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SUNDAY SPECIAL



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Panelists participate in the "Transition from war to peace" session of the Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition. **PHOTO: MNA**

Lessons from other countries need to be applied to bring peace to Myanmar

U Aung Kyi, the adviser to the Peace Commission, said Myanmar is building a positive peace with freedom, equitable development and human rights and dignity, taking lessons from other countries to bring peace to Myanmar.

Five speakers spoke of the challenges in a session entitled,

“Transition from war to peace: Conflict Resolution, Reconciliation and the building of an inclusive multi-national state” during the Forum for Myanmar Democratic Transition being held over this weekend in Nay Pyi Taw.

Panelists said lessons should be learnt from history and from other countries in the

drive to bring peace to Myanmar.

As he explained, peace is very fundamental. Negative peace is practiced as the absence of war. But what they aim for in Myanmar is the positive peace without violence, with human rights and dignity.

“Positive peace is a process

which can be reached through strong commitment,” he said.

He said it was necessary to act very quickly to find a lasting peace.

He also stressed the importance of power balance between two groups: one supports the democracy and one supports the administration in the past

before the democratic transition: arouse after the transition.

Daw Zin Mar Aung, Member of Pyithu Hluttaw, said still there is no active and good link between MPs and peace making process, stressing the important role the hluttaw in the peace process.

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“Myanmar Democracy Transition and Media” session in Democratic Transition Forum

A session on “Myanmar Democracy Transition and Media” was held in forum of Myanmar Democratic Transition yesterday afternoon at Myanmar International Convention Center-2, Nay Pyi Taw.

Representative of DW Akademie Myanmar Ms. Isabella Kurkowski chaired the session and Myanmar Times Chief Editor Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn, Media Freedom foreign expert Mrs. Dunja Mijatovic and Myanmar Press Council Vice Chairman U Aung Hla Tun discussed on “Myanmar Democracy Transition and Media.”

Myanmar Times Chief Editor Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn said media is not an enemy of the State.

There is a very important need for Myanmar’s voice to be presented internationally. Mindset need to be changed for media policy. Access to information is the right of every national and is not a special right for the media only. Diversity is strength and there need to be more news on diversity. Anyone related to media need to coordinate well with it. Media personnel are not perfect and they can also be wrong. But media personnel must try to be true and correct.

Media Freedom foreign



Session on “Myanmar Democracy Transition and Media” was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

expert Mrs. Dunja Mijatovic said conducting a transition is difficult and understand the matters faced by countries in transition like Myanmar. Myanmar is different from other countries and media sector is very important in a transition to democracy. Media is not an enemy. It is a friend. Media is to be used for the country’s development. Regulation on media needs to be setup and Code of Ethics is to be followed.

Media plays an important role in the peace process and even though it couldn’t be told to support the government but

must participate in the process. The government needs to develop media freedom. Mutual trust is important and could be achieved only through working together. Media was seen to have produced problems in the society. That is not good for the people and such conducts are not freedom of expression. Media must benefit the society. The government needs to inform the media openly of all situation and the media also need to inform the true situation.

Myanmar Press Council Vice Chairman U Aung Hla Tun said many countries are facing

difficulties and challenges but Myanmar is facing more than other countries while there is more international attention on it. Viewing media’s role in transition to democracy, media is the fourth pillar that is balancing the three other pillars. The duty and responsibility of the media is important and civil society organisations’ participation is also important.

Media’s role is to smooth the transition to democracy and attain peace. Media need to change the mindset of the people. Myanmar media’s present duty and responsibility is the

safe handling of international image. On the matter of ethnic affairs, international reports are taking news on sensitive issues. It is attracting the international attention. As the regional media coverage was inadequate, it was unable to make the international community understand the true situation. This is due to lack of media freedom, experience and professional skill.

Some laws are threatening journalists. It is difficult for journalists to obtain news from government departments. Obstructive laws are being repealed and new laws drawn to support the journalists. Attempts are made for gradual progress in media sector. In addition to participating in democracy transition, media is also securing and protecting human rights. Media must try to become professional.

Afterward discussion panelists answered to questions raised by attendees. —(MNA) ■

Media’s role is to smooth the transition to democracy and attain peace.

Half of 84 companies investing in Thilawa SEZ are Japanese companies

THILAWA Special Economic Zone (SEZ) implemented in Yangon have 84 foreign companies investing in it and half is reported by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) to be companies from Japan.

Japanese businesses are interested in investing in Myanmar and JETRO is also inviting Japanese companies to invest while providing sector wise information to investors said JETRO Yangon managing director Mr. Hiro Yamao.

With a civilian government in place after 2011, there was gradual increase in interest from Japanese companies and we were providing investment information and information requested. JETRO is the main player for Japan to invest in



Thilawa SEZ is a successful SEZ compared to other SEZs of neighboring countries. **PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN (KYEMON)**

Myanmar and of the 84 companies investing in Thilawa SEZ, 42 are from Japan he said.

Thilawa SEZ is a successful

SEZ compared to other SEZs of neighboring countries. Compared to other SEZ in Myanmar, it had far more complete basic

infrastructure within a short time frame and thus Japanese companies are interested to invest in it. Currently, Zone A is

completed and Zone B is under implementation. Infrastructure work will take about a year and will be completed in 2018 and 10-15 companies are expected to invest in it said JETRO.

According to investment figures from 2014 to 2016 October, direct investment from Japanese companies into Thilawa SEZ totaled approximately US\$ 0.4 billion and will increase with additional investments made this year.

Around 300 monthly enquiries to JETRO Yangon office were made by interested investors from Japan. JETRO office in Yangon was opened in 1997 and JETRO is an organisation under the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.—Hsu Hnin Le ■

Session on Central control economic system to market economy system in Democratic Transition Forum

A session on “Central control economic system to market economy system” was held in Forum of Myanmar Democratic Transition at Myanmar International Convention Center-2, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The session paper was read and discussed by Professor Dr. Andreas Oberheitmann on challenges and opportunities in economic development of Myanmar, indicators to judge economic development, reform and development of East Germany economy and lessons learnt from Germany unification including nationalization of big and small scale businesses, socio economic development, investment sector, reform of administrative and regulatory bodies for economic development, reforming government and government owned businesses, financial control system, freedom of central bank, setting policy to enable free competition, challenges on all inclusivity in development, removal of difference in social status, reconstruction of East Germany, basic infrastructure sector, technology and digital technology for economic development, challenges and opportunities.

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo took over as chairperson for the forum in the discussion session that follows with Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung, National League for Democracy (NLD) central economic committee member U Lay Nyunt, Renaissance Institute Myanmar chairman U Myo Myint and former World Bank and Asia Development Bank executive director



Discussion session on central control economic system to market economy system in progress. PHOTO: MNA

Dr. Thein Swe discussing “Central control economic system to market economy system”.

Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo said Myanmar didn't transit directly from central controlled economy to market economy but can be seen going through several stages, from Revolutionary Council and Burma Socialist Program Party (controlled economy) through Tatmadaw government, democracy transition era to civilian government. There are good and bad in both controlled and market economy but if market economy was practiced since independence, we could be at the same level as other ASEAN countries.

U Myo Myint deemed the internal strives since independence and narcotic as the major challenges faced. Looking at the economic front, export value is declining, trading is resulting in deficit while income from export were not flowing back into the country. Exchange rate is not stable and production capacity, especially in the agriculture sec-

tor is declining.

Economy is stagnant and it is important to know the actual reason for this stagnation. The first challenge is the limitation of the constitution. 25 per cent of the Hluttaw is occupied by Tatmadaw personnel while defence, border and home affairs were controlled by the Tatmadaw. Police Force and General Administration Department are important organisations for administration but were not under the affective control of the civilian government.

This is a very important challenge and another related challenge is the low capacity of the bureaucracy and deeply entrenched corruption. National League for Democracy party knew these before entering the election and becoming a government. It is the responsibility of the government in power to achieve the changes expected by the people and resolve the problems faced by the people. The government is seen to be slow in doing what need and should be done. The most important challenge is the lack

of cooperation.

Cooperation lacks between ministries, central and state and region governments, party and government, hluttaw and government. There is no coordination and all engulfing programs were not set and implemented. Challenges can be overcome considerably if transparent and precise aims and programs were worked on collectively. It is important to stabilize the country's economy first. Market, workforce and exchange rate need to be stabilized in an economy. Development that is all inclusive and equal is a challenge said U Myo Myint.

NLD central economic committee member U Lay Nyunt said in 1960, Myanmar is at the top among south east Asian countries. There isn't much difference in 1970 with Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. During that time our country is under a central control economy and by 1980s south east Asian countries were practicing the division of power. The main point to state is that Myanmar is now at the bottom

in ASEAN and neighboring countries and long term aims are need to develop the country.

Deputy Minister U Set Aung said transition work could not be accomplished in a single step. It is an ongoing process. In conducting transition work, not only the government but the people also need to have the capacity. Transition in any country faces difficulties. Myanmar faces more challenges than others. Furthermore (overcoming) most challenges depended on good and friendly relations and connections.

There were many speculations in our economy and this is not right and good for the country's long term prospect. Having a closed, pre-set mindset is also a challenge. The final challenge is the country's economy that is yet to recover. Thus a good investment environment need to be developed.

Former World Bank and Asia Development Bank executive director Dr. Thein Swe discussed on the requirement of a Time-bound Action Plan for a country's development. Public Private Partnership is also a priority that needs to be done.

Session attendees then raised questions and the discussion panelists answered and provided explanation.

The session was attended by Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Ministers, Hluttaw representatives, foreign and local experts, paper readers, discussion participators, representatives of foreign and local civil society organisations, observers, invited guests and officials.—MNA ■

Lessons from other countries ...

FROM PAGE-1

“MPs are the agents of the people representing the people, talking to people and explain the people what is happening,” she said. U Aye Maung Kyaw, Senior Consultant, Center for Myanmar Affairs Studies, noted the peace process had been going on for five or six years and it was now called the 21st Century Panglong, in reference to the 1947 Panglong talks prior to the country's independence.

He said we have to learn from history in order to prepare for the future.

In theory, the peace process

should be smooth but in practice, in the negotiations, there were many problems, and different opinions and perspectives.

Daw Ja Nan Lahtaw, Director, Nyein Foundation, stressed that civil society needs to be involved in the peace process.

Ranga Kalansooriya, Department of Government Information of Sri Lanka, admitted that his government had only achieved ‘negative peace’ through a military solution that ended in the decimation of the Tamil Tigers.

“We have defeated and crushed the Tamil Tigers mil-

itarily. But the Tamil cause for political autonomy has not been demolished,” said Ranga Kalansooriya. German professor Aurel Croissant stressed the need for the transformation of a war economy to a peace economy as key to democratic transition in Myanmar. “It is not so much a question of transformation from a socialist command economy to market economy in Myanmar. The key to democratic transition is to transform a war economy created by 70 years of civil war into an economy of peace,” Croissant said. Indian author Subir Bhaumik, responding to the presentation, unveiled the Indian strategy of ‘using peace negotiations as an

instrument of war.”

“The Indian state has perfected the art of killing insurgent movements on the negotiations table. Look at the Naga peace process, that has now gone on for 20 years without any solution in sight,” said Bhaumik, author of “Troubled Periphery: Crisis of India's Northeast.”

He said that the Indians use a combination of reconciliation, economic inducements, use of force, and divide-and-rule to wear down the armed groups.

“The Indian state never appears to be in a hurry to sign agreements with armed groups. They just want ceasefire and ensure there is no resumption of

hostilities. It is the rebels who want a settlement sooner than later,” said Bhaumik.

Col Aung Myint Oo of the National Defence College asked Kalansooriya about the challenge of maintaining both humanitarian laws and tight security related special laws in conflict zones.

“That is a really difficult to reconcile. Very often both state and non-state actors violate these laws,” Kalansooriya said.

He referred to the famous white flag case when Tamil Tiger rebels trying to surrender with white flags were all killed. “Such measures makes the conflict even more bitter,” Kalansooriya said.—GNLM with Mizzima ■

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Tachilek checkpoint receives more than 9,000 tourists so far

NUMBER of tourists entering Myanmar through Tachilek land point of entry reached 9,007 between 1 April and 10 August in current FY, including same day return visit and overnight trip, according to the news released by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

From 4 July to 10 August, 378 tourists visited Myanmar through Tachilek gate.

Tourists enter Myanmar through both international airports and border gates. Foreigners want to explore the country's natural scenic views along the mountain ranges, archeological and historical sites and diversity of culture, lifestyles and tradition of ethnic people.

To enhance tourism industry, Hotels and Tourism Ministry is cooperating with the related ministries, Hotels and Tourism Associations, NGOs and INGOs. In addition, the ministry is creating



Tourists visit the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

new tourism plans- community-based tourism, eco-tourism, marine based tourism, etc. The ministry is also promoting cross-border trip plans as a popular trend worldwide.

Tourists flocked to Myan-

mar mostly via these border land points of entry: Tamu, Muse, Tachilek, Myawady and Keng Tung.

Same day return visitors went to Tar Lot market, Bayintnaung stature, Mahar Muni

pagoda, Shwedagon pagoda, the national ethnic village, Arr Khar market in Tachilek town.

Meanwhile, the overnight trippers went to the famous pagodas in Mong Phyat town and Keng Tung town.—GNLM ■

52nd Singapore National Day was held



UNION MINISTER for Construction U Win Khaing and wife Daw Hla Hla Mu were welcomed by Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Robert Chua and wife Mrs. Hisayo Chua at a ceremony to mark the 52nd Singapore National Day which was held in Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon at 6:30 pm on 11 August.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Over 4,000 stimulant tablets seized

POLICE discovered 47,500 stimulant pills on a boat in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State, on Friday, but those who were on board managed to escape.

The security forces, while patrolling with watercraft along

the Naf River in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State, intercepted the suspected boat and seized the drugs. The seized drug are worth Ks 95 million.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Khakaborazi National Park planned for ski resort

SKI resort is being planned in Khakaborazi National Park, in Naungmung Township of Kachin State, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

Australian investor came to discuss building of a ski resort in Khakaborazi National Park. However, this is a long-term plan that needs further observations .

According to policies of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the ministry is implementing eco-tourism in current fiscal year. And Khakaborazi area is also aimed at eco-tourism site.

Mount Khakaborazi is officially recorded 19,296 feet above sea level and it is also recorded as the highest mountain in South East Asia. Visitors can climb the mountain to about 4,000 feet height.

If this place is promoted as tourism site, investors from Japan and Europe are likely to enter market, said an official from the aforementioned ministry.

There are 40 forest reserves among 49 million acres of forest across the country. Eco resort in the name of Bago Yoma was opened in Bago Yoma Mountain ranges in early 2017.—GNLM ■

Man arrested on suspicion of aiding armed attackers in Buthidaung, Rakhine State

SECURITY forces detained on Friday a villager known as Mawlawi Muhamadali residing in Tinmay village, who was said to have helped violent attackers

Mawlawi Mammad Mein and Habat Annawa.

He was sent to a local police station for further investigation.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Tilapia fishes seen in the market. Upgrading of factories fishery sector will create more job opportunities for local residents. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Yangon Region Chief Minister vowed to enhance fishery sector

YANGON Region will emphasize the development of fishery sector with a view to increase Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate, stressed Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

The Region government will commence its measurement activities in the end of this rainy season. Fish farming is likely to help grow GDP rate in a short time.

In addition to upgrading of fish farming ponds, cold storages and fish processing factories will also be upgraded. Fish farming sector has a potential to improve GDP growth

rate and so, we will carry out this as soon as possible, he continued.

Currently, Myanmar's GDP growth rate is 5.90 per cent, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM).

Upgrading of factories and cold storages for fishery sector will create more job opportunities for local residents and Myanmar working abroad who are engaged in fishery industry when they come back to homeland, said U Phyo Min Thein.

In a bid to carry out those projects, the Region government will cooperate with the

related ministries, Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF), local and foreign entrepreneurs.

Projecting to enhance fishery sector, MFF has requested to the Region government to systematically implement marine breeding zone, hatcheries, foodstuff processing factories and laboratories.

Last financial year 2016-2017 earned around US\$600 million from marine export. The fishery sector as of 4 August this FY fetched about \$180 million, according to the Commerce Ministry. — Ko Moe ■

More than 90 per cent of domestic consumption of pharmaceuticals imported from abroad

More than 90 per cent of domestic consumption of pharmaceuticals are imported from foreign countries, according to a report of Friday's edition of City News.

The report is based on the report by Dr Win Sithu, Chairman of Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association (MPMEEA) at 15th annual meeting of the association at Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 9 August.

Currently, there are My-

anmar Pharmaceutical Industries which are being prepared to boost the production and manufacture products of its finest quality.

The effort is to reduce import volume of pharmaceuticals, said Dr Win Sithu.

In order for Myanmar's medicine industry to improve, standard pharmaceuticals must be produced domestically. But the medicines are primarily imported from India.

The price of medicines can decrease only if quality pharmaceuticals can be domestical-

ly produced. Locally produced medicines are of average quality, which are mainly produced by Tatmadaw Pharmaceutical Industry under the Ministry of Defence and pharmaceutical factories under the Industry Ministry. A new factory for producing medicine will also emerge soon, said U Zaw Moe Khaing, the secretary of MPMEEA.

As Myanmar's pharmaceutical consumption is heavily reliance on import, there are difficulties to control the high price and quality. —GNLM ■

China import over 70 tons of dried tea leaves from Muse in July

CHINA imported more than 70 tons of dried tea leaves worth US\$12,440 from Myanmar through Muse 105-mile trade zone in July, according to border trade authorities.

The country exported 40 tons of dried tea leaves to China from Muse border point in the fourth week of July. In the third week of last month, the communist country imported only 1.5 tons of the similar products.

Thailand also bought nearly 70 tons of dried tea leaves last month. Nearly 28 tons of the same products worth \$10,864 million

were also sent to the neighbouring country through Tachileik border gate, a decrease of over 10 tons matched against the previous week.

Tea plantations are long-term investments and require significant capital to maintain. Producing quality dried tea leaves is a top priority of the local manufacturers wishing to expand their businesses into global market.

Currently, about 30 villages in Pindaya can heavily produce tea leaves with the use of modern equipment.—Shwe Khine ■

Locally produced lacquerware in low demand

"DEMAND for lacquerware has steadily decreased in domestic market," said lacquer manufacturers in Kyaukka Village, Monywa Township, Sagaing Region.

This kind of traditional handmade production business is nearly faded away in the village. In the past, lacquerware production was a major business to raise income of villagers. For the time being, there are around 20 people in the village who are still continuing lacquerware production. Lacquerware is one of Myanmar's most intricate crafts. Lacquer artists mostly produce traditional lacquerware items including Buddha images, votive objects and household pieces. Bamboo and wood are used as the frame or base in making lacquerware. The price of lacquerware only

depends on its quality.

The small-scale lacquerware producers cannot compete with the similar products made of plastic, steel and aluminum in the local market, said one of lacquerware makers who added that the prices of those objects are significantly cheaper than the traditional bamboo-based handmade products. Rising labour charges and prices of forest-based raw materials are major barriers local lacquer manufacturers are currently facing. The traditional lacquerware produced in the village are mainly sent to Monywa, Yangon, Mandalay and Nawnghkio towns. Platters, small-sized boxes, bowls, betel boxes are popular among other kinds of traditional lacquer products.—Khine Khant ■

Import value up by over \$1 billion since April

THE total value of import over the first four months of current financial year reached US\$6.43 billion, increasing over \$1.18 billion compared to the same period last year, according to the latest trade data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 April and 4 August, Myanmar imported \$2.32 billion worth of capital goods, \$2.52 billion worth of intermediate goods and \$1.59 billion worth of consumer goods, mainly from its neighbours.

As of 4 August this FY, the government sector bought capital goods, intermediate goods and

consumer products amounting to over \$300 million from international trade partners, while the private sector imported more than \$6 billion worth of similar products. The import value over the same period of last FY totaled \$5.25 billion, including \$149 million from the government sector and \$5.1 billion from the private sector. Myanmar normally imports luxury products, personal goods, construction materials, agricultural machinery, raw materials, household goods, foodstuff and electronic devices, predominately from neighbouring countries.—Khit Thit ■

Relatives commemorate victims on JAL jumbo crash anniversary

MAEBASHI, Japan — Relatives of the victims of a 1985 Japan Airlines jetliner crash commemorated on Saturday the 32nd anniversary of the world's deadliest single-aircraft accident that claimed the lives of 520 crew and passengers.

Relatives climbed to the Boeing 747's crash site on Osutaka Ridge in Gunma Prefecture, northwest of Tokyo, to mourn their loved ones lost in the accident.

"An aviation accident that claimed so many lives should not be forgotten," said Masato Sasaki, a 57-year-old doctor from Yatsushiro, Kumamoto Prefecture, who lost his uncle Yutaka Sasaki, co-pilot of the aircraft, in the accident.

Sasaki, who had not visited the site for about 30 years, said he apologized in front of grave markers for his long absence.

Masanori Takishita, 77, and wife Fumiyo, 74, from Tokyo, have been visiting the site since their second son Hiroshi was killed in the crash when he was just 11 years old.

Traveling alone, Hiroshi was on his way to visit relatives in Hyogo Prefecture, western Japan, after playing a baseball game.

"I want to see my grown-up son," Fumiyo said, as her last memory is of an 11-year-old boy who loved playing and watching baseball.

The couple cut down their visits to the site from three times a year to two times after Takishita had a stroke about five years ago. This would be their only visit this year.

"When I climbed the mountain and silently said 'I'm here,' I feel like Hiroshi is with us when we leave," Takishita said.

According to Japan Airlines Co, around 300 people from bereaved families climb the mountain on 12 August every year to mourn their loss, with 2014 an exception due to bad weather. On the 30th anniversary in 2015, a record 406 people made the trek.

JAL President Yoshiharu Ueki climbed the trail and paid his respect to the victims while pledging air safety.

In the evening, a memorial

ceremony will be held at "Irei no sono" (Memorial Garden) in the village of Ueno, with a moment of silence to be observed at 6:56 p.m., the time of the crash.

On 12 August, 1985, Flight 123, en route from Tokyo's Haneda to Osaka's Itami airport with 524 passengers and crew, crashed into the area, killing all but four aboard. A rupture in the plane's rear pressure bulkhead led to its vertical stabilizer being blown off, destroying its hydraulics and rendering it uncontrollable.

Among the dead in the accident which occurred during Japan's Bon summer holidays included 43-year-old singer Kyu Sakamoto, who is known for his hit song "Sukiyaki," as well as many families including children.

A Japanese government investigation commission in 1987 concluded that the accident was caused by improper repairs conducted by Boeing Co, the aircraft's manufacturer, on the pressure bulkhead with JAL failing to detect any problems in its maintenance checks.

Police referred to prosecu-



Masanori Takishita (R), 77, and his wife Fumiyo, 74, from Tokyo, climb a mountain in Gunma Prefecture, northwest of Tokyo, toward Osutaka Ridge on 12 August, 2017, the 32nd anniversary of the world's deadliest single-aircraft accident that claimed the lives of 520 crew and passengers. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

tors 20 people including Boeing employees for their alleged negligence in 1988, but it was decid-

ed not to seek indictments after Boeing refused to cooperate. —Kyodo News ■

Storms disrupt flights across China, authorities warn of flash floods

BEIJING — Storms swept across Beijing and southeastern China on Saturday, disrupting thousands of flights and flooding towns, while authorities warned that rain and wind could cause landslides in the area where a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck this week.

Beijing authorities raised their weather alert level to "orange" from "yellow" early in the afternoon, warning against lightning, hail, wind and as much as 70 mm (three inches) of rain, threatening flash floods in mountainous areas.

By early afternoon rain subsided in some parts of the capital, but nine roads were still flooded and 171 tourist sites were shut, the official news agency Xinhua said.

At Beijing International, one of the world's largest airports and China's busiest, more than 1,600 flights were listed as cancelled since midnight and over 300 were delayed, the website of Beijing Capital International Airport Co



Tourists hold umbrellas as they visit Tiananmen Square during a rainstorm in Beijing, China on 12 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Ltd showed, urging travellers to check for flight updates.

Air China Ltd said on its Weibo social media account that about 225 of its flights in and out of the capital had been cancelled by 4 p.m. (0800 GMT).

Torrential rainstorms are fairly frequent in Beijing in the summer months, often causing long delays at the airport.

One user of China's Twitter-like Weibo said she had been stuck at the airport for eight

hours waiting for a flight home.

"There are no free seats, I'm having to sit on the floor, I'm jet-lagged and I'm really tired," said the user, who goes by the handle 'Vivian not soymilk'.

Other airports affected by

the downpours included Shanghai, Nanjing in Jiangsu province, Hangzhou in Zhejiang along the Yangtze River delta.

The others were in northern regions: Shijiazhuang in Hebei, Taiyuan in Shanxi, Lanzhou in Gansu, Xining in Qinghai and Yinchuan in Ningxia.

In a statement, China's National Meteorological Centre cautioned rescue crews working in Jiuzhaigou, in the southwestern province of Sichuan, to be on alert for landslides and lightning.

Heavy rain was expected across south-eastern China on Saturday, it said.

Widespread flooding hit two areas, Xiangbei and Xiangxi in the southern province of Hunan, Xinhua said. Rainfall across the province ranged from 100 mm (4 inches) to 200 mm (8 inches).

The extreme weather followed a tornado that struck Inner Mongolia on Friday, killing five people, injuring more than 50 and destroying homes in a major city.—Reuters ■

N Korea says nearly 3.5 mln volunteer for People's Army as tensions rise

SEOUL — North Korea said on Saturday that nearly 3.5 million workers, party members and soldiers volunteered to join or rejoin its army to resist new UN sanctions and to fight against the United States in the current geopolitical tension between Pyongyang and Washington.

Rodong Sinmun, North Korea's official newspaper, said the volunteers had offered to join or rejoin the People's Army after the Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) issued a statement on Monday condemning new sanctions imposed by the United Nations in retaliation for North Korean missile tests.

Earlier this week, nuclear-armed North Korea threatened to strike the United States and its Pacific territory

of Guam.

KCNA said on Wednesday a mass rally was held in Pyongyang to support the government. North Korea has previously mobilised large crowds to show its resolve when tensions escalate.

In August 2015, 1 million North Koreans offered to enlist or re-enlist in the army when a mine exploded in the demilitarised zone between the two Koreas, raising additional tensions.

North Korea warned foreign diplomats to leave Pyongyang in 2013 when it suspended work at a joint inter-Korean industrial park and threatened missile strikes on US Pacific bases, notably in Guam and Hawaii. —Reuters ■

Laos says it will withdraw troops as Cambodia's Hun Sen visits

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia and Laos reached an agreement on Saturday for Lao soldiers to pull back from their shared border after Cambodia accused Laos of sending troops into its territory, the leaders of both countries said.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Friday dispatched forces to the border and issued an ultimatum for Laos to withdraw the soldiers by Thursday.

The Cambodian strongman flew to Vientiane on Saturday to hold urgent talks with Lao Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith.

In a news conference after the meeting, broadcast live on Hun Sen's Facebook page with simultaneous translation into Khmer, the Lao leader said he had ordered the withdrawal.

"I've ordered the authorities involved to withdraw troops from that area by tomorrow morning," Thongloun Sisoulith said.

Thongloun said he was sorry he had not responded to an 2 August letter from Hun Sen seeking withdrawal of the troops.

"Anyway, the discussion today was frank and friendly, so that the area would not lead

to forces being confrontational," he said.

Thongloun did not say whether Laos admitted to having sent troops into Cambodia, which says about 30 soldiers from Laos crossed into its province of Stung Treng in April.

Hun Sen said he had also ordered Cambodian forces sent to the border — truck-mounted rocket launchers and ground troops — to pull back in response to Laos's agreement to withdraw.

"Our biggest success is that there is no dispute that can't be solved," Hun Sen said at the news conference.

"Moments ago, I already ordered all troops that were mobilised yesterday to go back to their positions."

Hun Sen said a border commission from both countries would begin working in the area once troops have withdrawn.

An official at the Lao embassy in Phnom Penh told Reuters on Friday the border area was the subject of a territorial and demarcation dispute. Laos wants Cambodia to stop clearing land there for road-building and allow checks by inspection panels from both countries, the official said. —Reuters ■

Japan deploys missile interceptors after N Korea threatens Guam



Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile interceptors are set up in Konan, Kochi Prefecture, western Japan, on 12 August, 2017, as Japan deployed such interceptors along the possible path of North Korean ballistic missiles Pyongyang has threatened to launch toward the US Pacific territory of Guam. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

TOKYO — Japan finished deploying interceptors on Saturday along the possible path of North Korean ballistic missiles Pyongyang has threatened to launch toward the US Pacific territory of Guam.

The deployment of the surface-to-air missile defence system in western Japan came after North Korea said it is "seriously examining" a plan to simultaneously fire four intermediate-range

ballistic missiles over western Japan in an "enveloping strike at Guam."

The Air Self-Defence Force's Patriot Advanced Capability-3 system was deployed in the western prefectures of Shimane, Hiroshima and Kochi, which North Korea said its missiles could cross over, as well as Ehime which is located between Hiroshima and Kochi.

The government wants to be

prepared in the event that, should North Korea fire the missiles, they fail as they cross over Japan. No PAC-3 units are regularly stationed in the four prefectures.

Japan's missile defense scheme employs Maritime Self-Defence Force Aegis destroyers to shoot down airborne missiles, and the ASDF's PAC-3 system to counter missiles that evade Aegis interceptors. —Kyodo News ■

Sixty children die in Indian hospital amid furore over oxygen supplies

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI — Sixty children have died at a hospital in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh this week, prompting local media to blame the fatalities on a lack of oxygen supplies.

The BRD Medical College specified that 34 were babies who died at the neo-natal intensive care unit, while 12 died because of encephalitis. The rest died of other unspecified causes.

Local media reports have said some of the deaths were caused due to an oxygen shortage after a private supplier withdrew its equipment over unpaid hospital dues.

BRD Medical Chief Medical Superintendent Dr RS Shukla denied the deaths had been caused by a lack of oxygen supplies when

asked by Reuters.

The hospital, in a statement, said there had been a "drop in pressure in the supply of liquid oxygen" on Thursday, but added cylinders were procured from various other suppliers. It did not specify whether that had resulted in any deaths.

The breakdown of the death toll provided by the hospital showed a spike on Thursday, with 23 fatalities, including 14 babies at its neo-natal unit.

The Uttar Pradesh and federal governments are investigating the matter, officials said. A tweet from the Prime Minister's office said Narendra Modi was constantly monitoring the situation.

The deaths have sparked

a political firestorm as opposition politicians sought to pin the blame on Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, which rules the state.

The hospital is located in Gorakhpur district, which is represented by Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, who was appointed to head the state this year.

"The current government is responsible for the deaths of children in Gorakhpur due to the lack of oxygen. Strict action should be taken," tweeted former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav.

State government officials in TV appearances chastised opposition leaders for seeking to politicize the issue. —Reuters ■

Women in kitchens should not have to risk their health to feed others

Aye Min Soe

THE majority of the Myanmar people are using wood-based fuel including firewood, charcoal and fuel bars for cooking, according to a survey based on the 2017 census taken by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

The country's wood-based fuel consumption for cooking has reached more than 81 per cent of the total fuel consumption of the country.

The survey has warned that the

high consumption of wood-based fuel can have a harmful effect on environmental conservation and pollution and cause health hazards to the people due to poor ventilation in their homes.

More than three billion people worldwide continue to rely on solid fuels as their primary source of domestic energy which is associated with elevated concentrations of indoor air pollutants and increased morbidity and mortality both in adults and children.

If a woman cooks breakfast, lunch and dinner, it is equivalent to smoking between three and 20 packets of cigarettes a day, according to the World Health Organization.

In addition to the daily struggles and troubles that women face in finding sufficient firewood to meet their energy needs, the smoke and residue from their open fire stoves pose grave dangers to their health.

In an attempt to nourish their families, countless women are undoubtedly exposed to smoke and

toxins that are associated with an endless list of health problems, including pneumonia, lung cancer, low birth weight and impaired vision.

Many women remain stuck to the age-long tradition of cooking over open fire stoves as they believe that it cooks food faster, properly and makes it tastier.

There is an urgent need for increased awareness on and access to clean, safe, and affordable cooking options like solar cookers and clean cook stoves. ■

What factors increase economic growth?

By Kyaw Win Tin

ECONOMIC growth is the increase in the inflation-adjusted market value of the goods and services produced by an economy over time. It is conventionally measured as the percent rate of increase in real gross domestic product (GDP) usually in per capita terms. Growth is usually calculated in the inflation-adjusted term to eliminate the distorting effect of inflation on the price of goods produced. Long term growth of a country has a positive impact on national income and the level of employment which increases the standard of living. It also leads extra tax income for government spending which can also develop the economy. Economic growth also helps reduce poverty, but this cannot occur without economic development.

The six main causes of economic growth are key components in an economy. Improving or increasing their quantity can lead to a growth in the economy. They are natural resources, physical capital, population, human capital technology and law (efficient and effective financial regulation).

Natural Resources: The discovery of more natural resources like oil or mineral deposits may boost economic growth as this increases the country's production possibility curve. It is difficult, if not possible, to increase the amount of natural resources in a country. Many countries take care to balance the supply and demand of scarce natural resources to avoid depleting them. Improve land management may improve the quality of land and contribute to economic growth.

Physical capital: An increased investment in physical capital such as factories, machinery and roads will lower the cost of economic activity.

Better factories and machinery are more productive than physical labor. This can increase output.

Population: A growth in the labor force means there is a larger population and more manpower. However this could lead to high unemployment if not to enable people to embrace and not use their power effectively.

Human capital: An increase in investment in human capital can improve the quality of the labour force. A skilled labour force has a significant effect on growth.

Technology: Another influential factor is the improvement of technology. This could increase productivity with the same levels of labour, thus accelerating growth and development.

The last factor is law: An institutional framework which regulates economic activity such as rules and laws. There is no specific set of institutions that promote growth. The relationship between law and economic development has been a central concern of modern social theory. Maintenance of financial regulations of a country can play an integral part in the growth of its economy. An economy's strength is measured by the amount of finance it possesses. Hence a country with adequate finances is considered strong enough to deal with the changing global economic patterns whereas a country with inadequate finances is dependent upon the boon and recession of the markets for its profits and losses. The regulations form guidelines and policies set by the government as part of the law.

Laws regarding financial transactions and other like issues are enforced to make sure that no institution goes out of its way. These regulations ensure the flow of cash within a country and save its institutions from being bankrupt by too much outflow of funds. Therefore the policy

framework for effective and efficient financial regulation is important to improve economic sector.

The researcher Mark Taylor an academic financial economist practitioner and member of Warwick Commission suggested four key issues; first the designing appropriate regulation is no easy task. Regulation of any kind tends to have distorting effects on incentives. Financial markets are also remarkably adept at circumventing regulation. Second there are important questions to be answered about the design of monetary policy, especially interest rate policy should be directed: solely at controlling price inflation not asset price inflation. Additionally it was understood that monetary policy could be used as the single main instrument of government macroeconomic policy. Inflation targeting, however, needs to be supplemented by some form of regulation specifically aimed at calming asset markets when they become overheated. Third if the world is unpredictable, there will need to learn to expect the unexpected, and if it is not, the early warning system will be needed for the financial institutions. Fourth the international financial structure is built within a political, sociological and geographical frame work that governs its behavior and it is clear time for a unified social science approach to the problems of the financial system. Therefore financial regulation and supervision can help increase the effective functioning the financial system and growth economy through financial stability. The above mention describes that law especially financial regulation is one of the main factors that affect economic growth.

In conclusion, I would like to mention according to literature reviews that to be good policy framework for effective and efficient financial regu-

lation, the roles of financial landscape (well-functioning system) policy objectives (identifications of problem and case for intervention) policy instruments (identification, matching policy instruments and principles of financial regulation), system design and implementation and reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis should be widely considered and formulated. ■

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Long term growth of a country has a positive impact on national income and the level of employment which increases the standard of living. It also leads extra tax income for government spending which can also develop the economy. Economic growth also helps reduce poverty, but this cannot occur without economic development.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs participates in the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin participated in the 15th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Ministerial Meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 10 to 11 August 2017. The Ministerial Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and attended by Ministers/Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the BIMSTEC Member States, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

In the evening of 10 August, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs attended the inaugural session of the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting. In his inaugural speech, H.E. Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal, highlighted that the BIMSTEC Member States should further enhance the cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, energy, environmental conservation, counter-terrorism and connectivity. Then, the Minister of State together with the other



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin poses for a documentary photo with participants in the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial meeting. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

heads of delegation paid a joint courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal. After the joint courtesy call, he also attended the Welcome Dinner hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal in honour of the participants of the Meeting.

On 11 August, the Minister of State participated in the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and addressed the meeting on Myanmar's participation in the BIMSTEC cooperation activities. He said that among the 14 priority areas of BIMSTEC cooperation,

Myanmar is serving as a lead country of Agriculture and Energy sectors. He stressed that providing the energy access could create job opportunities and contribute to the efforts in alleviating poverty. He also highlighted the need to promote cooperation for the development of Energy and Tourism sectors.

In order to promote the trade and investment among BIMSTEC Member States, he stated that Myanmar put in place Myanmar Investment Law and rules and regulations which create the conducive environment for for-

eign investors. He stressed that terrorism has become the most significant threat to peace and stability in the Bay of Bengal region as well as the Southeast Asia region, and called for strengthening cooperation among Member States in the fight against terrorism. He emphasized that a peaceful and stable environment is essential for the success of regional cooperation activities.

At the Ministerial Meeting, the other heads of delegation exchanged views on the progress of the outcome of the BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat held in Goa,

India in October last year and discussed the activities and commemorative events undertaken by the Member States to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the BIMSTEC. The Meeting also urged the Member States for early signing of MoU on BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection. The Meeting endorsed the appointment of Mr. M Shahidul Islam from Bangladesh as new Secretary General of BIMSTEC for the replacement of the current Secretary General who has completed his tenure of (3) years.. The nomination was made by the Government of Bangladesh in accordance with the alphabetical order. The Minister of State was also accompanied by U Lwin Oo, Ambassador of Myanmar to Nepal at the Ministerial Meeting. The Joint Statement of the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting was issued at the conclusion of the Meeting.

In the morning of 12th August 2017, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs visited the Myanmar Embassy in Kathmandu and met with the Ambassador and staff of the Embassy.—MOFA■

Support from Philippines on Rakhine issue

By Mark Angeles
Expatriate Consultant
Editor of GNLM

When it comes to how to handle the controversial issues involving the Muslim communities in Rakhine State, the Philippines has our back, the country's foreign minister said at the recently concluded ASEAN summit in Manila.

The Philippines and Myanmar have challenges involving the Muslim communities in Marawi and Rakhine State, respectively, and there could be a common solution, or at least a shared, supported process, in tackling the issues. "The key is dealing with the problem without politicization of the issue", said Alan Peter Cayetano, the Philippines' foreign minister. "The other thing is how to support the Myanmar government in solving problems based on their perspective and their needs".

Last year, Muslim armed men attacked border police outposts in northern Rakhine State, resulting in the deaths of



Alan Peter Cayetano, the foreign minister for the Philippines, answers journalists' questions at the inaugural ASEAN Media Forum, held prior to the recently completed 50th ASEAN summit of foreign ministers in Manila. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

nine police officers. The attacks prompted months of clearance operations by military troops, sparking accusations of human rights abuses.

Similarly, Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi, Mindanao, in the southern Philippines, have been fighting military troops for over two months, resulting in a declaration of martial law in Mindanao and allegations

of human rights abuses.

Cayetano's remarks came at the inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Media Forum on Saturday, preceding the ASEAN summit of foreign ministers.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said his country needed to be able to deal with its problems that have cost Filipino lives without external criticism.

"Policemen and soldiers

have died on me", Duterte said. "The war now in Marawi, what caused it but drugs? So human rights, don't go there."

The ministers of the members of ASEAN yesterday renewed their commitment to fight terrorism and prevent the so-called Islamic State from establishing a foothold in the region.

"In line with this, we reaffirmed our commitment to fight ISIS and other violent extremist groups to effectively curb their spread, as well as preventing them from gaining a foothold in the region," the communiqué of the group read.

The effort seems to be gaining some support from western countries, as US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who was in attendance at the ASEAN summit in Manila, pledged support in the Philippines' fight against Islamic insurgency by providing surveillance capabilities, training, information and aircraft to help it fight the months-long siege of Marawi City by pro-ISIS militants, the top US diplomat said

Monday as he prepared to meet Duterte. "We think they are beginning to get that situation under control," Tillerson told reporters. "But the real challenge is going to come with once they have the fighting brought to an end how to deal with the conditions on the ground to ensure it does not re-emerge." Human rights groups have questioned US President Donald Trump's willingness to engage with Duterte, who has been criticised for a bloody war on illegal drugs that has killed thousands of suspects. But Tillerson argued there's no contradiction presented by the US decision to help his country fight the militants, whose insurgency in the Philippines has stoked global fears about the Islamic State group exporting violence into Southeast Asia and beyond.

"I see no conflict — no conflict at all in our helping them with that situation and our views of the human rights concerns we have with respect to how they carry out their counter narcotics activities," Tillerson said. ■

WORLD
BRIEFSTrump to call for
China IT trade probe
on Monday – Politico

WASHINGTON – President Trump will call on Monday for his chief trade adviser to investigate China's intellectual property practices, Politico reported, citing an unnamed administration official.

Trump had been expected to call for a so-called Section 301 investigation under the 1974 Trade Act earlier this month, but action had been postponed as the White House pressed for China's cooperation in reining in North Korea's nuclear program. Politico said it was not clear how much detail Trump would provide in his announcement, but that administration officials expected US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to open a section 301 probe. – Reuters ■



North Korean children play with electric toy vehicles in a children's park in Pyongyang, North Korea, on 11 August, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

No signs of war countdown, but anger over sanctions felt in N Korea

PYONGYANG — No obvious signs of a countdown to war between North Korea and the United States were found in Pyongyang on Saturday, but strong anger over the latest UN sanctions was widely shared by locals.

A series of mass rallies supporting a recent government statement denouncing the sanctions have been held in the heart of the North Korean capital since Wednesday, with party officials, soldiers and students voicing their determination to fight against the United States.

There are also new slogans on the streets eulogizing North Korea's advancement in its nuclear and missile capabilities.

"We are now equipped with a ballistic missile that is capable of gaining ascendancy over the United States," said Kim Mi Yong, a 43-year-old university teacher. "We all feel like we want to press the launch button by ourselves and we are determined to battle against the United States until the last minute."

Amid growing fears in the international community over a possible conflict between North Korea and the United States, people in the capital, however, otherwise appeared as usual.

Making the most of the

homestretch of summer, men were crowding standing bars and enjoying drinks with their friends, while a new park that opened last month to teach children traffic safety was packed with families.

"There are not that many who take Trump's words at face value as he has been making irresponsible remarks almost all the time," said a North Korean woman who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Rather, we are more furious about the adoption of a UN resolution entailing real measures." The new sanctions endorsed unanimously by the UN Security Council a week ago following North Korea's two long-range missile tests last month are aimed at slashing its \$3 billion annual export revenue by a third, including a ban on all exports of coal, iron, iron ore, lead, lead ore and seafood.

North Korea has reacted sharply to the imposition of the sanctions, with a government statement released on Monday warning of "resolute action of justice." North Korea in the statement denounced the US-led sanctions as "flagrant infringement upon its sovereignty and an open challenge to it" and threatened Washington with possible retaliatory measures.

On Tuesday, North Korea then unveiled its readiness to fire four intermediate-range ballistic missiles over Japan to land in waters in the vicinity of the US Pacific territory of Guam, home to about 7,000 troops and 160,000 people. The regional situation was already tense after North Korea test-launched two intercontinental ballistic missiles in July. But since its preparedness to target the Pacific island surfaced, US President Donald Trump has been issuing stern warnings to the country's leader.

"Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely," Trump wrote on Twitter on Friday. "Hopefully Kim Jong Un will find another path!"

Referring to the North Korean leader, Trump also told reporters, "If he does anything with respect to Guam or any place else that's an American territory or an American ally, he will truly regret it. And he will regret it fast."

North Korea has said it will develop a plan by mid-August to launch the four missiles near Guam to teach Trump a lesson.

Around the same time, North Korea is also busy with a slew of events aimed at singing the praises of the ruling Kim

family.

The five-day "international" political and cultural events from Sunday to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Kim becoming its top leader will take place in Pyongyang and Mt Paektu.

The celebrations are being organized as this year also marks the 105th birth anniversary of its late founder, Kim Il Sung, and the 75th birth anniversary of Kim Jong Il, the previous leader who died of heart failure in late 2011. A number of posters and flags for the upcoming events, to be also attended by guests from foreign countries, were seen in the North Korean capital.

Kyodo News journalists traveling from Beijing to Pyongyang by air on Thursday noticed that the North Korean ambassadors to China, Russia and the United Nations, in addition to the country's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, who was returning from Malaysia after attending a regional security meeting, were on the same flight.

It remains unclear if the key ambassadors arrived in the capital to participate in those celebrations or for the purpose of discussing a detailed diplomatic response as tensions escalate between Pyongyang and Washington.—Kyodo News ■

One dead after 5.6
magnitude quake
causes Peru landslides

LIMA — A 5.6-magnitude under-sea earthquake struck the Pacific Ocean off of Peru's southern coast on Friday, triggering landslides on local roads that killed one person and wounded two, a regional governor said.

Arequipa Governor Yamila Osorio added on Twitter that authorities were working to clear roads affected by landslides from surrounding hills.

The 41-kilometre deep (25.5 miles) quake struck the Pacific some 89 km (55.3 miles) from the coastal city of Canama late on Friday, according to the US Geological Survey.— Reuters ■

Pentagon says has not
received any orders
on Venezuela from
Trump

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon said on Friday that it had not received any orders on Venezuela after US President Donald Trump said the United States had a possible military option.

"The Pentagon has received no orders," said Pentagon spokesman Eric Pahon.

It referred questions to the White House.— Reuters ■

Syrian army secures Islamic State-held town in Homs province — state media

BEIRUT — Syrian government forces seized full control of the last major town in Homs province held by Islamic State, Syrian state media reported on Saturday, as the army and its allies press a multi-pronged advance into eastern areas held by the jihadist group.

Syrian state media cited a military source saying Islamic State militants had been killed and their weapons destroyed at the town of al-Sukhna, some 50 km (30 miles) northeast of the ancient city of Palmyra.

The town is also located some 50 km (30 miles) from the

provincial boundary of Deir al-Zor province, Islamic State's last major foothold in Syria and a major target for the Syrian government.

The jihadists have lost swathes of Syrian territory to separate campaigns being waged by government forces backed by Russia and Iran, and by the US-backed Syrian Democratic (SDF) Forces, which is dominated by the Kurdish YPG militia.

The SDF is currently focused on capturing Raqqa city from Islamic State. Syrian government forces advancing from



An armoured vehicle of the Syrian Democratic Forces is pictured during the fighting with Islamic State militants in Raqqa, Syria on 11 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

the west have recently crossed into Deir al-Zor province from southern areas of Raqqa province.

Islamic State controls nearly all of Deir al-Zor province, which is bordered to the east by Iraq. The Syrian gov-

ernment still controls a pocket of territory in Deir al-Zor city, and a nearby military base. — Reuters ■

Kuwait says arrests 12 convicted in 2015 Iran spy case

DUBAI — Kuwaiti authorities have arrested 12 people convicted in absentia of spying for Iran and Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim group Hezbollah, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday.

Kuwait had charged 25 of its nationals — all of them Shi'ites — and an Iranian citizen after the

discovery of guns and explosives in a raid on the so-called "Abdali cell" in 2015, which escalated sectarian tensions.

Kuwaiti prosecutors alleged that the men intended to carry out "hostile acts" against Kuwait.

One person was sentenced to death, the rest to prison terms.

In June, Kuwait's highest court overturned the death sentence and reduced some of the prison terms while increasing others.

At least 14 were sentenced in absentia, including the Iranian national. Iran has denied any involvement in the case.

"The interior ministry an-

nounces that security services have arrested in different regions 12 people sentenced in the so-called Abdali cell," a statement from the ministry and carried by the state news agency KUNA said.

Authorities are still searching for two others convicted in the

same case and still on the run, the statement added.

Kuwait, which has a large Shi'ite Muslim minority, sits in a difficult geographical position, close to two major regional powers and arch foes — mainly Shi'ite Iran and Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia. — Reuters ■

Egypt train crash kills dozens, injures more than 100 people

CAIRO — Two trains collided in Egypt's coastal city of Alexandria on Friday killing 42 people and injuring 133 others, the health ministry said.

A witness said the trains rose into the air "forming a pyramid" as they slammed into each other just outside a suburban station in the Mediterranean port city.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ordered an inquiry into the crash, which left bodies strewn on the ground as rescue teams worked to pull the dead and injured from the wrecked carriages.

The collision at 2:15 pm (1215 GMT), near Khorshid station at the edge of Alexandria, derailed the engine of one train and two cars of the other, the Egyptian Railway Authority said.

A railroad switching error was the most likely cause,

a security source said without giving further details. Transport Minister Hisham Arafat said "human error" led to the collision but did not elaborate.

"In order to avoid it, we have to develop the infrastructure," he told state television. A project was under way to improve the area's facilities, but such plans

took time and money, he said. One resident, Hoda, was standing on her rooftop when she saw the trains plough into each other. "They rose in the air forming a

pyramid when they collided," she said. "I started to scream from the rooftops for people to grab some sheets and run."

"The train I was riding was going very quickly," said passenger Moumen Youssef. "I found myself on the floor. When we came out, we found four train cars crushed and a lot of people on the ground."

Egyptians have long complained that successive governments failed to enforce basic safeguards for the railways. A string of crashes have further inflamed public anger over the antiquated transport network.

In 2012, a train rammed into a school bus south of Cairo and killed 50 people, mostly children.

In Egypt's worst train disaster, a fire tore through seven carriages of an overcrowded passenger train in 2002, killing at least 360 people. — Reuters ■



Egyptians look at the crash of two trains that collided near the Khorshid station in Egypt's coastal city of Alexandria, Egypt on 11 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



T-50 with the advanced engine would perform its debut flight in the fourth quarter of 2017. PHOTO: TASS

Russian army to start getting 5th-generation fighter jets in 2018

MOSCOW — The deliveries of the Russian fifth-generation T-50 (Perspective Aviation Complex of Frontline Aviation, PAK FA) fighter jet with the serial name of Su-57 to the troops will begin in 2018, Aerospace Force Commander-in-Chief Colonel General Viktor Bondarev said in an inter-

view with Rossiya 24 TV Channel on Friday.

“The T-50 or the Su-57 plane is to be rolled out. It will start arriving for troops from next year. Pilots will be learning to operate it,” he said. The PAK FA took to the skies for the first time in 2010. As was reported earlier, the ex-

perimental design work on the cutting-edge fighter jet should be completed in 2019 and its deliveries to the troops should begin at that time. As United Aircraft Corporation CEO Yuri Slyusar said, the pre-production batch will consist of 12 such planes.

It was reported that the T-50

with the advanced (main) engine would perform its debut flight in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Currently, the so-called first stage engine 117S is mounted on the Russian fighter. A new engine has not yet received its name and is conventionally designated as the second stage engine.—Tass ■

Venezuela defense chief calls Trump intervention threat ‘crazy’

CARACAS — US President Donald Trump’s threat of military intervention in Venezuela was “an act of craziness,” the South American country’s Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino said on Friday.

Venezuela’s foreign ministry was expected to issue a statement on Saturday responding to Trump’s comment that “a possible military option” was under consideration for the crisis-racked nation.

The country is deep in a recession compounded by shortages of food and medicine, while anti-government protests have

killed more than 120 people since April. Responding to Trump, Padrino told state television, “It is an act of craziness. It is an act of supreme extremism. There is an extremist elite that rules the United States.” “As a soldier, I stand with the Venezuelan armed forces, and with the people. I am sure that we will all be on the front lines of defending the interests and sovereignty of this beloved Venezuela,” he added.

Communications Minister Ernesto Villegas called Trump’s remark “an unprecedented threat to national sovereignty.”

In a Friday night message on social network Twitter, he said, “The diplomatic corps is summoned to the foreign ministry for tomorrow, when it will release a communiqué addressing the imperial threat to Venezuela.”

Last month’s election of a legislative superbody packed with allies of unpopular socialist President Nicolas Maduro drew international condemnation for usurping the authority of Venezuela’s opposition-controlled congress. Maduro says the assembly, which has the power to re-write Venezuela’s constitution, is needed to

bring peace and prosperity to the oil-rich but economically ailing country. Critics say the assembly casts aside any remaining checks on Maduro’s power.

The opposition boycotted the vote for the assembly, which assured that it would be stacked with Maduro allies.

The White House said Maduro requested a phone call with Trump on Friday, which the administration appeared to spurn, saying in a statement that Trump would gladly speak with the leader of Venezuela once democracy was restored.—Reuters ■

Swiss roads among safest in Europe, least accidents in almost 80 years in 2016

GENEVA — The number of deaths in road, railway and air traffic accidents across Switzerland is the lowest in nearly 80 years and the country’s roads are among the safest in Europe, the Federal Statistics Office said on Friday.

A total of 256 people lost their lives in such accidents last year, the statistics office said.

Of those, 216 were road deaths, significantly fewer than the 1,750 reported in 1970. However, 3,785 people suffered serious injuries on the roads in 2016.

Swiss roads are among the safest in Europe despite more than 17,500 accidents last year.

The record low comes despite an increase in road transport over the past two decades, the Swiss national broadcaster said on its website, Swissinfo.

The statistics office did not cite any possible reasons for the decline in deaths, but experts point out improved car and infrastructure safety standards.

Speeding is the main cause of road accidents in Switzerland ahead of driving under the influence of alcohol. By far the highest number of incidents occur on roads in built-up areas.

Trains remain the safest mode of transport in terms of distance covered despite 22 deaths in 2016, while motorcycles are considered the least safe. No lethal accidents were reported involving mountain cable cars or boats on Swiss lakes and rivers in 2016.—Xinhua ■

BIMSTEC member states express commitment to implement Paris Agreement on climate change

KATHMANDU — The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) member states have expressed commitment to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Issuing a Kathmandu declaration after the 15th ministerial meeting in Kathmandu on Friday, the BIMSTEC member states

said: “We note with great concern of the increasing threat to our planet and livelihoods of the people from climate change and agree to combat the same at local, national and regional levels. We also commit to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change.”

The meeting welcomed the offer of the government of Bang-

ladesh to convene the BIMSTEC experts’ workshop on climate change in 2017. The 15th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting was convened in Kathmandu, Nepal on 10-11 August. BIMSTEC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand. “We recall the 1997 Bangkok Declaration establishing BIMSTEC and agree to in-

tensify our collaborative efforts to realize the aims and purposes of BIMSTEC embodied therein and pledge to make BIMSTEC stronger, more effective and result oriented,” read the joint declaration.

The BIMSTEC member states have emphasized the need for greater cooperation in trade and investment in order to deep-

en regional integration in the Bay of Bengal region.

“We recognize the paramount importance of early conclusion of BIMSTEC Free Trade Area and direct the Trade Negotiating Committee and Working Groups to expedite the finalization of its constituent Agreements,” the declaration said.—Xinhua ■

Xi urges restraint on Korean nuclear issue in phone talk with Trump

BELJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping urged restraint regarding the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula in a phone conversation with his US counterpart Donald Trump on Saturday.

The concerned parties should avoid remarks and actions that could escalate tensions on the peninsula, Xi said, adding China is ready to work with the United States to appropriately resolve the issue.

Xi stressed that China and the United States have common interests in achieving denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and maintaining peace and stability there. The concerned parties should strive to resolve the issue through dialogue and negotiation to reach a political solution, Xi said. China is willing to keep close contacts with the United States, on the basis of



US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) shake hands prior to a meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany on 8 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

mutual respect, to seek a sound settlement on the issue, he added. Xi said he had a productive meeting with President Trump on the sidelines of the Group of 20 Summit last month in

Hamburg, Germany.

Maintaining close contacts between the two leaders on issues of common concern is “very important for the development of the China-US relations,” Xi

added. He urged the two sides to enhance dialogue and communication in accordance with the consensus previously reached, promote exchanges and cooperation in various fields,

and appropriately deal with each other’s concerns, so as to ensure healthy and stable advancement of bilateral ties. Furthermore, the Chinese president said that Beijing places high val-

ue on Trump’s state visit to China later this year, urging both sides to make good preparations for the visit.

Trump, for his part, also stressed the importance of maintaining close contacts between the two leaders on major issues and strengthening exchanges between their countries at all levels as well as in various areas.

The development of US-China relations enjoys good momentum, he noted, voicing his belief that bilateral ties could be better.

The US president also said that he is looking forward to his state visit to China. On the Korean nuclear issue, Trump said the United States fully understands China’s efforts in resolving it, and is willing to continue to keep close contacts with Beijing on major international and regional issues of common concern.—Xinhua ■

Merkel rejects electric car quota pushed by German election rival

DORTMUND, (Germany) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday rejected a proposal made by her Social Democrat rivals to introduce quotas for electric cars in Europe, arguing the implementation of such targets would prove too complicated.

Social Democrat leader Martin Schulz, Merkel’s main challenger in the 24 September national election, on Friday called for such a quota — both in Germany and across the European Union, saying it would encourage industry to innovate. “I don’t think that the quota for E-cars — for this technology — has been well thought out,” Merkel told supporters of her conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the party’s employers’ arm in the western city of Dortmund. “Then we would negotiate for ages in Europe. What would we do if it is not adhered to?” she added of the quota.

“Could petrol engine cars no longer be bought?”

Instead, Merkel called for a bigger strategy for helping the auto industry make the transition to producing electric cars.

“We need to innovate quickly,” she said. “Where companies can’t manage it alone, the government must stand behind them and shove things along.”

The auto industry is Germany’s biggest exporter and provides about 800,000 jobs. But politicians fear Germany’s carmakers are failing to invest enough in new technology and infrastructure — concerns that have been mounting since the Volkswagen emissions scandal broke in 2015. Merkel, whose CDU leads rival parties in opinion polls, is campaigning for a fourth term in office on a platform of economic stability. She has repeatedly warned against “demonising” diesel engines.—Reuters ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV TYGRA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TYGRA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV PACITA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACITA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

Vacancy Announcement

Myanmar Digital News is an online news network publishing daily both in Myanmar and English. We need a native English editor to rewrite and edit news stories and articles. The right candidate should be able to stay in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and will be provided with accommodation. Salary is negotiable. If you’re interested, please email your cv together with a cover letter to recruitment@myanmardigitalnews.com not later than 31 August 2017.

Jefferson Starship guitarist can pursue lawsuit over band name

LOS ANGELES — A founding member of Jefferson Starship may pursue part of his lawsuit seeking to stop former bandmates from using the rock group's name, a federal judge ruled on Friday.

US Magistrate Judge Maria-Elena James said the guitarist Craig Chaquico may pursue a breach of contract claim against David Freiberg, Donny Baldwin and other musicians for performances and merchandising since January 2016, when co-founder Paul Kantner died.

The San Francisco-based judge also dismissed Chaquico's claim for earlier alleged contract breaches, and a trademark claim over the use of his likeness.

David Swift, a lawyer for Chaquico, in an email said he was pleased his client can pursue his "core" claim.

"It is important to Mr. Chaquico to protect the legacy of Jefferson Starship by preventing unauthorized bands, like defendants in the case, from using the iconic name," he said.

A lawyer for the defendants



Guitarist Paul Kantner of the band "Jefferson Starship" plays on stage during the "Summer of Love" 40th anniversary concert at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, California on 2 September, 2007. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

According to court papers, members of Jefferson Starship

agreed to retire the name in 1985 after Kantner left.

Eight years later, Chaquico allowed Kantner, "and only

Kantner," to use the name in connection with live performances and merchandise, the complaint said.

James said that when Freiberg and Baldwin later joined Kantner's revamped Jefferson Starship lineup, their use of the name was "related to Kantner's use," but this ended after his death.

In dismissing the trademark claim, the judge said Chaquico failed to show how the public, and especially fans "more likely to be familiar with the history of Jefferson Starship and its multiple iterations," would be confused about his involvement.

The band was an outgrowth of Jefferson Airplane, which was founded in the 1960s and is remembered for now-classic songs such as "Somebody to Love" and "White Rabbit," which featured singer Grace Slick.

In the mid-1980s, following Kantner's departure, it evolved into Starship, where Slick and singer Mickey Thomas were featured on the No 1 hits "We Built This City" and "Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now."

The case is *Chaquico v Freiberg et al*, US District Court, Northern District of California, No 17-02423.—Reuters ■

Netflix discussing keeping Disney's Marvel, 'Star Wars' films

LOS ANGELES — Netflix Inc is in "active discussions" with Walt Disney Co about keeping Marvel and "Star Wars" films after 2019, when new Disney and Pixar movies will stop appearing on the streaming service, a senior executive said late on Thursday.

Disney announced on Tuesday that it was pulling new Disney and Pixar films from Netflix, starting with new releases in 2019. It will start putting the movies on a new Disney-branded online service that year.

Disney Chief Executive Officer Bob Iger told analysts the company had not yet decided where it would distribute superhero films from Marvel Studios and movies from "Star Wars" producer Lucasfilm, which the company owns, at that time.

Netflix is still in discussions with Disney about retaining rights to stream Marvel and Lucasfilm releases after 2019, Chief Content Officer Ted Sarandos told Reuters. Shares of Netflix were up 1.3 per cent at \$171.41 in afternoon trading after falling 5 percent in the two days following

Disney's announcement.

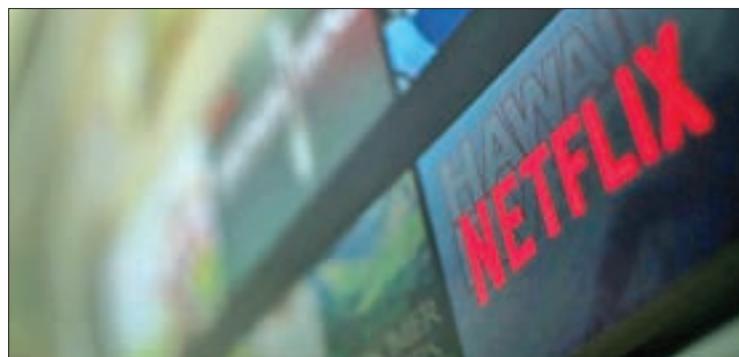
A Disney spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Iger said on Tuesday that the Marvel and Lucasfilm movies could go to Netflix or another streaming service after 2019, or Disney might retain the rights for itself. Sarandos said he expected Disney's service to be "complementary" to Netflix, which carries other family-friendly programming such as animated movies from "Despicable Me" creator Illumination Entertainment and "Shrek" producer Dreamworks Animation.

Disney's plan to stream its content directly to consumers

is "a natural evolution" for traditional media companies that Netflix expected, Sarandos said in an interview at an event to celebrate Emmy nominations for his company's drama, "The Crown."

"That's why we got into the originals business five years ago, anticipating it may be not as easy a conversation with studios and networks" to license their content, he added.

Disney's break from Netflix applies only to its film deal in the United States, where the streaming service runs new Disney movies shortly after they leave theaters.—Reuters ■



The Netflix logo is pictured on a television in this illustration photograph taken in Encinitas, California, US on 18 January, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Syrian refugee-themed film opens Sarajevo Film Festival

SARAJEVO — A film featuring a story about a Syrian refugee in the Finnish capital Helsinki opened the 23rd Sarajevo Film Festival on Friday night.

The film, "The other Side of Hope", is directed by Finnish director Aki Karusimaki. The Syrian refugee should have been deported by the Finnish authorities back to the war-torn city of Aleppo. But he eventually managed to stay in Helsinki for one mission — looking for his sister who he had lost on the Balkan route.

The Sarajevo Film Festival, launched in 1995, has become a cultural event in the Balkan region. Some 100,000 fans are expected to visit Sarajevo during the event, according to organizers.

American director Oliver Stone and legendary British comedian John Cleese are expected to receive Honorary Heart of Sarajevo for their remarkable contribution to the art of film.

In the following eight days, movie lovers will be able to watch 235 films in 18 different programs, featuring 43 world



Bosnian director Danis Tanovic (Front) stands on the red carpet during the opening ceremony of the 23rd Sarajevo Film Festival in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 11 August, 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

premieres from 54 countries and regions. In addition, fourth Somersby Bridge was opened at the same time, which was an entertaining event offering visitors 8 unforgettable concert by bands from BiH and the region.—Xinhua ■



Kyaw Ko Ko from the Yangon United FC holds a football lesson session on 10th August, 2017 for the children at the "Dream Train", a child development centre, in Yangon run by a Japanese NGO Japan Heart. With holding the event, GMO-Z.com ACE Co., Ltd announced that it will donate football shoes and footballs for the children eyeing to motivate the children and to produce professional soccer players from the Dream Train. **PHOTO: GNLM**

World Elephant Day celebrated



Tourists participate in the World Elephant Day celebration at the Elephants Camp in Patheingyi. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG MYINT (PATHEINGYI IPRD)**

PEOPLE took part in an awareness event at the Yangon Zoological Garden and elephant camps in Myanmar yesterday to celebrate World Elephant Day, as part of efforts for alerting the country's decreasing elephants population.

"The event is aimed at raising awareness of elephant conservation and fighting poaching and trafficking parts of elephants," said an official of the Forestry Department at the ceremony.

On World Elephant Day on Friday, national and international conservation organisations expressed grave concern about the plight of Myanmar's declining wild elephant population following a surge in demand for their skin.

"Unlike ivory poaching, which targets tusks, the sudden increase in the demand for skin means the killing is indiscriminate with mothers and calves found poisoned and skinned. If this continues it

could lead to the extinction of wild elephants in Myanmar," said Nay Myo Shwe, Taninthayi Conservation Programme Coordinator, Fauna & Flora International Myanmar.

Elephants are typically shot with poisoned darts or high velocity rifles, and die a prolonged and painful death before being skinned. "The skin is traded illegally and turned into gruesome jewellery or consumed in 'medicines' that have no proven medical value. Elephant skin and other illegal wildlife trade products are openly sold in popular tourist destinations such as Yangon and Kyaiktiyo. Closing these markets is a key step if we are to ensure the future of Myanmar's wild elephants," said Mark Grindley, Manager, Taninthayi Conservation Programme, Fauna & Flora International Myanmar. Elephant skin has long been part of the illegal wildlife trade but never at these levels.— Aye Min Thu ■

Samsung Myanmar and myME mark the 3rd collaborative journey together

SAMSUNG Myanmar donated a new bus and teaching equipment to myME for the third time on 10th August. This is a yearly donation made by Samsung Myanmar started 2 years ago.

The first donated bus was used to reinforce the existing mobile education system of myME in Yangon.

The second bus is being used in Mandalay. The third donated bus will be used not only for teaching literature and knowledge but also for vocational classes.

"This is the third amazing journey we have proudly taken together with my ME, which is a unique project and helps create a better future for the teashop kids in Myanmar.

As we are a responsibly committed international brand, that is always ready to help the communities in need everywhere around the world, we are very happy to see the



Officials from myME and Samsung Myanmar pose for a photo in front of a new bus. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

personal growth of these kids in Myanmar. We will try our best to support myME in the future, and we do hope these kids will grow as somebody who can support their communities and their country one day," said Mr. Richard See, Head of Marketing at Samsung Myanmar.

The Third bus will be used for new vocational classes

which will promote food safety and hygiene, and nutritional awareness among youth and local communities for employable skills.

This class will be taken place at underprivileged communities, particularly Hlaing Tharyar, Shwe Pyi Thar, East Dagon, Dagon Seikkan etc.— GNLM ■

International Youth Day: Peace can be achieved through AI and education, say youth in Telenor Group survey

12th August is the International Youth Day, and organizations around the world are celebrating young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation, as well as inclusion, social justice and sustainable peace. Telenor Group recently reached out to Asian youth on these topics, and the majority say that they view artificial intelligence and access to education as crucial for building peace and improving their communities.

Nearly 7,000 millennials, ages 15-30, surveyed across seven countries in Asia, in-

cluding Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Malaysia, Pakistan and Singapore

The findings were gleaned from two surveys of Asian youth, assessing their attitudes toward peace-building, harnessing technology for social good and securing the jobs of the tomorrow. Together, Telenor Group surveyed nearly 7,000 millennials, ages 15-30, in seven markets in Asia. The two Telenor online surveys were conducted in May of 2017 and September-October 2016.

Artificial intelligence: Best

peace-building technology

When asked which technology has the largest potential to give rise to peace, 32 percent of the respondents placed their bets on artificial intelligence, followed by the Internet of Things (30 percent), and virtual reality (28 percent).

Across all markets, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things and virtual reality rank consistently in the top three – suggesting the vast potential seen in these future technologies by the millennial generation.—GNLM ■

267 cyclists take on mountain bike in Bagan

MOUNTAIN Bike challenge held in Bagan yesterday, attracting 267 cyclists.

The sports activity was held to raise awareness on reducing pollution and thrifty use of fuel.

The event comprised of different categories and lucky draw program was also included in the event for the participants.— Ye Thura Aung (NyaungOo)■



Myanmar women national football team leaves for 2017 SEA Game

MYANMAR women national football team left for Kuala Lumpur at 11am yesterday to play in 2017 Southeast Asia Game, according to Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

U Zaw Zaw chairman of MFF, U Hla Htay chairman of Myanmar women football winning committee, U Phone Naing Zaw CEO of MFF, U Tin Myint Aung Assistant secretary of MFF and officials of Myanmar women football committee saw the women footballers and party off

at Yangon International Airport.

Myanmar women national football team had won third place, bronze medals in 1995, 2001, 2007, 2009 and 2013 and runner-up, silver medals in 1997, 2003 and 2005.

Myanmar team will play against Thailand on 15 August, Viet Nam on 20 August and Philippines on 22 August at UM Arena Stadium, Kuala Lumpur and the host team Malaysia on 17 August at UiTM Stadium, Shah Alam.—Kyaw Zin Tun ■



Myanmar women national footballers and party pose for the photo before they leave for Malaysia. PHOTO: MFF

MFF reveals Myanmar national futsal team's player lists for 29th SEA Game

Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) reveals selected footballers of Myanmar national futsal team for 2017 Southeast Asian Game in Malaysia.

The team is comprised of goalkeepers Kyaw Htet Aung and Zwe Pyae Sone and players Kyaw Soe Moe, Pyae Phyto Maung (2), Phyto Pyae Maung (3), Nyein Min Soe, Myo Myint Soe, Aung Aung, Sai Phyuone Aung, Naing Ye Kyaw, Khin Zaw Linn, Aung Zin Oo, Ko Ko Lwin and Kyaw Kyaw Htun. Manager U Kyi Min Thein, Secretary U Aung Maw Thein, Head Coach Rezar Cawde, Assistant coach U Kyaw Zin Nyunt, Fitness coach Harsan, Goal Coach U Tun Tun Latt, Information officer U Aung Hein Min and Physical coach U Aung Aung will also involve for the team. Myanmar national futsal team will compete against four teams, Malaysia on 18 August, Viet Nam on 22 August, Thailand on 25 August and Indonesia on 27 August. All the matches will be played at Panasonic Stadium in Shah Alam, Malaysia. Futsal men tournament of 2017 Southeast Asian Game will be held from 18 August to 27 August. Myanmar national futsal team will leave for Malaysia on 16 August and arrive back in Yangon on 28 August.—Kyaw Zin Tun ■

Philippines, Myanmar set semis target for football

SEPANG — The Philippines and Myanmar Under-23 football teams have arrived with similar targets – to reach the semi-finals of the KL SEA Games.

Myanmar head coach Gerd Zeise believes his team can achieve the target based on their silver-medal finish at Singapore 2015, when they lost 3-0 to Thailand in the final.

“We must first clear the preliminary hurdles before thinking about the semi-finals. I’m confident my boys will be ready for the challenge,” Zeise

told reporters after the team’s arrival at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) here Saturday.

The 64-year-old German, however, warned his men not to underestimate the other teams in Group A, including hosts Malaysia, Singapore, Laos and Brunei.

“Malaysia are certainly the favourites to reach the semi-finals as hosts,” said Zeise, who was previously in charge of Myanmar’s senior team.

Myanmar will kick off their campaign against Singapore at

the Selayang Municipal Council Stadium on Monday. The Philippines head coach, Marlon Maro, boldly predicted that Malaysia would win the gold medal. Thailand are the favourites to retain the gold after winning the last two editions but Maro, 52, feels that Malaysia could nick it based on the improvement shown by Datuk Ong Kim Swee’s charges.

“Thailand are a good team, but I pick Malaysia as favourites for the gold medal. If you look back at history, Malaysia have a good record as hosts, having reached won gold in 1989 and silver in 2001,” said Maro.

He also said that his players were better prepared this time

compared to Singapore 2015 as “we have played a series of friendlies in Japan and Cambodia”. “We all know that we have two strong teams in our group — Thailand and Vietnam. So, we will take it one game at a time.

“Our main objective is to reach the semi-finals,” said Maro.

The Philippines, who failed to advance to the knockout stage in 2015, are in Group B with Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Timor Leste.

They will open their campaign against Cambodia at the Selayang Municipal Council Stadium on Aug 15.—The Star/Asia News Network ■



New Paris Saint-Germain signing Neymar Jr poses with the club shirt. PHOTO: REUTERS

Neymar set to pay tax fine, wipe slate clean for Paris

SAO PAULO — Paris St Germain forward Neymar has agreed to pay a fine to Brazil’s tax authorities in a bid to put his legal problems behind him, his lawyers said on Friday.

The lawyers said they expect to pay an 8 million real (\$2.52 million) fine to end the long-running dispute.

Brazil’s tax office, however, said they had not yet arrived at a final total. The office originally sought 188.8 million reais (\$59.44

million) in fines, back taxes and interest, although that figure is thought to have fallen considerably. “Although he doesn’t agree with the value (of 8 million) the process has dragged on for more than three years and the intention is to end it and move on to this new phase for Neymar,” said Marcos Neder, one of the player’s lawyers. The decision to cough up and move on comes just a week after Neymar left Barcelona to join PSG for a world

record fee of 222 million Euros (\$261 million). The 25-year old has been beset with accusations he bilked tax authorities in both Spain and Brazil.

“The accusations (against us) were at times hasty, at other times they went against us, but it left a mark on his image and as you know Neymar lives off his image,” said lawyer Gustavo Xisto. “We need to be cautious about it. I think that is the lesson we have learnt.”—Reuters ■

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

13 AUGUST 2017
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

A visit to the Kyaik Maw Wam Pagoda



Maung Maung Aye
University of Foreign
Languages, Yangon

I lived in Thanlyin for a few years, when I was young. So I have long wanted to visit it. Luckily, my long-awaited chance came to me last Monday.

That morning, when my brother told me about their trip to Thanlyin by phone, I was in the class at the University of Foreign Languages. As I did not want to miss this opportunity, I requested permission from the professor to accompany my brother to Thanlyin. The professor acceded to my request. When my brother came to the gate of our university where I was awaiting their arrival, I found in their car some writers, with whom I was quite acquainted.

It was 11:30 am, when we got to the Thanlyin Bridge. The sun was already up in the cloudy sky, half hidden among the clouds. The turbulent Yangon river was lingering lazily under it. When I threw my look towards the surface of the water, I saw a wide expanse of Yangon river. Suddenly, I remembered my frequent swimming with my brothers near the bank of Yangon river. On the left down



Kyaik Maw Wam Pagoda.
PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

,some distance from the bridge were a sand-bank and a small island covered with green tall grass. When our car approached the other side of the bridge, the tops of the tall trees growing in a line starting from the water-edge seemed to be rising up quickly towards our car

running on the bridge. After our car had crossed the junction at the entrance of Thanlyin, we espied the arched gate-way into the precincts of the Shin Hmwe Lun pagoda some metres away on the right. And then our car again made its way along Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road. We did

not stop on the way until Kyauktan where the Kyaik Maw Wam Pagoda was situated. When we reached the Hmaw Wam creek, where Kyaik Maw Wan Pagoda stood, it was already 12. So our group members were very hungry.

SEE PAGE-B

Summer Holiday



Thant Kyi Phyu
San @ Tracy
Year 5 (M.I.S)

Vacations are the best time to relax and enjoy and I eagerly waited for my summer vacations every year. My school closes in the half of the month of June and reopens in the middle of August. This year my mom promised me that I could go to Bangkok with my friend, Claudia. Two days after the school closed, we prepared for our trip.

It was so amazing to look down from

the airplane. We saw thick clouds everywhere. Wow!! Everything down there looks like little ants. We reached Bangkok at 12:00. We rested at Bangkok City INN Hotel. The next day, we went to Kidzania which is the small world of jobs and fun activities for kids. It was located on the 5th floor of Siam Paragon Shopping center. There are 80 jobs to try. Before we start we have to go to the ticket booth area to get 50 kidzos (the Kidzania currency), a Kidzania map and security bracelet which is for the safety of us. If we leave Kidzania without our parents, it will sound an alarm.

One more place we have to go is the

bank and cash the check or open a savings account or we can also spent it on products, services or earn a degree at Kid Zania University. Then, we can choose any job we like and work and earn Kidzos.

The very first job we chose was the Secret Agent Job. We had to pass the laser lines to complete our mission. Next, we went to the Building Climbing Job, but it is not real building but it is safe. I reached the top, but poor Claudia could not.

Then we chose the Postman Job. We had to deliver packages to the other jobs. The next job we tried was police officer job. We had to find the thief by using thief's

photo and his fingerprint. The pilot and air host job was so exciting. I picked up the pilot job and Claudia worked as an air host. Driving on the fake airplane was so unbelievable. At the same time Claudia served the food and drink to the passengers and she learned the safety rules on the airplane.

Finally, we worked as the sushi makers. We made sushi by following the instruction and slice it into 8 pieces. We tried our own sushi. It is the best ever! Yummy! Yummy! Then we left Kidzania with some amazing photos.

It was our best summer holiday.

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

Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

Lesson 14: Interjections

Hello, dear students! It's time for our English Grammar Lesson again.

In the last Lesson 13: Conjunctions, we have studied very basic principles about the joining words. There will be much more things to teach you when we have finished all these very basic lessons on the Eight Parts of Speech.

Here comes the last of all these eight parts of speech, the "Interjections".

Interjections are words that we unconsciously or consciously shout out or murmur whenever we are emotional, as when we are happy, or when we are sad or sorry, when we are amazed, when we are frightened and so on. It is concerned with one's emotions at the period of speaking.

If we suddenly come to know that our salary will be doubled at the end of this month, we will shout out, "Wow! That's terrific", or "Hey, we are so happy!" This shows our sudden happiness.

Even we use to shout "Hey, we have electricity again!" in the community streets whenever we get back the electricity after some time of darkness.

The boys shout out, "Hurray! We won the match!"

All these words which show our emotion, whether it is happiness or sorrow or wonder or fear and so on, we use to say these "Interjections" to show or express our emotions.

Look at the following examples.

- (a) Hurray! We won the match.
- (b) Wow! What a wonder we got the prize!
- (c) Hello, nice to see you here!
- (d) Alas! I'm lucky that I didn't fall down.
- (e) Bravo! You earned this.

- (f) Ah! The building is breaking down.
- (g) Aww! You can say like that.
- (h) Well-done!
- (i) Hey! Here come the good news we want to hear.
- (j) Ah! The great singer Khaing Htoo passed away this evening. So sorry for him.

In these sentences, the words "Hurray, Wow, Hello, Alas, Bravo, Ah, Aww, Well-done, Hey, Ah" all these words are "Interjections".

Please do not forget to add an exclamatory mark "!" after all these Interjections. The Phrases or the Clauses (the groups of words) coming together with these Interjections and exclamatory marks are called "Exclamations".

Here comes the Exercise.

Exercise 14

I. Write down any five "Interjections" you know.

II. Underline the "Interjections" in the following sentences.

- (a) Alas! He passed the examination.
- (b) Aww! I can't believe you are that kind of person?
- (c) Hey! The teacher says we will get a holiday tomorrow.
- (d) Wow! We can do it.
- (e) Ah! I never thought of transferring to such small village.
- (f) Oh! Don't you see my leg?
- (g) Hmmm! The storm has stopped at last.
- (h) Hip, hip, hurray! Our team is marching into the Stadium.

- (i) Bravo! You have found the answer at the last moment.
- (j) Hey! Here comes the teacher.

III. Fill in the following blank spaces with suitable "Interjections".

- (a) _____ I am so sorry to hear this sad news.
- (b) _____ You are such a coward.
- (c) _____ We got our first goal.
- (d) _____ We cannot go home this weekend.
- (e) _____ Are you the eldest daughter of our Teacher?
- (f) _____ What a bright child he is!
- (g) _____ What do you say in such a condition?
- (h) _____ My dear, you are a wonderful friend.
- (i) _____ The dogs are running towards us.
- (j) _____ We can go through it now.

That's all for today's lesson. See you the next Sunday!

Here are the answers for the last week's Exercise 13.

I. Words to be underlined are as follows..

- (a) and (b) and (c) but (d) for
- (e) or (f) nor (g) Either ... or
- (h) Neither.. nor (i) but, for (j) and

II. To fill in the blanks..

- (a) and (b) but (c) for (d) Either .. or
- (e) Neither .. nor (f) or (g) or
- (h) either .. or (i) and (j) and

Hope that you have done well class! Bye for now! See you next week!

Your English Teacher (GNLM)

email: dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com

NEXT GEN PLATFORM

A visit to the Kyaik Maw Wam Pagoda

FROM PAGE A

Thus, we entered a food center where Myanmar traditional cuisines are sold. Then, we partook of meals and other delicious curries to our heart's content. Then we bought the flowers for Buddha images and the feed for the fishes and pigeons. Next, we walked to the ferry-port on the bank of the Maw Wam creek, in the middle of which the Kyaik Maw Wam was located. Many sellers ran after us and sold their goods. I bought some lottery tickets from a lottery-ticket seller.

To save time, we hired a motered-boat for 3000kyats. When we reached the islet where the Kyaik Maw Wan pagoda was, we found there many pilgrims from different

walks of life, some feeding food to big fish coming to the pagoda with the currents and to pigeons and some paying homage to the wish-fulfilled marble Buddha image in the shrine room. It was wonderful to see fish bobbing up to water-surface and pulling the feed down into the water. I also saw the statue of Venerable Upagutta in a brass shrine near the shrine room. Legend has it that the Kyaik Maw Wam Pagoda was built by king Bhogasena, ruler of Pada Kingdom in the year 283 Sasana Era, that its original height was seven cubits and then king Tutta Naga, the tenth of his descendants, enshrined in it one hair-relic of the Buddha and other relics brought from Sri Lanka. It was uplifted to

the height of 34 cubits in 1909 and given renovation in 1948 and 1989 respectively. We left pagoda at 2:00pm. On the way back, we dropped in on the Kyaik Khauk Pagoda standing majestically on Uttaringa Hill and other historical sites.

We felt hungry and exhausted at 3:15 pm. Therefore we stopped over at food centre " Lucky Morning " in downtown Thanlyin. We ate fried tofu, spring rolls and other refreshments. We drank tea there. Then we returned home straight. Although we felt stiffed and tired due to the constant posture in the car all the way, we were refreshed by the beautiful green landscapes on both sides of the way and my desire to visit Thanlyin was fulfilled.

To Mr. Rain

Oh Mr. Rain,

You make our city ugly, with flooded roads,
Traffic jam and Muddy puddles.

Oh Mr. Rain,

You made us scared, with electric shocks.
But you should know,
You cannot threaten us, with your roaring thunder.

Oh Mr. Rain,

You will see,
Colorful umbrellas, are like the shields of us,
colorful raincoats, are like the armors of us,
The yellow school buses, are like the horses of us.

Oh Mr. Rain,

You should know.
We are wise how to use you
To make our flowers bloom.
To make our plants grow.

Oh Mr. Rain,

You can't stay forever,
After you, the sun will shine on us.



Thune Kyal Cin
@ Claudia
Grade 3 (Y.I.S)

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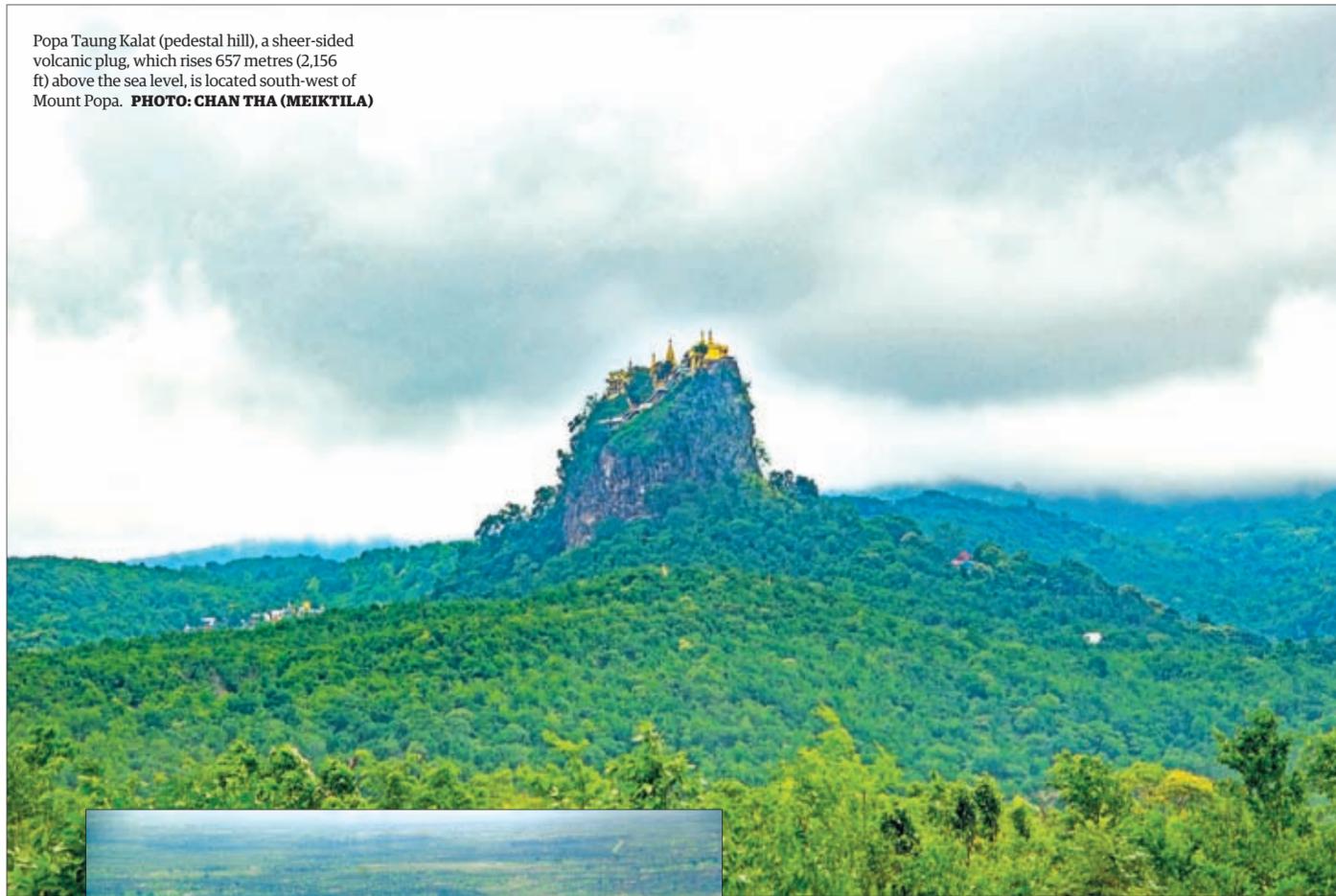
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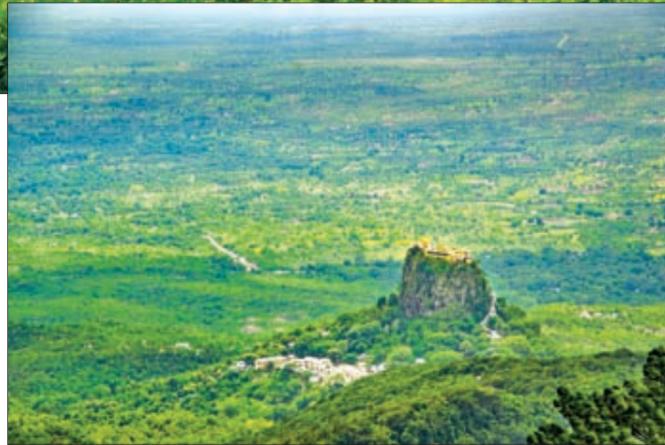
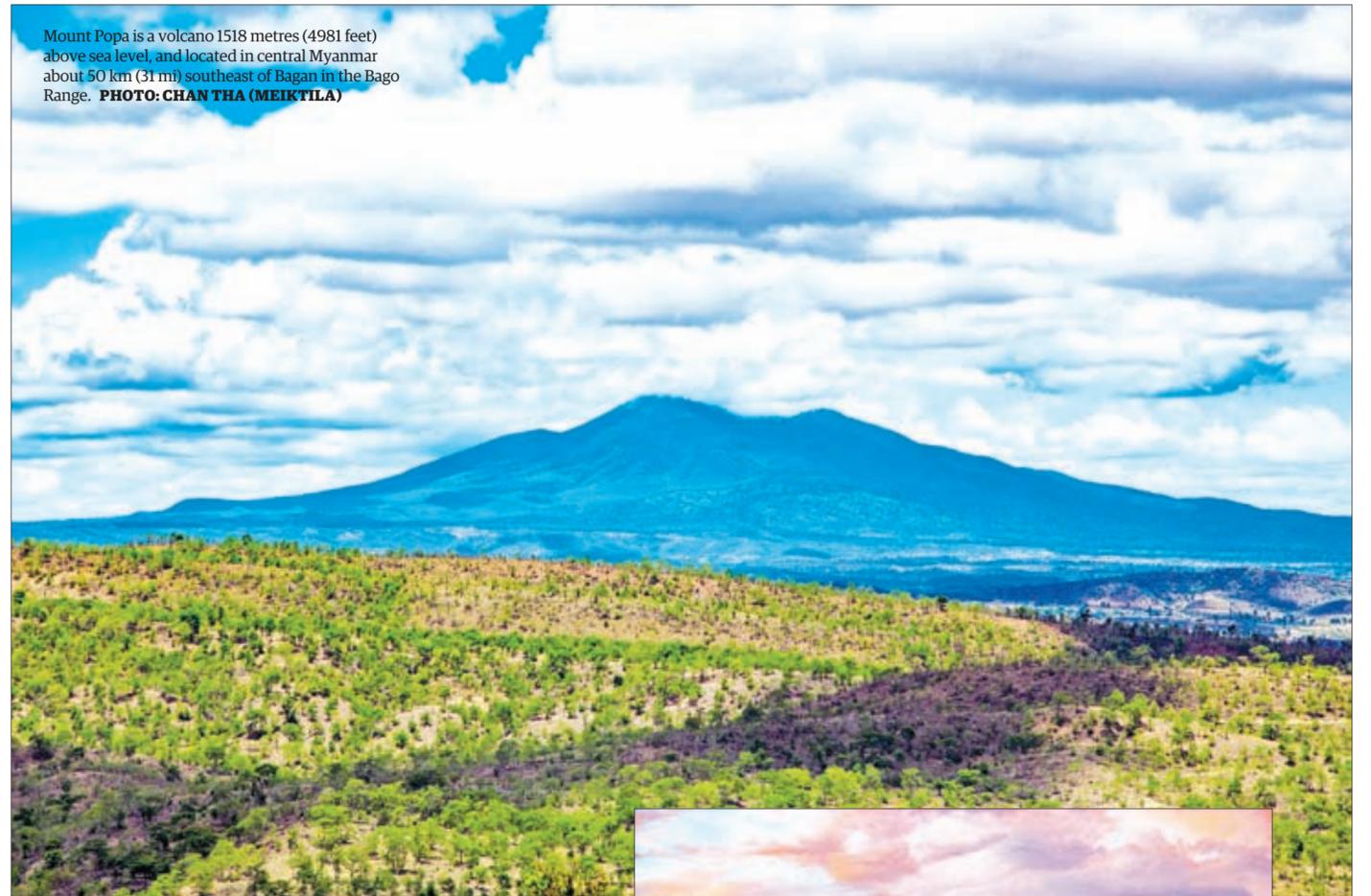
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Popa Taung Kalat (pedestal hill), a sheer-sided volcanic plug, which rises 657 metres (2,156 ft) above the sea level, is located south-west of Mount Popa. **PHOTO: CHAN THA (MEIKTILA)**



Mount Popa is a volcano 1518 metres (4981 feet) above sea level, and located in central Myanmar about 50 km (31 mi) southeast of Bagan in the Bago Range. **PHOTO: CHAN THA (MEIKTILA)**



Popa Mountain

—UNESCO Global Geopark

By Than Tun
(Myanmar Geological Society)

NOWADAYS the science and technology are advancing at an alarming rate, however such an advancing technology has not been able yet to detect any trace of living being on any planet of our universe save our lovely blue tranquil planet, earth which is the only place where human being, animals and plants of different sorts have existed. Other interesting planet is Mars where scientific space research could come up with the features manifesting the probability of existence of living things.

Whether the earth was created by Gods and Brahmas or formed by Earth forming natural process is the question beyond

the scope of this article and what we are sure is that the Earth is 4.5 billion years old according to the geological data. The condition that supports the life on earth is the hydrosphere and atmosphere that encompass the earth.

Among the living beings human beings are the last to appear on the earth, but first in using the brain in a more sophisticated way. That is why men unlike animals can do the management for their daily life. Brain can generate consciousness that synthesize into intelligence. When men use the brain or their intelligence, it usually goes into two different ways, one for the good of all human beings and for the environment they live in while the other way

is opposite causing harms to men and environment.

It is needed to raise the awareness of the people to take value and love each other among human beings and to take value on culture and archaeological heritage. Only then the benefit produced can be enjoyed equally among human beings.

Myanmar is a country that can be metaphorically coined as a favoured son of the earth by being endowed with all natural beauties and resources. Myanmar is simply beautified in the southwestern part by a long coast studded with islands with lush green forest, forest clad mountain ranges, fertile plains with seasonal crops and rivers flowing

along the country from north to south. Furthermore, Myanmar is also rich in mineral resources including oil and gas inland and off-shore, gold, copper, zinc, tin and tungsten and pigeon blood ruby of Mogok which is famous as the best in the world and other gems and imperial jade.

Geopark is a single, unified geographical areas with sites of geological features of global significance and heritage specially specified as Geopark with sustainable regional development strategy supported by Asia-Pacific or Europe and National Project. A Geopark shall have the scientific and educational value and the geological features of a Geopark shall be a rare and enchanting

one. Special geologic features that is significant for education or science or culture should be highlighted in the Geopark.

Then by enhancing the connection between the geological heritage and the geotourism as socio-economic condition of the people in the Geopark area will be boosted and the people will have more awareness in the importance of protecting the area and links of our geological heritage to other aspects of our natural, cultural and intangible heritages.

As Geopark is influencing the living condition of local inhabitants and related environment, it sheds beneficial effect on the whole region and it inspires the people in the area of Geopark

to take value on the geo-heritage and try to conserve them by concerted efforts resulting in the resurrection of the fading local culture of the area.

The other principal intention of establishing the Geopark is to promote the conservation and development of the geological heritages. To be a Geopark officially designated by UNESCO, it needs undertaking in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Geopark network. Creation and upgrading of local products in relation with the geo-heritages are to be carried out through the concerted effort of the local entrepreneurs and Asia Pacific Geopark Network harbouring the philanthropic spirit.

Popa Mountain area had been designated as Popa Forest Reserve in 1902 and Popa Forest Extended Reserve in 1912 encompassing the 8208 area acreage. It was again extended to 23603 acreage under the name of Kyetmauk Taung Catchment Area Reserve in 1973. In 1981 under the cooperation of Myanmar government and UNDP Nature Conservation and National Park Project had started to exist. "Park Project Area" was implemented starting from May 1982. The Popa Mountain National Park has been opened on 7th November 1993.

There are many types of jungle, many kinds of tree, springs, herbal plants, varieties of wild life, volcanic rocks and its ages for

natural scientists to study and do research works in Popa National Park which has seen its all round development under the enthusiastic maintenance and care of Myanmar Forest Department. Popa Mountain Park is also one of the most potential sites in the world to be registered in the list of UNESCO Global Geopark that is, now, vied for among the nations of the world.

The prime objectives of the establishment of the "Mount Popa UNESCO Global Geopark" are for youths of new generations to have disposition towards taking value and safeguarding the nation's territory, natural and cultural heritages of the nation and natural resources. Moreover, to

drive the youths of later generations to strive for the upswing of socio-economic life of the country by doing research works bearing in mind the relationship of socioeconomic affairs with the sustainable development and worldly process is also one of the basic objective of this work. The Myanmar Geoscience Society, Geology Department of Yangon University and Department of Geological Survey and Exploration are now undertaking the necessary procedures in collaboration with Department of Hotel and Tourism, Kyaukpadaung Township Administrative Department and Mt. Popa Lovers' Association to get Popa Mountain area officially registered in the list of UNES-

CO Asia-Pacific Global Geopark Network.

Preliminary survey and research works have been done since 10 December, 2016 and have now already secured about 45 geologic features, cultural heritages of the area, diverse habitat of birds, petrified wood forests and fossilized remains of mammals such as elephant, deer and other vertebrate animals. It is estimated to finish all the necessary preparatory works at the end of 2018 and hope to be able to put forward the proposal to UNESCO for recognition as Popa Mountain Geopark.

(Translated by Khin Maung Win)

SUNDAY COMICS

MiChuu
HTOO

OH!

HOW DARE YOU STEAL FROM A KID!

EVEN IF I SHOOT THE CROW, THE FOOD WILL DROP ON THE GROUND.

DON'T CRY, I'LL GET YOU ANOTHER ONE.

CHU CHU, A CROW TOOK MY SNACK TOO!

ME TOO!

PLEASE BUY SOME SNACKS FOR US TOO!

I CAN'T AFFORD THAT MUCH!

PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE
Cartoon Maung Shwe Win

SOME PURSUE EDUCATION.

SOME SEEK JOBS.

SOME DO BUSINESS.

SOME SEEK SHELTERS.

SOME SEEK THE TRUTH.

YOU CAN SEEK EVERYTHING BUT NOT YOUR OWN ADVANTAGE!

YES!

AH!

ADN. DON'T SEEK PROBLEM!

SUNDAY JOKE
Cartoon Maung Maung Aung 2017

WHY, YOU'RE KO POE AUNG AREN'T YOU?

YES, I AM.

IT'S ME, MU MU. WE WERE IN THE SAME MAJOR!

OH! YES.

WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS WITH KO SHWE WIN AND KO AUNG HTOO.

I'M SORRY. MY MEMORY ISN'T SO GOOD.

LET ME JOG YOUR MEMORY. YOU CONFESSED TO ME ONCE.

OH! REALLY! SORRY, I DIDN'T REMEMBER IT.

BY THE WAY, DID WE GET MARRIED?

ALAS!

END

Interview with Mr. Lyying SAYAXANG, Ambassador of Laos to Myanmar

A wide-ranging Interview with Mr. Lyying SAYAXANG, Ambassador of Laos to Myanmar by the Global New Light of Myanmar and MRTV touched upon democratic and economic reform, peace process and bilateral relations between Laos and Myanmar.

Q. What is your impression for the democratization process in Myanmar?

A. I have been accredited as Lao Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for over 2 years. I found that there are numerous things materialized in Myanmar democratization process, namely general election in November 2015 to form new administrative cabinets, by-election in April 2017, ceasefire negotiation process with the armed ethnic groups and holding the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong 2nd Session to achieve peace, national reconciliation as well as federal democratic union. With all these efforts, I strongly believe that under the leadership of the Myanmar leaders will be able lead the country to tangible success in the terms of peace, national reconciliation and prosperity in the future.

Q. How about your ideas about the peace process in Myanmar and transition from war to peace?

A. Peace is desired for all humankind in this world and only peaceful state will lead to prosperous development of the country. Thus, Myanmar peace process that government and the people are currently seeking for is Myanmar's positive activity. From the past up to now, Myanmar has not had war, only conflict between armed ethnic groups and government's army in some states. The government has potentials to handle by improving socio-economic development and upgrading well-being to the people at large. At the same time, establishing mutual understanding is needed among ethnic groups and the people in order to let them see which one is general or specific. I am confident that when the people obtain universal development and livelihood restoration, several conflicts will be disappeared and peace will be restored.

Q. Could you please tell me about plans for strengthening bilateral friendship between Laos and Myanmar?

A. The bond between Laos and Myanmar is considered as long historic milestone, friendly relations as well as neighbouring countries which share long border. The



Mr. Lyying SAYAXANG, Ambassador of Laos to Myanmar speaks during the interview at the Embassy of Laos in Yangon.
PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

we still face some challenges, particularly in upland and remote uphill border areas of our two countries have provided conducive environment for drugs trafficking, specifically in golden triangle areas.

relations between our two countries has ever been rested on mutual trust and understanding.

Recently, the diplomatic relations and cooperation between Laos and Myanmar has been witnessed over 60 years mainly in political and defence sectors are obviously seen. Especially, our cooperation on monitoring and inspecting peace along the border. In the near future, our two countries will have to tackle with drugs and human trafficking issues, particularly in golden triangle areas. Commodity exchange and trade along the border for our people also need further development. Besides that, we are accountable for implementing Lao-Myanmar economic integration in

accordance with the pillar of ASEAN Economic Community in order to bring benefits for our people of two countries.

Q. What are the major challenges for investors in making investment in Myanmar and border trade?

A. It is to say that, since the previous government, Myanmar has broaden its investment for foreign investors enormously. Meanwhile, Myanmar economic development grows fast but not widespread, in particular in remote areas, fighting between Tadmadaw and armed ethnic groups still exist, these challenges pose uncertainty in investments. I have learnt that Myanmar is a country with

huge plain areas, rich in diverse natural resources and labour force. If internal peace is resolved, more and more investment would be definitely realized and Myanmar will be quickly developed.

Q. Any challenges for bilateral issues such as trans-border crimes, human trafficking, drug trafficking, etc.?

A. Laos and Myanmar shares border of 236 kilometres which is not so long when compare to other neighbouring countries. Over the years, our two countries have maintained good relations and cooperation along the border that constitute friendly and peaceful border. But we still face some challenges, particularly in upland and remote uphill border areas of our two countries have provided conducive environment for drugs trafficking, specifically in golden triangle areas. I think our joint border commission needs to be improved to pursue its border activities more effectively. In addition, developing and ruling our own people, those who are living along the border to cooperate with the government for anti-drug trafficking, anti-drug producing, anti-human trafficking as well Lao Friendship Bridge for commodity exchange and visit one another side are also required in accordance with international regulations.

Thank You

Kindness in the Rain



Shwe Yin Aye
MA in Peace Studies,
Myanmar
Institute of Theology (MIT)

It was raining cats and dogs. The bus stop I had to get off became closer and closer. As it was the next bus stop to get off, I set up my umbrella to be ready for the pouring rain. After that, I went and stood near the bus exit holding my ready-to-open umbrella in one hand. All of a sudden, the bus attendant grasped

my umbrella.

With great surprise, I couldn't figure out what he was doing. I was about to blame and shout at him because of his behavior. At that time, the bus stopped as it got to the stop.

Unexpectedly, he immediately opened my umbrella for me not to get wet when I got off. Though I didn't remember his face, his kindness always reminds me to be kind even in the rain.

PS - Last month, I took the bus line, "41", as I came back from Thamine Junction.



One Tragic Evening



Yune Lai Nay Chi
Grade (6) Section (D),
B.E.H.S (16) Mandalay

One Sunday afternoon my friends and I visited General Aung San Park. Surprisingly, it was quiet on Sunday afternoon. The sun was not so shiny. We could hear

twittering of cuckoos on the tree branch. Also, we imitated them "Ok-aw." First, we crossed the rope bridge that it was difficult to get balance. We were very excited and happy. Second, we sat on the seesaw. We screamed out loud when we went up high in the air. Third, we slid down the slide. We had so much fun and we got tired at the same time.

We rested on the green meadow for

some time. In the evening, the park was becoming crowded. It was filled with bursts of laughter. One family was sitting on the mat and chattering, some children were running on the grass freely and a group of grown-ups were taking selfies with a selfie stick. We were gazing at the scene for a while.

Afterward, we phoned our parents to take us and we were standing on the pave-

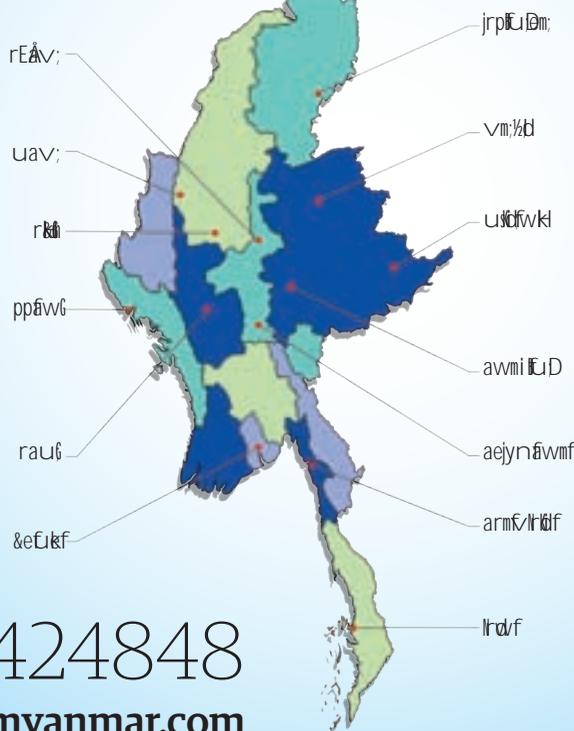
ment in front of the park. In the meantime we heard "Slam", the loud noise from the road. A car just hit a little dog. Later, we saw a thin bitch dashing to the spot. As she was licking her puppy face, we felt that she was mourning for her puppy. She was lying over her puppy body. So, the people took out the body after shooing her. I couldn't make the image of the bitch away from my mind and I will never forget the scene.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



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The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို

အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ



- နေပြည်တော်**
မြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊
ရုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော်၊
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊
စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၂၁၁
- နေပြည်တော်**
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)
ဇေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ဓရေလင်းလမ်းခွဲ၊
နေပြည်တော်၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၃၆၀၄၈၊ ၀၆၇ ၃၆၀၂၉
- ရန်ကင်း**
The Global New Light of
Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊
အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊
ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၁ ၈၆၀၄၅၇၂၊ ၀၉ ၉၇၄၄၂၄၁၄၄
- မန္တလေး**
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃)
လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဇွဲရောင်ရပ်၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၅၅၀
- တောင်ကြီး**
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊
တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁ ၂၁၂၁၆၄၊ ၀၉ ၅၂၀၄၅၇
- မကွေး**
နတ်ဖောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈)တပ်နယ်ဇေး၊
အနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃ ၂၃၇၂၂
- ကျိုင်းတုံ**
မြို့သစ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊
မြို့တော်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄ ၂၂၄၉၂
- ကလေး**
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊
မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃ ၂၂၁၃၃
- မြင်ကြီးနား**
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ဓရေလင်းလမ်း၊
အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်ကြီးနားမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄ ၂၂၄၆၂
- စစ်တွေ**
ရမ္မာဝတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
မီးစက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျည်းမြင်ရပ်ကွက်၊
စစ်တွေမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃ ၂၃၀၆၈
- လားရှိုး**
ဟူးဖွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊
ဟူးဖွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊
(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆုဘုရားရွေး၊
အဝေရာလမ်းမ၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇
- မြိတ်**
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊
ကလောင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ မြိတ်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉ ၄၂၀၈၃
- မော်လမြိုင်**
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇ ၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇ ၂၇၅၂၆
- မုံရွာ**
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တာဝါတိုင်အနီး၊ မုံရွာမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁ ၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁ ၂၆၅၃၃

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