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Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits flood-hit Mon State, meets with victims



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the damage of road section between Mile Post 45/46 and Mile Post 85 on Mawlamyine-Thanyuayay-Ye Highway yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Henry Van Thio visited flood-hit areas in Mon State yesterday to lend encouragement to rescue teams and provide aid to flood victims in Mawlamyine and Ye townships.

The Vice President visited the flood victims at the 500-bedded People's Hospital in Maw-

lamyine, Mon State, yesterday morning during in his inspection tour to the natural disaster affected areas in Mon State.

U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the Chairman of Natural Disaster Management Committee, comforted the patients, including monks, who were taken to the hospital af-

ter they were injured by landslides in Thalphyugone village in Paung Township.

The Vice President, together with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Chief Minister for Mon State Dr Aye Zan, Commander of Southeast Command Major General Myo

Moe Aung, Vice Ministers Major General Myint Nwe, U Tin Myint, U Hla Kyaw, U Soe Aung and department officials, inspected the damage of road sessions due to heavy rains between Mile Post 45/46 and Mile Post 85 on Mawlamyine, Thanbyuzayat-Ye Highway.

The Vice President and par-

ty also presented cash awards to the Tatmadaw personnel of local command and the staff of Mon State's Road Transport Administration Department before they met with the local people who are taking shelter in Ye Township Sports Stadium.

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National Indoor Stadium (1) Thuwunna to be upgraded with Chinese aid

A ceremony to launch the refurbishment project for National Indoor Stadium (1), Thuwunna in Yangon with Chinese aid was held at the stadium yesterday.

First, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Regional Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai and Chinese commercial attaché Mr Xiang Guo Shan cut ceremonial ribbons to open the event.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe expressed gratitude for renovating the stadium, which is an image of Myanmar sport society, with modern sports equipment as an indication of close bilateral friendship between Myanmar and China.

The construction of the stadium, which can hold a total ca-

capacity of 10,825 people, began in 1983 and was completed in 1986. It is still standing strong and could host local and international sports competitions, activities and meetings, the Union Minister said.

The renovation work, which covers installation of modern sports equipment, electrical and automation systems upgrades and other general repair and maintenance, is estimated to take two years' time.

Afterwards, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai delivered separate addresses. Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister received a delegation led by UNICEF Representative to Myanmar Ms June Kunugi at the meeting hall of the ministry in Yangon.

They discussed matters related to finalization of finan-



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe poses for a group photo with other attendees at the ceremony to launch the refurbishment project for National Indoor Stadium (1), Thuwunna in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

cial management producers, signing with Gavi, the Vaccine alliance (GAVI) for health care improvement projects that are carried out with GAV HSS-2 fund,

cooperation with regional/state governments to implement a multi-sector national nutrition plan (2018-2023) and purchasing 14,000 mobile tablets that will be

distributed to the ministry's basic health staff and stations and township hospitals' doctors with GAVI fund by UNICEF.—MNA ■
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Union-Attorney General attends Singapore Convention on Mediation



Union-Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo meets with President of ASEAN Law Association and Chief Justice of Singapore Mr Sundaresh Menon during his visit in Singapore. **PHOTO:MNA**

U Tun Tun Oo, Union-Attorney General, attended the signing ceremony and conference of Singapore Convention on Mediation from 6 to 9 August.

During his visit in the city state, the Union-Attorney General held talks with President of ASEAN Law Association and Chief Justice of Singapore Mr Sundaresh Menon about promoting cooperation among ASEAN legal experts and better collaboration in regional and international legal affairs, the undertakings of national committee that was formed after Myanmar has joined the ASEAN Law Association in 2012, and the reformation of High Court Lawyers Council.

U Tun Tun Oo also met with

Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law to discuss the ongoing cooperation between the Office of Union-Attorney General and the Singaporean Law Ministry, human resource development programmes and the future collaboration schemes. Myanmar's Union-Attorney General also visited the Attorney-General and the Deputy Attorney-General of Singapore for discussions about training programmes for Myanmar legal officers from the UAGO at the Office of Chief Attorney-General in Singapore, the ongoing courses for capacity building for legal affairs and the future plans of the UAGO.—MNA

■ (Translated by Aung Khin)

Mining plots in Mogok divided into three zones for allocation to locals

THREE mining zones had been designated and the land measuring is still in progress for allocating the plots for locals, said Director-General of Department of Mines, U Moe Swe, yesterday.

He added that the project is aimed at creating more job opportunities for the locals and to fight illegal mining in Mogok.

The project started in May. Despite two month effort, there are delays due to difficult transportation in mountainous region amid, heavy rain.

"Though three zones have been designated, the plots will be allocated after land meas-

urement. There may be monasteries, pagodas, houses and plantations in the designated zones. We are adjusting our land measurements to be clear of these buildings. In hilly region, plain land area is small. That is why it is difficult for measurement" he said.

Under the supervision of regional government small scale and artisanal mining plots were allocated and they have approved of metal detecting, sample and small scale production, selling and small scale mining. Different businesses and metal groups are categorized.

"If the locals have oppor-

tunities, there will be developments in the town. When small scaled workers find gem stones, they will definitely sell them. Buyers will sell again after polishing them, so there will be abundant stock of gems stone in Mogok gem market. Since the businessmen do not sell but hold on to those gem stone, they are scarce in the market" Chairperson of Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs Association, Daw Phyu Phyu said.

Departments of township general administration, Mogok Gem Trade, Mining and forestry are working together for measurements. Plots will be allocated



The project of mining intends to create more job opportunities for the locals and to fight illegal mining in Mogok. **PHOTO: KHINE SAT WAI**

by an assessment team led by Mandalay Regional Minister of Natural Resources and

Environmental Conservation.—Khine Sat Wai ■
(Translated by Alphonsus)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits flood-hit Mon State, ...

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The Vice President comforted the flood victims, saying that natural disasters take place not only in Myanmar but also in the world; however, the government is providing timely assistance whenever it happened.

He also pledged the government will provide the boats for rescue works and healthcare services in Ye Township. He distributed rice to the flood victims and advised the people to take care of their health while they are residing at the shelter.

The Vice President and party

sumption before they inspected the inundated residential areas along Ye river.

They also donated cash and offertories to Bhandata Thondara, the leading monk of Mandalay Mahasi Meditation Center.

The Vice President and party then proceeded to the temporary shelters in Kyaikthiwin Monastery of Ye Township, comforted the victims, and gave cash aid, dried noodles and canned fish.

At the General Administration Department office in the Yay Township, the Vice President presented cash assistance for



Vice President U Henry Van Thio presents 50 sacks of rice to the local people who are taking shelter in Ye Township Sports Stadium yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Preparatory measures must be taken to carry out rehabilitation works with might and main once the flood waters recede:

Vice President U Henry Van Thio

then proceeded to the temporary shelters for the flood victims at the Anandajinata Palin Hnasu Pagoda compound in Ye Township to comfort them and present aid cash.

U Henry Van Thio and the senior government officials also visited the rescue camps in the compound of Mandalay Mahasi Meditation Center in the township and provided the flood victims with rice, dried noodle, canned fish for one-week con-

police members who provided help in the disaster-hit areas of Mon State through Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Myo Swe Win.

Heavy rains at night on 10 August triggered a sudden rise in the water levels of a river in Ye Township, Mon State, inundating homes in the town and villages. Four temporary relief camps were opened in Ye and the other four in villages totaling eight. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief

and Resettlement provided rice and other rations per person, the State 50 bags of rice, the Natural Disaster Funds 100 bags of rice.

In the evening, the Vice President met with the emergency session of Mon State natural disaster management team held at the Mon State Government Office in Mawlamyine.

In his speech, the Vice President urged the natural disaster management committees to practically implement their action plans, to take strong pre-

paratory measures as not only Myanmar but also the whole world is facing the adverse effects of climate change, and to promote public involvement by disseminating public awareness of the mitigation of loss through the coordinated disaster training, and promised necessary gear, machinery and vehicles for search, rescue and aid programs. Preparatory measures must be taken to carry out rehabilitation works with might and main once the flood waters recede, he said,

adding that rice seeds need to be stored in advance for replanting crops in fields, as part of rehabilitation efforts for farmers, and repair of communication networks and transport links needs to be undertaken as soon as possible.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Chief Minister of Mon State Dr Aye Zan, deputy ministers and officials reported on progress of work. The Vice President looked into the requirements. — MNA

(Translated by Tin Maung Than)

Kayin community in Nyaungdon holds white thread tying festival

THE traditional Kayin white thread tying festival was celebrated at Nyaungdon City Hall in Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday morning.

Speaking at the ceremony, Regional Hluttaw representative for constituency 2, U Kyaw San, said this traditional festival which falls on the lunar

month of Wagaung aims to preserve the culture and literature of the Kayin people. He said the white thread symbolizes remembrance for one's par-

ents and ancestors and is also a momentous occasion for Kayin people to reunite.

Next, Nant Khin Aye Oo of the Central Committee for holding the festival said it is necessary to elevate the status of Kayin literature and culture and they are working to include it in the second grade curriculum to achieve that goal.

Following this, the Deputy Director of the Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture, Daw Yi Yi Win, said they are working with the local ethnic affairs ministry to preserve the Kayin language and traditions and to revitalize their literature.

Similarly, the Deputy Director of the Department of Protecting Ethnic Rights, Daw San, said the law already allows ethnic groups to freely celebrate their rights.

Next, the secretary of the

Nyaungdon Township Kayin Literature and Culture Committee, Saw Win Aung Si, explained the three types of white thread festival and the meaning behind the accessories involved in the celebration.

Afterwards, Kayin youths brought in the festival accessories and invited the Kayin elders who made kind wishes on the attendees and then started the festival.

Attending the festival were Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ohn Lwin, Township administrator U Thwin Ko Ko Min, regional Hluttaw representatives Daw Ni Ni Moe and U Kyaw San, departmental heads, the chairman of the township Kayin literature and culture committee and its members, and Kayin ethnic citizens.—Wala Naing, Htet Wai Phyo (Nyaungdon)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Kayin people celebrating their traditional white thread tying festival in Nyaungdon. **PHOTO: HTET WAI PHYO**

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Humanitarian aid reaches to flood stricken Taninthayi villages



Firemen are carrying out rescue operations in flood affected area in Myeik. **PHOTO: KHINE HTOO (MYEIK IPRD)**

HEAVY rains in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, on 10 August caused floods and landslides that uprooted trees and damaged houses and a creek bridge.

Communities in low-lying areas of Myeik were flooded due to the heavy rains and 26 households in southern Myeik village-tracts had to take shelter at the local religious building and Aung Mingalar monastery after three feet of rain entered their homes.

Local authorities and concerned citizens helped travelers pass through the flooded

main roads. They also cleared the debris from landslides, retention walls collapsing and fallen trees along the road.

Five houses in Pyin Nge village, eight in Payar Kaing ward, Southern Myeik, and two houses in Alechaung Village were destroyed by landslides and three houses in Thinga Htee Village were damaged by trees knocked over by strong winds.

Families of wrecked houses in Pyin Nge Village and 20 partially collapsed houses were relocated to Yadanar Thiri Monastery with the help



An official hands over aid to the flood victims. **PHOTO: KHINE HTOO (MYEIK IPRD)**

of the Taninthayi Minister for Planning and Finance Daw Yi Yi Cho, search and rescue teams, firefighters, police and military personnel.

Similarly, families in Payar Kaing ward were relocated to Aung Myay Thuka monastery, with food arranged by the local ward administration. Officials monitored the area for possible landslides during the night.

Taung Shay wooden bridge on the Kyay Nan Taing-Nan Taw Yar rural road was damaged from the floods around 3 p.m. A construction team from the Department of Bridges is

working on a 295 feet long reinforced concrete bridge to replace the damaged one nearby.

The Department of Disaster Management and the Myanmar Red Cross Society provided humanitarian support to families of two houses that were washed away from Pa Pyin Village by the floods on 9 August. Likewise, Myeik District police provided rice, cooking oil, drinking water and instant noodle packets to temporary relief camps in Pa Pyin Village and Alechaung Village. — Khine Htoo (Myeik IPRD) ■
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Flood in Kyaikmayaw submerges over 7,000 houses

Over 7,000 houses in Kyaikmayaw, Mon State, have been submerged by the overflow water from the the Attayan River which has crossed its danger mark. The flooding has also forced over 50 schools to close.

As the number people affected by floods is increasing,

the authorities has opened four more temporary shelters yesterday to accommodate 1,450 people from 364 households.

The number of temporary shelters reached eight in Kyaikmayaw. — Cho Cho Myat Htwe (Kyaikmayaw) ■



The road is submerged by the flood in Kyaikmayaw. **PHOTO: CHO CHO MYAT HTWE (KYAIKMAYAW)**

Pipelines constructed to distribute 3mln gallons of water to Thakayta, Dawbon



Engineers work for laying pipeline for water distribution in Thakayta Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

CONSTRUCTION of pipelines are underway from Lagwunpyin water storage facility to Thakayta and Dawbon townships, Yangon Region.

The project is expected to distribute three million gallons of water every day at the completion.

U Myint Zaw Than, Deputy Director-General at Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of Yangon City Development Committee, said, "Construction of water pipeline in Thakayta and Dawbon townships are scheduled to complete by the end of this year in the first phase. The second phase of project will

be extended depending on the budget allocation. The whole project will have a distribution capacity of three million gallons of water each day."

Pipelines are being laid down along Shukintha road and Ayeyawun Road.

A project worker in the section of Shukintha road said, "We are prioritizing on connecting the bigger pipelines as the smaller pipes can be joined more easily. This new pipeline will surely help to distribute more water for the public." — MNA ■

(Translated by
Aung Khin)

Roland Berger set to consult on selection of foreign banks

THE Roland Berger Company Limited has been chosen to provide consultation services for the selection of foreign banks, under the third wave of economic liberalization in Myanmar, according to an announcement by the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM).

Four firms out of eight consulting subsidiaries in Myanmar had submitted Requests For Proposal (RFPs) to provide consultation services for the selection of foreign banks. The RFPs were invited as the CBM is moving forward with the liberalization process.

Following the announcement inviting RFPs, Deloitte Touche Myanmar Vigour Advisory Limited, Price Waterhouse-Coopers (PWC) Myanmar Co. Ltd, EY UTW Advisory Limited, and Roland Berger Co. Ltd sub-

mitted their requests for proposal to the Foreign Bank Selection Group on 24 June.

Roland Berger was selected as it earned more points in the 15-point criteria set by the Foreign Bank Selection Group, according to the sixth meeting of the Group, held on 9 August.

The CBM has been working to open up the banking sector. It granted licences to the first nine foreign bank branches in 2015, four licenses in 2016, and more licenses are expected to be granted this year.

At present, foreign banks can provide only corporate banking services in the country, and they have been restricted from providing retail banking services and direct lending to the public. They are not allowed to take immovable assets as collateral. Financing instruments

include opening letter of credit, bill discount, and bill purchase. Lenders offer loans against fixed deposits.

The 13 foreign bank branches that have been permitted by the Central Bank of Myanmar so far are MUFG Bank Ltd, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd., Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, United Overseas Bank Limited, Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Malayan Banking Berhad (Maybank), Mizuho Bank Limited, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited, The Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV), Shinhan Bank, E.Sun Commercial Bank Limited, and the State Bank of India.—Mon Mon ■ (Translated by EMM)

Natural gas exports boost trade significantly at Htikhee gate

TRADE at the Htikhee border gate between Thailand and Myanmar picked up dramatically over the past ten months of the current fiscal year, reaching an estimated value of US\$2.14 billion, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Taninthayi Region's natural gas exports have contributed to the enormous increase in exports through the Htikhee gate in the current FY, said an official from the Ministry of Commerce.

Normally, the Myawady gate sees the largest trade among the

Myanmar-Thailand checkpoints. Between 1 October 2018 and 2 August 2019, trade surged at the Htikhee border gate, with exports reaching \$2 billion and imports totalling \$142.8 million.

The rise in exports through the Htikhee gate boosted the value of the Myanmar-Thailand border trade to \$3.45 billion, which is more than double the amount registered in the previous FY, when the figure was \$1.36 billion.

Of the seven border trade points between Myanmar and Thailand, the Tachilek and

Myeik gates witnessed a small decrease in the 2018-2019 Financial Year, while the remaining gates reported an increase in trade. Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, consumer goods such as cosmetics, and food products.—Ko Htet ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Pigeon peas are fetching around K900,000-K1 million per ton.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Pigeon peas exports touch 56,000 tons in Jan-July

MYANMAR exported more than 56,000 tons of pigeon peas in the seven months from January to July, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Last year, changes in India's pulses importation policy drove pigeon peas growers to reduce acreage or switch to crops, such as black sesame or other bean varieties. While nearly 1.6 million acres of pigeon peas was cultivated in the previous years, now, the acreage has plummeted by 30 per cent.

Earlier, India had announced an import quota of 200,000 tons for pigeon peas, but later, to meet its domestic demand, it had extended the quota limit to 400,000 tons. However,

pigeon peas have to be exported to India by 31 October, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

At present, pigeon peas are fetching around K900,000-K1 million per ton. Myanmar's pigeon peas are shipped to markets in India, Singapore, the US, Canada, Pakistan, the UK, and Malaysia. But, the export volume is extremely small compared with mung beans and green grams.

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, over 160,000 tons of pigeon peas were shipped to foreign countries, while in the 2017-2018FY, exports crossed 220,000 tons.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Rattan, bamboo SMEs need financial assistance to reach more external markets



Women making stylish rattan chair for the domestic market.
PHOTO: HTET MYAT

RATTAN and bamboo SMEs are facing financial constraints in efforts to reach more external markets, said a rattan and bamboo maker, adding that at pres-

ent, some producers are relying solely on the domestic market — providing hampers for City Mart Holdings and furniture to local markets.

“If the related department can help us explore foreign markets and provide technical and financial assistance to SMEs, the rattan and bamboo produc-

tion sector might improve,” the rattan and bamboo maker added.

At present, Myanmar exports furniture made of bamboo, rattan, and wood to markets in the U.S., the Republic of Korea, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, and the EU countries. Traders earn over US\$20 million annually from the export of these products, according to the Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs Association.

“The income from bamboo, rattan, and wood exports has fetched \$20 million. Yet, earning should have increased. In 30 to 40 years back, Myanmar exported teak logs and raw materials as the country was weak in infrastructure. There are over 700 rattan and bamboo companies in Viet Nam.

However, Myanmar has 30

to 40 value-added rattan and bamboo enterprises. We need to make efforts to increase the number of value-added producers and help their businesses grow,” said U Kyaw Thu, the chair of the Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs Association.

It jointly held the Myanmar International Furniture Expo with the Wood-based Furniture Association biannually, with a view to boost Myanmar's furniture industry, promote shift to value-added production, create jobs, alleviate poverty, improve import-substitution businesses, encourage value-added producers, hold international furniture expos beyond the domestic market, and upgrade technology by linking with international producers.—Htet Myat ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Death toll in Paung landslide rises to 53

THE death toll in the landslide that struck Paung, Mon State, rose to 53 yesterday, with the number of persons rescued in the disaster reaching 47, according to the Paung Township Fire Services Department.

“We would like to request locals who know the details of the number of people residing at the landslide site to come forward. It would help speed up rescue efforts,” said U Tin Thaung Oo, the head of the Paung Township Fire Services Department.

Special rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Services Department (Central) are carrying out rescue operations with the use of modern machinery, with the help of Tatmadaw members and volunteers at the site.

Some volunteers said they have found some people buried

under soil, and there is reason to believe they are dead, but it has been difficult to retrieve them.

“As the rain is torrential, small-scale landslides have occurred here and there, but there have been no deaths in the incidents. Some people near landslide-prone areas have been evacuated because possible landslides can happen there,” said U Zaw Zaw Htoo, an MP at the Mon State Hluttaw.

Landslides have occurred in six areas in Paung Township since 9 August, and the authorities have alerted to the local people of more incidents. Aid from private donors and the government has reached to the victims of the deadly landslide in Thae Byu Gon Village in the state.—Ko Hein (IPRD) ■

(Translated by KZL)



Firemen carrying out rescue operations in landslide affected area in Paung yesterday. **PHOTO: KO HEIN (IPRD)**

Houses toppled as floods strike Chaungzone's villages



PHOTO: MOE THUT (SHWEBO)

LANDSLIDES in Lalotapyine village of Chaungzon Township, Mon state, destroyed a religious building and eight houses on 10 and 11 August, according to an official. The report said the members of Township Disaster Management Committee, the local parliamentarian, the members of social communities, police members, the forces of firefighter and the local people removed the muds blocking the motorways by flashfloods. — Moe Thut (Shwebo) (Translated by Aung Khin) ■

Swollen Taninthayi River forces over 30 schools to close

THE Taninthayi River that surged over its bank in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, after torrential rain has flooded low-lying areas and forced 36 schools to close for the safety of the school children. The river exceeded its danger mark by 11 inches. The

danger mark of the river is 24 feet.

Seven basic education primary schools were closed on 9th August, 10 basic education high schools on 10th August, 19 primary schools on 11th August, totalling 36 schools have been

temporarily closed so far.

The lessons will be taught on Saturday, Sunday and Sabbath day to make up for the lessons missed. — Nan Thar Ye Htain Win

(Translated by Alphonsus)



The school building is submerged by flood in Tanintharyi yesterday. **PHOTO: NAN THAR YE HTAIN WIN**

Myeik residents beset by landslides receive aid

Taninthayi Region ministers, Hluttaw representatives, the commander of the Coastal Region Command and officials went to provide humanitarian aid and words of encouragement to people afflicted by landslides, caused by continuous downpours in the past few days, in Myeik District yesterday.

Residents of Payar Kaing ward in southern Myeik are temporarily seeking shelter in Aung Myay Thuka monastery after the heavy rains and landslides destroyed their homes on 10th August. The Department of Disaster Management provided fifteen rescue equipment and K100,000 to construct houses to each of the eight families whose homes were destroyed, and K302,400 as rice ration for all affected persons.

Myanmar Red Cross Society provided eleven construction equipment, a set of family accessories, hygiene kits and female sanitary kits to each of the families. The Coastal Region Command provided lunch boxes, packets of instant noodles and tea, and drinking water.

The Department of Disaster Management also provided six sets of 15 rescue equipment, K900,000 for constructing houses and K260,400 as rice ration to the six households of Pyin Nge village whose houses were destroyed by landslides. Myanmar Red Cross Society also provided six sets of construction equipment, a set of family accessories, hygiene kits and female sanitary kits. — Khine Htoo (Myeik IPRD) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■



An official hands over aid to the flood victim in Myeik yesterday. **PHOTO: KHINE HTOO (MYEIK IPRD)**

India flood toll jumps to 144 as roads, highways cut off

NEW DELHI (India) — Indian authorities on Sunday mounted major rescue and relief efforts as the death toll from monsoon floods which cut off roads in the country's south and west rose to at least 144.

The southern state of Kerala — a popular tourist haven known for its pristine beaches, hill resorts and backwaters — is among the worst hit, with the toll jumping to at least 67 deaths.

"At least 165,000 people have been moved to over 1,318 relief camps spread across 14 districts in the state," a senior Kerala police officer told AFP.

Bad weather and damaged infrastructure were affecting rescue and relief work, he added.

Local emergency personnel and troops from the army, navy and air force have been roped in for ongoing search, rescue and relief operations across the affected regions.

The flood toll also increased in adjoining Karnataka state, where at least 34 people are now confirmed dead.

"At least 14 others are still missing. We have rescued around 480,000 people, over 50,000 animals and set up around 1,100 relief camps which have over 300,000 people," a Karnataka government official told AFP.

He said at least 136 roads and highways across the state had either been damaged or remain cut off because of floodwaters.

"The rains have eased in the upstream Maharashtra state but some reservoirs in the region have received record inflows and will have to be opened," he added.

"It is an unprecedented situation. We expect the flows to reduce in the next four-five days if there aren't any more rains."

At least 27 people have



File photo shows members of an Indian family stand atop a hut at the flood affected area of Hatishila in Kamrup district of India's Assam state on 16 July 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

also lost their lives in Maharashtra, where several key towns have been underwater over the last few days, media reports said.

Meanwhile accidents caused by heavy rains in Gujarat, the home state of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have taken the lives of at

least 16 people.

While the monsoon rains are crucial to replenishing water supplies, they kill hundreds of people every year. — AFP ■

Norway mosque shooting an 'attempted act of terror'

OSLO (Norway) — Norwegian police said Sunday that a shooting at a mosque near Oslo is being treated as an "attempted act of terror" and that the suspected gunman harbours far-right, anti-immigrant views.

The suspect entered the mosque in the affluent Oslo suburb of Baerum on Saturday armed with multiple weapons and opened fire before being overpowered by a 65-year-old man who suffered minor injuries.

Hours after the attack, the body of a young woman was found in a home in Baerum and police on Sunday confirmed that it was the suspect's 17-year-old stepsister. Investigators launched a murder investigation into the death.

Oslo's acting chief of the police operation Rune Skjold said the investigation into the shooting showed that the suspect, who has not been named, appeared to hold "far-right" and "anti-immigrant" views.

"We are looking at an attempted act of terror," Skjold told a press conference on Sunday.

Only three people were inside the al-Noor Islamic Centre at the time of the attack, and police said they recovered two

firearms from the scene but did not specify which type.

Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg called the shooting a "direct attack on Norwegian Muslims". The country was the scene of one of the worst-ever attacks by a right-wing extremist in July 2011, when 77 people were killed by Anders Behring Breivik.

Online posts about 'race war'

Police said they had tried to question the suspect — described as a young man around 20 years old with a "Norwegian background" who was living in the vicinity of the attack — but he did not want to "give an ex-

planation to police".

The man had been known to police before the incident, but according to Skjold, he could not be described as someone with a "criminal background".

Unni Fries, the suspect's lawyer, declined to offer any further information and told AFP that she needed "much more time to get into the case".

There has been a recent spate of white nationalist attacks in the West, including in the United States and in New Zealand where 51 Muslim worshippers were killed in March at two mosques in the city of Christchurch. — AFP ■



The Al-Noor Islamic Center near Oslo where a gunman opened fire before being overpowered by a 65-year-old. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia asks YouTube to stop promoting illegal rallies

MOSCOW — Russian telecoms watchdog Roskomnadzor said on Sunday that it had sent Google a letter asking it to stop the promotion of unauthorized (illegal) rallies on its subsidiary YouTube.

"A number of organizations owning YouTube channels acquire advertising tools from YouTube, including push notifications, in order to disseminate information about unauthorized (illegal) mass events, including those aimed at disrupting federal and regional elections," Roskomnadzor said in a statement.

Push notifications are also sent to YouTube users who are not subscribers of the channels of these organizations, it said.

If Google does not respond, Russia will regard it as inter-

ference in its sovereign affairs and obstruction of democratic elections, Roskomnadzor said.

Russia's opposition figures have organized rallies in downtown Moscow over the past three Saturdays after they were denied candidacy in the Moscow city council election slated for 8 September.

Police detained over 1,600 participants in the unauthorized demonstrations on 27 July and 3 August for various offenses, and then released most of them.

The Russian Foreign Ministry summoned Minister-Counsellor of the US Embassy in Moscow, Tim Richardson, and presented him with an official protest against the US encouraging the unauthorized rally on 3 August by publishing the rally's route. — Xinhua ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



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Help flood victims with empathy and benevolence

THERE has been loss to life and property and disruption of transport services in some areas in Mon State in the southern part of Myanmar on account of torrential rains, which have triggered floods and landslides in the area. The most unfortunate tragedy occurred on 9 August in Thae Byu Gon Village in Paung Township, where over 50 people were killed and nearly 30 injured in a landslide. Some persons are still missing after the disaster. Here, empathy and benevolence have been the main driving force behind the search and rescue missions and treatment, care, and transport of the wounded.

Natural disasters have no timetable, and they know no boundaries. They always come without a warning.

So, the only thing we can do is be prepared for them. Broad-

Natural disasters have no timetable, and they know no boundaries. They always come without a warning.

erosion valleys.

Normally, the warning signs of a landslide are: new cracks or unusual bulges appearing on the ground, street pavements, or sidewalks; soil moving away from foundations; ancillary structures such as decks and patios tilting and/or moving relative to the main house; tilting or cracking of concrete floors and foundations; broken water lines and other underground utilities; leaning telephone poles, trees, retaining walls, or fences; offset fence lines; and sunken or down-dropped road beds. It is important that people leave a place as soon as they notice these warning signs.

We know that heavy rains, floods, and earthquakes are the causes of landslides. Landslides are accompanied by other hazards, such as an increased risk of electrocution. When a landslide strikes, people must be on the alert and help victims, and be aware of how idle bystanders and mobile photographers can hamper search and rescue operations.

Search, rescue, and help are the most important measures during and in the aftermath of a land avalanche. Only a quick and effective response can mitigate the suffering and pain of the victims, and such a reaction calls for preparedness, capability building, and proper management along with empathy and benevolence.

As this cannot be done single-handedly, people need to cooperate and work with officials. Through prevention and preparation, the impact of natural disasters can be mitigated, reducing the loss of lives and properties.



Khakaborazi National Park stands out as ASEAN Heritage Park

By Win Naing (Kachin Myay)

PERFECTLY fitting in faultless and flawless environment, Khakaborazi National Park and Phon Kan Razi Wildlife Sanctuary are situated in the northern Myanmar state of Kachin in an outlying sub-range of the Greater Himalayan mountain system.

Located at Pan Nan Din Small Town of Naungmung Township in Putao District, Khakaborazi National Park stands out at 3,000 feet at the lowest average level. The famous peak named "Khakaborazi" is believed to be Myanmar's highest mountain, and with its height of 19,296 feet the probable highest mountain in South East Asia. With an area of 1,472 square miles, the park has the glorious status entitled with ASEAN Heritage domain.

Five types of forests

The park is entirely mountainous and is characterized by year-round icy mountain grass forest; blue-colored pine forest in the valley; a sub-tropical temperate zone mixed forests from 7,000 to 9,000 feet; various bamboo forests; broad-leaved tall timber tree yielding reddish, resinous wood.

Declaring ASEAN Heritage Park

Khakaborazi was established as a natural reserve on 30 January 1996 and as a national park on 10 November 1998. The Khakaborazi National Park has been declared as ASEAN Heritage Park in 2003.

It is the last stronghold for biodiversity in Myanmar. Extraordinarily rich flora and fauna, ranging from lowland tropical to alpine species still await proper research and identification.

Conservation needed

It was agreed that common cooperation is necessary to conserve and manage ASEAN Heritage Parks for the development and implementation of regional conservation and management action plans as well as regional mechanisms complementary to and supportive of national efforts to implement conservation measures.

In the Kachin State at northernmost region of the country raises the loftiest peak in South East Asia, the Mt. Khakaborazi, capped throughout all seasons



Rare plants including Tiger Orchid displayed at the exhibit hall of the park. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

by a glacier that feeds into the Irrawaddy. The Irrawaddy River arises by the confluence of the N'mai (Nam Gio) and Mali Rivers in Kachin State. This most celebrated of rivers in Myanmar wends its way through the heart of the country until it disperses on the delta as myriad waterways that finally empty into the sea. Therefore, conservation, protection and preservation are needed.

In the area between Pan Nan Din Small Town and Naungmung Township, it is important to protect the endangered plants and animal species along with their natural habitat, since UNESCO has been yet to identify and categorize. The main concern is to preserve the habitats so that the future generations of wildlife and even humans can enjoy it.

Wildlife

In addition to rare species such as Takin, Musk Deer, Blue Sheep, Black Barking Deer, Phet Gyi (Muntia putaoensis), mammal species and insects such as butterflies are present in the National Park. The register showed that it is the home for (297) different trees; (13) variety of bamboos; (10) different cane trees; (22) medicinal herbs; (106) kinds of orchids; (42) different animals; (370) birds; (365) butterflies; (43) different frogs with habitat in water and land; (32) different snakes; (3) different tortoise; (6) different lizards; and (49) bumble bees.

Many more to be registered

Myanmar still enjoys a bountiful, relatively untouched natural environment which holds mammal species, species of birds, species of reptiles and species of flora including tree species.

Rare species and plants

Rare species such as white-handed gibbon; wild goat; musk deer; and glacier mountain goats are the rare species in the area. In addition to the rare herbaceous trees and orchids, there is red panda; mountain red goat; takin also called cattle chamois or gnu goat; musk deer; Himalayan bear; wild goat; glacier goats; long tail monkeys; Assam monkey; Himalayan bird; rare pheasant; Himalayan owl; Putao species of orchid (Bulbophyllum); black orchid; rare tiger orchid; tonic herb; poisonous herbal tubers



Takin, also called gnu goat, and mountain goats are rare mammals that inhabit in the Khakaborazi National Park. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

orchids being explored in the areas are simply registered and they are yet to be classified and named.

Plans underway to sell as finished produce

With a view to protect and preserve the medicinal and herbaceous plants in Putao from extinction, all the rare curative plants and roots would be barred from selling in raw form, and that plans are underway to sell and distribute as finished and final produce.

In cooperation with the National Institute of Biological Research of the Republic of Korea and the Department of Forest of Myanmar, a research facility is now under construction beginning March 2019 and expected to be completed in October 2019. When the facility is completed, local people would have job opportunities in the line of business of local finished products.

Administrator U Aung Moun of Khakaborazi National Park explained that the local villagers would be provided with the relevant training courses in herbaceous cultivation methods through modern techniques.

Easy access to Putao in a single day

Now, Putao is accessible in a single day by direct flight from Yangon-Mandalay-Putao. Flight is available from Myitkyina to Putao, and that people also can travel by car from Myitkyina to Putao.

Over the years, the incumbent government has facilitated and upgraded the roads and bridges on the motorway from Myitkyina to Putao. The journey from Myitkyina to Putao could be travelled in just 12 hours. In

the past, the trip was possible only by air and cargo convoys in a difficult way consuming many days or even weeks.

Now, the visit to Putao could be realized in a single day, where the water, plants, animals, birds, fish, habitat, natural corridor to icy mountain. The residents and increase tourism to untapped natural resources in the area.

Comfortable time for visit

I was at the ASEAN Heritage Park at the end of April and the beginning of May when summer time is retreating with the welcoming of small drops of rain. It was very light rain that one can use the word "mist". "Drizzling" usually implies a little harder rain than "sprinkling". The normal answer is sprinkle at first, or maybe drizzles if it persists or is a bit heavier. We could refer the weather at the park as "rain forever" in the area like the most popular song named "Sumbrabum".

The best time to visit Putao is from February to May at the end of winter and the open season for travelling. The profuse blooming time of rhododendron in bright red with the breathtaking landscape seen from the motorway between Sumbrabum and Putao with deep valleys surrounded by mountains enveloped with the huge white clouds high above the head sending the body and soul into heavenly paradise.

Places to visit in Putao

Putao Town is developed from the village named Putaung, and that the places to visit are Kaungmulone Pagoda, Spirit islanda (Nat Kyun), Hopine Shan village, Upper Shankhaung village, Mularshade Lizu village and Mula River; Nankhan Rawan village, Zewon village, Machanbaw View point and Malikha River.

For photographers, it may be advisable exploring Namshakut Lisu village, Pamati village, Nanbala Creek, Wasaw village, Lamawachi village and Mudon village to take fine photos.

For adventurers and nature lovers, trekking and hiking around Putao as per the approved programs will serve to be in trekking paradise.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)



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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 12th August, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Naypyitaw and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9-11) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th August, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th August, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th August, 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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Ministers from Japan and African countries attend a two-day Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Tokyo on Oct. 6, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan, African nations to voice concern over excessive debt at TICAD

TOKYO—Japan plans to include “concern” over excessive debt in the declaration for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development later this month, government sources said Sunday, a move aimed at calling out China’s lending practices in the region.

China has been criticized for handing out large loans under its Belt and Road infrastructure development initiative to countries that are ill-equipped to pay off the debt, often called debt-trap

diplomacy.

The seventh session of the conference, held once every three years, will take place from Aug. 28 through 30 with leaders from 54 African countries and international organizations set to attend.

While named after the Japanese capital, the conference will be held in the nearby port city of Yokohama.

Japan wants the post-conference declaration to include references to some African coun-

tries being saddled with debt, and touch on the importance of “high quality” infrastructure, a phrase Japan often uses to differentiate its projects from Chinese ones.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who will co-chair the conference, plans to announce steps to support Japanese firms that want to do business in the region, as well as measures to help African countries with fiscal consolidation, the sources said.—Kyodo ■

Cathay to comply with China rules over Hong Kong protests

HONG KONG—Cathay Pacific said Saturday it will comply with new rules from China banning staff who support Hong Kong’s protesters from working on flights to the mainland or through its airspace.

The Hong Kong carrier also confirmed it had suspended a pilot charged with rioting and fired two ground staff for misconduct apparently related to the protest movement that has engulfed the city.

China’s aviation regulator on Friday had ordered the airline to hand over identifying information for staff on mainland-bound flights starting Sunday.

It warned that staff deemed to support Hong Kong’s “illegal protests” were banned from



Cathay Pacific has said it will comply with new Chinese rules banning from its airspace staff who support Hong Kong’s protesters. **PHOTO: AFP**

flights landing in mainland China or travelling through its airspace.

CEO Rupert Hogg said in a message to employees on Saturday that the carrier was obliged to comply with the new rules set out by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).

“Cathay Pacific Group’s operations in mainland China are key to our business. In addition to flying in and out of mainland China, a large number of our routes both to Europe and to the USA also fly through mainland China airspace,” Hogg wrote.—AFP ■

Stations, roads overflow as travelers leave for summer holidays

TOKYO—Numerous ports of departure overflowed Saturday with people traveling for the summer holidays, as many shinkansen bullet trains reached over 100 percent occupancy for unreserved seating and highways saw traffic jams of more than 30 kilometers long.

According to railway operators, the rate for unreserved seating areas on the Tohoku Shinkansen Line from Tokyo to the northeastern city of Morioka reached 150 percent in the morning, while the shinkansen from Nagoya to Hakata saw an occupancy rate of 180 percent.

A section of the Sanyo Expressway in the western prefecture of Okayama was backed up for 40 km, while other areas on western, central and eastern Ja-

pan expressways saw traffic jams of over 20 km, according to the Japan Road Traffic Information Center.

On the Shin Tomei Expressway in Shizuoka Prefecture, a truck rammed into a line of cars stuck in traffic at around 6 a.m., killing one and injuring six others, and causing the section of the expressway in Numazu to be closed for over four hours.

The holiday exodus also led to congestion at airports. Airlines said travelers’ departures on international flights would peak between Friday and Saturday, while those on domestic flights would continue through Monday.

The rush of people returning home by bullet train and on expressways is expected to peak on Thursday.—Kyodo ■



JR Shin-Osaka station on Aug. 10, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Number of U.S. active drilling rigs continues to fall this week

HOUSTON—The number of active drilling rigs in the United States decreased by eight to 934 this week, and 123 rigs down from a year ago, according to the weekly data released by oilfield services provider Baker Hughes on Friday. These included 764 oil rigs operating in the U.S. oil fields, down six; 169 gas drilling rigs, down two; and one miscellaneous drilling rig, the same as last week, the Houston-based oilfield services company reported. Of the 934 rigs, 909 are land drilling ones, down nine, and 25 offshore drilling ones, up one. The inland water drilling rigs remained zero. Of them, 65 are directional drilling rigs, 817 are horizontal drilling rigs and 52 are vertical drilling rigs. —Xinhua ■

Beijing Hyundai to recall 400,377 vehicles

BEIJING—Beijing Hyundai Motor Co. will recall 400,377 vehicles in the Chinese market, according to China’s top quality watchdog.

The recall, set to begin on Aug. 17, will involve 400,377 Tucson models made between Aug. 17, 2015 and Sept. 18, 2018, said an online statement by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

When cars are continuously driven short distances in a low-temperature environment, oil levels of the affected vehicles may increase, leading to the illumination of engine malfunction indicator lights and even engine damage. —Xinhua ■

'Toxic' Italian steel plant clean-up is a towering task

TARANTO (Italy)—Rock climbers scale a giant canopy in Taranto to build the world's biggest iron-ore park cover as steel giant ArcelorMittal strives to clean up and turn around Italy's most polluting plant.

Beyond the factory lie the sea and sandy beaches, though only hardy souls dare to swim or eat mussels farmed here.

The site in southern Italy's Puglia region, formerly owned by Ilva, is at the heart of a huge legal battle during which experts cited by prosecutors have charged that of the 11,550 people who died in the area over seven years, 7,500 were killed by cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and cancers linked to toxic emissions.

AcelorMittal began leasing the plant—with an obligation to buy it—in November, and is investing 2.4 billion euros (\$2.67 billion) to revive it, including 1.2 billion euros to curb pollution by 2024.



ArcelorMittal was granted a period of legal immunity to bring the Taranto plant up to environmental standards, but the Italian government revoked that in June. **PHOTO: AFP**

The group was given a period of legal immunity to bring the plant up to environmental standards. But the Italian par-

liament revoked that in June and the company is set to lose its immunity on September 6. Group president Aditya Mit-

tal told investors this month the government "recognizes there is a serious issue here" and is "working to resolve" it.—AFP ■

French industry hits the beach to woo future recruits

DEAUVILLE—A few steps from the sea in the Normandy resort of Deauville, a group of curious holidaymakers in flip-flops and beach garb pepper a technician with questions as he extols the capabilities of a cutting-edge 3D modelling machine. Outside the makeshift lab, disco music blares while people wait to try out virtual reality headsets allowing them to operate robots whizzing around a gleaming production line. Frustrated in their attempts to attract young workers, French industrial firms have taken their pitches straight to the summer crowds with a roadshow aimed at drumming up an interest in factory work.

Since mid-July the French Fab Tour has travelled along the Mediterranean and

Atlantic coasts, hoping to convince young people that state-of-the-art sites offering solid pay and prospects have replaced the dreary assembly lines of the past.

Magali Kueny, a recruitment specialist on vacation from the eastern French city of Mulhouse who was watching the 3D moulding display with her young daughter, knows firsthand the need to inject a bit of glamour into an industry's image. "There are very few qualified candidates," she told AFP. "Sometimes we'll have just one candidate for four or five posts." The tour, which will have visited 18 seaside resorts when it wraps up on Wednesday, mixes work and play. Amid the basketball hoops and programmable remote-controlled

toy cars is a LinkedIn stand, where people get prints of would-be profile pictures. There's also an escape game and the day ends with a free outdoor concert featuring several bands and DJs. "Encouraging people means reaching out, by going straight to families and young people, because a career decision is something you make within the family," said Patrice Begay of BPI France, the state-run investment bank that organised the tour.

Around 50,000 industry jobs, from aviation and rail companies to defence and IT contractors, are going unfilled this year, Begay said, despite a French jobless rate that has remained stubbornly high, standing at 8.7 percent in the first quarter.—AFP ■

Saudi-led coalition launches strike after Aden 'coup'

ADEN—A Saudi-led coalition launched Sunday a strike against Yemen's southern separatists after they seized the presidential palace in second city Aden in deadly fighting that threatened to push the war-ravaged nation deeper into turmoil.

The seizure, decried by the Riyadh-backed Yemeni government as a UAE-supported coup, reflects deep divisions between secessionists and loyalist forces, both of whom have fought Shiite Huthi rebels.

"The coalition targeted an area that poses a direct threat to one of the important sites of the legitimate government," a statement said, calling on the separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC) to with-



Yemeni supporters of the southern separatist movement pose for a picture with a tank they confiscated from a military barracks in Aden where they have been fighting other forces loyal to the internationally recognised government. **PHOTO: AFP**

draw from positions seized in Aden or face further attacks.

It did not specify the target but residents in Aden told AFP it was an air strike against separatist camps in the city.

Since the fighting flared on Thursday, around 40 people have been killed and 260 others including civilians wounded, according to the UN.

"It is heart-breaking that during Eid al-Adha, families are mourning the death of their loved ones instead of celebrating together in peace and harmony," said UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen Lise Grande. Riyadh-based Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi is backed by the coalition—led by Saudi Arabia and its ally the United Arab Emirates—that is battling the Iran-aligned Huthis.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syria regime gains ground in deadly Idlib push: monitor

BEIRUT—Syrian regime forces seized a town on the edge of Idlib province Sunday, a monitor said, their first ground advance since resuming an offensive on the jihadist-dominated enclave more than three months ago.

The region of northwestern Syria, which is home to an estimated three million civilians, has come under almost daily Syrian and Russian bombardment since late April.

The most recent fighting focused on an area straddling Idlib and Hama provinces, a war monitor said, and claimed dozens of lives on both sides.—AFP ■

Israeli police, Palestinian worshippers clash at flashpoint holy site in East Jerusalem

JERUSALEM—Clashes erupted on Sunday in East Jerusalem's holy site between Muslim worshippers and Israeli police, sparking fresh tensions, Israeli and Palestinian officials said. The Palestinian Red Crescent said at least 14 Palestinians were injured as the Israeli police stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. The Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, known to the Jewish people as the Temple Mount, is sacred to both Muslims and Jews.—Xinhua ■

Kenyan modern train cargo service expands amid safe operation

NAIROBI—The Kenyan Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) linking Mombasa and Nairobi has achieved safe operation since its launch on May 21, 2017, moving tonnes of cargo and millions of passengers. As of Aug. 8, the train had operated for 800 days, according to the operator which provides the service and maintains the railway line.—Xinhua ■

Pakistan PM says world inaction on Kashmir like appeasing Hitler

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan asked Sunday if the international community would stand by as Indian Hindu nationalism spread into Muslim-majority Kashmir, saying it was the same as appeasing Hitler.

His outrage on Twitter came as tensions simmered between the two countries over the divided Himalayan region after New Delhi last week rescinded years of autonomy enjoyed by the Indian-ruled part of Kashmir and gave full control to the central government.

Kashmir has been under virtual lockdown since shortly before the move, with a curfew across the region, and phone and internet lines cut -- ostensibly to prevent unrest.

Huge numbers of troops



India's Kashmir move has caused outrage in Pakistan, and protests are happening daily . PHOTO: AFP

are patrolling the streets of major centres, and security forces used tear gas Friday to break up

a demonstration by about 8,000 people against the government's move. Kashmir has been split

between India and Pakistan since their independence in 1947.—AFP ■

Sonia Gandhi named as interim head of India's opposition Congress

NEW DELHI—India's Sonia Gandhi on Saturday once again took the reins of the main opposition Congress party, replacing her son Rahul, who stepped down after a second straight election drubbing by right-wing Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The 49-year-old Rahul Gandhi, who was seeking to become the fourth member of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty to become prime minister, quit in July after the latest big loss at the polls in the April-May elections.

The great-grandson, grandson and son

of three past premiers of the world's biggest democracy, Gandhi had set out to rejuvenate the party after it lost to Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2014 election.

But he struggled to shed his image as a privileged, dynastic scion.

Congress has dominated Indian politics since independence in 1948, but it has seen a spectacular collapse in support in the past decade.

Critics have blamed Rahul Gandhi's lacklustre leadership and political management

for the party's setbacks.

The party was divided over his departure, with many asking him to stay on, fearing more desertions and infighting if a non-Gandhi took charge.

But others believed the party could benefit from a fresh start, with a leader from outside the family.

Sonia Gandhi, 72, was nevertheless unanimously chosen to lead as "interim president," the party's working committee announced late Saturday.—AFP ■

Tourism in trouble: Hong Kong demos hit economy

HONG KONG—Empty hotel rooms, struggling shops and even disruption at Disneyland: months of protests in Hong Kong have taken a major toll on the city's

economy, with no end in sight.

City leader Carrie Lam has warned that the international financial hub is facing an economic crisis worse than either the 2003

SARS outbreak that paralysed Hong Kong or the 2008 financial crisis. "The situation this time is more severe," she said. "In other words, the economic recovery will take a very long time."

The private sector, in particular the tourism industry, has begun counting the cost of more than two months of demonstrations that erupted in opposition to a bill allowing extraditions to China but have morphed into a broader pro-democracy movement. The figures are stark: hotel occupancy rates are down "double-digit" percentages, as were visitor arrivals in July. Group tour bookings from the short-haul market have plunged up to

50 percent.

"In recent months, what has happened in Hong Kong has indeed put local people's livelihoods as well as the economy in a worrying, or even dangerous situation," warned Edward Yau, Hong Kong's secretary for commerce and economic development.

The city's tourism industry says it feels under siege.

"I think the situation is getting more and more serious," Jason Wong, chairman of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong, told AFP. The impact is so bad that travel agents are considering putting staff on unpaid leave as they try to weather the storm, he warned.—AFP ■



Hong Kong is a popular tourist destination. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

N. Korea to nix contact with South if U.S. joint military drill lasts

BEIJING—North Korea warned Sunday that it would reject contact with the South as long as Seoul continues its joint military drill with the United States, which Pyongyang has condemned as a rehearsal for an invasion.

North Korea's state-run media reported that leader Kim Jong Un presided over the test-firing of a new weapon on Saturday, the day the South said Pyongyang launched two projectiles believed to be short-range ballistic missiles toward the Sea of Japan.—Kyodo ■

Airstrikes kill 4 militants in eastern Afghan province

GHAZNI—At least four militants were killed as warplanes targeted a Taliban car in the eastern Afghan province of Ghazni, said a statement of the provincial government released here on Sunday.

According to the statement, the airstrikes conducted in the wee hours of Sunday in Gilan district killed four militants on the spot and destroyed their car along with a number of arms and ammunitions.

No security personnel and civilians had been hurt during the sorties, the statement said.

Taliban militants who are in control of parts of the relatively troubled Ghazni province have not commented on the air raids.—XINHUA ■

Japan's ivory registrations surged ahead of July rules change

TOKYO—The volume of registrations surged as Japan's internationally maligned ivory market faced new restrictions effective July 1, with ivory owners apparently rushing to take advantage of the lax declaration system, officials of the Environment Ministry said Saturday.

The amount of ivory registered in Japan remained below 20 tons per year until recently, when it soared to about 30 tons in 2018 and reached about 10 tons through the first half of 2019, the officials said.



Japan Customs and WWF Japan urge travelers at Haneda airport not to leave the country with ivory souvenirs. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Under the modified system, dealers are required to prove via carbon dating that specimens were legally obtained, making ivory from recent poaching impossible to register and sell.

Prior to July, however, they could merely declare in documents attested by family members that specimens had been legally obtained. Environmental activists condemned the loophole as a way for unscrupulous dealers to avoid detection.

Ivory obtained through illegal transactions or without clear origins may have been included in the large volume of ivory registered ahead of the rules change, environmental groups say.

In 1990, international ivory trading was banned in principle under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, known as the Washington Convention. But in Japan, ivory that remains in its original form and that was obtained prior to the convention taking effect is permitted to be traded if registered.

Ahead of implementing the tighter controls on ivory, the Environment Ministry launched a two-year campaign to prompt dealers to register their specimens. —Kyodo

Germany to suspend Amazon aid to Brazil



Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) said that around 2,254 square kilometers (870 square miles) of the Amazon were cleared in July, a spike of 278 percent from a year ago. **PHOTO: AFP**

BERLIN—Germany said Saturday it would suspend Brazilian aid aimed at helping protect the Amazon forest in light of data that showed deforestation had surged since President Jair Bolsonaro took office. "Brazilian government policies in the Amazon raise doubts about continued, sustained declines in the rate of deforestation," Environment Minister Svenja Schulze told the television news show Tagesspiegel.

It said a first step would be to block payment of 35 million euros (\$40 million) for forest conservation and biodiversity programmes until the rate of decline

attained encouraging levels once again. From 2008 until this year, Berlin has paid 95 million euros in support of various environmental protection programmes in Brazil.

Germany nonetheless plans to continue supporting the Amazon Fund, a forest preservation initiative created in 2008. Norway, which has contributed the most to the fund, has threatened to withdraw, and said last year that payments to Brazil would be cut in half and might be eliminated altogether. Concern about the forest has grown since Bolsonaro took office in January.

Brazil is home to more than 60 percent of the Amazon for-

est, which is being cleared at an increasing rate to create more cropland. The National Institute for Space Research (INPE) said this week that roughly 2,254 square kilometres (870 square miles) of the Amazon were cleared in July, a spike of 278 percent from a year earlier.

A week before the numbers were released, INPE chief Ricardo Galvao was fired, and Environment Minister Ricardo Salles charged that INPE data was published in a way that satisfied "sensationalist interpretations" and was aimed at getting "more donations from foreign NGOs". —AFP ■

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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Sulamuni Pagoda. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**Mwe Taw Kakku Pagoda. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

To Shan State South

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

I'VE been visiting Shan State, with its beautiful sites, every year and during this Thingyan (Myanmar New Year) I went to Panglong and nearby townships. As it was summer, except for early morning, evening and night, temperatures in Shan State south was high.

Shan State with an area of 60,155.2 square miles was the biggest of all the states and regions. The triangle shaped Shan State was divided into north, east and south. It was formed with 55 townships in 13 districts. Shan State South was formed with Taunggyi, Langkho and Loilem districts with 19 townships.

Shan State South

Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State was in Shan State South and is 645 km from Yangon and 250 km from Mandalay. Taunggyi District was formed with Taunggyi, Kalaw, Hsihseng, Pindaya, Pinlaung, Pekhon, Yaksawk, Ywangan, Hopong and Nyaungshwe towns.

Around ME (Myanmar Era) 1200 (about AD 1838) Taunggyi was a Pa O village. In Shan language the village name was Tomtee or Taungkyi and it became Taunggyi.

However according to Myanmar encyclopaedia, the town was dwarfed by a big mountain on the east of it and thus its name became Taunggyi (Taung = mounting, Gyi = big or huge).

Ayethaya town, Kyauktalongyi town and Shwenyaung town were established and included in Taunggyi Township on 20 February 1991, 20 February 2003 and 13 March 2007 respectively.

Taunggyi Township situated at an elevation of 4,712 ft covers an area of 747.83 square miles. Hopong Township is east of Taunggyi Township. On the west of Taunggyi Township are Kalaw and Nyaungshwe township. To the south and north

were Hsihseng Township and Yaksawk Township respectively. Taunggyi is a mountainous area and the highest area was at an elevation of 5,755 ft and the lowest area was at an elevation of 2,975 ft.

Taunggyi had a cool weather and the highest temperature was 34 degree centigrade and the lowest was 4 degree centigrade. The raining season had a highest recorded rainfall of 13 inches. The area is covered by pine forests that had various

wild lives.

According to the latest census, a number of ethnic nationals lived there. Taunggyi had a population of 386,059 out of which 154,925 or 40.12 per cent were Pa O.

Taunggyi Township had four towns – Taunggyi, Ayethaya, Shwenyaung and Kyauktalongyi – 51 wards, 24 village tracts and 371 villages. Taunggyi town had 22 wards, Ayethaya town had 12 wards and Shwenyaung town had 11

Htan San Cave. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**



part of a canyon or valley.”

Today, Hopong is one of the three townships – Hopong, Hsihseng and Pinlaung – that made up Pa O Self-Administered Region and is the capital of Pa O Self-Administered Region. Hopong town covers an area of 2.48 square miles.

Hopong town had cool weather with a highest and lowest temperatures recorded at 39 and 6 degree centigrade. According to 2016 weather record it receives 48.74 inches of rain in 85 days.

Hopong Township had six wards, 22 village tracts and 192 villages. Pa O, Shan, Kachin, Kayah, Kayan, Chin, Bama, Rakhine, Inntha, Danu, Lisu and Palaung ethnic nationals live in the township. Hopong Township had a population of 103,360 out of which 70,776 were Pa O and 23,394 where Shan.

Thiri Mingalar Shwe Chan Tha Mwe Taw Pagoda and Htan San Cave are attractions for local and foreign travellers. A

by one of the martyred leader Sao San Tun is situated about 32 km Southwest of Loilem Town.

Loilem Town is 95.8 km east of Taunggyi Town and Panglong Town is 10.2 km north-west of Loilem Town. Loilem Township was at an elevation of 4,447 ft and covers an area of 501.61 square miles.

Loilem Town was established by the British in 1888 for Laikha, Mongkai, Kehsi, Minenaung, Mongshu, Mongnai, Maukmai and Mongpan Saophas to govern. The name was taken from the nearby Loilem peak. On 4 January 1942, Loilem was designated as a municipal town and before independence it was governed by a mayor appointed by Laikha Saopha. In 1952 Loilem was designated as a district town and on 15 June 2014 Panglong was designated as a town.

East of Loilem Township is Namhsan Township. On the west of Loilem Township is Hopong Township. To the south

towns with the name Namhsan. Namhsan of Shan State North is in Kyaukme District. Namhsan of Shan State South is in Loilem District. Loilem District had Namhsan, Loilem, Kunhing, Mongkai, Mongshu, Laikha and Kehsi townships. Namhsan is 30 km east of Loilem.

Namhsan Township at an elevation of 3,166 ft is on the Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Union Road and covers an area of 1,594.12 square miles. On the east of Namhsan Township is Kunhing Township. To the west is Loilem Township. To the south and north are Mongnai and Maukmai townships.

Namhsan was once a big village that was destroyed by the war in 1945. As it was on a road junction where travellers and merchants stop for the night, a village was re-established in 1950. In 1958, 10 villages were established nearby for war veterans to conduct agriculture works. In 1959, the Caretaker Government designated Namhsan as a town.

wards and Kyauktalongyi had six wards.

Being a land of pagoda, Taunggyi also had a fair share of pagodas including Mwe Taw Kakku Pagoda complex that was well known among locals as well as foreign visitors. Taunggyi Hot-Air Balloon Festival held in the month of Tazaungmone is also a famous cultural festival.

Taunggyi to Hopong

Hopong is 22 km to the east of Taunggyi. Hopong region famous for its Htan San Cave is at an elevation of 3,541 ft and covers an area of 220.56 square miles. Hopong region was once governed by Saophas. After the Saophas in Shan State gave up their powers in 29 April 1959, Revolutionary Council Govern-



Historical site where the Panglong agreement was signed during the Panglong Conference. PHOTO: MNA

ment designated the region as Hopong town in 1 July 1972.

Due to the availability of water from a nearby Nat Ta Bat creek, agriculture thrives in the valleys and canyons of Hopong. The name Hopong in Shan language means “upper

natural cave Htan San was full with visitors daily.

Panglong Land

Panglong Town where the historical Panglong Agreement was signed is situated in Loilem Township. Mongpan governed

and north were Maukmai Township and Laikha Township respectively. wLoilem Town had a highest temperature of 26 degree centigrade and a lowest temperature of -4 degree centigrade. It receives 53.43 inches of rain in 106 days during 2014.

Loilem Township had two towns Loilem and Panglong, 8 wards, 19 village tracts and 305 villages. Of the various ethnic nationals living in Loilem Township Pa O and Shan were the majority. The township had a population of 123,635 out of which 56,828 were Pa O and 45,451 were Shan. 96% of the population was Buddhists.

The most significant monument in Loilem Township is the Panglong Monument in Panglong Town Ward 2. Near the Panglong Monument is a Maha Rahta Bitha Maggi Pagoda.

At the moment Namhsan Township was formed with two towns, Namhsan and Kholan, 11 wards, 20 village tracts and 196 villages. It had a population of 103,024 of which 47.6 per cent are Shan ethnic nationals. According to the record of Ministry of Home Affairs there are about 22 ethnic nationals living in Namhsan Township.

Namhsan Town is a very busy town because it was at the junction where Shan State north, south and east met. It was also noted to have a lot of motels. In Mongshu Township that is on the 283 km long Namhsan to Hsipaw Town, Shan State North, is Haifa Waterfall. It is a waterfall that was attracting visitors.

In a trip to Shan State South, traditional foods of ethnic nationals can be enjoyed while their traditional costumes, cultures and traditions can also be observed.



Hyper Water Fall. PHOTO: SAILA

Namhsan

In Shan State there are two

Translated by Handytips

Two charged over security incident linked to Arsenal duo

LONDON — Two men will appear in court next month charged with a public order offence, police confirmed Sunday, in connection with two Arsenal footballers previously targeted in an attack.

Arsenal said Mesut Ozil and Sead Kolasinac would not play in Sunday's opening English Premier League fixture at Newcastle due to "further security incidents". Former Germany midfielder Ozil and the Bosnia defender were targeted last month by masked and armed attackers who chased their car through London. London's Metropolitan Police said two men had been arrested in an incident in the north of the city three days ago.

"Two men have been charged under Section 4a of the Public Order Act following an incident in Camden on Thursday," the police said in a statement. "Ferhat Ercan, 27, and Salaman Ekinci, 27, were charged on 9 August following the incident and are due to appear at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court on September 6."

Reports suggested the men were arrested after becoming involved in an altercation with security staff outside Ozil's house. Section 4a of the Public Order Act refers to offences of intentional harassment, alarm or distress, through threatening, abusive or insulting words, behaviour or displays.

Arsenal said on Friday that Ozil and Kolasinac would not be in the squad travelling to Newcastle "following further security incidents which are being investigated by the police. "The welfare of our players and their families is always a top priority and we have taken this decision following discussion with the players and their representatives.

"We are liaising with the police and are providing the players and their families with ongoing support. "We look forward to welcoming the players back to the squad as soon as possible."—AFP ■

Hellas Open 2019: Thet Htar Thuzar wins silver in Greece

MYANMAR badminton icon Thet Htar Thuzar secured the silver medal yesterday in the women's single event at the Hellas Open 2019, held in Sidirokastro, Greece.

She lost out to Malaysia's Kisona Selvaduray 14:21 and 9:21 in the final match of the tournament, which started on 8 August. The final match and an awarding ceremony were held yesterday.

Thet Htar Thuzar made it to the final by cutting out France's player Lé Onice Huet by 21-16, 13-21, and 21-17 in the semifinal.

Before competing in the tourney, Thet Htar Thuzar's Badminton World Ranking was 83, and she is likely to move up in the ranking with her winning the silver medal, according to badminton experts.

To improve her ranking, Thet Htar Thuzar will next compete in the Bulgarian Open Championship 2019, which begins on 12 August, according to the Myanmar Badminton Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Thet Htar Thuzar celebrates with her silver medal after the final match of the Hellas Open 2019 in Sidirokastro, Greece. **PHOTO: THET HTAR THUZAR'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

Advance tickets to be sold for U-16 Boys Elite Football Tournament

TICKETS will be sold in advance for the U-16 Boys Elite Football Tournament 2019, which is scheduled to be held from 14 to 18 August at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The tickets will be available at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium and the Myanmar National Football Academy (Mandalay) from 12 August,

and can be purchased during office hours, officials from the football federation stated in a press release. The price will range from K2,000 for grand stand and K1,000 for ordinary stand, the officials added. Myanmar will play against South Korea, Montenegro, and Indonesia at the tourney.

The Myanmar U-16 will take on the In-

donesia U-16 on 14 August, the South Korea U-16 on 16 August, and the Montenegro U-16 on 18 August. The U-16 Boys Elite Football Tournament 2019 will be broadcast live on the MRTV channel, and it will also be streamed live on MySports' Facebook Page, according to the statement issued by the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar to take on Iceland in U-15 girls tourney in Viet Nam

THE U-15 girl's football teams of Myanmar and Iceland will face each other at the U-15 Women's Invitation Tournament, which is scheduled to be held from 1 to 5 September in Viet Nam, according to a statement issued by the Myanmar Football Federation.

The tourney will be supervised by the Viet Nam Football Federation, and the matches will be played in the round-robin format, according to the statement.

Team Myanmar will start training this week, and will be headed by head coach Daw San San Thein. A total of 25 outstanding players have been selected for the tourney and the training



The Myanmar U-15 girl's football team pose for a group photo with their coaches. **PHOTO: MFF**

session, according to the MFF. Myanmar will play against host Viet Nam, the European football

team, Iceland, and other Asian teams, including Hong Kong. As the match is for under-15 girls,

the match time has been set at 80 minutes, said officials.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

VAR denies Wolves victory in bore draw at Leicester

LEICESTER (United Kingdom) — Leicester City and Wolves offered little to show they can break into the Premier League top six this season after opening the campaign with an uninspiring goalless draw on Sunday.

Wolves did put the ball in the net early in the second-half through Leander Dendoncker, but were denied by VAR as the goal was ruled out for a handball by Willy Boly before the Belgian fired home.

Both sides, along with Everton, were seen as potential beneficiaries should Manchester United, Chelsea or Arsenal stumble this season, but largely cancelled each other out at the King Power stadium.

The hosts had over 70 per cent possession but had to wait until seven minutes from time to force Wolves' goalkeeper Rui Patrício into a save as the Portuguese international comfortably held Harvey Barnes' effort.—AFP