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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 22 July 2019

## Ayeyawady River stops 25 cm above danger mark, water likely to recede today



The current water level in the Ayeyawady River in Mandalay does not pose a threat to residents as the embankment is higher than in 2004. **PHOTO: KHAING SAT WAI**

**T**HE level of water in the Ayeyawady River, which crossed the danger mark on 21 July in Mandalay, is expected to recede over the next few days, according to the upper Myanmar weather bureau.

“The river stopped rising on Sunday. We forecast the water level will recede about 2 centimetres on 22 July. It will fall below the danger mark after 24 July,”

said U Kyaw Lwin Oo, the Director of the Upper Myanmar Meteorological and Hydrological Department.

On Saturday, the water reached 1,285 cm, 25 cm above the danger mark, but the level remained unchanged the rest of the day.

The water level in the river had reached a record 1,382 cm in 2004.

“The embankment in Mandalay is safe until the river water reaches 50 cm above the danger mark. But, areas where the embankment is lower, especially in Amarapura Township, should be on alert for floods,” U Kyaw Lwin Oo added.

The current water level does not pose a threat to residents as the embankment is higher than in 2004, he said.

The Mandalay City Development Committee has collected over 30,000 sand bags as part of preparedness for possible flooding.

### Swollen Ayeyawady forces five schools to close in Myinmu

With the water from the Ayeyawady River entering low-lying areas in Myinmu, Sagaing

District, five schools have been closed as of 21 July.

The authorities are making arrangements to help ensure that the studies of more than 840 school children from the five schools are not disrupted.

Yesterday, the water level in the river had reached 1,146 cm, 4 cm below the danger mark.—*Khaing Sat Wai/ Aung Soe Pe (Myinmu) (Translated by KZL)*

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## Broadcasting Governing Body holds meeting in Yangon

**BROADCASTING** Governing Body (BGB) held its work coordination meeting (4/2019) at Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday morning.

Chairman of BGB Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun gave a keynote speech at the meeting.

Vice Chairman of BGB Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung reported on programs for development of broadcasting.

Officials of machinery, management and financial divisions of MRTV presented reports on the progress in implementing the minutes of the previous

BGB meeting and other accomplishments.

Then officials of FM Bagan, Padamya FM, Cherry FM, Shwe FM, Forever Group Co., Ltd (Mandalay FM and Pyinsawady FM) Shwethanlwin Media Company Limited, Family Entertainment Group, Mizzima Media Company Limited, DVD Multimedia Group Company Limited, Fortune Broadcasting Company Limited, KMA TeleMedia Holding Company Limited and My Multi Media Group Company Limited presented reports on difficulties. Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun looked into the requirements.—MNA (Translated by TMT)



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun addresses the work coordination meeting of the Broadcasting Governing Body at the Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTOMNA**

## Cash for rice, supplies provided to flood victims in Katha



Police and firemen distribute aid to flood victims from door to door in Katha. **PHOTO: NAING LIN HTET**

AID including cash for rice, rescue equipment and utensils were distributed to flood victims in Katha yesterday.

Sagaing Regional Department of Disaster Management, Staff Officer's Office and Township General Administrative Department went in the field and handed over money for rice and rescues equipment to people in flooded area, villages in upper Ayeyarwady River.

In Katha, the Ayeyarwady River crossed its danger mark

and reached 1088cm. Tone Ye, Late Tone, Painnal Chaung, Thet Kal Kyin villagers in low-lying area were flooded.

Officials from the Department of Disaster Management distributed the family kits and cash for rice to 800 people from 17 households who have not sifted to temporary shelters.

Speaker of Magway Region Hluttaw U Than, Regional Hluttaw Representative, U Nyi Nyi Tun, Director of Regional Department of Disaster Man-

agement, U Sa Willy Frank also toured the flood-hit areas and met with flood victims and gave necessary suggestion. On 17 July, officials disbursed cash and relief supplies to flood victims from villages located along the Ayeyarwady River in Katha Township.

With the high level of water in the Ayeyarwady River in July, a total of 2,468 villagers in Katha Township were shifted to relief camps for shelter. —Naing Lin Htet (Translated by Alphonsus)

## Bank erosion destroys five houses in MraukU Township

FIVE houses in three villages collapsed due to bank erosion that was triggered by the swollen Laymyo River during the downpour that lasted from 8 to 14 July in MraukU Township, MraukU District, Rakhine State.

Officials of the Disaster Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement presented financial and material

assistance to the families of the collapsed homes on 20 July at a ceremony held at its office in MraukU.

Officials presented rice, Ks 56,700 and 15 kinds of relief items, and Ks 500,000, Ks 100,000 for rebuilding each collapsed house, to the 27 persons of five households of Thahtaygon, Akyitawma and Konchaung villages.—District IPRD (Translated by TMT)



An Official gives aid to villagers who lost their houses in bank erosion in MraukU. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**

## AA group fires two rockets at three navy boats near Yathedaung

AA group fired two rockets at three navy boats anchored near Mayu River bank west of Yathedaung on 20 July morning. There was no casualty or damage, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The three boats of the Tatmadaw (Navy) were anchored near Mayu River bank about 3,000 metres west of Yathedaung to conduct emergency rescue and aid operations in case any passenger vessel running along the coast in the My-

anmar waters in Rakhine State faced mechanical breakdown or any natural disaster hits the area. When the AA group launched the attack, the navy boats returned the fire. There was no casualty or damage. When the place where

the attacked was launched was combed three 107mm Type 63 shells, already connected to battery through the wires were found, and were defused.

AA group also attacked a tug-boat, anchored near the mouth of

Hsantoye creek east of Sittway with three similar rockets on 22 June, according to the news report released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA (Translated by TMT)

## Mrauk-U: Experts discuss final draft nomination dossiers to UNESCO

LOCAL and foreign experts met yesterday to finalize draft nomination dossiers to enlist ancient city MraukU, Rakhine State, to the World Heritage Center of UNESCO as a world cultural heritage zone.

The meeting held at the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library in Hlaing Township of Yangon office was attended by.

At the meeting, the deputy minister said, "All the experts are suggested to discuss the draft nomination dossiers for MraukU ancient city before submitting it

to UNESCO for the world cultural heritage site after checking the facts and its history."

Rakhine State minister U Kyaw Aye Thein also updated the undertakings for their government in the sectors of management, finance, funding and supports to the locals.

Then, the Director General of Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, the experts, and members of committees and sub-committees discussed the draft proposal in detail.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



The meeting to finalize draft nomination dossiers to enlist ancient city MraukU being convened yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## One woman killed, six injured in train-car crash



Firemen and volunteers remove the car which was crashed by the train in Kantbalu. PHOTO: AUNG WIN NYEIN (KANTBALU)

ONE woman was killed and six were injured when a train smashed into their car at an illegal level crossing in Kantbalu, Sagaing Region, yesterday.

Six people: three men and three women: aboard the car were injured in the crash. The six passengers with minor injuries were taken to hospital.

The down train leaving Kyunhla Station to Kantbalu Station crashed into the car at 7.30 am yesterday.

Kantbalu Police Station has opened a file against Min Min, the driver of the car. —Aung Win Nyein (Kantbalu)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

## Trade deficit narrows sharply to \$1.2 bln as exports spike, imports plummet

A plunge in imports coupled with a spike in exports over the last nine months of the current fiscal year has helped trimmed Myanmar's trade deficit to US\$1.2 billion from \$3.14 billion in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October, 2018 and 5 July, 2019, Myanmar's external trade increased to \$26.67 billion from \$26.58 billion recorded in the same period of the previous FY, with an increase of \$74.3 million.

As of 5 July in current fiscal year, exports were estimat-

ed at \$12.7 billion and imports were valued at \$13.9 billion. Compared to the previous fiscal, exports have increased by \$1 billion, while imports have fallen by \$931.6 million.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, CMP raw materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make and

pack) garment businesses are rising, the country's reliance on natural resources such as natural gas and jade is lessening.

The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports.

Myanmar's trade deficit was pegged at \$1.3 billion in the last mini-budget period, \$3.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$5.3 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, and \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization. — Htet Myat

(Translated by EMM)

## Ethnic delegations pay five-day visit to Nay Pyi Taw

Ethnic literature and cultural delegations from Kayah and Chin State arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to pay a five-day visit.

They visited the Nay Pyi Taw's Water Fountain Park yesterday evening.

The ethnic delegations will visit the Myanmar Radio and

Television in Tatkon and other significant places in Nay Pyi Taw during their stay. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



The ethnic delegates pose for photo at the Water Fountain Park in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

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

**Three Myanmar scouts leave for 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree**

THREE Myanmar youth are to attend 24th World Scout Jamboree in America. Mg Kun Lat Aung (GTC Mandalay), Ma Shin Thant Hling (Brainworks-TOTAL International school Yangon) and Mg Hein Naing Soe (Myanmar Maritime University) won the scholarship granted by Asia Pacific Scout Region. They left for America from Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

Scout Chief Commissioner Dr Tin Nyo, Chief Organizer U Aye Kyng, scout masters and the families saw them off.

Ma Shin Thant Hling's family donated scout uniforms, Myanmar Scout souvenir and souvenir to exchange gift with international scouts, and the family of Kun Lat Aung, who are



Three Myanmar scouts and senior scouts pose for a group photo at Yangon International Airport before leaving for America yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

from Myitkyina, Kachin State, donated money to Mg Hein Naing Soe. It was reported

that Ma Shin Thant Hling was chosen as Story Programme Speaker. 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout

Jamboree will be held from July 22<sup>nd</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup>.—MNA (Translated by Alphonsus)

**Authorities to develop 2,600 acres of teak, hardwood plantations in Sagaing**

THE Forest Department of Sagaing Region is implementing a plan to develop 2,600 acres of teak and hardwood plantations in forest reserves within 13 townships of five districts across the region in the 2018-2019 Financial Year, said Daw Kyawt Kyawt Aung, the Assistant Director of the department.

As of June, the Forest Department has planted 1,655 acres of teak and 200 acres of Pyingadue, a marketable variety of hardwood, totalling 1,855 acres, in the region, starting this monsoon. Under the plan, the department has planted teak saplings on 400 acres of land in the Thaw forest reserve of Kantbalu Township; 125 acres in Kawlin Township; 150 acres in the Gahe forest reserve of Htigyaing Township; 80 acres in the Nantbaran forest reserve of Pinlebu Township; and 135 acres in the Phile forest reserve of Wuntho Township.

In addition, the authorities



Sagaing Region 's Forest Department is implementing a plan to develop 2,600 acres of teak and hardwood plantations in forest reserves within 13 townships. **PHOTO: WIN OO (ZEYA TAING)**

have grown teak saplings on 150 acres of land in the Gahe forest reserve of Indaw Township; 50 acres in the Pinhtaung forest reserve of Kani Township; 215 acres in the Khinaye forest

reserve of Pale Township; 100 acres in the Panmataung forest reserve of Kalay Township; 100 acres in the Kyapin forest reserve of Kalewa Township; another 100 acres in the Thanpauk

forest reserve of Minkin Township; and 50 acres in the Mawlu forest reserve of Mawleik Township.—Win Oo (Zeya Taing)

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

**37.884 kilos of heroin, 180,000 stimulant pills seized in Muse**



Two suspects named Kyauk Taeyon and KyawAung Myint seen with packs of drugs seized from them. **PHOTO: MNA**

A combined investigation team acting on information searched the filling station and garage of Kyauk Taeyon son of U Kyauk Hsanat of Nanton village, Muse Township at 12.30 pm on 20 July. Although members of the team did not find him, they found Tin Swe Myint, son of U San Pwa of the same village, and the in-charge of the garage Soe Naing, son of U Thaug Nyunt, and 37.884 kilos of heroin with a street value of about K 757.68

million and 180,000 stimulant pills with a street value of about K 270 million on a Landcruiser parked in the garage.

It was learnt that of Kyauk Taeyon and his younger brother Kyaw Aung Myint (a) Kyauk Yoh, the two residents of Nanton village, Muse Township parked the car in the garage on 19 July evening. Muse police station has filed a lawsuit against the suspects.—MNA (Translated by Alphonsus)

# Special economic zones pull in over \$208 mln in investment

MORE than 110 enterprises, including four domestic businesses, invested US\$208 billion in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), under the Special Economic Zone Law, as of 10 July in the current fiscal year, according to figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Singapore topped the list of foreign investors, accounting for more than 37 per cent of the overall investment, followed by Japan and Thailand. FDI also flowed into the SEZs from the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, the UK, the UAE, Malaysia, Austria, China (Taipei), Panama, China, Brunei, Viet Nam, Australia, France, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

Currently, 74 businesses are operational in the Thilawa SEZ and 18 businesses are begin-

ning to export goods. The SEZ is employing over 20,000 workers, including permanent and construction workers, according to the management committee.

The Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Limited's annual report for 2017-2018 stated that 97 per cent of Thilawa Zone A and 61 per cent of Zone B have been sold. Over 60 per cent of businesses in Thilawa are domestic-oriented manufacturing enterprises, while 40 per cent are export-oriented manufacturers, according to a press statement issued by the company in June this year.

A company exporting at least 75 per cent of the production in value is registered as a Free Zone investor, and is exempt from paying corporate tax for 7 years from the time it starts commercial operations.



Over 110 enterprises, including four domestic businesses, enter the Special Economic Zones in Yangon. PHOTO: NAY LIN

Companies such as logistics which support export-oriented manufacturing can also be free zone companies. Domestic-oriented manufacturing companies are regarded as promotion zone companies and they are eligible for a five-year holiday on corporate tax.

There are other tax incentives for free zone and promo-

tion zone investors on import of capital goods, raw materials, and merchandise, and consigned goods and vehicles. Further details about the tax system are available on <http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm>.

While the manufacturing sector has absorbed the largest share of foreign investments, FDI has also flowed into the trad-

ing, services, transportation and logistics, real estate, and hotel sectors in the past years.

Myanmar is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones — Thilawa, Kyaukpadaung, and Dawei. Out of the three, Thilawa is leading with better infrastructure and successful businesses.—Ko Htet (Translated by EMM)

## Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade down by 30% over nine months



Workers carry sack of gingers at Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade area. PHOTO: HEIN HTET

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh from borders stood at US\$17.8 million as of 5 July in the current Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-2019, down by \$8.544 million or 32.43 per cent, from the corresponding period last 2017-2018 FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

At this time last FY, Myanmar-Bangladesh trade through border gates was pegged at \$26.349 million, with exports worth over \$24 million and imports amounting to \$2.2 million.

Usually, Myanmar's exports to Bangladesh surplus its imports in bilateral border trade. In bilateral border trade,

goods are delivered mainly through two border gates—Sittway and Maungtaung.

Between 1 October and 5 July this FY, trade via the Sittway gate was pegged at \$11.169 million, with \$9.95 million in exports and \$1.219 million in imports, whereas trade from the Maungtaung gate reached \$14.5 million, including \$2.245 million in imports.

Marketable goods at the Myanmar-Bangladesh borders contain bamboos, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute prod-

ucts, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear and beverages.

According to the ministry's annual statistical data, the total border trade with Bangladesh was over \$29 million in the 2017-2018 FY. According to the annual statistical report of the ministry, the bilateral border trade was \$3.83 million in 2012-2013 FY, \$22.8 million in 2013-2014 FY, \$14.3 million in 2014-2015 FY, \$11.5 million in 2015-2016 FY, \$1.6 million in 2016-2017 FY.

The public sector's export in the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September) totalled \$755.25 million.—Swe Nyein

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

## Traders call for import regulation as yellow peas flood local markets

YELLOW peas are continuing to enter domestic markets in spite of a ban on their importation, said traders adding that the flow of peas from foreign markets is illegal and needs to be strictly controlled. "The authorities can combat illegal inflow of yellow peas. A 12-wheeled truck can carry 320 bags of peas, and it would not be difficult to seize any illegally imported goods by conducting raids," said U Thein Oo, a depot owner from Monywa town.

"After commodity depots raised several objections, the importation of chick peas and yellow peas was reportedly suspended. Chinese yellow peas must not enter the domestic market. There are 40 vermicelli factories in Monywa. They have begun to use yellow peas instead of locally produced chick peas. The vermicelli produced from chick peas tastes better, but the one made from yellow peas is cheaper. Thus, the price of chick peas has become positively linked with the import of yellow peas," he said. "At present, imports of yellow peas are illegal. But, they are still being brought in through the Sino-Myanmar border gate, resulting in a tax loss for the country," said traders from Monywa town. "A basket of yellow peas is currently priced at K23,000, while chick peas are fetching K27,000 per basket. Yellow peas are flowing into the country illegally through the border trade channels," said

a trader.

A plan to issue import permits for yellow peas has been suspended as many traders were opposed to imports to protect the interests of farmers. With large quantities of yellow peas from China entering the Mandalay market in recent days, traders said they are facing losses. The news of possible importation of 50,000 tons of yellow peas from foreign markets had created chaos among traders in early July.

"Although the commodity depot associations from central Myanmar have forwarded their request not to allow such dumping practices, yellow peas from China are entering the Mandalay market on an enormous scale. Therefore, the traders are suffering. As Mandalay mills process yellow peas as substitutes for chickpeas, a glut of yellow peas in the local market brings down prices of chickpeas as well. Growers of not just yellow peas but also chickpeas are facing hardships due to large inflows of yellow peas," said U Soe Win Myint, a depot owner from Mandalay. "Yellow peas are cultivated in Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Kachin State for domestic consumption alone, and Myanmar is self-sufficient in yellow peas production. Therefore, imports are not required. Traders are facing losses due to the recent imports of peas," he said.—Myo Win Tun, Aung Phyto Kyaw (Translated by EMM)

# Ukraine's Zelensky looks to consolidate power in parliament vote

KIEV — Ukrainians went to the polls on Sunday to elect a new parliament as comedian-turned-president Volodymyr Zelensky seeks to consolidate power and bring in other political newcomers.

Opinion polls show Zelensky's Servant of the People party — named after the sitcom in which he played the president — expected to win roughly half of the vote, well ahead of any rivals.

The 41-year-old TV star faced a hostile parliament following his shock win in April's presidential election. He quickly called a snap election and has promised to bring in a new generation of politicians to lead the country.

Even with a loyal parliament, Zelensky faces a slew of challenges in a country heavily dependent on foreign aid and scarred by years of war with Russia-backed separatists.

His victory in April was seen as a rejection of the country's traditional elite for failing to end the separatist conflict, revive the economy or tackle widespread corruption.

Casting his ballot at a Kiev polling station, Zelensky rejected any coalition with the

"old authorities" and said he look for a coalition partner in into parliament.



Zelensky's newly-created party is expected to win the largest share of the votes. PHOTO: AFP

would be looking for a "professional economist" to become prime minister. He was dressed in a casual blue shirt, reflecting a change in style that saw Zelensky walk to his inauguration and announce plans to relocate the presidential administration from a hulking Soviet-era building.

## Coalition with rock star?

Zelensky is expected to

another fresh movement — the new Golos (Voice) party of Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, the 44-year-old lead vocalist of one of Ukraine's most successful rock bands, Okean Elzy.

Vakarchuk set up his party in May and opinion polls show it with support of between four and seven percent. It will need to cross a threshold of five percent to make it

The rock star smiled and gave the thumbs-up as he cast his ballot, saying: "I voted for the future, I voted for new politics... All Ukrainians are disappointed (in politics), so we need to change it." Both Zelensky and Vakarchuk have packed their parties with young people new to politics and banned candidates who had previously served as lawmakers.— AFP ■

## SOS Mediterranee relaunches migrant rescue missions off Libya

PARIS — Humanitarian group SOS Mediterranee said Sunday it has relaunched rescue efforts off Libya seven months after it abandoned operations using its ship Aquarius and despite a refusal by European ports to accept the migrants.

The Norwegian-flagged Ocean Viking will "conduct

search and rescue activities in the central Mediterranean" for SOS Mediterranee and Doctors Without Borders (known by its French initials MSF), the group said in a statement.

"As people are still fleeing Libya on one of the most perilous sea crossings in the world, and with almost no available

rescue assets present in the central Mediterranean, it has been an imperative for both SOS Mediterranee and MSF to return at sea following the ending of their operations with the Aquarius in December 2018."

After nearly three years of operations in which it rescued some 30,000 migrants, the Aquarius was forced to cease operations because of what the group said was obstruction by some European countries.

The International Organization for Migration says at least 426 people have died trying to cross the central Mediterranean this year.

SOS Mediterranee said the migrants were attempting "to escape the escalating conflict in Libya and the deplorable conditions of Libyan detention centres".

The new operation comes

a month after the arrest in Italy of Carola Rackete, the German captain of the Sea-Watch 3, for docking without permission to land rescued migrants.

Rackete was held for several days after the Sea-Watch 3 hit an Italian police speedboat while entering the port of Lampedusa island despite being banned from entering Italian waters. She argued that she was compelled to avert a human tragedy and bring ashore 40 migrants who had been rescued in the Mediterranean on 12 June.

## 'Harsh campaign'

"For a year now we have been witnessing a deterioration in the European Union's response in the evolving human tragedy in the central Mediterranean," said the head of operations at SOS Mediterranee, Frederic Penard.—AFP ■



SOS Mediterranee and MSF see it as "imperative" to resume rescue operations. PHOTO: AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Citizen journalist among 11 civilians killed in northwest Syria

KHAN SHEIKHUN (Syria) — A young citizen journalist was among 11 civilians killed in air raids on Syria's Idlib region Sunday, rescue workers and a monitor said, as he filmed the Russia-backed regime bombardment of the battered enclave.

Anas al-Dyab, a photographer and videographer in his early 20s, was a member of the White Helmets who also contributed to AFP.

He was killed in Russian air strikes in the town of Khan Sheikhun, rescuers and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The White Helmets, rescue workers in rebel areas named after their distinctive hard hats, said the group "mourns the fall of a hero Anas al-Dyab, a volunteer and media activist with the Syrian Civil Defence Centre in Idlib," in a Twitter post.

An AFP journalist saw White Helmet members gather to bid farewell to their friend, whose body was laid on a thick red blanket.—AFP ■

### S.African leader to challenge 'flawed' graft report in court

PRETORIA — South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa said Sunday he will challenge in court a watchdog body's "fundamentally and irretrievably flawed" findings concerning a donation to his 2017 campaign to head the ruling party.

"After careful study I have concluded that the report is fundamentally and irretrievably flawed," Ramaphosa told reporters, adding that he has "decided to seek an urgent judicial review" of the findings concerning a controversial 500,000 rand (\$36,000) donation. The country's ombudswoman, Busisiwe Mkhwebane, said in an explosive report on Friday that Ramaphosa "deliberately misled the National Assembly" when he responded to an opposition question in parliament last November.—AFP ■

# Thai farmers on the cash trail with snail slime



A doctor in charge of the purification process said snail mucus contains collagen and elastin – ingredients that ‘can make skin firm with less wrinkles’. **PHOTO: AFP**

BANGKOK — Giant snails inch across a plate of pumpkin and cucumber in central Thailand, an “organic” diet to tease the prized collagen-rich mucus from the molluscs, which to some cosmetic firms are now more valuable than gold.

The snails at Phatinisiri Thangkeaw’s farm were once the scourge of rice farmers, loathed for eating the buds of new crops.

“Farmers used to throw them on the road or in the rivers,” Phatinisiri told AFP. “But now they sell them to me to earn extra money.”

With her 1,000 snails, the teacher makes an extra \$320 to \$650 a month.

It is one of more than 80 farms in Nakhon Nayok province, two hours from the capital Bangkok, cashing in on the global snail beauty market, estimated at \$314 million, according to research group Coherent Market Insights.

The precious slime is patiently “milked” from the glands of the snail by dripping water

over it using a pipette.

Its raw form is sold to Aden International, a Thai-based cosmetics company that primarily ships its products to Korea and the US.

The sole snail slime producer in Thailand, Aden was started three years ago as a business-savvy solution to the snail infestation in Nakhon Nayok, said founder Kitpong Puttarathuvanun.

And his bet paid off — Kitpong sells the serum under the Acha brand, but also supplies Korean and American cosmetic companies with a dried powder at 1.8 million baht (\$58,200) per kilogram, he said.

Gold is currently worth \$46,300 a kilogram.

Compared to Aden’s snail slime, the mucus produced in China — milked daily instead of once every three weeks in Thailand — is valued at about 80,000 baht (\$2,600) per kilogram, Kitpong said.

“We found that our slime was very intense because the snails eat everything, including vegetables, grains and even mushrooms... producing good quality slime,” he told AFP, explaining that the mucus can be used to heal sunburn and “heal wounds”.

Somkamol Manchun, the doctor in charge of the purification process, said snail mucus contains collagen and elastin — ingredients that “can make skin firm with less wrinkles”. —AFP ■

## French wine production hit by heatwave

PARIS — Wine production in France this year will be down by between six and 13 per cent over 2018, notably because of the ongoing heatwave, the agriculture ministry said Saturday.

France, one of the world’s top wine producers and exporters, was hit hard by poor weather conditions, including a heatwave at the end of June.

That and other factors meant that production should be between 42.8 and 46.4 million hectolitres — the lowest figures in the last five years, said the ministry, based on estimates drawn up on 12 July.

Unfavourable weather conditions hit the flowering of the vine, particularly in the western wine regions of France, such as Val de

Loire, Charente, Bordelais the wines of the southwest.

In southern France, the heatwave broke records, with temperatures in some places as high as 46 degrees Celsius (115 degrees Fahrenheit).

The heat damage meant lost production in three regions: the Gard, Herault and Var, the ministry added.

Hailstorms also affected some vines but they did less damage nationally.

Another heatwave has been forecast for most of France in the coming week.

France, along with Spain and Italy, is one of the world’s top three wine producers and exporters, according to industry figures released last week.

—AFP ■



Unfavourable weather conditions hit the flowering of the vine. **PHOTO: AFP**

## IN PICTURE

### Highlights of 1<sup>st</sup> Int’l Youth UAV Science Camp & Competition in China’s Shaanxi



Contestants from Russia assemble an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) during the first International Youth UAV Science Camp & Competition (IYUAVSCC) in Xi’an, northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, 21 July, 2019. The first IYUAVSCC, launched by Chinese Society of Aeronautics and Astronautics (CSAA) and Northwestern Polytechnical University, kicked off here, attracting high school students from home and abroad. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

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## Scouting that serves the interests of human society

SCOUTS associations were first established in England in 1916 for nurturing youths and improving their moral conduct. Myanmar formed a girl scout association in 1916, and then set up different levels of scout associations in 1920.

The oath taken by scouts is: I shall do my best to do my duty to my religion and my country; I shall help other people at all times; and I shall uphold the ten points of the Scout Law.

As scouting aims to make the world a better and pleasant place, in spirit and in practice, we hope that more youths in Myanmar join the scout movement.

The individual skills of youngsters and steer them towards serving the interests of the community, the country, and the whole of mankind.

Besides, the lyrics of the scout song encourage youth to be of good character. The youth can take lessons from the song. The century-long survival of the organization is the result of this spirit.

There had been a President Scouts' Team in our younger days. In keeping with the esprit de corps, scouts never lose sight of the international scout movement.

A scout remains a scout no matter his age. So, he will use his scouting skills to face and overcome all challenges and difficulties throughout his life. As scouting aims to make the world a better and pleasant place, in spirit and in practice, we hope that more youths in Myanmar join the scout movement.

The ten points of the Scout Law are: A scout's honour is to be trusted; a scout is loyal; a scout is helpful; a scout is a friend to all; a scout is courteous; a scout is a friend to animals; a scout obeys orders; a scout smiles and remains cheerful under all circumstances; a scout is thrifty; and, a scout is clean in thought, word, and deed.

"The ethics of scouts or guides benefit us as well as our neighbourhood. We all must follow them. If we stick to these norms and standards even after we are no longer a scout or guide, it will benefit not only our country but the whole of mankind," said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the swearing-in ceremony as the Head of the Myanmar Scout Federation, held at the Yangon University Diamond Jubilee Hall recently.

Scouting is an activity that helps systematically groom boys and girls since their childhood days so they become brilliant persons when they grow up. Scouting is a noble youth activity that can improve

VOCATIONAL education is a form of technical skill that is involved in professional expertise. The index of jobless rate is a norm to calculate economic development of a country. Despite abundant workforces, the outstanding unemployment rate shows a negative sign for the nation. Myanmar, as developing country, has only 4 percent of graduated citizens, and that it needs to be considered to promote the role of vocational education like the formal university education. The World Bank's 2019 report has pointed out that the role of vocational education has increased in the world in the future work places, and the labour market has changed to require more skilled workers. The vocational education has been taken priority to generate skilled labours and professionals. Systems have been adopted to allow the young people who completed vocational trainings for continuing higher technical subjects at relevant colleges and universities in the world.

### Key sector in solving job opportunity issue

It becomes popular that many young people are learning vocational subjects online, getting access to both hard skills and soft skills. Even in some developed countries, the graduates have no enough capacity of technical skills for their works. As a result, many become unemployed and failed to serve for their country. Human resources with technical skills have an advantage in the highly-competitive business sector. No investor will have no desire to take a risk to invest their great capitals into a country with poor technology, and that the country may suffer a setback in attracting possible foreign investments. It will be a significant loss if graduates could not find a job although they had spent a lot of time and energy, while their parents and the country invested their resources for their education. As they could not find any favourable jobs in the country, the young people go abroad to seek overseas employment. However,



A team of Myanmar engineering students participates in the Myanmar Robo League Competition on 1 June, 2019 in Yangon. PHOTO: PHANDEYAR

they hardly found a decent job as they lack necessary skills. If the young people could learn vocational education and technical skills, they would set up their own business as innovative entrepreneurs in the country.

### Priority for education reform

Education reform of the government has taken priority on technical and vocational education by adopting a policy of promoting 'technical and vocational education and training programmes as equally as university education' The policy is based on the concept that technical and vocational education are very fundamental in sustainable development of social and economic sectors. In coming years, it is expected that more skillful workforces would be required in the sustainable development sectors of agriculture, energy, manufacturing, information and technology, electricity, construction, livestock and fisheries, and hotel and tourism.

### Regional demands and management

A more effective management system must guarantee for quality education in technical and vocational education and

training programmes. Only then, more people would join education and training programmes as they have high hope in learning. Moreover, it will also help in establishing family businesses, or seeking employments. Like the regional ASEAN countries and global nations, Myanmar need to generate qualified skill-

High technical and vocational education and training programmes are some strategic solutions in solving unemployment problem, in fulfilling the requirement of capable workers for less developed business sectors and inefficient jobs.

ful workforces to fill the gap of economic development for the country. There are many dropouts who failed to complete their formal education in some area of the country. Short-term training programmes should be conducted for the employees with insufficient skills in their jobs.

Increases in the amount of scholarship programmes and stipends could attract to more potential learners. These programmes need to equally cov-

er both city and rural areas. A system should be set up to continue a level of technical and vocational education to higher level. Basic curriculum must guarantee for quality to achieve recognition of skills. The courses must be supported with modern teaching aid to fit the labour market demand.

Research and development is important for developing modern vocational subjects. Moreover, it is also required to systematically manage the cooperation of the government and private sector and the assistance of international organizations. Consultant groups should be formed to develop practical vocational programmes, and a good collaboration is required between the stakeholders and the line ministries. The sector of policy adopting is very crucial. Systematic management based on actual findings from the analysis of concrete facts and information would help policy makers in adopting sound decisions. Funding and budgets are considerable challenges to be able to conduct capacity-building courses and vocational training programmes. As these programmes are aimed to solve unemployment problems of the young people, the funds from the State, international development organizations, NGOs and INGOs should be seriously taken into account. In some cases, mobile training programmes will help the interested young people

# Crucial role of technical and vocational education in creating job opportunities and development

By Dr Myat Moe

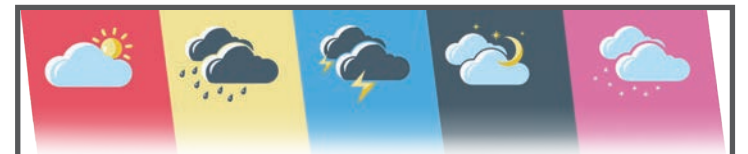
who are not favoured to attend training courses outside their areas as they are struggling for the family income. The role of private sector is important in developing capacity of human resources. It will be more effective and successful if some training programmes are jointly conducted by the private and government sectors in the form of PPP.

### Example of some countries

It is found that in developed countries the rate of high school students who learn vocational education is increasing. In the Republic of Korea, 40 percent of high school students are learning professional subjects, and 70 percent of their curriculum focuses on vocational subjects. In Russia, vocational subjects are designed for general education for G 10 and G 11 students to help them in choosing their preferred subjects. In India, G 1 to 8 of primary school children are introduced to job related subjects and they can learn primary vocational subjects to get exposed to future jobs.

In conclusion, the countries that have enjoyed the benefits of technical and vocational education and training programmes are found to teach these subjects essential for future employments. These programmes have developed the potential workforces into highly productive resources of the country, while solving unemployment problem. High technical and vocational education and training programmes are some strategic solutions in solving unemployment problem, in fulfilling the requirement of capable workers for less developed business sectors and inefficient jobs. Every subject is valuable if it is properly used. As success can be seen only when there are conditions of systematic learning, getting opportunities for jobs, chances for reapplying the knowledge, and consistency of jobs with the knowledge, it is concluded that technical and vocational education play a key role in socio-economic development of the people.

Translated by Aung Khin



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2019)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2019:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay-pyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Chin and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Southern Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Delatic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthaty Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Delatic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthaty Coasts and about (4-6) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Moderate monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd July, 2019:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd July, 2019:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd July, 2019:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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# LDP gains, new party Reiwa makes splash among swing voters

TOKYO—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party won the most support from swing voters in the proportional representation section of Sunday's upper house election, while newcomer Reiwa Shinsengumi finished ahead of some bigger opposition parties, Kyodo News exit polls show. Among those unaffiliated with any party, 23.5 percent voted for the LDP, followed by 20.6 percent for the leading opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan.

In the previous House of Councillors election in 2016, the now-defunct Democratic Party led with 23.2 percent, while the LDP garnered 22.3 percent.

Such swing voters accounted for 19.6 percent of those polled.

Reiwa Shinsengumi, a grassroots party created in April by actor-turned-lawmaker Taro Yamamoto that ran on a platform of social inclusion and raising the



Liberal Democratic Party won the most support from swing voters in the proportional representation section of Sunday's upper house election. **PHOTO: KYODO**

minimum wage to 1,500 yen, took 9.9 percent of swing votes.

That put it above more established parties such as the Democratic Party for the People, which

got 6.9 percent, and the LDP's junior coalition partner Komeito, which gained 6.8 percent.

The Japan Innovation Party had 12.3 percent support from

swing voters, while the Japanese Communist Party took 11.0 percent. The struggling Social Democratic Party only managed 2.8 percent.—Kyodo ■

## Iran says its tanker held in Saudi Arabia released

TEHRAN—An Iranian tanker held in Saudi Arabia since being forced to seek repairs at Jeddah port has been released and is returning to the Islamic republic, a minister said Sunday.

The Happiness 1 tanker “has been released following negotiations and is now moving toward Persian Gulf waters,” said transport minister Mohammad Eslami, quoted by state news agency

IRNA.

The ship had been forced to seek repairs in Saudi Arabia in early May after suffering “engine failure and loss of control”, the Iranian oil ministry's SHANA news agency said at the time.

The rare docking came despite escalating tensions between staunch enemies Iran and Saudi Arabia.

“Yesterday, with follow-ups

from the ports and maritime authority the issue was resolved,” Eslami said.

“The tanker is moving towards the Persian Gulf with the permission of the Jeddah port, towed by two Iranian tug boats.”

Iran's national tanker company said in a statement that on top of “political and diplomatic negotiations” the tanker's release required “the payment of related

costs” demanded by Saudi Arabia.

According to a July 2 report by Mehr News Agency, Iran paid “over \$10 million to Jeddah port for repairs and maintenance” of the tanker. Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties with Iran in 2016, after its missions in the country were attacked in demonstrations over the kingdom executing prominent Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr.—AFP ■

## Pakistanis angered by new airport baggage-wrapping policy

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's civil aviation watchdog has ordered all air travellers to have their checked baggage shrink-

wrapped, drawing scorn and criticism from frequent flyers and environmentalists.

Shahrukh Nusrat, direc-

tor general of Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), said Sunday that wrapping baggage was now “mandatory”, and it was being done for “safety” purposes.

Passengers would have to pay 50 rupees (about US\$0.31) per bag for the wrapping, Nusrat said in a statement.

“For this purpose, new plastic-wrapping machines are being installed on an urgent basis,” he added.

Pakistan's frequent flyers cast scorn on the edict, suggesting it had been introduced to enrich an unnamed company tasked with doing the wrapping.

“What is the logic for this

requirement ...if this isn't legalized corruption,” one angry traveller tweeted.

Asif Nawaz Shah, another social media critic, called the new policy a “corrupt profit-making endeavour”.

Others suggested the quantity of plastic that would be needed was wasteful.

“Why is the #CAA destroying the #environment,” tweeted Ayesha Tammy Haq, a lawyer and broadcast journalist.

Luggage-wrapping machines are a feature at many airports in Pakistan -- and elsewhere in the world -- but are usually used by passengers to prevent theft by light-fingered baggage handlers.—AFP ■



Pakistan's civil aviation watchdog has ordered all air travelers to have their checked baggage shrink-wrapped. **PHOTO: AFP**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 1,300 firefighters battle Portugal wildfires

AMENDOA — Planes and helicopters joined more than a thousand firefighters in central Portugal Sunday to battle huge wildfires in a mountainous region where over 100 people died in huge blazes in 2017.

By 12:30 pm (1130 GMT), one of the biggest mobilisations ever seen in the area — including 1,300 firefighters and 400 vehicles — had been deployed to fight the blazes in the heavily forested Castelo Branco region, 200 kilometres (120 miles) north of Lisbon, the rescue services said.

Around 20 people were injured in the blaze, including eight firefighters and 12 civilians, according to interior ministry figures. One badly burned civilian was evacuated by helicopter to Lisbon.

The biggest effort — 800 firefighters, 245 vehicles and 13 planes and helicopters — battled to douse flames in the municipality of Vila de Rei, which had spread nearly 25 kilometres.—AFP ■

### Tens of thousands march through Hong Kong in fresh anti-gov't rally

HONG KONG — Tens of thousands of people marched through Hong Kong on Sunday in an ongoing effort to push the government into totally withdrawing a now-suspended bill that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China.

“No extradition to China!” the protesters chanted as they marched in the sweltering heat, while others called for Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam to step down and the implementation of democratic reforms.

Millions of people have been drawn to protests in recent weeks against the bill, which could arguably undermine the judicial independence of the former British colony, which returned to Chinese rule in 1997.—Kyodo ■

# British Airways, Lufthansa suspended flights to Cairo for security concerns

LONDON—British Airways and German airline Lufthansa, two of Europe's largest airlines, announced Saturday to suspend flights to Cairo for unspecified security reasons. British Airways announced that the flights are suspended "as a precaution to allow for further assessment."

Lufthansa said in a statement that "as safety is the number one priority of Lufthansa, the airline has temporarily suspended its flights to Cairo today as a

precaution."

The British carrier said it cancelled flights to the Egyptian capital for seven days. The German airline said normal operations would resume Sunday. Ahmed Fawzi, chairman of the Cairo Airport Company, told Egyptian newspaper Al Shorouk that British Airways did not inform them of any concerns regarding airport security prior to the cancellation.

He said Cairo airport had not received any noti-

fication of British Airways' decision and the cancellation was "an internal affair inside the company."

Egypt's Ministry of Civil Aviation said in a statement Saturday that it had confirmed that the decision to suspend the flights was not issued by Britain's transport or foreign ministries.

Officials from the ministry said the decision was one of "security and political measures that are concerned with internal affairs, and not those of Egypt."

The ministry said that Cairo airport, as well as Egypt's second busiest Hurgada airport, resulted in "excellent ratings" in a recent security check conducted by British airlines, and that other airlines were operating as usual.

The Egyptian ministry added that it will increase the capacity of EgyptAir flights to London starting Sunday "to facilitate transporting passengers during this period."—Xinhua ■



Cairo International Airport's is the busiest airport in Egypt. PHOTO: AFP



Workers package fresh flowers at a flower industrial park in Yi autonomous county of Shilin, southwest China's Yunnan Province, Feb. 14, 2019. Fresh flowers packed in Kunming of Yunnan will be available for sale at a Bangkok market in less than 40 hours thanks to the Kunming-Bangkok Expressway. PHOTO: XINHUA

# Border province Yunnan sees 11 pct growth in trade with B&R countries in H1

KUNMING—Southwest China's Yunnan Province's trade with countries along the Belt and Road grew by 11.1 percent year on year to 75.6 billion yuan (10.99 billion U.S. dollars) in the first half of this year.

The customs of Kunming, capital of Yunnan, said the trade volume with B&R countries accounted for 72 percent of the province's total import and ex-

port trade volume.

The province's export volume to B&R countries reached nearly 27.6 billion yuan, up 14.7 percent year on year, and the import volume grew to 48 billion yuan, with an increase of 9.1 percent over the same period last year.

Statistics showed the province's trade volume with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

member states totaled 53.3 billion yuan, up 15.2 percent year on year.

Yunnan's trade volume with Latin America also saw growth during the period to 9.27 billion yuan.

Yunnan's foreign trade totaled 104.94 billion yuan from January to June, an increase of 12.6 percent over the same period last year.—Xinhua ■

# Move over Hollywood, tourist island Cyprus is ready to roll

NICOSIA—Watch out Hollywood and Bollywood, the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus that has built a reputation as a tourist magnet thanks to its pristine beaches wants a piece of the action: enter "Olivewood" and Nicolas Cage. The American actor is starring in a multimillion dollar sci-fi martial arts movie being filmed in its entirety on the island thanks to a government initiative giving filmmakers cash rebates, tax breaks and other benefits.

Cage's action packer "Jiu Jitsu" is, along with adventure flick "S.O.S: Survive or Sacrifice" featuring US actor William Baldwin, the first foreign film to take advantage of the incentive plan dubbed "Olivewood".

The scheme was launched by the government, which tasked Invest Cyprus to implement it in cooperation with the tourism and finance ministries, in a bid to attract foreign investment to the European Union member. "Cyprus is considered by a lot of people as a studio, a physical, natural (film) studio," says Invest Cyprus chairman Michalis Michael. The island offers deep blue seas and is endowed with white sandy beaches, rolling hills planted with olive trees, archeological sites and traditional mountain resorts—plus year-long sunny skies.

Academy Award winner Cage, who got the 1996 Oscar for best actor in "Leaving Las Vegas", told reporters in Cyprus that the island "has been a good spirit for me". —AFP ■

## Invitation for Bids

Myanmar  
National Electrification Project

Credit No. 5727-MM

Contract Title: Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV System for Households and Public Facilities

Reference No. S&I - 4 (3 lots)

1. The Government of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV System for Households and Public Facilities. This contract will be jointly financed by the Government of Myanmar.

2. The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Livestock and Irrigation now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply, installation and maintenance of solar PV Systems for households and public facilities in the following States and Regions :

Lot 1- NEP Solar PV Packages in Kayin (4), Ayeyarwaddy (8) and Tanintharyi (5)

Lot 2- NEP Solar PV Packages in Sagaing (5)

Lot 3- NEP Solar PV Packages in Shan North (5) and Shan East (4)

Bidders may Bid for one or several contracts, as further defined in the Bidding document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid.

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

- The average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) of the last three years should be minimum of US\$ 2,000,000 and accumulative if bidding for multiple lots.

- The bidder has successfully completed at least two (2) contracts in supplying, installing, supervising, commissioning and/or maintaining off-grid solar PV systems with batteries, in any year over the last five (5) years, and at least one of the two (2) contracts had a value equivalent to or greater than 50% of the corrected Bid Price.

The details of the qualification requirements are seen 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 dated January 2011 (revised July 2014)* ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

5. Clarification of the bidding document will be conducted through e-mail or letter to the Purchaser as stated in ITB 7.1 of the bidding document.

6. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the address below and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 a.m to 04:00 p.m (10:00 to 16:00 hours) Myanmar time at the address given below.

7. 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 e-mail only.

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

Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director  
Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.  
Office No. 36, Naypyitaw, Country: Myanmar  
Tel./Fax +95 673 418635, 418636

Email: neppmo.drd@gmail.com; ksaung@gmail.com; dr.soesoehn@gmail.com; drdneprocurement@gmail.com

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Tuesday September 3, 2019**, (10.00 a.m.) 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 and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on **Tuesday September 3, 2019 (10:00 a.m.)** Myanmar time.

9. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1- Bidding Data Sheet of the bidding document.

10. The address referred to above is:

Attention: Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director, Project Manager of National Electrification Project  
National Electrification Project, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.  
Office No. 36, Naypyitaw, Country: Myanmar  
Tel /Fax: +95 673 418635, 418636

ksaung@gmail.com, dr.soesoehn@gmail.com, neppmo.drd@gmail.com, drdneprocurement@gmail.com

## Africa poses critical challenge for World Bank, IMF

WASHINGTON—Global heat maps of extreme poverty show Africa in deep red. And the problem will only accelerate as population on the continent grows in coming decades. “The problems are very real and are large,” newly installed World Bank President David Malpass told AFP in an interview. The International Monetary Fund and World Bank have had a mixed record in addressing the longstanding challenge of poverty on the continent since the institutions were founded 75 years ago.

Now they must confront the need for massive investment in infrastructure and job creation in the coming years just to keep pace with the growing population on the continent—all while simultaneously managing the threat posed by climate change in a region perhaps least



World Bank President David Malpass met with Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina on his first trip after taking his post. **PHOTO: AFP**

able to confront the costs. Malpass has made that mission a priority. “I have put emphasis on having the bottom 40 percent of the population see more jobs, more cash income but also more of the inputs to a better living standard,” Malpass said. “That might mean access to healthcare, to education. And that would be better environmental practices—all of that contributing to a more prosperous ... society.”

In the most recent numbers available, World Bank data show extreme poverty fell worldwide to a new low of 10 percent in 2015. The number of extremely poor people—those who live on \$1.90 a day or less—has fallen by more than one billion since 1990.—AFP ■

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Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, Advocate

For **Monster Energy Company**

**Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd.** No. 1608, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Email address: [myanmar@tilleke.com](mailto:myanmar@tilleke.com)

Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

## UK finance minister to quit if Johnson becomes PM



Hammond has become an increasingly fierce critic of Johnson's Brexit strategy. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON—British finance minister Philip Hammond said Sunday he would make a point of resigning before Boris Johnson became prime minister, saying he could never agree to his Brexit strategy. Johnson is widely expected to win the governing, centre-right Conservative Party's leadership

contest on Tuesday and be named as prime minister once Theresa May resigns the premiership on Wednesday. Hammond has become an increasingly fierce critic of Johnson's Brexit strategy—leaving the European Union with or without a deal on October 31—and would never have expected to re-

main as chancellor of the Exchequer in a Johnson government.

But the fact that the second-most senior figure in the government is making a point of resigning rather than wait to be moved on in the incoming prime minister's reshuffle is a significant gesture

—and an indicator of the opposition Johnson could face in pursuing his Brexit strategy. “I'm sure I'm not going to be sacked because I'm going to resign before we get to that point,” Hammond told BBC television.

“Assuming that Boris Johnson becomes the next prime minister, I understand that his conditions for serving in his government would include accepting a no-deal exit on the 31st of October. “That is not something that I could ever sign up to. “It's very important that the prime minister is able to have a chancellor who is closely aligned with him in terms of policy, and I therefore intend to resign to Theresa May before she goes to the palace to tender her own resignation on Wednesday.” —AFP ■

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

#### Individual Consultant

#### Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

#### Department of Rural Development (DRD)

#### Myanmar: National Electrification Project (NEP) (IDA Project No. 152936)

#### International Financial Management Advisor Ref. C2-TA 34

- This Request for Expressions of Interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business online on November 3, 2015.
- The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) and applied part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the contract for an **International Financial Management Advisor** for National Electrification Project (NEP) under **ref. no C2-TA34**
- The National Electrification Project includes an off-grid electrification component with \$80 million in IDA credits. IDA support in off-grid areas will target communities located far beyond the existing national grid and, thus, unlikely to receive grid-based access in the next 10 or more years. More importantly, the IDA support will be directed to the peripheral States/ Regions with social and ethnic cohesion and peace building. Off-grid electrification will be technology neutral, depending on technology assessment for target communities, including solar photovoltaic (PV), mini-hydropower, wind, diesel, and hybrid (eg. diesel/solar). Deployment of household solar PV systems in target communities includes households, public institutions (schools, health clinics and other community building) as well as public street light. Moreover, funds are provided for technical assistance and management of the off-grid component. The budget for technical assistance is \$10 million from IDA. This component will support: (a) strengthening of institutional capacity to implement the National Electrification Plan, including capacity building and training of the DRD Project Management Office (PMO), capacity building at the Union, State/Region, district, township and village levels and for the private sector; (b) improving policy and regulatory framework related to electrification; (c) securing technical advice and consulting services on standards, technology assessment and technical design, economic and financial analysis, environmental and social impact management, procurement and financial management; and (d) strengthening project management. In addition, the Project attracts additional financing from various multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, including but not limited to, € 30 million soft-loan from Italian government through Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and \$ 3.45 million grant for Result Based Financing from the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) of the World Bank Group. This grant is explicitly designed to bridge public and private service provision, the Project complements IFC activities as part of the overall, integrated World Bank Group's Joint Implementation Plan. The objective of the Project is to help increase access to electricity in Myanmar. The Project is expected to benefit around 6 million people with new electricity connections by 2021. The Advisor will assist the Project in setting up the appropriate and reliable financial management system, including but not limited to (i) review the existing financial management system and take appropriate actions for use of fund by the project including all activities financed by Result based Financing (IFC), communities and Italian loan and all other donors financed activities under this project; (ii) to ensure proper internal controls are put in place to achieve accountability with appropriate documentation for eligible expenses; (iii) to assist in preparing Annual Work Plan and Budget and quarterly projections of funds; (iv) to conduct training to finance staff of DRD on the procedures for budgeting, disbursement, payment request, financial reporting and use of accounting software; (v) to assist in preparation of project progress report to be submitted to the World Bank.
- The Department of Rural Development now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the Services as per criteria below (CV with academic background, experience in similar assignment, knowledge of local conditions (if any) etc.) Consultants may be invited for interviewing, if necessary. The evaluation criteria are:
  - Must have an IFAC recognized accounting professional qualification;
  - At least 10 years of professional experience in accounting and/or other relevant field;
  - Previous experience in similar assignments within the region or other region;
  - Experience in Financial Management Capacity Development and training;
  - Experience in setting up and using computerized accounting software;
  - Experience working with the World Bank financed projects or other major donors is an advantage;
  - Good PC/ accounting systems literacy, including strong Excel skills;
  - Willing and able to travel within Myanmar when required.
- A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 (revised July 2014)* (“*Consultant Guidelines*”). The attention of interested consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the Consultant Guidelines, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Interested individual consultants may obtain the Terms of Reference at the address given below from 09.30 to 16.00 hours or direct request through e-mail address – [neppmo.drd@gmail.com](mailto:neppmo.drd@gmail.com), [drdnep.procurement@gmail.com](mailto:drdnep.procurement@gmail.com). DRD will provide prompt responses to all interested individual consultants, should there be any questions.
- Expressions of interest must be delivered by registered mail or by e-mail to the address below no later than August 12, 2019.

#### Attention

**U Maung Win, Deputy Director General,**

**National Electrification Project (NEP), Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation**

**Office No. 36, Pandita Road, Oattara Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.**

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Garden of Buddha, Poem Graveyard, in Kengtung, Shan State (East). **PHOTO: THIHA**

# Garden of Buddha also known curiously as **Poem Graveyard**

**W**HEN I was in Shan State (East) Kengtung town, locals directed me to visit Poem Graveyard. Even without knowing exactly what it was, the name attracted me and I hastily made arrangements to visit it. Once there, I found that it was quite a pleasant place where I felt longing for something or someone without being able to specify exactly what or who. I wrote about this place briefly in my travelogue to Kengtung and now I'll write more in detail about it.

## How to reach it

From Kengtung along the

Kengtung-Tachilek Road an hour by motorcycle or 45 minutes by car would bring you to Pan Kwe Village, a rest area with shops and stalls for cars, buses and trucks. Among the shops and stalls, you'll see an entrance gate to Abaya Raza Muni Buddha image. After passing through the entrance gate, a small road going uphill will take you to the Buddha image. The uphill road was rather steep but the views along the way were pleasant with farm land, plantations and natural sceneries making the walk up the path less tiring.

## Paying homage to Buddha

## image before going on to Poem Graveyard

Before reaching the Poem Graveyard, I first arrived at the Buddha image. As the Buddha image was on top of a small hill, it looks more imposingly higher than it actually was. There were two doors or rather an entry and exit at the side of the Buddha image allowing devotees and visitors to enter the interior of the Buddha image just like the Daibutsu (Great Buddha) in the city of Kamakura in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan. I don't know what was inside the Daibutsu but the interior of this Buddha image had the life story of Gautama Buddha sculptured on

marble slabs.

From there, continuing along the tree shaded mountain path will take you to the Poem Graveyard.

## Poem Graveyard

The place was called Garden of Buddha and was also known as Poem Graveyard. Both names seem to be a bit contradictory or unrelated but were enough of an attraction for anyone like me who first heard it. The place was said to be constructed by devotees of a well known Sayadaw according to an imaginary vision of the Sayadaw. Looking down at the "garden" or "graveyard" as I approach it, the enclosed building and small structures inside the compound seems like an ideal place to meditate. The compound surrounded by a rock wall had roses planted outside. The walled compound can be entered through a small archway gate. All along the inside wall and on the small tomb-like ledges hung or stuck were poems. The fact that the poems were hung or stuck on the small tomb-like ledges may be the reason why the place was called Poem Graveyard. But my mind came up with a name like "Garden where poems bloom" that I thought would be more appropriate. The poems were

Religious building in the compound of Poem Graveyard. **PHOTO: THIHA**

of diverse subjects covering religion, philosophy, patriotism, life etc. Poems were written in Myanmar and Shan languages. It was a serene peaceful place with natural surrounding that was outstandingly beautiful. It was one of my most favorite places in and near Kengtung.

## Returning from Poem Graveyard

The road back to Kengtung took me through the same scenic places as well as Panlot Village where local rice wine or liquor was being fermented and

A view of the inside of the wall fenced around the Poem Graveyard. **PHOTO: THIHA**



Moe Yun Gyi Wildlife Sanctuary hosts over 20,000 migratory birds. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

## Moe Yun Gyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary attracts holidaymakers, bird watchers

By Kyaw Htike Soe

By Thiha (Traveller)

**M**OE Yun Gyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the popular attraction sites for picnickers, naturalists, botanists, bird watchers and sightseers.

Moe Yun Gyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary is located near Pyinpongyi model village in Bago City, with an area of 103 square kilometre and about 70 miles from Yangon City. It is a real paradise for nature lovers and holidaymakers and has admission fees like other popular places in Myanmar. Moe Yun Gyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary is within easy reach of the car. The sanctuary opens to visitors from 8 am to 5 pm and boats and guides can be hired on a first come, first served basis.

You also can study wetland environment by a boat equipped with different bird watching equipment. Moe Yun Gyi Wildlife Sanctuary is packed with local visitors and foreigners during the public holidays. It became an attraction spot for international travellers as well as local visitors. Floating restaurants and booths displaying a wide range of locally-made handicrafts are put on sale for the sightseers. You will have an opportunity to watch 42 water bird species, 33 shorebird species, 20 species of aquatic grass and hundreds of resident and migratory water birds.

About 35 species of winter birds used to migrate to the sanctuary at the end of November, according to sanctu-

ary administrator's office that compiles and documents the list of migratory birds. From October to March, it hosts over 20,000 migratory birds and most of the migratory birds leave the sanctuary in March and April, said a ranger from the sanctuary. In an attempt to prevent poachers from hunting and killing rare bird species, an awareness campaign is being conducted by the forestry officials in cooperation with respective government organizations.

The sanctuary was designated as Ramsar site in Myanmar in 2014. The sanctuary, established in 1896, used to be a reservoir which changed naturally into wetlands with the extension of 40 square miles.



Boat or local guide can be hired on a first come, first served basis. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

distilled. Upon passing through it on the way to Garden of Buddha or Poem Graveyard, I knew from the smell that rice wine or liquor was being fermented and distilled there. So, on the way back to Kengtung I stopped by to taste it and ended up buying some. Many visitors were also said to like this rice wine or liquor and bought it on their way back home.

Whenever you are in Kengtung, give some time to visit this curiously named Garden of Buddha or Poem Graveyard.

*Translated by Handytips*

## Myanmar wins gold, bronze at 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN School Games

MYANMAR won one gold medal and one bronze medal at the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN School Games, held at Semarang, Central Java in Indonesia. The week-long Games started on 18 July. The opening ceremony was held at the Holy Terang Bangsa School Stadium in Semarang, Central Java.

In track and field competition, Saw December Thein from Myanmar won the gold medal in the Hammer Throw event of Athletics with a record of 56-86, while Lwee Zar of Myanmar received the bronze medal in the Girls' 3000m with a record of 10:49.97. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Saw December Thein (left) holds up his gold medal and Lwee Zar (right) poses with her bronze medal at the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN School Games in Semarang, Indonesia. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Myanmar U-18 suffers narrow loss to Japan's Kindai University FC



The Myanmar U-18 defenders (yellow) try to block Kindai University F.C. strikers during their friendly match yesterday at the J-Green Sakai training center in Osaka, Japan. **PHOTO: MFF**

IN their second friendly match in Japan, the Myanmar U-18 national football team were defeated by Japan's Kindai University Football Club by a single goal yesterday at the J-Green Sakai training center in Osaka, Japan.

While the Japanese team had better physique and stamina, Myanmar players were quick in their response and used a systematic strategy right from the kick off, and the first half ended with no score for either team.

In the second half, both teams changed their tactics and substituted players.

As the match was a friendly one and to help players build experience and prepare for the

upcoming international tourney, team Myanmar used nearly all the players, including those outside the key player lists, with six substitutions.

After a relatively quiet start to the second half, Japan jumped into action, scoring their first and the winning goal at 65 minutes.

Myanmar tried hard to equalize, but failed, and the score remained unchanged till the final whistle, and the match ended with a narrow 0-1 win for the Japanese local football club.

The Myanmar U-18 still have one more friendly match in Osaka, Japan on 24 July, and the team will return to Yangon, Myanmar on 26 July.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Myanmar to face Thailand in AFF Futsal Championship 2019

THE Myanmar national futsal team will go up against ASEAN futsal powerhouse Thailand in the group stage of the ASEAN Football Federation Futsal Championship 2019, which is scheduled to be held from 21 to 27 October in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

The drawing ceremony for the championship was held at the Pavilion Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 16 July.

For the group stage, Myanmar has been placed in Group A with ASEAN futsal giant and defending champion Thailand,

East Timor, and Cambodia.

Meanwhile, Viet Nam is in Group B with Malaysia, Indonesia, and Australia.

The Myanmar futsal team has had a good record in the AFF Futsal Championship in the previous years.

Myanmar won the silver medal in the 2016 championship and bronze medals in 2018 and 2006.

Unfortunately, Myanmar team failed in the group stage of 2018 AFF Futsal Championship, which was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



The Myanmar national futsal team with the coaches and team officials at an international match. **PHOTO: MFF**