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Transparency, strict adherence to law needed in projects: President

REGIONAL and State governments need to decide which projects should be prioritized and it should also consider how much it will benefit the people. Then the expense of the projects should be in the bill of the state budget, said U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Chairman of the Finance Commission.

Since the project works of the ministries and Region and State Governments will change in the coming 2018-19 financial year, discussion of the projects should be made frankly and to revise the budget in line with the targets of the projects, the President said.

The Ministry of Planning and Finance has drawn up the budget and the Medium Term Fiscal Framework. It is now estimating expenses for departments and institutions and the Union Government is designating additions to Regional and State budgets.

"The 2017-18 budget was endorsed by the Financial Commission and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has scrutinized and approved after reducing some amount from the allotted budget. Then the President gave guidance to the Union, Region and



The Finance Commission meets in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with President U Htin Kyaw (Right) and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **PHOTO: MNA**

State governments to collect what the government should get to the full amount according to the plan in the respective financial year. Moreover, It needed to be transparent, accountable and to strictly follow the rules and regulations in inviting the

tender for construction and procuring the materials" the President added.

The President also said that ministries should coordinate with other ministries to make sure there was no overlapping of projects.

Government mulls change to Financial Year

"The four-month rainy season comes after the Financial Year which starts on 1st April and it causes hindrances to the development of the country,"

said the President.

He also stressed the need to seek ways for overcoming challenges that can arise when the Financial Year is changed to the period starting from October and ending in September.

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Case of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever on rise in Rakhine

By May Thet Hnin

ABOUT 1,144 people have been infected with Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) and 16 were reported dead in Rakhine State from January to 5 July, said Dr. San Kyawt Khine, the assistant director from Rakhine State health department.

"Between 1 January and end of May this year, 745 people were infected with the fever, 11 of whom died. But we cannot say that the number of the patients with DHF has increased because DHF rate is usually increasing in June and July," she added.

The outbreak of DHF

was most common in Minbya, Kyauktaw, Taungup and Sittway townships of Rakhine state. Among the infected DHF patients, three-fourths of the infected are from rural areas, the assistant director added.

Currently, the health department is conducting DHF control measures more than

previous years.

"Everybody agreed to participate in anti-DHF measures at the state level meeting which was held in June. The health department is conducting awareness training courses concerning DHF not only in the wards but also in the basic education schools. We can see that

most of the ward administrators are being seen participating in our activities. The public follow the instructions of our health department only during the outbreak of DHF but they very often do not care in the absence of the outbreak of DHF," said Dr. San Kyawt Khine.

SEE PAGE-4

Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th Regular Session Holds its 27th Day Meeting

Kyaw Thu Htet &
Aye Aye Thant
(Myanmar News Agency)

IN reply to the question raised by U Aung Hlaing Win of Mingaladon constituency, U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education said, "As regards the admission at the Medical Institutes, starting from 1964, successful candidates who passed BEHS exams with science combination were admitted to medical institutes based on their marks, whereas till 1999 students were allowed to study at medical institutes in order of merits, regardless of sex, so female students outnumbered male ones. Accordingly, amounts of female doctors were greater than the male ones. Fewer numbers of male doctors led to difficulty in posting medical doctors especially in remote areas. With effect from 2000, ratio of male and female was designated as 60:40



U Win Maw Tun. PHOTO: MNA

to study at Medical Institutes. As a result, minimum marks of females and males who were admitted at medical institutes were different up to 30 marks. So, as of 2012, ratio of males and females admitted to medical colleges was 50:50."

He added, "It was found that male doctors were only



U Kyaw Shwe. PHOTO: MNA

20% of the whole medical doctors serving for Health Ministry, with 80% were females. Only if the ratio of male and female doctors can be adjusted, will ratio of male and female doctors who will serve for the medical department, be proportionate. Then, doctors can be sent more to remote areas."



U Per Htan. PHOTO: MNA

Afterward, U Tun Khin, member of UEC and Deputy Minister replied to the questions raised by U Myo Nyunt of Homalin constituency, U Kyaw Shwe of Yanbye constitution, U Par Htan of Matupi constituency, U Ar Moe SI of Khaunglanpyu constituency, U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency respectively.



U Myint Oo. PHOTO: MNA

At today's meeting, annual reports of Pyithu Hluttaw Electricity and Power Development Committee and Pyithu Hluttaw Public Affairs Management Committee were read. And, acknowledgement of the bill on embankment sent back by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendment attached was performed. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Mon State rock mill, dry river in Rakhine discussed at Amyotha Hluttaw

Thura Zaw
(Myanmar News Agency)

DAMAGE caused by a rock mill in Kyaikhto Township, Mon State and the rejuvenation of a dry river in Rakhine State were among the issues discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw.

At yesterday's meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw, replies were made to four questions, four bills were approved and one motion was put forward.

Major-General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs replied to the question raised by U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than of constituency 11 in Mon State, "Regarding the case of harming nearby agricultural farms and not less than five monasteries due to the powder which came out of rock grinding mills owned by Taw Win Yoma Company in Motepalin village in Kyaikhto Township, investigations were made by the investigation committee under the leadership of township agricultural department formed by township general administration department. According to the findings of the investigation committee, Taw Win Yoma



U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than. PHOTO: MNA

rock grinding mill was found that it has been situated near Yangon-Mawlamyain Highway, residential areas and religious edifices."

The Deputy Minister added, "At the advent of the construction, production volume was small, but at the time of inspection production volume became great and noisier. The powder which came out of the grinding mill made buildings in the surrounding area dirty, harming power transmission system due to 230 KVA power grid line covered with rock powders, nearby, it was found. Thus investigation results were submitted to the Mon State Cabinet describing



U Kyaw Myo. PHOTO: MNA

that rock grinding should be made just at the production site instead of the present grinding place. Mon State Cabinet decided to suspend grinding after grinding the remaining 500 plots of rock, to report the situations of ground volume, to get permission after drawing up Environment Management Programme, for the State Electrical Power Corporation to inspect on the ground as to whether grinding areas are very near to grid lines or not, and to make the grinding area move to a safer place."

U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications replied to the query raised by U Tet Tun Aung of



Major-General Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

constituency 2 in Rakhine State, "According to the inspection on the ground on 13th March 2017 by the department of water resources, rivers & creeks development, provided that a 2-mile-long river drying-up from the lower part of the village Kyaw Shwin up to the village of Thein Taung Maw can be dug up so that water flow will become better, allowing boats to travel up to 20 miles along the Kissapanadi riverine route. For this, after calculating detailed estimates, a deficit budget will be demanded in FY 2017-2018 balanced budget."

Afterward, Major-General Aung Soe replied to the ques-



U Tet Tun Aung. PHOTO: MNA

tions raised by U Maung Maung Latt of constituency 9 in Sagaing Region and U Myint Naing of constituency 5 in Rakhine State.

In addition, the Amyotha Hluttaw approved the bill on withdrawal of acts of failure of public accountants, as amended by Pyithu Hluttaw. And the third-revised bill on anti-corruption law was approved. Afterward, U Thein Lwin of constituency 10, Kachin State seconded the motion concerning gambling submitted by U Aung Thein of constituency 12, Bago Region.

The 27th day meeting of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th Regular Session will be held on 10th July, it is learnt. ■

Need to Distinguish Between Politics and Discipline

You are required to distinguish politics from discipline. Nothing will work without discipline. If someone wants to violate a discipline, he must be well convinced of what kind of punishment he deservedly will receive as a consequence. Try your best to have an order changed by keeping discipline. Abide by disciplines before having it changed. This is the difference between politics and discipline.

(Excerpt from BogyokeAung San's speech made at the All Workers' Union and dinner party in Natmauk, on 25th March 1947)



Ethnic unity, environmental conservation prioritised

THE unity of ethnic nationals, human resources development and conservation of the environment need to be included as priorities in the country's future, it was decided yesterday at the National Planning Commission meeting yesterday.

President U Htin Kyaw, the commission chairman, noted at the meeting at the Presidential Palace that the first National Planning Commission meeting held in January had decided upon a long term requirement for national development, a budget that conforms with the adopted national economic policy and a National Planning Law. But there was still the need to discuss and identify priority processes for annual programmes, priority works and implementation methods.

"In drawing up a national plan, the unity of ethnic nationals, rule of law, stability, human resources development and conservation of the natural environment need to be included", said U Htin Kyaw.

Furthermore, projects and works included in the national plan need to be studied and assessed for feasibility, economic viability, benefit to the people and benefit to regional



President U Htin Kyaw delivers an address at the National Planning Commission meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

development. Suggestions and comments made by hluttaw representatives in the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw fourth regular session meeting need to be reviewed and assessed to draw up the FY 2018-2019 National Plan, President U Htin Kyaw said

The meeting was attended by National Planning Commission Vice Chairmen State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,

Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, National Planning Commission members Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Union Auditor General, Union Civil Service Board Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chief Ministers, Central Bank of Myanmar governor, self-administered division and region chairmen and officials.

The President said the first National Planning Commission meeting was held on 9 January 2017 where the incumbent government's first drawn National Planning Bill for FY 2017-2018 was discussed and confirmed before submission to the Pyithu Hluttaw.

In yesterday's National Planning Commission meeting, the pros and cons of implementing the FY 2017-2018 National Plan were discussed. Myanmar's economic growth estimated by international organizations were 6.5 per cent by the World Bank, 6.4 per cent by Asian Development Bank,

6.3 per cent by the International Monetary Fund and 6 per cent by ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office. Also, it was decided that there was a need to formulate and coordinate work programmes for effective and timely implementation of FY 2017-2018 National Plan approved and enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in the union, states and regions. Lastly, it was decided there was a need to connect the benefits for the union and people with set national economic policy in drawing up the FY 2018-2019 National Plan.

The National Planning Commission secretary Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win explained the process and status of drawing up, implementing and managing national plans.

Afterwards, Union Ministers U Win Khaing, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr. Than Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung discussed electrical, spe-

cial economic zone, export and import and transport sectors.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Vice Chairperson of the commission, said links between the union government and state and regional governments need to be strong. In addition to the government's effort, people's cooperation is required for rule of law.

"It is important for the Union government and states and regional governments to work in coordination. The National Plan is to be approached with thoughts on the duties and responsibilities of states and regions in a federal democratic union system.

Duties and responsibilities come together with rights and being responsible and dutiful was very important. There will always be challenges and state and regional governments need to do their best to resolve these challenges and problems of the projects", Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said. —Myanmar News Agency ■

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Crash involving YBS buses leaves 9 dead, 19 injured

YESTERDAY afternoon a YBS 55 bus broke a tie rod and slammed into a YBS 37 bus on the other side of the road, resulting in the death of nine passengers and injuries to 19 others, according to Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

The accident occurred near the old Shwenyaungbin Bo Bo Gyi Nat shrine in Pyinmabin village tract on Yangon-Pyay Road. YRTA secretary Dr. Maung Aung confirmed most of the casualties were on the YBS 37 bus.

"YBS 37 was travelling toward the city from Htauk Kyant when YBS 55 coming from the opposite direction broke its tie rod and slammed into the left side of YBS 37. Six died on the spot and three more died at the hospital. Twelve victims were treated in North Okkalapa Hospital and 7 were treated in Insein Hospital. Most of the dead and wounded passengers were on the YBS 37 as it was struck by the YBS 55," said Dr. Maung Aung.

Personnel from Insein Fire Station and Pale Fire Sub-Station,



YBS 55 bus crashed into YBS 37 bus on the other side of the road yesterday afternoon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

tion, the Free Funeral Service Society and Traffic Police together with YRTA were at the accident scene to provide help and conduct a recovery operation.

An emergency meeting is

scheduled for today to discuss the accident. The YBS 55 bus is a 1998 model. More than 2,000 1995 model buses were earlier pulled out of service recently, it is learnt.—001 ■

CCTV to be installed at traffic congestion areas

CCTV cameras will be installed at traffic congestion areas, no-parking areas and checkpoint areas in Yangon Region, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The Yangon regional government will install high-quality CCTV cameras, which can keep video records for six months. Plans are under way to install 30 CCTV cameras at no-parking areas, 20 at checkpoint areas and 30 at traffic congestion areas.

The Yangon region government will spend Ks18.93 billion in installation of the CCTV cameras to control

traffic in Yangon Region. The CCTV installation project was started in February 2016. But CCTV cameras still need to be installed and upgraded.

The regional government plans to install 154 CCTV cameras in greater Yangon. The traffic police started to monitor traffic from the control centre located near People's Park on May 15. If a vehicle is found to be not following rules and regulations, traffic police will take legal action under the existing traffic laws.

The control centre is operated by six policemen, 12 traffic policemen and other staff.—GNLM ■



Yangon regional government will install CCTV, which can keep video records for six months. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

Seventeen basic health care buildings to be constructed in eight states and regions

SEVENTEEN basic health care buildings will be constructed in eight states and regions jointly by the Ministry of Health and Sports, Ooredoo Myanmar and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The Ministry of Health and

Sports has already chosen the sites to construct 17 buildings in Mon, Kayin, Kachin and Shan States and, Taninthayi, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon regions.

Every building will include health facilities such as delivery rooms. They will provide healthcare services for infants

concerning infectious diseases. Solar power will be available for emergency cases, and a supply of rainwater will be available. There will also be a waste disposal system. There will be medical stores. Upon completion of construction, Ooredoo Myanmar will install an internet network. Only af-

ter installation of the internet network will the buildings be handed over to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Ooredoo Myanmar donated US\$3.1 million to construct these buildings. Currently, the foundation for one building is being built at Taung Laylone Township in Shan State.—GNLM ■

Case of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever on rise in Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

Dengue fever is caused by Aedes mosquitoes. The Aedes mosquitoes can be recognised by the white markings on their bodies. The Aedes mosquito can

breed in water contained in as small an area as a bottle cap, and also in old tires and vases. The Aedes mosquitoes are active during the day. Therefore, people need to protect from

mosquito bites during the day. The symptoms of dengue are high fever, headaches, joint and muscle pain, vomiting and rashes. Dengue fever patients need to seek emergency treatment if

the patient is unconscious with a body that is cool to the touch.

There are 3,304 people have been infected with dengue fever across the nation between January and 27 May. ■

Bangkok's Whizdom 101 project to be exhibited in Yangon

WHIZDOM 101, a condominium project being developed on Sukhumvit Road, the commercial centre of Bangkok, Thailand, will be exhibited in Yangon this month, according to the Myawady Daily.

The event will be organised by SQFT Global Properties, the foremost pioneer in the area of overseas property marketing in the Asia-Pacific region, with plans to hold an expo on 22-23 July at the Novotel Hotel on Pyay Road in Yangon.

The Whizdom 101 project is currently under construction with a completion date sometime in 2018. The condominium will be 41 storeys with more than 600 units. Facilities at the Whizdom 101 include elevators, parking, security services, CCTVs, swimming pools, sauna, gym, garden, a kid's area and WiFi.

Buyers need a 30 per cent



Aerial view of Whizdom 101 project in Bangkok. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

down payment. Loans from international banks are available to pay the balance, said Hnin Ei Lwin, head of SQFT Global properties Myanmar Office.

Payment systems, bank

loans and information about the project will be discussed at a press conference to be held on 13 July at the Novotel Hotel on Pyay Road, organisers said.—GNLM ■

Import of capital goods by private sector decreased by \$96 million

THE import of capital goods by the private sector reached over US\$1.5 billion in the first three months of this FY, a decrease of \$96 million when compared to the same period of last year, the Ministry of Commerce recently reported through its website.

The imports of capital goods last year were valued at \$1.612 billion.

Between April and June of this year, the government

sector imported \$153 million worth of similar products from its trade partners, an increase of \$101 million more than that of last year.

In the current FY, the total import value between Myanmar and international trade partners amounted to \$4.616 billion, including \$1.6 billion worth of capital goods, \$1.807 billion worth of intermediate goods and \$1.080 billion worth

of consumer products.

The total import figures are \$838 million more than that of the similar period of the last FY, according to the ministry.

Although the country saw a decrease in the capital goods in the current FY, the imports of intermediate goods have increased by over \$600 million while consumer products rose by \$185 million.—Khine Khant ■

Agricultural exports decrease by \$65 million in current FY

THE export value of agricultural products in the current fiscal year decreased by \$65 million compared to the similar period of last year, according to official figures recently released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Last year, the country exported \$911 million worth of agricultural products mainly to neighbouring countries only from private sector.

Over the first three months of this FY, the private sector exported agricultural products worth a total of \$846.6 million, while the government made no deal to export similar products with foreign trade partners.

According to the ministry's statistics, the value of all exported items amounted to \$3.16 billion in total, increasing

more than \$450 million from last year.

A wide variety of agricultural commodities, forestry and fisheries products, finished goods, minerals, and animal products have been exported to ASEAN member states, East Asian countries and some European nations via cross-border stations as well as sea routes.—Swe Nyein ■

Over 16 tonnes of cashews go to China via Muse border point in one week

MYANMAR exported more than 16 tonnes of cashew nuts to China through the Muse 105-mile trade zone, a major trading gate between the two counties, within a week, according to an official report of the Commerce Ministry on Thursday.

Between 17 and 23 June of this year, the country earned US\$0.097 million from the sale of cashews through Muse cross-border trade camp and \$0.011 million from the export

of over 14 tonnes of cashew nuts to India from Reed border trade station.

There was no cashew export between Myanmar and Thailand in the last week of June but the ministry reported that more than 20 tonnes of cashews were sold to Thailand from the Myawady border trade station in the third week of this June. Cashew nuts are cultivated in the Ayeyawady Region and other parts of the country.—Shwe Khine ■

Bumper crop for durian growers

DURIAN growers in Kyainseikkyi, a township in the Kawkaeyik District of Kayin State, say that it has been a good year for them as they reaped a bumper harvest of durian fruits this season, receiving a good price for durian, one of most popular seasonal fruits in the country.

Thanks to good truck transportation services, durian produced in Tulaygon, Thamainlit, Htihi and Kyeikdon villages in Kyunsu Township have been sent to Malamyain and Mudon markets as well as to nearby towns quickly and easily.

The durian fruits are widely cultivated in Kyainseikkyi on a commercial scale. All farm activities in a durian orchard are directed toward achieving a profitable crop. Based on the size and freshness of the fruit, one durian is worth between Ks1,000 and Ks5,000, a local grower said.

A durian tree starts bearing fruit when it reaches about 10 years of age. One tree has the capacity to produce more than 200 durian fruits, farmers said.

Durian is a popular crop to grow across Mon and Kayin states.—Myo Min Oo (IPRD) ■



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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Ocean City City Mart Supermarket

Myanmar Gazette

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of U Maung Maung Kyaw, Director-General, Bureau of Special Investigation under the Ministry of Home Affairs on the expiry of one-year probationary period.
2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Chit Wai, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Office of the Union Minister for Transport and Communications as Director-General, Information Technology and Cyber Security Department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—Myanmar News Agency ■

U Myint Swe appointed as Non-Resident Ambassador of Myanmar to Ghana

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Ghana.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Press Release

Myanmar, Morocco sign Mutual Visa Exemption Agreement

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Morocco, considering the historical ties of friendship and cooperation between their countries and the necessity to set up a mechanism with the view to reinforce these links in the diplomatic field, H.E U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union Of Myanmar and H.E. Mrs. MouniaBoucetta, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation signed the Mutual Visa Exemption Agreement for Diplomatic and Service/ Official Passport Holders, each in English, Myanmar and Arabic languages on the 3rd July 2017 in Rabat, Morocco, regarding with duration of stay not exceeding 90 days. The mutual visa exemption agreement will facilitate travel procedure for the holders of diplomatic and service/ official passports of the two countries.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Transparency, strict adherence to law needed in projects

FROM PAGE-1

Regarding calculating the budget deficiency, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed the need to use an analytical method to calculate the budget deficiency though the majority prefers using the accounting method.

She also stressed the need to discuss the plan for changing the financial year with the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, expressing her willingness to change the period for the financial year.

She also urged the regional and state parliaments and governments to coordinate with each other in the interests of the people as there were some different opinions over the plan.

President U Htin Kyaw also called on the regional and state governments to effectively spend the allocated budgets on the projects in attempts to reduce the budget deficiency.

“Region and state governments are urged to assess the results of their efforts for the projects and to give priorities to projects which the governments can implement,” said the President. The meeting was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the Financial Commission Vice President U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, the Union Attorney-General, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and Chief Ministers of the regions and states.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe arrives back after attending Delhi Dialogue IX in New Delhi

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, arrived back in Yangon this afternoon after attending the Delhi Dialogue IX held in New Delhi, Republic of India on 4-5 July 2017.

The Delhi Dialogue IX was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in partnership with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and other selected partners from India and ASEAN Member States, namely, the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) and SAEA Group Research in Singapore, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) in Jakarta, the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) in Malaysia and Thailand and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.

The Dialogue was convened under the theme of “ASEAN-India: Charting the Course for the next 25 years” and officiated by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Honourable Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India.

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor and Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, also delivered their keynote addresses at the Ministerial Session. H. E. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East) of the



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe welcomed by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Honourable Minister of External Affairs of India. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministry of External Affairs of India, Mr. Hirubalan V P, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Political-Security Community Department of the ASEAN Secretariat and Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam of India also made their inaugural addresses.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, in his address, stressed that the year 2017 was momentous year as it coincides with the 25th Anniversary of the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership, the 15th year of the ASEAN-India Summit level interaction, the 5th year of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership and the Golden Jubilee of ASEAN. He briefly touched upon political and security cooperation and economic cooperation, which were important to Myanmar. He also emphasized that ASEAN welcomes India's decision to put Southeast Asia at the core of its “Act East Policy”

as it would build stronger ties with ASEAN Member States. He further reiterated that Myanmar continued to work closely with India to address non-traditional security challenges and that there still exists a great potential for increased cooperation on maritime security.

He expressed Myanmar's appreciation to India for the initiative and the cooperation developed by the ongoing Kaladan Transport Project which would connect Kolkata and Sittwe Port.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe paid a call on Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Honourable Minister of External Affairs of India, on 5 July 2017 and discussed on bilateral relations between the two countries. The two Ministers discussed and agreed on further steps to enhance cooperation between the two countries both bilaterally and in the international fora.—Myanmar News Agency ■

55th Anniversary of Seven July memorial held

By Ko Moe

The 55th anniversary of the Seven July memorial was held yesterday at the tomb of Bo Aung Kyaw, on the grounds of the former Rangoon University Student Union building.

Present at the ceremony were All-Burma Federation of Student Unions, Basic Education Students' Union, the 74 Student Union and other political organisations, it was learnt.

At the ceremony, the ABFSU issued a declaration of objection of efforts to rebuild the new student union building at the site of the former student union, without official recognition of forming student unions freely and allowing them to perform activities, in an attempt to improve the image of former mili-



Students march to Yangon University to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the Seven July memorial. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)**

tary dictators responsible for atrocities.

In 1962, students staged a protest against the military coup of General Ne Win, who then ordered a brutal suppression of the demonstration that

resulted in numerous deaths and thousands of arrests. The next morning, the military junta blew up the Rangoon University Student Union building with dynamite. The day was designated as Seven July. ■

Abe preparing to reshuffle Cabinet in early August: sources

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is preparing to reshuffle his Cabinet and Liberal Democratic Party leadership possibly in the first week of August, government and party sources said on Friday.

The decision comes in the wake of the LDP's crushing defeat in the Tokyo metropolitan assembly elections last week-end.

Abe was initially expected to conduct the reshuffle in September when terms of the LDP leadership posts come to an end, but his party's historic defeat appears to have forced his hand.

Although the local election was viewed as a referendum on Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike's one year in office, it also served to gauge public sentiment about the performance of Abe's government.

The number of LDP seats in the 127-member assembly dropped to 23 from the previously held 57, as Koike's new party and allies made headway.

Abe, who is in Hamburg, Germany, to attend a two-day meeting of the Group of 20 major economies starting later Friday, is expected to make a final decision over the makeup of his new Cabinet, including the



(From L) Economic and Fiscal Policy Minister Nobuteru Ishihara, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Finance Minister Taro Aso attend a Cabinet meeting at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 2 June, 2017, wearing "kariyushi," the formal shirts from Japan's Okinawa Prefecture, to promote the annual "Cool Biz" light clothing campaign to save energy by reducing the use of air conditioners. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

exact timing of the change, after returning home on Wednesday, according to the sources.

By refreshing his Cabinet lineup next month, the prime minister is apparently aiming to allow sufficient preparation time for the new ministers before the extraordinary Diet session that

is expected to be convened in September.

Abe is likely to keep key members such as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga in their posts as well as Secretary General Toshihiro Nikai and Vice

President Masahiko Komura.

Some party members argue, however, that drastic reform of the lineups is needed to allay frustration within the party.

Abe, who began his second stint as prime minister in December 2012, saw his Cabinet's

approval rating plunge in the run-up to the Tokyo metro election.

A number of scandals hurt the government's standing, including one that alleged that Abe used his influence to help Kake Educational Institution, whose president is a close friend, open a veterinary school in a special economic zone.

The ruling bloc, including the LDP's junior coalition partner the Komeito party, also drew harsh criticism due to its handling of a controversial "conspiracy" law to penalize the planning of certain crimes. The Abe government rammed the bill through the Diet last month by bypassing a House of Councillors committee vote, much to the consternation of opposition parties.

In the envisioned reshuffle, Defence Minister Tomomi Inada is widely seen as likely to be replaced due in part to her remarks during a stump speech that implied the Self-Defence Forces' support for a certain candidate.

Justice Minister Katsutoshi Kaneda is also rumored to be on the outer amid criticism for his performance in handling the implementation of the conspiracy bill.—Kyodo News ■

Mongolians vote in 1st presidential runoff amid economic crisis

ULAN BATOR — Mongolian voters headed to the polls on Friday in the country's first-ever runoff presidential election, choosing between a former martial arts star and a career politician of the governing party.

The election is seen as a referendum on the government's policy of implementing austerity measures, at a time when the country with a population of 3 million, landlocked between China and Russia, is struggling to pull its resource-dependent economy out of crisis.

Khaltmaa Battulga of the main opposition Democratic Party garnered the most votes in the first round of the presidential election last week, but there was no definitive winner as none of the candidates could secure the required majority.

Battulga, 54, also a business

tycoon and resource nationalist who has criticized the government's spending cuts, faced off against Miyegombo Enkhbold, chief of the ruling Mongolian People's Party, in the runoff.

Enkhbold narrowly came second in the three-horse race on 26 June, although his party won a sweeping victory in a parliamentary election about a year ago.

Despite economic difficulties, the 52-year-old former prime minister has made national unity a campaign issue.

Enkhbold was tipped as the frontrunner before the election, but he struggled to connect with voters as allegations of corrupt land reforms during his time as mayor of Ulan Bator, the capital city, hung over the campaign's final weeks.

The runoff between the two

candidates is to pick the successor to President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj of the Democratic Party, whose second and final four-year term in office ends this month.

Mongolia formerly enjoyed robust growth, with its gross domestic product growth peaking at 17.5 per cent in 2011. Following a sharp fall in global commodity prices, it is now saddled with heavy debt and its economy grew only 1 per cent last year.

The government has rolled out fiscal belt-tightening measures in exchange for securing earlier this year a \$5.5 billion International Monetary Fund-led bailout package.

The polling stations are scheduled to close at 10 pm local time and the results of the runoff are expected to be known sometime Saturday.—Kyodo News ■

S Korea, US, Japan nuclear envoys to meet in Singapore next week

SEOUL — Top nuclear envoys from South Korea, the United States and Japan plan to hold talks on the fringes of a two-day regional security conference set to be held in Singapore from next Tuesday, the South Korean Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

"It is expected ways to make concrete responses to the North Korean nuclear issue would be discussed" at the trilateral talks, a statement issued by the ministry said.

Kim Hong Kyun, South Korea's special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, will meet with Kenji Kanasugi, director general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, and Joseph Yun, US special representative for

North Korea policy, at the 27th Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue.

The security conference, organized by the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation at the University of California, brings together experts from countries that are members of the long-stalled six-party talks on the North Korea's denuclearization.

The institute confirmed late last month that delegations from five of the countries — Japan, China, South Korea, Russia and the United States — will be attending.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have been further ratcheted up following the North's launch this week of an intercontinental ballistic missile.—Kyodo News ■

Discipline in its real meaning in Myanmar to be well-convinced for us

By Khin Maung Oo

ALMOST everywhere, discipline is a commonly used word in our everyday expressions. English dictionaries define it as “The practice of training people to obey rules and orders and punishing them if they do not (or) the controlled behavior or situation that results from this training.” According to it, we know that it is closely related to rules, orders and punishments. As known by all, rule and orders are enacted or promulgated for people to abide by. In case, we violate it a legal action will be taken against us and we are liable to get the punishment we deserve. Disciplines are prescribed for us respectively; school discipline for

students, road and traffic discipline for pedestrians and vehicles, discipline for offices or companies, etc. To put it simply, we got accustomed to it since our younger days at school, because of having been trained by our teachers. Civics was taught since our salad days, and once in the past we were fond of keeping disciplines.

Yet, later before we recognized it, disciplines disappeared from our surroundings. In fact, discipline is prescribed by us ourselves. Disciplines for the public are drawn up by legislative bodies for our society to survive for long whereas administrative bodies manage to make people obey them. So, we are obliged to follow them. Failing that, we will be subject to punishment

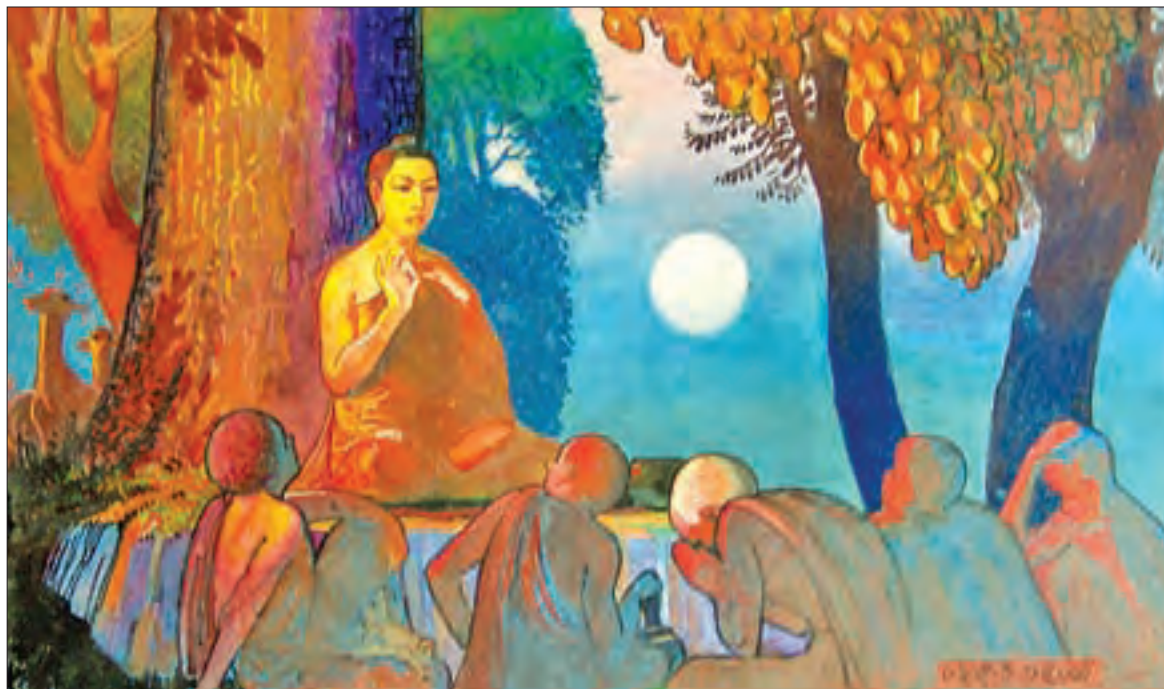
or danger. Sorrowfully enough, we are creating these rules and disciplines and simultaneously we are ruining them. As a result, accidents, dangers and casualties are increasing more and more in our society. Some people seem to think that disciplines are being made without necessity, neglecting to notice discipline in its real meaning in Myanmar. Discipline is called in the Myanmar language as “Si Kan,” made up of two syllables. The first monosyllabic meaning of “Si” means a boundary in Myanmar and the second one “Kan” means a bank/ the side of a river and the land near it in Myanmar.

A boundary or a bank forbids us not to go past them. If we go beyond a boundary, we are likely to be

arrested for trespassing. Likewise, we will plunge into the river and will be drowned if we proceeded without noticing a bank. Boundaries and banks are warning us to avoid moving on, knowingly or otherwise. They can be likened to rules and disciplines in our society. Some may scornfully think that discipline and rules restrict or control our actions and deeds. It is quite wrong in assuming so. We individually need to develop the practice of self-discipline. Even though we are not punished by rules for violating these rules and disciplines, we will surely get contempt from others noticing us violating disciplines. To sum it up, let us build a just and prosperous society by keeping self-discipline. ■

The wheel of Dhammacakya Sutta turns on the Fullmoon of Wazo

Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja,
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt



WAZO, the Rain Retreat is the Buddha's way of conserving and preserving natural environment.

The theme of this year's World Environment Day 5 June 2017 celebrated across the world is “connecting People to Nature”.

It was exactly the same theme “Connecting the People to Nature” when Lord Gotama Buddha prescribed Wazo Rain Retreat for his monk disciple followers. Previously, Buddhist monks were free to move about at anytime, anywhere in all seasons of the year, until public complaint reached the Buddha. In their free movements especially in the rainy season when farmers were busy with their cultivating activities in the fields and when all living world is fully alive with flora and fauna in nourishing showers free movements of Buddhist monks caused in inadvertent unintentional annoyances and damages. The farmers had to stop their work to pay respect and donate food to the monks. The moving monks unknowingly and accidentally step upon creatures coming out and creeping about from the wet soil, some die under their or some crippled.

When the Buddha heard the public outcries about these accidents, he was obliged to prescribe a monk discipline to restrict the movements of them in rainy season. Thus appeared Wazo Vows for Rain Retreat. Every monk was required to take the vow at the assembly of monks of the same monastery that he would reside at the monastery of his residence and would not go out or move about outside of the monastic compound during the period of three monsoon months Wazo, Wakhaung and Tawthalin [July, August and September respectively]. If unavoidable circumstances or situation occurred that required his stay outside the residential monastery and his movement away from the compound, he was required to beg for leave of absence not more than seven days from the Abbot Monk of the monastery. On failure of making that formal request for leave of absence, he immediately suffers from the sin of breaking Wa Vow [ဝေဒါ]. Losing all his ordained years and the right to receive Kathein robe offering.

Wa vows have the beneficial impact upon the education of the monks. During

rain retreat monks could devote whole time to learning Pariyatti and practicing Patipatti and Pariveda—the three Sasan-as of Buddhism—learning, Practicing and promoting.

Farmers could devote themselves to agricultural activities unannoyed by the sight of monks. Flora and fauna old and new safely enjoy their lives under monsoon showers.

Wazo Rain Retreat is Lord Buddha's way of connecting People [clergy and laity] to Nature.

Dhammacakya Sutta discoursed on the fullmoon night of Wazo by Lord Gotama also bears profound natural environmental significance.

King Sudhodara of Kapilavatthu kingdom gathered all Brahmin Priests who were Raja gurus [Royal advisers] to his audience. He presented his baby son Prince Siddhartha and asked them to read his horoscope [Record of Birth Day] and predict his future. All guru Brahmins carefully examined the horoscope referring to all veda treatises. One by one they gave their prediction to the King each showing two fingers.

“Your Imperial Majesty, I'm happy to tell you the result of my examination. Either your son would grow up to succeed your throne and become a Universal monarch or he would renounce his mundane life to become a forest recluse and eventually become Buddha. “I could not let my son leave the palace and become Buddha. I want him succeed me to throne and become chacravan [Universal monarch]. Could you make some means of keeping my son in the palace and succeed me to the throne?”

“Oh yes, your Imperial Majesty. Just build three palaces for three seasons Yama, Thuba and Thuyama and surround your son with all attractions and pleasures of palace life. Let him always get caught up in the defilements of mundane life”.

The King then turned to the last Brahmin guru, Kondinya, the most junior in age and service and asked.

“What about you young Brahmin guru?”

Showing only one forefinger of his, the youngest Brahmin guru replied.

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The July Full Moon Day: A Message for Ecological and Social Harmony

Oxford Sayadaw Venerable Prof.
Dr. Dhammasami DPhil (Oxford)

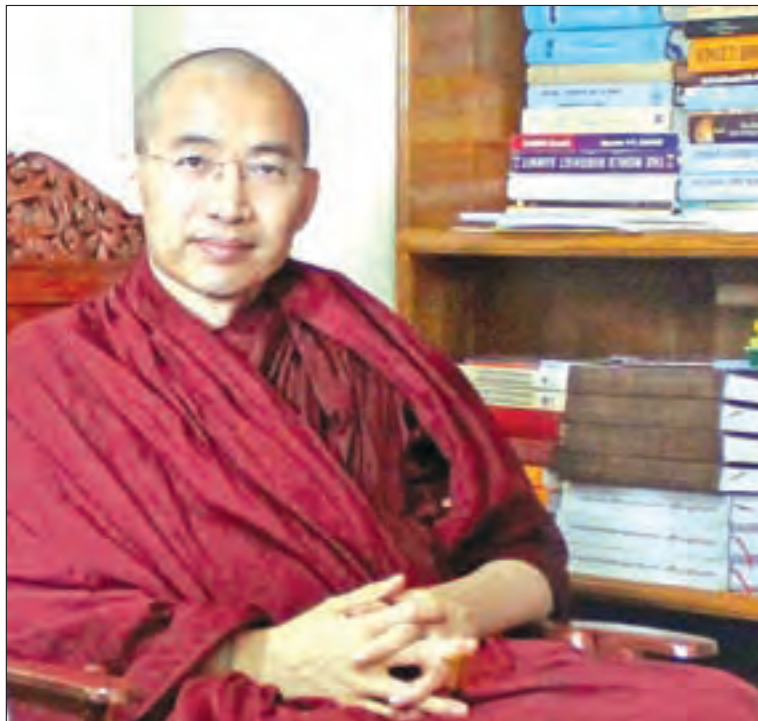
THE full moon day of July, known in Burmese as waso la-pyi, is one of the most significant days in the Buddhist calendar, more so today for Theravada Buddhists, because, among many others, it is on this day some 2605 years ago that the Buddha starts his teaching mission and it has always been on this full moon day that Theravada Buddhist monastics commence their three-month rains-retreat (vassana).

Two months after his full enlightenment under the Bodhi tree in Buddhagaya and on the full moon day of July, (asahla in Pali) the Buddha reaches the Deer Park, near Baranasi, and immediately begins to share with his five former friends the newly discovered Middle Path as the way to overcome suffering. The Middle Way is as an alternative to the existing thoughts current in India: the eternalist and the materialist (nihilist) philosophy, or the practice of self-mortification and of self-indulgence. The Buddha finds that all of those mutually exclusive philosophies and practices are based on a belief in either a supposedly unchanging metaphysical self or a physical self.

On his part, using the Middle Path factors, the Buddha explains our daily experience as a process of psychological and physical phenomena, basically ruled by the inter-dependent law of cause and effect, and not by any divine being such as creator God or mysterious entity such as an unchanging soul. This Middle Path teaching, formulated as the Four Noble Truths, raises the status of human beings to the supreme level and at the same time places in the hands of every human the full responsibility for their happiness and misery.

This First Sermon is known as the Dhamma-cakka-pavattana Sutta, the Discourse on Setting in Motion the Wheel of Truth. The principal approach of the Four Noble Truths is to face, recognize and accept the existence of psychological as well as physical discomforts in life, investigating them with calm contemplation, instead of fighting with them or running away from them. A wise observation like this can lead to full comprehension of what bothers us in day to day life because the calmness and experiential knowledge give us human beings necessary skills to manage our otherwise unregulated emotions and decision making processes. The skillful wisdom in the First Sermon also equips us with energy and tool to reduce the unavoidable pains in life and to overcome the pains that we unnecessarily create ourselves through habitual reaction.

The wheel (cakka/ cakra), part of the



Oxford Sayadaw Venerable Prof. Dr. Dhammasami DPhil (Oxford).

title of the First Sermon, is a metaphor that the Buddha used to demonstrate his message, dhamma. The wheel is generally the symbol of transport and the Buddha wants his teaching to serve humanity as a transport carrying them from problem to solution, from a stressful life to a stress-free one, from bondage to freedom and from repeated suffering to nirvana. The wheel indeed symbolizes three aspects of dhamma: (1) the Four Truths, the realization of it helps us overcome suffering; (2) the Middle Way, known as the Eightfold Path, the accomplishing of it enables us to reach a solution, a stress-free life or freedom and (3) the realization itself which has twelve aspects indicating the goal achieved through transformative wisdom, with the wheel having twelve spokes. The twelve aspects define the actual process of realization comprising: knowing something such as a problem as it is; knowing what action to take for that; and knowing how to verify that the action has been successful. As each of the Four Truths has these three steps in the process, the third wheel has twelve spokes while the first and the second wheel have four and eight spokes respectively. All these symbols represent one and the same positive message: it is possible to use our own concentration and wisdom power to solve life's misery, if we can turn these wheels on and make them to function.

This compassionate and pragmatic message of the Buddha on finding problem (dukkha) and its solution (nirodha) is central to all communications that the Buddha constantly relays for forty-five years to the people of all walks of life. All the teachings that we are familiar with, for example, kamma, generosity, precepts, monastic disciplines, meditation and abhidhamma are to illustrate this key message. Finding

a solution to human suffering has been of ethical, social and psychological importance for the Buddhist teaching. The revolutionization of the understanding kamma is a case in point. Before the Buddha comes along, kamma is merely understood as a ritual. The Buddha redefines kamma to mean one's own intention giving everyone the control of their kamma and links it to moral and ethical behavior. While placing in human's hands his own responsibility for his conduct, this kamma theory also brings social liberation to many freeing people, for example, in India from being dictated by the Brahmins, a higher caste, on what to do with their lives.

To honour the First Sermon, this July full moon day is officially recognized as the Dhamma-cakka Day (Sanskrit - Dharma-cakra) in Myanmar. It is a holiday for government departments and schools. Monasteries, meditation centres and pagodas throughout the land are crowded with the faithful, wearing white top and brown longyi, meditating or contemplating on the teachings of the Buddha and his First Sermon. Similarly, in Thailand, since the reign of King Mongkut (1854-1868 AD), the July full moon day has also been officially celebrated as the Asahla-puja Day, asahla being the Pali term for the month of July. Devotees, in white clothes, flock to temples and monasteries to observe the eight precepts, instead of the usual five; listen to sermons related to the Wheel of Truth, dhamma, and make offerings of requisites, especially the candles for the coming rains-retreat, known as tien-khao-phansa. The Laotian Buddhists have a similar tradition to the Thai, bringing the rains-retreat candles in great procession to the temples.

In Sri Lanka on this July full moon day, known as Esala Poya, Buddhists, who

form 70% of the population and also wear white clothes on holy days, celebrate this special day, also as the first ordination day in Sri Lanka that was for Prince Arittha and fifty-five other Sri Lankans. So significant this day has been there that King Dutthagamani (161-137 BC) chooses to lay the foundation stones of the Ruwanveli Cetiya (Mahaceti) and sometime later to enshrine in it the relics of the Buddha on this July full moon day. Even today, the famous annual procession of the Tooth Relic of the Buddha in Kandy is held on the special day. Another significant point associated with this July full moon day is, as mentioned earlier, the commencement of the three-month rains-retreat and which is, historically speaking, very important for us, monastics and laity alike, in many ways. However, it may surprise many to know that the Buddha did not invent this practice, but adopted it, and it is for the sake of harmony with the ecological environment and the majority of the people, Buddhist or non-Buddhist. It is true that the Buddha and all of his five former companions, who attained enlightenment within five days of intensive coaching by the Buddha on the Middle-Way-based meditative outlook, stay in one location in the Deer Park for three months during their first rainy season; however, the observation of the rains-retreat does not become a rule until sometime later.

The Buddha came to make that a rule only after being prompted by the complaint from the farmers. The complaints were that unlike other mendicants who stay in one place for that period of time, the Buddha's disciples travel even during the rainy season damaging crops and injuring insects. Here, it is worth noting that the Buddhist monastic rule of observing the rains-retreat takes into consideration ecological concern and the people's opinion. This is to say the rains-retreat practice recognizes concerns for environment and social harmony.

In other word, as far as Buddhism is concerned, the original idea about the rains-retreat does not stem from a religious reason, rather the Buddha embraces and makes the customary practice work, and indeed very successfully not just for the above ecological and social reasons but also for spiritual benefits as well once he has promulgated it as a rule. The benefits are mutual between the Sangha and the laity. The former can reduce the discomfort associated with travelling during the severe weather; get to know more fellow practitioners better from being together for a longer period and receive material support such as robe for the rainy period from the people nearby who come to be better informed of the monks and nuns' specific need.

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The wheel of Dhammacakya Sutta turns on the Fullmoon of Wazo

FROM PAGE-8

“Your Imperial Majesty, after I have thoroughly examined your son’s horoscope and checked with all veda treatises I obtained one and the only one answer. That is that your son would definitely become a Buddha. He would never succeed you to the throne. I am a faithful royal guru who speaks truth, the who truth nothing but truth. I do not tell what your Imperil Majesty wishes to hear that your son would succeed you to the throne so that I get royal favour. Here are the exact dates of events of your son’s life. Your son would get married and had a son born. By the age of 29 years after seeing the four visions—the Aged, the Infirmary, the Dead and Forest Recluse, he would renounce his mundane life to become a recluse in the forest. After six years of austerity practices in the Uruvala Forest, he would attained Buddhahood at the age of 35 years. He would give his first sermon to the five forest recluses in the Migara Wunna Dear Park. Next he would continue his dhamma duta his teachings journey home and abroad for 45 years. Then at the age of 80 he would pass away and attain Nivarna—Escape from the Samsara the cycle of births and rebirths and all sufferings and cravings to reach the end of body and soul.”

Your Imperial Majesty, you may punish me for not answering what you wish to hear that your son succeed you. I was a faithful royal guru, to speak the truth. Now I resign my post of royal guru. I shall go to the Uruvala forest to become a forest

recluse and wait for your son as Buddha to come to Migara Wunna Dear Park for his first sermon Dhammacakya Sutta which I shall hear.

So saying the youngest raja guru Brahmin Kondinya left the palace. No peace, no truth of Dhamma could be obtained at the capital, in the Palace where daily life was surrounded by defilements. Only in the forest where there is green natural environment where one’s body and soul can get bliss of solitude and peace.

The entire Dhammacakya Sutta has been translated into Myanmar and English and published by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture of Myanmar Government. Here a summary is given to emphasize the importance of the middle way of living [Majjhima Patipada] and significance of green natural environment for the middle way of living. After six years of his quest for truth [dhamma] by practicing austerities, recluse Prince Siddhartha discovered it. While in the Uruvala Forest he and other five forest recluses searching for truth promised to one another to tell one another if he had found out the truth. Therefore forest recluse Prince Siddhartha on becoming enlightened as Gotama Buddha was obliged to tell the truth [dhamma] he had discovered to the five forest recluses (1). Kondanya (2). Wappa (3). Baddiya (4). Mahanama and (5). Assaji.

The middle way [Majjhima Patipada] avoids the two extremes (1). Kamasu khalika nuyogo [Hedonism] on one hand and (2). Atta kilamathanuyogo [self-mortifica-

tion] on the other. Both these two extremes are wrong because they lead to no truth. The middle way only leads to truth.

There are four noble Truths

(1) Birth is suffering, old age is suffering, illness is suffering and death is suffering. Association with those we do not love is suffering. Separation from those we love is suffering and not getting what we desire is suffering.

(2) The origin of suffering is craving.

(3) Suffering can be ended and Nivarna can be attained.

(4) The way to stop craving and end suffering is to follow the eight fold path [Maga] which Gotama Buddha teaches as follow.

(1) Right View, (2) Right thought, (3) Right Speech, (4) Right action, (5) Right Livelihood, (6) Right Effort, (7) Right Mindfulness and (8) Right concentration.

At the behest of Maha Brahma “Sahanapati” Gotama Buddha sat calmly under the Sal trees in the deer park in Migara Wunna Forest in the evening of the fullmoon of Wazo when gold yellow coloured round Moon rose above the foliage and shed its rays on earth Lord Buddha began his discourse on Dhammacakya Sutta. Not only Five Forest recluses but also all Brahmas, devas and sentient beings of the whole Universe gathered to listen to the Sermon.

Next on the 5th waning moon of Wazo the Buddha discoursed on Anatta Lakkhana Sutta.

Having heard and thoroughly under-

stood these two Suttas the five ascertic forest recluses became arahat [saint monk] one after another on the following consecutive days. The first ascertic forest recluse to become saint monk was Kondanna. These five arahat saint monks formed the first Sangha order to impart Buddha’s dhamma [Truth] to all sentient beings. Because all five ascetic forest recluses became monks in the month of Wazo. Myanmar people made the tradition of the Festival of Ordination of monks in Wazo. Wazo full moon day is commemorated as Dhammacakya Sutta Day by Myanmar Buddhist across the country by reciting the Sutta and expounding it to the audience.

Today, Migra Wunna, the deer Park Forest is well maintained by the Indian Government for Buddhist pilgrimage tourism as well as natural environmentalists across the world. Well conserved and preserved, the entire park is made free from all pollutions. No industries, no emissions in its vicinities. You walk on foot or butterfly charged wheel chains are provided for the needy. Many land marks and memorials of the Dhammacakya Sutta are well preserved to retain the original atmosphere of those days when this first sermon was delivered.

After the visit you return home not only with the essence of the sermon in your heart and soul but also that of green natural environment for the sustainability of our planet Earth with all living beings inhabiting on it. ■

The July Full Moon Day: A Message for Ecological and Social Harmony

FROM PAGE-9

In return, the laity get the opportunity to learn the teaching from more monastics who observe the rains-retreat close to their home and ensure their own way of life was orientated to understanding problem and finding its solution. Very influential this practice has been in many Theravada communities that in quite a number of places people usually postpone events such as a wedding ceremony during the three months. In some countries such as Thailand Lao, monasteries organize a ritual of chanting the Vessantara-jataka, the last of the many former lives stories of the Buddha, which they call des mahachat (the preaching of the Great Life Story). In Myanmar, the month of July is simply known as waso, the month of the rains-retreat. This practice of the rains-retreat is a good illustration how the Buddha makes a wise decision balancing between the need to adopt a certain ritual for social harmony and the real spiritual benefit.

In addition to those two significant events (the First Sermon and the beginning of the rains-retreat), the July full moon day is also noteworthy for other main events in Buddhism. It is the day Prince Siddhattha, the future Buddha, was conceived in the womb of Queen Mahamaya; the birthday of Prince Rahula to Princess Yasodhara and Prince Siddhat-

tha; the commencement of the Abhidhamma (psychology) teaching by the Buddha for his mother and other celestials in the Tavatimsa Heaven in the seventh year after his enlightenment; the performance through absorption meditation of the twin wonder (yamaka-patihariya) in Savatthi to subdue to the pride of the heretics, and the commencement of the first Buddhist synod (sangayana) to rehearse and classify the teachings, three months after the Buddha passes away.

Here one may note that this rains-retreat observation practice has been associated with the South and Southeast Asian monsoon and that in Europe and America where Buddhism has taken root for over a hundred years, July to September is the summer. Summer is the time western people go on long holiday; even the governments slow down their work. Parliaments have a long summer recess, for example, from 20 July to 5 September in the United Kingdom. This change in circumstances poses some of the challenges to the Buddhist missionary monks as their work becomes more and more international.

The dilemma for those Buddhist monks in the West is that the rains-retreat rule dictates them to stay in one location for the entire period. As already discussed, the Buddha adopts the rains-retreat practice from others and lays down certain

rules for his disciples with reward and penalty attached to them: those who begin their rains-retreat on the day after the July full moon day are entitled to receive a new piece of robe, known as kathina, provided at the end of the three months individual monk invites his fellow monks to criticize his behavior if they found it blameworthy. If a monk failed to return to the original location where he started the rains-retreat within a given time, i.e. if he stays away overnight more than seven days he is not qualified to receive a kathina robe, even if there are donors. Indeed, this disqualification for the kathina robe is also applicable to a monk who chooses to take us an option of starting his three-month rains-retreat a month late.

Usually, European and North American Buddhists tend to organize meditation retreats and conferences during their summer holidays, which mean monks who engage in teaching have to travel often, something forbidden by the rule of the rains-retreat. But if they do not travel, the Buddhist missionary monks in the West would find their work limited, especially outside the country of their residence. I have seen some senior western monks coming up with an ad hoc solution: monks who would receive the kathina robe will not travel because if all the monks break the rule of the rains-retreat by staying

more than a week each time they travel abroad, their kathina robe offering would be made irrelevant.

And, here the monks in the West who have to travel for overseas teaching would do so knowing that they will have to forego the privilege of being the recipient of the kathina robe. One other measure that the western monks, for example at Amaravati Monastery in England, have taken was to have a two-month retreat during the winter when they do not travel but engage fully in meditation practice. Some may have taken this decision mindful of the exceptional historical condition, recorded in the Vinaya-pitaka, the original monastic disciplines, when the Buddha allows monks to observe the three-month retreat in the summer, provided it is at the request of a righteous ruler. Despite these challenges, it is still possible to say that today even in some trying circumstances the spirit of the three-month rains-retreat is still fully respected and adhered to among the Theravada Buddhist followers. ■

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Facing defeat in Mosul, Islamic State mounts diversionary attack to the south

MOSUL/TIKRIT, Iraq — Islamic State militants attacked a village south of Mosul, killing several people including two journalists, even as they were about to lose their last redoubt in the city to an Iraqi military onslaught, security sources said on Friday.

The assault on Imam Gharbi village appeared to be the sort of diversionary, guerrilla-style strike tactics Islamic State is expected to focus on as US-backed Iraqi forces regain control over cities IS captured in a shock 2014 offensive. Security sources said IS insurgents had infiltrated Imam Gharbi, some 70 km (44 miles) south of Mosul on the western bank of the Tigris river, on Wednesday evening from a pocket of territory still under their control on the eastern bank.

Two Iraqi journalists were reported killed and two others wounded as they covered the security forces' counter-attack to take back the village on Friday. An unknown number of civilians and military were also killed or wounded in the clashes.

In Mosul, IS clung to a slowly shrinking pocket on the Tigris west bank, battling for every metre with snipers, grenades and suicide bombers, forcing security forces to fight house-to-house in densely-populated blocks.



An armoured personnel carrier of Iraqi security forces fire against Islamic State militants at the frontline in the Old City of Mosul, Iraq on 7 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Iraqi military has forecast final victory this week in what used to be the de facto capital of IS's "caliphate" in Iraq, after a grinding eight-month, US-backed offensive to wrest back the city, whose pre-war population was 2 million. But security forces faced ferocious resistance from roughly several hundred militants hunkered down among thousands of civilians in the maze of alleyways in Mosul's Old City. Air strikes

and artillery salvos continued to pound Islamic State's last Mosul bastion on Friday, a Reuters TV crew said.

Mosul was by far the largest city seized by Islamic State in its offensive three years ago where the ultra-hardline group declared its "caliphate" over adjoining parts of Iraq and Syria.

Stripped of Mosul, IS's dominion in Iraq will be reduced to mainly rural, desert areas west

and south of the city where tens of thousands of people live, and the militants are expected to keep up asymmetric attacks on selected targets across Iraq.

Adhel Abu Ragheef, a Baghdad-based expert on jihadist groups, said Islamic State was likely to carry out "more of these raid-type attacks on security forces to try to divert them away from the main battle", now in Mosul and then in other areas west of

Mosul including near the Syrian border still IS control.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared the end of Islamic State's "state of falsehood" a week ago, after security forces took Mosul's mediaeval Grand al-Nuri mosque — although only after retreating militants blew it up.

Months of grinding urban warfare in Mosul have displaced 900,000 people, about half the city's pre-war population, and killed thousands, according to aid organisations. The United Nations predicts it will cost more than \$1 billion to repair basic infrastructure in Mosul. Iraq's regional Kurdish leader said on Thursday in a Reuters interview that the Baghdad central government had failed to prepare a post-battle political, security and governance plan.

The offensive has damaged thousands of structures in Mosul's Old City and destroyed nearly 500 buildings, satellite imagery released by the United Nations on Thursday showed. In some of the worst affected areas, almost no buildings appear to have escaped damage, and Mosul's dense construction means the extent of the devastation might be underestimated, UN officials said.—Reuters ■

Turkey takes control of nearly 1,000 companies since failed coup — deputy PM

ISTANBUL — Turkish authorities have seized or appointed an administrator to 965 companies with total annual sales of some 21.9 billion lira (\$6 billion) in the year since an attempted coup in July 2016, Deputy Prime Minister Nurettin Canikli said on Friday.

Under the emergency rule imposed after the coup, Turkish authorities took control of companies suspected of having links to followers of Fethullah Gulen, the US-based Muslim cleric blamed by Ankara for the failed military takeover.

The 965 companies under state management control, based in 43 provinces across Turkey, have assets totalling some 41 billion lira (\$11.3 bil-

lion) and employ 46,357 people, Canikli said in a written statement.

Turkey took control of a bank, industrial companies and media firms as part of the crackdown on companies accused of links to Gulen. He has denied involvement in the putsch.

Apart from the business crackdown, Turkey has jailed more than 50,000 people pending trial and suspended or dismissed some 150,000, including soldiers, police officers, teachers and civil servants, over alleged links with terrorist groups.

The purge has alarmed Turkey's Western allies and human rights groups, who say

President Tayyip Erdogan is using the coup as a pretext to muzzle dissent, a charge he denies.

Ten people including Amnesty International's Turkey director and other rights activists were detained this week on suspicion of membership of a terrorist organization, Amnesty said on Thursday, in what it called a "grotesque abuse of power".

The government has said the security measures are necessary because of the gravity of the threats facing Turkey, which is also battling Kurdish and Islamist militants. More than 240 people were killed in last year's coup attempt.—Reuters ■

Turkey detains 29 suspected Islamic State militants in Istanbul — Anadolu

ANKARA — Turkish police have detained 29 suspected Islamic State militants in Istanbul, 22 of them foreign nationals, believed to be preparing to travel to Syria, the state-run Anadolu news agency said on Friday.

Anti-terrorism police carried out operations at 20 separate addresses in six city districts overnight, Anadolu said, adding that one unlicensed weapon and documents belonging to the jihadist group were found in the raids.

Thousands of foreign fighters have joined the Islamist militants in their self-proclaimed caliphate in Syria and Iraq in recent years, many of them pass-

ing through Turkey.

Ankara has detained more than 5,000 Islamic State suspects and deported some 3,290 foreign militants from 95 different countries in recent years, according to Turkish officials. It has also refused entry to at least 38,269 individuals.

On Wednesday, Turkish police detained six suspected Islamic State militants for planning to attack a protest march led by the head of the secularist main opposition party.

In a separate operation on Wednesday, Turkish police detained another 37 Islamic State suspects across Turkey, authorities said.—Reuters ■

World leaders pressure Trump on climate at start of G20 summit

HAMBURG — World leaders ratcheted up pressure on US President Donald Trump to compromise on climate and trade as a Group of 20 summit got underway in Germany amid clashes between police and protestors.

In a joint communique issued as the leaders gathered in a vast convention centre in Hamburg, Brazil, Russia, India and China — the so-called BRICS countries — called on the G20 to push for implementation of the Paris climate deal despite Trump's decision last month to pull the United States out of it. "The Paris agreement on climate change is an important consensus that doesn't come easily and must not be given up easily," said Chinese President Xi Jinping. British Prime Minister Theresa May said G20 leaders would urge



German Chancellor Angela Merkel talks during the working session at the G20 leaders summit in Hamburg, Germany on 7 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump to reconsider his decision on Paris.

"We are not renegotiating the Paris agreement, that stays, but I want to see the US looking for ways to rejoin it," she told the BBC. The meeting comes at a time of major shifts in the glob-

al geo-political landscape, with Trump's "America First" policies pushing Europe and China closer together.

Trump will meet President Vladimir Putin for the first time on Friday afternoon, an encounter that will be

intensely scrutinised following allegations by US intelligence agencies that Moscow meddled in the US election to help Trump win.

The summit also brings together Trump and Xi at a time when Washington is raising

pressure on Beijing to rein in North Korea and threatening the Chinese with punitive trade measures.

Amid the big egos and seemingly intractable conflicts, the host, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, faces the

daunting task of steering leaders towards a consensus on trade, climate and migration — all issues that have become more contentious since Trump entered the White House half a year ago.

She faces an election in a little more than two months and cannot appear to cave in to Trump, who is deeply unpopular in Germany. Nor will she be keen for an open confrontation that could deepen tensions with Washington.

"There is quite a delicate balance that Angela Merkel will have to navigate in a way, because it is not clear that being confrontational won't just create even more of a credibility problem for G20 cooperation," Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati told Reuters in an interview.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (177)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (177) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AIPT 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RATNA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATNA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AIPT 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

US bombers challenge China in South China Sea flyover

TOKYO/BEIJING — Two US bombers have flown over the disputed South China Sea, the US Air Force said on Friday, asserting the right to treat the region as international territory despite China's claim to virtually all of the waterway.

The flight by the B-1B Lancer bombers from Guam on Thursday came as US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping prepare for a meeting on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Germany.

The two leaders were expected to discuss what China can do to rein in North Korea's missile and nuclear weapon programmes.

North Korea fired an intercontinental ballistic missile on Tuesday that some experts believe has the range to reach Alaska and Hawaii and perhaps the US Pacific Northwest.

While Trump has

been seeking China's help to press North Korea, the US military has, nevertheless, been asserting its "freedom of navigation" rights in the South China Sea, at the risk of angering China.

Asked about the flight by the two US bombers, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said there was no problem with freedom of navigation or overflight for the East and South China Seas.

"But China resolutely opposes individual countries using the banner of freedom of navigation and overflight to flaunt military force and harm China's sovereignty and security," he said.

China's Defence Ministry, in a short statement sent to Reuters, said China always maintained its vigilance and "effectively monitors relevant countries' military activities next to China". —Reuters ■

Hundreds show support for former Thai PM as rice scheme trial nears an end

BANGKOK — Thailand's former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra arrived at a Bangkok court to shouts of encouragement from her supporters on Friday, two weeks before the final stages of a case about her involvement in a ruinously expensive state rice subsidy scheme.

Yingluck, whose government was ousted in a 2014 military coup, faces up to 10 years in prison if she is found guilty of negligence over her role in the scheme, which proved popular with rural voters but was a disaster for state coffers.

The former prime minister and opposition say the trial is politically motivated and is aimed at undermining the populist movement that has won every election since 2001. The movement is opposed by Thailand's powerful military and conservative elite.

Around 500 supporters showed up outside the court on Friday, police said, the largest turnout in many months. One wrote "Love the prime minister" on his hand, while others shouted:



Ousted former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra greets supporters as she arrives at the Supreme Court for a trial on criminal negligence, which looks into her role in a debt-ridden rice subsidy scheme during her administration, in Bangkok, Thailand on 7 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"fight, fight". Yingluck has denied the charges against her. The military has said it will deploy troops to maintain security on July 21, when a final hearing in the case is expected.

Yingluck's critics see the rice case as a litmus

test of the junta's sincerity in tackling corruption in politics, one of its promises after it seized power in 2014. Closing statements in the case will be delivered within 30 days of the final hearing, court officials said.

"I'm confident in the

witnesses we've presented," Yingluck told crowds outside the court.

"The encouragement I've been given is still good ... this is a strong characteristic of the Thai people," she said.

Successive Thai gov-

ernments have supported farmers since the 1980s, but none of the schemes has proved as popular with rural voters as the rice programmes pioneered by Yingluck's brother, ousted former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Yingluck's government went a step further, promising to buy rice from farmers at some 50 per cent above the market price.

The scheme helped her to sail to victory in a 2011 general election, making her the country's first female prime minister.

However, public losses from the scheme fuelled street protests against Yingluck that eventually saw her removed from power just weeks before the 2014 coup.

The scheme also saw Thailand lose its crown as the world's top rice exporter as other countries, notably Viet Nam and India, filled the void when Thailand held back rice stocks it had bought from farmers.

The military government has managed to sell off most of about 18 million tonnes of rice accumulated during the rice scheme, some of it for industrial purposes, according to the commerce ministry.

Yingluck said on Friday she was not sure when she would deliver her closing statement.—Reuters ■

James Bond stand aside; French spy service seeks computer geeks, linguists

PARIS — France's foreign intelligence service is bolstering recruitment to counter Islamist militants and cyber criminals, but it is looking for computer wizards and linguists not would-be James Bonds.

Top of the vacancy list at France's DGSE, the equivalent of America's CIA or Britain's MI6, are posts for young information technology gurus and linguists who master the finer points of Russian, Chinese or Farsi, widely used in Iran and Afghanistan. While publicity is not usually a priority of the foreign spy service (the Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure, or DGSE), its head of administration said

recruitment pressures are changing things. "All kinds of telecoms and IT profiles interest us, from crypto-mathematicians to super geeks," Charles Moreau, head of DGSE administration, told Reuters during an interview at the agency's northeastern Paris headquarters — nicknamed "La Piscine" (The Pool). The DGSE hiring target is 500-600 recruits a year to bring its numbers up to 7,100 by 2019, but the skills required are not those of amphibious frogmen or secret agents of the kind incarnated by the fictional British character James Bond. Today the foreign spy service is recruiting in an increasingly open and

competitive marketplace where it has to vie with big industrial groups, start-ups and other top-end recruiters to attract high-fliers, says Moreau, whose remit covers oversight of hiring. Ironically, the focus on young communications and technology wizards, the super geeks Moreau spoke of, is not totally new.

When militants flew planes into the New York World Trade Centre in 2001, prompting the US invasion of Afghanistan in pursuit of al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden, US intelligence services stood accused of having expanded internet surveillance at the expense of old-fashioned foot-on-the-ground spies.—Reuters ■

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An eager teenage Spider-Man swings into Marvel's 'Homecoming'

LOS ANGELES — You've seen Spider-Man swing through New York battling the Green Goblin, but you've never seen him idolize Iron Man.

That is what the director of "Spider-Man: Homecoming" hopes audiences will be drawn to as the third Spider-Man reboot in a decade hits movie theaters on Friday.

Jon Watts said he wanted to make "Homecoming" a cross between a superhero movie and a high school comedy where the dorky lead is a fanboy of other superheroes.

"Homecoming" takes a lighter tone to the last two iterations of Spider-Man, in keeping with Marvel's proclivity for harnessing laughs in its superhero franchise.

Unlike previous films where Spider-Man was the lone superhero, "Homecoming" has the web-slinging crime fighter battling alongside Marvel characters Iron Man and Captain America.

Usual scenes explaining Spider-Man's origins — the death of his Uncle Ben and being bitten by a radioactive spider — are notably absent.



Fans watch as stars from the movie arrive. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"We've seen that origin story before," Watts told Reuters. "Here's Spider-Man, he's a kid, let's take him on an adventure ... it's all part of trying to show people something new."

Spider-Man, this time played by Tom Holland, was first introduced alongside other Marvel characters in 2016's "Captain

America: Civil War."

A deal between Sony Corp, which holds rights to Spider-Man, and Walt Disney Co which has those for superheroes like Iron Man, let Spider-Man feature next to fellow Marvel characters. That allowed Watts to explore the boy hero in a way he said creators Stan

Lee and Steve Ditko originally envisioned in comic strips with multiple characters.

"They wanted to give a different perspective on this world of superheroes, like a regular guy's perspective, that was one of the things that made Spider-Man so special," Watts said.

"Homecoming" takes place

after the events of "Civil War," and 15-year-old Peter Parker feels neglected by Iron Man, struggling to adjust back to the mundaneness of high school while disguising his superpowers.

"We've seen a lot of superheroes dealing with responsibility and burden of their powers ... but if you have a 15-year-old kid with super powers, definitely there's going to be some funny moments," Watts said.

Parker also faces foes, particularly The Vulture, played by Michael Keaton, who has built an underground arms trade with the debris of high-powered superhero weapons littered across New York City during 2012's "Avengers."

"Homecoming" has received warm reviews from critics and trade publication Variety said the film was projected to open with upward of \$85 million at the US and Canadian box office.

The film follows Andrew Garfield's "The Amazing Spider-Man" franchise from 2012 to 2014 and movies featuring Tobey Maguire from 2002 to 2007.

—Reuters ■

'Marcella' series 2 begins shoot, with Keith Allen come aboard

LONDON — Anna Friel's "Marcella" is all set to return for a second run, with Keith Allen and Nigel Planer added to its cast.

Friel will be back as Detective Sergeant Marcella Backland, accompanied by Ray Panthaki, Nicholas Pinnock, Jamie Bamber and Jack Doolan, reported Digital Spy.

Production has begun on the new series of the show, but no air date has been yet decided. The series will see Marcella investigate the discovery of a young boy's body inside a wall, surrounded by toys and a school blazer. "I'm thrilled to be reprising the role of Marcella. The reaction from everyone has been amazing, although the real question I keep being asked is whether the green parka will be making an appearance in season 2 as well?," says Friel.—PTI ■

Sophie Turner opens up about her relationship with Joe Jonas

LOS ANGELES — Actress Sophie Turner reveals that dating Joe Jonas is like living in a "fishbowl".

In a new interview to Marie Claire UK, the "Game of Thrones" actress talks about what it is like to be in a relationship with the Jonas brother.

"You do feel like you're living in a fishbowl. It's frustrating that it's the most mundane things that make the news? how boring," Turner says.

The actress says she is happy with the musician but would prefer a different ship name for them.

She and Jonas are currently called "Jophie" but Turner says she prefers "Mophie", the nickname for her and "Game of Thrones" co-star Maisie Williams.

"Whats that thing they say? Relationships come and go but friendship is always

there," Turner says.

Turner also says it makes her upset when people click her pictures in public without her consent.

"I find it really rude, and I will be rude back. It's such an invasion of privacy. I could be out with my mum on her birthday and I will ask them to delete it. I would much rather them come up and ask for a photo."

—PTI ■



Sophie Turner.
PHOTO: PTI

Princess Mako's engagement announcement delayed after rain deaths

TOKYO — The Imperial Household Agency said on Friday the announcement of the engagement of Princess Mako, the eldest granddaughter of Emperor Akihito, has been postponed from Saturday following the deaths of several people in heavy rain in southwestern Japan.

Princess Mako, 25, and her fiance-to-be, 25-year-old paralegal Kei Komuro, were initially scheduled to hold a press conference on Saturday afternoon following the agency's announcement, but out of consideration for the suffering of people in the disaster-affected areas, the couple decided to postpone the event, a senior agency official said. A new date for the announcement has yet to be set.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as Princess Mako's parents Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko approved the decision, the official said.

In the past, unexpected events also delayed the engagement announcement of the emperor's daughter Sayako Kuroda.

The agency originally planned to announce her engagement to Tokyo metropolitan government employee Yoshiki Kuroda in November 2004, but it was postponed to 18 December



Combined undated photo shows Princess Mako (R), the eldest granddaughter of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and her finance-to-be Kei Komuro. It was reported on 7 July, 2017, that the announcement of their engagement has been postponed in light of record rains in southwestern Japan that have killed several people. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

after a huge earthquake struck Niigata Prefecture. Princess Takamatsu, the emperor's aunt, died early on that day, so the engagement announcement was pushed back further to 30 December. It had been planned that the engagement of Princess Mako and Komuro, who met at university, would be approved by the emperor on Saturday. The agency's Grand Steward Shinichiro Yamamoto would then hold a press conference to announce the engagement.

Princess Mako and Komuro were then scheduled to meet the press in the af-

ternoon for their first public appearance together.

Downpours have continued intermittently since Friday in Japan's southwestern main island of Kyushu, where extremely heavy rain has left at least seven people dead and hundreds trapped by floodwaters.

The last marriage of a Japanese princess took place in 2014 when Princess Noriko, a daughter of Emperor Akihito's late cousin Prince Takamado, tied the knot with Kunimaro Senge, the eldest son of the chief priest of Izumo Taisha, a Shinto shrine in Shimane

Prefecture.

Princess Mako's marriage would be the first of a naishinno princess, a daughter or granddaughter of the emperor, since Sayako Kuroda's wedding in 2005. Princess Mako's impending engagement to Komuro has focused attention on the dwindling size of the imperial family. Current law does not provide for reigning empresses and requires princesses to leave the imperial family when they marry commoners. The couple are expected to marry sometime next year, according to agency sources.—Kyodo News ■

China quietly marks 80th anniversary of Marco Polo Bridge incident

BEIJING — China marked in a relatively subdued manner on Friday the 80th anniversary of an incident that triggered the Second Sino-Japanese war, as the two countries now seek to improve relations.

As usual, China held a ceremony to remember the important historical day at a war museum southwest of Beijing, just near Lugou Bridge where the 1937 incident occurred.

But, compared to several years ago, coverage of the event by Chinese media was limited and there were no reports that any very high-ranking officials attended the ceremony.

In 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping witnessed the ceremony in person and said China will fight any attempt to sanitize the history of Japan's aggression.

A skirmish between troops of the two countries near the stone

bridge, also known as the Marco Polo Bridge, on 7 July, 1937, developed into a full-scale conflict that lasted until Japan's surrender to the Allied Powers in 1945.

Japan and China are seeking to increase high-level contacts to stabilize the bilateral relationship that had been badly damaged by differing views over territorial and wartime issues.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between Asia's two biggest economies and next year is the 40th anniversary of their treaty of friendship and peace.

In Tokyo, Japanese officials are hoping to accelerate the pace of relationship repair after Xi finishes with a twice-a-decade congress of the Communist Party in the fall, the most politically-sensitive event this year for the Chinese leadership.—Kyodo News ■

Bunch of premium table grapes fetches record price at auction

KANAZAWA, Japan — A bunch of premium table grapes fetched a record 1.11 million yen (\$9,800) on Friday in the year's first auction at a wholesale market in the city of Kanazawa, central Japan, slightly higher than 1.10 million yen registered last year.

The 111-year-old Kagaya hot spring hotel in the city of Nanao, Ishikawa Prefecture, bought the bunch of Ruby Roman grapes after a wholesaler made a successful bid for the bunch, which was among 39 auctioned off at the market.

Ruby Roman grapes,

developed by the Ishikawa prefectural government over a period of 14 years, have a high sugar content of at least 18 percent and rich juice, with each grape weighing 20 grams or more, according to a local agricultural cooperative.

Around 26,000 bunches are expected to be shipped this year, the agricultural cooperative said.

"The price has hit such high levels after 10 years" since the first shipment, said Takao Teshima, the 67-year-old general manager of the hotel.—Kyodo News ■

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(8-7-2017 07:00am ~ 9-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon — Charitable Associations
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Waso Charity Feast
08:43	Am	A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas
08:56	Am	Dances of Myanmar (Akha Traditional Dance)
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (Part-1)
09:52	Am	Sagaing: Gold Leaf
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	NEXGEN: Next Generation (3 Pencils)

10:36	Am	Memorable Yaw Region
10:54	Am	Traditional Snacks

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)-Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:24	Pm	Mobile Week 2017
07:46	Pm	Today Myanmar: The Luyaychun Clinic, Free yet Special
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Writer: Chit Oo Nyo (Part-1)
08:52	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Still Life (glass)

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)-Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am)-Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Myanmar selects final SEA Games sports list

IN preparation for the 29th SEA Games that will be hosted in Malaysia, Myanmar sports officials have already selected 29 sports among the 38 sports that will be included in the SEA Games.

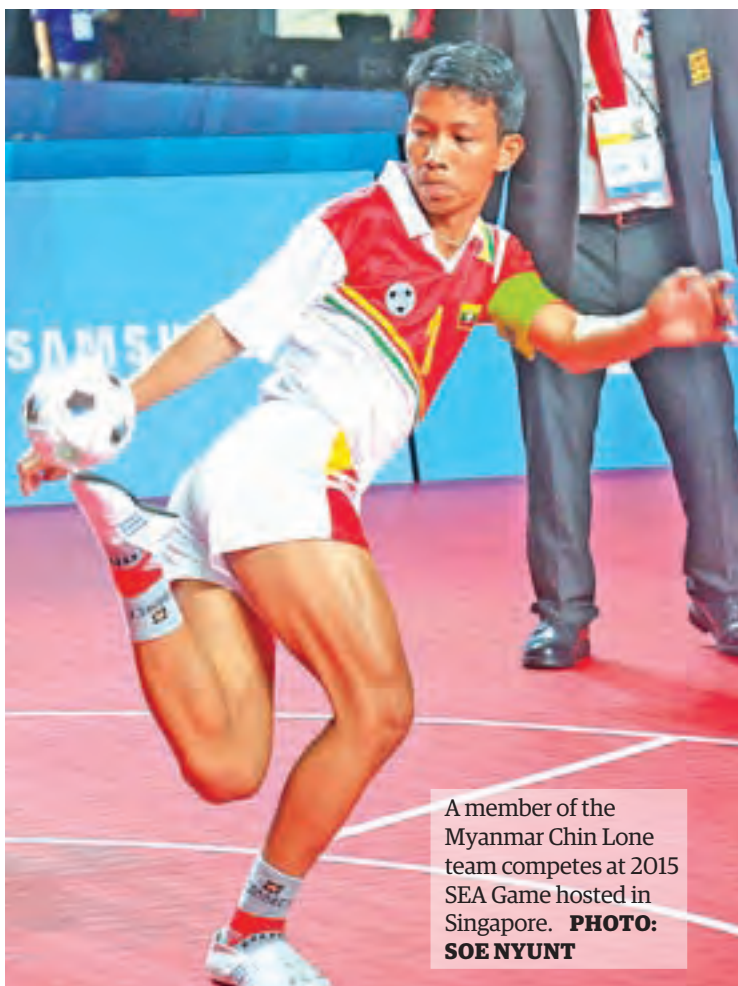
The 29th SEA Games is the sixth time Malaysia will be the host and will take place in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, with 405 events in 38 sports to be featured in the games.

Although most of the games will be held from 19 to 30 August 2017, national football matches will start on 14 July.

Myanmar will compete in 29 sports altogether including football, volleyball, basketball, swimming and squash.

Myanmar won 12 gold medals, 26 silver medals and 31 bronze medals in the 28th SEA Games hosted in Singapore in 2015.

In the absence of some sports Myanmar is strong in, they need to exert more effort to regain victory.—Shine Htet Zaw



A member of the Myanmar Chin Lone team competes at 2015 SEA Game hosted in Singapore. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

Deadly Lukaku poised to ignite Manchester United challenge



Everton's Romelu Lukaku. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

LONDON — Real Madrid's Alvaro Morata had long seemed the man entrusted to replace the outgoing Zlatan Ibrahimovic, but it now appears that Everton's Premier League-proven Romelu Lukaku will spearhead Manchester United's attack for the upcoming season.

Last season Lukaku became only the fourth player to score 80 or more Premier League goals

before the age of 24, all for West Bromwich Albion and Everton, neither of whom have possessed the creative resources of the league's bigger teams.

United, in recent years, have also struggled in that regard, and their midfielder providers — Juan Mata, Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Jesse Lingard and Paul Pogba — mustered just 10 assists between them in the Pre-

mier League last season. Jose Mourinho's pragmatic tactics did not help matters, but much of the reason why United's mid-field failed to deliver lay with the lack of movement up front. The majority of Ibrahimovic's goals were laid on by fellow strikers in the penalty area. The Swede did not possess the legs to make runs down the channels or leave his man for dead — movement that creative midfielders thrive upon. The story was the same whenever Wayne Rooney, now even more likely to leave after Thursday's news that United have agreed a deal to sign Lukaku, received a rare opportunity to operate as the front focus. It is likely to be different with Lukaku, however: "He's got a lot of attributes and, playing behind him, you know that once you turn he is going to be making a lot of good runs," Ross Barkley told Everton's official website in May.—Reuters ■

Myanmar U-15 national football team left for Thailand yesterday

Myanmar U-15 national football team departed to Thailand yesterday to play the AFF U-15 youth Championship that will be hosted in Thailand from 9 to 22 July.

There are altogether 23 players including shining players Pyae Phyo Aung and Yan Naing Lin arrived at Thailand to take part in the competition.

Myanmar U-15 will be headed by Coach U Nyi Nyi Latt who could bring the third place for Myanmar in Vietnam

U-15 challenge cup held in last month.

Myanmar is placed in Group (A) along with Australia, Thailand, Laos, Indonesia and Singapore. In Group (B) Vietnam, Cambodia, Timor, Malaysia, Philippines and Brunei are included.

Myanmar will play with Indonesia on 9 July, Laos on 11 July, Singapore on 13 July, Australia on 15 July and Thailand on 17 July respectively.—Shine Htet Zaw

Walters free to join Burnley, says Stoke manager Hughes

LONDON — Stoke City midfielder Jonathan Walters can join Premier League rivals Burnley if a deal is agreed between the clubs but the 33-year-old will also be welcome to stay back should talks fail, manager Mark Hughes has said.

Long-serving Ireland international Walters, who joined Stoke in 2010 and has played 271 games for them since then, has entered the final 12 months of his current contract.

"It seems that maybe Jon could take the option of a move to Burnley," Hughes was quoted as saying by the Sentinel.

"I haven't had the opportunity to speak to him about it. I think it's something that maybe he wants to make happen, but irrespective of that, if it falls through we would be more than happy because Jon coming back

to the club would be fine."

Media reports claimed Burnley would offer Walters a two-year deal with the option of a one-year extension at Turf Moor and Hughes felt Stoke were unable to match the length of contract. "Maybe at this point of his career Jon feels that he needs a bit more security in terms of length of contract which maybe we weren't prepared to match what he's got on the table," Hughes added.

"If he does go, we will look back on his time here with fond memories. He's been a huge part of the success of the club in the Premier League and his contribution will never be underestimated."

Walters made 23 league appearances last season as Stoke finished 13th in the league. —Reuters ■



Stoke City's Jonathan Walters. **PHOTO: REUTERS**