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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Kayin govt takes urgent action to get stranded vehicles off damaged road



Traffic congestion on the damaged road section of the Hpa-an-Kawkareik-Myawady motorway in Kayin State. PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN (IPRD)

FLOODS have damaged some road sections to block the ways for cars on Hpa-an-Kawkareik-Myawady motorway in Kayin State. The local government managed for the regular traffic flow on 24th August with the collaboration of police forces, fire fighters, road department,

village administration and the officials concerned. Gyaing river burst its banks and flooded the approach road to Gyaing (Kawkareik) Punton Baw bridge on 8 August. The road section was temporarily blocked to avoid more incidents, causing over 3,000 vehicles stranded at both sides of the

bridge. The Chief Minister of Kayin State closely supervised to solve this problem on 14th August, but the road shoulders were damaged at the road section of Kyakalay and Tharyargone. The trucks en route from Hpa-an to Myawady have been instructed to queue near Kyaka-

lay junction, Eindu junction, between Tharyargon and Weikayin villages and near the school of Kawkadar village; those from Myawady to Hpa-an are to park near Myawady trade zone, Hlaingwa inspection gate and near Koe Tine village for alternative passes.

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Govt to soon release rules for making buildings quake-resistant

THE Ministry of Construction is preparing to release bylaws for the construction of buildings as part of the push for disaster-resistant architecture in Myanmar. The Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw made the remarks at an event yesterday to mark the 20th anniversary of the Myanmar Earthquake Committee in Yangon. The event attracted experts from the government and private sector, and they discussed and reviewed earthquake preparedness in Myanmar. Speaking at the event, Union Minister U Han Zaw told the guests that his ministry is drafting rules for making sure buildings in Myanmar are designed to withstand natural disasters, including storms, cyclones and earthquakes, with the help of legal experts and specialists in the field of architecture and construction. He pointed out that Myanmar has experienced losses to life and property due to natural disasters such as floods, landslides, and earthquakes. The country has witnessed destruction of buildings, roads, and bridges, and its cultural heritage due to earthquakes, he said.

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Tree planting ceremony held to mark 550th birthday of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

A tree planting ceremony to mark 550th birthday of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, founder of Sikhism, held at Thatta Thattaha Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Five hundred and fifty trees were planted by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and Embassy of India.

At the ceremony, Indian Ambassador Shri Saurabh Kumar and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture-Thura U Aung Ko delivered keynote speeches.

Then, the attendee Sikhs had a prayer service.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Re-settlement Dr Win Myat Aye, deputy ministers, Ambassador of India and Indian Military attaché attended and planted trees.

On behalf of the council and the Myanmar Sikhs, Secretary of All Myanmar Sikh Religious Council U Ko Ko then handed over K 5.5 million to Director General of Religious Affairs Department U Myint Oo. The donation is for the greenness of the pagoda premise.

They also handed over K 5.5 million to Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye for the flood victims.

Union Minister delivered appreciation speech.—MNA ■
(Translated by Alphonsus)



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko watering the tree at the tree planting ceremony to mark 550th birthday of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, founder of Sikhism, held at Thatta Thattaha Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Firemen conduct drill for flood rescue operations in Myeik

THE Fire Services Department of Myeik Township in Taninthayi Region held a joint disaster rescue drill with the related organizations yesterday morning.

The drill was conducted in Kyaukphya river near Kyweku village by the members of search and rescue teams from the district fire services department, auxiliary fire

fighters, Red Cross Society, Myanmar Police Force, philanthropic associations, village administration and residents with the supports of four fire engines, one rescue vehicle and one vessel, a commanding vehicle and six emergency cars.

They rehearsed for dispatching emergency teams to the disaster affected area

and searching the lost victims. Meanwhile, the rescue members erected temporary tents under the Kyaukphya bridge, took the victims to the relief camps and hospitals.

The members of Red Cross Society and rescue teams also gave first aid to the victims.—Khaing Htoo (IPRD) ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Firemen take part in a joint disaster rescue drill Kyaukphya River in Myeik yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UCSB Chairman returns from 3rd ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Retreat

CHAIRMAN of Union Civil Service Board U Win Thein and party attended the 3rd ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Retreat organized by the Thailand's Office of the Civil Service Commission (OCSC), held from 22nd and 23rd August in Bangkok.

At the event, the heads of civil service from ASEAN countries discussed the progress and plans of 'ASEAN Declaration on the Role of Civil Service as a Catalyst for Achieving ASEAN Community Vision 2025' that was signed in the 30th ASEAN Summit held in the Philippines from 26 to 29 April 2017.

They also exchanged views on the ways forward of ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) in developing its work plan for 2021-2025.

They discussed the implementation on the decisions made in the Preparatory Meeting for the 20th ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters, held in April 2019, the 20th

ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Meeting in August 2020, and the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Heads of Civil Service Meeting.

The heads of civil service organizations also talked about the working plans of ASEAN Network of Public Service Training Institutes (PSTIs), and reviewed the themes of ASEAN Resource Centers.

The dialogue partners and sectoral bodies held coordination meeting, and the Australian Public Service Commissioner shared knowledge on the possible challenges in public administration.

At the retreat, the ASEAN heads of civil service also signed to declare the ASEAN Statement on Promotion of Good Governance and Acceleration of an Agile Civil Service in a Digital Economy.

They also made a courtesy call to the premier of Thailand.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Cracks at embankment of lake in Chauk repaired

WATER was leaking from cracks appeared on the embankment of a village pond in Chauk Township, Magway Region, in the dry region of Myanmar.

The six-acre earth lake is created by a dam that is 30 feet high and 700 feet long. The base part of the dam is 50 feet thick and the upper part 20 feet thick.

Villagers repaired the embankment through self-efforts when it broke down five years ago. The cracks appeared in the part that collapsed then. The MP of Mag-

way Region No 2 constituency, departmental personnel, the administrative persons, firemen, Red Cross member Tatmadaw members of local battalion and

villagers collectively repaired the cracks and controlled the flow from the spillway.—Kyaw Moe (IPRD) ■ (Translated by TMT)

Govt to soon release rules for making buildings quake-resistant

FROM PAGE-1

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department has established earthquake centres in quake-prone areas to monitor seismic activity, he added.

Meanwhile, the Disaster Management Department has been raising awareness about earthquakes by educating the public on preparedness before and after a quake strikes, the minister said. Union Minister U Han Zaw promised that his ministry will continue to cooperate with the Myanmar Earthquake Committee, which observed its 20th anniversary yesterday.

Afterwards, Myanmar Engineering Society Vice President U

Ko Ko Gyi extended his greetings and Dr. U Thein, the Patron of the Myanmar Engineering Council, spoke in detail about earthquake preparedness measures recommended by experts. The Myanmar Earthquake Committee also presented video clips about earthquake research in Myanmar.

Afterwards, experts and attendees discussed issues related with earthquakes. Since its formation in 1999, the Myanmar Earthquake Committee has been conducting research on earthquakes, in cooperation with local and foreign organizations, to help reduce losses caused by such calamities in Myanmar. — MNA(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Experts and attendees pose for a group photo at 20th anniversary of Myanmar Earthquake Committee on 25 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw delegation to attend 40th AIPA General Assembly

A parliamentary delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Daw Su Su Lwin, Leader of the Advisory Team to Promote Legislative Capacity-Building, left for Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday to attend the general assembly of the 40th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assem-

bly-AIPA. The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Lin Naing Myint and Hluttaw representatives. The delegation was comprised of U Zaw Thein, Chairman of the Joint Commit-

tee on ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, Dr Than Win, Chairman of the Joint Committee on International Inter-Parliamentary Union, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives and officials of the Office of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



The Pyithu Hluttaw delegation poses for a group photo on 25 August as they leave for Bangkok to attend 40th AIPA Gneneral Assembly. **PHOTO: MNA**

Correction

Please read “This committee formed by Presidential order on 24 October 2016 to coordinate and resolve difficulties faced by businesses,” instead of “This committee formed by Presidential order on 24 October 20 to coordinate and resolve difficulties faced by businesses.” in the story titled VP U Myint Swe holds 29th regular meeting with businesspersons in Yangon on page-3 of August 25 Issue of *the Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM

Kayin govt takes urgent action to get stranded vehicles off damaged road

FROM PAGE-1

Moreover, the 14-ton and smaller cars on Myawady-Yangon road were allowed to pass Htilon-Tarpaung-Pata-Nabu-Kawkareik route; the empty vehicle and small cars en route from Myawady to Mawlamyine and Thanintharyi could be driven on Chaunghnakhwa-Mudon road through Koe-tine-Hlaingkwe; the trucks on the route of Yangon-Hpa-an-

Kawkareik-Myawady were directed Thahton-Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), Zarthabyin-Eindu-Tharmanya-Kyakalay-Kyondoe-Myawady and its down route is Myawady-Kawkareik-Kyondoe-Kyakalay-Zarthabyin-Hpa-an.

The temporary routes will be used till the vehicles can be driven on the normal road in one or two days.—Saw Myo Thein (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Minimum Wages discussed in Myawady

A coordination meeting on minimum wage was held at Thaung Yin Hall in Myawady Kayin State yesterday focusing on negotiating the minimum wage.

At the meeting, U Tay Za Aung gave a opening speech. He said the meeting is to review minimum wage and urged employers and employees to take part in the discussion.

Then, Vice Chairman of

Kyin State Minimum Wage Committee, U Khin Mg Kyaw and committee member Daw Khin Soe Aye discussed matters concerning designation of minimum wage.

Afterwards, department at officials, employers and employees discussed the issue.

Minimum wage Law was enacted in 2013. Thirty six hundred kyats was designated for

eight hours of work and forty eight hundred in 2018. To adjust minimum wage with the current situation, the meeting was held. The discussions will be reported to National Minimum Wage Committee to discuss it at the national level. — Htein Lin Aung(IPRT)

(Translated by Alphonsus)



The coordination meeting on minimum wage in progress at Thaung Yin Hall in Myawady Township, Kayin State on 25 August. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG(IPRT)**

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YRTA to instruct GPS installation on trucks for tracking cargo

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority is planning to get GPS tracking devices installed on cargo trucks to monitor container transportation and freight forwarding services, said U Aye Aung, a member of the transport authority at a recent press meet.

“The GPS tracking system will be installed on registered trucks operating in Yangon Region and a control center will be designated to monitor cargo transportation. We will check whether trucks engaged in freight forwarding services are following the set time and route. GPS tracking will also help in traffic law enforcement,” he said.

“Some container trucks are reportedly being overloaded, causing damage to Yangon roads. The compliance of truck drivers can also help mitigate the damage to roads. Yangon’s busy roads are experiencing traffic congestion, and surprise checks on roads worsen traffic problems. Therefore, we will try to control freight forwarders using GPS tracking. The related department is working on it. A technical team has been formed, and it has forwarded the result of its study to the government. We will try to ensure there is no



Yangon Region Transport Authority is planning to get GPS tracking devices.
PHOTO: ZAW GYI PANITA

burden and error in the installation of the GPS tracking devices. The process is still under way,” said U Aye Aung.

As there are industrial zones and large markets in Yangon city, its roads are often packed with cargo trucks. Therefore, heavy trucks are now allowed to run between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. During the day, they are allowed to travel during specified times.

A team comprising members of the YRTA, traffic police,

Yangon City Development Committee, Myanmar Port Authority, Myanmar Container Trucks Association, and Myanmar Highway Freight Transportation Services Association is also conducting surprise checks to ensure container trucks are following traffic laws.

In addition, the team has forwarded necessary suggestions to the concerned organizations, said U Aye Aung.

“With the number of trucks on the rise, truck drivers are

being trained by the Road and Transport Administration Department (RTAD) in Nay Pyi Taw. On completing the training program, they are being issued a certificate and licence. Yangon RTAD is also trying to provide training courses to produce skilled drivers,” he added.

There are 58,000 cargo trucks registered in Yangon Region, and trucks registered in towns outside Yangon are also seen running on Yangon roads. ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

4 killed, 2 injured as car overturns on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

FOUR people were killed and two others wounded after a SURF vehicle overturned between the mile posts no. 170/6 and 170/7 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway on Sunday.

The vehicle carrying five passengers on board en route to Yangon was driven by Bo Bo (a) Phyo Thu Hein who lives in No.6 Ward, DaikU Township in Bago Region. The rollover occurred after the left rear wheel

came off the car, leaving the driver and three passengers on board died on the spot and two others including Win Kyaw Moe injured. The two injured were brought to Swa Hospital for medical treatment. The driver was filed a case at the Thagara highway police station, according to Myanmar Police Force. — GNLM ■
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



YCDC plans to build, lease stalls near bus stops

THE Yangon City Development Committee is planning to construct stalls measuring 5 square feet near bus stops and lease them out, said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe at a press conference on YCDC’s performance. “The stalls will be systematically installed near bus stops. They will not be allowed to sell tobacco and betel quid. They will be located near bus stops on

the passenger roads set up by the YCDC. Bus stops that are crowded with daily commuters and passers-by are potential sites where stalls will be installed,” said Daw May May Thwe, a YCDC member.

“We will rent out the stalls to those who express an interest. They will have to apply for a lease contract. The construction cost is estimated at K2 million per stall.

The stalls will be constructed near busy bus stops, which have a large number of daily commuters,” she added.

At present, a sample stall has been installed near the Myaynigone bus stop situated at the cross-road of the Yangon Region Hluttaw. The stalls will not be allowed to sell betel quid and tobacco, but they will be allowed to sell fast food and top-up cards

for mobile phones. The stalls will have a charging box and Wi-Fi access.

The lease rate has not been set yet. Although the stalls will not provide 24-hour service, but that provision may be changed, depending on the lease. There are over 1,800 bus stops across the commercial city of Yangon, according to the YCDC. ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Anthem Asia Myanmar SME Venture Fund invests over US\$1 mln in Shan Orchard’s Hass Avocado Business

ANTHEM Asia Myanmar SME Venture Fund has made its first investment, providing over US\$1,000,000 to Shan Orchard Myanmar Ltd. an early-stage agri-business focusing on growing Hass avocados and processing avocado oil.

Shan Orchard, based close to Heho airport near popular Inle Lake, Southern Shan State, is an agriculture services business led by seasoned agri-business entrepreneurs Nathan Naing Winn and New Zealander Daniel Bennett, and local Myanmar female entrepreneur Thel Suu Thinzar Bo.

The investment proceeds will be used for purchasing an avocado oil processing facility; support facilities, acquiring farmland; and working capital. “Shan Orchard offers a first-mover opportunity in a premium agri-product category where Myanmar has many natural advantages,” said Josephine Price, managing director



Farmers collect fresh avocado fruits for sale in market. PHOTO: MMAL

of Anthem Asia Myanmar SME Venture Fund.

“The company’s strong management team that has targeted avocados based on their experience of working in the agriculture sector in Myanmar. The business is driven by rising

global demand for avocados both as a healthy food and as a raw product in cosmetics.”

Co-founder Nathan Naing Winn, who has an extensive background in logistics, operations and finance, said: “The avocado oil processing will be

as well as a properly-managed outgrower program is an attractive model for building sustainable agri-business businesses and for improving rural livelihoods.

Co-founder Daniel Bennett who has extensive experience in early-stage agricultural firms and large established plantation groups across Asia, added: “We will continue to improve quality and consistency of the raw material and process it into commercial quantities of high-quality avocado oil for domestic and overseas customers.”

Shan Orchard is leveraging its management expertise to add value with other higher-value crops: it is trialing higher-value rice types and plans to intercrop other high value products with avocado plants to maximize land use and improve seasonality.

There are some 20,000 areas of avocado cultivation in Myanmar that produce over 10,000 tonnes of avocados annually.—GNLM ■

UMFCCI seeks special purposes lease on land to set up agro labs

BY Aye Yamone

The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry is seeking special purposes lease on lands, with special provisions, including fair rates, for setting up of agro labs in the country with foreign investment, said U Ye Min Aung, the vice president of the UMFCCI.

He made the remarks at the 29th meeting of Vice President 1 with private entrepreneurs, held last Saturday at the UMFCCI office.

He sought special leases be granted for 10-15 acres of land at a fair rate to compliance service providers SGS, OMIC, and CCIC

for conducting global laboratory analyses and quality control.

He asked the government to set up a focal department to discuss the matter with the UMFCCI, SGS, OMIC, and CCIC. He also asked for permission to import quality laboratory chemical and lab equipment.

A plan to conduct an awareness campaign on ISO 170025:2017, in cooperation with the UMFCCI and the Ministry of Education, has been forwarded to the private sector development committee, he said.

“Export items should not be sent to foreign labs for product examination and laboratory analysis. They should be tested

within the country in our own laboratories that meet international standards and criteria,” said U Phyto Min Thein, the Yangon Region Chief Minister.

“Myanmar faces delays in export of goods and some difficulties in exportation of products as goods are required to undergo testing and laboratory analysis at the recipient country. We welcome the UMFCCI’s effort to tackle this problem. The regional government will also provide necessary assistance in this,” he added. He said the trade body can work with the Yangon City Development Committee on working out land requirements.

“The Food and Drug Administration Myanmar will soon release an announcement concerning such laboratory examination. We have also asked the FDA to work with organizations accredited by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and issue a certificate,” said U Zaw Min Win, the president of the UMFCCI. The UMFCCI laboratory, which was established six years ago, is going to receive ISO certification, he said.

At present, the laboratory is discussing provision of its services for testing import and export items with the FDA, he added. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Transport, Communications sector attracts largest FDI in current fiscal year

FOREIGN direct investment of US\$1.5 billion has flowed from four enterprises into the transport and communications sector in the past ten months (October-July) of the current fiscal year, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Between 1 October, 2018 and 30 July, 2019, FDI of \$3.5 billion, including expansion of capital, has flowed into the country. The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the investment committees of states and regions have allowed 224 enterprises to invest in the country.

The manufacturing sector has absorbed FDI of \$1.14 billion from 176 projects so far in the current Financial Year. The agriculture sector has attracted five foreign investment projects with a capital of \$19 million. The livestock and fisheries sector

has drawn 10 foreign investment projects worth \$100.26 million. Two projects worth \$93.28 million have been approved in the power sector.

The real estate sector has also raked in \$146.5 million from three foreign projects. The hotels and tourism sector has drawn an FDI of \$62.6 million through six new projects. The industrial estate sector has also attracted one project worth \$48.45 million. Over \$366.87 million in FDI has been pumped into the other services sector.

The MIC has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion for the 2018-2019FY, according to the DICA.

Foreign direct investment into Myanmar was registered at \$1.76 billion in the last mini-budget period, \$5.7 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$6.6 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, and \$9.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



A harvester reaping at a green grams plantation in Thonekwa Township, Yangon Region. PHOTO: KO KYAW

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Ivory Coast's 'Floating Island' points to greener tourism

ABIDJAN (Ivory Coast) — The seaside resort offers visitors a cool drink or tasty meal, a dip in a pool, a karaoke session or an overnight stay, all with a view.

Nothing much new there, you may say — creature comforts like this are pretty much standard in tropical hotels.

The big difference, though, is that this mini resort is also a moveable island that floats on plastic bottles.

Riding on the lagoon in Abidjan, Ivory Coast's economic hub, the unusual complex floats on a platform made from 700,000 discarded bottles and other buoyant debris.

Its inventor, Frenchman Eric Becker, says his creation can help greener, more mobile tourism — something less harmful to seas and coastlines than traditional fixed, concrete resorts.

His "Ile Flottante" — French for "Floating Island" — comprises two thatched bun-

galows and a restaurant with a bar, two small pools, trees and shrubs and a circular walkway, spread out over 1,000 square metres (10,700 square feet).

Visitors are brought to the moored island by a boat. Water is provided by a pipe from the shore. Electricity is supplied by solar panels, backed by a generator.

The island is bigger than a moored boat and handier than a jetty as it can also be taken to other locations, Becker told AFP.

"It really is an artificial island that floats — you can move it."

Becker, a former computer entrepreneur, first toyed with the idea of building a catamaran.

But it was when he came to Abidjan and saw the lagoon that the vision of a floating, moveable island came into his mind — and he sold everything he owned to achieve it.

The first step was to forage for everything floatable — "plas-

tic bottles, bits of polystyrene, even beach sandals".

Bemused locals gave him the nickname of "Eric Bidon" — a word that has a subtle dual meaning of jerrycan and phoney.

"We bought disused bottles off people, we foraged for them in the lagoon. After a while, we learned to follow the wind and find the places where floating rubbish accumulates," he said.

Eco-break

After living on his island for a number of years, Becker turned it into a hotel last year.

He has around 100 customers a week, mostly curious Ivorians or ecologically-friendly tourists.

Others want a relaxing break from the bustling city and to use its swimming pools — taking a dip in the lagoon, fouled by industrial pollution and sewage outflows is an act for the foolhardy.

—AFP ■



The 'island' floats on a platform made from hundreds of thousands of discarded plastic bottles. **PHOTO: AFP**

NPE Former Staff's Association donates English bulletins to Daw Khin Kyi Foundation



Operation Manager U Tun Hla Soe accepts the English lessons bulletins donated by the NPE Former Staff's Association to Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. **PHOTO: OIO**

ENGLISH lessons bulletins published by the NPE Former Staff's Association were donated to the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation recently.

Over 2,000 bulletins worth of K69,000 will be distributed to students at about 400 schools across the country by the foundation.

Operation Manager U Tun Hla Soe of the foundation accepted the donation presented by the Operation Manager of the Every-

day English Publishing House.

The Daw Khin Kyi Foundation was established in 2012 by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in loving memory of her mother, Daw Khin Kyi. The purpose of the foundation is to promote the health, education and living standards of the people of the country, focusing its attention especially on the needs of Myanmar's least developed areas.—GNLM ■

CITES votes to ban trade in endangered otters

GENEVA (Switzerland) — Over 100 countries voted Sunday to ban the trade in the smooth-coated otter and placed it on the CITES most endangered list.

The proposal was adopted by 102 votes in favour, 15 against and 11 abstentions at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meeting in Geneva.

Ecologists say this is vital for the survival of the species which has seen numbers in the wild plummet by at least 30 percent in the past 30 years, a decline which has accelerated with the fad in Japan of keeping otters as pets.

Otter cafes have sprung up in Japan offering baby otters for up to \$10,000.

Popular Instagrammers posting selfies with their pet otter may simply be seeking to warm the hearts of their sometimes hundreds of thousands of followers, but animal protection groups say the trend is posing an existential threat to the silky mammal. "The illegal trade in otters has suddenly increased exponentially," Nicole Duplaix, who co-chairs the Otter Specialist Group at the International Union for Conservation of Nature, told AFP this month.

The smooth-coated otter and the Asian small-clawed ot-

ter are already listed as threatened under CITES Appendix II, but India, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Philippines are asking that they are moved to Appendix I, which would mean a full international trade ban. Placing the otters in Appendix I would send the necessary message to the public, and "in particular to online and social media audiences, that trade in them is detrimental to their welfare and survival," said Sumanth Bindumadhav on behalf of 26 NGOs concerned about endangered species.

The CITES vote on Sunday must still be confirmed at the meeting which continues until Wednesday.—AFP ■



Ecologists say their numbers in the wild have plummeted by 30 per cent in three decades. **PHOTO: AFP**

US, Japan agree trade deal ‘in principle’

BIARRITZ (France) — US President Donald Trump and Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday announced a deal in principle on a major bilateral trade deal.

“It’s a very big transaction,” Trump said after talks with Abe on the sidelines of the G7 summit in the French resort town of Biarritz.

“Billions and billions of dollars,” he said.

“It involves agriculture, it involves e-commerce. It involves many things. We’ve agreed in principle.”

Abe confirmed the two nations had “successfully reached consensus” after “intense” negotiations.

Both leaders said they hoped for a formal signing during the UN General Assembly in New York next month.

However, Abe cautioned: “We still have some remaining work that has to be done... mainly finalising the wording.”

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said the agreement will especially benefit US farmers — a politically



Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and US President Donald Trump look at each other during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Biarritz, south-west France on 25 August 2019. PHOTO: AFP

important group for Trump in his uphill push for reelection in 2020.

Asked whether US tariffs already imposed on Japanese cars would be scrapped as a result of the deal, Lighthizer said some tariffs would be removed “but not those.”

Trump also said the tariffs were “staying the same” but would not go up.

Bilateral alternative to TPP

Trump and Abe enjoy close ties but the US president has frequently claimed that Tokyo has an unfair advantage in bi-

lateral trade.

Negotiators have agreed Japan will place tariffs on US agricultural products up to levels that apply to members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) pact, Japan’s public broadcaster NHK and major Japanese dailies reported.

Both sides agreed Japan will cut tariffs on US beef and pork to TPP levels, but will not set new quotas for butter and skimmed milk, NHK said, citing unnamed sources.

Japan has repeatedly said the extent of the opening up of its agricultural market would be within the concession it had made to members of the TPP pact.

After an abrupt US withdrawal from the TPP, 11 countries circling the Pacific last year signed a slimmed-down version of the trade deal, and the pact has been championed as an antidote to growing US protectionism under Trump.

The US president has since sparked fears of a trade war by levying steep tariffs and denouncing unfair trading practices.

The United States will eliminate levies on a wide range of Japanese industrial products, but its tariffs on Japanese automobiles will be left for further negotiations as Trump sees the US trade deficit with Japan as a problem, NHK said. — AFP ■

Seven dead in midair collision in Mallorca

MADRID (Spain) — Seven people including two children were killed in a midair collision between a helicopter and a light aircraft over Spain’s Mallorca island on Sunday, authorities said.

The two aircraft crashed over the central town of Inca at 1:35 pm (1135 GMT), the regional Balearic Islands government said on its Twitter account.

Everyone aboard the two aircraft — two on the light plane and five on the helicopter — perished in the crash, a police spokesman said.

A couple and their two children were aboard the helicopter along with the pilot, the spokesman told AFP.

The helicopter was registered in Germany, “which doesn’t necessarily mean the occupants were of this nationality,” he said, stressing that an investigation into the victims’ nationalities was still under way.

Police said the two aircraft crashed into a field.

Mallorca and the other Balearic Islands are popular with both Spanish and foreign tourists, especially in the summer season.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez expressed condolences to the victims’ families, and said in a tweet that he was “following the news from... Mallorca with concern.” — AFP ■

Israeli jets hit targets in Syria to prevent Iranian drone attack: army

JERUSALEM — The Israeli air force struck in Syria to prevent an Iranian force from launching an attack on the Jewish state with drones armed with explosives, the army said Sunday.

While Israel operates regularly in Syria, it rarely acknowledges its actions so swiftly, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warning arch-foe Iran it had no immunity from his state’s military.

In a briefing to reporters, military spokesman Jonathan Conricus said that late Saturday the Israeli air force “was able to thwart an Iranian attempt led by the Quds force from Syria to conduct an attack on Israeli targets in northern Israel using killer drones.”

According to Conricus, the Israeli attack took place in Aqaba, southeast of Damascus, and targeted “a number of terror targets and military facilities belonging to the Quds force as well as Shiite militias.”

The army had on Thursday prevented an earlier attempt to launch the drone attack, Conricus

said, without providing further details. “The threat was significant and these killer drones were capable of striking targets with significant capacity,” he said.

A Syrian military source quoted by official Sana news agency said that “At 2330 (2030 GMT) anti-aircraft defences detected enemy targets from Golan heading towards the area around Damascus”. “The aggression was immediately confronted and so far the majority of the enemy Israeli missiles have been de-

stroyed before reaching their targets,” the source added.

‘Iran has no immunity anywhere’

An AFP correspondent in Damascus heard several large explosions before Sana announced the defensive action.

“The aggression is still going on and the air defence is able to counter the targets, dropping most of them” in the south of the country, the Sana agency said early Sunday. — AFP ■



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, pictured August 8, warned arch-foe Iran it had no immunity from his state’s military. PHOTO: AFP

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No one is above the law

RULES, laws, orders, or instructions are, in fact, nothing but a set of dos and don'ts for the entire public in general and the concerned bodies or persons in particular. They are the principles we all must observe, from the date they come into force. And, it is important that we all understand them, and have, at the least, some degree of knowledge about them.

While breaking a rule or an instruction may invite some form of administrative punishment, lawbreakers will certainly face legal action, too, depending on the degree of the crime they have committed. Myanmar has laws on every kind of offence or wrongdoing, whether corruption or embezzlement of funds.

But, people need to know what kind of action can amount to breaking a law or committing an offence, as the law shall not forgive anyone. And, people must understand that no one can escape the long arm of the law. So, they must have a good knowledge of the law, whether it is concerned with a social or moral obligation, or a specific field.

Unfortunately, there are many instances in which people have been found breaking the law knowingly or unknowingly, even though every sector is under legal protection. Even worse is the weakness on part of some law enforcers, who, while pursuing petty crimes in earnest, ignore serious ones, depending on the authority and power enjoyed by the suspects.

In reality, everyone is equal under the law, and the best way to bring down the crime rate is through the promotion of law enforcement. It's very simple: greater legal action means a lower crime rate.

At one time, several children could be seen begging all along the routes from Yangon to the provinces, and people on pilgrimage or vacation gave them food or money. Unfortunately, their kindness only served to encourage children to beg.

But, thanks to legal action taken against the parents or guardians of any child found begging from a foreigner or local traveller on any road, we can no longer find any child beggars, especially on the road to Bagan, one of the most visited places in Myanmar.

It is a clear message for the entire people of Myanmar that we can certainly bring down the crime rate just by effectively enforcing the rule of law, which needs inclusive involvement, apart from the lawmen who play a central role in upholding it.

We hope that the country will take effective and comprehensive legal measures to demonstrate that no one is above the law.

■ ■ ■

We can certainly bring down the crime rate just by effectively enforcing the rule of law, which needs inclusive involvement, apart from the lawmen who play a central role in upholding it.

Yangon-Mandalay railway to be upgraded to cut travel time

By Than Htike

THE Yangon-Mandalay Railway will be upgraded to ensure quick and smooth transportation, in keeping with the current pace of development in the country. At present, trains take 14 hours to travel from Yangon to Mandalay. After the upgrade, the travel time will be almost halved to 8 hours, according to reports. The upgrade project is scheduled to start on 1 October.

Steel Rails arrives at Yangon Port

Long rail segments were imported from Japan to Yangon Port, and 4th shipment arrived on August 13th. Each shipment contains about 3000 tons of rails. About 21 shipments are expected to receive. The first shipment came in May 2019.

Getting ready for the project

On the completion of Yangon-Mandalay railway upgrade project, travel time will be significantly short. Towards this end, now rails, raw materials are being imported and site offices are being built.

Stockpile of railway sleepers and Ballast are also being prepared at stations of Pyin Pone Gyi, Phayar Gyi, Htone Gyi and Ka Tote.

Site offices built

The upgrade project of Yangon-Mandalay railway contains two sections. One runs from Yangon to Toungoo and the other from Mandalay to Toungoo. Three contractors will take charge of Yangon to Toungoo section. There will be three command post: CP 101

for Pazundaung – Bago section, CP102 for Bago –Nyaunglaypin section and CP103 from Nyaunglaypin –Toungoo section. Now the contractors are preparing the stock pile for these sections. The command posts have been built in Ywathr Gyi, Pyuntansar and Oat Twin.

Trips to be reduced during construction period

Currently there are six Yangon-Mandalay trains (up and down) and 2 Yangon-Dawei trains (up and down) running daily.

From October 1st 2019 train trips will be reduced since only one railway will be used.



Long rail segments are unloaded from the *Cosmic Tiger* cargo ship at the Port of Yangon. PHOTO: THAN SOE

It takes 14 hours for trains to travel from Yangon to Mandalay, and 15 hours for trains that halt at more stations. After the upgrade, the travel time is expected to be only 8 hours.

and phase 2 is 219.5 miles long. Myanmar Railway and contractors are working in coordination to realize the plan.

Travel time saving

The upgraded Yangon-Mandalay Railway will be constructed under Japanese loan. As half of the loan will be spent on new train cars of the development of Myanmar train will be seen near future.

Japanese imported DEMU cars can run both on Diesel and electric power. As DEMU cars contain engines, there will be better brake system, air conditioner and more horse power. This will cut the travel time almost by half.

Coordination

Yangon-Toungoo section will be initiated as phase-one on October 1st 2019 and survey for phase 2, Mandalay to Toungoo are being carried out. The construction for that section will begin in 2021. Phase 1 is 166 miles long,



Freight wagons carrying long rail segments from the Yangon Port area to the assigned place. PHOTO: THAN SOE



A local train stops during a brief stopover at a station along the Pazundaung (Yangon)-Bago railroad section that is set for major upgrade. PHOTO: THAN SOE

Shake control system

Rails currently in use on Yangon-Mandalay railway are 39 feet long and Japanese imported rails for the upgraded railway are 82 feet long. Instead of railway fish plate, exothermic welding will be used to give shake free train service.

Sixty thousand tons of rails will be used in upgrading the railway. At least, 1 shipment of rails come in. So far 4 shipments of 21 shipments of rail has come in. Plans have been made for regular arrival of shipments to have it square with work progress.

One way system

It takes 14 hours for trains to travel from Yangon to Mandalay, and 15 hours for trains that halt at more stations. After the upgrade, the travel time is expected to be only 8 hours. The section of Yawthar Gyi and Nyaung Chaydok (Bago) will be only one way from October 1st.

“As Railway staff we have to give service to the public. We want to give best service to the public. Myanmar Railway deteriorated for some reason, but improving this situation with Japanese loan will not only good for the future of Myanmar Railway but also of the public. So I would like to request the public to be tolerant of the difficulties during construction period. We are really proud to undertake the project” said U Kyaw Myo Lwin, Assistance Manager of Myanmar Railway division 7.

The project is expected to be completed in 2023.

Translated by Alphonsus

■ ■ ■

U Thit Linn Ohn presents credentials to King of Cambodia

U Thit Linn Ohn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Cambodia, presented his Credentials to His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, on 21 August 2019, in Phnom Penh. — MNA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 25th August, 2019)

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

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate to rough elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9-12) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (6-9) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Bago and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Kayin and Mon States.

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

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th August, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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



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Train fans call for donations to send locomotive experts to Thailand

FUKUOKA — Hoping to provide guidance on the maintenance and operation of two Japanese locomotives exported to a Thai railway construction company in 2018, train enthusiasts in Japan have launched a crowdfunding project to send experts to the Southeast Asian country.

Nagasaki Kisha Kurabu, which launched the campaign on Aug. 11, aims to raise 1.5 million yen (\$14,090) by 31 October. The project will only proceed if the targeted amount can be raised by the deadline.

Backers can make pledges starting from 5,000 yen up to 100,000 yen, with rewards ranging from having their names displayed inside the locomotives, to attending a photo session in Nong Pladuk junction, Thailand, where the trains are currently stationed.

The two DD51 class diesel locomotives were formerly used to haul limited express sleeper trains. They were built in 1975 when the now-defunct state-owned enterprise Japanese



Supplied photo shows train enthusiasts posing for a picture on a DD51 class diesel locomotive in Thailand. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

National Railways operated the country's railway network.

The locomotives were used by JNR and then by Hokkaido Railway Co. after the state-run entity's breakup and privatization in 1987.

Their engines provided the motive power for trains including the limited express sleeper train Hokutosei, which ran between Ueno Station in Tokyo and Sapporo Station in Hokkaido until the end of ser-

vices in 2015.

The bodies of the locomotives were painted blue — the same color as those of the sleeper train named after the Big Dipper constellation.

After their retirement in Japan, the locomotives were purchased by Thai company A.S. Associated Engineering Co. in 2018 for double-track railroad construction work, when a plan to export them to Myanmar fell through.—Kyodo News ■

Israel to import electric cars from Chinese auto manufacturers

JERUSALEM — A new Israeli car dealership will import electric cars from Chinese carmaker JAC Motors, and National Electric Vehicle Sweden (NEVS), a vehicle company mainly owned by China, the daily newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth reported on Sunday.

JAC Motors was established in 1964 and is headquartered in the city of Hefei, the capital of Anhui Province in eastern China.

The company manufactures and markets private, commercial and truck cars, as the most relevant products to the Israeli car market are the electric IEV models.

In April, German carmaker Volkswagen invested 750 million US dollars in a joint venture with JAC Motors to set an electric vehicle factory in Hefei. Alongside JAC electric cars, the new Israeli car dealership is also expected to import electric cars of NEVS.

NEVS is mainly owned by China's property giant Evergrande Group with a 51-per cent stake, which acquired the Swedish carmaker Saab's assets in 2012. In March, Israeli Ministry of Transport set a special import route for Chinese vehicles, which includes a permit to import up to 400 cars a year.—Xinhua ■



A staff member works on a production line of new energy vehicles at a JAC Motors factory in Tongling City, east China's Anhui Province, 7 August, 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

Digital nomad workers in Japan move freely, with no fixed residences

TOKYO — Living and working in different locations, whenever and wherever one likes.

That type of nomadic and free lifestyle, helped by the prevalent internet access, has drawn attention and some local authorities are eager to cash in on the trend.

"I've interacted with people of all ages traveling to rural areas in Japan and across the world.

I grew as a person, including the ability to deal with changes," said Shotaro Ichihashi, a 32-year-old freelance consultant and a digital nomad worker. After leaving a major information technology company in 2017, Ichihashi decided to live without stable housing in order to cut fixed costs.

Using his marketing knowledge over the internet to work remotely, he moved almost every

week to destinations as far as Finland, where he took sauna baths. When he was in Japan, he enjoyed taking part in local festivals. The cost of living was almost similar to what he had paid in the past, but various stimulating experiences led to "better work output" he said.

Ichihashi periodically hosts get-togethers for like-minded people to promote this new style of living. "It is important to have the choice of continuing to move, besides buying or renting houses.

Belonging to multiple communities may become important for Japan (amid population declines)," he said. The lifestyle of those nomad workers is supported by cheap accommodations for a long-term stay that have popped up recently throughout Japan.—Kyodo News ■

Thousands of British Airways passengers expected to face chaos after pilots confirm September strikes

LONDON — Thousands of holidaymakers are expected to face disruption as they received emails early Saturday from British Airways (BA) to say their flights had been cancelled due to confirmed pilots strike across three days in September.

The BA email to customers warned flights on 9, 10 and 27 September would be hit by a "large number of delays and cancellations."

The British Airways custom-

er service lines were jammed on Saturday morning with travelers looking to find alternative arrangements.

Some passengers who had been due to fly on Sept. 8-12 have been told their flight have been cancelled, and to rebook or get a refund. Many angry passengers messaged the company on Twitter with their frustrations, some complaining they would miss weddings and honeymoons.

—Xinhua ■



FILE PHOTO: The BA email to customers warned flights on 9, 10 and 27 September would be hit by a "large number of delays and cancellations." PHOTO: AFP

Egyptian exports to G7 countries hit 3.8 bln USD in H1: statistics agency

CAIRO — Egypt's exports to the Group of Seven (G7) countries increased to 3.8 billion US dollars in the first half of 2019 from 3.5 billion dollars in the same period last year, official statistics agency said Saturday.

According to a statement by Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), the United States topped the list with Egyptian exports amounting to 1 billion dollars, followed by Italy, Britain and Canada. Egypt's imports from the G7 countries reached 8.7 billion dollars in the first half of 2019, up from 8.5 billion dollars in the same period in 2018. According to CAMPAS, the net investments of the G7 countries in Egypt during the first half of 2019 increased to 3.8 billion dollars, compared to last year's 3.6 billion dollars. The CAMPAS statement came just hours ahead of the 45th G7 summit held in the French city of Biarritz. Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, also the chairman of the African Union, is participating in the summit.

—Xinhua ■

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Tourism hotspot Barcelona alarmed by crime surge

BARCELONA—A surge in muggings and burglaries in Barcelona, mainly targeting tourists, has sparked alarm in Spain's second-largest city, leading local residents to form their own crime-fighting patrols. The US consulate in Barcelona on Wednesday warned its nationals of "an increase in violent crime in the city" and urged them not to "display signs of wealth such as wearing expensive jewelry or watches".

The alert came just days after Afghanistan's ambassador to Spain was lightly injured in a group mugging to steal his watch in the city centre, and a 91-year-old French woman was hospitalised after thieves yanked her necklace, causing her to fall.

Barcelona, a European tourist hotspot, has recorded

eight murders since July, an unusually high number for the Mediterranean seaside city, and in June a visiting South Korean public servant died from injuries she suffered during a mugging.

The city's hotel association has warned that Barcelona's reputation could be "seriously harmed".

Albert Batlle, Barcelona's deputy mayor in charge of security, acknowledged there was a "security crisis" but called for a "calm and responsible analysis" of the problem.

Thefts and violent robberies in Barcelona, a city of 1.6 million residents, jumped by 28 percent between 2016 and 2018, according to police figures.

The trend has continued in 2019 with a 31 percent rise in violent robberies during the first half of the year.—AFP ■



A citizen on patrol holds up a multi-language sign to warn metro passengers of pickpockets in Barcelona. PHOTO: AFP

'Breaking Bad' sequel movie out on Netflix in October

ANAHEIM (United States)—A "Breaking Bad" film set after the events of the hit television show and centered on meth addict-turned-cook Jesse Pinkman will be released on Netflix in October, the streaming giant said Saturday. "El Camino: A Breaking Bad Movie" will pick up the story after Pinkman escaped the clutches of a neo-Nazi gang with the help of kingpin Walter White in the AMC show's 2013 conclusion.

"In the wake of his dramatic escape from captivity, Jesse must come to terms with his past in order to forge some kind of future," Netflix said in a statement.

The "gripping thriller" is written and directed by Vince Gilligan, creator of the original series, which is widely acclaimed as one of the best TV dramas

ever made.

"Breaking Bad" ran for five seasons from 2008 to 2013, and told the story of a high-school chemistry teacher diagnosed with cancer who starts cooking crystal meth—often with former pupil Pinkman—to provide for his family.

A teaser trailer for the film released Saturday shows another returning character, "Skinny Pete," telling police he has no idea where his friend Pinkman has gone. "No way I'm helping you people put Jesse Pinkman back inside a cage," he says.

News of the long-rumored film broke earlier Saturday after Netflix users spotted a "placeholder" page on the streaming giant's platform giving the title and synopsis. — AFP ■

NASA investigating first crime committed in space: report

WASHINGTON—US space agency NASA is investigating what may be the first crime committed in outer space, The New York Times reported Saturday. Astronaut Anne McClain is accused of identity theft and improperly accessing her estranged wife's private financial records while on a sixth-month mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS), the Times said.

The astronaut's spouse Summer Worden filed a complaint earlier this year with the Federal Trade Commission after learning McClain had accessed her bank account without permission, while Worden's family filed another with NASA's Office of Inspector General, according to the newspaper.



NASA astronaut Anne McClain, pictured in December 2018, is accused of identity theft and improperly accessing her estranged wife's private financial record, The New York Times reported. PHOTO: AFP

McClain's lawyer said the astronaut had done nothing wrong and accessed the bank records while aboard the ISS in order to monitor the couple's combined finances—some-

thing she had done over the course of their relationship, the Times reported.

NASA investigators have contacted both women, according to the newspaper.—AFP ■

When Bob was Bobby: memoir offers insider's look at enigmatic Dylan

New York (United States) — From Bob Dylan's first hard-driving blues number at summer camp to the rollicking Rolling Thunder Revue concert tour, the legendary musician's childhood best friend had a front row seat to the

action.

Now Louie Kemp has released a backstage pass of sorts into the mythology of Dylan, in the form of a memoir released this week, dishing on everything from the folk hero's Passover Seder meal with

Marlon Brando to his own food fight at a Chinese restaurant with Joan Baez. The duo first met in northern Wisconsin in 1953, when Dylan was still Bobby Zimmerman, 12 years old, his guitar already attached as if a limb. — AFP ■

27% of municipalities fret over surge in foreign visitors in Japan

TOKYO — More than one-fourth of Japanese municipalities have expressed concerns about possible future problems resulting from a surge in the number of foreign visitors to the country, a Kyodo News survey showed

Sunday.

While the central government has seen the tourism boom in recent years as a catalyst for economic growth, the survey underscored confusion among local governments and

people unfamiliar with treating guests from abroad.

In the poll, 465 municipalities, or 27 per cent of the total, said they worry that problems may occur in the future, such as traffic jams, noise issues and trespassing on private property.

More than half of them attributed their concerns to the lack of personnel who speak foreign languages.

The central Japan city of Fukui said it has yet to establish measures to contact foreigners traveling there in case of emergencies. Ninety-three municipalities, or 5 per cent, said they have already faced problems due to foreign tourists.

Many of them are located in areas where cruise ships arrive from abroad, including Tokyo and some prefectures in western and southwestern Japan.—Kyodo ■



Foreign tourists clad in yukata stroll through Tokyo's Asakusa district on 17 July, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO

Pope voices concern for Amazon, the planet's 'vital lung'

VATICAN CITY (Holy See) — Pope Francis on Sunday voiced concern for the Amazon rainforest, a "vital" lung for the planet, as the worst blazes in years have sparked a global outcry.

"We are concerned about the vast fires that have developed in the Amazon," the pope told the faithful at the Vatican.

"That forest lung is vital for our planet." He urged the world's 1.3 billion Catholics to pray for the fires to be extinguished as quickly as possible.

Official figures show 78,383 forest fires have been recorded in Brazil this year, the highest number of any year since 2013.

The Argentine pope, who

will gather bishops for a conference on the Amazon in October, met Brazilian indigenous leader Raoni in 2013 when he toured Europe warning of the dangers of deforestation.

The pope denounced the exploitation of the Amazon by "huge international economic interests" in a 2015 encyclical.

In January 2018 he visited Puerto Maldonado village in the Amazonian jungle of south-eastern Peru where thousands of tribespeople had gathered, including from neighbouring Brazil and Bolivia.

The Catholic church acknowledges the bloody history of the spread of Christianity



Pope Francis (pictured May 15, 2019) has voiced concern for Amazon, the planet's 'vital lung'. **PHOTO: AFP**

through South America and that it has not always respected Amazon tribes. Today it is com-

mitted to numerous projects to support indigenous populations. —AFP ■

Trump denies China trade war causing friction at G7

BIARRITZ—President Donald Trump on Sunday denied that his trade war with China is causing friction at the G7 summit, but indicated he will hold off from a threatened further escalation for now.

"I think they respect the trade war. It has to happen," Trump told reporters in Biarritz, France, where he was meeting with other leaders of the G7 group.

Asked if the other leaders had criticized the massive trade

struggle, he said "no, not at all. I haven't heard that".

In fact, European members of the G7, which includes Britain, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Japan and the United States, have repeatedly expressed concern over the trade war's threat to the wider global economy.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was the latest, telling Trump at a breakfast meeting Sunday that "we don't like tariffs on the whole".

"We are in favor of trade peace," he said.

Talks between Washington and Beijing on ending what Trump says is a massively unfair trade relationship have hit a brick wall.

On Friday, Trump responded to a new hike in Chinese tariffs on US goods by imposing heavy extra levies against a total of \$550 billion in Chinese imports.

But Trump signalled Sunday what might be a slight soft-

tening in his position, admitting that he did have doubts about escalating the trade war.

"I have second thoughts about everything," he said.

He said he would hold off for now on declaring a national emergency to invoke an obscure law that he says gives him the power to order US companies out of China.

"I have the right to, if I want. I could declare a national emergency," he said. "I have no plan right now." —AFP ■

G-7 on same page over Iran's nuclear weapons amid fears of disunity

BIARRITZ—Leaders from the Group of Seven industrialized nations shared the view Saturday that Iran should not possess nuclear weapons while still differing in their approaches to finding a resolution to the issue as they kicked off a three-day summit in France.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who visited Iran in June to help diffuse heightened tensions in the Middle East, told the other G-7 leaders in the French coastal city of Biarritz that Tokyo will continue to engage with Tehran on the diplomatic front, a senior Japanese government official said.

"The leaders exchanged various views (on issues such as Iran) and efforts were made by each country toward finding com-



Media personnel wait for the start of a Group of Seven summit in Biarritz, southwestern France, on Aug 24, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO**

mon ground," the official said.

G-7 members have been jittery over US President Donald Trump's strategy to shake up

multilateral arrangements to advance U.S. interests — notably his withdrawal from the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal that

has ratcheted up tensions in the Middle East.

The big question of whether the G-7 — made up of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States plus the European Union — is an effective forum for tackling global issues still looms large following past clashes between the United States and other members.

The leaders also discussed Russia's potential return to the G-7 framework over dinner that lasted nearly three hours, the official said without giving further details. Russia was dropped from the then Group of Eight after its annexation of Crimea in 2014 which it drew sharp international outcry. —Kyodo ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Iran denies its Syria positions hit by Israeli strikes

TEHRAN—A high-ranking Iranian official on Sunday denied Iranian positions had been hit by Israeli air strikes near the Syrian capital overnight. "This is a lie and it is not true," Mohsen Rezaie, the secretary of the Expediency Council, told ILNA news agency in response to Israeli claims its air force struck Iranian positions in the war-torn country. "Israel and America do not have the power to attack various centres of Iran, while the advisory centres that we have, have not been harmed," said Rezaie, a former commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards. —AFP ■

Journalist killed in Mexico

TOLUCA—The head of a Mexican news website was found stabbed to death in the center of the country, authorities said Saturday, the 10th such killing this year. The body of Nevith Condes Jaramillo "was found Saturday morning... showing injuries from a sharp object," the state prosecutor said in a statement. —AFP ■

Turkey to continue gas search off Cyprus despite int'l warnings

ANKARA—Turkey vowed to "resolutely" continue to explore hydrocarbon resources off Cyprus in Eastern Mediterranean despite international warnings. "We are continuing right now the exploration activities and will continue resolutely to do so with the same determination," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Thursday, rebuking warnings from the European Union and the United States to stop its drilling activities. —Xinxua ■

US, Taliban resume push for peace at Doha talks

DOHA—The US and the Taliban met in Doha on Saturday, an AFP correspondent said, resuming potentially decisive talks to allow Washington to withdraw militarily from Afghanistan.

The second day of their ninth round of dialogue had been due to begin Friday but “both sides decided to postpone it until Saturday”, the Taliban’s Doha spokesman Suhail Shaheen said, citing “other engagements”.

“We have made progress and are now discussing the implementation mechanism and some technical points,” he told AFP on Saturday, referring to

discussions that took place two days earlier.

“The agreement will be completed after we agree on these points,” he said. Any deal would be announced before the media as well as representatives from neighbouring countries and China, Russia and the United Nations, he added.

The US, which invaded Afghanistan and toppled the Taliban from power in 2001, wants to withdraw thousands of troops but only in return for the insurgent group renouncing Al-Qaeda and curbing attacks. Washington is hoping to strike an agreement with the Taliban by September



US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad who has been attending peace talks in the Qatari capital Doha. **PHOTO: AFP**

1 – ahead of Afghan polls due the same month, and US presidential polls due in 2020.

Both the US and Taliban denied media reports

Saturday that there had been discussions about the formation of an interim Afghan government that would include the Taliban.—AFP ■

Austria’s love of cash in poll campaign spotlight

VIENNA—It may sound like a strange thing to enshrine in a country’s constitution: the right to pay cash.

But a debate on whether to do just that has entered Austria’s election campaign, shining a light on the country’s love of cold, hard currency.

The Austrian People’s Party (OeVP) recently made the suggestion as part of its campaign for a parlia-

mentary election in late September, for which it has a commanding poll lead.

This led to other parties – though sceptical of the OeVP’s proposal – vaunting their commitment to protecting cash, with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPOe) demanding an end to fees levied at cashpoints.

And it is not hard to see why all

major parties see protecting cash as a vote-winner.

“In Austria, attitudes change slowly,” an employee of Weinschenke, a burger restaurant in downtown Vienna, told AFP.

The woman in her 30s, who only gave her name as Victoria, says she prefers to use cash because “you don’t leave a trace”.—AFP ■

Hundreds of new fires in Brazil as outrage over Amazon grows



This fire, one of hundreds burning in the Amazon region, was photographed about 65 kilometers (40 miles) from Porto Velho in northern Brazil’s Rondonia state, on August 23, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

PORTO VELHO (Brazil) —Hundreds of new fires are raging in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil, official data showed Saturday, as

thousands of troops were made available to help fight the worst blazes in years following a global outcry.

Multiple fires billowing

huge plumes of smoke into the air were seen across a vast area of the northwestern state of Rondonia on Friday when AFP journal-

ists flew over the area.

Several residents in the capital, Porto Velho, told AFP on Saturday that what appeared to be light clouds hanging over the city of half a million people, was actually smoke from the blazes that had scorched swaths of land and left tree trunks smoldering on the ground.

“I’m very worried because of the environment and health,” Delmara Conceicao Silva told AFP. “I have a daughter with respiratory problems and she suffers more because of the fires.” The fires in the world’s largest rainforest have triggered a global uproar, and are a major topic of concern at the G7 meeting in Biarritz in southern France.—AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Cuba’s intranet creators, thriving despite regulatory clampdown

HAVANA—What, no internet? That is no problem for Juan, who used to play the e-sports game Dota 2 on a giant local intranet created with a massive network of cables and antennas connecting thousands of homes in Havana. Except it was illegal, so Cuba’s one-party communist authorities decided to clamp down on the practice, meaning the service had to adapt or be shut down. It’s called SNET – “Street Network” – and began with people linking one home to another using rudimentary wiring. Eventually, the entire capital city was connected to an intranet through antennas and nine huge servers. As the popularity of online multiplayer video games exploded around the world thanks to developing technology, Cuba was left behind in a telecommunications black hole. But Cubans learned to adapt and simply created their own intranet to play amongst themselves.—AFP ■

Ukraine celebrates 28th anniversary of independence

KIEV—Tens of thousands of Ukrainians on Saturday gathered in central Kiev to celebrate the 28th anniversary of the country’s Independence Day.

Started with national anthem performances, the celebrations also featured a speech by President Volodymyr Zelensky at the main square of Kiev, during which he expressed the hope that peace will soon arrive in the eastern Donbass region.—Xinhua ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (648 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (648 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-8-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Htee Pwint pond. PHOTO: THIHA

Silver Mountain Land

The land of **Kayah** (Part Two)

By **Thiha** (the Traveller)

Umbrella shape forms appearing in a pond

Htee Pwint Pond was another unique place of the region. The pond measures roughly 227 ft by 115 ft. Some unlucky visitors were unable to observe a natural phenomenon that occurs there. The natural phenomenon was umbrella shape forms appearing in the pond. I'm the lucky one as I saw one huge umbrella shape form right at

the side of the pond. I wondered how these shapes form up in the pond but as there was no one around at that time to ask I went back home without knowing exactly about it. Later I found out that the pond was a mouth of an extinct volcano and water or sand pushed out from the bottom of the pond causes the umbrella shape forms to appear in the pond.

Near Htee Pwint Pond were

Thatsa Pond and Nat Yay Twin where ground water seeps out into the ponds all year round. I didn't make it to these two places that were said to be where the two famous mythical lovers of Kayah State, Dwe Me Naw and Prince Thudana swear their everlasting love for one another.

Seven Step Pond of the myth

Kayah State was made known to all other ethnic nation-

als in the country by the mythical love story between Dwe Mei Naw and Prince Thudana. Dwe Mei Naw was one of seven part bird part human sisters who bath and play at the Seven Step Pond. Prince Thudana found the seven sisters bathing and playing there and caught the youngest Dwe Me Naw with a trap he set up. The prince married and took her to his palace. Dwe Mei Naw lived happily with the prince but was said to have missed this place where she played with her sisters.

That's the legend and myth. In the real world the Seven Step Pond was 14 miles away from Loikaw. It was a place where natural forests, hills and a pond can be seen together in a beautiful way. Although the pond was a beautiful serene place to relax with some restaurants where food can be enjoyed, it would be better if more attractions were created so that the visit was not a visit to a natural place with a mythical history only.



Kyet cave. PHOTO: THIHA

Scary cave with wooden coffins

Another well known place near Loikaw for visitors to visit was Kyet Cave (Chicken Cave). As I was trying to visit all the places near Loikaw in a day, for the trip to Kyet Cave, I had to return back to Loikaw from Dimawhso, had a quick lunch around noon and went on eastward for 10 miles. Kyet Cave was a limestone cave situated at 1,990 ft. above sea level. It was called Yasaku in Kayah. Inside the cave were many wooden coffins of varying sizes. Some were as long 15 ft. and the smallest was only 2 ft. long. Some were on the ground while some were on ledges about 20 or 30 ft. high. Some seventy years ago the coffins were said to contain bones but nowadays, only the coffins remain. About 150 coffins were said to be found in the cave but I only found a few of it.

Even though the cave was a natural cave, due to religious belief, foot wears were prohibited in the cave. Eating and consumption of alcohols in or near the cave was also strictly prohibited in addition to the usual warning against littering and any

acts that could affect the natural surroundings. Visitors were advised to bring along a torch light and the visiting hour was limited from 9 in the morning to 4 in the afternoon.

To enter the cave, we first had to climb a lime stone mountain. As there were brick stairs, the climb was quite ok except the inconvenience of doing it barefoot because we left our foot wears in the car. The climb was about 100 ft up. We should have brought our foot wears along as we can leave it at a pagoda right at the mouth of the cave after the climb.

We went into the cave walking over a small wooden bridge and stairs. There were many speleothems or cave formations inside the cave. There were some lights provided by electric cable up to 1,800 ft. inside the cave but was not sufficient enough. As we didn't bring a torch light, we had to make do with the light we get from our cell phones. It was a bit scary at first but this subsided gradually. However, as we enter deeper and deeper into the cave, it became a bit suffocating. We didn't go beyond the point where the electric cables end but some visitors went on with their flash lights.

Edibles in Kayah State

There are a number of lo-

cal edibles that visitors ought to try out when in Loikaw.

Kayah sausage: This requires an advance order. As it does not contain any preservative, it needs to be consumed within a day or two of purchase. We either have it there and then or time it to coincide with our departure if we want to take it back home. It was made ready-to-eat right away or can be fried as well. Local friends were a great help as they order and prepare it so that I can take it back home. It would be better if more advertisements were made on where this unique delicacy of Loikaw can be ordered and purchased.

Curry pack: Curry pack or rice ball with chicken, pork or vegetable is another local edible that was popular and more widely available than Kayah sausage. U Tun Ya Curry Pack shop in Mingala Ward was where I tasted the Curry Pack. The shop also had pork balls that were quite good too. But you better go early as the foods were sold out before lunch time.

Kayah moonshine, fried termite egg etc. were also some local delicacies that visitors can try out.

My trip to Loikaw brings back many memories. The first

was my late father. Because

of him, I was there the first time. I also remember rushing to visit places nearby during the day as the area was designated as "brown area" at that time and there was a curfew. Even though my trip this time was also quite a rush, the area was now a peaceful place and I would like to make another trip there giving more time to go around.

Translated by Handytips



Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09- 420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge.(Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056- 23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056- 23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units- G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ

Buffet Restaurant

No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel - 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon. Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogvoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.



Hin Htak (Curry pack)



Kayah Sausage



Pork balls.

14th World Dragon Boat Racing Championship: Myanmar wins one gold, one silver



The U-24 women's and men's teams from Myanmar celebrate their victory after grabbing gold and silver medals yesterday in the 500-meter events at the 14th World Dragon Boat Racing Championship in Pattaya, Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR won one gold and one silver medal in the 500-meter events at the 14th World Dragon Boat Racing Championship in Pattaya, Thailand, yesterday, the last day of the competition.

In the Under-24 women's 500-meter event, team Myanmar secured the gold medal, beating host Thailand and United States,

by finishing the race in 2 minutes and 24.757 seconds in the first round and ending the second round in 2 minutes and 24.049 seconds.

In the Under-24 men's 500-meter event, team Myanmar grabbed the silver medal, ending the first round in 2 minutes and 10.581 seconds and the second

round in 2 minutes and 10.347 seconds. Meanwhile, host Thailand won gold and China (Hong Kong) garnered the bronze medal in the event.

Myanmar competed with host Thailand, Indonesia, China, Chinese Taipei, and Ukraine in the Premier Open Boat race event, and ended sixth (2 min-

utes and 7.183 seconds). While China won the race, Indonesia came second, and Chinese Taipei team came third. In the tourney which started on 21 August, team Myanmar competed in 15 boat race events, securing medals in 13 events — 4 gold, 4 silver, and 5 bronze medals. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Four Myanmar Judo athletes to compete in Tokyo World Judo Championship

Four Myanmar Judo athletes will compete in the World Judo Championship, which is scheduled to take place from 25 August to 1 September in Tokyo, Japan

Khin Khin Su will compete in the 52-kilogram event, Khin Myo Thu will compete in the 78-kg event, Aung Zayya Tun will compete in the 66-kg event, and Zaw Myo Oo in the 100-kg event.

A total of 889 athletes from 151 nations are participating in the competition.

This is the first time Myanmar athletes will compete in the World Judo Championship, which is being organized under the supervision of the International Judo Federation, according to the Myanmar Judo Federation (MJF).

At an invitation from the Tokyo Congress and the organisers of the World Judo Championship, a delegation led by the chairman of the Myanmar Judo Federation, U Tun Tun, also attended a meeting for holding the Tokyo World Judo Championship in Japan.

—Saw Thein Win (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

AFF Women's Championship: Myanmar out of running for finals with 3-1 loss to Thailand

THE Myanmar national women's football team have failed to make it to the finals of the AFF Women's Championship 2019 after losing to host Thailand by 3-1 yesterday at the Institute of Physical Education (IPE) Stadium in Chonburi, Thailand.

Team Myanmar launched an open attack from the start and created big goal chances. They put pressure on Thailand with fast attacks by players such as Wai Wai Aung, who broke the offside trap in the fourth minute that was denied by Thailand's goalie Sengyong Yada. Again, ten minutes later, Khin Marlar Tun's stinger was blocked by the

Thailand keeper. Team Thailand scored their opening goal at 19 minutes, with a cross from Pram-Nak Nutwadee, which was headed into the goal by Somsai Pitsamai. Myanmar tried to equalize the goal, but all their efforts were blunted by Thailand's clever defenders. The first half finished with Thailand leading by one goal. In the second half, Win Thingi Tun made another goal chance at 68 minutes, but missed the net by inches. Thailand won their second goal at 81 minutes, with a dipping shot from Thailand star Thongsombut.

Thailand secured their third goal with a header by Intamee Si-

lawan, assisted by Thongsombut, and the goal broke the hearts of Myanmar fans. "Though we managed to beat Myanmar, it was not an easy win," said Thai football star Thongsombut Rattikan "It was a hard game against Myanmar, but now, we are looking forward to the final. Matches against Viet Nam have always been very interesting and competitive," added Thongsombut. In an earlier semifinal match of the tourney, Viet Nam beat Philippines by 2-1. With the win, Thailand will take on Viet Nam in the final match, and Myanmar and the Philippines will fight for the third place on 27 August.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar's Khin Marlar Tun (White) vies for the ball against Thailand's keeper Sengyong Yada in the semifinal match of the AFF Women's Championship 2019, held yesterday at the IPE Stadium in Chonburi, Thailand. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanma Lethwei event to be held in Mandalay on 12 Sep

A traditional Myanma Lethwei Fight will be held on 12 September at the Mandalay Thiri Lethwei Stadium in Mandalay, according to the Myanmar Lethwei webpage.

The event will feature 10 men's bouts and one women's

bout.

In the men's bouts, Zwe Mhan Aung (United) will take on Shwe Thway (Zeyyar), Shwe Taung Thar (Taung Zalal) will face Naing One (King of Lion).

Saw Yay Htoo (Tatheet) will take on Kyar Thway (Tun Tun

Min), and Boi Kar (White Tiger) will fight with Aung Bo Hein (Hoo Kaung Kyar).

Later, Tun Lin Khant (Sagaing) will fight against Aout Chin Thway (Taung Zalal), and fans will get to watch Thein Soe (Yarza Theinkha) against

Shwe Lhu Lhin (Zayyar).

Next, Kyaw Swar Win (United) will fight with Saw Hla Min, and Byat Ga will take on Saw Htein Lin.

Meanwhile, Soe Lin Oo will fight with Soe Maung Oo (Yadanarbon), and Saw Shwe

Lay (Doet Yoe Yar) will face Aoutchin Lay.

In the women's event, Naw Ohnmar Soe will fight against Htet Htet Kyaw.

The lethwei event will be broadcast live on Canal Plus Channel.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)