

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 27 July 2017



Rakhine State receives Japanese passenger ship

Rakhine State received a passenger ship donated by the Japanese government to be used for coastal transport routes in Kyaukpyu starting

on 25 July.

The Kisanadi-2 has a seating capacity of 80 and a top speed of 25 miles per hour and is one of three ships be-

ing donated by the Japanese government to Rakhine under the bilateral Economic and Social Development Programme signed on 12 September 2016.

Japan will also train the Myanmar crew for handling the vessel. Japan will donate a third vessel for use in Rakhine by late 2018.—GNLM



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Procrastination is the cause of loss and destruction, to coin a phrase.

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One more H1N1 death reported

ANOTHER death from the H1N1 virus was reported yesterday, this one a 43-year-old fisherman from Ayeyawady Region, according to local authorities, bringing the death toll from this year's outbreak of swine flu to three.

The death of the man from H1N1, also known as swine flu, was confirmed by the Medical Superintendent of Ministry of Health and Sports

Local authorities held an emergency meeting at the Pyapon District General Ad-

ministration Department and announced the death yesterday, urging the public to taking precautionary measures.

The man was taken to a local clinic on Thursday in Pyapon and transferred to Yangon General Hospital on Saturday.

Myanmar health officials said on Tuesday that two people had died after contracting H1N1 influenza in Yangon, a day after the government said more than a dozen people had contracted the virus known as swine flu.

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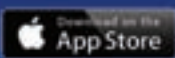
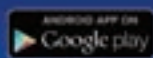
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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves tax exemptions for mineral commodities

Myo Myint and
Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

New executive members for the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) were unanimously approved, and tax exemptions for special commodities such as imported diamonds and emeralds were discussed during yesterday's session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nya Pyi Taw.

The Hluttaw agreed on the appointment of U Soe Min, U Soe Thein and U Bo Bo Nge as Vice President and U Kyaw Min Htun, U Myint Thein Htun, U Soe Wine, Daw Yi Yi Win and Daw Khin May Hla as Board of Directors for CBM.

The Hluttaw then read a motion sent from the President's Office on exemption of tax on special commodities and trade tax on certain commodities. U Maung Maung Win, the Deputy Minister for Planning



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

and Finance, said tax exemption can be granted on a special commodity by the agreement of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. A list of 87 commodities exempted from trade tax can be found under Section 14, Sub-section (A) of the Union Tax Law. Not included in the list is gold bul-

lion, on which a 5 per cent tax is levied from domestic production and trade and imports of gold bullion.

Diamonds and emeralds are not produced in the country, so the special commodity tax is only collected from their imports into Myanmar. This is

done to promote the gemstone polishing trade in the country as these gemstones can be imported for a fair price and sold on the international market after they are cut and polished.

Afterwards, U Nay Myo Htun read the Petroleum and Petroleum Byproducts Bill re-

viewed by the President's Office and Joint Bill Committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung read the committee's report on the opposing views of the Hluttaw on this matter.

The Hluttaw then unanimously agreed on the amendment of the Special Commodities Tax Law that lifts the tax on the import of diamonds and emeralds and the amendment of The Myanmar Stamp Act.

Next, MPs discussed the 2016 Annual Report by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

U Kyaw Tin of Saw Constituency put forward a motion to translate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) into ethnic languages and to include it in the curriculum of schools and universities throughout the nation as well as to distribute it to libraries in rural villages free of charge. Discussion of the motion was led by 19 MPs. ■

Ammunition and explosives seized in Myawady

AMMUNITION and explosives were seized in Myawaddy Township, Kayin State yesterday.

During an investigation of two suspects, Aung Soe Min, also known as Ko Soe, and Than Haling police discovered 100 dynamite pellets, 16 detonators and four explosive coils hidden under

bamboo stalks in the back of Damahyone, a Buddhist meeting hall, in No. 5 Ward, Myawaddy Township.

The two men were arrested on 23 July in connection with an alleged illegal firearms possession case that originated on 19 July in Tharzi Township, Mandalay Region. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Two suspects arrested in Buthidaung Township

WHILE operating patrol duty in the wards of Tinn May village, security forces arrested two suspects—Armauk Khawbi residing in Tinn May village and Adul Hai living

in Myauk Badakar village in the morning of July 23 in Buthidaung township in Rakhine State, it has been learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Correction

The headline "U Myint Swe appointed as Non-Resident Ambassador to Republic of South Africa" in yesterday's Global New Light of Myanmar was incorrect and should have read: "U Myint Swe appointed concurrently as Ambassador to South Africa and Zimbabwe".—Ed

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Czech ambassador

U AYE THA AUNG, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, received H.E. Mr Jaroslav Dolecek, the Czech Ambassador to Myanmar, at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall yesterday.

In the meeting, friendship between the two countries, bilateral cooperation between the two parliaments and a study trip to the Czech Republic were discussed, it was learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung holds talks with Czech Ambassador Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Strengthening China-Myanmar friendship discussed

H.E MR HONG LIANG, the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar, called on Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues, at the Hluttaw Affairs Hall yesterday.

In the meeting, matters on China's existing co-operation in the peace process and development in Myanmar, and China's further potential participation in matters which can strengthen China-Myanmar relations were discussed.—MNA ■



Thura U Shwe Mann receives Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with UNDP Country Director in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Prof. Ayal Kimhi, Professor of Agricultural Economics in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives UNDP Country Director, Israeli Agricultural Economics Professor

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received United Nations Development Programme Country Director Mr. Peter Batchelor at 10 a.m yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the discussion, they exchanged views on promoting cooperation between Myanmar and UNDP in various areas such as rule of law, human resource development, environmental governance and humanitarian assistance.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,

State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, also received an Israeli delegation led by Prof. Ayal Kimhi, Professor of Agricultural Economics, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, at 11 a.m yesterday at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the discussion, they exchanged views on cooperation in the agriculture sector including the development of the socio-economic lives of the people working in that sector.— Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Rakhine garment factory will create thousands of jobs

A garment factory which will create thousands of job opportunities for locals will be established in Rakhine State, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

The news came in remarks made by the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye at a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Mr Hong Liang in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Asked how China could help the economy of Rakhine State, the Union minister revealed that a garment factory would be built in Rakhine. No further details could be learnt. The Union minister also thanked China for its stance on the Rakhine issue.

The ambassador then pledged to contribute cash assistance to the National Disasters Fund of Myanmar and to cooperate with the Myanmar government for peace and socio-economic development in northern Myanmar. He also reiterated the agreement between the two countries to establish a joint economic zone in northern Myanmar, pledging that the economic zone would be helpful for peace in northern Myanmar.—GNLM ■

Vice President at ground breaking for housing project for government employees in Mandalay

Work on construction of housing for governmental employees was launched in Mandalay yesterday, with Vice President U Myint Swe in attendance.

At the ceremony to launch the project held in Patheingyi Township, U Myint Swe drove a ceremonial stake then sprinkled scented water on it to mark the launching.

The housing project comprises 32 five-storey buildings with apartments and will be established on more than 33 acres of land.

The ceremony was also attended by Union ministers U Kyaw Win, U Win Khaing, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung,

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin and guests.

Following the ceremony, Vice President U Myint Swe proceeded to the Yeywa Hydropower Project, where Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing presented a report on plans for another hydropower project on the Dokthawady River, progress of the implementation of Yeywa Hydropower Project and maintenance work on the embankment of the project.

At the meeting, U Myint Swe called for taking preventive measures against disasters and raising awareness of disasters. — Myanmar News Agency ■



VP U Myint Swe at the the groundbreaking ceremony for a housing project for governmental employees in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNA**

Weather forecast for today

MONSOON is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, said the Meteorology and Hydrology Department yesterday.

The weather bureau forecasts that rain or thundershowers is expected over Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Magway Region, and Shan (North & East) States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Southern Shan, Chin and Kayah States and widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States and with isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions today, with 100 percent degree of certainly.—GNLM ■

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Local onion prices increasing due to low supply

THE price of local onions has started to increase two months earlier than usual this year, according to Bayintnaung market reports.

On 20 July, onions were selling at prices ranging from Ks1,075 to Ks1,425 per viss (approximately 1.6 kilograms) depending on their quality in the Yangon wholesale market.

Onion prices increased since 20 July to Ks 1,300 per viss (1.6 kg). Currently, the price of onion has increased by Ks 25 per viss (1.6 kg) everyday.

"We are selling the onion with the increasing price. The price of onion tends to rise because many onion crops were destroyed by the heavy rains," said U Kyin Shwe, an onion trader.

In June, Yangon markets' total onion volume was 3.9 million visses (one viss



Workers carry sack of onion on their shoulder at a jetty. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

= 1.6kg). According to Bayintnaung depots' official statistics, the daily onion supply is currently 150,000 visses.

Onion imports are currently selling for Ks 1,000 per viss.

The Seikphyu onion sold at a price between Ks375 and

Ks575 per viss as of 20 July 2016, compared to Ks505 and Ks808 per viss in 2015.—Min Thu ■

More than 1,500 hotels and guesthouses granted licences as of end of June 2017

A total of 1,512 hotels and guesthouses were granted licences as of the end of June 2017, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. About 1.76 million of tourists entered Myanmar in the first six months of this year, which is an increase of 24 percent compared to the similar pe-

riod of last year, according to the statistics of the Hotels and Tourism Ministry.

Through border land ports of entry, 1.09 million of tourists entered Myanmar, compared to 670,000 tourists who entered Myanmar through international airports and seaports. About 2.9 million tourists entered My-

anmar in 2016, a nearly half the number in 2015.

The ministry is sponsoring hotel and tourism courses to enhance human resources in the field.

Additionally, the ministry is exploring new tourist destinations and trying to supply infrastructure requirements

in tourist sites.

Furthermore, the government is exploring partnerships with other neighbouring nations to leverage regional tourism opportunities such as a tourism package that would include tours of Ankor Wat in Cambodia and Bagan in Myanmar.—Ko Htet ■

Express vehicle overturns, seriously injure seven people

A passenger vehicle, 'Jupiter' express en route to Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw overturned between mileposts 161/7 and 162/0 on the Yangon-Mandalay highway, yesterday, seriously injuring seven passengers.

The driver, Than Lin Aung, was carrying 12 passengers when he lost control and crashed into the barrier in the middle of the road. The injured passengers are receiving treatment at Taungoo General Hospital. Than Lin Aung has been charged on suspicion of reckless driving.—Than Oo (Laymyethnar) ■



Photo: MPF

Two motorbikes collide, injure four people

A motorbike collided head on with another motorbike between mile posts 110/7 and 111/0, on Monywa YeU road, near Kwin On village, Budalin Township in Sagaing Region on 25 July, injuring four people, according to police officials.

A motorbike driven by U Kyi Tun, 58, and carrying two passengers crashed into a motorcycle driven by U Tin Poe, 43, and carrying one passenger.

Police filed charges against both motorbike drivers.—Myanmar Police Force ■



A girl sorts sugarcanes to sell at a market. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Gov't to provide to enhance local sugar producing industry

THE government plans to boost sugar production to reduce the nation's reliance on sugar imports and re-exports, according to a report of yesterday's edition of City News.

Myanmar re-exports sugar sourced from Thailand, India and Pakistan to China since locally produced sugar is sub-standard due to lack of quality machinery.

Myanmar is planning to establish a state-of-the-art sugar

mill and to adopt quality sugar cane cultivation methods with assistance from sugar-growing nations including Brazil.

More than 1.2 million tons of sugar are currently stockpiled at local markets due to a recent suspension by China of Myanmar sugar re-exports.

New licences for sugar re-exports undermines domestic production, exports and the value of the kyat, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Until recently sugar has been purchased with dollars, imported into Myanmar and then sold with yuan and re-exported to China.

This practice results in a net outflow of dollars that also reduces the value of the kyat, overall.

Nearly 1.6 million tons of sugar were re-exported during previous financial year, earning more than US\$900 million.—City News ■

Certificate of Recognition for 543 crops issued in conformity with the rules and regulations of the Seed Law

THE 10th National Seed-Related Committee meeting was held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation yesterday, discussing on the application for granting recognition certificate for more 23 crops and denied some applications and approved some seeds.

At the meeting, the committee confirmed that Recog-

nition certificate for 543 crops were already issued as of January 2016.

President of the National Seed-related Committee, Deputy Director U Hla Kyaw delivered the opening speech and Secretary of the committee, Dr Ye Tint Tun explained the works related to the application for the recognition of new crops

and committee Joint-secretary U Thet Zin Maung explained on the decisions made in the work coordination meeting and continued explanation on the matter relating to application for recognition of new strains of crops such as paddy, wheat, maize, sunflower, virginia, fast-growing eucalyptus and etc.—GNLM

Sacha Inchi oil produced from Kengtung to be exported to Japan

Sacha inchi oil produced from Kengtung will be exported to Japan, according to a report of Myawady Daily newspaper, yesterday.

Laboratory tested samples of sacha inchi oil in Japan showed that Myanmar's product is relatively free of toxicity and is beneficial to health.

Sachu inchi has the omega-3 content 17 times more than salmon and more protein content than almonds.

The Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP) and the Shan State Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association will work together to promote Myanmar's sacha inchi oil in Japan, China (Taipei) and South Korea markets.

Japan's Sandai Company plans to establish factory this

year. Currently, it is providing technical assistance and machinery to sacha inchi producers.

Sacha inchi prices are Ks20,000-25,000 per liter and Ks2.5-3 million per ton.

Sacha inchi is also known as sacha peanut, mountain peanut or Inca-peanut, is currently distributed only for domestic market.

Sacha inchi is sold as a dried sacha leaf, dried sacha nut, sachu inchi oil and fried sacha nut.

Sacha inchi is also used in cosmetics including shampoo, soap and facial foam.

There are about 5,000 acres of sacha inchi plantations across the country.

Sacha inchi is mainly cultivated in Sagaing, Magway and Bago regions and Shan State.—GNLM ■

Available @

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**
SUPERCENTERS Supermarket



The Myanmar Centre tower, complete with a plaza, business tower and the Lake Suites answers the demand of urbanization in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Yangon and Its Urban Fringe

By Moe Moe (Architect)

WHILE studying the first lecture of urbanization discipline, the professor told us to discuss about our cities' urbanization problems, their causes and ways of solving them to write down term papers. As usual traffic jams, insufficiencies of electrical power, floods, municipal management system, housing estate shortage, and similarities were presented by every student across Asia Continent. It was in 1990 when I did lack knowledge about the problems to explain it at length like them. Being the advent of launching open-door-policy, we did not experience such problems as much as other Asian cities did annoyingly, apart from evicting squatters to outskirts areas, unemployment and poverty at the national scale. After two and half decades, Yangon's urbanization problems reached others' level.

I had ever seen many urbanization projects of Bangkok circa 1990. National Economic and Social Development Board

(NESDB) is the major board which took responsibility for Bangkok Development Projects. It had series of master plans compiled by supporting agency groups across the

and tube trains started some 20 years ago. These can be said to have eased help transportation system of urbanization, to some extent. In spite the fact that Bangkok reached the developed stage

Yangon is currently shouldering the tenth of the national populace, taking the one-fourth responsibility of the national production. In 2030, Yangon's population is expected at 10 million, that is, two times the current amount.

world and their loads of reports. When 30-year-period went past by, Bangkok had many-times increasing road miles, webs of overlapping concrete fly-overs, nascent emergence of monorails

in development, it is still experiencing traffic jams, failing to solve loss of time, labour and energy.

As known by all, cities play vital roles in important sectors of national economy, social and

political affairs, being major driving forces of national economy. Evidently enough, we had cities of success and the ones of failure in the world. A city overcrowded with migrant workers moving to a promising area for economic or social situations cannot be said necessarily to be success. Only if it can conveniently operate its business in harmony with its current situations, can it be said to have gained success. Inconvenience of living, loss of time, money and effort are ineffectiveness which may lead to destruction.

Yangon is currently shouldering the one-tenth of the national populace, taking the one-fourth responsibility of the national production. In 2030, Yangon's population is expected at 10 million, that is, two times the current amount. We need to prepare ourselves for the increasing population and potential necessities for the future. Likewise we are required to deal with existing problems. Undeniably, it is necessary to make preparations for

Yangon's survival, in every way.

Thus, how will we manage urbanization plans? At least, we have already had fundamental targets of development which will survive for years agreed and laid down by the global countries. These are accepted as common goals. Under the internationally agreed development programmes based on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), sustainable development of urban areas and social communities of 17 goals are leading frameworks as the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) for 2030, Post-2015. The targets for the sector conclude upgrading and creating necessities of housing estates, transportation system and parks, implementation of relation between economy, social affairs and natural environment by carrying out projects at the national and regional levels, protection of cultural and natural heritages, reduction of natural disasters and environmental pollution.

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Yangon and Its Urban Fringe

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If plans are implemented in compliance with the above-said facts, it is sure for an all-round successful city to emerge. These are standards that can be designated as to whether cities will be successful in the long run, or not. Its basic principle is not to lose the capable efforts of the next generation for their necessities in their turn, like the present generation is fulfilling the current necessities. It is necessary to leave opportunities and resources for the next generation.

National-level Urbanization Policy and Strategy

In considering the urbanization project, regional future's strategies have to be taken into consideration, beyond levels of Regions and States, and thence the national level. For example, as for Yangon

(1) Non-stop developing capital (Due to its huge volume, will it exist as a major city which is struggling against the inconveniences daily with decreasing effects in economy, energy, time, money and security?) OR

(2) The capital at the manageable level, its size in which city's advantages and resources can be applied in most effective ways, and making medium-size towns with remaining prospects and in the midst of strategy route, develop.

As regards the first fact, there are many examples. Tokyo, Paris, London, Bangkok, Manila and etc., are the incomparable capitals in their respective countries. Tokyo and Paris are mega-cities greater than Yangon Region in urban areas. They are much greater than second cities next to such mega-countries. As all are gathering in the same place, advantages and disadvantages can be found there. Though



A picture of the Elephant fountain in People's Park recreational zone, overlooked by the Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

town plans of Tokyo, Paris and London in which there are urbanization policies, laws and strengthened infrastructures are very huge and broad, urban mobility is far better; so problems are rarely found. Being places which are hubs of economy, social affairs and administration, city dwellers are enjoying urban life full of urban amenities while living in those places.

But, major cities in developing countries are developing in natural ways prior to the acquisition of rights to prepare for the urbanization, that is, they will get only socio-economic life which cannot guarantee for the whole life. The poor, the low-paid people, the rich and well-paid people all cannot enjoy the benefits of urbanization's services to the full, being in the labyrinth of traffic jam, natural disasters,

social problems and crimes. As for the cities, they will have many difficulties. Will Yangon follow such a way?

In effectively managing the second fact, it needs urbanization policy which covers the whole nation. Regardless of regions and states, nationwide effectiveness must be targeted for the long term. As for the urban and regional planning department under the Ministry of Construction, it has been learnt that law for urban and regional development planning are being prepared along with those policies. In consultation with scholars and professionals, regional development and urbanization plans need to be launched systematically nationwide.

Yangon Urbanization Project

Starting from 2010, when ci-

vilian government elected under the democratic elections took office, influx of international aids under myriads of programmes entered the country. They included advices and monetary aids for urban development sector. The Mc Kinsey Global Institute (MGI) pointed out in its term named, "Myanmar's timely extraordinary advantages and its major challenges" in June 2013. In it, there is a chapter named, "Transforming into the urban area and management in advance," included. It points out investment for modernized urbanization's infrastructure, reforming urban management system and importance of urban heritage.

Starting from 2012, in Yangon, Nippon Koei started to draw up a plan for strategic urban development plan and multi-plan for transportation with the as-

sistance of JICA, in close contact with YCDC, presenting it in December 2013.

Yangon strategy plan mainly includes setting up other development centres and channels as its backbone to reduce the development in downtown area, creating green lands and waterways, hindering spreading development routes with green belt around the city; internal and external circular ways which can combine the various parts of the city. In the pattern of land utilization, expansion of Thilawa in Thanlyin was included in the built-up area, where Future Yangon will be built, but exclusion of southern part—way to Dala was a thing to be questioned.

(To be continued)

Translated by Khin Maung Oo
(Tada-U)



Traffic jams may become more frequent as more cars are imported at low prices. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



The night market near 39th street extends onto the main road, hindering traffic. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



People flocking onto a YBS bus during rush hour. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Procrastination is the cause of loss and destruction, to coin a phrase

Khin Maung Oo

SOMETIME in the past, a little more than two and half decades ago to be exact, city developers began to emerge in the country, especially in Yangon, with ambitious urbanization programs—urban renewal and urban sprawl. Under the situations at that time, city dwellers had to accept those buildings, knowing that they are of poor quality. To put it simply, the then so-called city-developers, that is, contractors were not certified technicians and reliable businessmen. Due to scarcity and poor quality of construction materials in those days, they used poor quality materials for building apartment buildings. Old buildings and mansions built in colonial

days are still standing tall. A building's value depends upon its longevity. Just after a few years, the above-said contract-buildings began to show their weakness. Not to mention the impact of strong earthquakes, they are tremor-prone. Now there are many people living in these dilapidated buildings in the Yangon municipal areas. Being well aware of these situations, the Yangon Region Cabinet has launched a plan to substitute these with standardized ones.

It is impossible for these buildings to emerge overnight, but these are always under the threats of natural disasters—quakes, storms and landslides. In case something unfortunate occurs, authorities concerned will become subject to people's blame and criticism,

though the selfish contractors and ultra-opportunist staff who engaged in bribery and corruption were the major culprits. The worst thing is that people are living in these buildings, entrusting their lives to fate, without having any alternative.

Almost everyday rumors are being fabricated and spread through social media, with a view to causing upheavals among the people. We need not argue who are master-minding these activities. So as for the public not to fall for these tricks, transparency is of greatest importance. For these evil-minded ones, all the things about health, education, labor affairs, social affairs, and even a thing of slightest importance can be used as their effective weapons, unless

authorities concerned use transparency apart from matters which can harm national security. As said by Ashin Canda Dhika on the 70th anniversary of Martyrs' Day, roots and sprouts of national enemies must be cut off. The Sayadaw said that anyone who causes evil effects to citizens is a national enemy, as is the person who hinders the progress of the country “or” the one who harms the peace and stability of the nation or its people. The roots and tendrils of such kinds of enemies must be cut off. In doing so, procrastination will lead us to being swallowed by enemies of the Nation. To sum it up, procrastination is the cause of loss and destruction, to coin a phrase, “Procrastination is the thief of time.” ■

Khin Maung Myint

WE used to say, “an elephant that is about to charge takes a step backwards”. Humans, like the elephants also have the natural tendency to lean the body back or to step backwards, before dashing forward for taking a leap, to overcome the inertia and build up momentum rapidly. This natural tendency can be utilized advantageously in the nation building process too. Perhaps, it may sound strange but metaphorically speaking, if we want to move our country forward we should go backwards first. That is to look back on our past to identify our weaknesses, mistakes and failures, which are valuable experiences. We can learn important lessons from those past experiences to guide our future steps in the right directions.

What I will be discussing here may not be acceptable to some. Just researching the past to learn about the dynasties, family trees, the dates of the ascendance to the throne of the various Kings, the dates of their demises, their love lives and boasting their past glories only, would be just meaningless if we cannot derive lessons from their failures, mistakes and shortcomings. However, some are just dwelling on the dates and facts without any analysis or recommendations that would be helpful in plotting the course for the present and planning for the future.

Historical researches can provide us with good lessons. There were many achievements and failures in the past history of our country that can provide us with valuable lessons and guidances. Thus instead of only boasting and basking in the glories of the Great Empires and the Kings who built them, their mistakes and failures should be highlighted to bring the new generations to realize the prizes we had paid for the ignorance or lack of wisdoms of our forefathers, to prevent the history from repeating itself.

The first and most important lesson

we learned from our past history is, whenever there was unity and peace in the country, our Kings were able to expand their Empires. The best examples were King Anawratha, King Bayint Naung and King Alaung Phayar. Though the days of Empire building were over, we should endeavour to get unity and peace, which would assist greatly in the nation building process.

However, a bitter lesson learned was the shifting of the Kingdom from Pegu (Bago) to Ava (Inwa), which was a strategic mistake. That move isolated the seat of the Burmese Kings from the rest of the world. If viewed without any bias or nationalistic extremism, but from the economics and strategic points of view, it was a grave mistake. The country was almost totally shut off from the rest of the world and thus was deprived of the up to date informations from abroad. Those situations imposed great disadvantages to the developments of the country. I cannot understand why they didn't consider Syriam (Thanhlayin) or Dagon (Yangon) that were not far from Bago and close to the sea, thus easily accessible by foreign merchant ships. In those days, Thanhlayin had already established itself as a dockyard city providing ship buildings and repairing services for the foreign ships. In the days of the wooden hulled ships, the abundance of good quality timbers available in our country that were suitable for ship constructions made it a popular destination for foreign ships to come for major repairs.

One patriotic scholar argued that shifting the seat of the Kingdom to Inwa was a very wise move. His reasoning was: if it had been at Thanhlayin or

Dagon, the capital along with the King would be captured by the British after the First Anglo-Burmese War in 1826 and the country would have been totally colonized since then. However, due to the wisdom of the King who shifted the Kingdom up country, the colonization of the whole country was deferred by many decades. It's undeniable that after the First Anglo Burmese War, apart from having to cede the provinces of Assam, Manipur, Arakan (Rakhine) and Tenasserim (Tanintharyi) to the British, the rest of the Kingdom and the King were spared. Then again, when the Lower Burma was annexed by the British after the Second Anglo Burmese War ended in 1853, the Upper Burma was again spared and the Kings and the Kingdom remained intact until the end of the Third Anglo Burmese War in 1885.

Though I don't want to question the wisdom of that scholar's view, I'm of the opinion that if the Kingdom should have remained in the lower part of the country, the outcomes or the fate our country would have been different. The Kings and their ministers would not have lost contact with the outside world and would be in touch with the latest developments from around the world and wouldn't lag much behind others in the region. Exposure to the outside world would have been a tremendous advantage for the economy and also would have made our Kings and ministers more knowledgeable and diplomatic in international relationship matters, which are very essential in the ruling of a country. Thus, the shifting of the seat of the Kingdom to the upper part of the country, if viewed from the economics and the international relations perspec-

tives was a mistake and created great setbacks. As the journey from Dagon to the capital up river took nearly two months by boats, which were the safest means of transport for foreigners to travel in those days, the capital and the seat of the government became isolated. It was very inconvenient for the foreign envoys and traders who came to seek the audience with the Kings and meetings with the palace officials for diplomatic reasons and to discuss trading matters. Those situations were very damaging setbacks that led the country to become underdeveloped and backward, compared to other neighbouring countries of those periods.

The second bitter lesson learned was the self-imposed isolation during the early nineteen sixties. That was a total blunder, which degraded the country that was supposed to be the most developed in South East Asia at the time to become one of the Least Developed Countries in the world. The most disastrous mistake of that era and the driving force behind the povertization of the majority of the population and the country was the nationalization of the industries and businesses. All commodities disappeared from the markets and the people suffered extremely as everything was rationed. That blunder led to the emergence of the black marketing, which still exists until today in some sectors. Worst of all is the deteriorations of the peoples' morals and characters. I'm mentioning these not to condemn anyone, but just as examples of what we could learn from our past history. There are many more lessons that we can derive from the past, but I think these examples would suffice for the purpose of this article. Thus, we should make thorough researches and analysis of our past achievements and mistakes. Based on those findings we should plot our course for the present and plan for the future. In my opinion, that's what historical researches should be all about. ■



A tea leaf field at Mong Mao in the Wa Self-administered Zone in north-east Myanmar. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Tea leaf production increases with 'two row' plantation process

TEA leaf growers are seeing improvements due to their implementation of a “two-row” cultivation method, which enhances yields than densely cultivated plants.

The pilot planting method is being carried out by U Sai Htun Aung in Nant San Township,

Shan State with cooperation of Yezin Agricultural University students. The two-row method can grow over 7,400 plants per acre.

Namhsan Township has 51,649 acres of tea under cultivation and generally yields about 490 kg per acre using traditional

planting methods. The two-row method has more than doubled yields.

U Sai Ko Ko State officer of Namhsan Township’s Department of Agriculture and agricultural staff surveyed the programme area on 26 July. — Sai (Hsipaw) ■

Tatmadaw issues opinion on use of the military rank and position nomenclature

ANNOUNCEMENT of Tatmadaw’s attitude towards the uses of the nomenclature of the military ranks and positions was issued today.

The announcement expressed that some of the daily newspapers described that Major Norsan from Lawayan People Militia died in the incident of the explosion in front of the Great tea shop and some of newspapers, journals and news agencies wrote that Lagai Norsan of Major rank died in the incident. The Major which is the official rank restricted only to use for the Tatmadaw (Army,

Navy and Air) only was used for other organisation in newspapers in describing about the incident.

In accordance with the designated rules and regulations, there are no specific official nomenclature of ranks for legally organized People Militia Group. For People Militia the terms Supervisory Team, Team Leader and Member are usually employed. State Law and Order Restoration Council has enacted the Restriction Of The Use Of The Name of Military Rank and Position Law (26/89). That law was amended by Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw Law No. (42) on 7 October 2014.

Section 2 (A, B) of Chapter 1 of the Law described that the name of military rank and position is only meant for the ranks and positions of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air). Not to use the name of ranks and positions designated only for the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) for other irrelevant organisations and personnel both in written or verbally and to use the nomenclature correctly in line with the existing law are the attitude of the Tatmadaw, it was announced. —Myanmar News Agency ■

One more H1N1 death reported

FROM PAGE-1

A pregnant 29-year-old woman and a 25-year-old man died at Yangon General Hospital on Monday, and lab tests later confirmed that they were both infected with H1N1, said Thinzar Aung, deputy director of the infectious diseases department at the Ministry of Health and Sports.

“Initially these people sought treatment at Yangon General Hospital on 24 July with suspected pneumonia,” she said.

The ministry on Monday confirmed the virus had infected three other people in Yangon and 10 people in Matupi, Chin State.

In the statement released yesterday, the ministry also confirmed one H1N1 infection at the 550-bed Children's Hospital (Yankin).

So far, 20 patients have been infected with H1N1 and of them three died, said the statement.

The ministry called for the public not to panic, describing the cases of H1N1 as a regular seasonal phenomenon.

No outbreak of H1N1 has been reported in Myanmar since the global swine flu pandemic in 2009, when the virus spread to most countries in the world and infected dozens of people in Myanmar. Myanmar’s livestock ministry has also reported an outbreak of the H5N1 bird flu in the south of the country, the Paris-based World Organisation for Animal Health said on Tuesday.

More than 1,800 chickens were culled after the virus was

detected last month at a farm in Dawei, 370 km southeast of Yangon.

Health experts have made the following precautionary suggestions to decrease the chances of H1N1 virus infection:

1. Avoid crowded places. Transmission of the swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is spread person-to-person by airborne droplets expelled from the respiratory tract during coughing or sneezing.

2. Wear a surgical mask when going out, especially while taking public transport. Try not to touch objects around that may have been touched by a lot of other people.

3. When you sneeze, cover your mouth and nose.

4. Wash your hands frequently. Keeping your hands clean is important as there can be many infected things around you.

5. Cold is an early symptom of swine flu. If you catch a cold, get yourself checked as soon as possible.

7. Don’t touch your eyes or nose directly after touching an unknown, possibly dirty objects, especially those in public spaces.

8. Drink lots of water every day.

9. Eat using only clean utensils and plates. Do not use them until they are properly sterilised and clean.

10. Maintain a safe distance, about 3-6 feet, from people who suffer from any respiratory illness.— GNLM ■

Illegal goods confiscated at Yaypu and Mayanchaung

AN inspection team at Yaypu and Mayanchaung checkpoints, which were reopened on 1 March, found Ks51.7 million worth of illegal goods on Tuesday, police sources said.

The combined inspection team operating at the Yaypu and Mayanchaung checkpoints compiled a total of six cases with an estimated worth of Ks15.7 million. Two cases at Yaypu inspection gate were worth Ks5.2 million and four cases at Mayanchaung were worth Ks10.5 million at inspection gates on 25 July.

Also on Tuesday, the team

stopped and seized four vehicles with an estimated worth of Ks10.5 million, including three Toyota Wish minivans and one Daihatsu Hijet pickup trucks heading to Yangon from Myawady at the Mayanchaung inspection gate because they had no official documents.

There were 582 vehicles exporting goods and 624 vehicles importing goods along the Mandalay-Muse Pyidaungsu Road, as well as 127 vehicles exporting goods and 45 vehicles exporting goods along Yangon- Myawady Road on Tuesday. — GNLM ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov. PHOTO: TASS

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia warns it is close to retaliating after new US sanctions bill – Ifax

MOSCOW – Russia said it had repeatedly warned the United States it would retaliate against what it saw as hostile moves and was growing tired of showing restraint, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said, the Interfax news agency reported.

Ryabkov's comments came after the US House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday to slap new sanctions on Russia and force President Donald Trump to obtain lawmakers' permission before easing any sanctions on Moscow. —Reuters ■

Top EU court keeps Hamas on EU terror list, refers case back

LUXEMBOURG – The European Union's top court ruled on Wednesday that Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas should remain on the EU terrorism blacklist, referring the case back to a lower court.

Judges at the European Court of Justice (ECJ) overruled the General Court's view of 2014 that the 28-nation bloc had insufficient evidence to maintain asset freezes and travel bans on Hamas.

That court found that the listing was based on media and Internet reports rather than solid legal arguments. However, the ECJ said on Wednesday that a decision by a competent authority was only required for an initial listing, with no such condition for subsequent retention—Reuters ■

Earthquake of magnitude 6.1 strikes off Japan's Okinawa – USGS

SINGAPORE – An earthquake of magnitude 6.1 struck off Japan's island of Okinawa on Wednesday, the United States Geological Survey said.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries in the quake, which hit at a depth of 33 km (21 miles), about 267 km (166 miles) east of Okinawa.—Reuters ■

Diplomat says US sanctions may destroy prospects for better relations with Russia

MOSCOW — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov considers the US actions a move towards destruction of prospects for better relations with Russia, he told TASS, commenting on the vote in the US House of Representatives on the bill that tightens unilateral sanctions against Russia, Iran and North Korea.

“What is happening is beyond common sense,” Ryabkov said. “The authors and sponsors of this bill are making a very serious step towards destruction of prospects for normalizing relations with Russia and do not conceal that that's their target.”

“The reverse side of this coin is a strive to restrict in all areas the possibilities for the US executive authorities to bolster relations with Russia and other countries that are ‘targets’ of this bill,” Ryabkov added.

The Russian deputy foreign minister called the result of the vote predicted and expressed opinion that the sanctions bill would soon be approved by the US Senate. “Yesterday's vote in

the House of Representatives [of the US Congress] on the draft law notoriously dubbed ‘Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act’ has brought the result we've been expecting: the bill has been adopted by majority of votes and is now to be studied by the upper chamber of the Congress — the Senate,” he noted. “I believe that the bill will pass the necessary approval procedure quickly enough and will soon be presented to the US president.”

The US House of Representatives approved a bill that tightens unilateral US sanctions against Russia, Iran and North Korea on Tuesday. This document is to be studied by the Senate, and the upper house of the Congress is expected to adopt this bill that is widely supported both by the Democratic and the ruling Republican Parties. Then the document, dubbed “Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act” will be presented to US President Donald Trump. The White House has indicated re-

cently that Trump was ready to sign the bill.

Moscow, however, “does not give in to emotions” and continues searching for ways for constructive dialogue with the US:

“We do not give in to emotions,” the Russian diplomat noted.

“We will be working to find ways of moving forward and persistently and continuously searching for a compromise in issues that are important to Russia and, I think, to the US as well: fight against terrorism and spread of mass destruction weapons. There are a lot of issues, and we are ready to cooperate.”

Moscow sees Washington as a source of danger and acts accordingly, Ryabkov has stressed.

“Washington is a source of danger,” Ryabkov said. “This should be understood and actions should be taken in a balanced, reasonable, cautious and calm way, without any emotions. We will be ready for such actions.”

Ryabkov noted that Moscow preserved intention for a dialogue with Washington on many issues that are important for both countries. However, there are less possibilities for cooperation due to the US policy. “We will be searching for ways for a constructive dialogue and cooperation in a persistent and continuous way,” he affirmed. “It is clear that such manifestations of negative attitude towards Russia and attempts to apply some enforcement actions against us based on absolutely farfetched and made-up pretexts, as well as continuation of this policy, narrow down the possibilities for productive work,” Ryabkov specified.

“This is a conscious choice of Russia's enemies in the US,” the diplomat affirmed. “There are many of them, they have passed all bounds and know no restraint in their zeal, they are out of control.”

“So, we will continue seeing today's America in this way,” the Russian deputy foreign minister added.—Tass ■

Taliban kill 30 Afghan soldiers as fighting intensifies — army spokesman

KANDAHAR, (Afghanistan) — Taliban fighters killed 30 soldiers in an attack on an army base in the southern province of Kandahar, an army spokesman said on Wednesday, as heavy fighting raged across the country.

Sediq Esa, spokesman for the 205th Corps in Kandahar, said the Taliban attacked an outpost in Khakriz district, to the north of Kandahar city, overnight, seizing the outpost and capturing weapons and vehicles.

“As a result of the fighting, 30 army personnel have been killed and others wounded,” he said.

However the 205th Corps commander, General Imam Nazar, disputed the death toll and said reinforcements had arrived to beat back the insurgents. The attack came after days of fierce fighting across Afghanistan and underlined the steadily deteriorating security in much of the country, which has also seen a string of high profile attacks in cities including the capital Kabul.

While the fighting has intensified, the United States, which is expected to send around another 4,000 troops to Afghanistan to bolster its existing training mission, is still to



Afghan municipality workers clean up a road at the site of a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan on 24 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

announce its new strategy for the region.

The Taliban, fighting to restore Islamic rule to Afghanistan 16 years after being driven from power by a US-led campaign, controls or contests at least 40 per cent of the country, inflicting what US advisers say are unsustainable casualties on Afghan security forces.

In the first 10 months of last year alone, some 6,785 soldiers and police were killed.

On Wednesday, the Taliban's main spokesman said the insurgents were close to taking Waygal district in the eastern province of Nuristan, a day after they took Jani Kheil district in Paktika province, further to the south.

Over the past week, the insurgents have also taken districts in Ghor province in the west and Faryab in the north, although the defence ministry said government forces had retaken

Kohistan district in Faryab.

Kunduz, the northern city which the Taliban captured briefly in 2015 and managed to enter in 2016, has also been under heavy pressure.

US advisers say that Afghan security forces, fighting largely alone since a NATO-led coalition ended its main combat mission in 2014, have made progress but still rely too much on vulnerable checkpoints exposed to Taliban attack. —Reuters ■

Iran will respond to any new US sanctions — deputy foreign minister

BEIRUT — Iran will respond if the US government passes new sanctions, deputy foreign minister Abbas Araqchi said Wednesday, according to state media.

New sanctions being discussed in the US Congress are “a completely clear hostile act and against the Islamic Republic of Iran and ... will be met with a definitive response,” Araqchi, who is also a top nuclear negotiator, was quoted as saying by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

He did not specify what actions Iran would take.

The US House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday to slap new sanctions on Iran, Russia and North Korea.

The Republican-controlled Senate passed an earlier version of the bill with near-unanimous support.

It was unclear how quickly the bill would make its way to the White House for US President Donald Trump to sign into law or veto.

Separately, Trump issued a veiled threat against Iran on Tuesday, warning Tehran to adhere to the terms of a nuclear deal with world powers or else face “big, big problems.”

A week after certifying Iran as complying with the 2015 agreement negotiated by Democratic President Barack Obama, Trump made clear that he remains extremely wary of Tehran.

New sanctions could reduce the benefits that Iran receives from the nuclear agreement, Araqchi said, according to IRNA.

“America has committed to follow the nuclear deal with goodwill and in a productive environment and to hold back from any steps that would have an effect on the successful execution of the deal,” he said. —Reuters ■

Suspected Boko Haram militants kidnap oil survey team in northeast Nigeria —NNPC

BAUCHI (Nigeria) — Suspected Boko Haram insurgents have kidnapped 10 members of a university research team prospecting for oil in northeast Nigeria, the state oil company, which contracted the work, said on Wednesday.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) has been surveying for more than a year for what it says could be vast oil reserves in the Lake Chad Basin, a region wracked for eight years by an Islamist insurgency, which has killed at least 20,000 people and forced some 2.7 million to flee their homes.

Nigeria relies on oil for two-thirds of its revenue. The NNPC is trying to reduce its reliance on

crude from the southern Niger Delta where militant attacks cut production by more than a third in 2016, deepening the recession in Africa's biggest economy.

NNPC spokesman Ndu Ughamadu said contractors working as consultants were kidnapped near Jibi village in Borno state on Tuesday afternoon. The village is in Magumeri local government area, about 50 km (30 miles) from the state capital, Maiduguri.

“About 10 members of the University of Maiduguri geology and surveying department were abducted by suspected Boko Haram members,” Ughamadu said. The group included academic staff, drivers and other contractors, he said.

The university said some of its lecturers, who were accompanied by security staff, had not returned on Tuesday from a prospecting trip. Its spokesman said the university was waiting for a report from security agencies. Boko Haram, which attained international notoriety after kidnapping 270 girls from their school in the town of Chibok in 2014, is trying to create an Islamic state in the Lake Chad Basin area.

The conflict has not deterred NNPC's search for oil in the region.

“We are working with the security agencies for an early return to the Chad Basin,” aiming for drilling to start in the fourth quarter of the year, NNPC chief

Maikanti Baru said at the beginning of July.

In May, the NNPC said it would resume oil exploration in the northeast “on the heels of (the) improved security situation”.

Nigeria's government and military have repeatedly said Boko Haram is on the verge of defeat. In December, President Muhammadu Buhari said the group's last stronghold, an enclave in the Sambisa forest, had fallen. But insurgents have launched attacks with renewed zeal in the last few months. At least 62 people have been killed in Maiduguri and its environs since early June. Seventeen people were killed in the city in one week this month. —Reuters ■

Russia develops laser-guided automatic landing system for drones

MOSCOW — Russia's Kronshtadt Group has developed a laser system for determining the coordinates of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) designed to give the exact data on a drone's position at its approach phase. The technology was presented at the MAKS-2017 international airshow.

"The system is designed to automatically scan the airspace sector in the direction of the drone's expected approach, automatically capture the UAV and carry out its angle tracking as it moves along its

landing glide path and runs on the runway," the accompanying materials say.

According to the system's developers, the slant range of the drone's capture and tracking is from 50 to 8,000 metres.

The laser-based coordinate determining system measures a drone's dynamic position, providing for the possibility of its safe takeoff and landing in the absence of satellite navigation data.

The system is characterized by the increased stealth and noise resistance capabilities

through the use of passive detection methods.

Editor-in-chief of *Bespilotnaya Aviatsia* (Unmanned Aviation) magazine Denis Fedutinov noted that the development and introduction of these systems helped achieve a low accident rate at the stage of a drone's landing.

"A considerable share of accidents at the stage of drones' landing in the manual mode occurs due to the 'human factor' when an operator wrongly estimates the drone's position in the airspace. In order to exclude such

instances, this phase is maximally automatized in modern UAVs of quite a heavy class," Fedutinov told TASS.

The expert cited as an example the Israeli drones Searcher MkII assembled in Russia under the name of Forpost and outfitted with the OPATS system developed by the Swiss company RUAG.

"Political circumstances entailing obvious risks have formulated the task to develop a similar domestic system, which has been done in this case by Kronshtadt Group," the expert said.—Tass ■

German industry says vulnerable to Russia sanctions fall-out

BERLIN — Plans under consideration in the US Congress to impose tougher sanctions against Russia would hurt German companies, endanger Germany's energy security and appear to be designed to favour American firms, a German industry association said on Wednesday.

The US House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday for the plans and to force President Donald Trump to obtain lawmakers' permission before easing any sanctions on Moscow.

They must still be approved by the Senate and signed into law by Trump.

The warning issued by the German Chamber

of Industry and Commerce mirrors wider European concerns over potential fall-out from the US moves to punish alleged Russian interference in last year's presidential election.

The US proposals could hurt German efforts to make its energy supply more reliable by preventing German companies from working with Russia on pipeline projects, said Volker Treier, the head of the Chamber's international committee.

"One is left with the sense that the United States is looking to its own economic interests," in particular with respect to US oil and gas companies, he said.—Reuters ■



According to the system's developers, the slant range of the drone's capture and tracking is from 50 to 8,000 metres. **PHOTO: TASS**

Algeria busts Islamic State cell led by veteran militant — security source

ALGIERS — Algerian police have broken up an Islamic State militant cell led by a former al Qaeda commander convicted in France more than a decade ago for planning an attempted bombing in Strasbourg, a security source said on Wednesday.

Mohamed Yacine Aknouche, 43, was once a Europe-based affiliate of Algeria's Islamic Armed Group (GIA), and was sentenced in absentia by a French court in 2004 to

eight years prison, said the source, who asked not to be named.

The source told Reuters that Algerian forces captured Aknouche this week near Tipaza, a coastal city 50 km west of the capital Algiers where officials charge he had been planning to carry out attacks on security forces. It was not clear when he had returned to Algeria.

Militant attacks and bombings are rarer in Algeria since the North

African country ended its decades-long 1990s war with armed Islamists in which 200,000 people died.

But remnants of al Qaeda brigades remain active and Islamic State has been trying to recruit more people.

The Algerian newspaper *Ennahar* quoted unnamed security sources as saying the cell was based in the village of Ain Taggourait and had plotted attacks in Algiers. Aknouche's cell, it said,

had trained in a nearby forest using homemade weapons.

After the 1990s war, Algeria fought several armed groups in a bloody conflict that ended when many militants accepted a truce and reconciliation deal. There were around 35,000 active militants at the height of the conflict, but security sources say there are now between 800 to 1,000, mostly in remote mountain and border areas.—Reuters ■

Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide Opera, registered by BASF Myanmar Ltd is transferring from Golden Lion High Tech Co., Ltd to JJ-Pun Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within 7 days.

BASF Myanmar Ltd.
Ph:01 544041.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
Phone No: 2301185

Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution of pesticide registered by Dow Agro-Sciences Ltd, is transferring from ArystaLifeScience to JJ-Pun Trading Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within 7 days.

Garlon 250 EC, Dithane NT M-45 80 WP, Prodigy 240SC, Clincher, Koltar 24 EC, Gallant Super, Lorsban 40 EC, Lorsban 40 EC, Nurelle D 505, DMA-6.

JJ-Pun Trading Co., Ltd.
Ph:01- 654921

India plans overhaul of colonial-era land titles

MUMBAI — India is considering updating its colonial-era land records with a system that cuts fraud and protects the poor as mounting wrangles over land crimp economic growth, an official said.

But the overhaul could take decades to come good, he added, despite a growing thirst for land deals in fast-growing India.

“Every transaction is imperfect, and the onus of establishing ownership is on the buyer,” said S Chockalingam, director of land records in western Maharashtra state.

Chockalingam also has influence on a national level, as he advises the government policy thinktank Niti Aayog on land matters.

In an interview with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, Chockalingam said a system to guarantee land titles should protect buyers from fraud and avoid the sort of lengthy court battles that frequently hold up development plans.

Land records in most Indian states date back to the colonial era. Most



A farmer shows a basket of forest produce in Sonakhan village, in the eastern state of Chhattisgarh, India, on 18 April, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

land holdings have uncertain ownership, so fraud is rampant and disputes over titles often end up in court.

Protracted legal battles can delay property deals, discourage investors and raise the cost of land. It also hurts the poor, women and minority communities who may lack the resources or the skills needed to engage in such fights.

“Right now, it’s only a

presumptive title and you cannot be 100 per cent sure of disputes and claims related to it. The intention is to establish ownership and provide a conclusive title,” he said.

Matters related to land and property make up about two-thirds of all civil cases in the country, according to a study released last year.

States will study land records, survey maps,

transactions and court records to determine the ownership chain and litigation history of every property that is registered with the land titling centre, Chockalingam said.

This can be done for new and existing properties, he said Chockalingam.

Land records in India are gradually being digitised, and several states are taking steps to speed up land transactions and

issue title deeds.

Rajasthan state last year said it would set up an independent authority to verify and guarantee land titles in its cities, as demand for real estate rises on the back of rapid urbanisation.

A nationwide biometric database, which has details of most of India’s 1.3 billion people, will also help reduce fraud and opacity in land deals, which are now required to be linked to the unique identity number of the buyer and the seller.

Distortion to land markets is one of the main barriers to faster growth, accounting for 1.3 per cent of lost gross domestic product growth in India every year, according to the McKinsey Global Institute, the research arm of the global consulting firm.

“There are many great challenges to guaranteeing land titles, and worldwide, it has taken countries many years to do it,” said Chockalingam.

“But we want to take the first step; maybe in 20-30 years, we can guarantee all titles.”—Reuters ■

Wildfires prompt 10,000 evacuations on French Riviera

MARSEILLE — Firefighters evacuated thousands of campers and local residents after a wildfire broke out on France’s tourist-thronged Riviera coast overnight.

The blaze was the latest of several wind-whipped fires that are ravaging forest and scrubland on the hills and slopes that spill into the Mediterranean sea between the Marseilles and the city of Nice in the southeastern corner of France.

Not far west of the yacht-filled marinas of Saint-Tropez resort, 10,000 people were evacuated — 3,000 of them from campsites — as a fast-encroaching fire ripped through the hills of La Lodes les Manures, the Lavabo and Bromes.

“A fast-spreading fire broke out at 22:50 (2050 GMT), burning up about 800 hectares of land,” the local government prefect’s office said in a statement.—Reuters ■

LA man accused of smuggling king cobras in potato chip cans

LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles man was arrested on Tuesday after federal prosecutors said he arranged to smuggle into the United States three live, highly venomous king cobra snakes hidden in potato chip canisters.

Rodrigo Franco, 34, was charged with illegally importing merchandise into the country in connection with a parcel from Hong Kong that was inter-

cepted by US Customs and Border Protection agents on 2 March containing the 2-foot (0.61 metre)-long snakes concealed inside the canisters.

Three albino Chinese soft-shelled turtles were also found in the package, prosecutors said, adding that Franco on that same day mailed a box to Hong Kong with six protected turtles inside.

According to a crimi-

nal complaint filed in the case, Franco admitted during an interview with authorities that he had previously received a total of 20 king cobras in two prior shipments but that all of those snakes had died in transit.

He faces a maximum of 20 years in prison if convicted, although federal sentencing guidelines typically call for less time behind bars.—Reuters ■

France says US sanctions on Iran, Russia look illegal

PARIS — France’s foreign ministry on Wednesday said new US sanctions against Iran, Russia and North Korea appeared at odds with international law due to their extra-territorial reach.

The US House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday for these sanctions, which could affect European firms.

The foreign ministry said in a statement that French and Euro-

pean laws would need to be adjusted in response and added that discussions would be necessary at European Union level because of the potential impact on European citizens and firms.—Reuters ■

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Simpsons' creator heads to Netflix with adult comedy

LOS ANGELES — “The Simpsons” creator Matt Groening is swapping Springfield for a medieval kingdom in a new animated adult comedy series called “Disenchantment” for Netflix, the streaming platform said on Tuesday.

“Disenchantment” will follow a princess named Bean, voiced by “Broad City” actress Abbi Jacobson, her friend Elfo (Nat Faxon) and her demon Luci (Eric Andre) in the crumbling kingdom of Dreamland, Netflix said.

The series, which will debut ten episodes starting in 2018, will include creatures such as ogres, harpies, trolls and “lots of human fools.”

“Disenchantment will be about life and death, love and sex, and how to keep laughing in a world full of suffering and idiots, despite what the elders and wizards and other jerks tell you,” Groening said in a statement.

It is a world away from Groening’s family comedy following the many adventures of “The Simpsons” — donut-loving patri-

arch Homer, housewife Marge, rebellious Bart, prodigy Lisa and baby Maggie.

“The Simpsons” is the longest-running animated series on US television, having just concluded its 28th season this year during which it celebrated its 600th episode. The series will continue into a 30th season.

Groening is also the creator of the animated sci-fi comedy “Futurama,” which ran from 1999 to 2003 on Fox and was rebooted in 2010 until 2013 for Comedy Central.—Reuters ■



Matt Groening (C), creator of The Simpsons, poses with characters from the show (L-R) Homer, Bart, Lisa and Marge at the 20th anniversary party for the television series at Barker hangar in Santa Monica, California on 18 October, 2009. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Kendrick Lamar scathing ‘Humble’ video leads MTV VMA nominations

LOS ANGELES — Rapper Kendrick Lamar earned a leading eight MTV Video Music Award (VMA) nominations on Tuesday for his searing critique on the excesses of fame and social media in his “Humble” music video, while Katy Perry and The Weeknd scored five nods each.

Lamar’s “Humble” video, in which the rapper is seen lying on piles of cash, recreating Leonardo da Vinci’s famous painting “The Last Supper” and with his hair on fire, will contend for video of the year, the top prize at the fan-voted, youth-orientated awards show.

Also nominated in the category is The Weeknd’s “Reminder,” Bruno Mars’ “24K Magic,” Alessia Cara’s “Scars To Your Beautiful” and DJ Khaled’s “Wild Thoughts” featuring Rihanna and Bryson Tiller.

Perry’s big budget video for “Chained to the Rhythm,” which saw her in a retro-futuristic theme park called Oblivia, landed four nods including best pop and visual effects and she also landed a nomination for best collaboration as a featured artist on Calvin Harris’ summer track “Feels.”

However, the pop singer was snubbed in the video and artist of the year categories, while The Weeknd made the shortlist for both.

The MTV Video Music Awards, which will air live from Inglewood, California on 27 August, has a reputation for irreverence, shock tactics and unpredictable moments.



Kendrick Lamar performs “Alright” during the 2015 BET Awards in Los Angeles, California, US on 28 June, 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Perry is nominated in the best collaboration category alongside her pop rival Taylor Swift, nominated for her duet with former One Direction member Zayn Malik in the video for “I Don’t Wanna Live Forever.”

Swift was part of one of MTV’s most infamous VMA moments when in 2009, she was interrupted on stage during her acceptance speech by rapper Kanye West, who snatched the microphone out of her hand and declared that Beyonce should have won the category.

MTV moved away from gender-specific categories at its Movie Awards earlier this year and continued to do so

for the Video Music Awards, swapping the former best female video and best male video categories for one category - artist of the year.

Lamar, The Weeknd and Bruno Mars will contend with Ariana Grande, Lorde and Ed Sheeran for the coveted award.

Notably absent this year are music’s power couple Beyonce and Jay-Z, who did not release any new music in the eligibility period of 25 June, 2016 to 23 June, 2017.

Jay-Z’s latest album “4:44,” which gained praise for sharp social commentary including in the music video for “The Story of OJ,” missed the deadline with its 30 June release.—Reuters ■

Laos to submit movies for Oscars for 1st time

VIENTIANE — Laos will submit two movies “At the Horizon” and “Dearest Sister” for the 90th Oscars Award or Academy Award next year, Lao News Agency (KPL) reported on Wednesday.

This is the first time for Laos to submit films for Oscar Award competition.

The selection of the Lao films for the international competition has been made by the Film Producer Committee of

Laos and Lao experts in the movie industry.

Dearest Sister is a Lao horror film that has been screened in more than 24 countries worldwide. At the Horizon, which has already won four awards including Best Movie, Best Director, Best Male Actor and Best Original Soundtrack at the Lao Entertainment Awards, was made by the Lao New Wave Cinema Productions Co, LTD.—Xinhua ■

Wagner-loving Merkel has night at opera with husband

BAYREUTH, Germany — German Chancellor Angela Merkel walked the red carpet before the country’s press on Tuesday as she attended the annual Bayreuth Wagner opera festival with her husband.

The pair attended the opening day of the month-long festival,

which was founded by Wagner in 1876. The event has been a fixture on the couple’s social calendar in recent years. Both Merkel and her husband, Joachim Sauer, who generally stays out of the spotlight, are known to be big fans of the 19th century German composer’s work.—Reuters ■



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (R), her husband Joachim Sauer (L) and Bayreuth’s Lord Mayor Brigitte Merk-Erbe arrive at the red carpet for the opening of the Bayreuth Wagner opera festival outside the Gruener Huegel (Green Hill) opera house in Bayreuth, Germany on 25 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Myanmar filmmakers invited to participate in Tokyo Docs documentary film competition

MYANMAR filmmakers have been invited to participate in the Tokyo Docs documentary film competition along with documentarians across the world, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The Tokyo Docs documentary film contest will be held in Tokyo in Japan between 5 to 8 November. Those interested in participating are invited to register online registration at Toykyo Docs' website by 31 July. The winner will receive a cash price of ¥5 million.

"Tokyo Docs documentary video contest is an international contest. Therefore, we will try our best. The documentary film contest is quite beneficial to the competitors because they will receive not only the cash award but also have a chance to penetrate the international film market", said Ko Nay Aung, a competitor of the Tokyo Docs documentary film contest.

Competition categories include social issues, history, scientific and the travelogues.—GNLM ■

Myanmar to compete in Miss Global World 2017

THE Miss Global Myanmar Organisation announced yesterday that Myanmar will participate in the 5th Miss Global 2017 beauty pageant.

In their press conference in Yangon's Orchid Hotel yesterday, the Miss Global Myanmar Organisation said they want to showcase the beauty and culture of Myanmar. The pageant will have competitors from over 50 countries.

"This is my first year directing for the project," said Phone Myat Thu, the National Director of the Miss Global Myanmar Organisation.

"Myanmar has been participating in the pageant since 2015."

Women interested in competing in the pageant can purchase application forms from Pwint Oo showrooms in Yangon from 1 August to 10 September. Interviews will be held on 12 September and twenty finalists will be chosen on 23 September.

The finalists will then proceed to training camps from 24 September to 13 October. The final Miss Global Myanmar 2017 will be in Yangon's National Theatre on 14 October. — May Hnin Si ■



Su Pwint Oo, winner of the Miss Global Myanmar 2016. PHOTO: MICHIKO HAN

Thais turn to 1,066 turtles to celebrate new king's birthday



Well-wishers release sea turtles at the Sea Turtle Conservation Center as part of the celebrations for the upcoming 65th birthday of Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn, in Sattahip district, Chonburi province, Thailand on 26 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

CHONBURI (Thailand) — Hundreds of people gathered at a beach in Thailand on Wednesday to release 1,066 turtles into the sea as part of celebrations to mark the birthday of new King Maha Vajiralongkorn this week.

King Vajiralongkorn's 28 July birthday was announced by the military government as a public holiday this year.

Celebrations were expected to include merit-making ceremonies at Buddhist temples across Thailand and a mass alms-giving event for

more than 600 Buddhist monks at a public square in the capital, Bangkok, on Friday.

At the Sea Turtle Conservation Centre in Chonburi, around 75 km (47 miles) southeast of Bangkok, men and women from the Royal Thai Navy, students and Thai celebrities released the 1,066 turtles into the sea.

The number 1,066 was chosen to symbolize the number 10 for King Rama X, as King Vajiralongkorn is known, and the number 66, one more than his age, to wish the

king longevity.

"The main event today is the release of the turtles, which also symbolizes longevity," said Athichanan Srisevok, a Thai actress and nature advocate.

"I want to wish long live His Majesty and for him to be healthy."

Some attendees waved white flags bearing the words "Long Live the King".

Thai Buddhists believe that releasing captive animals is one way of gaining good karma. —Reuters ■



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(27-7-2017 07:00am ~ 28-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Ta Bin Dine Mya Nan) (Vitis)
07:56	Am	Dances of Myanmar (Pre Kayaw Traditional Dance)
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	Hanthawaddy U Win Tin: A Fearless Man (Ep-2)
08:45	Am	Myanmar Betels
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Product of Myanmar — Stone of The Heavens
09:52	Am	Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Myanmar's Traditions and Culture
10:50	Am	Novicehood in Myanmar
	Am	Well-Trained Elephants

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday 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
07:26	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-2)
07:46	Pm	Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Toys
08:41	Pm	A Life In The Ring
08:56	Pm	Now in Yangon "Samsung New Office Opening"

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

Maze the force be with you: Star Wars design cut into UK maze

YORK (England) — A farmer in northern England has marked the 40th anniversary of the Star Wars films by creating a maze in the shape of some of the franchise's most notable characters.

When viewed from above, Tom Percy's maze in York features depictions of the Death Star as well as characters Darth Vader, C-3PO, Han Solo and Chewbacca.

He said he could not resist creating a Star Wars design given the anniversary and Harrison Ford's 75th birthday on 13 July, but expressed concerns for the galaxy's safety.

"We've also got the world's biggest ever Death Star built in the maze, so we are hoping it's not going to destroy anything in the next couple of months", he told Reuters.—Reuters ■

Opening ceremony of We Are One Cup held

THE opening ceremony of the We Are One Cup football competition mainly sponsored by Myanmar Brewery was held yesterday.

U Zaw Zaw, chairman of the Myanmar Football Federation, participated in the ceremony.

The competition was aimed at increasing the public's interest in Myanmar football as the 29th SEA Games approach. Over 80 football clubs will be partici-

pating in the We Are One Cup in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Patheingyi. During the ceremony, U Zaw Zaw delivered welcoming speeches to all the football teams and cut the ribbon to officially begin the competition.

Football clubs from each of the capital cities will play in a round robin system, with the final match played in Mandalay city on 14 October. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■



U Zaw Zaw, chairman of Myanmar football federation cuts the ribbon during the ceremony. **PHOTO: MFF**



Myanmar U-23 players seen in front of their audiences during a match. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar U-23, Japanese squad in test match

IN preparation for the 29th SEA Games, the Myanmar U-23 national football team will play against Ryutsu Keizai University FC, a well-regarded Japanese team, next week in Yangon.

Myanmar will play Ryutsu

Keizai on 30 July and 2 August at 6pm at the Thuwunna Stadium, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) web page.

“As a test match, we want to see our national football team's ability and we want Myanmar

to win against such a good Japanese team”, said a Myanmar's football fan. Tickets for the matches are priced at Ks1,000 and Ks2,000 for ordinary seats and Ks3,000 for grandstand seats.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

United better prepared for league title charge: Mourinho

LONDON — Manchester United are better equipped to fight for the Premier League title in the upcoming season but need to improve further to be a contender for the Champions League, manager Jose Mourinho has said.

In Mourinho's first season at Old Trafford, United won the League Cup and the Europa League but finished sixth in the English top flight, 24 points behind champions Chelsea.

“This season is going to be more difficult but I think we have better conditions to fight for the Premier League,” Mourinho told the BBC.

“I think this season we are a little bit better equipped. We are against fantastic teams, against amazing investments.

“But I believe in our group, in our spirit, in our empathy, in our togetherness. I trust my boys and we are going to try.”

Having lifted the Europa League in May, United secured direct entry to the Champions League group stage but the Portuguese manager believes they are still behind the continent's

top clubs.

“We went to the Europa League as one of the top teams, we go to the Champions League and we are not one of the top teams,” Mourinho added.

“We have to be better, much better, for that objective. The base of everything is to find what I call a happy dressing room.”

Mourinho has added striker Romelu Lukaku and centre back Victor Lindelof in the current transfer window but is still hoping to sign two more players ahead of the new season.

“One midfield player would give me more options. The other is an attacking player through the wings to give me more attacking options,” he said. The British media have linked United with Chelsea's Nemanja Matic and Tottenham Hotspur's Eric Dier as midfield options. Inter Milan winger Ivan Perisic is Mourinho's preferred choice to improve the attacking line, the reports have said. United kick off their league campaign at home against West Ham United on 13 August.

—Reuters ■



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho **PHOTO: REUTERS**