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Monday, 19 August 2019

Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation attends closing ceremony of International Army Games 2019

COMMANDER in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation attended the closing ceremony of International Army Games 2019 on 17th August afternoon.

The closing ceremony was held at the Mound Glory in Moscow, Russia Federation.

First, the Senior General and party visited the Myanmar booth at the House of Friendship. They were welcomed by Russian Defense Minister Army General Sergei Shoigu and officials. The Senior General Min Aung Hlaing then greeted the contestants and cultural troupes of the Myanmar Tatmadaw who took part in the games.

They later enjoyed the final match of Tank Biathlon with the contesting teams from Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. In the match, Russian team won the first prize with 1 hour: 33 minutes: 20 seconds.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also met with the Russian Defense Minister separately at the Patriot Part,

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Russian Defense Minister Army General Sergei Shoigu and officers observe Myanmar traditional musical instruments at the Myanmar booth at the House of Friendship in Moscow. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Damaged Gote Twin Bridge substituted with temporary one

THE Ministry of Construction and Shan State government are building a temporary bridge for regular traffic as the Gote Twin Bridge was destroyed by mine explosions on 15th August.

The damaged bridge is lo-

cated between Mile Post 83/7 and 84 on Lashio-Muse border trade route at the road section of PyinOoLwin and Nawngkhio. Over 5,000 vehicles passed through the bridge, carrying US\$15 million worth of commodities each

day between Myanmar and China. It was also a major bridge for Muse-Ruili and Chin Shwe Haw-Mein Tain border trade posts.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Construction and the Bridge Management Depart-

ment, the Special Bridge Construction Teams 2, 4 and 6 are building a 210 ft-long temporary bridge to finish within five days.

The ministry has already announced that the vehicles from Lashio and Nawngkhio

townships can take the other routes of 9 ½ Mile intersection-Namt Lang-Naung Wo- Kyaukgu, from which to Duhtawadi Bridge to Nawngkhio Township,

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Transport and Communications Ministry launches Myanmar Unicode Migration



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and officials are seen at the launch ceremony to mark the Myanmar Unicode Migration at MICT Park Conference Hall in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung officially introduced Myanmar Unicode Migration at the MICT Park Conference Hall in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

The Union Minister, in his opening remark, said that Myanmar has initiated the Myanmar Unicode Migration process to implement e-government plan

after setting the new font as a standard computer character for Myanmar language. It was standardized with ISO 10646 for Pyidaungsu Font which is now widely used in the offices of Union government, ministries and states/regions.

Plans are also underway to officially migrate Myanmar Unicode to the existing communica-

tion platforms, including social media, commencing 1st October this year.

The Union Minister also remarked that Myanmar Unicode Migration process is a crucial step for the success of the country's planned e-government and all-round developments for the country.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Well-wishers donate cash for flood-hit areas



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presents certificates to well-wishers who donate cash for flood-stricken areas in Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

WELL-wishers donated cash for the flood-stricken areas in Myanmar. Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye accepted the cash at the Yangon Region's Department of Disaster Management yesterday.

The Union Minister assured that the donated funds will be put under the management of

National Disaster Management Committee for appropriate supplies and rehabilitation works.

The well-wishers then explained about their donations of K4.2 million from alumni of University of Medicine 1(1972-1980), K14.3 million from 1983 intake of Yangon Institute of technology, K0.5 million from Tech Myanmar Family, K 700,000

million from U Tin Maung Soe, Dr Khin Mar Soe, their sister Daw Tin Ma Gyi and Daw Khin Aye Mu (PyinOoLwin).

The Union Minister received the cash donations and returned honour of certificates before viewing search and rescue equipment displayed by the companies.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

The UN Secretary-General Message on World Humanitarian Day

19 August 2019

WORLD Humanitarian Day honours aid workers around the world who risk their own lives to help save and improve the lives of others. This year, we pay special tribute to women humanitarians and the huge difference they make for millions of women, men and children in urgent need.

From supporting civilians caught up in crisis to addressing disease outbreaks, women humanitarians are on the front lines. Their presence makes aid operations more effective by increasing their reach. It also improves the humanitarian response to gender-based violence, which increases during emergencies. Today, and for the rest of this month, we invite you to share their powerful stories through your online and social media platforms. In doing so, we reaffirm our common commitment to strengthening the role of women in humanitarian operations.

World leaders, and all parties to conflict, must ensure that humanitarians are protected from harm, as required under international law. Serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law continue around the world. They must be investigated and prosecuted.

On World Humanitarian Day and every day, we stand up for humanitarian workers around the world.

United Nations Information Centre, Yangon

ASEAN+3 donates emergency rice rations to Shwegyin

THE Agricultural Department oversaw the handing over of ten tons of emergency rice rations from South Korea, in line with ASEAN+3 procedures, to flood-stricken people in Shwegyin Township, Bago Region, yesterday.

During the handover ceremony, Bago Regional Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, U Aung Zaw Naing, delivered the opening address and the Agricultural Department's Director-General, Dr Ye Tint Tun, explained the rice donation of ASEAN+3.

The director-general then handed over the rice donated under the Asean Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) programme to the regional minister. Next, the regional minister U Aung Zaw Naing, regional MP U Nyi Nyi Htwe director-general Dr Ye Tint Tun and Deputy Director-General U Aye Ko Ko handed over the 250 rice bags to officials for the affected local residents. U Myint Khine of Nyaung Wyine Ward then spoke words of gratitude on behalf of the local residents.—Tun Tun Zaw (IPRD)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Bago Regional Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Aung Zaw Naing presents the rice bags to the flood victims in Shwegyin Township yesterday. **PHOTO: U THET LWIN (IPRD)**

Damaged Gote Twin Bridge ...

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or another route of Kyaukgu village-Indaw-Yaksawk-Shwen-yaung-Taunggyi-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay, or 9 ½ Mile intersection-Namt Lang-Mong-kai-Laikha-Loilem to Taunggyi and other cities, or Mai Han intersection-Mongnaung-Wan Sin-Kho Lam to other cities. The length of first route is 133 miles and 2 furlong, the second route 173 miles 3 furlong, the third route 131 miles 7 furlong, the fourth route 174 mile 0 furlong and the fifth route 145 miles 0 furlong respectively.— Khayan Soe Myint ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



The Special Bridge Construction Teams are building a 210 ft-long bailey bridge to replace the Gote Twin Bridge in Nawngkhio. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation attends closing ceremony...

FROM PAGE-1

and discussed about the participation of Myanmar team in the games and the stronger ties between the two militaries.

The Senior General and party then attended the dinner hosted by Russian Defense Ministry to honour the closing ceremony of International Army Games 2019.

Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing also accepted the award presented by Russian Defense Minister for the contribution of Myanmar Tatmadaw in the Army Games.

A total of 39 countries took part in the games for 32 contests which were held in 10 countries, including Russia. The Myanmar Tatmadaw contested the games for the second time in the competitions of Tank Biathlon, Sniper

Frontier and Military Medical Relay, while the Tatmadaw cultural troupe competed a related event of Creative Competition.

The Myanmar Tank Biathlon team involved in Group 2, reached to the quarter final, and stood 13th position out of 32 countries; the Military Medical Relay team at 5th position out of 13 teams from 12 countries; the Sniper Frontier team at 17th

position out of 23 teams from 21 countries. Moreover, Myanmar Tatmadaw cultural troupe won the best singing award, the best dancing award and the best music playing award out of 9 contesting countries.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited Myanmar Theravada Buddha Vihara monastery in Moscow in the morning, and donated offertories to Dr. Bhadanta Issariya, the patron monk of the monastery, and donated the day meal to the members of Sangha.

The Senior General listened to the supplications about the missionary works of the monastery, and looked around the monastery compound, according to the report of Office of Commander in Chief.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Flooded wells in Hpa-an repaired



Officials take appropriate measures to clean wells and ponds after flooding in a village in Hpa-an. PHOTO: NAY MYO LWIN (IPRD)

PERSONNEL concerned are taking appropriate measures to clean 890 wells and ponds in three wards and 43 villages of Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, that were tainted with flood water during the heavy rains.

The task began in Kawdaing village yesterday morning where they flushed dirt and contaminat-

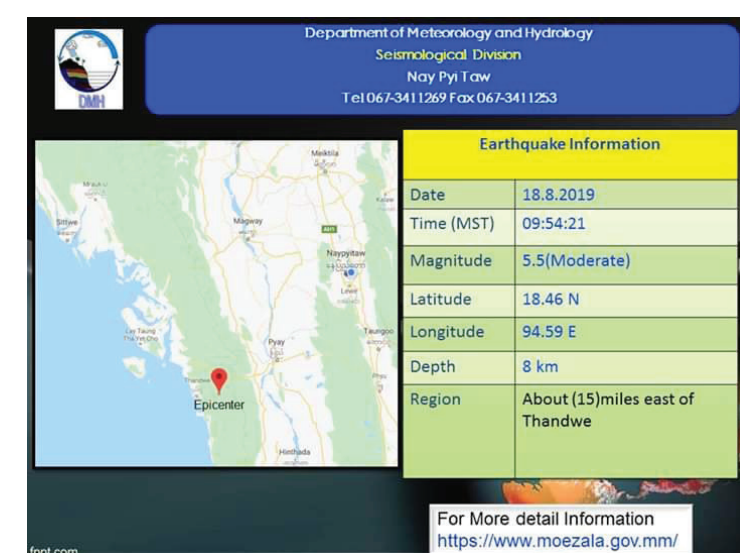
ed water and elements out of the wells and ponds and chlorinated the water-bodies. Staffs of the Rural Development Department and the Health Department, and local authorities were repairing and clearing the inundated wells and ponds for the residents to reuse them. — Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD) / (Translated by TMT)

Double earthquakes rock Thandwe, Rakhine State

A moderate earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale struck at a depth of 8 kilometres in Rakhine State with its epicentre about 15 miles east of Thandwe Township yesterday morning.

In the same morning, a 4.7-magnitude earthquake with an epicentre 20 miles southeast of Thandwe hit the area at a depth of 51 kilometres.

Daw Hla Hla Aung, Patron of the Myanmar Earthquake Committee, said it occurred along the Thandwe-Taungup fault and there has been increased activity there recently. She said the Indian plate may be sliding under Myanmar's seismic plate to cause these quakes. She assured that the 5.5-magnitude won't cause a tsunami as it occurred inland and not on the seafloor. Since January to July this year, Myanmar has experienced 95 light earthquakes and 7 moderate quakes with the epicentre within the country. Daw



An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale struck in Rakhine State yesterday. PHOTO: MOE ZA LA

Hla Hla Aung said the frequency of earthquakes has increased and it is advisable to be cautious.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Myanmar experienced 69 inland earthquakes and one in the Andaman Sea in 2017, and 165 quakes in 2018.

Dr Yin Myo Htwe, Director

of the Seismological Department, said earthquakes are unpredictable natural disasters. She said they cannot be forecast like most other natural disasters and suggested people living fault lines to be made aware of earthquakes and be prepared accordingly. — Min Thit (MNA) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Yangon cyclists hail Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary

TO mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian Embassy and the Myanmar Cycling Federation jointly organized a 'Cycling for Peace' event at 6 a.m. yesterday at the Kandawgyi Park in Yangon.

More than 1,000 amateur cyclists took part in the event, which was also attended by Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein, Deputy Speaker of the Yangon Region government U Lin Naing Myint, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Naing Ngan Lin, Dawbon Township constituency Hlut-taw representative U Thant Sin, officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Shri Saurabh Kumar, and concerned officials, Myanmar Cycling Federation chair, and executive members.

Shri Saurabh Kumar and



Cyclists take part in the event to mark Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth day anniversary in Yangon.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein made the opening remarks at the event. Then,

officials opened the event by releasing balloons, and participants took two rounds of

the Kandawgyi Park on their bicycles. —Myint Maung ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

2.2 kilos of heroin seized in Momauk, Kachin

A combined team comprising members of the anti-drug squad seized 2.2 kilos of heroin at a street value of K 220 million on a car in Momauk Township, Kachin State, on 17 August.

The team also found K 1.25 million and four mobile phones on a Parado car.

The authorities have taken action against the suspects, Tin Maung Soe (a) Ashegyi who was behind the wheel, and driver Thant Zin Aung of an X-Trail car, and passenger, Ma Bauk Hsai.

Further information led to the arrest of other suspects,



Suspects are seen together with illegal drug constituting a street value of K 220 million. **PHOTO: MPF**

Tu Nan and Lajar, staying at Yin Yin Hotel in Lwejei, to-

gether with a motorcycle and three mobile phones used in

trafficking drugs.—Ko Ye ■
(Translated by TMT)



Nay Sai Aung Tun, 45, and Naw Jar, 37, are seen with Ice uncovered from the truck. **PHOTO: MPF**

Southern Shan police arrest 501 kilos of ICE

A total of 501 kilos of ICE at a street value of K 12,525 million was seized in Loilem Township, southern Shan State, at 11 am on 16 August from two middle age men, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

When police searched a six-wheel truck bound from Loilem to Taunggyi near Hotint Village, they found the drugs hidden in

a secret compartment of the Isuzu.

Police took action against the suspects, Nay Sai Aung Tun (45) of Parhlan Ward, Tachilek in eastern Shan State, who was driving the truck and the passenger Naw Jar (37) of Yannaing-1 Village, and are investigating the case to expose further links.—GNLM ■ (Translated by TMT)

Six companies to export 250 tons of petrified wood to China

SIX companies are preparing to export 250 tons of petrified wood or fossilized wood produced in Mandalay Region to China through the 105-mile Muse gate, according to U Thi Han Tun, the chairman of the Mandalay Region Petrified Wood Entrepreneurs Association.

“Earlier, there were more than 30 companies exporting petrified wood. But, a mismatch between supply and demand led to a drastic decline in prices. Now, only six companies are engaged in their export,” he said.

“The fossils market is solely dependent on demand from China. The market has cooled since late 2014. Price manipulation and illegal trade have brought down the number of exporter companies,” he added.

Myanmar allowed the export of petrified wood in 2012, and China is the only market for it. Higher supply, lack of price regulations, and the conditions in the Chinese market have led to market deterioration after 2014, said U Thi Han Tun. Some traders are exporting fossils through the illegal trade channel, he said.

“The regional government will allow only freight movement within regions. An import-export licence will have to be obtained from the Ministry of Commerce, along with a certificate from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The Mandalay Region Department of Mines has inspected petrified wood from the six proposed companies,” he said.

“The market will recover



Petrified wood or fossilized wood unearthed in Mandalay Region. PHOTO: KHINE SET WAI

with price regulation and control of illegal trade. We have to consider supply against market demand. China’s tariff hike on importation will negatively affect demand as well,” said U Thi

Han Tun.

Petrified wood is found in the central regions of Myanmar — Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway. Petrified wood mined from Mahlaing and Natogyi townships

in Mandalay is of high quality, while Magway and other regions only produce raw materials which can be used for interior decoration.—Khine Set Wai ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Fuel oil import down in current fiscal

MYANMAR imported US\$2.7 billion worth 4.6 million tons of fuel oil over the past ten months of the current fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The import volume is down by 440,000 tons and so, the import value plunged by \$320 million compared to the corresponding period of last fiscal year.

As of 2 August, the country imported over a billion-dollar worth 1.75 million tons. The import value was up by \$19 million against a-year ago period.

Meanwhile, diesel import reached 2.88 million tons, with estimated value of \$1.68 million. The import this year fell, which was down by \$346 million from last year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Oil price rebounded last Friday on the back of some pos-

itive US crude data, according to global market. Brent crude oil price yesterday ranged \$58.64 per barrel while WTI crude was priced around \$54.8 a barrel, according to global oil markets.

Fuel oil fetched around at K750-795 for Octane 92, K840-885 for Octane 95, K850-890 for diesel and K860-900 for premium diesel yesterday in domestic retail market, according to Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association.

As oil price extended drop in the global market following up the escalating the US-China trade war, domestic fuel oil price saw a gradual decrease in the past three months.

Last year, with increase in global crude oil price and the Kyat weakening against US dollar, oil prices hit a high of Ks1,065 per liter for Octane 92, Ks1,115

for Octane 95, Ks1,085 for diesel and Ks1,105 for premium diesel on 10 October 2018.

Then, domestic fuel oil touched a low of K695 for Octane 92, K760 for Octane 95, K870 for diesel and K875 for premium diesel on 1 January. Then, the price surged to above K1,000 per liter in April and plunged to below K1,000 in June, according to local oil market.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil is imported from abroad while 10 per cent is locally produced.

Myanmar imports fuel oil primarily through Singapore, with monthly export of 200,000 tons of gasoline and 400,000 tons of diesels. There are 2,000 fuel stations and 50 oil importer companies in Myanmar.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



A man refilling a car at a filling station in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

Over 200,000 tons of rice exported in July

OVER 159,000 tons of rice and 54,300 tons of broken rice were exported to foreign counties through border gates and maritime trade in July, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In the month of July, Myanmar exported over 29,000 tons of rice with estimated value of US\$8 million. The export volume is up by 3,000 tons compared to June.

Meanwhile, \$40 million worth 130,000 tons of rice were shipped to foreign countries through maritime trade, increasing over 37,000 tons compared to June. Additionally, over 54,000 tons of broken rice were also exported, with estimated value of \$14 million. The volume showed increase of 21,000 tons compared to June.

Over 8,000 tons of rice, worth over \$2 million, was exported to the neighbouring country of China through the border gates between 27 July and 2 August, according to news released online by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar’s rice exports to China were higher in the week ended 2 August compared to the previous week, with exports exceeding 7,300 tons at the Muse gate, crossing 500 tons at the Chinshwehaw gate, and reaching over 160 tons at the Lweje gate.

During the period of 28 July to 3 August, 24,000 tons of rice, with an estimated value of over \$7 million, was shipped through the sea route. Through the maritime trade, over 9,300 tons of rice was shipped to the China market, while over 8,200 tons was exported to the Philippines market, over 3,000 tons was placed on the European market, and rice was also sent to markets of Russia, Viet Nam, Madagascar, Cameron and Guinea.

The prices of rice in the export market have continued to fall, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.—GNLM ■

(Translated by EMM)

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AA, TNLA, MNDAA blow up one more bridge on Union Highway, retreat after suffering heavy losses at Kutkai

AA, TNLA and MNDAA armed groups were blowing up bridges in Nawnghkio, Hsenwi and Kunlong townships in northern Shan State, and approaching Kutkai to attack the town with heavy weapons from afar. But they fled with heavy losses when the Tatmadaw columns repulsed them, according to the information released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

AA, TNLA and MNDAA armed groups blew up the 50-foot long and 25-foot wide reinforced concrete bridge at the entrance of Nartee village at 31st-mile on Lashio-Hsenwi-Kunlong Union Highway at about 5 pm on 17 August. The bridge was damaged and

transport cutoff.

At about 10 am yesterday, about 150 members of the armed groups approached Kutkai from three places from the south-west of the town to fire heavy weapons on the town. When the Tatmadaw columns attacked them they retreated with heavy losses. There were four engagements between Tatmadaw columns that were taking security measures and the groups in the surrounding areas of Lashio-Kutkai-Nanphatkha-Muse and Hsenwi-Kunlong Union highways.

At about 5.30 am on 15 August, AA, TNLA and MNDAA armed groups fired small arms and heavy weapons at Defence Services Technological Academy in PyinOoLwin,

PyinOoLwin tollgate towards Nawnghkio, Gote Twin police station in Nawnghkio Township, Shan State (North), Nawnghkio tollgate towards Kyaukme, narcotics inspection gate, local battalion headquarters, killing two innocent civilians and three policemen and injuring 13 innocent civilians and two policemen.

During the incident, 17 small arms, six magazines, 1,312 rounds of cartridges, one drug finder, one chemical tester, four walkie talkies were lost, three cars were burnt down and the floor of the Gote Twin bridge was damaged and transport halted.

Tatmadaw reinforcements went to Gote Twin police station, Nawnghkio

tollgate, Asia Wall tollgate, and continued to conduct counterattack. During the operation, they found six Type 63 107mm shells, sites created by AA, TNLA and MNDAA insurgents to launch rocket attacks, and a battery on a hill east of DSTA and an eastern side of PyinOoLwin-Lashio Road. There were also engagements with Tatmadaw columns at Nawnghkio drugs inspection gate and Gote Twin police station.

AA, TNLA and MNDAA armed groups were dissatisfied with the Tatmadaw's seizure of their narcotic drugs at a street value of over K 16 billion and accessories including pressing machines, and drug refineries in the surrounding areas of Chaungzon

to the south east of Shawhauk village in Kutkai Township on 25 July, and about K 5 billion worth of drugs, and ammunition and related equipment at Yetkhintaing village, Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State, on 8 August. The insurgents committed the violent attacks in retaliation of the seizures, according to the information released by Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Myanmar Police Force on 15 August. Tatmadaw columns are taking appropriate security measures to rebuild the mine-damaged bridges, and to resume traffic and ensure and peace, stability and the rule of law in the areas.

—MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)

Safety measures taken at overflowing Mann Creek Dam



Officials check the spillway of the Mann Creek Dam in Ngaphe, Magway Region. **PHOTO: THAN NAING OO**

OFFICIALS yesterday checked the safety of Mann Creek Dam in Ngaphe Township, Magway Region, as its spillway was overflowing.

U Win Maw Htay, the regional minister for irrigation, and officials visited the dam, and heard a report on the water inflow, the overflowing main spillway, water supply for Aingma diversion dam and crops in Ngaphe Township,

the current water level of the reservoir; installation of warning signs (green flags), and preparatory measures presented by an irrigation official.

According to the survey at 6 pm yesterday, the water level of the reservoir was at 626.50 feet which was 1.50 feet higher than the water mark at its full brim, explained the in-charge of the dam. Thus the water level

had reached 1.50 feet above the spillway.

Personnel at different levels are closely monitoring the situation round the clock, and a report back system and the emergency measures are underway, he assured. The region minister looked into the requirements. — Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe) ■

(Translated by TMT)

ICOE holds tenth meeting on 15-16 August

Following is the press release of the Office of the Independent Commission of Enquiry-ICOE.

Press Release

17 August 2019

The Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) held its tenth meeting from 15 to 16 August 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the ICOE discussed on the documents received from the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force related to ICOE's enquiries. They had intensive discussions on the work progress and the evidence received so far.

The ICOE has expanded its ECVT investigators in order to hasten their evidence collection.

ICOE also took note of their advance team visit to Bangladesh led by two ICOE members. The purpose of the advance team's visit is to prepare the ground work and seek the necessary approvals for the ICOE's ECVT to collect evidence and statements/depositions from witnesses in Cox's Bazar. The advance team will pay courtesy calls on the relevant authorities in Bangladesh and conduct preliminary discussions to be able to arrange a workplan for the ECVT in Cox's Bazar.

ICOE discussed preparation of their Final Report.

The eleventh meeting of the ICOE is scheduled in September 2019.

Office of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE)

Nay Pyi Taw

17 August 2019

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Trans-Brazil trail raises hopes for future of Atlantic Forest

BRASILIA — Luiz Pedreira walks with other hikers beneath the Atlantic Forest's thick canopy in Brazil, where an 8,000-kilometre (5,000-mile) trail stretching the full length of the country is being opened up.

He says he hopes that the creation of the trail, one of the world's longest, will raise awareness about the fragility of the forest — long devastated by loggers and farmers, and now facing a renewed threat under President Jair Bolsonaro.

"If you don't know something, you don't value it," says Pedreira.

Inspired by long-distance tracks such as Canada's 24,000-kilometer Great Trail, the project will connect paths from the southern town of Chui on Brazil's border with Uruguay, to Oiapoque on its northern frontier with French Guiana.

The result will be a continuous coastal corridor for humans and animals.

Work is already under way

on the trail, which has the backing of Brazil's environment and tourism ministries, but it could take years to complete.

"If you know something, if you are always in the forest, you will value it more," Pedreira tells AFP as he stands near a cliff offering 180-degree views of the heavily forested mountains and granite monoliths that divide Rio de Janeiro's neighborhoods.

"It allows people to connect to the forest." Read also: Five mountains graced by fields of edelweiss

Tourist draw

Ranked by WWF as the second most diverse ecosystem on the planet after the Amazon, the Atlantic Forest — or Mata Atlântica in Portuguese — is teeming with thousands of plant and animal species.

When the Portuguese first arrived in Brazil in the early 16th century, the forest covered more than 1.3 million square



People take photos as they walk along a hiking trail - part of a projected 8,000-kilometer trail across Brazil, which will be one of the longest in the Americas - in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 21 July, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

kilometers — an area roughly twice the size of France.

Since then, however, nearly 90 percent of it has disappeared — destroyed over centuries to

make way for coffee plantations, sugar cane fields, mining, cattle grazing or cities.

While the rate of deforestation has slowed in recent years,

according to SOS Mata Atlântica Foundation, there are fears that Bolsonaro's anti-environment rhetoric will reverse that trend.—AFP ■

CO2 row over climate activist Thunberg's yacht trip to New York

PARIS — The team behind teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg's yacht voyage to New York on Sunday fended off claims that her trip will create carbon emissions because team members will take transatlantic flights.

The 16-year-old Swede, whose school strikes have inspired children across the world to protest against global warming, refuses to fly because of the carbon emissions caused by planes.

But she has been offered a lift on the Malizia II racing yacht, and set off on 15 August along with her father Svante and a filmmaker to document the journey, in order to attend the UN talks in September with a clear conscience.

However a spokesman for German round-the-world sailor Boris Herrmann, the yacht's co-skipper, told Berlin newspaper TAZ that several people would fly into New York to help take the yacht back to Europe.

Herrmann himself will return by plane, according to the spokesman.

The paper estimated that in fact Thunberg's boat trip would end up being more polluting than

if she and her companions had just taken flights to New York themselves.

'An imperfect solution'

That conclusion was quickly picked up on social media sites among Thunberg's detractors.

But Team Malizia manager Holly Cova insisted that the young activist's journey would be climate neutral.

"All Team Malizia flights are offset," she said in a statement issued by Thunberg's entourage.

She explained that the New York trip had been organised "at

very short notice, and as a result two people will need to fly over to the US in order to bring the boat back".

"We only have one boat, so they cannot easily sail over to meet them.

Altogether, four crew will be sailing the boat back. These are logistical decisions that Team Malizia alone has taken," she added. Cova admitted "this is an imperfect solution," adding that "the world has not yet found a way to make it possible to cross an ocean without a carbon footprint."—AFP ■



The Malizia II can travel at speeds of around 35 knots (70 kilometres an hour) but will be heading into the wind. PHOTO: AFP

Iceland commemorates first glacier lost to climate change

REYKJAVIK — Iceland on Sunday honours the passing of Okjokull, its first glacier lost to climate change, as scientists warn that some 400 others on the subarctic island risk the same fate.

A bronze plaque will be unveiled in a ceremony starting around 1400 GMT to mark Okjokull — which translates to "Ok glacier" — in the west of Iceland, in the presence of local researchers and their peers at Rice University in the United States, who initiated the project.

Iceland's Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir, Environment Minister Gudmundur Ingi Gudbrandsson, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson are also due to attend the event.

"This will be the first monument to a glacier lost to climate change anywhere in the world," Cymene Howe, associate professor of anthropology at Rice University, said in July.

The plaque bears the inscription "A letter to the future," and is intended to raise awareness about the decline of glaciers and the effects of climate change.

"In the next 200 years all our glaciers are expected to follow the same path. This monument is to acknowledge that we know what is happening and what needs to be done. Only you know if we did it," the plaque reads.

It is also labelled "415 ppm CO₂," referring to the record level of carbon dioxide measured in the atmosphere last May.—AFP ■

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Discipline, duty, and freedom

THE Greek philosopher Aristotle once remarked that man is by nature a social animal and chooses to live with others. If we look at the most basic group in society — the family — we can see its individual members have their own duty and unique relationship with each other. Extending beyond that is kinship.

Each group of relatives or clans are led by one individual, whose commands everyone obeys. So too in the family, the parents lead, and the rest follow.

“Truly free people maintain their own discipline. You must remind yourself of which rules to keep, how to act, and what is integrity. If you follow through with your own standards, then you will truly be a free adult.”

not harm others. Furthermore, we must understand that the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy are bounded by our laws.

“If you want others to respect you, then, you must show them respect first. Follow the rules and show respect where necessary.”

“Truly free people maintain their own discipline. You must remind yourself of which rules to keep, how to act, and what is integrity. If you follow through with your own standards, then you will truly be a free adult.”

The preceding remarks were made by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during a meeting with Myanmar scouts in Mandalay. Freedom exists within the bounds of discipline and is inseparable from responsibility. Balancing both is what enables us to become mature and wise.

Maintaining good relationships, unity, and responsibility leads clans to prosperity across successive generations. They reach the highest strata of society. The same principle applies to larger groups, such as ethnic races and citizens of a nation. Mutual respect, discipline, unity, and individual accountability can help lift the status of a country and its people to the highest levels.

Our neighbouring countries are moving towards prosperity and we must strive hard to catch up with them. We need to make longer strides towards development.

As we implement a democratic system in our country, we must give preference to the blossoming of justice, freedom, and equality.

The people of the nation are aware of their original opportunities and duties. They include the freedom to express, speak, gather peacefully, organize, and follow their unique traditions and religious customs, in addition to developing their literature and language. It is our duty to ensure our freedom of speech and expression and our actions do

Restore forests to reduce wildfires and carbons

By Khin Maung Myint

AS the climate change gets worse, the wildfires are becoming more frequent and more devastating. Presently the numerous wildfires burning in Russia, Alaska and Greenland are still raging on. Wildfires are common in the summers in the Arctic, but this year due to unprecedented high temperatures in those areas since June, they are more serious. The adverse consequences of those wildfires are already taking toll on the environments and healths.

Let us see what causes such wildfires. Of the many causes, the most common is the lightning strike. Others include: arson or deliberately setting fire, negligence of the holiday makers who camped out in the forests, uncontrolled burning for agricultural purposes, indiscriminate discarding of cigarette butts while traveling through a forest area, etc. Whatever the cause may be, it needs tinders such as: dried woods, leaves and weeds that can catch fire readily. Such materials are abundant in every forest.

Thus, if such materials are absent, wildfires would not take place. It's as simple as that, in theory of course, but to avoid wildfires from happening, the forests should be restored on a regular basis. In practice it takes much work. The procedure used is called the "restoration of the forests". Forest restoration is very complex and is carried out for various reasons. For the purpose of this article I will not go into all those complex details, but focus solely on the prevention of wildfires only.

Forest restorations

Most forests have undergrowths or weeds, dead trees and dried leaves that provide fuel for the wildfires to start. It is common knowledge that it takes three elements to make a fire -- oxygen, heat and fuel -- if we can remove one of them there wouldn't be a fire. However, oxygen and heat would be difficult or totally impossible to remove, so it remains that if we can remove fuel we would be able to prevent wildfires. Thus we must keep the forests clear of the undergrowths that can wither in scorching summer temperatures, the already dead



Forests are a vital carbon sink—a natural sponge that pulls carbon out of the atmosphere through plant photosynthesis. **GRAPHIC: BT**

trees that had turned into dead woods and dried leaves, which provide tinders to fuel the fire.

Here, the forest restoration comes in. I will be mentioning generally the relevant aspects of it. Clearing the forest floors to get rid of the tinders and thinning the forest if necessary by felling some unwanted trees to make room for other trees to have more space to grow more freely to their fullest, will all contribute to the prevention of wildfires. By doing so, the forest will be conserved at the same time and the trees will be more healthy and flourish.

Benefits of forest restorations

Forest restoration provides a suite of benefits. Successful restoration generates a wide range of benefits -- not only forest quantity and quality, but enhanced food security, improved air and water quality, climate change resilience, job creation, and more.

The Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) gas, which is the main ingredient of the greenhouse gases, is the culprit behind the global warming. As the global warming is causing the climate change and responsible for the wildfires, if we can reduce the CO₂ from the atmosphere effectively, the climate change could be reined in. It would safe

the world from further destructions by unprecedented high temperatures, floods, wildfires, landslide and etc.

Trees are great absorbers of the CO₂ gases present in the

Oxygen production rate of trees

It is interesting how much oxygen a tree can produce by breathing in CO₂ and water from the atmosphere. The amount of

of trees also produces enough oxygen for 18 people to breathe for a year. I hope you will notice the above values do not agree with one another. So, it would be safer to assume that in a 24-hour period, they produce more oxygen than they use up. I am not sure where I had read it, but It said a tree gives out ten times the oxygen it used for its survival.

Timely actions will save the planet

As earlier mentioned, forests are vital carbon sinks -- a natural sponge that pulls carbon out of the atmosphere through plant photosynthesis. Because CO₂ emissions from human activities are a major cause of climate change, forests do humanity a huge service by disposing off much of its gaseous waste. Also as forests produce large amount of oxygen, which is vital for human survival, the forests should be properly looked after.

Unfortunately, wildfires are more common than they used to be. Higher tree density, more dry wood for fuel, and a warmer, drier climate have caused an increase in the frequency, size, and severity of the wildfires. Restoring forests in a timely manner is critical in making subsequent wildfires less likely. Such rehabilitation and restoration takes many years, and includes planting trees, reestablishing native spe-

cies, restoring habitats, treating for invasive plants, thinning and clearing out the undergrowths, weeds, dried leaves and dead trees from the forests.

Restoring the forests means "less fuel for wildfire and more storage for carbon". When wildfires burn up forests, they don't just damage the trees, but they destroy a key part of the global carbon cycle. Rehabilitating those trees as quickly as possible could mitigate the severe climate change and save our planet from destruction.

Conclusion

Hopefully, I think I had made it quite clear that forests, or more precisely the trees, are vital for the humans and other living beings to survive on this planet. So, let us protect our forests from deforestations, which can be caused by both the humans and the nature. If humans really care, we would be capable of controlling the nature. What we need to do is for every nation to accept the fact that the climate change is really taking place and join hands, in earnest, to fight the worsening climate change by abiding by the parameters laid down by the Paris Agreement (COP21). The least we can do to deter the advance of the climate change is to grow more trees, conserve our existing forests and restore the forests in time to prevent the wildfires.

Lately, there was a very welcome news in the local media about our country deciding to cut in half the amount of timber extractions. It was a very positive and wise move that will contribute greatly to the reduction of CO₂, which is the main culprit of the deteriorating climate conditions that the whole world is facing today. This move will also reduce landslides or mudslides in future, because if our hills and mountains remain forested such disasters will not happen easily. So, let us restore our forests now to create a sustainable future for the new generations.

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1. Growing Air Foundation,
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3. Ecological Society of America.
4. BBC Science Focus Magazine



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 18th August, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 19th August, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, (Northern and Eastern) Shan State, fairly widespread in Southern Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Naypyitaw and isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 – 7) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th August, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th August, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th 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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57% oppose sending SDF to Middle East amid tensions with Iran

TOKYO — Over half of voters oppose dispatching Japan's Self-Defense Forces to the Middle East for a US-led coalition to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz amid heightened tensions with Iran, a Kyodo News survey showed Sunday.

In the nationwide telephone poll conducted Saturday and Sunday, 57.1 per cent said Japan should not send the SDF to the region, while 28.2 per cent said it should.

The United States has urged Japan to join the coalition but Tokyo is cautious about sending the Maritime Self-Defense Force to the strait as it could undermine its friendly ties with Iran.

The Japanese government is considering sending MSDF destroyers and surveillance planes to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait between Yemen and the Horn of Africa rather than par-

ticipating in the US effort, with SDF activities overseas restricted under the war-renouncing Constitution, government sources said earlier this month.

The survey also showed that the approval rate for the Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe rose to 50.3 per cent, up 1.7 per centage points from the previous poll conducted after the 21 July upper house election.

Abe's ruling camp scored a solid win in the election, though it and other lawmakers supportive of amending the pacifist Constitution lost the two-thirds majority required to initiate constitutional reform.

The disapproval rate stood at 34.6 per cent, down 3.6 points.

Regarding the country's deteriorating relations with South Korea, 62.4 per cent said they were concerned about the future path of bilateral relations, while 32.4 per cent said they



FILE PHOTO : Three Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force warships — the Setoyuki, left, the Asagiri, right, and the Kashima — arrive at the Port of Manila on a training mission on Oct. 13, 2014. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

were not.

Bilateral relations have deteriorated since South Korean

court rulings last year ordering Japanese companies to compensate victims of forced labor

during Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula.—Kyodo News ■



The Shaybah facility stands at the heart of Saudi Aramco's long-standing dominance of the world's energy industry. PHOTO: AFP

Yemen rebel attack sparks fire in Saudi gas plant: Aramco

RIYADH — An attack claimed by Yemeni rebels sparked a fire in a Saudi gas plant Saturday but caused no casualties or disruption to production, state-owned energy company Saudi Aramco said.

"Saudi Aramco's response team controlled a limited fire this morning at the Shaybah natural gas liquefaction facility," the energy giant said. "There were no injuries and no interruptions to Saudi Aramco's oil operations."

The Huthi rebels have carried out a spate of cross-border missile and drone attacks tar-

geting Saudi air bases and other facilities in recent months in what it says is retaliation for the Saudi-led air war in Yemen.

Early Saturday the Huthis issued a statement claiming a "massive" attack against a Saudi gas installation, which they said was hit by 10 drones.

A rebel spokesman, cited by the insurgent television station Al-Masirah, also vowed "fiercer and larger attacks" against Saudi Arabia should it retaliate.

The channel later broadcast a speech by rebel chief Abdelmalek al-Huthi, who said all the

group's military operations were "a legitimate response to Saudi aggression".

Al-Huthi added that Saturday's attack was also "a warning to the United Arab Emirates", the other main pillar in the Saudi-led coalition. The Shaybah installation lies just 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the Emirati border and hundreds of kilometres from the nearest Huthi-controlled territory.

Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said the operation was carried out at 0320 GMT by "booby-trapped drones".—AFP ■

Easy credit poses tough challenge for Russian economy

MOSCOW — New machines popping up in Russian shopping centres seem innocuous enough — users insert their passport and receive a small loan in a matter of minutes.

But the devices, which disperse credit in Saint Petersburg malls at a sky-high annual rate of 365 percent, are another sign of a credit boom that has authorities worried.

Russians, who have seen their purchasing power decline in recent years, are borrowing more and more to buy goods or simply to make ends meet.

The level of loans has grown so much in the last 18 months that the economy minister warned it could contribute to another recession.

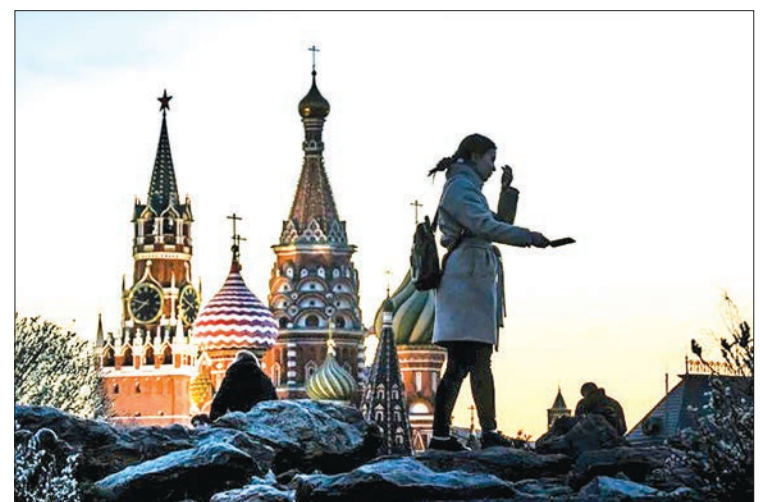
But it's a sensitive topic. Limiting credit would deprive households of financing that is sometimes vital, and could hobble already stagnant growth.

The Russian economy was badly hit in 2014 by falling oil prices and Western sanctions over Moscow's role in Ukraine, and it has yet to fully recover.

"Tightening lending conditions could immediately damage growth," Natalia Orlova, chief economist at Alfa Bank, told AFP.

"Continuing retail loan growth is currently the main supporting factor," she noted.

But "the situation could blow up in 2021," Economy Minister Maxim Oreshkin warned in a recent interview with the Ekho Moskvy radio station.—AFP ■



Analyst Andrei Kolesnikov warns that the Kremlin's grandiose undertakings will come at a 'diabolical cost'. PHOTO: AFP

British MPs press Johnson to recall parliament over Brexit

LONDON—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson came under pressure Sunday to immediately recall lawmakers from their summer holiday so parliament can debate Brexit.

More than 100 MPs have written to Johnson to urge him to reconvene and let them sit permanently until Oct 31 - the date Britain is due to leave the European Union.

MPs are not due to return until Sept 3.

“Our country is on the brink of an economic crisis, as we career towards a no-deal Brexit,” said the letter, signed by MPs and opposition party leaders who want to halt Britain’s de-



More than 100 MPs have written to Johnson to urge him to reconvene parliament and let them sit permanently until October 31 - the date Britain is due to leave the European Union. **PHOTO: AFP**

parture from the EU. “We face a national emergency, and parliament must be

recalled now.” Parliament is set to break up again shortly after it returns,

with the main parties holding their annual conferences during the September break.

Johnson - whose government commands a one-seat majority - insists Britain must leave the EU on Oct 31, with or without a divorce deal with Brussels.

Labour main opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn wants to call a vote of no confidence in Johnson’s government after parliament returns.

He hopes to take over as a temporary prime minister, seek an extension to Britain’s EU departure date to stop a no-deal Brexit, and then call a general election.—AFP ■

Russian opposition figure detained upon release from jail

MOSCOW—Russian opposition politician Ilya Yashin was detained moments after his release from jail on Sunday after completing a 10-day sentence for his role in Moscow’s recent wave of protests.

“I have been detained once again outside the jail,” Yashin said on his Twitter account.

He posted a video of a policeman saying he was being detained for urging people to take part in unsanctioned protests. The video shows Yashin being escorted into a

police van.

Yashin was one of several opposition figures excluded from Moscow’s upcoming local elections, triggering a month of protests in the Russian capital.

Sunday’s scenario was the same as that following a 10-day sentence meted out after Yashin was arrested ahead of a July 27 unsanctioned protest in Moscow that led to more than 1,400 arrests.

After completing the term, he was detained upon his release on August 8 and

given an additional 10 days in jail.

The Russian opposition has staged several large protests in Moscow this month demanding free elections.

The rallies were the biggest since mass protests broke out in 2011 against President Vladimir Putin’s return to the Kremlin after a term as prime minister.

Police have come down hard on the demonstrations, which have tapped into wider anger over declining living standards and a stalling economy.—AFP ■

Israel says fires on armed Gazans after rocket attack, 3 dead

GAZA CITY (Palestinian Territories)—Israel said it opened fire on armed Palestinians on Gaza’s border overnight and Hamas’s health ministry reported three dead Sunday, the latest in a series of incidents along the tense barrier. Israel’s tank and helicopter fire came after Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired three rockets at Israel late Saturday, the army said, the second such attack in 24 hours.

Two rockets were intercepted by Israel’s air defence systems, it said, without specifying what happened to the third.

Police reported no casualties in Israel, but said a rocket fragment fell on a house in the southern Israeli town of Sderot.

Israeli medics said they had treated six people, including two with minor injuries sustained while running to bomb shelters and four others with panic attacks. Hours later, Israel’s army said “troops spotted a number of armed suspects adjacent to



Regular protests and clashes erupted along the tense border of the blockaded Gaza Strip and Israel since March 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

the security fence in the northern Gaza Strip”. It added that an “attack helicopter and a tank fired towards them”. The health ministry in the Palestinian en-

clave run by Islamist movement Hamas reported three dead and said another Palestinian was hospitalised following the incident north of Beit Lahia.

It identified those killed as Mahmoud al-Walayda, 24, Mohammed Abu Namus, 27, and Mohammed Samir al-Taramsi, 26.—AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Man charged after New York scare over rice cookers

NEW YORK—A young homeless man has been charged with placing false bombs, police said Saturday, after three empty rice cookers caused major commuter disruption in New York.

Larry K. Griffin II, 26, was arrested by the New York Police Department and charged with three counts of placing a false bomb, according to a statement released Saturday.

Parts of the city were alerted for two hours Friday morning as three suspicious objects were found: two near the World Trade Centre in the Fulton Street subway station, and one in the Chelsea district further north.

The station was quickly evacuated, service on two subway lines was suspended and trains on other lines serving Fulton Street bypassed the station.—AFP ■

Four dead in Romania psychiatric hospital attack

BUCHAREST—Four people have died and nine were injured after being attacked by a patient in a psychiatric hospital, Romanian press reports said Sunday.

They said a 38-year-old man who had admitted himself to the hospital in Sapoca, northeast of the capital Bucharest, entered a treatment room and attacked other patients with a transfusion stand.

Three of the patients suffered head injuries and died at the scene while a fourth died later in hospital, the reports said.

Among the nine injured in the attack, two were in a coma, they added.

“Everything happened in less than a minute,” hospital director Viorica Mihalascu was quoted as saying.

“This patient was admitted on a normal surveillance level. His symptoms did not give an indication that a tragedy was imminent,” she told Antena 3 television station.—AFP ■

Philippines passes law creating space agency



Rogel Mari Sese, a Filipino astrophysicist, talks to Kyodo News on March 19, 2019 in the Metro Manila suburb of Taguig City about the creation of the Philippine Space Agency. Sese helped craft the bill that President Rodrigo Duterte approved on Aug. 8, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO**

MANILA—The Philippines is entering a new phase in the field of science and technology with the passage of a law creating a space agency, a move that officials say will have positive impacts on its national security and its people's welfare. President Rodrigo Duterte

signed on Aug. 8 the Philippine Space Act that will govern the country's space development and utilization policy.

"This piece of legislation will bear fruits that generations to come will be enjoying," Fortunato dela Pena, the country's science and technology secretary, told a news briefing on Wednesday as he acknowledged that data collected from space technology will have multiple significant applications on the ground.

In an earlier interview, Rogel Mari Sese, a Filipino astrophysicist who helped craft the law, told Kyodo News, "Space is no longer a luxury when it comes to national development and security. It's a necessity."

Sese noted that creation of a Philippine Space Agency or PhilSA is included in the current administration's Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, and in the National Security Policy.—Kyodo News ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Chinese police launch probe after gun found in FedEx package

FUZHOU—Police in Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province, said Sunday an investigation had been launched into a case involving a FedEx package containing a gun.

The public security bureau of Jin'an District said that it had earlier received a report that a gun was found in a FedEx package sent by a U.S. client to a sporting goods company in Fujian.

The gun has been seized by Fuzhou police and the investigation is underway.—Xinhua ■

10,000 homeless after fire razes Bangladesh slum

DHAKA—At least 10,000 people are homeless after a massive fire swept through a crowded slum in the Bangladesh capital and destroyed thousands of shanties, officials said Sunday.

The fire broke out at in Dhaka's Mirpur neighbourhood late on Friday and razed around 2,000 mostly tin shacks, fire services official Ershad Hossain told AFP.

"I could not salvage a single thing. I don't know what will I do," 58-year-old Abdul

Hamid, who ran a tea stall inside the slum, told AFP as he broke down in tears.

Authorities eventually got the blaze under control and no-one was killed, although several people had minor injuries, firefighters said.

Many residents - largely low-income garment factory workers - were not in the slum as they had left their homes to celebrate the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday with their families.

"Otherwise, the damage would have been bigger," local police chief Golam Rabhani said. Around 10,000 people have taken refuge in cramped camps at nearby schools closed for the weeklong holiday, according to Hossain.

"We are providing them with food, water, mobile toilets, and electricity supply," municipal official Shafiul Azam told AFP, adding that authorities were trying to find permanent accommodation.—AFP ■

4,000 detained in Kashmir since autonomy stripped: govt sources

SRINAGAR—Thousands of people have been detained in Indian Kashmir over fears of outbreaks of unrest after New Delhi stripped the restive region of its autonomy two weeks ago, government sources told AFP.

A magistrate speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity said at least 4,000 people were arrested and held under the Public Safety Act (PSA), a controversial law that allows authorities to imprison someone for up to two years without charge or trial.

"Most of them were flown out of Kashmir because prisons here have run out of capacity," the magistrate said, adding that he had used a satellite phone allocated to him to collate the figures from colleagues across the Himalayan territory amid a



Protesters in Srinagar shout slogans at a rally against the Indian government's move to strip Jammu and Kashmir of its autonomy and impose a communications blackout on Aug 16, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

communications blackout imposed by authorities.

Authorities have repeatedly declined to provide a tally of how many people have been taken into custody, apart from confirming more than 100 local pol-

iticians, activists and academics were detained in the first few days after the state was stripped of its semi-autonomous status.

They said the "few preventive detentions" were made to avoid a "breach of the peace"

in a region that has fought an armed rebellion against Indian rule for three decades.

Jammu and Kashmir government spokesman Rohit Kansal said previously there was "no centralised figure" for the total number of people detained. But AFP spoke to numerous government officials in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar, including police and security personnel, who confirmed the sweeping arrests. A police official who asked to remain anonymous told AFP "around 6,000 people were medically examined at a couple of places in Srinagar after they were detained". "They are first sent to the central jail in Srinagar and later flown out of here in military aircrafts," he added.—AFP ■

63 killed in Kabul wedding hall explosion

KABUL—At least 63 people were killed and over 180 others wounded in Saturday night's suicide explosion at a wedding hall in western Kabul, police of the Afghan capital confirmed on Sunday.

"A total of 63 people were martyred and 182 wounded following Saturday night's terrorist incident in Kabul," police said in a statement.

The blast occurred inside Shahr-e-Dubai wedding hall in Police District 6 of Kabul at around 10:40 p.m. local time Saturday when the hall was packed with guests attending the wedding ceremony of an Afghan couple. Those among the victims were several women and children, the statement added. The death toll was likely to rise as several injured were in critical condition. No group or individual has claimed responsibility for the incident so far. The capital city with a population of nearly 5 million has been hit by series of terror attacks over the past couple of years.—Xinhua ■

Minivehicles' prices surge in low inflation-mired Japan



File photo shows Honda Motor's N-Box. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — For low inflation-plagued Japan, minivehicles offer a rare market that has seen a surge in prices over the past decade.

The average price of minivehicles with an engine displacement of 660 cc or less stood at 1.42 million yen (\$13,400) as of July, up 36 per cent from 1.04 million yen in 2009, according to recent data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

The percentage increase far outstrips the 5 per cent rise in the nationwide consumer price

index from 2009 to 2018 and comes as the Bank of Japan has been struggling to meet its inflation target of 2 per cent even with years of monetary easing measures.

The price surge reflects added costs of driving assistant equipment that customers are increasingly looking for. Devices such as radar, cameras and sensors are installed in more vehicles in recent years to keep a safe distance between cars, avoid collision and stop the vehicle eventually when necessary.

Demand for such

equipment has picked up recently, partly as accidents caused by elderly drivers who erroneously stepped on the accelerator instead of the brake have attracted public attention, analysts said.

Still, the rising costs stemming from advanced safety features could dent demand from customers looking for inexpensive vehicles, they said. Minicars and minitrucks are popular among cost-conscious customers, in rural areas in particular, for their fuel-efficiency and lower tax levies.—Kyodo News ■

Drone buzzes above vineyard helping Luxembourg winegrower

LUXEMBOURG — Buzzing like a giant insect over the verdant Moselle Valley, a drone sprays fungicide over rows of vines.

Luxembourg wine producer Corinne Kox began trials of the small unmanned aircraft last month over part of her century-old family estate near the borders with France and Germany.

The test drone, guid-

ed by a pilot operating a digital control panel on the ground, sprays more accurately and less wastefully than a helicopter which her family sometimes uses, she said. Kox, who is in her late 30s, is among the trailblazers in Europe deploying drones in wine production.

"It gives us some flexibility, especially on the slopes," she told AFP.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (1915W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (1915W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-8-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

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Thiri-Mingalar Taung-kwe Pagoda, famous religious landmark of Loikaw. With unspoiled natural and cultural heritage, local ethnic people, Kayah State has prospects for tourism development.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Silver Mountain Land – The land of **Kayah**

By **Thiha**
(*The Traveller*)

AT the end of last year I went to Kayah State given the name Silver Mountain Land where there were many mythical stories. In Myanmar language Kayah State was called Ngwe Taung Pyay. Translation being Ngwe = Silver, Taung = Mountain and Pyay = Land. That was my second time I'd been there.

The first time was after I sat for matriculation examination. At that time my late-father was posted in Loikaw, capital of Kayah State and I lived there for two months. But that was more than 10 years ago and this time around everything was new for me again. Kayah State was the smallest state in Myanmar with an area of just a little more than 3,500

square miles.

I went to Loikaw passing through Htan San-Mwe Taw Kakku and via Loilem. I planned to visit areas around Loikaw and Dimawhso. Small cars were said to be the main traffic on the roads there. We passed by villages frequently and the views were great. The first place we visited was Htee Sel Kha Waterfall.

Htee Sel Kha natural waterfall

As we took the road from Loilem it was more convenient for us to stop first at Htee Sel Kha Waterfall. Before I reach it, I thought of swimming there. But on seeing how swift the water was flowing or falling, I didn't even go near the water. The waterfall was not a huge drop like some waterfalls but more of several short shallow cascading drops. However, people should not jump into it at first sight. They need to observe and understand how the water flows and they must swim or dip into the water at designated places only.

The place was beautiful as it is but I think more systematic maintenance of the area



Front view of Taung-Kwe Pagoda. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

would make it more attractive.

From there we went on to Loikaw passing the sign board wishing us a pleasant journey at the exit from Shan State. Our next stop is a landmark of Loikaw – Taung Kwe Pagoda.

Taung Kwe or Thirimingalar Taung Taw naturally divided into nine parts

Taung is mountain and Kwe is split in Myanmar language. One pagoda each was built on nine separate natural rocky outcrops. The first



Living style of Kayan race at the entry to Panpet village. PHOTO: THIHA

one was built in 1895 and one follows another and by 1950 all nine were built. The rocky outcrop or the mountain was 387 ft high. The first pagoda, Shwe Yat Taung Pagoda about 22 ft high was built in 1895. The second pagoda, Shwe Yin Aye Pagoda about 9 ft high was built in 1913. The two were then followed by about 9 ft high Kyaukthanban Pagoda in 1914, about 24 ft high Pyi Lone Chan Tha Pagoda and about 9 ft high Lower Kyaik Hti Yo Pagoda in 1929, about 12 ft high Upper Kyaik Hti Yo Pagoda in 1950 and about 14 ft high Shwe Pyi Aye Pagoda in 1950. The tallest pagoda Pyi Lone Chan Tha Pagoda was considered as the main pagoda.

The local belief was that lovers become separated if

There isn't much to mention about this place except that it was a very pleasant place. The lake was like a garden with a wooden bridge linking the opposite shores of the lake. Pictures on the bridge were great and taking a walk over the bridge in the morning is encouraged.

Must visit Ngwe Taung Dam

Everyone consider Ngwe Taung Dam as a place to be visited. Ngwe Taung Dam was in Dimawhso Township. This was a place where the Land of Silver Mountain was said to have existed and it can be reached by car from Loikaw in about 45 minutes. The dam surrounded by mountains made it another picturesque

place. The dam embankment had steps allowing a person to step down to water level. As I went down toward the water level, I could see snails at the water edge that I believe were edible snails. The water in the dam was used for household use as well as irrigation.



Even though the tradition of placing brass rings around their neck had been declining and a woman or girl with such rings could hardly be seen nowadays....

Dimawhso Market Day

Coincidentally I was in Dimawhso when it had its market day. I was familiar with market days in Shan State so I was interested to learn about what was available in a market day in Kayah State too. Being a market day, the market

Various levels of lives and styles

In Kayah State, towns like Loikaw had modern buildings but along the roads in Kayah State were villages that had simple wooden frame house with thatched wall. The houses were raised on stilts with people living on the raised floor while the area underneath the floor was a cleared space. Within the cleared space underneath the floor was a raised platform where family gather just as modern family in modern houses gather in the living room and met with visitors. The kitchen and w/c was kept slightly apart from the house. In the yard, normally banana and corn were planted.

There were some Buddhist but the majority of the population were Christians. Quite a number of churches were seen in both the towns and villages.

Panpet Village and beauty of Kayans

Panpet Village was a new village. In Thailand, Kayan women were showcased as tourist attraction in specially built village. Now some Kayan women returned to their homeland and were settling in village like Panpet where traditional lifestyle of Kayan people can still be observed.

in Dimawhso was said to be thronged with people. But as I arrived there around 10 am, the buying and selling were winding down and I didn't see much that was different from the one I'd seen in Shan State. One peculiar sight that I saw was the local moonshine being sold in water bottles. The moonshines were placed in a huge plastic tubs before being poured into water bottles and put up for sales. Some buyers were also seen pouring it into mugs and having it right there and then.



Naung Yar Lake. PHOTO: THIHA

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

they visit Taung Kwe pagoda. May be an undue emphasis being placed on the split rocky outcrops. As the pagodas were linked by stairways, all can be visited with ease. The view of Loikaw from the summit of Tang Kwe Pagoda was picturesquely beautiful. It was indeed like a beautiful painting.

Naung Yar Lake

There isn't much place to visit in Loikaw. Not too far from Kanthayar Hotel where we stay was Naung Yar Lake.



Holiday makers enjoy the natural beauty of Htee Sel Kha Natural Waterfall. PHOTO: THIHA

Even though the tradition of placing brass rings around their neck had been declining and a woman or girl with such rings could hardly be seen nowadays, there still were small shops in village selling tradition Kayan clothing, paintings and handiworks that are attractive in its own ways.

These shops also have readymade clothing and brass accessories for visitors to wear like the Kayan and take pictures. There was a steady flow of visiting cars while I was there.

Translated by Handytips



Tun Tun Min wins Myanmar Lethwei World Championship

MYANMAR lethwei fighter Tun Tun Min claimed the Myanmar Lethwei World Championship IV title after defeating Russia's Mikhall Vetrilla yesterday at the Thein Phyu Lethwei Stadium in Yangon.

Mikhall claimed a second-round stoppage after Tun



Myanmar's Too Too (r) lands a punch on the face of Brazil's Fabio Ferrari (l) during the Myanmar Lethwei World Championship IV in Yangon on 18 August. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**



Myanmar's Tun Tun Min (l) and Russia's Mikhall Vetrilla (r) compete during the Myanmar Lethwei World Championship IV at the Thein Phyu Lethwei Stadium in Yangon on 18 August. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

Tun Min pounded him using his fists and with head-butts, and later, in the fifth round, Mikhall surrendered after the referee counted four.

There were four men's bouts which ended in a draw

in the championship — Myanmar's Ye Thway Ni vs Babak from Iran, Myanmar's Yan Naing Tun vs New Zealand's Kayne Corlan, Myanmar's Byat Kha vs Japan's Higashi, and Myanmar's Too Too and

Brazil's Fabio Ferrari.

The women's bout between Myanmar's Vo Ro Ni Ka and Thailand's Sawsing Sor Sopit also ended in a tie.

The championship was organized by the Myanmar

Martial Arts Group under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports' Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation. — Zarni Maung

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

AFF Women's Championship: Myanmar book semifinal berth with 10-1 win over Cambodia

THE Myanmar women's national football team advanced to the semifinals after trouncing the Cambodian team by 10-1 in group play for the AFF Women's Championship 2019 yesterday at the Institute of Physical Education in Chon-

buri, Thailand.

Led by head coach U Win Thu Moe, Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper Thandar Oo, Khin Myo Win, Chit Chit, Phyu Phyu Win, Aye Aye Moe, Nu Nu, May Thu Kyaw, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Win Theingi Tun, Cap-

tain Khin Marlar Tun, and Yi Yi Oo.

Myanmar dominated the match throughout with better football possession. May Thu Kyaw scored the opening goal for the team at 30 minutes.

Two minutes later, Khin Marlar Tun scored the second goal for Myanmar with a long-range kick.

Myanmar kept up their tempo, with Yi Yi Oo scoring the third goal for Myanmar at 45 minutes, and the first half ended with Myanmar leading by 3 goals.

Myanmar continued to dominate in the second half, with stable play and fast football deliveries, including long and short passes.

Myanmar netted their fourth goal at 60 minutes, which was scored by Win Theingi Tun.

Four minutes later, Khin Moe Wai landed another goal for Myanmar.

With Cambodia's defense crumbling, Yi Yi Oo scored the sixth goal for Myanmar at 73 minutes.

Cambodia managed their lone goal in the match from a penalty shoot at 77 minutes. It was scored by Somrit Nimol.

The seventh goal for Myanmar was scored by Thin Thin Yu at 79 minutes and eighth goal by Yi Yi Oo at 89 minutes.

Meanwhile, Win Theingi Tun landed the ninth goal at 90 minutes.

The final and tenth goal for Myanmar was scored by Yi Yi Oo during extra time. Cambodia did not make any more goals till the match ended.

Myanmar women team will next play their last Group B match against Viet Nam to decide who will reach top spot position in the semifinals on 20 August.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar's Captain Khin Marlar Tun (No. 10) celebrates after scoring the second goal for her team during yesterday's Group B match of the AFF Women's Championship 2019 at the IPE Stadium in Chonburi, Thailand. **PHOTO: FAT**

U-16 Boys' Elite Tourney: Myanmar loses to Montenegro

MYANMAR U-16 boys' national football team lost to European football club Montenegro U-16 boys' football team at the Four Nations U-16 Boys' Elite Football Tournament yesterday at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper Htet Arkar Win, Kaung Htet Paing, Moe Khant, Yan Naing Tun, Captain Wai Yan Lin Thu, Zin Myo Aung, Aung Thiha Paing, Kyaw Min Khant, Min Khant Thu, and Kaung Khant Kyaw.

Myanmar team was led by head coach U Min Thu.

In the meantime, Montenegro lined up with goalkeeper Filp, Damjam, Balsa, Dorde, Captain Aleksa, Soc Tomo, Vedad, Luka, Nihad Damjan and Bojan.

Montenegro's win mostly depended on two goals scored by star player Bojan.

Myanmar got their first goal by penalty shoot at 28 minutes, with a successful kick by Captain Wai Yan Lin Thu.

Montenegro scored the equalizer at 34 minutes when striker Bojan landed the ball into the net with the support of Soc Tomo, lifting the team's spirit.

At the end of the first half, the teams were tied at 1-1.

Montenegro played better in the second half, and launched frequent attacks, scoring their second goal at 48 minutes with a free kick by striker Luka, which landed the ball past Myanmar keeper Htet Arkar Win and into the net.

Montenegro secured their third goal off a corner kick by striker Bojan at 52 minutes with an assist from substitute player Viktor.

Myanmar tried to even the score but got few chances as a strong Montenegro defence managed to thwart their comeback attempts.

The match ended with Myanmar losing 3-1 to Montenegro. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)