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President: Present reforms need to be conducted in a timely manner, without any anxiety

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met with Yangon Region administrative, legislative and judicial officials in the Yangon Region government office meeting hall yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Region Ministers, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and Region Hluttaw representatives, Yangon Region Chief Justice U Win Swe and judges, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, along with district and township level departmental officials.

In his speech, the President said the meeting was held to raise the momentum of reforms carried out by the government. Reforms need to follow global trends.

If reforms are not conducted, the country's development, wealth, living standard, education, health, economic and social sectors will lag behind. Reforms need to be conducted in a timely manner. The government and all who are responsible are determined to establish a democratic federal union.

Only through the establishment of a democratic federal union can there be peace



President U Win Myint cordially converses with officials at a meeting with Yangon Region administrative, legislative and judicial officials in the Yangon Region government office. **PHOTO: MNA**

in the country, can the states and regions develop proportionately and in tandem, can the union develop and exist forever. That is why the aim is to establish a democratic federal union. It can be seen that the people in the country want democracy. In addition to freedom, justice and equality in a democratic system, there are both mental and physical security of the people as well as development, stability and peace of the country, and thus all are striving

toward implementing it.

Time factor is not to be ignored in establishing a democratic federal union. Time is very important. Time and tide wait for no man. Thus, present reforms need to be conducted in a timely manner. There shouldn't be any anxiety in conducting reform works. Now is a good chance to do this. It is also a rare chance and it should be done effectively.

The administrative sector needs to support rule of law and

should be according to the laws. It should serve the people, safeguard and protect the people and protect human rights.

When the legislative sector prepares a bill, it must benefit the people and the country. It must be in accord with the country's situation. It must be up to the human rights and democratic norms. Hluttaw representatives must study and understand the legislative duties of the Union and the state/region clearly.

The judicial sector needs to

be free from bias and corruption. All levels of the judiciary need to be managed properly. Rule of law is to be conducted according to the laws. All are equal in the face of the law whether they are rich, poor, with or without power or authority. Rule of law is important in a democratic system of government and if democracy is desired, there should be mutual respect for one another, one group to another and all need to abide by and respect the law.

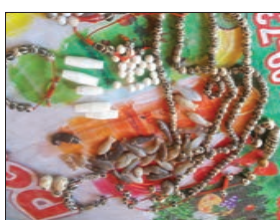
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Cash, food, encouragement provided to flood victims in Mon State, Bago Region

NATIONAL Disaster Management Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, accompanied by Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, went to flood relief centres in Bilin Township, Mon State, on the afternoon of 28 July to provide encouragement and necessary support, including food and cash assistance, to the people affected by floods, provided cash assistance to three missing Tatmadaw personnel who were conducting flood relief work, provided five motor boats and made arrangements for the construction of two cyclone shelters.

Next, the union minister and party also went to relief centres opened at a monastery and No. 1 Basic Education High School in Bilin Township to provide cash, cooking oil and canned fish to the flood victims and also provid-



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye presenting assistance for flood victims. PHOTO: MNA

ed cash assistance to expecting mothers and children.

Yesterday morning, the union minister and party went to Sey Chaung Wa Monastery in Kwin Chaung Wa Village, Penwagon Town, Kyaukdaga Town-

ship, Bago Region, and met with flood-affected people and provided cash for food and cash assistance for expecting mothers and children. More than Ks11 million worth of cash assistance was provided, it is learnt.

Next, the union minister and party inspected the embankment along Sittoung River in Nat Tan Kwin Town, Kyaukkyi Township, and thanked the people helping to maintain and strengthen the embankment. Later, the union

minister and party visited a flood relief centre opened at a monastery in Kyaukkyi Township and provided more than Ks5.9 million worth of cash support to the flood victims. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Relief aid reaches flood victims in various places

PEOPLE living near river banks and in lowland areas should move to safe places, suggested the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) yesterday.

The NDMC urged residents near river banks and low-lying areas in Hpa-an, Bago, Bilin townships and Madauk town to move to higher grounds where they would be safe from floods, and warned those in Toungoo, Shwegyin and Thabaung townships to be alert over any rising water levels.

The Kayin State government is providing meal boxes to flood victims taking refuge in basic education schools, cyclone shelters and a religious school in Hpa-an twice a day, apart from providing soy milk, eggs, bread, and various kinds of snacks.

Flood victims, including expecting mothers and infants, of Kyauktaga and Penwagon townships of Bago Region staying at a village monastery received over Ks11 million worth of foodstuff.

Relief aid including rice,

cooking oil and canned fish was transported by five boats to a temporary shelter in Bilin, and plans are underway to set up two more cyclone shelters, particularly for expecting mothers and children.

Cash awards were presented to people who were collectively reinforcing the embankment of Sittoung River in Natkwin town, Kyaukkyi Township.

In Kyaukto Township, flood victims are taking shelter at four relief camps. Moreover, 1,620 victims at a monastery in Kawtsannaing ward received Ks3402000 million, 113 victims at a primary school in Taungthusu ward received over Ks237300, 571 victims at an affiliated high school in Zeyamon ward received Ks1199100 and 180 victims at a religious building at a pagoda in Phetkaleik Village received Ks37,8000.

Beginning 28 July, a team comprising staff of the administrative bodies, members of social organisations and local people have been reinforcing the embankment of the swollen Sittoung river. —MNA ■

Food, purified water provided to flood victims in Bago, Bilin

RICE and curry and foods packed with banana leaves were provided to those affected by the floods in Bago and Bilin townships by the Prevention and Degradation of Parentless Children Association (Myanmar) and Shin Saw Pu Women's Philanthropic Association yesterday.

With the donations of volunteers, they could donate 1,200 packs of rice and curry and 1,200 bottles of purified drinking water at the flood relief camp at Kyay Ni Kan Tike Ouk Monastic School, Bago and 3,800 packs of rice and



Donors providing relief assistance for flood victims. PHOTO: MNA

curry and 4,800 bottles of purified drinking water for flood

victims in Bilin Township, it is learnt.—MNA ■

Madauk embankment remains safe despite rising water level

SITTOUNG River in Madauk Town reached a danger level of 1,279 centimetres, but the Madauk embankment remained safe, it is learnt.

Due to continuous rain, houses and roads were inundated, but at the moment, Madauk

embankment is still holding strong.

Sand bags were placed to further strengthen the embankment, said Nyaunlebin Township Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department head U Nyunt Lwin. Five flood relief

centres were opened in Madauk town and were providing food and health care services to persons displaced because of the floods, while the public and donor organisations were donating rice packets and dried rations, it is learnt.—District IPRD ■

President: Present reforms need to be conducted in a timely manner, without any anxiety

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The reason for coming to the meeting is to know the true situation of the legislative, administrative and judicial sectors in states and regions and to straighten things up, so all need to submit the true situation clearly, said the President.

Next, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein explained about the status of the government's oversight of regional development work and future work.

Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun then explained about legislative work being conducted, and to be conducted followed by Yangon Region Chief Justice U Win Swe explaining about past, present and future judicial work.

Afterwards, President U Win Myint commented on the strengths and weaknesses of the explanations and reports on the administrative, legislative and judicial sectors. To become a good administrative system, duties and responsibilities need to be taken, transparency, foresight and cooperation required. The government is implementing a good administrative system through setting up policies.

But these policies could not be implemented by one sector of the government only. Officials from the legislative, administrative and judicial sectors, departmental officials and the people need to cooperate. Only them, can there be a movement that we all want and reach the goal



President U Win Myint delivering a speech at a meeting with Yangon Region government officials. **PHOTO: MNA**



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. **PHOTO: MNA**



Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun. **PHOTO: MNA**



Yangon Region Chief Justice U Win Swe. **PHOTO: MNA**

that we all desire.

Public servants are enjoying the salaries and wages from the Union budget and along with these benefits, public servants

need to take responsibility for their work. Rights are to be obtained, while duties are to be performed responsibly. Public servants enjoying salaries and

wages from public funds need to perform their duties and responsibilities according to the law, and they are to serve and provide service to the people.

It is very important not to become a machinery that oppresses the people. The country will be good only when the public servants are good. Only when all public servants are good can they all participate together and reforms will be successful. If reforms are not conducted in a timely manner, our country will lag behind.

With regards to corruption, the anti-corruption commission is taking effective action according to the laws. Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs), working to control corruption, are planned to be formed at the ministry level. All need to participate to become corruption free. Actions in accordance with the laws against corruption are taken, regardless of position or status. Work is ongoing, in a bid to become a corruption-free society.

All that can be done is being done to alleviate difficulties the public servants are facing. Livelihood problems and difficulties of the public servants are well understood. But these difficulties and problems shouldn't be pushed to the front, and illegal rights should not be considered as opportunities. Public servants are urged to work toward easing the suffering and hardships of the people, aiming for their long-term future benefit, instead of only trying to ease one's own temporary sufferings and inconveniences.

After the meeting, President U Win Myint cordially greeted those attending the meeting.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo attends AJP, 6th CACJ meeting

ON the morning of 27 July, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo attended the launch ceremony of the ASEAN Judiciaries Portal (AJP) and the 6th Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) meeting held in the Republic of Singapore.

The launch of AJP was conducted at the 6th CACJ meeting, and present at the event were ASEAN secretary general, Singapore ministers, Norwegian representative to the ASEAN, ASEAN chief justices, senior judges and representative groups.

AJP is an internet portal



Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo seen together with his counterparts at the launch ceremony of the ASEAN Judiciaries Portal (AJP) and the 6th Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

that provides information on the laws of ASEAN countries

and judiciary matters in a single location and was established

with the support of the Norway government for close cooper-

ation between ASEAN judicial organisations.

The 6th CACJ meeting was attended by ASEAN chief justices, senior judges and work group representatives. At the meeting, work groups submitted reports on judiciary matters. ASEAN chief justices and senior judges then discussed the reports, future work and issued a "Singapore Declaration".

The Union Supreme Court is conducting judicial reforms in Myanmar together with judicial cooperation work in the ASEAN region, it is learnt.— Myanmar News Agency ■

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Prices of gum sterculia drop by half in domestic market this monsoon

THE production of gum sterculia (locally called sekalama) declined this season, with growers facing a continuous decline in the prices of the product, according to growers. Growers in Yesagyo, Pakokku and Myaing townships in Magway Region produce gum sterculia on a commercial scale because it is marketable. Growers got a good yield and reaped a healthy profit from the sale of

gum sterculia last year.

The production this year is significantly lower than that of last year and the prices have also dropped by nearly half this monsoon. At this time last year, the price of high quality gum sterculia was over Ks55,000 per viss (3.6 lb) at the Mandalay and Muse wholesale markets. This year, the price of gum sterculia went down to some

Ks30,000 per viss. A local grower said, "Last year's production of gum sterculia was better than that of this year. This may be linked to climatic conditions."

Due to continuous rain in June and early July this year, some gum sterculia were damaged and low quality products were sold to wholesalers at a cheaper price.

U Aung Myo Htwe, one of

the growers, said that the weather strongly affected the gum production. It is difficult to extract gum from plants even on sunny days. Previously, a plant could produce gum on alternate days. At present, a plant produces gum only once every five days.

Gum sterculia comes from a perennial plant that starts to produce gum after about three years.—Ei Mon Swe (Yesagyo) ■



A woman arranges Pyu bead necklaces.

PHOTO: NWAY NADI (MYITNGE)

Pyu bead necklaces popular among foreign visitors

PYU bead necklaces, also known as Chin beads, are selling well in Natogyi Township in Mandalay Region, with a majority of buyers being foreign travellers, according to local handicraft manufacturers.

In the domestic market, a Pyu bead necklace is currently sold for Ks10,000, whereas a large necklace consisting of 100 beads is worth Ks20,000 and a bead bracelet is valued at Ks.\$5,000 per item. The Pyu bead necklace industry in Phayagyi Village in the township produces necklaces and armlets made from petrified wood. The craft-making site in the village is a tourist attraction

and is usually packed with international visitors.

In the past, only handmade necklaces were sold. But now, craft makers use modern machines to produce necklaces. The production process involves cutting petrified wood using machines, drilling holes and polishing and dyeing it step-by-step.

In Mandalay, there are small-scale traditional handicraft production businesses manufacturing earthen pots, lacquerware, bamboo-based products, hand puppets and other kinds of traditional products.—Nway Nadi (Myitnge) ■

Sugarcane crop thrives in Meiktila Township

WITH financial support from Action Aid Myanmar (Meiktila), farmers in Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region have

started to grow three acres of sugarcane plantations in Tehla Village on a trial basis.

The Township Agriculture

Department provided technical assistance to sugarcane growers who requested the authorities to help them cultivate

sugarcane in the village for the first time. Action Aid Myanmar (Meiktila) offered soft loans to the farmers to implement the project. The sugarcane species planted in Meiktila was bought from Setsetyo farm in Nay Pyi Taw, said U Myo Nyein Zaw, deputy head of the department.

U Tin Win, a grower from Tehla Village, said that the pilot project was started in January this year by three growers. Now, the project is producing a fruitful result and sugarcane is thriving here. Some growers said they are interested in developing this kind of perennial crop next season as well. An acre of sugarcane plantation has the capacity to produce between 30 and 40 tons. In the local market, a ton of sugarcane crop is sold for Ks40,000-Ks50,000 based on its quality and freshness.—Chan Tha (Meiktila) ■



Farmers in Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region have started to grow three acres of sugarcane plantations in Tehla Village on a trial basis. **PHOTO: CHAN THA (MEIKTILA)**

Only regular demand of mung bean, pigeon pea seen in market

By May Thet Hnin

MUNG beans and pigeon peas are only on a regular demand as there is a glut in the market, resulting in price stability.

In early May, the Indian government released an official statement allowing an import quota of 150,000 tons each of mung beans and green grams and 200,000 tons of pigeon peas. Myanmar resumed its export to India starting from the first week of June. At that time,

prices were high due to high demand from Pakistan, Nepal and Dubai.

In early June, mung bean fetched Ks505,000 per ton, while pigeon pea got Ks500,000 per ton. At present, with a glut of pulses in the market, mung bean is worth around Ks425,000 per ton, while the price of pigeon peas is Ks485,000 per ton.

“India put a regular demand on pulses from Myanmar. However, as the supply is high, the price remained low. With

widespread flooding in Myanmar, the prices of pulses has increased a bit”, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Merchants Association.

Currently, there is a regular demand from India, Pakistan and Dubai. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh also purchased small volume.

Out of India’s quota of 150,000 tons of mung beans and 200,000 tons of pigeon peas, it purchased about 90,000 tons

of mung beans from Myanmar in June and July, while about 60,000 tons of pigeon peas were also bought in the two months.

“A certain quantity of bean stock might be left beyond after reaching India’s quota”, said U Min Ko Oo.

Myanmar constitutes 70 per cent of India’s mung bean import and so, there is no market competition for it. Nevertheless, Myanmar got market shares of only 30 per cent for pigeon peas. That makes pigeon pea

market uncertain. This being so, the commerce ministry has already informed growers not to grow pigeon peas in the coming pulses season.

India’s demand will not affect Myanmar’s green gram as it has the markets of China and other foreign countries. The prevailing price of green grams is Ks1.2 million per ton, remaining on the high side.

Various pulses which have foreign markets are also getting a good price. ■

Myanmar-Thailand border trade exceeds \$400 million this FY

BILATERAL border trade between Myanmar and Thailand this financial year totalled US\$415.9 million, with exports worth \$123 million and imports worth \$292.9 million, according to the official statistics issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

The current trade figures increased by over \$57 million against the same period last year, when border trade between the two nations was \$358 million.

The country exports agricultural, forest and animal products, minerals, manufactured goods and other miscellaneous products to neighboring Thailand. Its import covers medicines, cosmetics, food and beverages, stationery, footwear, clothing, machinery and other commodities.

Myanmar delivers goods to Thailand through its sea routes as well as cross-border gates.



File photo shows cars passing through the Myawady Border trade zone. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Seven border trade camps are opened between the two states, including Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htikhee, Mawtaung and Maesai. Apart from Htikhee gate, bilateral trade from the Myanmar-Thailand borders increased, in comparison with this time last year.

Among all border trade camps, the Myawady gate saw the largest value of trade, with

\$261 million during the period, followed by Myeik with \$76 million, Kawthoung with \$45 million and Tachilek with \$27 million.

The trade value from all border crossings between 1 April and 20 July this year exceeded \$2.469 billion, increasing by \$316 million over the same period last year.—Shwe Khine ■

Ice apple from central Myanmar penetrates export market

MYANMAR’S ice apple (also called sugar palm or toddy palm seed) will be placed at Chinese market this month.

An entrepreneur has opened a processing factory at Myingyan Economic Zone in Mandalay Region, with a view of exporting the ice apple to international markets.

The central region where toddy palm trees are common is faced with a shortage of toddy palm tappers. Jaggery price is also declining with some local people from the central part of the country struggling to survive from production of only jaggery and palm juice. Sometimes, palm fruits are used as snacks as well as feed stuff. It was considered a low-grade product. Some trees were even cut down to be used as firewood.

“I found toddy palm seeds in preserved can when I was in Europe. With the help of Chinese technology, I started up this business,” said U Thet Zaw, Green Momentum toddy palm seed processing frozen factory owner.

China contracted with the factory to purchase the toddy palm seeds. This enterprise allows the local people to earn a living. “We chose Myingyan economic zone and planned to start running the business prior to Thingyan festival. However, we ran it late due to delay in machinery. The season of palm seeds is nearly due to end. We have stockpiled two tons of value-added palm seeds. We have a plan to export about 20 tons. Next year, export volume will be boosted to 60 tons,” he maintained. —Than Htike ■



Ice apple being processed at a factory. **PHOTO: MMAL**

Myanmar-ROK trade declines by \$11 million in two months

TRADE between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea (ROK), within the first two months of this financial year, reached US\$109 million, which showed a slight decrease in value by over \$11 million against last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Myanmar’s imports outperformed exports in bilateral trade this year. The country exported local commodities worth \$43.8 million and imported Korean products worth \$65.5 million in April and May this year. At the same period last year, the Myanmar-South Korea trade was valued at \$120.5 million, including \$37.3 million in exports and \$83.2

million in imports.

Compared with last year, this year saw a small increase in the value of exports by \$6.23 million, while the bilateral import value decreased by \$17.6 million.

Myanmar imports cosmetics, foodstuff, electronic equipment, mobile devices and other commodities from South Korea, and exports agricultural products, including cashew nuts, mangoes, rice, beans and pulses, and other miscellaneous products to the East Asian country.

According to the annual trade data, Myanmar-ROK trade in the last fiscal year 2017-2018 was \$789.4 million in total.

Trade between the two countries reached its peak of \$1.57 billion in the 2013-2014 FY. It decreased to \$862 million in the 2014-2015 FY and \$656 million in the following FY.

According to a report of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, South Korea’s investments in Myanmar at the end of June this FY reached \$7.8 million from two projects. Its investment in Myanmar last fiscal year was worth at \$253.9 million.

Efforts are being made by the two governments to enhance the bilateral exports and imports.—Swe Nyein ■

Dams and reservoirs with water overflowing from the spillway

FOLLOWING are the 37 dams and reservoirs in Kayin State, Chin State, Sagaing Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Mon State, Rakhine State, Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region where waters were overflowing from the spillway, as of yesterday.

Sr.	Name	Location	Max. Water depth (ft)	Max. Storage volume (acre-ft)	Current Water depth (ft)	Current stored volume (acre-ft)	Rain-fall (inch)	Water level above spill-way Ft.
		Kayin State						
1	Yebok Dam	Hpa-an District	36	28474	39.50	37650	4.37	3.50
		Hlaingbwe Town	19	2376				
		Chin State						
2	Laiva Dam	Falam District	6880	1881	69.10	1902	-	0.30
		Falam Town	26	103				
3	Tikir Dam	Haka District	65	1365	65.30	1379	0.33	0.30
		Thantlang Town	15	75				
		Sagaing Region						
4	Maha Nanda Lake	Shwebo District	6	1095	6.60	1207		0.60
		Shwebo Town	0	122				
5	North Yamar Dam	Yinmabin District	54	14057	54.10	14122		0.10
		Pale Town	29	2836				
6	Yazagyo Dam	Kalay District	145	52000	146.70	53605		1.70
		Kalay Town	85	8000				
		Bago Region (East)						
7	Minye Dam	Taungoo District	38	2350	38.50	2400	1.50	0.50
		Ottwin Town	25	500				
8	Nga Mway Dam	Taungoo District	46	2380	46.30	2422	0.60	0.30
		Pyu Town	27.5	350				
9	Bawni Dam	Bago District	73	35200	74.90	38240	1.23	1.90
		DaikU Town	33	2400				
10	Pyin Pongyi Dam	Bago District	40	11130	40.20	11178	0.35	0.20
		DaikU Town	8	1428				
		Bago Region (West)						
11	South Nawin Dam	Pyay District	36	21196	36.66	23147		0.66
		Paukkaung Town	29.44	10549				
12	Welgyi Dam	Pyay District	102	252000	103.98	271250		1.90
		Paungde Town	70	25000				
13	Nyaung Kine Dam	Pyay District	48	17594	49.10	19431		1.10
		Padaung Town	26	3001				
14	Khawa Dam	Pyay District	63	12550	63.50	12882		0.50
		Padaung Town	29	1308				
15	Taung Nyo Dam	Thayawadi District	95	210000	97.00	228000		2.00
		Nattalin Town	57.5	21950				
16	Thekaw Dam	Thayawadi District	66	52500	67.00	58500	0.20	1.00
		Lepadana Town	40	4120				
		Magway Region						
17	Mone Chaung Dam	Minbu District	140	620900	144.10	664237		4.10
		Sedoktaya Town	60	92500				
18	Mann Chaung Dam	Minbu District	120	120000	122.30	127200		2.30
		Ngaphe Town	60	10500				
19	Kyi-ohn-kyee-wa Dam	Minbu District	123.5	302700	128.50	349700		5.00
		Pwintbyu Town	56	24372				
20	Madey Dam	Thayet District	138	53908	139.00	54700		1.00
		Kanma Town	74	10210				
		Mon State						
21	Werpar Dam	Thaton District	61	4150	60.25	4089	0.92	0.25
		Thaton Town	17	173				
		Rakhine State						
22	Pyaing Chaung Dam	Sittway District	96	25205	97.08	25705	0.20	1.00
		Kyauktaw Town	26	1054				
23	Gyogyarkwin Dam	Thandwe District	40	529	40.50	540		0.50
		Taungup Town	11	7				

24	Ya Haing Kwin Dam	Thandwe District	40.6	625	41.00	650		0.50
		Gwa Town	13.60	47				
25	Zee Phyu Kone Dam	Thandwe District	27	430	27.40	442		0.40
		Thandwe Town	6	22				
26	Ngapali Dam	Thandwe District	44	1470	44.30	1491		0.3
		Thandwe Town	9	70				
27	Gayin Gyai Dam	MraukU District	26	65	26.20	66		0.20
		Minbya Town	12	5				
28	Kyet Tet Dam	MraukU District	30	121	33.20	153		3.20
		Minbya Town	10	9				
29	Shauk Chaung Dam	MraukU District	43	1140	43.90	1096	0.40	0.90
		Kyauktaw Town	17	120				
30	Tamann Doo Dam	MraukU District	34.75	678	34.85	682		0.10
		MyebonTown	11.75	75				
31	Khami Kyein Chaung Dam	Sittway District	78	10777	78.90	11114	2.26	0.90
		Ponnagyun Town	28	710				
		Yangon Region						
32	Bantbwegon Dam	Yangon(South) District	13	1735	14.15	1988	0.40	1.15
		Thanlyin Town	2.50	150				
33	Zarmani-Inn Dam	Yangon(South) District	12	5364	13.20	6217	0.32	1.20
		Thanlyin Town	2	326				
		Ayeyawady Region						
34	Kun Chaung Dam	Hinthada District	125	98400	126.00	101468		1.80
		Kyangin Town	48	7350				
35	Ma Mya Dam	Hinthada District	135	71400	137.68	74790	0.15	2.60
		Myanaung Township	36	2962				
36	Nan Kathu Dam	Hinthada District	138	40487	140.20	41554	0.41	2.20
		Ingapu Town	58	6618				
37	Kanyin Dam	Hinthada District	174	145000	177.70	152245	0.25	3.70
		Ingapu Town	86	26880				

Notice for breaching of Mukhamu embankment

MUKHAMU embankment in Nyaunglebin Township was reportedly breached and there is a possibility of nearby villages of Ngakyi Aing, Bhamawtaw, Eka 500, Chaung Kyo, Sipin and Lay Ein Su being inundated.

People in these villages are being notified to prepare for moving to higher grounds and to be reported in a timely manner of situation.

The government is cooperating and working together with relevant departments and civil society organisations, said the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

— Myanmar News Agency



Meeting held to accelerate healthcare in flood-hit areas

A MEETING in Nay Pyi Taw sought means to further accelerate healthcare in flood-hit areas around the country, which saw the participation of Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe.

At the meeting, Assistant Director Dr Kyaw Khaing San of the Public Health Department explained the distribution of medicines and medical equipment, including anti-snake venom, water purifying pills, water purification devices and insecticide-treated nets, the provision of healthcare services at temporary flood relief camps



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and officials seek means to further accelerate healthcare in flood-hit areas. PHOTO: MNA

and mobile flood relief camps and monitoring of disease outbreaks. Meeting attendees then discussed ways and means to accelerate healthcare work in flood-hit areas around the country.—Myanmar News Agency ■

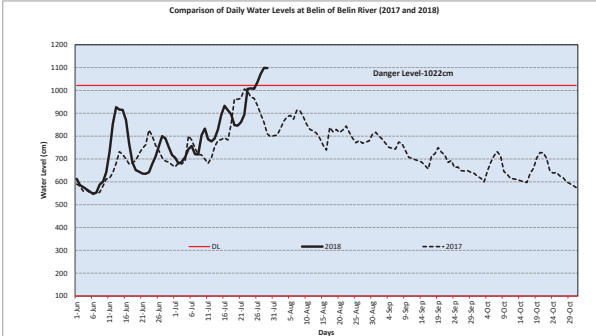
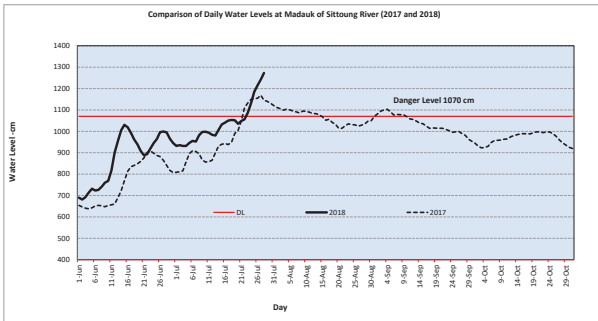
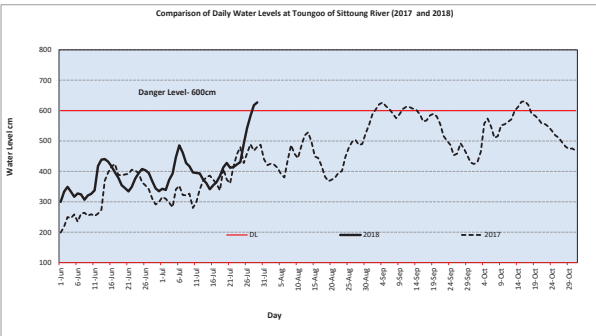
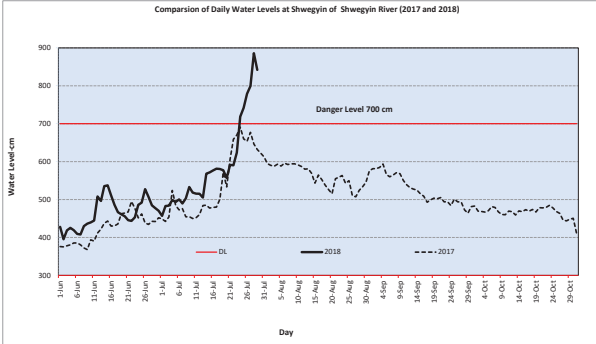
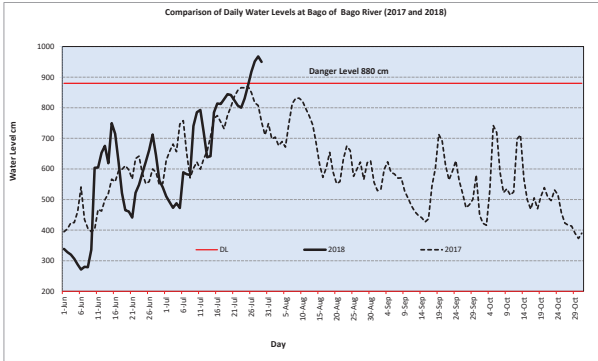
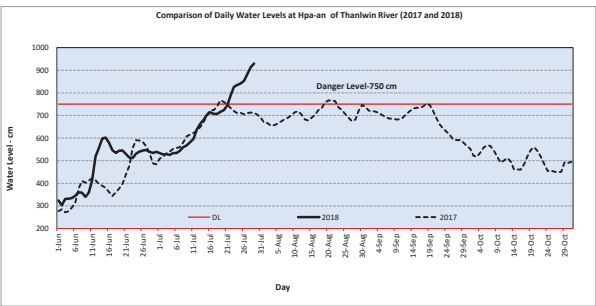
Gurkhas donate Ks 10.1m for Eternal Peace Pagoda

ALL Myanmar Gurkha Hindu Federation donated Ks 10.1 million for Eternal Peace Pagoda in Yangon yesterday.

At the donation ceremony Chairman U Maung Win and officials of the federation handed over the donation through Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Koe, who, in return, presented certificate of honour to them.

The donation ceremony for the pagoda, located in Dekkina Thiri, Township in Nay Pyi Taw was held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture (Yangon branch).—Myanmar News Agency■

All Myanmar Gurkha Hindu Federation donates Ks 10.1 million for Eternal Peace Pagoda located in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



U Soe Lynn Han appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to Belgium

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Soe Lynn Han, Director-General of Planning and Administrative Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Belgium.—Myanmar News Agency

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 15:00 hrs MST on 29-7-2018)

Flood conditions of Sittoung River

According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (1) foot at Taungoo above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (7) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may fall about (½) foot during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level. The water level of Sittoung River at Madauk (1282) cm observed at (20:30) hr MST observation on (28.7.2018) is the highest of (53) years record. It has fallen about (2) inches on the highest recorded water level.

Flood condition of Shwegyin River

According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Shwegyin River has exceeded by about (4) feet at Shwegyin above its danger level. It may fall about (½) foot during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Bago River

According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Bago River has exceeded by about (2) feet at Bago above its danger level. It may fall about (½) foot during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level. It has fallen about (1) foot on the highest recorded water level.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (6) feet at Hpa-an above its danger level. It may continue to rise about (½) foot during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Bilin River

According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Bilin River has exceeded by about (2½) feet at Bilin above its danger level and may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

Advisory

It is especially advised that people who have settled near the river banks and lowlying areas in Hpa-an, Bago, and Bilin townships and Madauk, to avert due to the rise of water level, and in Taungoo and Shwegyin townships, to take precautionary measures.

Err on the side of caution

THE National Disaster Management Committee has urged caution and encouraged the public in low-lying areas in Hpa-an, Bago and Shwegyin townships and Madauk to stay away from banks as the water levels in the rivers near them have exceeded the danger level.

The committee has also warned people living near the rivers and low-lying areas of Taungoo in Bago Region and Bilin in Mon State to be alerted to the floods and to keep informed of rising waters.

Meanwhile, many parts in Bago, Hpa-an, Shwegyin, Madauk, Taungoo and Bilin are under water, and many families still have not been able to move back into their homes.

The National Disaster Management Committee has also warned people living near the rivers and low-lying areas of Taungoo in Bago Region and Bilin in Mon State to be alerted to the floods and to keep informed of rising waters.

The authorities in the flood-hit regions are also on alert paying attention to changing conditions, especially in low-lying areas, as the water levels of the rivers in the areas reached above their danger levels and expected to rise over the next day and remain above its danger level.

In a weather like this, anything can happen. Just be prepared.

Residents and authorities in flood-hit areas should always monitor their surroundings and heed warnings.

Motorists are urged to slow down and not to drive through floodwaters unless they know the water's not too deep for driving. Never trying to drive through a flood is prudent for motorists, because six inches of water can cause loss of control, of the car and possible

stalling.

If you are in your car when the water begins to rise quickly, abandon it and move to higher ground.

Motorists and people in flood-hit areas are facing travel chaos after the roads were flooded.

Another caution we should take is health threats caused by flood waters and standing water. The threats include infectious diseases, chemical hazards and injuries.

Communities in flood-hit areas are urged to decrease the risk of mosquito and other insect bites by wearing a long-sleeved shirt, using mosquito nets and insect repellent.

People should not forget to wash their hands with soap and water or to get them disinfected before preparing or eating foods. Do not allow children to play in flood waters or with toys that have been in contact with flood waters.

Be prepared and listen to all warnings issued for your area. Nobody can stop a force as fearsome as a flood. Floods damage or destroy more homes than any other natural disaster. ■

By U Khin Maung
(retired diplomat)

1. “All men are born equal, and equality ends there.” And we have some other words of wisdom. “Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them.” A man cannot lead a fellow-human being without having possessed better and brighter qualities than others. Generally speaking, there is no such thing as automatic leadership or leadership by birth. However, leadership is essential; leadership is important for all of us to make a success. So, we have a saying, “A group of ten people has a good leader, whereas a group of one hundred people has no leader at all. Then a group of ten people rules and overwhelms a group of hundred people. “So what is leadership? The acronym for “leadership” may be as follows:

L = Loyalty to the mission, E = Efficiency, A = Ability, D = Decisiveness, E = Eagerness, R = Righteousness, S = Sincerity, H = Honesty, I = Integrity, P = Patriotism

2. In our tradition and culture, he or she needs to have also the essential qualities of a leader. If unofficially translated into English, I think it may read as follows: (1) Active (2) Alert (3) Sympathetic (4) Tolerant (5) Critical-minded and (6) Considerate. And we also have a popular saying, “The students of today are the leaders of tomorrow.” This is, I think, applicable to our national leaders such as, Bogoyoke Aung San and Prime Minister U Nu.

3. Through his patriotism and leadership, Bogoyoke Aung San became a national hero and a martyr who sacrificed his dear life for the cause of our independence. Bogoyoke Aung San is dead and gone, but he is never forgotten, and his memory still lives on. “Old heroes never die,” a saying goes. General Aung San is a national



Leadership

hero. It is quite well-known that Aung San was the leader of Thirty Comrades, who were the pioneers of Burma Defence Army, later known as Burma Independence Army. And in January 1946, when the first national convention of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) elected Aung San by acclaim as its president, he was a few days short of 32. Even during his university days, Aung San became prominent as a leader of the university students' strike in 1936. His meteoric rise was due in a large part to his own great qualities and his unwavering sense of mission.

4. U Nu was the first Prime Minister of our nation. With mutual respect and regard, U Nu

managed to win the cooperation of Mr. Chou En-Lai and Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, the Chinese Premier and the Indian Prime Minister, respectively. The three ASEAN leaders had expounded “Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence” in 1954.

5. At that time, the Cold War between the Western Bloc, headed by the United States of America and the eastern bloc, headed by the Soviet Union, was at its apex. The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence played a vital role in international relations and diplomacy. These five principles are: (1) Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; (2) Non-aggression; (3) Non-interference in each other's internal affairs; (4) Equality and mutual benefit; and (5) Peaceful co-existence and peaceful settlement of disputes.

6. These five principles form one of the main pillars of Myanmar's foreign policy. In Myanmar's international relations, Myanmar strictly adheres to these principles. I am quite proud and happy to mention that these principles have also become universally accepted and that they were incorporated into the ten principles laid down in the 1955 Bandung Conference of Asian-African States, which in turn led to the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement.

And since then, Myanmar has been an active member of the Non-Aligned Movement. Another historical fact that we must be proud of was that U Thant, the permanent representative or the Ambassador of our Union to the United Nations, was appointed as the third UN Secretary-General for two consecutive 5-year terms (1961 to 1971), after serving as the Acting-Secretary General upon the sudden death of the then Secretary General Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld.

7. Another past glory of our nation — under Prime Minister U Nu's government, there was

transparency and accountability among others. And in this connection, may I mention that these two principles are among other requirements of good government and clean governance. At regards to transparency, Myanmar Central Bank's reserves of US dollars were daily reported at the bottom of a leading newspaper known as “Bama Khit” — “Myanmar Era”. And the state budget was also expressed in detail in the government gazette.

8. If we make an assessment of the second one-year performance of the incumbent democratic government, we shall see

with pride, happiness and enjoyment of its success. The World Bank Economic Monitor released a report mentioning that Myanmar's economy improved in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, with a recovery in agriculture, improved manufacturing performance and strong services growth. And Myanmar's inflation rate will be moderated to 5.3 per cent in 2017-2018 fiscal year.

(9) The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) praised Myanmar's illegal wildlife trade law. The WWF also pointed out that Myanmar now has the strongest wildlife laws in the region. The new law is known as the Protection of Biodiversity Areas Law. The WWF points out that the law protects species migrating to and from Myanmar as well as native species.

Conclusion

10. The incumbent government is a democratically-elected government. So the incumbent government is “government of the people, by the people, for the people”. In other words, the incumbent government is doing good jobs of its work with the essential ingredients of good government and clean governance, and also with those of good leadership for the sake and for the benefits of the people. What do you say?

References:

- (1)တစ်ကျိပ်က ခေါင်းဆောင်ပါ။ တစ်ရာက ခေါင်းဆောင်မဲ့၊ တစ်ရာကို တစ်ကျိပ်မိုးလို့ စိုးနိုင်ပါရဲ့။
- (2)နာယကဂုဏ် (၆)ပါး - ဝဏ္ဏ၊ နိဒ္ဒိကာ၊ သနား၊ သိမ်း၊ ဖေန်၊ ထောက်ရှု၊ ဤမြောက်မဲ့၊ ဤမှူးလှတို့တာ။
- (3)Diplomatic Handbook by MOFA
- (4)A trial in Burma, Dr. Maung Maung
- (5)A book of essential quotations, Eric Partridge



Flood Warning

(Issued at 15:00 hrs MST on 29-7-2018)

ACCORDING to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Thabaung is observed as about (2)inches below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (1) day.

It is especially advised that the people who have settled near the river bank and low lying areas at Thabaung Township to take precautionary measures.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 29th July, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 30th JULY, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay Region, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region and Northern Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavy falls in Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Kachin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6 - 10) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (5 - 8) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase rain in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th JULY, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th JULY, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th JULY, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Monthly Weather Forecast on August 2018

Issued on 28-7-2018

Bay of Bengal Condition

Two Low Pressure Areas may form over the Bay of Bengal and one may further intensify into a Depression. Monsoon will be moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. One time of Break Monsoon may occur during the month of August.

Rain Conditions and Rainy Days

Rain are likely to be expected above normal in Taninthayi Region and Mon State and about normal in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin states.

Rainy days are expected about (22) to (29) days in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states, about (12) to (21) days in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, Shan, Chin and Kayah states.

Fraud risk looms over Zimbabwe's post-Mugabe election

HARARE—Zimbabwe goes to the polls on Monday in its first election since authoritarian leader Robert Mugabe was ousted last year, with allegations mounting of voter fraud and predictions of a disputed result.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Mugabe's former ally in the ruling ZANU-PF party, faces opposition leader Nelson Chamisa of the MDC (Movement for Democratic Change) party in a landmark vote for the southern African nation.

Zimbabwe's military generals shocked the world in November when they seized control and ushered Mnangagwa to power, ending Mugabe's 37-year reign in a few short days.

Mnangagwa, 75, who promises a fresh start for the country, is the front-runner with the advantage of covert military support, a loyal state media and a ruling party

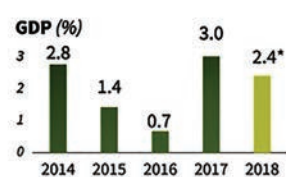
Zimbabwe's economy



Population
16.53 million (2017)

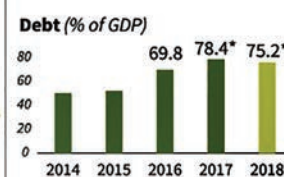
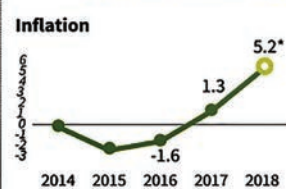
Life expectancy
61 years

Resources
Tobacco, cotton, gold, sugar cane, tourism



GDP per capita
\$1,079 (2017)

► The public sector accounts for approx. 50% of GDP
► 80% of government revenue is used to pay state workers' wages



External debt
\$8.9 billion (2016)

*Forecast
Source: IMF, World Bank

Leading economic indicators for Zimbabwe ahead of Monday's presidential poll.

PHOTO: AFP

that controls government resources.

But Chamisa, 40, who has performed strongly on the campaign trail, hopes to tap into a young population that could vote for change as ZANU-PF has ruled since the country's independence from British

colonial rule in 1980.

Elections under Mugabe were marred by fraud and violence, and this year's campaign has been dominated by accusations that the vote will be rigged.

The MDC has raised allegations of a flawed electoral roll, ballot paper mal-

practice, voter intimidation, bias in the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) and free food handed out by the ruling party.

But campaigning has been relatively unrestricted and peaceful compared with previous elections, and some analysts point

to pressure for the vote to be judged credible to draw a line under the isolation of the Mugabe era.

An economy in ruins

The UN High Commission for Human Rights has warned of growing concern over alleged intimidation and threats of violence in the run-up to the election, but said it was encouraging to see open rallies and peaceful demonstrations.

The next government must tackle mass unemployment and an economy shattered by the Mugabe-backed seizure of white-owned farms, the collapse of agriculture, hyperinflation and an investment exodus.

Previously solid health and education services are in ruins and millions have fled abroad to seek work.

Life expectancy has only just recovered to its 1985 level of 61 years.

"We need to see jobs," said Rest Maphosa, one resident of the capital Ha-

rare. "I will be patient even if it takes me eight hours standing in the queue, because what I want is to vote."

With 5.6 million registered voters, the results of the presidential, parliamentary and local elections are due by 4 August.

A run-off vote is scheduled for 8 September if no presidential candidate wins at least 50 per cent plus one in the first round.

In 2008, then opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai pulled out of the run-off after attacks orchestrated by the state claimed the lives of at least 200 of his supporters. Mugabe, now a frail 94, was finally ousted as he tried to position his wife Grace, 53, to be his successor.

In his only press interviews since his fall, he admitted only that "some errors were done" under his rule, adding that he now thought his country was "topsy turvy".—AFP

Israeli Arab lawmaker quits 'racist' parliament over law

JERUSALEM—An Israeli Arab lawmaker resigned on Saturday and branded the parliament "racist" after it passed a controversial new law which declares Israel the nation state of the Jewish people.

The new legislation speaks of Israel as the historic homeland of the Jews and says they have a "unique" right to self-determination there. It also revokes the longstanding status of Arabic as an official language alongside

Hebrew.

Zuheir Bahloul, of the opposition Zionist Union party, said he could not face telling his grandson that he remained part of the same chamber which passed the law.

"I am resigning from the Knesset," he said on Reshet TV, in reference to Israel's parliament.

"The nation state law officially, constitutionally, removes the Arab population from the path of equality in Israel," he said

in Hebrew.

"Should I sit on the fence? Should I give legit-



Protesters in Tel Aviv rally against the controversial legislation on July 14, 2018, before the bill was passed by lawmakers. PHOTO: AFP

imacy to this destructive, racist, extremist parliament?"

Bahloul said that his resignation would officially take effect when parliament returns from its summer recess in September, but he pledged not to reconsider in the meantime.

"I faithfully promise that I shall not go back," he said. After the law was approved earlier this month Arab members of parliament branded the legislation "racist" and ripped up copies of the bill in the Knesset chamber.

Arab citizens make up

some 17.5 percent of Israel's more than eight million population.

The law makes no mention of equality and Israel's democratic character, implying the country's Jewish identity takes precedence.

Leaders of Israel's 130,000-strong Druze Arab community, which unlike Muslims and Christians is subject to the military draft, has filed a challenge to the law with the country's Supreme Court.—AFP

Iran FM to visit Singapore to join ASEAN treaty

TEHRAN—Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will visit Singapore soon to sign documents on Iran's joining the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), official IRNA news agency reported Saturday.

Ministers of foreign affairs of the Association

of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will convene in Singapore on Monday for six days to discuss regional and trans-regional issues related to ASEAN and the TAC. According to IRNA, there is a consensus among Southeast Asian countries to accept Iran as a party to the treaty.

This is an indication of the significance of interaction with Iran as an influential country in regional and international equations, it said. Iran is an observer state in the TAC and part of the upcoming meeting will be about the full membership of the observer states including Iran. — Xinhua

HINDU FAMILIES WILL OFFER WASO ROBES AND SOON TO THE STATE SANGHA MAHANAYAKA SAYADAW & STATE PARIYATTI SASANA UNIVERSITY (YGN) SAYADAW

Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh, Hindu has Organized for Hindu Families a Donation Ceremony to offer "Soon", Waso robes to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws and State Pariyatti Sasana University Sayadaws at Kabaye Hill "Mogok Soon Sa Kyaung" on Sunday 5th August 2018 from 9:00 a.m. onwards.

Hindu Families are cordially invited to participate and offer their Donations in this ceremony. They may contact Ph: 09-450010762, 09-5179532, 09-254222233, 09-5124646, 09-5165001, 09-975691999. for further information.

Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh (HQ)
No. 227, 37th Street, Yangon.

Trump hails US economic growth spurt, promises more ahead

WASHINGTON— President Donald Trump on Friday hailed roaring US economic growth as a “miracle,” and said the quickest expansion in almost four years was a vindication of his economic agenda.

With the size of the American economy now surpassing \$20 trillion, GDP expanded by 4.1 per cent in the April-June quarter, making the United States the fastest-growing of advanced countries, according to a government report.

“We’re on track to hit the highest annual average growth rate in over 13 years,” Trump said in remarks at the White House. “Everywhere we look, we’re seeing the effects of the American economic miracle.”

The second quarter acceleration came in part after the injection of stimulus and Republican tax cuts.

But economists warned it could be a blip caused by temporary factors, including a one-off bounce produced by Trump’s trade confrontation with China.

The robust results put growth in the first half of the year at just over



US President Donald Trump and his economic team cheered the 4.1% surge in GDP in the second quarter although economists caution it is likely to slow the rest of the year. **PHOTO: AFP**

three per cent, matching a White House target and faster than the trend in previous years.

Trump said the United States was “the economic envy of the world,” and “As the trade deals come in one by one, we are going to go a lot higher than these numbers and these are great numbers.”

His jubilation did not extend to Wall Street, where stocks closed down markedly as investors feared the economy has peaked and amid dis-

appointing earnings and trade war fears.

In the April-June period, consumer spending had its biggest bounce in nearly four years, with Americans buying more cars and spending more liberally on health care, housing, utilities, restaurants and hotels, according to the Commerce Department report.

Purchases of goods jumped 5.9 per cent — with the largest contribution coming from booming auto sales — while services rose 3.1

per cent.

But the report got another boost from an unusual source: strong exports which leapt 13.3 per cent, driven higher by foreign sales of oil and soybeans, which now face stiff Chinese tariffs.

Analysts said that increase was due to stockpiling by Chinese importers before Beijing’s retaliatory tariffs on US goods hit in July, which means trade is likely to fall off in the third quarter, dragging down the growth rate. —AFP

Peru sets referendum to ‘legitimize’ reforms after scandal

LIMA —Peru will hold a referendum to “legitimize” judicial reforms, including the creation of an anti-corruption office and sanctions on corrupt judges and lawyers, following reports of judges offering lenient sentences for a price, President Martin Vizcarra said Saturday. “The system for administering justice has collapsed,” Vizcarra said in remarks delivered on Peru’s Independence Day. “We will open a referendum process for judicial reform.”

Vizcarra, an engineer by training, took office four months ago after his center-right predecessor, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, resigned amid a swirl of corruption allegations.

The president said Peruvians would also vote on constitutional changes to set term limits for legislators, re-establish a bicameral Congress for the first time since 1993 and increase transparency in court decisions. “With these measures we will significantly reduce corruption in the administration of justice,” Vizcarra said. “Enough with the pardons in exchange for money.”

Analysts said there was some doubt Vizcarra would be able to carry out

the full slate of ambitious reforms, since he lacks a strong base of support in Congress, which is dominated by the far-right opposition party of Keiko Fujimori, daughter of former president Alberto Fujimori.

The nation’s judiciary has been mired in scandal since investigative website IDL-Reporteros early this month released more than 20 tapes on which several judges appear to discuss arranging lenient treatment for defendants in exchange for cash or favors.

The scandal has led to the resignation of the president of the Supreme Court, Duberli Rodriguez, of Justice Minister Salvador Heresi and of Orlando Velasquez, head of the National Council of Magistrates, which appoints judges and prosecutors. —AFP



Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra announced plans for a referendum to “legitimize” proposed judicial reforms, following a scandal over crooked judges. **PHOTO: AFP**

US government approves aid as California battles raging wildfires

REDDING (United States)— The US federal government approved aid Saturday for California as thousands of firefighters battled to contain a series of deadly raging wildfires that have killed six people, including two young children and their great grandmother, and destroyed hundreds of buildings.

The largest of the fires menacing the state has nearly doubled in size, while another pushed thousands of people to flee and a third forced the partial closure of the popular

Yosemite National Park.

A huge column of smoke rotated rapidly above the massive Carr Fire with such strength it looked like a tornado in a fire whirl sometimes dubbed a “firenado.”

Melody Bledsoe, 70, and her two great-grandchildren James and Emily Roberts — aged just five and four respectively — died as the fire consumed their rural trailer home. The blaze also killed two fire workers, Cal Fire said.

Another firefighter died in the Ferguson Fire.

In declaring an emer-

gency in California, President Donald Trump “ordered federal assistance to supplement state, tribal and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from a wildfire beginning on 23 July,” the White House said. The Federal Emergency Management Agency “is authorized to identify, mobilize and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency,” it said.

The Carr Fire in northern California — which began on 23 July —

has consumed 80,906 acres (32,749 hectares), up from 48,312 on Friday, according to Cal Fire, the state’s Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

“Winds, high temperatures and dry vegetation still have the potential to fuel fire growth. Fire spread has been active in all directions and has made significant runs,” Cal Fire said.

Governor Jerry Brown on Friday asked for federal assistance “to save lives and to protect property,” his office said in a statement. —AFP

Ministry of Construction Department of Rural Road Development Invitation of Open Tender

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Grant from Federal Republic of Germany (KfW Bank) through its Department of Rural Road Development (DRRD) under Ministry of Construction towards the cost of Rural Road Rehabilitation Programme (RRRP) in Kalay Township.
2. The DRRD invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following Causeway work contracts;

	Contract	Description	Location
1	Lot3 Nat Myaung and Mhanlone Crossings	-LWCC (Low Water Crossing multi cells Culvert) -Single carriageway of 6 meter width -Nat Myaung’s LWCC total length is 210 meter -Mhanlone’s LWCC total length is 119 meter	K a l a y Township of Sagaing Region

3. Procurement will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding Procedures and under the laws and regulations governing public procurement within the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and following the KfW Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and Associated Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries (KfW procurement guidelines –August).
4. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2pm, September 14, 2018.
5. This invitation is open to all bidders.
6. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information complete bidding document from:

Rural Road Rehabilitation Programme(RRRP),
Department of Rural Road Development,Ministry of Construction
Northern of (200)Bedded Hospital, Yan Aung (2) Quarter, Pinyinmana, Myanmar
Phone:+956724821, Email:ruralroad.drrd@gmail.com, rbbddr@gmail.com

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
Invitation for Bids

Date: 29th July, 2018

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

IDA Credit No. : 5727-MM

Contract Title: Concrete Poles for National Electrification Project

Reference No.: C1-G11

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Concrete Poles for National Electrification Project.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of concrete pole 10 meter and 12 meter, for the total quantities of 138,212 poles to be delivered in calendar year 2018 and 2019 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 12 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots.

3. For quick reference, some of the key qualification requirements include:

- Minimum average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) shall be 75% of the bid price in over the last two years per each lot. In case of a bidder bidding for multiple lots, the minimum average annual turnover requirement of those multiple lots will be cumulatively applicable.
- The Bidder should have past experience of having satisfactorily completed during the last 5 years, at least one contract for supply of similar goods; with the value of such contract not less than 50 % of the Bid Price for the offered goods.
- More information is included in the bidding documents.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's [Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers](#) [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Project Management Office, Office No.53, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, email : nep.pmomoep@gmail.com, telephone : +95 67 3431176 and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours Myanmar time.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:

Director General, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City : Nay Pyi Taw
Country : The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Email : nep.pmomoep@gmail.com
Telephone : +95 67 3410480
Facsimile : +95 67 3410480
Web site : <http://www.moe.gov.mm>

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **11th September, 2018**, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below on **11th September, 2018**, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time.

8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration as stated in ITB 19.1 Bid Data Sheet of the bidding document.

9. The address referred to above is:

Attention : Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Place : Office No. 27, Ground Floor, Meeting Room, Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Record drought grips Germany's breadbasket

NIEDERNDODEL-EBEN (Germany)—Withered sunflowers, scorched wheat fields, stunted cornstalks — the farmlands of northern Germany have borne the brunt of this year's extreme heat and record-low rainfall, triggering an epochal drought.

As the blazing sun beats down, combine harvesters working the normally fertile breadbasket of Saxony-Anhalt in former communist East Germany kick up giant clouds of dust as they roll over the cracked earth.

"It hasn't really rained since April and that's the main growth period for our grains and the other crops — we've never seen anything like it," said Juliane Stein of Agro Boerdegruen, a farming conglomerate formed after German reunification in 1990.

"We've reached the point here in Germany where we're talking about a natural disaster that's a threat to our livelihood."

A natural disaster is declared by German authorities during a drought when at least 30 per cent of the average annual



A plant is pictured at the dried out riverbank of Elbe in Magdeburg. PHOTO: AFP

harvest is destroyed.

Given the massive losses feared by the sector this year, the German Farmers' Association (DBV) has called crisis talks on Tuesday to discuss urgent state aid.

While southern Germany has seen largely normal rainfall this year, the north has been in the grip of an unrelenting high-pressure system creating weather conditions more familiar in southern France or Italy.

"We expect billions in losses," DBV president Joachim Rukwied told German media last week.

'As flammable as straw'

The grain crop alone has shrunk by up to eight million tonnes or around 18 per cent this year, stripping 1.4 billion euros (\$1.6 billion) from revenues so far.

"The government needs to declare a state of emergency so that farmers in areas hit hardest by the drought can be helped directly with cash aid," Rukwied said.

While the sunshine has fostered larger and sweeter fruit than usual, sugar beets, rapeseed, potato and corn crops have been decimated in the drought, prompting farmers to cut their losses and harvest two to three weeks earlier than usual.

"The cornstalks are knee-high" and are sprouting smaller cobs or none at all, said Stein of Agro Boerdegruen, located about 150 kilometres (90 miles) west of Berlin.

"Normally they should be over two metres by now."

Stein said that to grow

crops like potatoes — a staple of the German diet — her farms have long relied on watering systems because the region, in the rain shadow of the Harz Mountains, is generally too dry.

However it is too late to expand such systems to other fields this year, and in the long run would be too expensive to justify with other crops. Meanwhile the knock-on effects of the grain shortage have already been dramatic, depriving farmers of animal feed and sending prices soaring.

Many dairy farmers have responded by selling their livestock. The number of slaughtered cows and heifers surged 10 per cent in the first two weeks of July, according to figures from the Federal Agriculture and Nutrition Agency.

While Sweden and Greece have been ravaged by devastating forest fires, Germany has been less afflicted due to its less vulnerable types of vegetation and higher concentration of fire brigades.

However grain fields mark an exception and Saxony-Anhalt has seen wide swathes of farmland go up in flames.—AFP ■

Over 1,200 migrants rescued off Spanish coast in two days

MADRID—Spain said Saturday it had rescued more than 1,200 migrants from the sea in two days as the country's interior minister called for a European-wide solution to illegal immigration.

Fernando Grande-Marlaska said Spain had now seen "on the ground, the problems that exist, the problem of immigration which is a European problem which requires a European solution", following a visit to the southwestern Cadiz

region. The minister was on a fact-finding visit to learn how police and the Red Cross are dealing with the influx of migrants.

Earlier Saturday, the maritime rescue service said on Twitter it had rescued 334 people from 17 boats.

On Friday coastguards picked up 888 people in a single day.

"It was to be expected," minister Grande-Marlaska said, criticising the previous conservative government

of Mariano Rajoy for a "lack of foresight".

He said the government was working against the clock to open "a centre" in the port of Andalusia with room for 600 people.

Earlier this week, more than 600 African migrants reached the Spanish territory of Ceuta after storming a double border fence with Morocco and attacking police. The scramble over the barbed wire-decked barrier on Thursday is the big-

gest in Ceuta since February 2017, when more than 850 migrants entered the Spanish overseas territory over four days.

The incident further increases pressure on Spain, which has now surpassed Italy as the number one destination for migrants crossing the Mediterranean by boat.

More than 19,580 people have landed on Spanish shores so far this year, according to the International Organization for Migration.—AFP ■

M6.4 quake strikes Indonesia's Lombok, 10 killed, 40 hurt

JAKARTA — An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4 struck eastern Indonesia on Sunday, leaving 10 people dead and 40 others injured as well as damaging dozens of buildings, the US Geological Survey and Indonesian authorities said. The USGS said the quake occurred about 1 kilometer southwest of the resort island of Lombok near Bali at 6:47 a.m. local time (5:47 a.m. Jakarta time), at a depth of 7.5 km. The area hit by the quake is about 1,320 km east of the Indonesian capital. National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo said the deaths and injuries have been confirmed in Lombok's Sambelia District, adding "we still continue to collect data" about human casualties.

"We have also temporarily banned the climbing of Mt. Rinjani due to serious landslides on the volcano," the senior gov-

ernment official said, referring to the 3,726-meter active volcano on Lombok that is popular among international and local tourists. Dust that flew upward from the slopes suggested that landslides likely occurred at the volcano, Sutopo said. Foreign tourists staying at Rinjani Lodge on the volcano's slopes became panicked when the earthquake shook the lodge, he said.

Rahmat Triyono, head of the Earthquake and Tsunami Center at Indonesia's Meteorological, Climatology and Geophysics Agency, said that as of 10:20 a.m. local time, 66 aftershocks with magnitudes of up to 5.7 had been observed. Indonesia is situated in one of the most active seismic regions in the world, the Pacific Ring of Fire — an area in which a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.— Kyodo News ■



Photo taken on 29 July 2018 shows a collapsed building following a strong earthquake on the Indonesian resort island of Lombok, east of Bali. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Typhoon crosses western Japan, flood-ravaged areas on guard

OSAKA — A weakening typhoon is crossing through western Japan on Sunday, with heavy rain and thunderstorms expected in some areas through Monday, putting regions ravaged by flooding and landslides earlier this month on guard.

No injuries or damage due to Typhoon Jongdari were immediately reported from the disaster-hit areas still reeling from the aftermath of torrential rains. The government issued a rare warning for affected residents to evacuate early as a precaution.

The typhoon made landfall in central Japan in the early hours of Sunday. At least 15 people in eastern and central parts of the country were slightly hurt over the weekend, some after being hit by falling objects.

Elsewhere, a worker fractured his left foot after falling from the roof of a house in Higashiosaka city during renovation work early Sunday, police said. Roofs were also blown away by the strong wind.

With the typhoon taking an unusual route toward the west, the disaster-struck areas remained on high alert as the weather agency warned of further flooding and landslides, as



High waves triggered by Typhoon Jongdari crash against the coast of the city of Katsuura in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo on 28 July 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

well as storms and high waves. Evacuation advisories were issued for some areas.

Typhoon Jongdari is slowing down as it continues its westbound movement, moving at a speed of 35 kilometers per hour. As of noon, it was near Hiroshima city, and packing winds of up to 108 kph, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Transportation has also been affected, with some Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways flights connecting Tokyo to western Japan canceled.

West Japan Railway Co. and private railway operators said some of their train services were either delayed or halted.

On Saturday night, in Odawara, Kanagawa Prefecture, near Tokyo, 15 vehicles including an

ambulance became stuck on a water-covered road near the ocean due to high waves, and were eventually caught in the waves. About 30 people were evacuated to higher ground.

The same night, five people staying at a hotel in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan, were slightly hurt due to broken window panes apparently caused by high waves triggered by the typhoon.

Rain will continue in some areas, even after the typhoon passes. Radar data showed there was rainfall of more than 120 millimeters per hour in Sakurai, Nara Prefecture, in western Japan.

In an unusual course, the typhoon was expected to pass through the country's western re-

gions, and likely reach Kyushu in the southwest on Sunday night.

Typhoons typically approach the Japanese archipelago from the southwest, and many follow a southwest-to-northeast course due partly to the effect of the westerly jet stream and high pressure over the Pacific.

The unusual course prompted Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to warn Friday about the weekend storm, particularly for those affected by the massive flooding in western Japan that killed 224 people and destroyed tens of thousands of homes earlier this month.

Temperatures are also expected to rise after the typhoon, bringing back the risk of heatstroke and heat exhaustion.

The country has been gripped by a heat wave that immediately followed the rain disaster and which the agency has declared a "natural disaster." Extreme heat pushed the mercury to a record high 41.1 °C on 23 July and claimed dozens of lives, mostly elderly people, from heatstroke.

In the 24-hour period through noon Monday, 200 mm of rain may fall in some areas in western and southern Japan.— Kyodo News ■

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Industry

No.(3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI) for Cooperation in the area of Eco-Industrial Park (Thaton)

Eco- Industrial Park (Thaton), located in Inn Shae Village, Thaton Township, Mon State, under No.(3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry is intended to invite the investors who are interested to operate **any type of industries and businesses** in the area of Eco- Industrial Park (Thaton).

The investors who interested in those cooperation are required to submit their **Expression of Interest (EoI) Proposal**, in which mentioning kinds of business, to Technology Development Department, No.(3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry at Office No.(37) Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, not later than (16:00) pm (Myanmar Standard Time) on (28-9-2018).

Base Line Data concerning the Eco- Industrial Park (Thaton) are available at above office from the date of (30-7-2018) and interested entities can submit the Draft Proposal by presenting the following **documents of company**.

- Cover Letter expressly stating the interested investor's interest in the Project
- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
- Memorandum of Association & Articles of Association (MoA & AoA)/ Constitution
- Information of Foreign Technical Cooperation (if it is Local Company)
- Experience of Investor to operate in the Project.
- Contact Person Name, Occupation, Address, Phone, Email

For more information, please contact phone number:+95 67408129, 09254557887 E-mail : mpcipl@gmail.com.

Engagement Announcement

The Engagement of Thiha and Nwet Darly Htun Oo is being announced by the couple's parents, U Kyin Saung & Daw Lae Lae Win of Mandalay, U Htun Htun Oo & Daw Nwe Ni Oo of Mandalay.

Thiha is 2013 graduate of Mandalay University with a Master's Degree in English. He is currently employed as a Staff Officer at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor.

Nwet Darly Htun Oo is 2012 graduate of University of Computer Studies Mandalay and currently employed as a Staff Officer at Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

The couple will be married on December 2018.

Thiha & Nwet Darly Htun Oo

Into The Void: hyper-real 'Star Wars' VR makes you the hero

ANAHEIM (United States) — Imagine putting on a helmet, lowering the visor and being transported immediately from your humdrum day-to-day existence into your own "Star Wars" adventure.

Well, holster that blaster because the kind of fantasy that could once only be woven into the dreams of the young is coming to a theme park or shopping mall near you — perhaps sooner than you think.

The Void is the latest in a flood of businesses offering whole-body, fully immersive virtual reality experiences for about double the price of a movie ticket.

The company's "Star Wars: Secrets of the Empire" scenario instructs players that their

mission is to recover Imperial intelligence critical to the survival of the Rebellion — yes, that Rebellion, of Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia.

In reality, the players are in a room full of cameras, movement sensors and other gadgetry in the shadow of Disneyland in southern California.

As far as they are concerned, they are rebels disguised as Imperial stormtroopers on the molten planet of Mustafar, battling giant lava monsters and generally taking care of business.

Wearing vests weighed down by high-tech hardware, the players can reach out and touch what they are seeing in their visors, feel the breeze on their faces and hear creatures

scuttling around them.

Designed in partnership with Disney-owned Lucasfilm, which makes the "Star Wars" movies, the experience involves all the senses, says marketing director John Kirkpatrick.

"I really felt like I was in the movie," says player Sean Oshima, 29, a technology consultant.

"I was really amazed by this technology. You can really feel the agents shooting you."

Cusp of a boom

The experience — typically enjoyed in groups — costs about \$30-35 for 10 minutes, and gets about 500 visitors a day in Anaheim.

There are locations in North America, the Middle East and Europe and the company is still growing, with other scenarios including a narrative tour around the movie "Ghostbusters," and a haunted house experience.

Without the bells and whistles, the interior is much as you might expect — a room measuring about 10 square meters (110 square feet), partitioned here and there to guide players through the attraction.

The cutting-edge tech works in tandem with run-of-the-mill radiators and fans varying the atmospherics, while foam mats double as magma and scent diffusers provide the "smell-o-vision." —AFP ■



Clients of the VR attraction, The Void, in California put on their 3D headsets before launching into their adventure. **PHOTO: AFP**



Photo taken in the early morning on 12 July 2014 shows a watchtower of the Palace Museum, also known as the Forbidden City, in Beijing, China. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Classic Chinese paintings inspire youth to create music

BEIJING — The Palace Museum is encouraging young people to come up with musical ideas to convey the connotations of ancient paintings in an event called "Singing Paintings."

The event, jointly initiated by the Palace Museum, Tencent Next Idea and QQ Music, "is a new approach to cultural innovation which integrates art, music, and technology, aiming to teach youth about the beauty of traditional art," said Shan Jixiang, curator of the museum. The museum authorized 10 paintings from its collections to serve as source-

es of inspiration, including "A Thousand Miles of Rivers and Mountains" and "Along the River During Qingming Festival," all of which are masterpieces of their dynasties.

The theme song for the event, which was inspired by "A Thousand Miles of Rivers and Mountains" from Song Dynasty and sung by Jackson Yee, member of Chinese boy band TFBOYS, was released Wednesday.

The music inspired by the paintings will be included in a digital album and promoted across all platforms through QQ music. — Xinhua ■

Abroad's biggest stars are doing shows on Netflix, India is behind: Esha Gupta

MUMBAI — Esha Gupta, who has acted in films and even explored the small screen with a dance show, says she is keen to venture into the digital space.

"The whole world is going digital, it is a new wave. Even our TV shows and films are coming on the digital platform. It is a new way forward. I am getting a few offers and they are really amazing. I would definitely take it up.

"Look at Priyanka Chopra, she went there (US) she did a TV show 'Quantico' and it went digital as well and she became a star. Abroad's biggest of the stars are doing Netflix, ABC shows. I think India is still behind, we are trying to catch up as much as we can," Esha told PTI.

She is currently judging a dance reality show "High Fever

Dance Ka Naya Tevar" aired on &TV channel.

The actor believes if one is determined and willing to give their hundred per cent towards their work, then they will surely achieve success. "I just wish everyone makes it good in life. I have come from nowhere, when contestants talk about their stories of struggle, I remember I had not told my parents that I was borrowing money from a family friend to pay rent. Today, I have reached this far, I am happy, I am a self-made person.

"I was a lawyer, started acting, dancing. I did not think I was good looking. I was a sports girl, I was in volleyball national team, so I am in an industry that is nowhere close to what I have done in life. I feel god has a plan for

everyone," Esha added.

The 32-year-old actor, who has confidently essayed glamorous roles in films, said she never understood why there was so much fuss about her bold avatar on the big screen.

"Every Yash Raj Film or Dharma Production film has it (referring to bold scenes), they are working and even I am still working. I am not going to take away from the way I look. I am not ashamed of how I look," she said.

Esha is now excited about her next slate of films "Paltan", "Total Dhamaal" and an Iranian movie "Devil's Daughter".

In 'Paltan', the actor has a small role but her prime reason to do it was the fact that she would get an opportunity to be part of a JP Dutta film.



Netflix, Inc. is an American over-the-top media services provider, headquartered in Los Gatos, California. **PHOTO: PTI**

"The film is on Indo-China war and my father was part of it, so that was another reason for me to do this film. It takes guts and courage to show feeling of a jawan, but he (Dutta) showed it beautifully in 'Border', we could

feel the pain. "In 'Paltan' he is showing war, emotions. We need someone like him, who shows the actual reality, how and what happened. It is so great to be working with a legend like him," she said. —PTI ■

Life on Mars: Japan astronaut dreams after lake discovery

TOKYO — Japanese astronaut Norishige Kanai came back to earth last month but is still dreaming of space, especially after the discovery of an underground lake brought mankind one step closer to unravelling the mystery of life on Mars.

“I was so excited about the news,” the 41-year-old doctor told AFP in an interview on Friday, calling it “a major discovery that inspires dreams”.

International astronomers announced Wednesday they had detected the largest body of liquid water ever found on the Red Planet, a breakthrough that may hold clues to whether life has ever formed on Mars — or even exists today.

Kanai, who spent 168 days on the International Space Station, is firmly convinced that we’re not alone in the universe and there is life out there.

“I believe there is,” he said.

“In the vast universe, anything could be possible.”

“I have high hopes that finding extraterrestrial life forms could open a new page in learning.”

The soft-spoken spaceman, nicknamed “Nemo” for his background as a diving medical officer in Japan’s Maritime Self-Defense Force, blasted into space for the first time in December.

Growing pains

Following in the footsteps of other media-savvy astronauts, Kanai tweeted about his stay at the space station in Japan.

But his social media foray came with some growing pains: he was forced to apologise and issue a correction after mistakenly claiming he had grown by nine centimetres just weeks after he arrived.

When a colleague suggested



Kanai blasted into space for the first time in December. PHOTO: AFP

the growth was unlikely, despite the fact that astronauts’ spines do extend in the zero-gravity environment of space, Norishige had himself remeasured.

It turned out a mix-up over centimetres and inches was to blame, and he said Friday that he had in fact grown by just two to three centimetres during his

stay.

He has been shrinking since he arrived back on Earth on 3 June, but is still one centimetre taller, he said.

“It’s interesting to see how long it will take to get back to my original height.”

Kanai, whose Twitter profile depicts him in cartoon form with

a broad grin, concedes he wasn’t always the likeliest candidate to join Japan’s space agency JAXA, though he is now the agency’s youngest astronaut.

He was a “reserved, cautious” boy, rather than adventurous.

“I was a granny’s boy,” he said. “When she was sewing, we did it together. I had a rather ‘girlie’ childhood.”

But one of the skills he picked up as a child turned out to have a surprising application during the strict JAXA screening process.

In the final selection stage, 10 candidates spend a week in a capsule performing various tasks including folding paper cranes, which the agency says tests patience and steadiness under stress.

Luckily Kanai was a dab hand at origami from his childhood. —AFP ■

Aussie researchers identify new genetic markers for glaucoma

SYDNEY — Australian researchers said on Saturday they have identified 40 new genetic markers that increase a person’s risk of developing glaucoma, pointing to improvements in testing and predicting the risks of getting the eye disease.

“The discovery of these previously unknown genetic markers for glaucoma will be important for improving our ability to test for and predict a person’s risk of the disease,” Associate Professor Stuart MacGregor, head of the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute’s Statistical Genetics laboratory, said in a statement about its study.

“Although a predictive test for glaucoma is not available yet, our discovery is very promising.

“If we can identify who is most at risk of developing glaucoma at the earliest opportunity, we can make sure those individuals receive the preventative treatment they need to stop them from going blind as they age.”

The genome-wide study covered more than 134,000 people linked to fluid pressure in

the eye, a condition known as intraocular pressure. High intraocular pressure is commonly associated with an increased risk of developing glaucoma. The study found that individuals with a large number of the genetic markers had an almost sixfold increased risk of developing glaucoma compared to someone who had fewer genetic variants, said MacGregor.

A person’s risk of developing glaucoma — which damages the optic nerve and leads to a gradual loss of the peripheral vision — increased with age, but the high eye pressure commonly associated with glaucoma can be treated with drugs and even surgery, he said.

The study, which was conducted in collaboration with multiple clinicians, hospitals and institutions across Australia and New Zealand, has been published in scientific journal *Nature Genetics*. The findings dramatically increased the current understanding of which genes caused glaucoma and high eye pressure, said Professor Jamie Craig, director of the Flinders Centre for Ophthalmology, Eye and Vision Research. —Xinhua

Argentina prepares for launch of satellite into space

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina is preparing for the launch of the first of four satellites into space to help monitor geological conditions and manage disasters, according to its national space agency.

Argentina’s Microwave Observation Satellite, the SAOCOM 1-A, will be shipped later this month to the US Vandenberg Air Force Base in the southern state of California, where it is to be launched in September, according to the National Space Activities Commission (CONAE).

The satellite, designed and built by the prestigious state-owned high-technology firm INVAP, will contribute to a number of tasks, CONAE spokesperson Josefina Peres told reporters during a tour of INVAP’s headquarters in Bariloche, in southern Rio Negro province.

With an expected operational life of 5.5 years, the satellite will orbit some 620 km above the earth’s surface. Its powerful antenna is capable of sensing up to two meters below the earth, to collect data useful for agriculture, fishing, mining, geology, urban development and disaster management.

“The SAOCOM ... will be



To help monitor geological conditions and manage disasters, Argentina prepares for the launch of the first of four satellites into space. PHOTO: XINHUA

capable of capturing 500 images as it orbits 15 times a day,” Peres said.

Its mission, she said, will focus on two aspects: measuring soil humidity in the Argentine Pampas, or lowlands; and detecting and helping to manage natural and human disasters, such as floods, landslides, oil spills, fires, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Once in orbit, the satellite will mark CONAE’s fifth space mission, as it joins the country’s two prior orbiting satellites ARSAT-1 and ARSAT-2, which were built by Argentine satellite maker ArSat and launched in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

SAOCOM 1-A features six computers that work in synchronicity and weighs some 3,000 kg. Its antenna, designed in central Cordoba province, is composed of 140 smaller antennas.

As many as 600 Argentine professionals have worked on the 500-million-US-dollar satellite since 2011, in fields ranging from aeronautical engineering to mechanics.

“Physicists, engineers, agronomists and aeronautical technicians have worked on this project. It’s quite enormous,” Peres said, adding that university students also took part in the initiative. —Xinhua ■

Institute of Sports and Physical Education (B) team wins MNL (U-20) 2018 trophy



ISPE (B) team celebrates victory as it wins the Myanmar National League (U-20) Trophy. **PHOTO: MNL**

THE Institute of Sports and Physical Education (ISPE) (B) team has won the championship title of the Myanmar National League (U-20) 2018 after beating Dagon U-20 FC 2-1 at the final match of the tourney on Saturday.

The team secured a total of 31 points, which is just a point higher than the points won by second-placed team

Dagon U-20 FC.

At the awards ceremony of the tourney held at the Padonmar Stadium, Yangon, on Saturday, the winning team, ISPE (B), was awarded Ks10 million as the first prize, while second-placed Dagon U-20 FC was awarded Ks7 million and the third-placed team, University U-20, was awarded Ks3.5 million.

There were altogether seven teams participating in the MNL U-20 tourney. The Royal Thanlyin team secured the fourth place with 10 points, the Mawyawadi team won fifth place with 8 points, Kachin United came sixth with 7 points and Silver Star was in seventh place with just 5 points.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Sub Silva scores twice as Man City rallies to beat Bayern

MIAMI — Pepe Guardiola finished Manchester City's US tour with a deserved 3-2 victory over former club Bayern Munich, but his evening was soured with an injury to new signing Riyad Mahrez.

Two goals from substitute Bernardo Silva helped Manchester City come from 2-0 down to end a run of two defeats in this International Champions Cup campaign with youngster Lukas Nmecha scoring in between.

Mahrez, however, went down twice with what looked like an ankle problem. He was eventually forced off after just 27 minutes and looked in discomfort. With the traditional English season opener - the Community Shield - taking place next Sunday at Wembley against Chelsea, coach Guardiola will assess the Algerian's fitness as the start of the Premier League campaign looms into view.

Meanwhile Guardiola's squad flew back to Manchester at the end of the Saturday match. City's opening games against Borussia Dortmund and Liverpool had both ended in narrow defeats, but with Guardiola opting for familiarity — eight

players in the starting lineup here had begun all three games of this US tour -- it was another young side full of running.

"We analyzed our mistakes in the previous games and did it better against Bayern Munich," said Guardiola. "We were able to play good and overcome the situation when we were 2-0 down."

Bayern's main men Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery looked dangerous on the ball, yet with Mahrez afforded plenty of space in midfield the English champions dominated the early stages and really should have opened the scoring.

Mahrez, who had already spent a few minutes getting treatment after being challenged, sent German-born City striker Nmecha through only for his shot to be saved by Sven Ulreich.

It wasn't long before Nmecha had the opportunity to make amends as another classy through ball from Mahrez set him free, but this time he was denied by the post.

That was to prove a costly couple of misses because on 14 minutes, Bayern were ahead.—AFP ■

Shaqiri shines in debut as Liverpool rout United

CHICAGO — Liverpool scored three second half goals as they wrapped up their pre-season tour of America on Saturday with a dominating 4-1 victory over Manchester United at Michigan Stadium.

Xherdan Shaqiri put a stamp on his Liverpool debut with a spectacular bicycle-kick goal to round out the scoring in the International Champions Cup match in front of a crowd of 101,000.

Shaqiri, of Switzerland, was one of five recent high profile signings which saw Liverpool shell out more than 200 million pounds (\$260 million US) in an attempt to close the gap on Premier League champions Manchester City.

It was a nice way for the Reds to finish up their US exhibition swing as they now travel back to Merseyside before continuing their preparations for the season with a training camp in France beginning next week.

Sadio Mane converted a



Liverpool finished up their US exhibition swing with a 4-1 win over Manchester United and now head back to Merseyside. **PHOTO: AFP**

penalty to open the scoring for Liverpool in the 28th minute.

Manchester United's 22-year-old midfielder Andreas Pereira tied the game 1-1 in the 31st minute off a free kick.

But Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool squad seized command in the second half, starting with Daniel Sturridge's 66th-minute strike.

Shaqiri, 26, did the heavy

lifting on the play, outmuscling a United defender and then slipping a pass back to Sturridge who made it 2-1.

Sheyi Ojo then scored off a spot-kick in the 74th minute. That set the stage for Shaqiri to bring the packed stadium to its feet eight minutes later with his overhead kick from inside the box off a nice feed from Ben Woodburn.—AFP ■

Chelsea edge past Inter Milan on penalties

NICE — Chelsea beat Inter Milan 5-4 on penalties as goalkeeper Willy Caballero saved from Milan Skriniar in the shootout following a 1-1 draw in their opening game of the International Champions Cup.

Spain international Pedro struck after just eight minutes in Nice, slotting in a rebound after Inter keeper Samir Handanovic saved from a lively Alvaro Morata.

It was a second goal in as many games for Pedro, who celebrated his 31st birthday on Saturday, after he netted the winner in Monday's 1-0 victory over Perth Glory in Australia.

Inter levelled early in the second half through Roberto Gagliardini, whose drilled shot proved too much for Argentina's Caballero after fellow half-time substitute Tiemoue Bakayoko gave the ball away.

New Chelsea signing Jorginho nearly won it with a curl-

ing effort that forced Handanovic into a fine sprawling stop, while Tammy Abraham couldn't hit the target as he tried to steer home an Emerson cross.

Twenty-year-old Argentine Lautaro Martinez, who joined Inter from Racing Club at the start of July, almost snatched a winner for the Italians in stoppage time when his sharp first-time strike was well kept out by Caballero.

Caballero, who was dropped at the World Cup following a 3-0 group stage loss to Croatia, saved from Skriniar with his legs in the shootout before Cesar Azpilicueta converted the decisive spot-kick.

Chelsea play Premier League rivals Arsenal in Dublin on Wednesday before wrapping up their pre-season campaign at home to Lyon on 7 August, two days after facing Manchester City in the Community Shield.—AFP ■