval, marched from the Chater Garden in Central toward the shopping district of Causeway Bay, chanting slogans accusing the police of using excessive force on protesters last Sunday after a peaceful rally descended into chaos.Roadblocks were set up in the shopping district as a main road is occupied by protesters.Mega barriers were erected around the Central Government Liaison Office, Beijing's representative office, on the western side of Hong Kong Island, in defense of possible protesters.

In last Sunday's protest, anti-China protesters sprayed graffiti on the walls and defaced the national emblem of the liaison office. Later that night, more radical protestors clashed with police, who allegedly fired nonlethal weapons in a bid to disperse them, injuring some."The government doesn't act like it wants to solve the problem, otherwise it wouldn't drag on that long," said Jenny Mak, a 49-year-old church worker. "We could only fight on to draw international attention, hopefully that will give pressure to the government, and the pro-establishment camp."— Kyodo ■

Oil spill reported off Chilian southern coast

SANTIAGO—About 40,000 liters of diesel oil has been spilt off the far southern coast of Chile, the country's navy said Saturday.

Chilian mining company CAP reported Saturday that the spill occured at its onshore terminal on remote Guarello Island, about 250 km north of the port city Puerto Natales, and moved into the waters of the South Pacific.

Authorities have launched emergency and pollution responses. The control team is expected to reach the island Sunday. An investigation as to the cause of the incident is underway.—XINHUA ■

Iran says European fleet in Gulf would be 'provocative'

TEHRAN—Iran on Sunday slammed as "provocative" a British proposal for a European-led naval mission to escort tankers in the Gulf, amid soaring tensions over the seizure of ships."We heard that they intend to send a European fleet to the Persian Gulf which naturally carries a hostile message, is provocative and will increase tensions," said government spokesman Ali Rabiei.

Britain said on Monday it was planning a European-led force to escort tankers through the world's busiest oil shipping lane in response to Iran's seizure of a UK-flagged vessel on July 19.The seizure of the Stena Impero came two weeks after British authorities detained an Iranian tanker—the Grace 1 —off its overseas territory Gibraltar on allegations it was breaching EU sanctions on Syria.In his comments on Sunday, the government spokesman said Iran believed the security of the oil-rich Gulf had to be maintained by countries in the region."We are the biggest agent of maritime security in the Persian Gulf," Rabiei said, quoted by ISNA news agency.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said such a force would only make matters worse. —AFP ■

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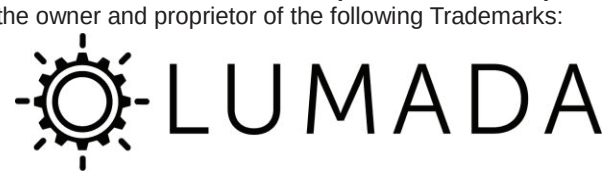
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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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View of Kalaw in Shan State. **PHOTO: LIN THU**

A trip to Kalaw

By Lin Thu

DURING the black and white movie era, I watched a movie named "A station after Kalaw." It was such a long time ago that I forgotten what it was about except remembering the name Kalaw in it.

Recently a colleague in office passed me a Myanmar translation of two books written by a German author Jan-Philipp Sendker titled "The Art of Hearing Heartbeats" and "A Well-Tempered Heart." The two works of fiction were set in Kalaw and the author resided in Kalaw for a considerable time to write it. It was an impressive work by a foreigner and the author seems to know more about Kalaw than me.

About a year ago my office colleagues went to Kalaw. As they posted a bunch of pictures on their social media sites, I was able to see all of it and found the place very interesting. When they were back they spoke about the beauty of Kalaw, a hike of about 20 miles and the views of orange and tea plantations along the way. Their words strengthened my determination to visit Kalaw.

Leaving Yangon

Yangon-Taunggyi bus is to be taken to go to Kalaw. Kalaw was in Southern Shan State and people going to Kayah State Loikaw would also pass through Kalaw. The Yangon-Taunggyi road is an ascending one going up hills and mountains. The road was good and the express buses were modern so it was quite a comfortable ride. The bus leaving Yangon at 7:30 pm reaches Kalaw by 4 am the next morning. As there was no Yangon-Kalaw bus the Yangon-Taunggyi bus had to be taken and had to disembark in Kalaw. Once in Kalaw, the next stop will be a hotel. If hotel booking was made in advance, the bus can be requested to stop right in front of the hotel. Then you can dive into the bed right away and catch up on the sleeps lost if you were unable to doze off on the bus.

Kalaw is cold and you would need to bring along warm clothes. It can be said that it is cold all the time. Sometime there were mists and fogs so some sort of headdress or hat is also required. Or else, you can certainly catch a cold or have a running nose.



Beautiful landscape view of Kalaw. **PHOTO: LIN THU**

Prior arrangements and plans need to be drawn up on what to do and where to go once in Kalaw. If you don't know, the help of local guides can be obtained. They are called Trekking Guides. Guides save time and everything required will be arranged by them.

In Kalaw

After a short nap in the hotel to warm yourself up from the cool weather you'll be ready to start moving. Inle Lake is only a two hour drive from Kalaw. Inle, Pindaya, Yay Pya (Blue Water) Pond, Myin Ma Hti Mountain and a tour of Kalaw town can be conducted within a day. Breakfast was Shan noodle in Kalaw market. Kalaw had a five-day market where once every five days locals from nearby villages came to town to sell their local foods and if you are fortunate enough to be there on that market day, you'll experience more varieties of local foods and snacks. Lunch is good at shops in Pindaya.

Leaving Kalaw at 8 am and visiting nearby places mentioned above, you can be back in Kalaw around 5 pm. As you took an overnight bus trip last night and a day-long tour of nearby areas of Kalaw, it is advisable to retire early after the first day in Kalaw so that you are well rested and ready for the next day.

Trekking in Kalaw

The famous treks start the next morning. I woke up from bed at 6 am and packed some dresses into a backpack and waited for the guide. Dress should be light. Most important is the shoe. It is inadvisable to come with a new shoe as it could cause blisters. A well worn shoe is the best. It is important for you to be fully comfortable with the shoe you brought along. A slipper is a good backup to bring along as it can also be a good alternative if you have blisters. Water, personal medication and some snack should also be brought along.

A day trek, one night trek and two night trek is available. Most go for a one night trek. Once you trek out of Kalaw the

sights of pine trees, farm lands, orange and tea plantations fill your vision with air smelling fresh and clean. There are two trekking routes. One took you through a forest reserve and the other skirts around it and was known as inner and outer routes. Outer route was easy going while the inner one had hills to trek up and down as well as small streams to cross. The difference in trekking time is about one and half hour and most took the harder inner route. Both routes will take you across an old railroad line that was built during the English colonial time. It is a good place to take pictures.

The rest area is a View Point. There's no shop or stalls as it was in the middle of an orange plantation. The Guide had lunch prepared for the trekkers about 6 pm the trekkers reach Ywa Pu Villlage near Myin Daik Station where they'll rest for the night. This was also arranged by the guide.

The next morning, another four hours trek will bring the trekker to Myin Ma Hti pagoda and cave. Lunch was provided there and those who can't or want to trek back can take a small pick up car back to Kalaw paying about K 12,000 for the car fare. The Guide is responsible for your food, lodging and guiding you along the trail. If you trek in a group, the Guide fee is K 50,000 per person. If you trek individually, the Guide fee is K 60,000.

Final comment

Those who came to Kalaw on a two night three day trip can go for a one night trek. If you



there. The available food is chapatti or roti with fruits. If you want rice or other foods, it must be ordered in advance. View Point is where trekkers took lunch and then continue on with the trek.

If you are on a day trek, this is where you turn back to Kalaw. Kalaw to View Point is four hour hike so after lunch, you head back to Kalaw if you are on a day trek. Those on a one night trek continue for about another three hours passing through Kayah and Shan villages. Around

are coming over only during the weekend Saturday and Sunday, then a day trek could be conducted. Upon arrival on Saturday, you can tour Kalaw and neighborhood. After one night rest, you can go on a day trek, return to Kalaw and take the night bus back. It could be a bit of a rush so the best is to come on a two day three night visit.

Translated by Handytips

Ecotourism booms in Shan State

By Kyaw Htike Soe

SOME significant sites including Inle Lake in Shan State are famous for its unspoiled natural sceneries. Inle Lake, the second largest freshwater lake in Myanmar, is surrounded by mountains at east and west and is located about 3,000 above sea level in Nyaungshwe Township, Southern Shan State. It is also part of the UNESCO Bio Sphere for conservation of endangered species.

Over the past few years, Inle Lake has gained popularity among not only the globetrotters but also local travellers. Normally, tourists used to throng Inle Region during the tourism season. But the number of local travellers who flock to the area has increased significantly during the public holidays, according to local tour operators. The sightseers visit ancient pagodas, handicraft industry, weaving industry, Maithauk Bridge, and a cultural museum in Nyaungshwe Township. Inle Lake is a popular tourist attraction spot with natural scenery, ancient religious buildings, cultural customs of local people, handicraft industry, floating villages, floating farms, and the unique leg-rowing style of the residents. Exploring Inle Lake by boat should be a priority for visitors at home and abroad.



Boat ride is a breathtaking experience for visitors to Inle Lake. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

A hot spring near Mangpon Village about two miles from Namtkham Township, Northern Shan State is crowded with holidaymakers and is famous for visitors to take pleasure in the beautiful landscape around it. There are swimming pools for kids and adults, a water ski, playgrounds and natural bathing rooms for visitors. Sightseers from nearby villages in Namtkham, Mantweingyi and Muse Townships flock to the hot spring to relax their physical and mental stresses. The recreation area is teemed with vacationists on public holidays and summer. The restaurants and souvenir shops are also allowed to sell local cuisines and handicrafts for the guests.

Arrangements are being made to offer better services to holidaymakers who visit Shan Yoma Elephant Camp near Nant Pan Tet Village in Kalaw Township, Southern Shan State, said an official from the elephant camp. "We are currently preparing some exciting schedules for local visitors and foreigners. Apart from elephant ride, sightseers will be able to take a walk to a small waterfall which is about two miles from the elephant camp, and take a bath in the natural pond. We will also extend the public lounges and build souvenir shops," said Ko Sai Than Naing, In-charge of the camp.

Situated in Nant Pan Tet Village, a border village of Mandalay Region and Shan State and about 70 miles away from Meikhtila, vacationists can enjoy elephant rides in the forest, visit a village where mahouts reside, take bath in the waterfall's pond and take photos and videos in the camp, he added. The natural relaxation camp was opened to public on 13 February 2018. Visitors will be entertained by ten elephants including two baby elephants.



Visitors should enjoy elephant ride at Shan Yoma Elephant Camp in Kalaw Township, Southern Shan State.. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Myanmar to play friendly football match with China in August



Myanmar's Maung Maung Lwin (white) tries to take the ball past team China's defenders (red) during an international friendly match held on 26 May, 2018 at the Jiangning Sports Center in China. **PHOTO:MFF**

IN preparation for the second round of the Asian qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup, the national football teams of Myanmar and China will play a friendly match on 30 August at the Xianghe National Football Training Center in Langfang.

According to a statement issued by the Myanmar Football Federation, the friendly match against China will be played in the absence of fans.

In their previous meeting in an international friendly match on 26 May, 2018, Myanmar had lost to China 0-1. This year, team Myanmar, headed by head coach Miodrag Radulovic, won a friendly match against the Singapore national team on 11 June, with a score of 2-1.

The friendly matches are aimed at helping team Myanmar gain experience for the World Cup qualifiers by playing against the top Asian football teams.

In the second round of the Asian qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup, Myanmar has been placed in Group F. In the group stage matches, Myanmar will face Japan, touted as Asia's best performers in the 2018 FIFA World Cup, who were defeated by Belgium in the Round of 16.

Myanmar will also play Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Mongolia in the same group.

Myanmar will take on Mongolia on 5 September, Japan on 10 September, Kyrgyzstan on 10 October and Tajikistan on 14 November.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Yadanarbon vs Rakhine United: Hlaing Bo Bo's late goal leads to draw

A late goal by key Yadanarbon player Hlaing Bo Bo led to the Week 18 match of the MPT Myanmar National League 2019 between Yadanarbon and Rakhine United, held yesterday at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay, ending in a 1-1 draw.

Initially, Rakhine United was in the lead, but the late goal saved Yadanarbon from a loss.

Yadanarbon F.C. used its main players in the match, including Captain Hlaing Bo Bo, goal keeper Pyae Lyan Aung, youth player Myat Kaung Khant, and Thein Than Win. Rakhine United also lined up with key players, including goal keeper Tay Zar Aung, Captain Nyein Chan, Phyo Wai Aung, Zin Myo Naing, Thet Tun Aung, and expat player Kelvin Kudus. Yadanarbon tried to take the lead right from the kick-off, but most of their attacks were successfully deflected by the massive and strong defense line of Rakhine United.

Rakhine United also relied on counter attacks to breach Yadanarbon's defense. But, the first half ended with none of the teams scoring any goals. Both teams changed tactics in the second half to score the opening goal.

Finally, at 71 minutes, Rakhine United earned their first goal, scored beautifully by Kelvin Kudus. The goal put pressure on Yadanarbon F.C., who redoubled efforts to equalize the goal.

But, the clever blocks and defense put up by Rakhine United's defender and keeper made it difficult for Yadanarbon strikers to land any goals. The result remained 1-0 till the end of the regular 90 minutes of play. Then, the referee gave five minutes of extra time, and Hlaing Bo Bo scored a goal for Yadanarbon in the 90 plus one minute. The late goal was a blow to Rakhine United fans, as the result changed to a draw.

After the draw, Rakhine United is standing in the fifth place with 27 points from six wins, nine draws, and three losses out of 18 matches played. Yadanarbon F.C. is standing in the sixth place with 26 points from seven wins, five draws, and six losses.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Rakhine United's Phyo Wai Aung (red) vies for the ball with Yadanarbon's Pyae Sone Naing (blue) during their Week 18 match of the Myanmar National League, held yesterday at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNL**



Target man: Lille's Ivorian forward Nicolas Pepe has offers from Arsenal and Napoli. **PHOTO: AFP**

Napoli could hijack Arsenal's Pepe deal: source

LONDON — Arsenal target Nicolas Pepe is also weighing an offer from Napoli and will decide his future at the start of the coming week, a source close to the deal told AFP on Sunday.

A second source said French champions Paris-Saint Germain had also entered the race to sign the 24-year-old.

The Ivory Coast striker, who featured on five occasions for his country at the African Cup of Nations, scored 22 goals last season as Lille finished in a surprising second place in Ligue 1. British media reported on Sunday the Gunners had scheduled a medical for Pepe. The first source told AFP it was not certain the 13-time international would end up in North London.

"The club have received three written offers for 80 million euros ($100 million) and the player will probably choose either Arsenal or Napoli," the source said.

"This should be settled by Tuesday," the source added. "Both clubs are offering him a net salary of 8 million euros a year. "Pepe's preference would be for Arsenal, who will be competing in the Europa League this season. But the prospect of playing in the Champions League with Napoli and coach Carlo Ancelotti could still turn the balance to Italy."

The second source said PSG were also interested in the Paris-born forward but their approach may have come too late and could also be hampered by their need to trim costs to satisfy UEFA's financial fair play rules.

Contacted by AFP, Lille president Gerard Lopez refused to comment.—AFP ■