HEALTH MINISTRY NEVER WITHHOLDS ANY H1N1 INFORMATION P-3 (NATIONAL)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 105, 8th Waxing of Wagaung 1379 ME www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com Monday, 31 July 2017

A new ecotourism site is opened on the Bago Yoma Mountain Range. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Bago Yoma gets ecotourism

A MYANMAR company started a new ecotourism site in the Bago Yoma Mountain Range in Bago Region in southern Myanmar, yesterday, for visitors to view wildlife, visit ethnic communities and purchase traditional handcrafts.

The Bago Yoma Eco Resort project is being led by the Phyo Sithu Company, has received support from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The opening ceremony took place along the Ottwin-Paukkhaung Road on Bago Yoma Mountain Range approximately 100 miles north of Yangon. "We set up ecotourism sites with the aim of conserving ecosystem and biodiversity and turning locals into lovers and protectors of wildlife and nature through income generation and job creation," said Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Union Minister U Ohn Win.

"In addition, the sites also serve as the springboard for community participation in protecting and conserving ecosystem and biodiversity."

The ministry has designated 15 ecotourism sites in 1996, 19 nature zones and two elephant camps in 2011.

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Three more died of seasonal influenza

Additional lab test from 2 pm on 29 July to 2 pm yesterday found 10 out of 44 suspected patients were infected with seasonal influenza A(H1N1) pdm09.

Two patient admitted to Yangon General Hospital on 15 July, and on 28 July respectively and another patient transferred to North Okkalapa Hospital from Yangon General Hospital yesterday died of the seasonal influenza yesterday according to Ministry of Health and Sports.

The Ministry of Health and Sports has accelerated emergency response, monitoring, prevention, control and awareness campaigns as regards the seasonal influenza.

During the period from 21 to 30 July, 182 patients infected with acute respiratory illness were admitted to hospitals in the whole country.

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Chief Minister inspects development of Maungtaw Tsp in Rakhine State

Chief Minister U Nyi Pu releasing fingerlings into a breeding pond. **PHOTO: A ONE SOE/MYOTHU HEIN**

CHIEF Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu and his cabinet members inspected development undertakings in Maungtaw Township in the state yesterday, visiting a fish hatchery at Myothugyi village in the morning.

Accompanied by Social Welfare Minister Dr Chan Tha, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Minerals U Kyaw Lwin and Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Phone Tint, cabinet Secretary U Tin Maung Swe and departmental personnel, the chief minister visited Myakantha reservoir which supplies water to Maungtaw. He spoke of the need to make arrangement for the reservoir to irrigate crops. The chief minister and party then observed tractors at work at a paddy field near Shweyinaye village.

They observed mobile teams of the Ministry of Health Sports providing health care for the locals at Inchaung village.

At Mawrawady village, they inspected the releasing fingerlings at the fish farm set up with the funds provided by Rakhine State government.

Their inspection tour also included Kyaungtaung village-tract where mobile teams were providing health care for locals, and building of 100 units of low-cost houses at Kyaukpandu village.

In the afternoon, they met with locals at Indin village and provided solar panels, inverters, light bulbs, florescent lamps. —A One Soe/Myothu Hein ■

Taung Byone will be closed until the (H1N1) has been under control

IT is announced that the special meeting of Health Management has decided to put off Taung Byone Festival which is originally scheduled to hold from 31 July to 7 August till the Seasonal Inflenza A (H1N1) pdm 2009 is under control.

The meeting was held at the meeting hall of the office of Mandalay Regional Government in the afternoon of 30 July. Chief Minister of Mandalay Region, Dr Zaw Myint Maung and ministers, Police Major of Mandalay Region Police Force, Head of Regional Health Department, Commissioner of Pyin Oo Lwin District General Administration Office, Administrator of Madaya Township Administration Office, members of Board of Trustee of Taung Byone Wish FulfillingPagoda and responsible personnel of Health Department attended the meeting.

Taung Byone Festival will start only after H1N1 has been under control. **PHOTO: 002**

H1N1 is easily infectious through the respiratory tract to other people and the H1N1 break out is coinciding with Taung Byone Festival. There are about 100,000 people visiting daily Taung Byone Festival and it is of great concern for people to allow such a huge crowd gathering in a place while the H1N1 is spreading fast among people. Therefore the Regional Government had to decide to put off the Taung Byone Festival.—002 ■

Announcement on Avian Influenza cases in Myanmar

1. Avian Influenza cases occurred in Myanmar for the first time in 2006, and so far eight cases have happened in the country up to 2016.
2. Taninthayi Region
   An outbreak of avian flue at a farm in Wekyunhteinthit Ward in Dawei, Dawei District was announced on 26-7-2017 following that the dead chicken were confirmed to have contracted with Influenza Type A/H5N1 Positive. Measures are being taken to control the virus in accordance with the steps of the bird flu prevention and control plan.
3. On 28-7-2017, some chicken at a house in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, and a dead chicken was sent to the veterinary laboratory in Yangon. Following the test with the(RT-PCR & Real Time PCR), the chicken were confirmed on 29-7-2017 to have infected with Influenza Type A/ H5N1 Positive. Measures are being taken to control the virus in accordance with the steps of the bird flu prevention and control plan.
4. Peoples in other regions and states are urged to follow the following instructions in order to prevent spread of the bird flu and not to be infected with the virus.
   (A) To take precaution measures to prevent migratory birds from meeting with chicken, ducks, quails and birds at homes and farms.
   (B) To pay special attention to bio safety at chicken, duck and quails firms.
   (C) To carry out quarantine measures systematically at chicken and duck firms and chicken and duck markets, and to clean regularly and to follow quarantine regulations in order to prevent infectious virus.
   (D) To wear protective gears including masks and gloves when workers go the chicken farms and to wash their hands thoroughly after holding chicken and to carry out personal hygiene when they leave the firms. .
   (E) To cook or boil chicken and eggs for food.
   (F) When chicken or birds died incidentally, peoples are urged to inform it to local authorities, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.
   (G) To cooperate with departments and organizations concerned to prevent the bird flu and diagnostic assessments.

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Notification for prevention of Influenza Type A /H5N1

1. It is informed by World Veterinary Association that Influenza Type A/H5N1 can break out at any season. Therefore it is needed to raise bio-safety measures at the poultry farms. It is notified that to prevent the Influenza A/H5N1 outbreak, the following guidelines shall be strictly followed.
   (a) To conduct the bio-safety of poultry farms in great care
   (b) To execute spraying antiseptic at the poultry farms and the markets where the chickens, ducks and quail are sold alive
   (c) When entering the poultry farms, to wear surgical masks and hand gloves
   (d) To wash the hands or take personal hygene without fail every time after handling the chickens, ducks and quails and every time leaving the poultry farms
   (e) To eat the eggs only after boiling well
   (f) To inform immediately to Myanmar livestock Breeding Association, livestock Breeding and Husbandry Department and administrative office in the proximity if there occur sudden death of birds or chickens or ducks.
   (g) To cooperate in prevention and in diagnosing works with associations or departments concerned.

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Health Ministry never withholds any H1N1 information

"We are releasing real information on the seasonal influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 in real time," said Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe at a meeting in downtown Yangon yesterday.

"We have never withheld any information about the infection of the disease," he also assured.

The minister pointed out heightened public awareness, self-protection plus self-control and strict observance of the directives issued by the Health and Sports Ministry as vitally important steps against the seasonal influenza.

A large number of pamphlets and posters are in distribution all over the country, he told the participants who were seeking preventive and control measures that were more potent. The minister also dealt with emergency response, monitoring, prevention and control, treatment, and health awareness activities in connection with the seasonal influenza, saying, media should distribute correct information to the public.

Participants then discussed preventive measures, the occurrence of the disease in the world and in Myanmar, lab testing and other matters.

In the evening, the minister looked into the requirements in admitting, examining and treating persons suspected of H1N1 infection at a hospital in North Okkala Township in the north of Yangon. He also thanked officials of Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation, SML Medical Centre and Okkar Thiri Co. Ltd for contributing USD 150,000 worth of medical equipment and medicines for prevention and control of the disease. With another 3 deaths due to H1N1 influenza reported in Yangon on Sunday, the total number of deaths is now 10, or 5.49 per cent of those who have been confirmed to have contracted the virus, said the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Meeting on effective preventive and control measures in progress. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Ministry of Health and Sports urged everyone to follow their precautionary measures, which include avoiding crowds, frequent washing of hands, use of disposable tissues when sneezing and coughing, and through cleaning of utensils and plates before use.—Thae Naing Oo (Myanmarsar)/ Myanmar News Agency ■

Ayeyawady Region Prepares to Fight Against Natural Disasters

ACCOMPANIED by responsible officials, Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement visited Thabaung yesterday morning to meet with members of natural disaster management committee at the township level, departmental personnel at the meeting hall of township administrative department, giving necessary advices over the clarification on the tasks of preparation for natural disasters in the township and necessities to be made in advance, by U Aung Soe Oo, township administrator of the department.

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister addressed, "Under the leadership of National Natural Disaster Management Committee, 12 working committees consisting of related ministries and natural disaster management committees at regions, states, districts and township levels had been found to have been working in combining with each other, more than ever. Due to preparatory tasks of making irrigation channels, ditches, embankments, building multi-purpose shelters for disasters, digging up sand-silted creeks and rehearsing for preparedness, this year impacts of natural disasters were found to have alleviated more than previous years. Rescue works were carried out promptly as soon as floods had broken out, through the co-operative efforts of natural disaster management committees at different levels under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The Ministry is making its concerted efforts, as is the Government fulfilling the needs of the people, attentively."

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement meets local people. **PHOTO: MNA**

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party arrived at the Mingalar Yarma monastery in Nwataung village of Talokekone village tract by motor boat to meet flood victims, giving words of encouragement. The Union Minister said, "All need to take care of outbreaks of epidemic when natural disasters break out, taking notices of seasonal flu (H1N1).

As regards it, we must have knowledge on the disease. It symptoms are illness, coughs and sneezes. If one is infected with these, the patient needs to don masks so as for the disease not to spread to others. But personal hygiene, especially washing hands with soaps frequently is the most effective ways of prevention. Regarding the affairs of the disabled as well, the Ministry is making arrangements for providing them on the nationwide scale. Now, we will provide subsidies to the disabled at the temporary flood victims' camp."

Then, the Union Minister provided K 837,900 for one-week ration of rice to 399 flood victims, K 150,000 for 5 disabled persons as subvention, K 47,600 to purchase oil for the acquisition of electricity, 142.5 viss of chick peas for victims, 400 pieces of masks, 200 cakes of soap, toys and nutritious foods, negotiating to build multi-purpose disaster shelter.

In the evening the Union Minister and party visited the flood victims at the Maha Thiri Mingalar Yarma monastery in the town of Kangyidaung , giving words of encouragement and giving subsidies for 776 flood victims—K 1,629,600 for rice, 3 fiber motor boats, K 6.9 million for 30 life jackets, 400 pieces of masks, 200 cakes of soap and K 50,000 to a mother for nutrition.

In the evening of July 29, Dr Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister arrived at the social welfare department's child nurturing center, Pathein, accompanied by responsible officials, inspecting the systematic treatment over children, addressing to take care of seasonal flu (H1N1), illness, coughs and sneezes, to don masks, use soaps for personal hygiene. Then the Ministers gave toys and nutritious snacks to children. Myanmar News Agency ■

Three more died of seasonal…

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Of them 51 were found A(H1N1) pdm09 positive and 10 of them died of the disease. So the mortality rate of the disease is 5.49 per cent. Records up to 2 pm yesterday showed that five patients receiving treatment at Yangon General Hospital, three receiving treatment at Special Hospital (Waibagi) and one receiving treatment at People's Hospital (1000-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw were infected with seasonal influenza A(H1N1) pdm09. Infectious Diseases Control branch of the Ministry of Health and Sports is trying to collect the up-to-date exact list of H1N1 suspected patients in the whole country. It is also adopting work programs based expert analyses on the dimension of the infection and future possibilities.

The strict observance of the directives and announcements issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports will mitigate the infection rate of the disease. Lives can be saved effectively if patients found with symptoms of the acute influenza are admitted to hospital immediately. The Ministry of Health and Sports is posting information on the occurrence of the disease and preventive measures on its Internet page and Myanmar CDC facebook page in real time.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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World Hepatitis Day commemorative seminar held in Yangon

WORLD Hepatitis Day 2017 commemorative seminar was held at the University of Nursing in the corner of Bogyoke Street and Phone Gyi Street, Yangon yesterday.

This seminar was aimed at arousing public awareness on hepatitis and eliminating this disease in the world.

With the cooperation of the Ministry of Health and Sports, World Health Organization (WHO), Liver Foundation, International Non-government Organization (INGO) and social society organization are carrying treatment and megitating the spread of hepatitis. The spread of hepatitis A, B, and C is increasing. One third of the world population (about 400 million) has been infected with hepatitis B. In Myanmar, there about 10 per cent is infected. Prevention can be made through blood testing and vaccination. Blood testing was conducted free of charge at the seminar staged demonstrations on the World Hepatitis Day 2017's logo: "Eliminate hepatitis". —Thant Zin Min ■

Plans for cold storage warehouses announced

The Potato Farmers Association announced a proposal today in Myanmar Alin newspaper to build cold storage warehouses in Heho Township, Shan State.

"A proposal for a loan for storage construction has presented to the government," according to Potato Farmers Association Chairman U Aung Than Kyaw. The storage facilities would reduce wastage by 20 per cent, he said.

U Aung Than Kyaw said lack of cold storage was one of the factors preventing Myanmar crop exports.

Potatos are grown on 43,000 acres in Myanmar. Most potatoes are grown in Shan State and in Heho Township they can be grown all year round. — Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

H1N1 drives duck egg demand

DEMAND for duck eggs has increased significantly since reports emerged of five deaths due to the H1N1 virus as Myanmar residents choose them over chicken eggs.

Duck eggs are primarily produced in Pyapon, Ayeywady Region, which ships more than 100,000 duck eggs to Yangon market, daily, according to local merchants. Most of the eggs come by boat along the Ayeyawady River – the remainder are transported by truck.

Pyapon duck egg seller U Myo Myint said that duck eggs are selling for an average of Ks110 each in Pyapon and Ks120 in Yangon.—Aung Win (Pyapon) ■

Double decker carrying duck eggs arrives at a Jetty in Yangon. **PHOTO: AUNG WIN (PYAPON)**

Jakarta-Yangon direct flights planned

INDONESIAN Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Ito Sumardi said plans are underway to introduce a direct flight between Jakarta, Indonesia's, massive capital, and Yangon, according to a report of the Myawady Daily's Sunday edition. The route is a result of a deal signed in 2015 between Myanmar Airlines International (MAI) and Garuda Airlines, the national airline of Indonesia to promote tourism and business between the two nations. According to a MAI official, the agreement for code sharing with Jakarta, including transit through Singapore, and three other destinations in Australia in cooperation with Garuda Airlines was signed in late 2014.

The Indonesian Ambassador said Indonesian airlines eventually establish direct Jakarta-Yangon air routes. Myanmar travellers to the ASEAN country have been increasing.—GNLM ■

Guava growers reap domestic profits

GUAVA growers in Kyaunggon Township, Ayeyawady Region, say their crop is reaping impressive prices, but that their yields are low this year, according to July 30 edition of the Myawady Daily.

Guava grower U Hla Thaung said domestic demand for the tropical fruits has driven prices to Ks200 for a large guavas and Ks60 for a smaller, lower quality guavas.

Each guava plant usually costs Ks300 and about 1,000 plants can be grown in an acre of plantation and bear fruit between one and three years. Each tree produces approximately 300 fruits per tree every year, he added.

Guava plants thrive in both tropical and subtropical regions. The plants are hardy and produce good yield even with little care. The Guava fruits can be consumed as fresh fruits and used in beverages, candies, dried snacks, desserts and ice creams. India, China and Thailand are among the top 10 guava producing countries.—GNLM ■

A farmer scatters the fertilizer in a paddy field . **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Rice export from border point of entries increases by over 200 tonnes

MYANMAR exported almost 25,600 tonnes of rice and gluten rice to overseas buyers in the second week of this month and earned US$8.016 million, an increase of more than 200 tonnes when compared to the previous week, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Last week, the country exported 25,384 tonnes of marketable kinds of rice to foreign trading partners. Between 8 and 14 July, more than 25,000 tonnes of rice went to China from the Muse 105-mile trade zone, Chinshwehaw, Lwejel and Kanpaiktee border point of entries, while 458 tonnes of Emahta rice were sent to Bangladesh via the Maungtaw cross-border gate.

The export volume of parboiled rice also increased from 2,793 tonnes to 3,419 tonnes during the same period, earning $839,000. Between 9 and 15 July, 11,905 tonnes of white rice and parboiled rice were sent to foreign countries. Myanmar continues to export rice to Singapore, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Russia, Hong Kong, African countries and some western states. —Khine Khant ■

Three-stage SME plan: Research, access to finance, training

May Thet Hnin

Yangon city officials announced plans over the next year to assist small- and medium-sized enterprises at the Issues and Solutions Forum on 29 July.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said the plan will include a survey of local SMEs to determine their needs and collaboration with the financial sector to determine the best way to provide SMEs greater access to capital.

The plan will also include coordination with technological universities in Thanlyin, Hlinethaya and Hmawby townships, and the University of Computer Studies, to develop curricula more relevant to SMEs' requirements.

According to the Central Statistical Organisation, 98 per cent of Myanmar's approximately 120,000 registered enterprises are SMEs. The CSO also reports that 83 per cent of Myanmar's 21.9 million workers are employed in the informal economy.

Dr Htain Lynn, director of Myanmar Trade Promotion organization, said that there are so many reasons why some enterprises do not participate in registration process, including arbitrary taxation policies and burdensome regulations.

The forum also focused on challenges local SMEs face as they attempt to expand their businesses amid Myanmar's difficult technology and infrastructure landscape. Several participants noted that the government should seek more international assistance for SME development in order to rationalize taxes, eliminate black markets and streamline administrative overheads for entrepreneurs.

Dr. May Pyae Sone Kywe, an executive committee member of Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association, said there are inadequate policies for start-ups and no facilities to help them compete with larger or more established businesses. Furthermore, start-ups are also discouraged by Myanmar's lack of an intellectual property law. The poor regulatory structure for SMEs leads most local entrepreneurs to set up informally and avoid registration altogether said Dr. May Pyae Sone Kywe.

Entrepreneurs at the forum also called for implementation of insurance to offset investor risks in Myanmar's sluggish agricultural and manufacturing sectors, particularly at the state and region levels. ■

Cotton market may benefit from Myanmar's GSP reinstatement

COTTON farming is experiencing a resurgence in Myanmar since it was reinstated into the Generalized System of Preference (GSP), a preferential tariff scheme of the World Trade Organization, according to a report of Myanma Alinn Daily newspaper.

High quality cotton varieties currently trades for about US$ 230 more per ton in the international market than in the domestic market. Myanmar's main cotton export market is China, but after its GSP status has been restored Myanmar can target the potentially more lucrative markets of Europe and the United States, U Kyaw Lin, a cotton merchants' spokesperson, told Myanma Alinn Daily newspaper.

The Agriculture Department is planning a series of cotton production trainings, which will include cultivation methods, pest control technologies and other measures meant to increase yield and quality. Vinyl posters with cotton growing tips for popular varieties will be printed and distributed to farmers who produce more than 1,000 viss (3.6 pounds equals a viss) per acre.

Cotton is primarily grown in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Sagaing regions. A viss of cotton is worth Ks 7,000 during harvest season, said U Soe Shwe, a grower from Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region, the nation's main cotton wholesale market.

At Yamethin, cotton harvests are processed, packed and sold to foreign trade partners. –Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

Australia thwarts 'Islamic-inspired' plane attack plot

Australian Federal Police officers talk with passengers near the check-in counters at the Sydney Airport Domestic terminal in Australia, on 30 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

SYDNEY — Security has been tightened at Australian airports after police foiled "Islamic-inspired" plans for a bomb attack on an aircraft during counter-terrorism raids in which four men were arrested, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) said on Sunday.

The increased security presence caused minor delays for some air transport operators on Sunday and authorities warned travellers to prepare for potentially more significant disruptions as traffic picked up during the week.

"In recent days, law enforcement has become aware of information that suggested some people in Sydney were planning to commit a terrorist act using an improvised device," AFP commissioner Andrew Colvin said during a press conference with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on Sunday.

"We do believe it is Islamic-inspired terrorism. Exactly what is behind this is something that we will need to investigate fully.

"At this time we don't have a great deal of information on the specific attack, the location, date or time. However, we are investigating information indicating that the aviation industry was potentially a target."

Five properties were searched on Saturday across the Sydney suburbs of Surry Hills, Lakemba, Punchbowl and Wiley Park. The commissioner said four of those searches may continue for days.

An AFP spokesman told Reuters the four men, who were arrested on Saturday, had not been charged as of Sunday afternoon.

Turnbull said advice from Australian security and intelligence agencies had led to increased security measures at Sydney airport on Thursday with tighter security implemented at the country's other domestic and international airports on Saturday.

"Some of the measures will be obvious to the public, some will not be," Turnbull said.

Colvin said travellers could expect an increased police and security agency presence at airports.

"You can expect longer delays to make sure that more screening is being done on baggage, both hold luggage as well as hand luggage," adding that travellers should allow more time to get through security.

Airlines Qantas Airways (QAN.AX) and Virgin Australia (VAH.AX) notified passengers via text messages, social media and emails to expect delays though disruptions at the nation's airports appeared to be minimal on Sunday. — Reuters ■

Typhoon injures over 80 in Taiwan, traps dozens

TAIPEI — A strong typhoon swept across Taiwan on Sunday, injuring more than 80 people, forcing the capital to shut down essential services and knocking out power to hundreds of thousands of homes.

Forty people were trapped in the southern parts of the island, mainly due to floodwaters, the government said.

"Typhoon Nesat," a medium strength typhoon, made landfall on Saturday and is expected to lash the island over the course of two days, affecting the south most heavily, according to the Central Weather Bureau.

Wind speeds of the typhoon were clocked at around 119 kilometers per hour (70 mph), the bureau said.

More than 80 rescue workers were injured along with three other people who had been sent to hospital, the government said in statements.

Many of the injured rescue personnel were hit by falling debris, with two suffering severe injuries.

A man and motorcyclist fall as Typhoon Nesat hits Taipei, Taiwan on 29 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

In the capital Taipei, all work and scheduled classes were canceled on Saturday evening and all of Sunday. The city shut down trash collection services, bike rental services, and altered its subway schedules.

Taiwanese international air carrier Eva Airways Corp said it had canceled 42 round-trip flights, which will affect nearly 10,000 passengers.

Cities and counties across the island canceled work and classes on Sunday as well.

Power was knocked out to about half a million homes at one point. As of Sunday morning, the government said about 360,000 households had their electricity restored.

In China's Fujian Province, more than 3,100 people were evacuated to the shore from fish farms to brace for the typhoon's impact, China's official state media Xinhua reported. — Reuters ■

Philippine mayor linked to illegal drug trade killed in police raid

MANILA — A southern Philippine mayor on President Rodrigo Duterte's list of top drug suspects was killed during a pre-dawn raid at his home on Mindanao island, police said on Sunday.

Reynaldo Parojinog was the third mayor to be killed in the government's bloody narcotics crackdown.

Parojinog, the mayor of Ozamiz city, was killed during a gun battle with police serving a search warrant at his home.

Several high-powered firearms and an unspecified amount of methamphetamines were recovered, Timoteo Pacleb, chief of police of Northern Mindanao, told reporters.

"Police were met with a volley of fire...prompting police to retaliate," Pacleb said. Several others, including Parojinog's wife, were killed during the raid.

"The Parojinogs, if you would recall, are included in President Duterte's list of personalities involved in the illegal drug trade," Ernesto Abella, the president's spokesperson, said in a statement.

In November, the mayor of Albuera town in central Leyte whom Duterte asked to surrender over his alleged involvement in the drug trade, was killed during a shootout inside his detention cell. Duterte has promised an unrelenting war on drugs, defying critics who were "trivializing" his campaign with human rights concerns and unjustly blaming the authorities for the bloodshed. Another mayor suspected of involvement in illegal drugs in southern Mindanao and nine of his men were killed in a shootout at a police checkpoint in Cotabato in October.

Critics say Duterte has turned a blind eye to thousands of deaths during police operations that bear all the hallmarks of executions. — Reuters ■

US flies bombers over Korean peninsula after North Korea missile test

One of two US Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers receives fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker while flying a 10-hour mission from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, into Japanese airspace and over the Korean Peninsula, on 30 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

SEOUL — The United States flew two B-1B bombers over the Korean peninsula in a show of force after recent North Korean missile tests, the US Air Force said in a statement on Sunday.

North Korea said it conducted another successful test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on Friday that proved its ability to strike America's mainland, drawing a sharp warning from US President Donald Trump.

The B-1B flight was in direct response to the missile test and the previous July 3 launch of the "Hwansong-14" rocket, the US statement said. The South Korean air force said the flight was conducted early on Sunday.

The bombers took off from a US air base in Guam, and were joined by Japanese and South Korean fighter jets during the exercise, according to the statement.

"North Korea remains the most urgent threat to regional stability," Pacific Air Forces commander General Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy said in the statement. "If called upon, we are ready to respond with rapid, lethal, and overwhelming force at a time and place of our choosing".

The US has in the past used overflights of the supersonic B1-B "Lancer" bomber as a show of force in response to North Korean missile or nuclear tests.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un personally supervised the midnight test launch of the missile on Friday night and said it was a "stern warning" for the United States that it would not be safe from destruction if it tries to attack, the North's official KCNA news agency said.

North Korea's state television broadcast pictures of the launch, showing the missile lifting off in a fiery blast in darkness and Kim cheering with military aides.

China, the North's main ally, said it opposed North Korea's missile launches, which it said violate United Nations Security Council resolutions designed to curb Pyongyang's banned nuclear and missile programmes.

"At the same time, China hopes all parties act with caution, to prevent tensions from continuing to escalate," China's foreign ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

However, Trump said he was "very disappointed in China".

In a message on Twitter, he said: "Our foolish past leaders have allowed them to make hundreds of billions of dollars a year in trade, yet..."

"...they do NOTHING for us with North Korea, just talk. We will no longer allow this to continue. China could easily solve this problem!" he said in a subsequent tweet. The Hwasong-14, named after the Korean word for Mars, reached an altitude of 3,724.9 km (2,314.6 miles) and flew 998 km (620 miles)for 47 minutes and 12 seconds before landing in the waters off the Korean peninsula's east coast, KCNA said.

Western experts said calculations based on that flight data and estimates from the US, Japanese and South Korean militaries showed the missile could have been capable of going as far into the United States as Denver and Chicago. David Wright of the US-based Union of Concerned Scientists wrote in a blog post that if it had flown on a standard trajectory, the missile would have had a range of 10,400 km (6,500 miles). —Reuters ■

Photo taken on 30 July, 2017 shows a formation of airborne troops during a military parade at Zhurihe training base in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. China on Sunday held a grand military parade to mark the 90th founding anniversary of the People's Liberation Army. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Xi calls for strong military to defeat invading enemies, safeguard world peace

ZHURIHE (Inner Mongolia) — President Xi Jinping said Sunday China needs a strong military more than ever, urging building the People's Liberation Army (PLA) into world-class armed forces with confidence and capability to "defeat all invading enemies" and "safeguard world peace."

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivered a speech after overseeing a grand military parade at the Zhurihe training base in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region to mark the PLA's 90th anniversary, which falls on 1 August.

"The world is not all at peace, and peace must be safeguarded," said Xi. "Today, we are closer to the goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation than any other time in history, and we need to build a strong people's military more than any other time in history."

Enjoying peace is a bliss for the people while protecting peace is the responsibility of the people's army, Xi said.

He urged the PLA to fully implement the CPC's thoughts on building a strong military, follow the path of strengthening the army with Chinese characteristics, strive for the CPC's target on strengthening the PLA under the new circumstances, and build the heroic PLA into a world-class military. This was the first time that China has commemorated Army Day with a military parade since the founding of New China in 1949.

Xi lauded contributions made by the PLA in its nine decades of history to the country and the people. The shot fired in Nanchang 90 years ago marked the inception of a new type of people's army under the leadership of the CPC. Over the past 90 years, the PLA has held high the banner of the Party and shouldered the hopes of the nation, Xi said.

Bathed in blood while forging ahead, they have defeated all the enemies, overcome all sorts of challenges, and made "immortal feat" to help the Chinese people stand up and prosper, he said.

History has proved that the PLA is a heroic force that has followed the Party's command, served the country with loyalty, and fought for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The Party and people of all ethnic groups in China take great pride in having such a heroic army, he said.—Xinhua ■

Indonesia steps up effort to end forest fires as hotspots increase

JAKARTA — Indonesia has boosted measures to extinguish forest fires in the country as the number of hotspots increased significantly on Sunday, a senior government official said.

A total of four helicopters were dispatched to undertake water bombings in West Kalimantan province of Borneo Island as forest fires have been flaming there for four days, spokesman of national disaster agency Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said.

Satellite has detected that the number of hotpots climbed to 239 across the vast archipelagic nation as of Sunday. Among them, 126 are located in West Kalimantan province, the spokesman told Xinhua in a text message.

Soldiers, policemen, personnel of the disaster management agency and volunteers are struggling to douse the blaze, he added.

Difficult access to the scene, lack of sources of water and limited number of devices have hampered the firefighters from conducting their mission, Sutoppo said. —Xinhua ■

Always wear masks in the fight against H1N1

By Dr Tha Sein

A large section of Myanmar was plagued by seasonal flu H1 N1, a respiratory disorder which spreads just like other seasonal influenza viruses. It spreads from exposure to an infected person who leaves behind infected droplets by coughing or sneezing as contamination.

The deadly virus spreads very rapidly, with the number of confirmed cases rising to 51 as of 30 July, despite aggressive measures taken to curb the spread of the disease. The dead toll due to the virus reached ten with 182 patients receiving treatment at hospitals in the whole country. As per the Ministry of Health and Sports, more people were confirmed to have been contracted with the H1N1 virus.

The H1N1 virus was first detected, followed by the finding of H3N2 and H5N1 viruses in a row. As all of them belong to Flu Type A, we would find it very difficult to control the viruses should they mutate into a new form of virus. With the current three forms of viruses detected, it can be said that the country has ended up in the danger zone.

Meanwhile, about 5,000 chickens at a chicken farm in Dawei Township have died due to the H5N1 virus, prompting a ban on the sale of chickens and eggs in the area. H5N1 is a type of influenza virus that causes a highly infectious, severe respiratory disease in birds. Human cases of H5N1 occur occasionally, but it is difficult to transmit the infection from person to person. If the H5N1 virus were to change and become easily transmissible from person to person while retaining its capacity to cause severe disease, the consequences for public health could be very serious.

On top of this, two children were found living with H1N1 and H3N2 viruses and admitted to the Yankin Children's Hospital. H1N1 and H3N2 detected in the Yangon area are more highly infectious and dangerous than H5N1 detected in the Dawei area.

People who have H1N1 can spread it one day before they have any symptoms and as many as 7 days after they get sick. And if H5N1 detected in Dawei and H1N1 detected in Yangon mutate into a new strain, it could lead to the declaration of a state of emergency.

So travelling from Dawei to Yangon and vice versa should be avoided. If unavoidable, travelers should always wear masks in order to be able to effectively fight against the viruses. ■

Enhance awareness, action to eliminate hepatitis in South-East Asia Region

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia

VIRAL Hepatitis is a major public health problem in the South-East Asia Region, and every person has a stake in controlling and eliminating it. Each year viral hepatitis infects millions of people across the Region, causing the death of around 410 000 persons – more than HIV and malaria combined. It is also a major cause of liver cancer and cirrhosis, contributing to premature morbidity and mortality, and undermining economic growth and the push to achieve health and wellbeing for all.

Despite hepatitis' outsized burden, it is estimated that just one in ten people infected with the disease know their status. Many others remain unaware that effective treatments exist, or that preventive measures are available, from basic hygiene to the hepatitis B vaccine. Regrettably, stigma and discrimination against those suffering the disease remain common.

To overcome these barriers and eliminate hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030, as per regional and global targets, enhanced awareness and understanding of how to prevent, treat and manage the disease is vital.

To achieve this, health authorities across the Region can increase the prominence of hepatitis-related information and advocacy. Clear, concise and accurate messaging regarding how hepatitis infection can be prevented, what its signs and symptoms are and how it can be treated is essential to empowering people to take action. Simple hygiene measures such as hand-washing and consumption of safe drinking water and hygienic food, for example, are powerful tools for preventing hepatitis A and E. Messaging targeted towards high-risk groups such as intravenous drug users and sex workers can meanwhile increase uptake of harm-reduction measures, while messaging aimed at political leaders and donors can highlight resource gaps and help obtain high-level buy-in.

Health authorities can likewise expand the hepatitis-related knowledge and skills of health workers at all levels. From nurses and midwives to doctors and technicians, a clear understanding of viral hepatitis testing, treatment and care is needed. This can be done by enhancing medical and other health professional school curricula; creating and disseminating robust guidelines on all aspects of hepatitis testing, treatment and care; and providing specialized training on outbreak management. Clear directives on avoiding unnecessary injections and using ReUse Prevention syringes wherever injections are required can go a long way to decreasing the hepatitis burden. So too can universal uptake of the hepatitis B birth dose vaccine when followed by two-three doses in the first six months of life.

Beyond policy-level interventions, each of us can contribute to raising awareness and helping eliminate the disease in our own way. We can share our experiences of hepatitis infection openly, challenging social taboos. We can express solidarity with persons affected by hepatitis, creating a culture of empathy and care. And we can also take a moment to learn more about the disease, sharing that knowledge with our friends, colleagues and loved ones. As Indian film star and WHO South-East Asia Goodwill Ambassador for Viral Hepatitis Mr Amitabh Bachchan demonstrates, hepatitis infection can happen to anyone at any time, and needn't be accompanied by shame or guilt. It is a common and treatable disease; it is something we must all acknowledge and face up to.

WHO South-East Asia is committed to doing this, and to supporting all countries in the Region implement comprehensive strategic action plans to tackle hepatitis. Through our collective resolve we can enhance hepatitis-related awareness and action and eliminate the disease as a public health threat by 2030. ■

Australian Minister Mr. Martin Hamilton Smith and Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho visit BPI Pharmaceutical Industry factory. **PHOTO: MNA**

Australian and Myanmar trade ministers to cooperate on pharma

MinThit
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Australian Minister for Investment, Trade, Small-scale Business, Defense Services Factories and War Veteran Affairs Mr. Martin Hamilton Smith and Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho and Managing Director U Ko Ko Aung visited a Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory in Insein, Yangon to inspect the manufacturing process for snake-bite anti-venom.

The officials discussed a pharmaceutical technical assistance program for Myanmar that will involve the Australian government and University of Adelaide. ■

Giving full health care from Surgical Hospital

IT is known from Medical Institute of Seoul that JW Surgical Hospital has taken full care of the patients who undergo surgery at their hospital. The JW hospital has given surgical service especially surgery for health and beauty including facial surgery, nasal surgery, breast surgery, surgery for erasing facial wrinkles, fat sucking and etc.

Specialists performing surgical operation. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG WIN**

JW hospital has strictly observed the principles, discipline and regulations prescribed in Surgical works. If the patient needs to be given Anaesthesia for surgery, the medical check-up is made before surgery and only when the patient is totally fit for surgery the required surgery is done.

The famous artists from Myanmar are coming and receiving surgery at JW surgical hospital, it is learnt from responsible personnel from Medical Institute of Seoul.—Maung Maung Win ■

Bago Yoma gets ecotourism

FROM PAGE-1

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung called for closer cooperation between the entrepreneurs and media in promoting ecotourism projects. The resort offers a perspective on ethnic Kayin culture and handcrafts and also offers adventure tours, biking, elephant riding and bird watching.

The two ministers donated medical aid to local station hospital and desks for a local high school. Phyo Sithu Co. presented Ks500,000 to Paukkhaung township students. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Total 19,850 of stimulant tablets seized in Maungtaw

TOTAL 19,850 of stimulant tablets were seized in Sabal Pin Yin Chaung Wa village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday morning.

While the police force was patrolling in the Nat River at 1:55am yesterday, the police found and chased a boat in the river as the two suspects on the boat were illegally carrying stimulant tablets.

Police seized total of 19,850 illegal stimulant tablets adorned WR/R, estimated worth Ks39.7 million carried by two suspects including Jar Ni Ar Laung, Vietnamese nationality on a boat.

Police filed a lawsuit the two suspects under the law. — Myanmar News Agency ■

More certification of identification centers in Thailand planned Mahachaing

Myanmar migrant workers'waiting to get CI. **PHOTO: PWINT THITSAR**

MYANMAR'S Embassy in Thailand issued an announcement that more centers to provide identify papers will be established to facilitate Myanmar migrant workers' residency in Thailand.

Arrangements are currently underway to establish the "certificate of identification" centers in Songkhla of southern Thailand, Chiang Mai in northern Thailand and Nkos Sawan of middle Thailand.

"Now the Ministry of Labour of Thai government has opened 99 labour inspection stations and will register undocumented Myanmar workers between 24 July and 8 August," said U Aung Moe Khaing, labour attaché of Myanmar embassy in Thailand. "After enlisting the workers we will proceed to issue the identity papers to Myanmar workers."

Myanmar workers holding the Temporary Residence Permits (or TR-38 forms) have been issued certificates of identification booklets at six certificate of identification centers beginning from 3 March. Myanmar migrant workers can pay 300 Thai Baht at a 7-Eleven store and receive a receipt which they must then take to a certificate of identification center for their document.

"Officials with the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Immigration and the Ministry of Health of Thailand will be located in the same place to create a one stop service for Myanmar workers to undergo medical check-ups, acquire visas and work permits from 18 August," said Labour Attache of Myanmar's embassy in Thailand U Aung Moe Khaing.

Between 3 March and 29 July, 260,000 Myanmar workers sought certificates of identification at various centers, according to Myanmar embassy staff in Thailand.—Pwint Thitsar ■

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

Struggling to govern, Trump faces growing Republican unease

WASHINGTON — As fellow Republicans laboured to repeal Obamacare this week, US President Donald Trump repeatedly swerved off-topic, escalating concerns in his party about his ability to govern the country six months after taking office.

While senators grappled with healthcare, Trump banned transgender people from the military. He regaled a Boy Scout jamboree with a tale from a New York cocktail party. He indulged an obscene tirade by his flamboyant new communications director.

In the end, the Senate's efforts collapsed in a predawn vote on Friday, magnifying the ineffectiveness that often goes with the chaos around Trump, the constant storm of tweets, the White House infighting, the self-inflicted wounds.

"We're seeing clear evidence that all of these distractions are standing in the way of their ability to achieve legislative accomplishments," said Republican strategist Alice Stewart, a top aide to Senator Ted Cruz's presidential campaign last year.

In the latest twist, Trump late on Friday named US Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly as his new White House chief of staff, replacing Reince Priebus, who has been in a feud with Trump's new communications director Anthony Scaramucci.

Among some establishment Republicans, there were signs that patience with Trump was wearing thin.

US President Donald Trump talks to reporters about the departure of his Chief of Staff Reince Priebus after arriving aboard Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, US, on 28 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

His national security team, seen as a bedrock of normality, increasingly is frustrated. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson were described by sources as unhappy with their handling by the White House.

Defence Secretary James Mattis was coming to grips with Trump's abrupt decision on Wednesday, via a tweet, to ban transgender individuals from military service. The Pentagon said it would not execute the order without more guidance.

Republican strategist Charlie Black said Trump needs to let an investigation of possible ties between Russia and his 2016 campaign run its course and not keep talking about it. Russia denies meddling, and Trump denies any collusion.

The Russia probe has fed public spats with Attorney General Jeff Sessions, quarreling among aides and attacks on Robert Mueller, the special counsel running the investigation.

"He should be talking about policy and sticking to issues for a while," Black said. "There are still some good things that could get done in Congress like tax reform. He can help further those things if that's what he talks about."

In the Senate healthcare fight, Trump phoned Republican senators and urged them to support repeal of Obamacare, but the effort fizzled, a sign there was little political retribution to fear from a president with a sub-40 per cent approval rating. A moderate House Republican said Trump let down the Obamacare rollback effort by not going out and selling a plan. For Trump, a businessman and former reality TV show host, the presidency is his first elected office. "This issue was outsourced to Congress. It was never really sold. I think that was part of the reason why it was a failure," said Republican Representative Charlie Dent.

As the Senate fight was coming to a head, Washington was suddenly mesmerized by a profanity-laced rant from Scaramucci, who tore into Priebus and Trump strategist Steve Bannon in an interview in The New Yorker magazine. Stunned aides stopped what they were doing to read the article online.

The rant has so far gone unpunished. Inside the White House, there was a sense of genuine concern and bewilderment about what Scaramucci's future might portend.

Former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said the tensions did not seem to trouble Trump.

"The president's management style seems to be to encourage factionalism among people below him. He seems to place value on watching people fight," Fleischer said.

Aside from sacking Priebus, it was unclear how Trump planned to proceed to regain his footing.

With healthcare stalled, Trump has his sights set on tax reform with no consensus on how to proceed.

Top aides are split on how deeply to cut taxes. It is the same moderates-versus-conservatives split that doomed the Obamacare rollback. —Reuters ■

Pakistan's ruling party vows smooth transition ahead of vote on interim PM

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's president has called a special parliamentary session on Tuesday to hold a vote to install Shahid Khaqan Abbasi as interim prime minister, with the ruling party vowing a smooth transfer of power after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was ousted.

Mamnoon Hussain announced his decision to summon parliament late on Saturday after Sharif put forward his staunch ally Abbasi as interim leader and his brother Shahbaz, 65, as long-term successor.

Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party has a strong majority in parliament and should have no problem installing Abbasi as the new leader of the nuclear-armed nation.

The quick handover could ease political upheaval sparked by the Supreme Court's decision on Friday to disqualify Nawaz Sharif for not declaring a source of income. The court also ordered a criminal investigation into him and his family.

The turmoil and the premature end to Sharif's third stint in power has also raised questions about Pakistan's democracy as no prime minister has completed a full term in power since independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

Sharif has lashed out against the court's decision and opponents who used the Supreme Court to topple him but vowed his party would continue to focus on economic development, touting a faster-growing economy as proof of his success.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

German police rule out terrorism in Konstanz nightclub shooting

BERLIN – A gunman who killed one person and injured three others in a nightclub in southern Germany on Sunday was an Iraqi citizen who had lived in the country for a long time and was not an asylum seeker, police said, ruling out terrorism as a motive.

Konstanz police spokesman Fritz Bezikofer told the n-tv broadcaster that after an initial investigation into the events surrounding the shooting at the nightclub in Konstanz on the border with Switzerland investigators ruled out terrorism. –Reuters ■

13 killed as passenger van hits roadside gas pipeline in northern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD – At least 13 people were killed and four others injured as a passenger van hit a roadside gas pipeline in northern Pakistan on Sunday morning, reported local Urdu TV channel Dunya.

The accident happened at about 7:20 am local time when a passenger van heading from Rawalpindi to Peshawar hit a roadside gas pipeline in Hasan Abdal, a small town lying some 40 km northwest of the country's capital Islamabad, the TV channel said.– Xinhua ■

1,500 kg of heroin seized in India

NEW DELHI, – The Indian Coast Guard officials said on Sunday that they have intercepted a Panamanian ship carrying around 1,500 kg of heroin off the Gujirat coast.

Indian Coast Guard officials said they have apprehended the Panama-registered ship, MV Hennery, based on intelligence.

The seized narcotics is valued around 546 million US dollars in the international market, authorities said. A joint investigation has been launched by the Indian Coast Guard, police, customs department, the navy and other investigative agencies to learn the origin and final destination of the shipment.– Xinhua ■

Gunman, police officer killed in attack on Kenya deputy president's home

ELDORET, (Kenya) — A gunman and a police officer were killed in an attack on the home of Kenya's deputy president in the western town of Eldoret, a senior administrator said on Sunday, just over a week before a national election.

Deputy President William Ruto and his family were not at home at the time of the Saturday attack, police said. Ruto is the running mate of President Uhuru Kenyatta, who is seeking a second and final term in office in the 8 August elections.

"From the exchange of fire we thought it was more than one attacker, because he used different firearms, but after we subdued him, we found only one man dead, plus our officer who he had killed," Wanyama Musiambo, Rift Valley Regional Coordinator, told reporters at the scene on Sunday.

Musiambo declined to comment when asked about the motive of the attack, or the attacker's identity. The deputy president's residence is guarded by an elite paramilitary police unit. Musiambo said the attacker initially had no gun but managed to break into the police armoury once inside the compound.

"I want to say that after the operation we discovered that it was one gunman, but because he was inside there, he could change position and firearms because he had access to the guns. And the guns he was using were ours," he said.

"We have however launched investigations into the issue, to find out if he conducted the attack alone or he was with others who may have escaped."

Late on Saturday, police had initially said the attacker was armed with a machete and had injured one police officer before holing himself up in an outbuilding. Ruto and Kenyatta spent Saturday campaigning in the counties of Kitale, Kericho and Narok, the president's office said in a statement. Neither commented on the incident.

A Reuters reporter near Ruto's compound said he saw several police vehicles going in and out of the compound, as well as one armoured vehicle in the compound. The reporter said he also saw one armoured vehicle in the compound.—Reuters ■

Vehicles burn at the scene of an explosion in Mogadishu, Somalia, on 30 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Car bomb goes off on busy street in Somali capital Mogadishu

MOGADISHU — A car bomb went off on a busy street in the Somali capital Mogadishu on Sunday, a police officer said, while a Reuters witness said the blast was followed by big clouds of smoke visible in sky.

The bomb exploded as the car was driving in the busy Maka al Mukaram road, the police officer told Reuters. "It is a busy area. We do not yet know the figure of casualties," the police officer, Major Hussein Nur, said.

A Reuters reporter at the scene of the blast counted four bodies lying on the ground. Photographs taken by Reuters showed three destroyed cars on the road, with two still burning.

It was not clear who was responsible for the blast. —Reuters ■

At historic Aleppo hotel, nostalgia for a Syria lost

ALEPPO, (Syria) — On the terrace of the Baron Hotel in Aleppo, the owner's widow, Roubina Tashjian, sorted through old photographs of its happier past in a more peaceful Syria.

Founded by an Armenian family in 1911, the Baron played host to adventurers, writers, kings, aviators, Bedouin chiefs and presidents until war forced it to close five years ago.

Tashjian sees the Baron as part of a Syria that values religious and ethnic diversity, openness to the outside world, culture and respect for the country's great antiquities.

"A Syrian is a mixture of all these ethnic groups and cultures ... this is a big pot and it's all mixed up. But we cook the same kibbeh," she said, referring to a Levantine dish.

A view shows the bar of the Baron Hotel in Aleppo, Syria, on 14 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Trying to revive that vision of Syria amid a war that has aggravated social fractures would involve reconciliation between political opponents, religious sects and economic classes.

But with hundreds of thousands dead, more than half the country's pre-war population displaced and fighting ongoing, there seems little hope of that for now.

For the Baron, whose business depended on stability, safety and the draw of Syria's cultural treasures, the 2011 uprising was a catastrophic assault on everything that allowed it to thrive.

During most of the fighting, Aleppo's government-held western districts were subjected to shellfire, an influx of refugees and shortages of water, electricity and food.

East Aleppo, held by rebels until December when the army swept through it after months of siege and air raids, was left all but a wasteland.

The Baron, in west Aleppo near the front line, was hit by mortar bombs, including one that sprayed shrapnel across an upper floor and another that crashed through the window of its "Oriental Room" onto delicate floor tiles but failed to explode.

The tail fin from that round now sits in the Baron's cabinet of curiosities alongside such relics as pottery given by visiting archaeologists and T.E. Lawrence's hotel bill.

In the upstairs room she always took during her frequent stays in Aleppo stands the glass-topped wooden desk where Agatha Christie wrote part of Murder on the Orient Express.

For supporters of President Bashar al-Assad it is the fault of rebels they describe as terrorists, viewing them as Islamist militants who despise diversity and criminal gangs who loot cultural treasures.

Assad has cast his state as a secular protector of Syria's minorities and cultural heritage against Sunni rebels backed by hostile foreign states whose ranks include many hardliners.

It was a view shared by some of the audience at a concert in an Old City church, fluttering fans in the summer heat of the open basilica, its roof ruined by shelling, as they listened to Mozart's Mass in C Minor.

But any characterisation of Assad's Syria as diverse, secular, open and tolerant is rejected by the opposition, as well as some Western countries and rights groups.

Critics say Syria's government has long been one of the most oppressive in the Middle East and this was a root cause of the war. —Reuters ■

Two killed in stampede at South African soccer match

A man who was injured during a stampede at South Africa's FNB Stadium is attended to by paramedics in Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa, in this still image from video taken on 29 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

JOHANNESBURG — Two people have been killed and several injured in a stampede at South Africa's FNB Stadium during a soccer match between Soweto rivals Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates, Johannesburg city officials said on Saturday.

"The city has been notified of two fatalities," said Luyanda Mfeka, the spokesman for the office of the mayor of Johannesburg.

He said the cause of the stampede, which took place at one of the gates of the stadium that hosted the 2010 World Cup final, was being investigated. Live television coverage of the match, which the Chiefs won 1-0, had shown no obvious disturbance.

In April 2001, a similar stampede saw 63 people crushed to death at Ellis Park, venue for the 1995 Rugby World Cup final, when Chiefs and Pirates met in a midweek league match. It was the country's worst sporting tragedy and came as spectators broke through fences in an effort to get into the stadium.

Chiefs and Pirates are South Africa's best supported clubs and have a rivalry stretching back almost 50 years. Saturday's match was a traditional pre-season friendly between the two clubs. —Reuters ■

German ministry rejects calls for modern diesel tax incentives

BERLIN — The German environment ministry has rejected calls from two of the country's states for tax incentives to promote the sale of low-emission modern diesel and electric cars.

Representatives of Germany's federal government, states and major automakers will meet on Wednesday to discuss ways to avert driving bans on diesel cars, which have drawn public attention since Volkswagen's (VOWG_p.DE) emissions test-cheating scandal broke almost two years ago.

Stephan Weil, prime minister of Lower Saxony, VW's home state, has proposed financial incentives for drivers of older diesel cars to switch to more efficient models, while Horst Seehofer, the premier of Bavaria — home to BMW (BMWG.DE) — wants car tax to be lowered for owners of diesel models designed to meet the latest Euro-6 emission standards.

But the environment ministry, one of the hosts of the August 2 diesel summit, is rejecting the proposals.

"We are not particularly interested in supporting a technology that in the foreseeable future no longer belongs on the roads anyway," a spokeswoman for the Berlin-based ministry said on Saturday. Instead, carmakers and politicians have worked on a plan to tackle diesel pollution and improve air quality by updating engine management software on some older vehicles to make exhaust filter systems more effective.

However a German court ruling on Friday backing a push to ban diesel cars from Stuttgart, home to Daimler (DAIGn.DE) and VW's Porsche sports-car division, is raising doubts as to whether software modifications will suffice to bring cities' emissions levels into line with European standards.

"If one were to fulfil Euro-6 pollutant reduction targets with Euro-5 cars, pure software solutions would not be enough," Weil, a member of VW's supervisory board, was quoted by Tagesspiegel am Sonntag newspaper as saying. Carmakers would need to make a "significant" contribution towards funding possible hardware changes, the costs of which must not be heaped on car owners, said Weil.

DUH, Germany's main environmental lobby group which has been fighting for air pollution control for years, said replacing emission control systems would cost about 1,500 euros per car, compared with about 100 euros per vehicle for software updates. With about nine million diesel cars in Germany earmarked for software updates and the country's federal elections only eight weeks away, decision-makers are anxious to spare vehicle owners any driving restrictions and retro-fitting costs.—Reuters ■

British government divided on free movement after Brexit

LONDON — Allowing free movement of people after Britain leaves the European Union would not "keep faith" with the Brexit vote, the international trade secretary said, underling divisions in the government over the issue.

Liam Fox told the Sunday Times that senior government ministers had not reached a consensus on retaining free movement of people for a transitional period, a proposal outlined by finance minister Philip Hammond on Friday. Hammond had said should be no immediate changes to immigration or trading rules when Britain leaves the EU in March 2019, and the status quo could endure until mid-2022.

"If there have been discussions on that, I have not been party to them," Fox told the newspaper.

"I have not been involved in any discussion on that, nor have I signified my agreement to anything like that."

Divisions between ministers over Brexit strategy have become more open after Prime Minister Theresa May lost her majority in an early election she called in June. With May away on holiday, the debate has intensified.

Hammond has led a push within the government to secure a business-friendly Brexit that avoids a sudden change in 2019 in the relationship between Britain and the EU, which buys nearly half the country's exports.

Fox had previously said he backed a transition agreement to smooth Britain's exit from the trading bloc, but on Sunday he indicated that free movement should not continue.

Britain's International Trade Secretary Liam Fox speaks during an interview with Reuters at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland, on 20 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"We made it clear that control of our own borders was one of the elements we wanted in the referendum, and unregulated free movement would seem to me not to keep faith with that decision," he told the Sunday Times.

Fox, who campaigned for Britain to leave the EU in last year's referendum, said any transitional deal needed to be jointly agreed by senior ministers.

"It can't just be made by an individual or any group within the cabinet," he said.

An ally of British foreign minister Boris Johnson also came out against Hammond's plan on Sunday.

Gerard Lyons, a former economic adviser to Johnson when he was London mayor, said a transition period should last for no more than two years.

"Many of the 'risks' being highlighted about Brexit are perceived risks, not real risks. And a two-year transition would alleviate many concerns," Lyons said in a Sunday Telegraph newspaper column.

A growing number of other ministers have said they agree with the need for a transition period but Johnson — who has advocated a tough approach to the Brexit negotiations — has been silent on the issue recently.

Late on Friday, Hammond and Johnson issued a joint statement saying they were "working together to take the UK out of the EU" and its single market, customs union and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice. The statement made no mention of transitional arrangements. —Reuters ■

Tourism flourishes at western tip of Cuba

PINAR DEL RIO, (Cuba), — The spectacular landscape of the Vinales Valley is the main attraction of Pinar del Rio province, in the western end of Cuba, but this territory seeks to promote tourism beyond its natural beauty.

Vinales, about 180 km west of Havana, is a valley plenty of rounded mogotes, residual limestone hills found only in western Cuba, Puerto Rico and Southeastern Asia. The area was proclaimed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in December 1999.

Within the valley is nestled a picturesque town, where almost all inhabitants rent rooms to travellers or work in small private restaurants born amid the island's economic reform.

The number of tourists flowing into the area has increased so much that the Ministry of Tourism has built its own hotel in the center of Vinales town, as part of government plans to favor the development of the sector.

Days ago, the ministry's investments director, Jose Reinaldo Daniel, disclosed that the ministry will continue supporting infrastructure development so that "the city of Vinales will continue to grow according to the policies established by the government."

At present, state-run hotels in Pinar del Rio province have only about 500 rooms, while the private sector exceeds 2000.

With Vinales as the main attraction, Pinar del Rio is undergoing boom, achieving an increase of 46 percent in arrivals in 2016, or 845,000 foreign tourists in all, compared to the previous year.

In the first half of this year, the province saw tourism grow by 5 per cent, receiving more than 300,000 travelers, most of them attracted to its ecotourism options.

Ernesto Barreto, president of the provincial government, says that with the investments undertaken in the natural park of Guanahacabibes, the arrival of foreign visitors should "multiply several times over." The Guanahacabibes peninsula, located at the westernmost point of the island, is a key element in the government's development plans for Pinar del Rio.

"Now we are working on preparing areas for golf courses, to be built in the westernmost municipality of the island, with an investment considered as the most important in the tourism sector for the next several years," explained Barreto.—Xinhua ■

A rocket lifts off from a test site in Taiki in Japan's northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido on 30 July 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Launch fails of privately developed Japanese rocket

KUSHIRO, (Japan) — The launch failed Sunday of what would have been the first Japanese rocket entirely developed by private industry to reach outer space, the Hokkaido-based rocket developer said.

Officials of Interstellar Technologies Inc., founded by former Livedoor Co. President Takafumi Horie, said the launch of the 10-meter-long rocket, MOMO, was aborted after communication with the rocket's telemetry system was lost about 80 seconds after liftoff from a test site in the town of Taiki on Japan's northernmost main island.

The rocket fell into the sea some 8 kilometers from shore after its engine was stopped, they said.

The rocket, weighing a little over 1 ton with a diameter of around 50 centimeters, was designed to reach an altitude of 100 kilometers — beyond the boundary between the Earth's atmosphere and outer space — and descend by parachute into the Pacific Ocean.

The company aims to use the MOMO to pave the way for a commercial service putting super-small satellites into orbit.

To develop a rocket without government funding, the company cut production costs by making some parts on its own and sourcing other items such as semiconductors and screws.

The launch is believed to have cost around 50 million yen ($450,000), which the company said it collected from its sponsor and digital contents provider DMM.com and through crowdfunding.

Interstellar Technologies was founded in 2013 and currently has 14 employees.—Kyodo News ■

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Dated:31st July 2017.

England Lost: sardonic Mick Jagger releases two songs responding to Brexit

British veteran rockers The Rolling Stones singer Mick Jagger opens their North American "Zip Code" tour in San Diego, California in 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

LONDON — Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger has released two politically charged songs targeting what he sees as the uncertainty and surrealism permeating politics in the age of Brexit and Donald Trump.

One song, titled "England Lost", represents Jagger's mocking take on Britain's split from the European Union. The second, "Get a Grip", describes an "upside down" world full of "lunatics and clowns".

Jagger, 74, said on Facebook he had started writing the songs a few weeks ago in his first solo work since 2011.

The first song is told through the metaphor of a soccer fan who has watched England lose at a match he did not want to go to in the first place.

"I went to see England but it wasn't there/ I think I lost it down the back of my chair/ I think I'm losing my imagination/ I'm tired of talking about immigration."

Later he adds: "Had a girl in Lisbon, a girl in Rome/ Now I'll have to stay at home/ So lock the shutters, bolt the doors/London's gonna be like Singapore."

In the second song, Jagger rails against people stuffing their pockets and being on the take. The final line of the verse is a dig at what critics say is the British government's approach to Brexit: to both have its cake and eat it.

Formed in London in 1962, the Rolling Stones are credited with being one of the most influential bands in rock and roll, releasing 30 studio albums.

Jagger said he had been motivated to write the songs because of the "anxiety, unknowability of the changing political situation".

"We obviously have a lot of problems. So am I politically optimistic? … No," Jagger said. —Reuters

Chester was a loving soul with an angel's voice: Talinda

LOS ANGELES — Chester Bennington's wife Talinda has paid a heartfelt tribute to the singer, who took his own life by hanging.

Talinda was married to the Linkin Park lead vocalist for 11 years. Calling Bennington her soulmate, she said her children had lost their "hero", reported Us weekly.

"We had a fairy-tale life and now it has turned into some sick Shakespearean tragedy. How do I move on? How do I pick up my shattered soul? The only answer I know is to raise our babies with every ounce of love I have left.

"I want to let my community and the fans worldwide know that we feel your love. We feel your loss as well," she said.

Talinda said her three children were too young to have lost their father but hoped Bennington's fans would help her keep the singer's memory alive.

"He was a bright, loving soul with an angel's voice. And now he is pain-free singing his songs in all of our hearts.

May God Bless us all and help us turn to one another when we are in pain. Chester would've wanted us to do so. Rest in peace, my love."

Bennington died on what would have been his close friend Chris Cornell's 53rd birthday.

The Soundgarden frontman died on 18 May, 2017, in Detroit, and his death was also ruled a suicide by hanging. —PTI ■

Thousands evacuated from Barcelona festival after stage fire

Smoke is seen rising from flames engulfing the stage after a fire broke out at Tomorrowland Unite Spain festival in Barcelona, Spain, on 29 July 2017, in this still image from a video obtained from social media. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

MADRID — More than 22,000 people were evacuated from an electronic music festival in Barcelona on Saturday night after a huge fire broke out on one of the stages during a sequence of the show involving fireworks, emergency services said. They said no one was injured. Footage circulated on social media showed big flames leaping from the stage, creating big plumes of black smoke in front of a crowd. The festival, known as "Tomorrowland", was taking place just north of Barcelona, in Santa Coloma de Gramenet, the first time it has been held in Spain. The festival has previously been held in Belgium. —Reuters ■

British singer-songwriter Elton John performs during a concert at the Starlite Festival in Marbella, southern Spain, on 20 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Tragically it is still shame to be gay, says Elton John

LONDON — Music icon Elton John says the condition of the LGBTQ community is still far from better as the people still shamed by the society for their sexual orientation.

The 70-year-old singer-activist, who himself is a homosexual, says it is time society realised young gay continue to face stigma, reported Grazia magazine.

"Tragically it is still (a) shame. Too often LGBT people are tolerated rather than accepted, let alone embraced. "When almost half of all gay, lesbian, bi, and transsexual pupils are bullied at school...

"As a result, more than 60 per cent self-harm and 40 per cent of trans people have tried to take their own life, it's a serious wake-up call that gay stigma and shame are still poisonous," says John. But the "Bennie & The Jets" hitmaker adds things have changed a lot for the gay community in 50 years since sexual acts between two men were decriminalised in England and Wales. "It's changed out of all recognition. I was 20 when the Sexual Offenses Act partially decriminalised homosexuality.

Back then, being gay was acknowledged as a source of shame. Gay people were spoken of in euphemisms.

"Today, gay couples, married with children, are accepted by most people and even championed by some. Instead of being shamed in public, you would now be shamed for being publicly homophobic," he says.—PTI ■

Traditional earthern pot toys are displayed in shop at the festival. **PHOTO: TEIN TAMAN**

Traditional earthen toys made to be sold at annual festival

Tein Taman

Myanmar's annual earthen Pot Toys Festival will be held in Oh Bo Ward,Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay during the last week of August and already ceramic makers are creating figurines for the occasion.

The festival, held during the traditional Myanmar monsoon months of Waso and Wagaung, features colorful ceramic statues for children.

The traditional clay toys are made in different places throughout Myanmar and are displayed and sold at pagoda and spirit festivals such as Nat Pwe. Tat Gyi village, Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region is a major producer of the toys.

Shops in Tat Gyi village make drinking water pots, vases and other clay handicrafts the whole year round. Many of the ceramic makers use clay from their own villages.

To encourage the habit of saving money, piggy banks are commonly given to children during the festival.

On average, the clay toys cost Ks 50,000 per thousand toys. Clay piggy banks, for example, cost between Ks 500 to 1,500 depending on their sizes. ■

1st painting exposition held at the Mandalay Cultural Museum

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

The second year students of specializing in painting of National University of Art and Culture Mandalay held the 1st exposition of painting collection at the Mandalay Cultural Museum located between 80th and 24th streets, Mandalay at 9am on 29 July.

Present at the painting exposition were Daw Khin Kyi Pyar, Rector, Pro-Rectors, Professors,department's head, lectures and teaching staff of Painting Department, artists in Mandalay and students of painting specialization at National University of Art and Culture Mandalay.

The painting exposition is being opened from 9am to 4:30pm for five day, from 29 July to 2 August. Over 90 pictures of water colour painting, oil painting, Acrylic painting and Myanmar painting were displayed at the exposition. ■

Playing with fire: Czech artist creates steel portraits with flame

PRAGUE, (Czech Republic) — Czech artist Ladislav Vlna has swapped his brush for a blowtorch as he 'paints' with fire to create art works that change according to lighting.

Vlna's self-titled metallurgic painting technique results in surprisingly delicate and detailed pieces, mostly portraits or figures, with oxyacetylene torches.

The 40-year-old artist begins by painting a draft upon a steel surface and then carves, sharpens and polishes the basic image into it before putting a flame to the engraving which alters its colour, depending on the te perature.

This process gives the piece its unique appearance.

"I am painting using fire instead of a paintbrush. I am extracting the colours from inside the steel with heat and fire."

The appearance of each painting is affected by the light reflected onto the metal's surface. By creating shapes within the metal, it manipulates the light to emphasize the unique 'brushstrokes' the fire has molded.

"The picture placed on the same place looks different in the morning and in evening depending on the light changing", he said. —Reuters ■

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(31-7-2017 07:00am ~ 1-8-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations-The Making Procedure of Goldsmith
07:42	Am	Swan Hein Cave
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The two brilliant Mountaineers (MT. EVEREST)
08:55	Am	Hip-Hop and Design
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Pole Star for the Blind
09:54	Am	Yoghurt Vendor
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Natural Lake: Fish Breeding Business
10:39	Am	Clay Toy Pots Festival

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday 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
07:27	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-3) (Part-1)
07:50	Pm	Yangon Markets: Da Nyin Gone Market
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes: Enn (Their Life and Customs)
08:53	Pm	Paper Art Creator

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

'Most relaxed' hot air balloons lay back over Italy's wine valley

GUALDO CATTANEO (Italy) — Around 30 hot air balloons took to the skies in Italy on Saturday as part of what organisers refer to as the "most relaxed" event on the international ballooning calendar.

The colourful balloons lifted off at sunrise and rose above the Sagrantino wine valley in Italy's central Umbria region.

"It's a lovely way of seeing the world," said Robin Mercer, a balloonist from Northern Ireland. "It's not like being in an aeroplane or a helicopter. You can look 360 degrees ... it is something really, really special."

Since 21 July, enthusiasts from across Europe and beyond have been competing in the third edition of the Sagrantino Italian International Balloon Challenge Cup, an event for which organisers limit the number of participants to keep it laidback and a "ballooning vacation" for those that take part.

The 10-day event, that includes a rich programme of events at which participants get to sample local food and wine, ends on Sunday, when the silver cup will be awarded to the winning team. "You can go as low as the top of the trees or as high as the clouds and you have no idea where you are going to land," said balloonist Andrew Laing from Scotland. "It's a magical mystery tour." —Reuters ■

Hot air balloons fly during a hot air ballooning event in Todi, Italy, on 29 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

International lethwei challenge and Golden belt Championship held

BY the supervision of Ministry of Health and Sports, international lethwei match held at Thein Phyu indoor stadium in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At the international lethwei match, Thabyay Nyo (Adventure) of Myanmar defeated Dai Khi Kha Neko (Japan) by knock out even in the second round.

At 51 Kilo Competition of Golden Belt Myanmar Lethwei, Thabyay Aung (Thone Pan Hla) beat Thein Soe (Aphyu Yaung Thwethit) by knock out in the second round of 2minute, Soe Win Thann (Yan Sit Nyein) defeated Aout Chinn Lay (Taung Zalatt) by the total marks, Super (Myoe Sat Thit) beat by knock out Yue Kalein Minn (Myaing Kalay Cement Factory) in the second round of 41 seconds.

Myanmar lethwei fighter Thabyay Nyo in fighting with Dai Khi Kha Neko (Japan) during the match. **PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN (THE MIRROR)**

At 60 Kilo competition Sein Lone Chaw beat Zwe Lin Aung (Thone Pan Hla) by knock out in the fourth round, at 67.5 kilo competition Yan Naing Tun defeated Kyar Pauk (Yan Sit Nyein) by knock out in the second round, at 67 kilo competition, Phoe La Pyae beat Shwe Minn Yarzar by knock out in the first round and at 71 kilo competition, Thwe Thit Aung defeated Soe Htet Oo by knock out in the first round and the winners achieved golden belts respectively. —Zar NiMaung ■

Public biking event held in Yangon

WITH the aim of growing public awareness in biking, a public biking event was held yesterday with Mya Kyun Tha amusement park as the starting point.

Under the supervision of Ministry of Health and Sports, the event was started at 6am in front of the park and public took part the event systematically.

Officials from Yangon Regional Sport and Physical Education Department, administration departments and Myanmar Cycling Federation attended the event. The bike groups started to leave from Mya Kyun Tha Park along the University Avenue Road and Innya Road, then turned to Pyay Road and Chaw Dwin Gone Road, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road and finally stepped back to the Mya Kyun Tha Park where they started. Over 500 bikers took part in the event and Sports-X isotonic drinks manufacturer donated T shirts and soft drinks to the bikers. — Sports and Physical Education Department (Ygn) ■

Myanmar trounces Thai's Victory City team in futsal friendly match

Kyaw Zin Lin

In preparation for the 2017 SEA Games, Myanmar national men's futsal team played a friendly match against host Victory City futsal team in Thailand yesterday.

Myanmar defeated Thai's Victory City team with 5-1.

Myanmar played well in the match and goals are scored by Ye Lin Htun, Aung Zin Oo, Pyae Phyo Maung, Sai Pyone Aung and Aung Aung respectively. The match with Victory City was rescheduled to play instead of playing with Thailand national futsal team said MFF Futsal League official page. ■

Never bet against Bolt, says Bailey

KINGSTON — Former 100 metres world record holder Donovan Bailey has backed Usain Bolt to bow out in triumph at the world championships next month despite his slow build-up to the athletics showpiece. Bolt logged his season best of 9.95 seconds just over a week ago in Monaco, a time beaten by a raft of sprinters this year.

But the 30-year-old Jamaican is still raging favourite to win his fourth 100m world title, and with good reason, according to former world and Olympic champion Bailey.

"Anyone that bets against Bolt at a major championship isn't smart," the Jamaica-born Canadian told Reuters on Saturday.

"Those athletes have to have a mistake-free race to make (the 100m final) interesting," he said of Bolt's rivals. Bolt is currently ranked joint seventh with arch rival Justin Gatlin on the year's top timesheet which is headed by world leader and American NCAA champion Christian Coleman.

Coleman ran 9.82 seconds in Eugene, Oregon last month.

Bolt's Jamaican training partner Yohan Blake is second on the list with 9.90, ahead of South African Akani Simbine (9.92) and Americans Cameron Burrell and Christopher Belcher.

Former Trinidad and Tobago sprinter Ato Boldon, who won the 100m world championship in 1997, thinks only Blake has a chance to spoil world record holder Bolt's party in London.

"If Blake is healthy, he can be a real threat to Bolt. I don't know that anyone else this year has shown me that they can be better than Bolt in the last 50m," Boldon told Reuters. —Reuters ■

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt reacts at Louis II Stadium, Monaco, on 21 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Tottenham's Pochettino demands respect from rival managers

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino wants rival Premier League managers to show some respect after Chelsea boss Antonio Conte questioned the North London side's ambition ahead of the new season.

Earlier in the week, Conte said it would not be a 'tragedy' if Tottenham failed to lift trophies next season as their expectations are not the same as rivals Chelsea, Manchester United, Arsenal and Manchester City.

"I am not a manager who likes to speak about another club, another manager," Pochettino told reporters ahead of Spurs' pre-season match against Man City in Nashville on Saturday.

"I like to show respect. I expect the same from the people who compete with us.

"For different clubs who have spent a lot of money, the expectation and pressure is massive. For us it is the same. It is our own pressure and ambition." Spurs have come close to clinching their first top division league title since 1961 but could only finish in the top three during the last two seasons. They are yet to win a major trophy since the League Cup triumph in 2008.

With English top division clubs spending more than $1 billion on transfers since the end of last season, Pochettino said Spurs, who are yet to sign a player, would rather wait for the right moment in the current window.

"We are calm because our squad is competitive," Pochettino added. "We have a plan. We have a very clear idea of what we want. "I want to tell our fans 'don't be worried' because we will move in the market."

Spurs open their league campaign at Newcastle United on 13 August. —Reuters ■