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President, State Counsellor attend 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony in Yangon



President U Win Myint pays tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and Martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum yesterday. **PHOTO: THET AUNG**



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of Bogyoke Aung San, lays a wreath at the Martyrs' Mausoleum yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

AT THE 2019 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony held yesterday at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon, President U Win Myint and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi laid wreaths at the monument of Bogyoke Aung San.

Present at the ceremony were 2019 72nd Anniversary Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee Patron Vice President U Myint Swe, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min

Aung Hlaing, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, 2019 72nd Anniversary Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee Chairman Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Ministers, Central Convening Committee Vice Chairman Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, senior Tatmadaw officers from Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Yangon Command commander, Deputy Ministers, Hluttaw representatives, 2019 72nd Anniversary Martyrs' Day

Central Committee and Work Committee members, departmental officials, families of the martyrs and invited guests.

Before laying the wreaths, President U Win Myint, daughter of Bogyoke Aung San State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 2019 72nd Anniversary Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee Patron Vice President U Myint Swe, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greeted

the families of the Martyrs.

Afterwards, President U Win Myint, Central Committee Patron Vice President U Myint Swe, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and Union Ministers paid tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and the Martyrs by placing wreaths in front of the monuments of Bogyoke Aung

San and the Martyrs.

At the moment the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was lowered to half-mast, the guard of honour presented arms and a military bugle sounded the Last Post. A two-minute silence was observed to honour and pray for Bogyoke Aung San and the martyred leaders.

Next, on behalf of Bogyoke Aung San's son U Aung San Oo, nephew U Ye Aung Than, daughter of Bogyoke Aung San State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and families of the Martyrs also laid wreaths in front of the monuments.

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President, State Counsellor attend 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony in Yangon



President U Win Myint and party pay tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Central Convening Committee Vice Chairman Yangon Region Chief Minister and regional ministers, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw, Hluttaw representatives, representatives from political parties, associations, UN agen-

cies, European Union and foreign embassies then paid tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and the Martyrs. The organizations and associations that laid wreaths and paid tributes include Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Fire Services Department, Myanmar Red Cross Society, My-

anmar Motion Picture Asiayone, Myanmar Music Asiayone, Myanmar Thabin Asiayone, Myanmar Artists and Sculptures Asiayone (Central), Myanmar Printers & Publishers Association, Myanmar Writers Asiayone, Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation

and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. Finally, the public paid their respect to the Martyrs. Starting from 1958 during the time of the parliamentary democracy government, Martyrs' Day events were held and the then President Mahn Win Maung at-

tended it. During the Revolutionary Council government's time Revolutionary Council Chairman General Ne Win attended it and after more than fifty years the current President U Win Myint attended it to pay respects and tributes to the Martyrs. — MNA **■ (Translated by Zaw Min)**

Visitors throng Martyrs' Mausoleum, Bogyoke Aung San Museum, Secretariat Building



People visit Bogyoke Aung San Museum on the 72nd Martyrs' Day yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



People pay tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A TOTAL of 76918 visitors observed the 72nd Martyrs' day yesterday at the Martyrs' Mausoleum, the Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon) and Secretariat Building (former Ministers' Office).

At the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township, 397 members of Sangha, 102 nuns, 18571 men, 21377 women paid tribute to martyrs. A total of 29 foreigners also visited there.

Similarly, a total of 18200 visitors including

385 members of Sangha, 126 nuns, and 8 foreigners observed at the Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon) in Bahan Township where the car used by Bogyoke Aung San; Bogyoke Aung San's historical photographs; Martyrs' Day commemorative stamps, currencies and coins with image of Bogyoke Aung San are displayed to public. Furthermore, the Secretariat Building (former Ministers' Office) in Botahtaung Township, the colonial-era

building where General Aung San was assassinated in 1947 together with his colleagues, was also crowded with people yesterday. A total of 18242 visitors: 8505 men, 9240 women, 313 Sangha, 93 nuns, and 91 foreigners: visited there. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

People visit Bogyoke Aung San Museum on the 72nd Martyrs' Day yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor offers 'soon' to Sanghas in memory of Martyrs in Yangon

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offered 'soon' (day meal) to Sanghas at her residence at No 54, University Avenue Road in Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday morning in memory of her father, Bogyoke Aung San, and other martyred leaders.

The food offering was accepted by 15 Sanghas led by Taungzun Sayadaw Ashin Viriya (Dhamma Bheri). Present at the event were President U Win Myint and First Lady, former President U Htin Kyaw and wife, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win

Khaing Than and wife, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Union Minister for Ministry of State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe and wife, Union Minister for Ministry of the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu and wife, Union Peace Commission Chairman Dr Tin Myo Win and wife, National League for Democracy patron U Tin Oo and wife, relatives and friends.

At first the President and the First Lady, former President and wife, State Counsellor and invited guests received the Five Precepts given by Sayadaw Ashin Viriya (Dhamma Bheri) and offered offertories to the Sayadaw and Sanghas. Follow-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offers "soon" to Members of the Sangha at her residence in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

ing this the President and the First Lady, former President and wife, State Counsellor and invited guests shared merits of their good deeds and offered meals to the monks. — MNA ■

Meal offered at Yangon City Hall to commemorate 72nd anniversary of Martyrs' Day

ALMS food were donated to Buddhist monks as a commemoration service to the martyrs of national independence at the city hall of Yangon City Development Committee at 10 am yesterday.

The donation ceremony was attended by Chairman of Martyrs' Day Organizing Central Committee and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Union Ministers, the Yangon Region Chief Minister; deputy ministers, regional ministers, chairman of YCDC (Mayor of Yangon City) and its members, departmental heads and their wives, parliamentarians, representatives of political parties and NGOs, as well as the invited guests.

First, Chairman of State

Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and the patron of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay Abhidhaja Maharajtha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa delivered sermon of the Five Precepts for the congregation. After members of Sangha recited Paritta verses, the audience donated robes and offertories to the monks. Then, Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Thanlyin Minn Kyaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Panditha Bhaddanta Sandhima Bivamsa preached sermons and shared merits for the fallen leaders, followed by the donation of alms food for day-meal to the members of Sangha. — MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



"Soon", a day meal, offered to the members of the Sangha at the City Hall in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Merit shared for martyred leaders on 72nd Martyrs' Day in Nay Pyi Taw



A ceremony to donate "soon", a day meal, and offertories to Members of the Sangha in Nay Pyi Taw to mark the 72nd Martyrs' Day. PHOTO: MNA

On the 72nd Martyrs' Day, a donation ceremony was held at the Nay Pyi Taw Council Office yesterday morning and merit was shared for the leaders who sacrificed their lives for the country.

The ceremony was graced by Sayadaws and Sanghas led by State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maharajtaguru Maha Visutarama Zaygone Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavithara. Present at the ceremony were Union Constitutional Tribunal Chairman U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yi, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and

Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Union Civil Service Board Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander, Deputy Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members and their spouses and officials.

First the attendees took the Five Precepts from State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maharajtaguru Maha Visutarama Zaygone Monastery Sayadaw and listened to the Sayadaws and Sanghas recitation of parittas.

Next Union Constitutional Tribunal Chairman U Myo

Nyunt and wife, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and their wives offered offertories to the Sayadaws and Sanghas.

After listening to a sermon delivered by the presiding Sayadaw, Union Constitutional Tribunal Chairman and wife and attendees shared merits gained with the fallen martyrs and offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws and Sanghas. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Interfaith prayer service in memory of martyrs held at State Counsellor's residence

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted an interfaith prayer service for national leader Bogyoke Aung San and the other martyrs at her residence in Bahan Township, to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of Martyrs' Day yesterday.

The State Counsellor first observed two minutes of silence in honour of the martyrs with representatives of various faiths, after which she delivered welcoming remarks.

Next, All Myanmar Hindu Federation members U Myo Ko Ko and U Sunil, Islamic Center of Myanmar's Chief Convener Al Haj U Aye Lwin, Jewish religious leader U Sammy, Head of The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i of Myanmar U Tin Kyaing and member Daw Kyin Hla, Sikh representative Grani Tara Singh (Taunggyi), and Dr

San Myat Shwe representing the Myanmar Council of Churches spoke words of virtues and performed prayers in their respective religious traditions. This was followed by a prayer from Bishop John Mahn Hsane Hgyi.

Afterwards, everyone present sang a hymn and Rev Dr A Ko Lay gave a blessing and concluded the prayer ceremony. The State Counsellor then took documentary photos with the guests.

Attending the ceremony were former President U Htin Kyaw and wife, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe and wife, Union Minister for Office of the Union Government U Min Thu and wife, NLD Patron U Tin Oo and other invited guests. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi prays for national leader Bogyoke Aung San and other martyrs together with other religious leaders at her residence in Bahan Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

NLD HQ organizes 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony

REMEMBERING Bogyoke Aung San and the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country, a ceremony commemorating the 72nd anniversary of Martyrs' Day was held at the headquarters of the National League for Democracy (NLD) in Bahan Township yesterday.

Before the ceremony, NLD members, students and the general public observed a moment of silence in front of the building at

10:37 am, the time at which the Martyrs were assassinated.

The ceremony then began and attendees first saluted the State Flag, Bogyoke Aung San and the martyred leaders and observed eight seconds of silence for all the lives sacrificed during the democracy movement.

Next, NLD Central Executive Committee (CEC) secretariat member U Nyan Win delivered the opening speech and

CEC member Dr Myo Nyunt read the announcement for the 72nd Martyrs' Day and other messages sent to the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by the CEC and other members of the NLD, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, foreign diplomats and invited guests. The NLD also released a six-point communique at yesterday's ceremony. —Zaw Gyi ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



NLD members hold commemorating ceremony of 72nd anniversary of the Martyrs' Day at their headquarters in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated naval patrol along Naf River

Myanmar and Bangladesh border guards conducted a coordinated naval patrol along the Naf River on 18 July.

The Myanmar patrol was led by Pol-Maj Tin Hlaing from Ywet Nyo Taung outpost under the No 2 Border Police subdivision of Area 5, Maungtaw Township, on two watercrafts.

The Bangladesh patrol was led by Subedar MD Razzak from Domdomia BOP outpost under No 2 Border Guard Force, Border Guards

Bangladesh, also on two watercrafts.

The two sides met at nautical miles 8 near the opening to Mingalar Creek in the middle of the Naf River near the border and to nautical mile 11 near the opening of Chaung Wa Creek.

After the patrol, the two sides held a discussion on watercraft No 001 according to the Myanmar Police Force. — GNLM ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Myanmar and Bangladesh conduct naval patrol along the Naf River. **PHOTO: MPF**

Coord meeting discusses UN proposal to offer assistance in Rakhine, Chin states

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held a coordination meeting on the UN's aid proposal for the people displaced armed conflicts in Rakhine State and in Paletwa Township, Chin State, yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung told participants to discuss the UN's proposal in detail, which seeks to provide aid to IDPs in Paletwa Township of Chin State and Buthidaung, Yathedaung, Kyauktaw, MraukU, Minbya, Ponnagyun and Pauktaw townships of Rakhine State.

Since 18 December 2018, the ministry has provided K1.1 billion worth of food, rescue equipment and financial aid to over 65,000 people from more than 16,000 households displaced

by fighting, said the Deputy Minister.

He said regional organizations and donors have also supported the various temporary shelters which house approximately 22,000 each. He said the Red Cross Movement and WFP have provided food, rescue equipment, crop seeds and fertilizers, and opened mobile clinics. He said they will carefully consider the UN's and international organizations' request to provide assistance.

The meeting then commenced and participants discussed the proposals for providing assistance with food security, nutrition, roofing and rescue equipment, education, healthcare, water purification and protecting vulnerable pop-



Deputy Minister U Soe Aung attends the coordination meeting on the UN's aid proposal for IDPs in Rakhine State and in Paletwa Township, Chin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

ulations.

They also discussed their willingness to cooperate with the Union Government, cur-

rent tasks, and petitions for the emergency response fund from UN and other funds.

Department represent-

atives then discussed the prioritized tasks and proposals of their respective ministry.—MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Ayeyawady water hits its danger mark in Mandalay



A vessel docks at a jetty in Ayeyawady River in Mandalay. **PHOTO: KHAING SET WAI**

THE water level of Ayeyawady river reached its danger mark of 1,260 centimetre (230.745 inches) at Mandalay port at 6 pm yesterday after it passed 1253 centimetre at 3:30 pm in

the same day.

However, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

has forecast the water level would decline in the following days as no flood occurs upstream the river.

U Aung Ko Min, officer from the DMH, said, "As the water level is now increasing upstream the river in Myitkyina and Mandalay, it is expected to decline after reaching the danger mark.

Measurement at every alternative hour has shown fluctuation of water level do not occur at Thabeikkyin Township near Mandalay City."

According to the DMH, the level of Ayeyawady river were close to the danger marks of respective townships, with 930 to 932 centimetre in Shwegu township, 1,040 to 1,065 centimetre in Katha Township and 1,480 to 1,541 centimetre in Thabeikkyin Township.

U Thein, a local resident near Mayangyan port, said, "The water level has significantly increased in these days. The villages at the western bank of the river have been experiencing inundation since four days ago, although this is not a year with two Waso-months which ordinarily caused flood."

The water level has increased by 3 inches on 10th July and 1 inch on the three following days at Machanbaw and Putao townships of upstream Ayeyawady river. Meanwhile, recent torrential rainfall in Myitkyina has caused the water level pass the danger levels at Bhamo, Shwegu, Katha and Thabeikkyin townships of downstream the river.—Khaing Set Wai

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Monsoon flooding forces thousands to evacuate homes in Mandalay

SOME 6,000 people evacuated their homes in three townships of Mandalay Region until yesterday.

A total of 5,889 locals from 1,269 households in Tada-U, Singtu and Thabaikkyin townships are now taking shelters at nearby schools and monasteries after the torrential rainfalls started in last week.

U Aye Min Thu, Director of Mandalay Region Disaster Management Department, said, "We helped 5,889 people evacuate

their homes in three townships and have provided them with rice and dry rations even enough for a week."

Flood evacuees included 108 from Tada-U, 688 from Singtu and 5,093 from Thabaikkyin townships respectively.

The director also said the department will help in more areas with the possible risks of flood.—Min Htet Aung (Sub-printing House)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



A member of rescue team carries an elderly woman at the outskirts of township in Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

Families of martyrs pay tribute to fallen leaders



U Ye Aung Than, nephew of U Aung San Oo, son of Bogyoke Aung San, pays tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: MNA**



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of Bogyoke Aung San, lays wreaths and pays tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: MNA**



Family members of Thakhin Mya pay tribute to Thakhin Mya and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: MNA**



Family members of Deedok U Ba Cho arrive at the Martyrs' Mausoleum to pay tribute to Deedok U Ba Cho and martyrs. **PHOTO: MNA**



Family members of Mahn Ba Khaing pay tribute to Mahn Ba Khaing and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: MNA**



Family members of Mahn Ba Khaing pay tribute to Mahn Ba Khaing and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: MNA**



Family members of U Ba Win pay tribute to U Ba Win and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: MNA**

Families of martyrs pay tribute to fallen leaders



Family members of Mongpon Sawbwa Sao San Tun pay tribute to Mongpon Sawbwa Sao San Tun and martyrs. **PHOTO: MNA**



Family members of U Razak pay tribute to U Razak and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: MNA**



Family members of U Ohn Maung lay a wreath at the Martyrs' Mausoleum to pay tribute to U Ohn Maung and martyrs. **PHOTO: MNA**



Family members of Yebaw Ko Htwe pay tribute to martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: MNA**



Diplomats lay wreaths and pay tribute to fallen leaders at the Martyrs' Mausoleum yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Invest in the youth to tackle the challenges of Industry 4.0

WITH mobile phone penetration rising to 126 per cent today from about less than 1 per cent five years ago, the Myanmar telecom sector has shown singular growth, showing that we are braced for a quantum technological leap.

Countries across the world are giving priority to innovation as they embrace Industry 4.0 or the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In every sector, from agriculture to education, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) have come to the fore. In the production sector, automation is putting an end to the combination of human workforce and machines.

Now is the time to encourage our youth to hone their technological skills and improve our education system so that our students inculcate practical skills and adapt to a changing world.

as well as mistakes of those ahead of us, offering fresh openings and new horizons.

Moving forward, we need to make greater investment in human resource development so that our workforce benefits from the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In fact, our youths have shown they can match skills with the rest of the world. A group of students from the University of Information Technology won the second prize in the ASEAN Makerthon in Malaysia, and a group of Myanmar students came sixth in the Global Challenge 2017 Robotic Competition.

The achievements of our youths show they need correct support and guidance from us so that they can proactively participate in realizing the dreams of our nation.

We need to change our teaching methodology so our youths have the technological skills required for the industrial revolution.

Now is the time to encourage our youths to hone their technological skills and improve our education system so that our students inculcate practical skills and adapt to a changing world.

Only when we are armed with new technological skills can we overcome the challenges in our path.



Myanmar has a geographical advantage when it comes to producing clean energy and healthy food. We can capitalize on the abundance of fertile land to transform into an agri-power through effective investment in the agro sector and making the best use of technology and innovation.

Hence, it is important to have great confidence in our capability.

Irrespective of the revolution and era, our approach should remain human-centric.

Our approach to the Fourth Industrial Revolution should be based on our belief in the creativity, empathy, and stewardship qualities of our people, especially the young.

Our approach to Industry 4.0 should be based on innovation, sharing, and leadership, concerning itself not just with the youth, but all human resources.

No matter how far our country lagged in terms of development, we can reap the advantages of astute late comers, learning from the success

The need for revising power tariff upwards

Upper Ye Ywar Hydropower Project, Upper Kyaingtaung Hydropower Project and Thu Htay Hydropower Project are our current projects. The State has allocated adequate finances to complete these projects in the next 2-3 years.

By Shin Min

(Continued from 17 July Article) **Htet Htet Htun: I want to discuss something on what the Deputy Minister said. I hear that people will still not be paying the amount of electricity they are actually using even after the meter has been increased. I think this is important for the people to know. We want to know why do you choose now to increase the electricity rates.**

Deputy Minister: The truth is, the previous administration system was socialist. It's where the State is responsible for most everything and it's why they subsidize even when they make losses. The development of a country that chooses this route and one that bases itself on market orientation are very different. Our country has now

The government will not be able to handle subsidizing everything in the long run. An important phrase here is 'good governance', which every nation needs.

shifted to an open market policy.

Like we've discussed earlier, people grew up in the previous administration system and are used to it. Now that things are changing people are wondering why the levies are increased out of habit. The people need to be open to change too.

Dr Aung Tun Thet: If you ask someone receiving things for free to make some sort of payment, they will refuse. It takes courage to ask for appropriate compensation. Subsidies are used by governments that practice administration. They have fixed prices. It's sort of garnering public support.

The government will not be able to handle subsidizing everything in the long run. An important phrase here is 'good governance', which every nation needs. If we keep extracting from the Union budget for subsidies then there won't be enough for national development. This has to be understood.

Individually, everyone will be



Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing



Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet



Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe



Daw Htet Htet Tun

more concerned with their electricity bill increasing. Another question, who is the government? You are the government and this is your money. The government has no money of its own. It manages the money collected from

recent tender ads are for natural gas.

The reason is there is not enough electricity these days. We have to solve these issues within one to two years, and so we found that using natural gas is the effective short term solution.

That means mixed generation is the solution in the middle and long run. Upper Ye Ywar Hydropower Project, Upper Kyaingtaung Hydropower Project and Thu Htay Hydropower Project are our current projects. The State has allocated adequate finances to complete these projects in the next 2-3 years. The government has also signed a joint venture with a French company for the Shwe Li - 3 Hydropower Power Project (670 MW).

There are a lot of resources for generating hydropower in our country. We need to use them to benefit everyone and authorities are beginning to do just that. But hydropower is dependent on the volume of rainwater that naturally flows through.

June has already past but water still hasn't flow into the reservoirs, meaning we cannot produce enough electricity. We don't wish to cut off the power and especially not during the hot summer but given the situation, we cannot generate enough power.

If we were to supplement that with natural gas then the production would be high. To counter that we need to mix in coal-powered generation in proportionate production rates. But people will have other things to worry about now, such as the pollution it causes. We are looking for ways that will have the minimal negative impact on society and that is generally

accepted around the world.

We will be incorporating solar methods similar to the solar panels installed in Minbu recently. The mixed generation plan will regulate cost efficiency in the future.

Dr Aung Tun Thet: We're not just thinking about changing the means of production. It's not a subsidy reform, it's a sector reform. Favourably, it would be renewable source or non-renewable source but what's happening now is clean energy and green energy.

The State is also operating MSDP and Project Bank. It would be better if the tender processes the Deputy Minister mentioned are included in the Project Bank under electricity generation.

What is more important is that if we think about the future sustainability of our nation, even with the ministry going toward energy and environmental friendliness, there needs to be mixed generation.

Our people are protesting against the use of coal but they are using it in Yokohama, Paris and

U Ko Ko: We've had a long discussion and it's almost coming to a close. Is there anything left you wish to talk about?

Daw Khine Khine Nwe: Speaking as a businessperson, we'd like to see our business and sector succeed while helping to develop our nation. As we head towards industrialization and value chain, we need to build more infrastructure and that requires a steady supply of electricity. We could expand more than this if we had uninterrupted electric supply. Could the Deputy Minister tell us how they would deal with that in the short-term?

Htet Htet Htun: On our side, the citizens are facing the increase in the electric bill. But after listening to the explanations in this discussion session, I realize we are increasing a part of our expenditure a little bit for the good of the entire nation. I guess the public needs to try to understand this better.

Besides, we're paying for the amount we're actually using so

The best view for the public to adopt on this is to think of ways to decrease their expenses by being careful not to spend electricity unnecessarily.

Germany. Of course, their technology is superior but nevertheless, we'd like it to be sustainable energy whenever we can. If the weather-dependent hydropower doesn't give much confidence then we can consider solar energy.

There's way to refute that. The best view for the public to adopt on this is to think of ways to decrease their expenses by being careful not to spend electricity unnecessarily.

Some people unknowingly waster power out of habit. They

Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing

may not want to pay a lot for their electric bill but they will leave their air-cons and computers on. How will the Deputy Minister educate the people on avoiding wastage, as I believe this is one point towards resolving this issue.

Deputy Minister: The ministries and government are also citizens. They are citizens who work to resolve the daily struggles of the general public, which includes supplying enough electricity. We kindly suggest the public to practice proper usage to avoid increasing their electric bill unnecessarily.

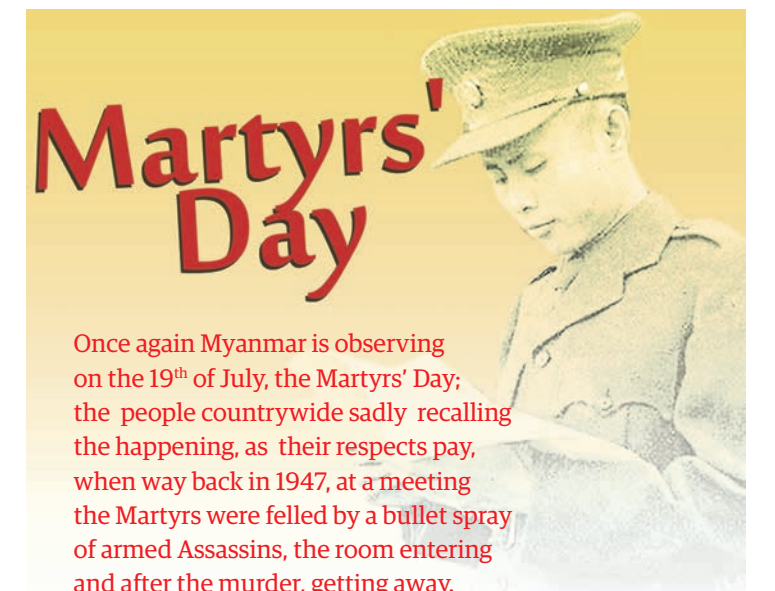
MRTV regularly announces suggestions to efficiently reduce electric consumption. They're not complex suggestions nor are they suggesting to stop using electricity. They're telling you how you could be wasting energy.

An advice to the industrial business owners. I think it is immensely important to choose energy efficient machinery for your work. We will be using the saved revenue from the changes to the electric rate to build new power plants across the country.

Our ministry will ensure not a dime is wasted while constructing the necessary infrastructure for our nation. We aim to supply sufficient electricity and energy to our future generations.

Dr Aung Tun Thet: We managed to discuss about sectoral reforms in addition to changes to the electricity pricing. In conclusion, I'd like to urge each and every citizen to be accountable. Use electricity, don't waste it.

U Ko Ko: I thank all of you for participating in this discussion.
(Translated by Pen Dali)



Once again Myanmar is observing on the 19th of July, the Martyrs' Day; the people countrywide sadly recalling the happening, as their respects pay, when way back in 1947, at a meeting the Martyrs were felled by a bullet spray of armed Assassins, the room entering and after the murder, getting away.

In remembrance to the Martyrs as we bow, we recall Bogyoke Aung San's admonitions in his speeches to all the people as to how to conduct themselves in thoughts and actions. This time around we should, as of now, to live by Bogyoke's words, make firm resolutions.

By Lokethar



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 3rd July, 2019)

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

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30)M.S.T today, the Tropical Storm "Mun" over the Gulf of Tonkin is centered at about (135)miles Southeast of Hanoi (Vietnam). It is continue to move West- Northwestwards and forecast to move Upper Vietnam, tonight.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 4th July, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Bago and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (6 -9)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4th July, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4th July, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4th July, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Officials distribute cash, aid in flood-hit areas of Minbya Tsp

OFFICIALS distributed cash and relief supplies to flood victims in Minbya Township of Rakhine State on yesterday morning.

U Tun Nyein Naing, the Chairman of the Minbya Township Natural Disaster Management Organization, and officials from the Rakhine State Government provided a total of K10.6 million in cash aid — K300,000 each to 25 households and K100,000 each to 31 households. In addition, Daw Htay Htay Win, the Deputy Officer of the Mrauk-U District Disaster Management Development provided over K1 million and 15 items of aid to 35 people whose homes were destroyed by heavy rains in Rakhine State.—Township IPRD
(Translated by La Wonn)



Officials from Rakhine State government hold cash assistance providing ceremony to flood victims in Minbya Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

New solar power project targets 30 villages in Myeik



Electricians installing solar panel system at a village in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region. **PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

UNDER the National Electrification Plan, a new solar power project will be implemented in villages across Myeik Township in Myeik District of Taninthayi Region in the current

financial year, said Township Administrator U Kyaw Win Naing.

Under the project, solar power will be supplied for home as well as public use in 30 villages in ten village-tracts. Units of 60 watts and 100 watts will be supplied to households, and solar panels will be installed in schools, rural clinics, religious buildings, and lampposts.

Solar panels will be installed in 1,545 households in the 30 villages, including Taungshe, Taungnyo, Pyintaung, Tattaung, Kabin, Lutlut, Salon, Anaukminthan, Minthan, Thetkelkyin, Shantaung, Thityawa, Kanpyin, Pa-

nataung, Thabya, Alechaung, Shwekusu, Hseainsu, Kyaukbyu, Daw, Taungphila, Kahan, Khonmawashe, Kintat, Byingyi, Shanhtain, Waingtaung, Zawe, Palon, and Kyaungtaung.

Solar panels will also be installed at eight basic education primary schools, one middle school, one high school, three rural health branches, 15 religious buildings, and 105 lampposts. Users will have to pay K50,000 for 60 watts of power and K150,000 for 100 watts, under an instalment payment plan.—Myint Oo (Myeik)

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Myanmar-Sino pipeline transports 3.5 bln cubic meters of natural gas in 6 years

THE Myanmar-Sino oil and natural gas pipeline project have carried 3.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas for Myanmar and 22.1 billion cubic meters for China in six years, according to officials involved in the project.

“With the pipeline producing natural gas, Myanmar received transit fees and taxes. Along the gas pipeline, China has passed on the benefits of the project to 241 local socio-economic

development projects,” said Mr Zhang Qiang, the chairman of the South East Asia Crude Oil Pipeline (SEAOP).

Set up to promote the energy sector in the two countries, the Myanmar-Sino oil and natural gas pipeline project focused on safe extraction of oil and natural gas for China and Myanmar during its six years of operation, he added.

The pipeline project is ex-

pected to produce 12 billion cubic meters of natural gas every year. The pipeline became operational in July, 2013. The South East Asia Crude Oil Pipeline was formed by CNPC company from China, MoGE from Myanmar, DAEWOO International company from South Korea, KOGAS, ONGC Caspian E&PBV, and GAIL.

“Myanmar received transit fees for both oil and gas pipe-

line. The Myanmar-Sino oil pipeline extracted 20 million tons of crude oil in Made Island in over two years,” Mr Zhang Qiang added.

The Myanmar-Sino natural gas pipeline runs from Ramree island, Rakhine State and the oil pipeline runs from Made Island and crosses Kyaukpyu, Yenangyaung, Taungtha, and Mandalay.—Khine Hset Wai

(Translated by Hay Mar)

One dead, one injured in road accident in Myinmu Town

A car accident on near Htee-saung Eye Hospital in Myinmu Town 19 July morning left one person dead and another injured, according to the Township Police Force.

Acting on a tip, police discovered that a car driven by Ko Khin Maung Myint, 51, was en-route from Yangon to Monywa when it crashed into the two pedestrians, U Khin

Maung Kyi, 63, and Daw San Wai, 62, on Yangon-Monywa Highway road.

Daw San Wai died at Myinmu Hospital.

Myinmu Police have tak-

en actions against the driver, Ko Khin Maung Myint, under Section 304 (A)/338.—Ko Ko Naing (Myinmu)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Chinese merchants looking to buy 20 Myanmar crops: association

By Aye Yamone

A group of Chinese merchants recently met with representatives of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association to discuss the purchase of 20 agricultural crops.

Following this, the MFVP applied to the Commerce Ministry on 18 July for permission to export the crops.

"The Chinese merchants arrived on 8 July. They said they wanted to purchase 20 Myanmar agricultural crops from local farmers. They said they preferred to procure such local crops as corn, bamboo shoots, and sweet potato," said U Soe Than Min Din, the chairman of the MFVP.

The Chinese merchant group will purchase fresh ginger, eggplant, papaya, lime, avocado, durian, cucumber, okra, bamboo shoot, pineapple, pomelo, jackfruit, banana, grape, macadamia, dragon fruit, potato, corn, and sweet potato, he said.

A detailed discussion will be held after both sides have decided how many tons of the local crops will be purchased every year, he added.

"We have already held discussions at the business-to-business level. We have also submitted a proposal to the government, seeking permission to export the 20 local crops.

The Myanmar government is expected to give the green light, but we don't know the Chinese government's stance," said U Soe Than Min Din.

Currently, eight Myanmar crops, including watermelon, muskmelon, mango, prune, lychees, rambutan, mangosteen, and durian, are legally exported to China.

Among the fruits, only watermelon, muskmelon, mango, and prune are being exported through the border gates. The remaining fruits could not be exported to China because of the lower yield of fruits.

The MFVP has already submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Commerce asking it to allow exports of pineapples, bananas, pomelos, and avocado to China legally.

The Myanmar government is currently negotiating boosting fruit exports with China.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Mineral exports decline by \$245 mln in current FY

MYANMAR'S exports of mineral products between 1 October and 5 July in the current financial year totalled US\$1.2 billion, a decline of \$245.59 million, or 16.89 per cent, from the corresponding period of the 2017-2018FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Public sector mineral exports fell by more than \$220 million compared to the previous fiscal to reach \$389.6 million. Meanwhile, private sector exports were pegged at \$819 million, a decline of over \$23.26 million from the year-ago period.

During the same period in the previous fiscal, the country's mineral exports touched \$1.454 billion, with public sector exports valued at \$611.963 million and private sector exports crossing \$842.306 million.

Forest products and other miscellaneous items also showed a downward trend in terms of export growth in the current fiscal year. Compared with the previous FY, exports of forest products declined by \$183.5 million, while shipments of miscellaneous items dropped by \$463.13 million in the current fiscal.

During the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September), the country exported mineral products worth \$1.034 billion.

As per the ministry's annual trade report, Myanmar's mineral



A trader chooses pearls at an emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

exports amounted to \$1.010 billion in the 2016-2017FY, \$968 million in the 2015-2016FY, \$1.498 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$1.339 billion in the 2013-2014FY, \$399 million in the 2012-2013FY, and \$897 million

in the 2011-2012FY.

Myanmar mainly exports minerals to China and Thailand.—Shwe Khine

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Import of capital goods down 14.8%

MYANMAR'S imports of capital goods as on 5 July in the current financial year totalled US\$4.37 billion, a decline of more than \$760 million, or 14.8 per cent, from the year-ago period, according to the latest statistical report released by the Ministry of Commerce.

While public sector imports of capital goods stood at \$595.56 million, private sector imports reached nearly \$3.78 billion between 1 October and 5 July in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Compared with the same period in the previous fiscal, public sector imports declined by \$116.96 million, while private sector imports dropped by \$647.32 million.

During the October-July period in the previous fiscal year, the imports of capital goods topped nearly \$5.14 billion, while public sector imports valued at \$712.52 million and private sector imports totalling \$4.42 billion.

In the current fiscal year, Myanmar spent \$13.93 billion on importing four major groups of commodities, including manufactured goods (\$4.375 billion), consumer goods (\$5.209 billion), and CMP raw materials (\$1.822 billion).

Myanmar conducts external trade with China, India, ASEAN member countries, European states, Western nations,

and African countries not only via the maritime route, but also through border posts.

Data from the Commerce Ministry shows that Myanmar imported capital goods amounting to \$3.5 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September).

The country's yearly imports of capital goods totalled \$6.9 billion in the 2016-2017FY, \$8.25 billion in the 2015-2016FY, \$8.03 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$5.69 billion in the 2013-2014FY, \$3.8 billion in the 2012-2013FY, and \$3.7 billion in the 2011-2012FY.—Shwe Khine
(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Trade via ITCs touches K48 bln in 10 months

TRADE conducted by 128 individual trading card (ITC) holders at the border checkpoints totalled K48 billion as on 5 July in the current financial year, with exports valued at K7.8 billion and imports amounting to K41.1 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Trade totalled over K3.5 billion at the Tamu border post, over K27 million at Muse, over K26.4 billion at Myawady, over K70 million at Tachilek, over K6.9 million at Lwejel, over K1.6 billion at Kanpaiktee, over K4.4 billion at Kawthaung, over K1.3 billion at Reed, over K10.7 billion at Mawtaung, and over K649 million at Kengtung, according to an announcement released by the ministry. The Myawady border post handled the largest share of trade via ITCs in the current fiscal year. The Commerce Ministry start-

ed issuing ITCs in 2012, and the merchants can trade goods worth up to K15 million per week using ITCs, which must be extended every year. The Trade Department is issuing ITCs with the aim of boosting border trade. Since their introduction, the Ministry has issued a total of 1,652 ITCs.

The Ministry permitted 292 ITCs in the 2012-2013FY, issued 261 cards in the 2013-2014FY, 317 cards in the 2014-2015FY, 146 cards in the 2015-2016FY, 248 cards in the 2016-2017FY, 168 cards in the 2017-2018FY, 92 cards between 1 April, 2018 and 30 September, 2018 (interim budget period), and 128 cards between 1 October, 2018 and 5 July, 2019. Traders may apply for ITCs at any office under the Ministry of Commerce and the border trade posts.—Zwe
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Machine-meshed super-humans remain stuff of fantasy

SAN FRANCISCO — A bold vision by tech entrepreneur Elon Musk to mesh human brains with artificial intelligence remains more science fiction than reality.

Even as Musk claimed his Neuralink startup had enabled a monkey to control a computer with its brain, experts were quick to dampen expectations for a futuristic scenario from “The Matrix” films, based on people with cybernetic implants.

Musk this week revealed his Neuralink startup is making progress on its brain-computer interface effort, and said the company hopes to begin testing on people next year.

Musk, founder of the automaker Tesla and the private space firm SpaceX, has long contended that a neural lace meshing minds with machines is vital if humans are to avoid being outpaced by artificial intelligence.

“This has a very good purpose, which is to cure important diseases and ultimately to help secure humanity’s future as a civilization relative to AI,” Musk said.

He disclosed that a Neuralink implant was successfully tested in a monkey in a California university lab.

“A monkey has been able to control a computer with his brain, just FYI,” Musk said, surprising the Neuralink president dur-

ing a question-and-answer session.

Experts remained cautious about his vision of merging minds with super-powered computing.

Musk’s description “is really an aspirational vision for something very far down the line,” said University of Southern California assistant professor of biology sciences Andrew Hires.

“It is unclear if we will ever get to that stage.”

Neuralink unveiled a tiny sensor with hair-thin strands that could be implanted in a brain through a small incision by a robot built for the high-precision task.

“Ultimately, we can do a full brain-machine interface,” Musk said.

“Achieve a sort of symbiosis with artificial intelligence.”

For now, the goal is to let a person with the

implants control a smartphone with thought, but the technology could eventually extend to other devices such as robotic arms, he said.

An early focus is using the technology to address brain diseases and paralysis, but the longer aim is to make implants so safe, reliable and easy that they could be options for people seeking to enhance their brains with computing power, according to the Neuralink team.

“It is not like Neuralink will suddenly have this incredible neural lace and it will start taking over people’s brains,” Musk quipped.

“It will take a long time, and you will see it coming.”

Musk said the goal was to make adding the brain-enhancing implants as easy a procedure as laser eye surgery.—AFP ■



Progress is being made brain-computer interface technology, an example of which is seen at a French laboratory in 2017, but scientists say a vision outlined by Elon Musk to mesh brains and computers using artificial intelligence remains far off. **PHOTO: AFP**

Toyota, JAXA ink 3-yr pact over plan to send rover to Moon in 2029



Supplied image shows a rover that Toyota Motor Corp. and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency will jointly develop to be sent to the Moon. Bridgestone Corp. will take part in research to develop tires for the rover. (Photo courtesy of Toyota. **PHOTO KYODO NEWS**)

TOKYO — Toyota Motor Corp. and Japan’s space exploration agency said they have signed a three-year agreement to jointly research and develop a rover to be sent to the Moon in 2029.

Under the agreement covering the period through March 2022, Toyota and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency will develop, manufacture



Galileo is intended to offer a superior accuracy of one metre (yard), compared to up to 10 metres for GPS. **PHOTO: AFP**

News Explainer: Galileo satellite system failure

BEIJING — Europe’s Galileo satellite navigation system returned to service on Thursday a week after a mass outage.

Some fluctuations may still be experienced until further notice, said the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency, adding that “the root causes of the major incident” will be identified by an independent inquiry board.

The system’s navigation and timing features were down in the outage, with the search and rescue services functioning normally. The Prague-based agency explained that the outage originated by an equipment malfunction in the Galileo ground infrastructure, affecting the calculation of time and orbit predictions. Malfunction of ground infrastructure is better news than that of satellites, and is easier

to fix, said Robert Wimmer-Schweingruber, a professor at the University of Kiel in Germany. Similarly, Guglielmo Aglietti, director of the Surrey Space Center at the University of Surrey, noted that this outage won’t delay the construction of the Galileo system.

Galileo has been in an “initial services” period since December 2016. During this “pilot” phase, the system’s signals are used in combination with other satellite navigation systems, which allowed for the detection of technical issues before the system becomes fully operational.

Also, users could fall back on other satellite navigation systems like the GPS. For Galileo, experts viewed this “pilot” phase as an opportunity to expose problems. In the full operational phase, Galileo should function independently of

other satellite navigation systems. Galileo system is one of the four space-based navigation networks operating globally, along with the US Global Positioning System (GPS), Russia’s GLONASS and China’s Beidou.

Galileo system was launched in 2002, and the complete 30-satellite system is expected by 2020. According to former French President Jacques Chirac, the system was essential to keep Europe from becoming a “vassal” of the United States, which owns the GPS. The 24-satellite GPS became fully operational in 1993, and today, it provides two levels of service: one is exclusively for US Armed Forces, Federal Agencies and selected allied armed forces and governments, and the other available to all worldwide users. —Xinhua ■

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US destroys Iranian drone in Strait of Hormuz: Trump

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday the US military had shot down an unmanned Iranian drone in the Strait of Hormuz for coming near to a US Navy vessel.

Hours later, Iran denied losing a drone over the narrow sea passage, with Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi tweeting, “We have not lost any drone in the Strait of Hormuz nor anywhere else.”

The official added that he is “worried” the US military shot down one of its own unmanned aircraft by mistake.

The Defence Department said the Iranian craft was destroyed to defend US personnel, in response to the drone flying close to the US amphibian assault ship Boxer. “The Boxer took defensive action against an Iranian drone... (that) was threatening the



Satellite image of the Strait of Hormuz on 24 May, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

safety of the ship and the ship’s crew. The drone was immediately destroyed,” Trump told reporters. “This is the latest of many

provocative and hostile actions by Iran against vessels operating in international waters,” he said, adding that Washington urges all

nations to “condemn Iran’s attempts to disrupt freedom of navigation and global commerce.”

The incident comes amid escalated tensions between the United States and Iran over Tehran’s pledge to push ahead with its nuclear enrichment program, exceeding limits agreed to by Iran and six nations in exchange for lifting sanctions on the Middle Eastern country.

The Trump administration pulled the United States out of the nuclear deal last year. The remaining five countries are Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia. In late June, the Trump administration was reportedly on the verge of launching a military attack on Iran after its paramilitary Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps shot down an unmanned US drone. —Kyodo News ■

WORLD BRIEFS

5.1-magnitude shakes Athens, knocks out phone service

ATHENS — A strong, shallow 5.1-magnitude earthquake jolted Athens on Friday (July 19), knocking out phone connections and causing power outages and minor damage, as worried residents rushed into the streets.

“It was a very intense quake, we were terrified, everyone started coming out (of the building),” said Ms Katerina, who works in a six-storey cosmetics store.

One woman was lightly injured by falling plaster, reports said, and at least two abandoned buildings in the capital had collapsed, a government spokesman said. News channels ran photos sent in by viewers, showing parked cars in central Athens damaged by fallen masonry.

“There are no reports of serious injury,” government spokesman Stelios Petsas said on television, adding that a small number of other buildings had suffered minor damage.

Mr Petsas added that phone networks had become “over-charged” by the sheer number of users calling to check up on friends and family. — AFP ■

Huge blast rocks China gas plant, ‘many injured’: state media

BEIJING — A huge explosion rocked a gas plant in central China on Friday, causing many injuries and shattering windows and doors of buildings in a three-kilometre (1.9-mile) radius, state media said.

The number of casualties was not immediately known following the blast in Henan province, but official news agency Xinhua said “many people” were injured at the site of the explosion.

Two people are so far unaccounted for after the blast, which happened at 5:50 pm local time (0950 GMT), and some of the injured have been hospitalised.

Xinhua said the blast occurred in the air separation unit of the Henan Coal Gas Group factory and not in the gas tank areas, citing a source in the Yima city government. All production at the plant has been stopped. — AFP

EU resolution to protect Hong Kong’s rights, freedom irks China

HONG KONG — China on Thursday condemned the European Parliament for passing a motion that gives support to Hong Kong’s anti-extradition bill protests and threatens to impose an export ban on crowd-control technologies to the territory.

“The motion...ignores the facts and confounds right and wrong,” China’s Foreign Ministry Commissioner Office in Hong Kong said in a statement. “It is motivated by double standards and is full of ignorance, prejudice and hypocrisy.”

Calling the parliamentarians who tabled the motion “ignorant” and “arrogant” for trying to dictate a Hong Kong policy to China, the office said it “strongly condemns, deplors

and firmly opposed” the motion, which “turns a blind eye to the appalling violence committed by the rioters...openly glorifies and condones the violent and illegal acts.”

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang also urged the European Parliament to respect China’s sovereignty, “not to interfere in any way Hong Kong’s affairs and not to support violent lawbreakers who disrupt Hong Kong’s order with violent acts.”

Millions of people were drawn to protests in the past weeks against the bill, which would allow fugitive transfer to mainland China and could arguably undermine the judicial independence of the former Brit-

ish colony, which has returned to Chinese rule in 1997, and its semi-autonomous status since then.

While most of the protests

were peaceful, some had turned violent with protesters clashing with riot police, leading to scores of injuries and dozens of arrests. —Kyodo News ■



Protesters seeking the complete withdrawal of a suspended extradition bill leave after police tried to clear them from the streets in Hong Kong’s Kowloon area on 7 July, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

‘My entire world was gone’: floods devastate northern Pakistan

KARACHI — Once a small cluster of houses stood along a gentle

stream in Pakistani Kashmir. Now only jagged rocks and a few

damaged homes remain after torrential rains wreaked havoc on the picturesque mountain village in the Laswa Valley.

More than 270 people have been killed in recent days across South Asia as monsoon rains deluged large swathes of the sub-continent, flooding waterways and destroying communities.

On Sunday evening, the normally quiet stream running through the valley morphed into a raging current — uprooting everything in its path.

Twenty-three people are missing, presumed dead by officials.

Seven others were injured, while 150 houses and businesses were destroyed and about 50 buildings damaged in the seven hamlets spread across Laswa.

“I was holding the hand of my mother trying to save her, but unfortunately I lost her hand and she was swept away by the floodwater,” says Amin Butt, who was visiting his family in Kashmir.

“Within a minute my entire world was gone, my mother was gone and my home,” Butt said, his eyes misting over.

“We have nothing left here now except for the stones.” —AFP ■



Twenty-three people from Laswa Valley are missing, presumed dead by officials, after flooding hit Pakistani Kashmir. PHOTO: AFP



GRAND HANTHA INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

လှိုက်လှိုင်းသာစွာဖြင့် ကျေးဇူးတင်ဂုဏ်ယူဝမ်းမြောက်ခြင်း



GRAND HANTHA INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL ဖွင့်ပွဲ အထိမ်းအမှတ် ကျန်းမာရေးစစ်ဆေးမှု ကုသိုလ်ပြုခြင်း ခံယူတော်မူရန် သီတင်းသုံး ကြွရောက် ချီးမြှင့်တော် မူကြပါသော နိုင်ငံတော် သံဃမဟာနာယက အဖွဲ့ဆရာတော်ကြီး (၄၇) ပါး၊ ၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ (၇) ရက်နေ့ တွင် ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်သော **Grand Opening Ceremony** သို့ ကြွရောက်ချီးမြှင့်၍ ဆေးရုံကမ္ဘာ့မင်းကုန်းအားစက်လုပ်နိုင် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပေး ပါသော ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့် အားကစားဝန်ကြီးဌာန ပြည်ထောင်စုဝန်ကြီး ဒေါက်တာမြင့်ထွေး၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး ဝန်ကြီးချုပ် ဦးဖြိုးမင်းသိန်း၊ ပဲခူးတိုင်းဒေသကြီးဝန်ကြီးချုပ် ဦးဝင်းသိန်း၊ အခမ်းအနားအား ဖဲကြီးဖြတ်ဖွင့်လှစ်ပေးကြပါသော ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးဝန်ကြီးချုပ် ဦးဖြိုးမင်းသိန်း၊ အမျိုးသား ဒီမိုကရေစီ အဖွဲ့ချုပ် နာယက ဦးဝင်းထိန်၊ ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံ ကုန်သည်များနှင့် စက်မှုလက်မှု လုပ်ငန်းရှင်များ အသင်းချုပ် ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ ဦးဇော်မင်းဝင်း၊ **GRAND HANTHA INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL** ၏ Founder ဝဏ္ဏကျော်ထင် ဦးဌေးမြင့် နှင့် Clinical Chair ပါမောက္ခဒေါက်တာ ဒေါ်သန်းသန်းအေး ၊ Yuzana Group of Companies Director ဦးဝင်းမြင့် နှင့် ဦးကျင်တိုး တို့အား လည်းကောင်း၊ ဖွင့်ပွဲအခမ်းအနားသို့ ကြွရောက် ချီးမြှင့်ပေးကြပါသော ဌာနဆိုင်ရာမှ တာဝန်ရှိ ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်ကြီးများ၊ ဆေးပညာရှင် ပါမောက္ခကြီးများ၊ ဆရာဝန်ကြီးများ၊ ဧည့်သည်တော်ကြီးများ အားလုံးကိုလည်းကောင်း၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုပန်းခြင်းများ၊ ပန်းချီကားချပ်များ၊ လက်ဆောင်များ ပေးပို့ကြခြင်း၊ သတင်းစာများ၊ Phone, Email, Facebook များမှတစ်ဆင့် ဂုဏ်ယူဝမ်းမြောက် ဆုမွန်ကောင်းစကားများ ချီးမြှင့်ပေးကြသော ကုမ္ပဏီကြီးများ၊ အခြားသော ကုမ္ပဏီကြီးများ၊ ဘဏ်များ၊ စီးပွားရေး လုပ်ငန်းရှင်ကြီးများ၊ ပြည်တွင်း ပြည်ပမှ ဂုဏ်သရေရှိ လူကြီးမင်းများ၊ ဆွေမျိုးမိတ်ဆွေ သင်္ဂဟများ၊ မိဘပြည်သူများ အားလုံးကိုလည်းကောင်း ၊ မှတ်တမ်းတင်သတင်းနှင့် ဓာတ်ပုံ၊ ဗွီဒီယိုများ ရိုက်ကူးပေးကြပါသော သတင်းစဉ်၊ MRTV ၊ MRTV-4၊ Sky Net ၊ MNTV၊ Myanmar Times၊ Channel K၊ ကြေးမုံ၊ မြန်မာ့အလင်း ၊ The Global New Light of Myanmar ၊ Exposure အဖွဲ့၊ မီဒီယာအသီးသီးမှ သတင်းထောက်များ၊ ဂရုန်း(ဒ်)ဟံသာ အင်တာနေရှင်နယ်ဆေးရုံမှ ဖဲကြီးနှင့် ဗန်းကိုင် အလှမယ်လေးများ၊ အခမ်းအနားမှူးအဖြစ် ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးပါသော ဒေါက်တာအိကေခိုင်သင်း၊ အစစအရာရာ အဆင်ပြေချောမွေ့အောင် အဘက်ဘက်မှ ဝိုင်းဝန်း ကူညီ ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးကြသည့် ယုဇနမိသားစုများနှင့် ကျေးဇူးတင်ထိုက်သူအားလုံးကို အထူးပင် လှိုက်လှိုင်းသာစွာ ကျေးဇူးတင်ဂုဏ်ယူ ဝမ်းမြောက်ပါကြောင်းနှင့် အတူတကွ ကြီးပွားတိုးတက် အောင်မြင်ပါစေကြောင်း **GRAND HANTHA INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL** မိသားစုမှ ဆုမွန်ကောင်းနှင့် အတူ မှတ်တမ်းတင် ဂုဏ်ပြုအပ်ပါသည်။



GRAND HANTHA INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL (GHIH)

အမှတ် (၃)၊ နာနတ်တောလမ်းနှင့် ကြည့်မြင်တိုင် ကမ်းနားလမ်းထောင့်၊ တမာရွတ်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
ဖုန်း (+၉၅) ၂၃၁၇၆၀၇၊ (+၉၅) ၅၂၃၀၀၀၊ (+၉၅) ၅၂၃၀၁၁

Week 17 MNL matches to be broadcast live on free-to-air channels

THE Week 17 matches of the Myanmar National League will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels, according to a statement issued by the league.

Week 17 will feature many thrilling matches, including the much-anticipated derby match between Shan United and Ayeyawady United.

There is an impressive line-up of matches scheduled on 20 July.

Magwe FC will take on Sagaing United at 4 p.m. today at the Thuwunna Stadium. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV.

Meanwhile, Yangon United will take on Dagon FC at the Yangon United Sports Complex at 3:30 pm, and the match will be broadcast live on Fortune TV.

Another match scheduled

for 3:30 pm today will pit Hantawady United against Ayeyawady United. The match will take place at the Grand Royal Stadium in Bago, and will be broadcast live on Mizzima TV.

There are several matches scheduled for Sunday. Yadanarbon United will play Southern Myanmar FC at 4 pm on Sunday at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium, and the match will be shown live on Mizzima TV.

The same day, Shan United will face Ayeyawady United at the Taunggyi Stadium, and the match will be broadcast live on MRTV and MRTV-4.

Meanwhile, Zwegapin United will also take on Chin Land FC on Sunday, and the match will be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Chin United's John Babu (red) vies for the ball with Sagaing United's Htet Zaw Tun during their Week 16 match of the Myanmar National League at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNL**

MFF Youth FC leads U-21 Myanmar National League

THE youth team of the Myanmar Football Federation, the MFF Youth FC is still leading

the standing table for the U-21 Myanmar National League 2019 at the end of Week 17.

The MFF Youth team has played 20 matches so far, and has earned 50 points from 16 wins,

two draws, and two losses.

Yangon United is placed second in the standing table with 33 points from 16 matches played, which have resulted in ten wins and three draws and three losses.

Shan United is in the third position with 30 points from 15 matches played. It has chalked up eight wins, six draws, and one loss.

Southern Myanmar FC is fourth with 29 points from eight wins, five draws, and three losses out of 16 matches played.

Meanwhile, Zwegapin United is standing in the fifth place with eight wins, four draws, and four losses out of 16 matches played.

There are 13 teams competing in the U-21 national league, and Rakhine United FC is sitting at the bottom of the table with 3 points from one win and 14 losses.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Players from MFF Youth FC pose for a group photo before the match against Ayeyawady U-21 team on 8 April. **PHOTO: MFF**

MFF U-13 girls' tournament to begin in Yangon today

THE MFF U-13 Girls' Football Tournament will open today on the artificial turf ground of the National Football Academy in Yangon, under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and the Myanmar Football Federation, according to a statement issued by the federation.

The state and region-level

tourney aims to improve football standards among Myanmar youth and groom future talent, the MFF stated.

The drawing ceremony for the tourney was held yesterday at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Football Federation.

At the ceremony, the Co-Secretary General of the Myanmar

Football Federation, U Tin Myint Aung, outlined the reasons for holding the girls' football tourney.

Afterwards, the 17 participating teams were placed in six groups as part of the drawing ceremony.

The group stage matches for the tourney will be held from 20 to 26 July, with four matches

scheduled per day, according to the drawing ceremony.

The best teams from the six groups will go to the next stage.

The quarterfinals will be held on 28 July and the semifinals on 30 July. The final match will be held on 1 August, according to Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Lowry surges into Open lead as Woods set to miss cut

COUNTY ANTRIM — Ireland's Shane Lowry stormed into the lead on the second day of the British Open as Tiger Woods was set to miss the cut on Friday.

Resuming on four under, Lowry birdied four of the opening five holes and picked up another two shots on eight and 10 to move to 10 under.

Overnight leader J.B. Holmes consolidated his challenge with a 68 to move to eight under.

"You can have that great round and that day where everything goes right," said Holmes. "But it's nice to get two rounds in a row. It shows a little consistency."

English duo Tommy Fleetwood and Lee Westwood are just one shot further back on seven under, while world number one Brooks Koepka also kept himself in the hunt for a fifth major on five under.

However, Woods was made to pay for his disastrous 78 on Thursday as a one under par round left the 15-time major champion still on six over and five shots off the projected cut.—AFP ■