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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debates Public Accounts Report, approves 4th Bill Amending Union Judiciary Law

THE 12th-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday.

Hluttaw discusses Joint Public Accounts Committee report 11/2019

The first agenda of the day was Hluttaw representatives discussing Joint Public Accounts Committee report 11/2019 about the findings on Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Union Budget Law.

U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region constituency 8, U Tin Tun Naing of Seikkyi-Khanaungto constituency, Daw Khin Soe Soe Kyi of Pyay constituency, U Ba Myo Thein of Yangon Region constituency 5, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Tun Tun Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 2, U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2, U Yan Lin of Kyaukse constituency, Naw Chris Tun @ Dr Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7, U Myint Kyi of Katha constituency, Dr Khun Win Thaug of Kachin State constituency 11, U Win Htut of Pyapon constituency, U Mya Min Swe of Magway Region constituency 9, Dr Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11 and Daw Wint War Tun of Shadaw constituency discussed the report.

After the discussion Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker an-



Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 August 2019. PHOTO: MNA

nounced that Hluttaw representatives remaining to discuss the report will do so in the following Hluttaw meetings.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves the Fourth Bill Amending the Union Judiciary Law

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker informed the Hluttaw that Amyotha Hluttaw started the discussion on the Fourth Bill Amending the Union Judiciary Law and the bill agreed by the two Hluttaws were sent to the

President to sign into law.

Therefore the bill was deemed to be approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and an announcement was made of putting the matter on record.

Joint Committee report on 2nd Bill Amending the Constitution

Secretary of Joint Committee to Scrutinize the Second Bill Amending the Constitution Dr Myat Nyana Soe then read and explained the committee report and findings on scrutinizing the

Bill Amending the Constitution for the second time.

Following this Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

Land Confiscation Bill approved

As a final agenda of the day Joint Bill Committee Joint Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe tabled a motion to approve by paragraph the Land Confiscation Bill returned with remarks of the

President.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then sought the decision of the Hluttaw to approve the bill paragraph by paragraph. An announcement was made that amendments to the bill will be made according to decisions of the Hluttaw on the remark of the President and will be returned to President according to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw rule.

The 13th-day meeting of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session will convene on 19 August.— Mawsi, Hmwe Kyu Zin
(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting at its office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The committee discussed 2019-2020 Union Budget Bill and National Planning Bill for 2019-2020 financial year sent by the Union Government.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Chairman of the Joint Bill Committee and

Joint Public Accounts Committee U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairmen, secretary, joint secretary and members of the Joint Bill Committee, Vice Chairman and Secretary of Joint Public Accounts Committee and officials from Ministry of Planning and Finance, Office of the Union Attorney-General and the Hluttaw office.—MNA ■ (Translated by TTN)



Members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meet in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw committee checks government's pledges

THE Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee of the Pyithu Hluttaw held a coordination meeting with officials from Union-level institutions, the 29 union ministries and 12 state/regional government offices in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Firstly, committee secretary U Zone Teint asked the ministries to provide the committee with documents and photos of the completed approved motions

and pledges made during the first to twelfth regular sessions of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw. He also asked them to brief on their ongoing processes.

Next, the committee members discussed on the approved motions and pledges that the ministries have completed, are still in process or yet to begin. They then responded to explanations from the various ministries.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee of the Pyithu Hluttaw holds at the coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee of Amyotha Hluttaw Chairman U Thein Swe delivers the opening speech at the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Parliamentary committee meets government officials

GOVERNMENT'S Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee of Amyotha Hluttaw held second-day coordination meeting with the officials from Union Ministries at the Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, Committee's Chairman U Thein Swe made an opening remark. The committee members discussed

motions and pledges that were approved during 12th regular meetings of second Amyotha Hluttaw and asked the officials relevant questions.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary of the committee U Kyaw Ni Naing, committee members, and officials from the ministries and Amyotha Hluttaw office.—MNA ■ (Translated by TTN)

ULA/AA supporters taken to court for assisting AA

NINE members of the United League of Arakan ULA/AA are facing criminal charges for violating Sections 50 (j) and 52 (a) of The Counter-Terrorism Law for establishing ULA/AA groups and providing support to said group engaged in acts threatening the rule of law, according to Myanmar Police Force.

The suspects include the former leader of the Singapore-based ULA/AA group, Aung Myat Kyaw (a) Tun Aung Naing, and were deported by the Singaporean Ministry of Home Affairs on 10 July for organizing a 10th Anniversary event for the ULA/

AA on 7 April without acquiring permission from relevant authorities. In addition, they also persuaded Rakhine workers in Singapore to donate money for the AA group. Myanmar police arrested the deported Aung Myat Kyaw and related members on 12 July for interrogation.

According to MPF, the Singapore-based ULA/AA group was established in 2015 and Aung Myat Kyaw, who is also the younger brother of AA leader Tun Myat Naing, joined the group a year later together with three other men identified as Tun Aye, Than Htun Naing and Soe Soe. Their group

collected funds for the ULA/AA headquarters, purchased drone cameras, computers and other technology from Singapore and delivered them to AA family members and supporters in monasteries of MraukU, Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun and Minbya townships.

Aung Myat Kyaw also opened the website ulanews.com to assist ULA/AA and formed a WhatsApp group named Blooded Brother and a Viber group named ULA/AA World to provide news in real time. Their group also persuaded and recruited people to join AA and sent them to the AA headquarters in Laiza. They began

gathering Rakhine workers in Singapore on April 2017 and held anniversaries for the formation of the ULA/AA and events concerning the supposed fall of Rakhine sovereignty. Tun Myat Naing would also deliver live speeches via Skype at these events. One of the events in 2017 was attended by the leader of the Thai-based ULA/AA group Aye Tun (a) Tun Min Naing, Kyaw Han from the AA group, and a few Rakhine writers from Myanmar who proceeded to organize and gather support for the group there. They also ridiculed the Union government and Tatmadaw of Myanmar in

certain performances. In addition, the Arakan Association Singapore (AASG) was established in 2011 and appointed Hein Zaw as its Chairman and Aye Myat Mon as Vice-Chairman earlier in April this year in a 17-member group. They persuaded Rakhine workers in Singapore to donate to the ULA/AA. For these reasons, Aung Myat Kyaw and eight other related suspects have been sued at the Yangon Western District Court. Police are continuing investigations for additional co-conspirators.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Amyotha Hluttaw Office holds 7th Waso Robe donation ceremony

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW Office held 7th Waso Robe Donation Ceremony at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dr Bhaddanta Kavisara of the Maha Withutarama Zegon Monastery in Pyinmana.

Following the recitation of Parittas by the Members of the Sangha, the congregation presented the offertories including robes to the Members of Sangha.

The ceremony was attended by Nant Kyin Kyi, wife of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and families of the staff of the office. —MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung offers Waso robe to Sayadaw at the 7th Waso Robe donation ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko accepts cash donation for the construction of the Eternal Peace Pagoda at the ceremony in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Jewelries, over K300 mln donated to Eternal Peace Pagoda construction

A SIXTH ceremony to donate cash for construction of the Eternal Peace Pagoda, which is under construction in Nay Pyi Taw, was held at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhamma Thabin Hall at the KabaAye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The ceremony launched with the congregation led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko receiving the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Ashin Sanda Dika.

Before the donation session, the Union Minister presented offertories to the Sayadaw.

Afterwards, 25 donors presented jewelries and over K300 Million for the construction of the pagoda through the Union Minister, Yangon Region Hluttaw deputy speaker and officials.

The ceremony came to an end with a sermon by Sayadaw Ashin Sanda Dika. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

SWRR Minister receives Indian Amb, ARMAC separately

DR WIN MYAT AYE, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, held separate meetings with Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar and a delegation from the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) at his ministry yesterday.

During the meeting with the Ambassador, they discussed how India's government is cooperating with the Ministry of Industry to conduct industrial skill-related courses to local residents in Pakokku and Myingyan, organizing similar short-term and long-term courses in Rakhine State, and the implementation of the five-year collaboration project between Myanmar and India to



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye separately meets with Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar and a delegation from the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

develop Rakhine State with a budget of US\$5 million per year.

During the meeting with ARMAC, they discussed MoS-

WRR's assistance in future projects, the ministry's current awareness campaigns on the dangers of landmines, provid-



ing aid and rehabilitation assistance to landmine victims, and cooperating with ARMAC on landmine-related tasks during

the resettlement phase of the national-level strategy to close down IDP camps. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet)

AA, TNLA, MNDAA attack on DSTA in Pyin Oo Lwin, other areas in Nawngkhio



Vehicles destroyed by AA, TNLA and MNDAA near Asia World Toll Gate Nawngkhio Township on 15 August 2019. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**



Gote Twin Police Station in Nawngkhio Township was destroyed in the attack. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**



Gote Twin Bridge in Nawngkhio Township was sabotaged on 15 August 2019. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**



DEFENCE Services Technology Academy (DSTA) in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Region, Pyin Oo Lwin toll gate, Gote Twin Police Station in Nawngkhio Township, Nawngkhio toll gate, a narcotic inspection gate, a battalion headquarters came under small and heavy arm fire by a combined AA, TNLA and MNDAA armed group at about 5:30 am yesterday morning. Due to the attack two innocent civilians and three policemen were killed, 10 innocent civilians and two policemen wounded. The

Police Force lost 17 small arms, six magazines, 1,312 bullets, a narcotic detector, a chemical detector and four Walkie Talkies. Three cars were destroyed and the floor of Gote Twin Bridge was sabotaged, preventing vehicle traffic over the bridge.

In the incident DSTA in Pyin Oo Lwin was fired on by 107 mm rockets from the east of the academy on the east side of Pyin Oo Lwin-Lashio road; two AA/TNLA/MNDAA personnel in civilian clothes on a car fired on Asia World Toll Gate and narcotic

inspection gate with rocket propelled grenades (RPGs); Gote Twin Police Station in Nawngkhio Township, Nawngkhio toll gate and a battalion headquarters were fired on simultaneously by a combined AA, TNLA and MNDAA armed group at about 5:30 am, and the Tatmadaw troops returned fire.

As soon as the incident occurred, Tatmadaw columns reinforced Gote Twin Police Station, Nawngkhio toll gate and Asia World toll gate. While clearing the area six Type 63 107 mm

rockets connected with wires to a battery prepared by AA/TNLA/MNDAA were found on the east side of Pyin Oo Lwin-Lashio Road east of DSTA.

There were armed engagement with Tatmadaw columns near Nawngkhio narcotic inspection gate and Gote Twin Police Station. Of the wounded, five innocent civilians and one police personnel were being treated at Pyin Oo Lwin People's Hospital.

According to news released by Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

and Myanmar Police Force, the incident was AA/TNLA/MNDAA conducting attacks and sabotage to threaten the rule of law in response to the seizure of drugs and drug making accessories worth more than K16 billion in Kutkai Township in 25 July; seizure of drugs worth about K 5 billion, ammunitions and related accessories in Rakhine State Yathedaung Township in 8 August; mounting casualties and military losses of AA in Rakhine State.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister U Min Thu meets GAD staff of Mandalay Region

THE Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, U Min Thu, met with staff of the Mandalay Region General Administration Department at the regional cabinet's meeting hall yesterday.

Firstly, the Deputy Director-General of the Mandalay Region GAD, U Myint Lwin, explained about their processes and performances. The Union Minister then delivered a speech. GAD's history

The Union Minister said Myanmar had passed through six forms of government administrations since achieving independence yet the main mechanism behind them had always been the GAD. He said the incumbent government has formulated the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) to establish a Democratic Federal Republic.

The MSDP had three pillars and the first goal of Pillar I was peace, national reconciliation, security and good governance, said the Union Minister. He said the GAD was transferred to the Ministry of Office of the Union Government in December last year to achieve that purpose.

Three aims of GAD

He said the GAD has designated three prioritized aims in a workshop aiming towards decentralization, emergence of a good public-centred administrative system, and development of skilled human resources.

The first aim was to make



Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, U Min Thu, speaks with staff of Mandalay Region General Administration Department in Mandalay yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

any necessary amendments to existing laws, bylaws, rules, regulations and directives in order to be relevant to present times, said the Union Minister, adding that they would form the Regulatory Review Unit in the first step towards that aim.

He said the second aim was to reform the administrative system and they have already formed the Managerial Reform Unit for that purpose. He said it would draft and publish administrative manuals from the village-level to the district-level.

The third aim, said the Union Minister, was implementing people-centred regional development projects. He said the first

step towards that has been taken in the form of the One State-One Township Project, which was linked with the MSDP.

The Union Minister said they were arranging a second workshop in late August to follow up on implementing the three aforementioned aims. He said the second workshop would focus on reducing restrictions to pave the way for reforms, emergence of a transparent administrative system and service system, and drawing up long-term and short-term projects for effective regional development projects.

Vision of the GAD

The GAD had set its vision

statement as 'Building a good administrative mechanism centred on the people' said the Union Minister. He said the GAD was the main department that could instil coexistence and harmony among society, as well as preventing conflicts early on.

The Union Minister said GAD staff need to be skilled to the highest calibre as they have been tasked with not only administering public affairs, but also liaising between the different government departments. He said this was why they were putting the project to upgrade the Institute of Development Administration as a top priority.

He said they were planning

to form a committee to oversee the capacity building of the institute and also have plans to send staff members on training courses abroad. He said their first plan in that regard was to send a hundred gazetted government employees on two-week or three-week training courses to Japan in five batches.

Proposed plans for next three months

The Union Minister said his ministry had already approved the four work programmes for their third three-month period. The first programme was for the GAD to compile a comprehensive electoral roll to ensure all eligible voters could cast their ballot in the 2020 General Elections.

The second programme was to complete the cases accepted by the Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands in the allotted time period. The third programme was to improve the quality of OSS offices, reduce unnecessary procedures and implement a mobile OSS service. The fourth programme was to provide basic training for ward/village level clerks and to produce and distribute a similar level staff manual.

The Union Minister urged GAD staff to participate in the reforms and perform their duties with enthusiasm and honesty while putting the interest of the people first. He then cordially greeted the GAD staff in attendance.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Newsletter: African Swine Fever

1. Twelve pigs in Wan New village, Panseng village-tract, Mongla Township, Special Area 4, Kengtung District, Shan State, died of a suspicious swine-related disease between the 1st to 6th of August, 2019. The Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department acquired samples from the deceased pigs on 9th August and performed lab tests using real time RT-PCR technology on them in Yangon and Mandalay's veterinary diagnostic laboratories. The results showed the cause to be a strain of the African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV).
2. ASFV causes high death rates among domesticated and wild pigs and currently has no antibiotics or cure. If the onset of the virus is confirmed, the validated farm has to be stamped out to prevent it from spreading, along with spraying pesticides and restricting the export of pigs and their related products from the affected area. ASFV began spreading in China on 3rd August, 2019 and has lead authorities to dispose of 1,160,000 pigs. Similarly, Mongolia had to dispose of 3,115 pigs after the virus spread on 15th January this year and Viet Nam had to dispose of 3,700,000 pigs since 19th February. Thus, the virus has caused untold losses to the pig farming businesses. However, the virus cannot be transmitted to humans.
3. The Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department has been cooperating with regional organizations and sends reports to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
4. We urge areas unaffected by ASFV to take the following precautions in order to prevent its spread:
 - a. Be extra vigilant in the biosecurity of pig farms.
 - b. Regularly spray pesticide on pig farms and disinfect slaughterhouses.
 - c. Do not feed domestic pigs leftovers with pork from restaurants.
 - d. Do not use equipment from other farms and restrict personnel entry.
 - e. Rear pigs of the same age group together and ensure quality humidity and breeze.
 - f. Purchase pigs from safe, reliable farms. Separate the pigs with those of your own farm until you are sure they are free of the virus.
 - g. Do not purchase pigs and pork-related products (e.g. pork jerky, bacon, sausages) from affected countries that have been illegally imported into Myanmar.
 - h. Prevent wild pigs and domesticated ones from coming into contact.
 - i. Do not dispose the carcass of pigs which have died from infection into rivers or lakes.
 - j. If wild and domesticated pigs in your area suddenly die of unexplained causes, immediately contact your local administrator, Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department or the Myanmar Livestock Federation.
 - k. Cooperate with relevant departments and organizations in implementing preventive measures and medical examinations.

Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Farm tractors to be sold by installment in Bago Region

UNDER the agricultural development program of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Agricultural Mechanization Department (AMD) will sell farm tractors to be paid in installments, in cooperation with a private company.

SONALIKA tractors and accessories handed over tractors to farmers during a ceremony held on 15 August at No12 Station of Agricultural Mechanization Department in Nyaunglebin Township in Bago Region.

The ceremony was attended by Bago Region Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Minister U Aung Zaw Naing, Regional Hluttaw representative U Nyi Nyi Htway, Agricultural Mechanization Department Deputy Director-General U Ko Ko Maung and Director U Shwe Win, Township Administrator U Normine Hla Kyi and officials from related departments, along with Farmers Choice Tractor Co, Ltd Director U Naing Oo and company officials, as well as local farmers.



Bago Region agricultural officials observe tractors at the handing-over ceremony on 15 August at No.12 Agricultural Mechanization Department camp in Nyaunglebin Township. PHOTO: YE MYANMAR

The Minister and officials handed over the tractors and accessories to the local farmers, who made their purchases using the installment system.

Twenty-four SONALIKA tractors have been sold to local farmers using installment payments. The 90 HP tractors are

worth K 34.5 million each. Local farmers have to provide a 10 per cent down payment, and the remaining purchase price will be paid in seven equal installments over 3 years.

The tractors were sold to local farmers from Shwegyin, Daik U, Waw, Minhla and Nyaun-

glebin townships. To qualify to purchase tractors with installment payments, a farmer must own up to a 10-acre farm. The department has sold 258 tractors to local farmers using installment payments in Bago Region.—Ye Myanmar (Nyaunglebin) ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

GAP mango stall to be opened at 105th mile trade zone



PHOTO: SALAI PHAN RO HTAN (IPRD)

A sale center for mangos grown using the Good Agricultural Practices-GAP will be opened on the fruit stalls ground at the 105th Mile trade zone in Muse in Shan State (North), according to the Agriculture Department.

“The GAP mango sale center will allow smooth export of the fruit to China. By opening a GAP stall at the 105th Mile trade zone in Muse, we will be able to grab a share in the market for GAP fruits, which can help us

prepare for producing GAP fruits demanded by China and other countries,” said an officer from the Agriculture Department.

The decision to open the sale center was successfully discussed during a coordination meeting held on 10 August by the Agricultural Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation at the Traders’ Association Hall, Muse-Namhkam border gate.

In the period of 24-30 April, border merchants exported about 2,300 tons of mangos to China from the Muse gate, which also handled the export of over 13,000 tons of watermelons and 66.5 tons of cucumbers, however, there was

no export of white pumpkin from the gate this week, according to the wholesale fruits and vegetables suppliers.

Mango producers are continuing their efforts to boost production of a top-quality standardized mango and related products, seeking new market opportunities. Roughly, there are 250,000 acres of mango plantations throughout the country and 200,000 acres of plantations can yield about 700,000 tons of mangoes. Myanmar’s mangoes are sent mainly to China and India, followed by Bangladesh, Thailand, Korea, Singapore and Japan.—Salai Phan Ro Htan (IPRD) ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Safety of Monywa university scientific research center to be checked

THE Building Department will check the safety of the Monywa university scientific research center so that further actions can be taken, said Dr Zaw Win, the Minister for Social Affairs of Sagaing Regional government. “The Building Department will check the physical quality of the building. We will continue to do things, depending upon the assessment of the department. At least, we have to do the renovation, I think. If it is declared to be a dangerous building, we have to seek permission from

the authorities to demolish the building. For the moment, we have to move the classrooms to new buildings. The project was begun five years ago, so it is not possible to ask the company to take responsibility for the renovations. The building was constructed by Yangon based Capital Development Company.

According to the contract, the guarantee period agreed to in the contract is only for two to three years. The building was constructed at a cost of K 620 million in 2013, and handed over

to the university on 28 February, 2014,” said Dr Zaw Win, when he inspected the building on 15 August. “Initially, the ministry will form a team to check the building’s condition, and then report to the Union Ministry. If we have to renovate the building, we will perform the repairs. The building was constructed with the designs outsourced,” said Dr Thura Oo, the Rector of Monywa University.

“In 2013, thirteen classrooms and seven teachers’ dormitories were built. The Building department had drawn up a master plan

to build the university building. They don’t have any idea about the foundation. They just built based on their master plan,” said Rector Dr Thura Oo.

To date, the scientific research center has not been designated as a dangerous building. So, it is still possible to use the research center and classrooms. The building is being used for instruction in six subjects—chemistry, physics, zoology, botany, geology and Geography.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Alibaba suppliers purchase jade at Mandalay Yadanar Mall

SUPPLIERS for Alibaba have purchased jade at Mandalay Yadanar Mall located on the corner of 78th and 34th Streets.

The mall is crowded with jewellery buyers and sellers after 4 pm, and traders run their businesses in the morning and afternoon at Maha Aungmye jewellery market, and then continue operating at the jade night market in Mandalay Yadanar Mall.

“The direct purchases by the big traders helps develop the finished jewellery market. Therefore, the Yadanar Mall night market was expanded. So it does not harm the Maha Aungmye jewellery market, Yadanar Mall was created to operate at night”, said U Thein Win, secretary of Mandalay Yadanar Mall. The night market was estab-



Jade jewellery displayed on the jewellery market in Mandalay Yadanar Mall in Mandalay.

PHOTO: KHINE SET WAI

lished following meetings on the country's increasing revenues, development of the local jewel-

lery market and attracting more traders and Alibaba suppliers. It will also help increase the tour-

ism sector and set up firm markets for locally produced jade and jewellery.

“Now, sellers can generate money in a day. They purchase raw materials, make the finished products in the afternoon, and sell them in the evening”, he noted.

“I like Myanmar's jade. This is the second time that I came to purchase directly. I have learnt how Myanmar appraises jade. I purchased jade products, including bracelets, sculpture and jewellery”, said Mr Liu Yang, CEO of Paktrade Co, Ltd, who came to purchase jade from China.

Chinese traders are often seen in the jewellery market. Jade is most in demand, and the traders also buy ruby and sapphire products. The market is packed with over 300 Chinese, 50 foreigners and local traders.—Khine Set Wai ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Agro export value exceeds \$2.8 bln, as of 2 August

Myanmar's exports of agricultural products between 1 October, 2018 and 2 August in the current fiscal year increased to over US\$2.8 billion from \$2.53 billion in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 FY, according to trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry had the highest performance, along with the natural gas sector. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses, corn, and rubber.

Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also exported to other countries.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. However, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

Myanmar is faced with slower access to market information, sometimes causing obstacles in the market. Moreover, the country has poor logistics and warehouse infrastructure, thereby degrading



Farmers unloading harvested corn from a vehicle at a local market in NyaungU.

PHOTO: KO HTEIN (NGATHAYAUK)

the quality of the fruits, said an official from the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable producer and exporter association (MFVP).

According to the Myanmar Rice Federation, quality control and food safety are key to the promotion of exports. Therefore, improved agricultural practices need to be developed.

Additionally, the country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand.

Contract farming systems, including regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders and some grower groups, are required in order to

meet production targets, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with challenges, such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions.—Ko Htet ■
(Translated by EMM)

Yangon Region gov't to invite investors for New Yangon project

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region is preparing to attract investors for the New Yangon City development project, said U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister.

“New Yangon Development Company Limited (NYDC) will stand as the master developer for the New Yangon City development project. We are preparing to attract investors”, said U Phyo Min Thein.

China Communications and Construction Company (CCCC) is calculating project costs.

“Upon the results of the project cost estimation, we will call for tenders to invite investors”, he said.

“We are planning the land compensation for farmers, as 80 per cent of the farmlands have been acquired for the project. We will relocate those displaced farmers on urban lands”, he added. The NYDC is 100-per cent owned by the Yangon Regional Government. Its vision is to develop the Yangon Myanmar's “Productive City, Livable City”, and create an estimated 2 million jobs. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Stop plastic crisis before it gets worse

AMONG several challenges that the world is facing today due to environmental pollution, air pollution and plastic pollution crises should be tackled as soon as possible.

World Environment Day operated under the theme, "Beat Plastic Pollution" for 2018 and "Beat Air Pollution" for 2019, highlighting the two crises we are experiencing today, and ringing alarm bells throughout the world.

With increasing populations in cities, wastes, including plastics thrown away by people, have damaged the beauty of the environment and health of the people, and have caused flooding when it blocks drain channels.

Also, a lack of systematic garbage management has resulted in people throwing plastics and other waste on roads and in rivers. Additionally, the incineration of plastics and other waste has caused air pollution. This shows that the lack of a garbage management system is leading directly to air and water pollution in Myanmar.

We have witnessed how floods in cities are entirely man made, with plastic clogging street drains. Poorly maintained drains and plastics have been contributing to the accumulation of water on roads after heavy rain-falls.

A recent survey has set alarm bells ringing in Myanmar, noting that the Ayeyawady River is suffering from extreme plastic pollution.

The new research, conducted by Fauna and Flora International (FFI) in collaboration with Thant Myanmar, revealed that 119 tons of plastic wastes are entering the Ayeyawady River every day.

To tackle the plastic crisis, region and state governments are being urged to actively participate in the

"National Level Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan-2018-2030" of the Union Government.

This is required to reduce the use of plastics as much as we can, to produce renewable products that can substitute for plastics, and to raise awareness among the people about the dangers posed by plastics. Also, taking actions against those who violate the laws and damage the surroundings is another way to save our environment.

To do that, it is necessary to adopt rules and regulations. Meanwhile, our country should develop a long-term plan to respond to environmental challenges, and to seek ways for promoting the use of renewable energy.

Another challenge comes with rising sea levels threatening coastal areas that might become submerged. Now is the time our country should draw up plans, in preparation for saving coastal areas from rising sea levels.

All in all, with the right solutions and by putting them into action, we, policy makers, producers and the people, can stop plastic pollution before it becomes worse.



What trigger the landslides?

By Khin Maung Myint

AFEW days ago, there was a very fatal landslide at Thaè Phyu Gone village in Paung township, Mon State. According to the latest reports as at 1813 hrs., 11 August, the death toll had reached nearly 70, and the search is still going on. This could be the worst landslides in our country. Landslides used to occur in the mountainous regions, especially in the Kachin, Chin and Shan states. There may be some other places, but as I have no time to research, I may have missed something here. As my intention is to write about the causes behind the landslides and how to protect them, the locations may not count much.

What is a landslide?

A landslide is a geological process where the gravity caused the masses of earth and debris to fall down the slopes of hills or mountains. They can be devastating if they take place in populated areas. Debris flows, also known as mudslides, are a common type of fast-moving landslide that tends to flow in channels. Landslides are caused by disturbances in the natural stability of a slope. They can accompany heavy rains or follow droughts, earthquakes, or volcanic eruptions. Mudslides develop when water rapidly accumulates in the ground and results in a surge of water-saturated rock, earth, and debris. Mudslides usually start on steep slopes and can be activated by natural disasters. Areas where wildfires or human modification of the land have destroyed vegetation on slopes are particularly vulnerable to landslides during and after heavy rains.

The landslide hazard causes severe loss of life, injury, damage to property, destruction of communication networks and loss of precious soil and land. Although the occurrence of landslides is declining all over the world due to greater scientific understanding and public awareness, in many areas the mounting pressure of population at the base of slopes, canyons and unstable borders of plateaus have led to an increase in dangers due to landslides. Landslides are universal phenomena, but more than being 'natural hazards', they are induced by human activity.

What cause the landslides?

A variety of contributing fac-



Photo shows an aerial view of the deadly landslide area in Paung Township. PHOTO: KO ZAW MIN

tors are often responsible for their occurrence, but precipitation often plays a major role in failure. Excess weight from accumulation of rain or snow may stress weak slopes to failure. Almost every landslide has multiple causes. In addition to erosion from waterways, glaciers and waves, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions can cause landslides. Human activities can also contribute to landslides. Fierce winds, flooding, downpours and freezing snowstorms blast away at the earth's surface over time, weathering away the former stability of the land, and setting the stage for collapse. Weather, geology, gravity and time all acting together can prove catastrophic when the earth finally gives way, unleashing a sudden, fatal sweep, whether by slide or descent.

Debris and mud flows caused by landslides are rivers of rock, earth, and other debris saturated with water. They develop during intense rainfall, runoff, or rapid snowmelt, changing the earth into a flowing river of mud and sludge. They can flow rapidly, striking with little or no warning at avalanche speeds, faster than a person can run. They can travel many miles from their source, growing in size as they pick up trees, boulders, cars and other materials in their paths.

When a wildfire burns a slope, it increases the chance of debris flows for several years. Although

Whatever the cause of the landslides, they are linked to the deteriorating climatic conditions, so, the real culprit is the climate change

some landslides require lengthy rain and saturated slopes, a debris flow can start on a dry slope after only a few minutes of intense rain. "Intense" rain means a burst of rain at a fast rate, about half an inch in an hour. With debris flows, the rate matters more than total rainfall.

What areas are at risk?

Some areas are more likely to experience landslides or mudflows, including: areas where wildfires or human modification of the land have destroyed vegetation; areas where landslides have occurred before; steep slopes and areas at the bottom of slopes or canyons; slopes that have been altered for construction of buildings and roads; channels along a stream or river; and areas where surface runoff is directed.

From the news photos and video footages from the disaster

struck village in this case, it is quite evident that the area immediately in front of hill slope where the landslide occurred was devoid of protective vegetations. The vegetations on hill slopes can protect landslides from occurring to a certain extent. One of the causes of landslides is modification of the land.

The health hazards associated with landslides and mudflows

Rapidly moving water and debris can lead to trauma in people, broken electrical, water, gas, and sewage lines that can result in injury or illness; and disrupted roadways and railways that can endanger motorists and disrupt transport and access to health care.

What you can do to protect yourself?

How to protect yourself or your property depends on the type

of landslide. Land-use zoning, professional inspections, and proper design can reduce many landslide problems but evacuation is often the only way to protect lives from a debris flow or other fast-moving landslide. Never ignore an evacuation order.

Before intense storms and rainfalls - Assume that steep slopes and areas burned by wildfires are vulnerable to landslides and debris flows. Learn whether landslides or debris flows have occurred previously in your area. Contact local authorities about emergency and evacuation plans. Develop emergency and evacuation plans for your family and business. Develop an emergency communication plan in case family members are separated. If you live in an area vulnerable to landslides, consider leaving it if possible.

During intense storms and rainfall - Listen to the radio or watch TV for warnings about intense rainfall or for information and instructions from local officials. Be aware of any sudden increase or decrease in water level on a stream or creek that might indicate debris flow upstream. A trickle of flowing mud may precede a larger flow. Look for tilted trees, telephone poles, fences, or walls, and for new holes or bare spots on hillsides. Listen for rumbling sounds that might indicate an approaching landslide or mudflow. Be alert when driving. Roads may

become blocked or closed due to collapsed pavement or debris. If landslide or debris flow danger is imminent, quickly move away from the path of the slide. Getting out of the path of a debris flow is your best protection. Move to the nearest high ground in a direction away from the path. If rocks and debris are approaching, run for the nearest shelter and take cover, if possible, under a desk, table, or other piece of sturdy furniture.

After a landslide or debris flow - Stay away from the site. Flooding or additional slides may occur after a landslide or mudflow. Check for injured or trapped people near the affected area, if it is possible to do so without entering the path of the landslide or mudflow. Listen to the radio or TV for emergency information. Report broken utility lines to the appropriate authorities.

Conclusion

As discussed above, landslides are the results of depletion of protective vegetations on the slopes, which deprived the protections and exposed the slopes to the onslaught of the rains, strong winds and seismic activities, such as earthquakes. In most countries, slopes that pose risks to people and properties are protected against landslides by a procedure called slope protection. This involve various means: covering the slopes with concrete membranes to protect them against erosions, growing soil retaining type of grass, afforestations, protections against wildfires on the slopes, etc. The general populations living in the risk areas should also be educated to be aware of the causes of landslides, and how to protect themselves. Rapid response teams should be trained and always be on the alert during the incident prone seasons.

Whatever the cause of the landslides, they are linked to the deteriorating climatic conditions, so, the real culprit is the climate change, which in turn is induced by human activities. Thus humans are to be blamed.

References:-

1. *Landslides & Debris Flow, fact sheet, www.ready.gov*
2. *Essay on Landslides: Factors, Types and Methods - Article shared by DK Sinha*
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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 36/2019

15th Waxing of Wagaung, 1381 ME
15 August, 2019

Appointment of Deputy Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 234 section (a) (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 16 (b) sub-section (9) of the Union Government Law, Dr Min Ye Paing Hein has been appointed as Deputy Minister for Industry.

Sd/
Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mrs. Marinela Milcheva Petkova as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Hanoi.

Mrs. Marinela Milcheva Petkova was born in Pleven, Bulgaria in 1976. From 1995 to 2001, she studied Political Science and obtained a Master's Degree from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She also earned a Diploma from Institute for Political and Economic Studies, Georgetown University, Washington DC, the United States of America in 1999. She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria in 2002. She has served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, and Bulgarian Embassies in the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Currently, she has been serving as Ambassador of Bulgaria to Viet Nam since January 2019. She speaks English and Russian. She is married and has two children.—MNA

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 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

Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin road reopens as floodwaters recede



TANINTHAYI Township exceeded its 24-foot danger mark when water levels reached as high as 26.6 feet between 6 to 12 August but gradually receded beginning on 13 August, reaching 22.8 feet yesterday. The local road department announced that the Myeik-Taninthayi section of the

Pyidaungsu Road is no longer flooded and can be driven on normally. Similarly, the Taninthayi-Bokpyin road sections near mileposts 834 and 835 reached water levels safe for larger vehicles to safely travel through yesterday. Local Hluttaw representatives have

arranged for smaller vehicles to be towed by FAW cars to the dry parts of the road while military personnel, police officers and firefighters assisted civilians and motorcycles with motorboats and rafts. —Nan Thar Yi, Htein Win (IPRD)
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



16 K10000 counterfeit currency notes seized in Thingangyun

LOCAL authorities in Thingangyun Township seized 16 K10000 counterfeit notes from a man yesterday. Following an information that the suspect namely Maung San Htay is shopping with counterfeit notes at the Yanaung Ward Bazaar, local authorities brought him to the administrative office and inspected him. —Ye Min Tun (IPRD)
(Translated by GNLM)

Drugs seized in four townships

A TEAM comprised of local anti-drug squad and police force in Myitkyina searched a vehicle on the Myitkyina-Mogaung Road on 14 August and seized 3,800 stimulant tables. Action has been taken against Daw Tin Tin Soe, the driver of the car, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 13th August, a combined team comprised of



Nawngkhio Police Station stopped and searched a motorcycle and found 1,120 stimulant tables and K36,000. The team arrested Kyaw Win Htwe who was driving the motorcycle and Soe Min Lay who was on the motorcycle. On 29 July, Tatmadaw troops inspected a house with underground 300 m north of Manyonmaw Village in Kutkai Township. During the search, they found 518,000 stimulant tablets, five kilos of ICE, 3 kilos of low-grade opium, 20 kilos of Vanillin powder, 16 litres of Dichloromethane, 2.45 litres of Propylene Glycol, 20 kilos of dye powder and accessories used in making drugs hidden in the hunderground. Similarly, the troops seized 100,000 stimulant tablets hidden in a bush near Manyonmaw Village on 20 July and 90,500 stimulant tables hidden in a hold tent near the same village on 31st July. —Ko Ye
(Translated by GNLM)

Discussion for Chinese help in contract farming in Kyaikmaraw

DISCUSSIONS are being held with a Chinese contract farming company to assist in the growing of rice in over 100 acres of land in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). At the invitation of the Mon State government Chief Minister six months ago, the CEO of MRF grew the rice under the contract farming system on over 100 acres of farm land as a pilot project. But they faced many difficulties, noted officials. “Six months ago we discussed matters with the chief minister, to use their farm land. Our company planted the paddy on over 100 acres of land as a pilot project. They have faced many difficulties, even though they received assistance from the Chinese experts. In fact, the land could not be used on a commercial-scale. MRF alone could not implement the project,” said U Sein Win Hlaing, the chairman of MRF. Currently, difficulties include the land being saturated with salt-

water, lacking agricultural water, and there is also a lack of land for growing seasonal crops. Further, local people could not grow paddy on the land because they do not have enough technology, as well as there being a lack of good seeds, lack of local Labour and insufficient agricultural loans. “We have already invited and negotiated with the Chinese. During the negotiations, they conducted field inspection trips. We have tried to put the land under cultivation of the crops. Currently, we started our contract farming system. The Chinese experts supported us and provided technological assistance,” he added. The CEO from MRF has grown monsoon paddy as a pilot project. Myanmar cultivates 134 species of paddy across the country. A total of 17 million acres of land are being placed under cultivation—15 million acres of land for monsoon paddy and over 2 million acres of land for summer paddy.—Aye Yamone
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Cattle vaccinated in flood-hit areas in Kayin State



A veterinarian vaccinates a domesticated bovine in a village in Hpa-an Township. **PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN (IPRD)** MOBILE teams from the Veterinary Department launched a vaccination programme yesterday in Kayin State, as the flooding which began in early August receded. Some cattle displayed weakness due to the lack of sufficient nutrition and illness brought on to the severe weather, according to the vaccination teams. The Kayin State Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department distributed 200 bags of feed provided by its head office in Nay Pyi Taw for cattle remaining in flood-hit areas.—Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)
(Translated by GNLM)

60% of spent nuclear fuel in Japan to be stored in metal casks

TOKYO — Over 60 per cent of some 15,200 tons of spent nuclear fuel in Japan could be stored in metal casks in the future as the cooling pools that currently keep them are filling up, a Kyodo News survey showed Wednesday.

The survey into the plans of utilities revealed the potential volume, at a time when each company is looking at dry casks to boost storage capacity of the ever-increasing highly radioactive by-product of nuclear power generation.

They believe the leak-tight canisters will be safer than stor-

ing the spent fuel in pools.

But keeping them in dry cask storage facilities, which do not need water or electricity to keep spent nuclear fuel cooled, will only be a temporary solution.

Analysts say it remains uncertain whether the waste will be taken out for reprocessing and recycling as planned amid technical difficulties and lingering safety concerns following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis.

Residents near the storage sites of spent nuclear fuel are



Casks to store spent nuclear fuel. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

worried that the use of dry casks would lead to prolonged storage of the radioactive material.

Currently, the fuel storage capacity of 10 utilities owning commercial nuclear reactors totals 25,500 tons, with 60 per cent already filled up. If unspent

fuel is included, 69 per cent will be occupied.

The 10 utilities' plans for future storage of spent fuel using dry casks showed that their combined capacity could increase by up to 10,000 tons in the future. —Kyodo News ■

29 US states and cities sue Trump over climate protections

LOS ANGELES — A coalition of 22 US states and seven cities on Tuesday sued President Donald Trump's administration to block it from easing restrictions on coal-burning power plants.

Trump has set about systematically dismantling environmental regulations put in place by

his predecessor Barack Obama, including the Clean Power Plan, which called for cuts to greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

Finalized in 2015, it was put on hold by the Supreme Court and the White House has ordered the Environment Protec-

tion Agency to work on a less stringent replacement, known as the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule. "This administration has decided to repeal the Clean Power Plan and replace it with a toothless substitute," said California attorney-general Xavier Becerra at a news conference in

Sacramento Tuesday.

"It's anything but clean, and it's anything but clean energy. President Trump's attempt to gut our nation's Clean Power Plan is just the wrong way to go," he added. The ACE rule would allow states to set their own standards for existing coal-fired power plants, rather than follow a single federal standard.

It foresees a far less ambitious overall reduction of power sector carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 than the regulation it would replace.

Tuesday's challenge argues that it violates the EPA's duty under the Obama-era Clean Air Act to address carbon pollution from power plants, and artificially narrows the EPA's authority.

The lawsuit, filed in the United States Court of Appeals in Washington, could end up at the Supreme Court.

California governor Gavin Newsom said the Trump administration was "in the short-term business." —AFP ■



New regulations drawn up under the Trump administration would entail a far less ambitious overall reduction of power sector carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. PHOTO: AFP

NASA descends on Icelandic lava field to prepare for Mars

THE LAMBAHRAUN LAVA FIELD (Islande) — To prepare for the next mission to Mars in 2020, NASA has taken to the lava fields of Iceland to get its new robotic space explorer ready for the job.

With its black basalt sand, wind-swept dunes and craggy peaks, the Lambahraun lava field at the foot of Iceland's sec-

ond biggest glacier, Langjokull, was chosen as a stand-in for the Red Planet's surface.

For three weeks, 15 scientists and engineers sent by the US space agency descended on the site, 100 kilometres (62 miles) from the capital, Reykjavik, last month to develop a prototype.

It will aim to continue the work of the "Curiosity" rover,

which has been exploring Mars since 2012 in search of signs of ancient life and making preparations for human exploration.

Experts say that Iceland, a volcanic island in the middle of the North Atlantic, is in many ways reminiscent of the fourth planet from the Sun.

"It's a very good analogue for Mars exploration and learn-

ing how to drive Mars rovers," said Adam Deslauriers, manager of space and education, at Canada's Mission Control Space Services.

The company has been commissioned by NASA to test a rover prototype as part of the SAND-E (Semi-Autonomous Navigation for Detrital Environments) project. —AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Greta Thunberg: the world's youthful climate conscience

STOCKHOLM — Swedish climate activist and global star Greta Thunberg understood climate change at an early age and has rallied youths around the world and parents to her cause, sparking criticism along the way.

In less than a year the now 16-year-old's humble "climate strike" has become a global movement and set her up as a potential 2019 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. As her strict climate ethos prevents her from flying she is preparing to travel to the New York UN Climate Summit on September 23 by sailboat.

Thunberg's climate struggle began quietly in August 2018 when she skipped school for the first three weeks, and then on Fridays to spend the day outside Sweden's parliament with a sign labelled "School strike for climate". Swedish media, at the time occupied by upcoming parliamentary elections, didn't pay much attention to the young girl's message, but only at first. —AFP ■

US researchers decode genetic influence over behavior through machine learning

LOS ANGELES — Researchers at University of Utah Health are using machine learning to draw links between genetic controls that shape incremental steps of instinctive and learned behaviors, according to a study published in Cell Reports on Tuesday.

"Patterns of complex behavior, like searching for food, are composed of sequences that feel random, spontaneous and free," said Christopher Gregg, assistant professor in Neurobiology and Anatomy at University of Utah Health and senior author of the study. "Using machine learning, we are finding discrete sequences that are reproduced more frequently than you would expect by chance and these sequences are rooted in biology," he said.

The research team is venturing into the new territory of behavioral sequencing. "We are trying to understand the architecture of complex behavior and how genetics shape these patterns," said Gregg. —Xinhua ■

S Korea aims to be economic powerhouse despite Japan export controls

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae In said Thursday that the country aims to become an economic powerhouse despite Japan's tightened export controls, as he spoke at an event marking the end of Japanese colonial rule 74 years ago.

Moon, in his speech, emphasized that the normal flow of trade could be disrupted if a country uses its comparative advantage in a sector, referring to Japan's move that requires

manufacturers of semiconductor-related materials to seek approval each time before shipping to Seoul.

While showing concerns about Japan's export controls, he also called for cooperation with the country, especially in facilitating peace and prosperity in the East Asia region.

"Better late than never. If Japan chooses the path of dialogue and cooperation, we will gladly join hands," Moon said.

Moon also highlighted his government's efforts to help keep a dialogue going between North Korea and the United States.

"In spite of a series of worrying actions taken by North Korea recently, the momentum for dialogue remains unshaken," he said, adding that Seoul is committed to denuclearization and bringing about peace on the Korean Peninsula during his term as president.—Kyodo News ■



South Korean President Moon Jae In speaks on 15 August, 2019, at an event marking the end of Japanese colonial rule 74 years ago. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Hong Kong announces relief measures to boost economy amid protests



Anti-government protests in Hong Kong forced airport authorities to suspend flights. PHOTO: AFP

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's government announced on Thursday a string of relief measures to tackle the economic downturn worsened by ongoing protests against an extradition bill.

Concessions worth a total of HK\$19.1 billion (US\$2.44 billion) — ranging from government fee waivers and public market rental deductions to increased income tax rebates and public

housing rental bonuses — were expected to boost the economy by 0.3 per cent.

Financial Secretary Paul Chan said the territory is suffering from both external and internal hardships as most economic indicators showed a weakening trend, while stressing that the relief measures are not aimed at easing domestic political tensions.

"The economic measures

that we have just announced, trying to tackle the current economic difficulties and the upcoming economic headwind, (are) not related to the political difficulties that we are facing," Chan told reporters, while admitting that the ongoing protests have taken a toll, particularly on the retail, tourism and hospitality industries.

"The upcoming economic situation is indeed very challenging. Tension between the US and China, no matter on the trade front or on technology side, is escalating. Apart from the US, the chance of a hard Brexit is also heightened.

The economic activities within Asia also are slowing down. These external headwinds are indeed strong," he said.

The full year economic growth was being down-tuned from earlier estimate of 2-3 per cent, to 0-1 per cent, Chan said.

Legislative approval or law amendments are needed for some of the measures to take effect.—Kyodo News ■

Remittances from overseas Filipinos reach 16.3 bln US dollars in H1 2019

MANILA — Personal remittances or the money sent home by overseas Filipinos (OFs) totaled 16.3 billion US dollars in the first half of 2019, a 2.9 per cent growth, from the 15.8 billion US dollars recorded in the same period in 2018, the country's central bank said on Thursday.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Benjamin Diokno said personal remittances from land-based workers with work contracts of one year or more grew by 1.8 per cent to 12.4 billion US dollars in H1 2019 from 12.2 billion US dollars in the first half in 2018.

Similarly, he said personal remittances from sea-based workers and land-based workers with short-term contracts increased by 8.8 per cent to 3.5 billion US dollars in H1 2019 from 3.2 billion US dollars in the same period in 2018.

However, on a monthly basis, Diokno said the amount of personal remittances in June 2019 decreased slightly by 2.7 per cent

to 2.5 billion US dollars from 2.6 billion US dollars in June 2018.

From January to June 2019, Diokno said cash remittances from OFs coursed through banks recorded a 3.2 per cent growth to reach 14.6 billion US dollars from 14.2 billion US dollars in the same period last year.

Cash remittances sent by land-based workers rose by 1.8 percent year-on-year to 11.4 billion US dollars, and transfers from sea-based workers grew by 8.7 per cent year-on-year to 3.2 billion US dollars, Diokno added.

By source, the BSP said the United States registered the highest share of overall remittances from January to June 2019 at 36.4 per cent. It was followed by Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, and Britain.

The Philippine government estimates the number of OFs at 12 million, accounting for nearly one-tenth of the country's population. The central bank sees remittances growing by 3 percent this year.—Xinhua ■

Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer Optimus Agri-Tech Pte., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name-

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	KTK Paung Thae Pin Kaung Pa Lae	KTK Paung Thae Sa Par Kaung	Pyrazosulfuron ethyl 0.04%	Provisional	P2017-3482

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address - Myanmar Kaung Thu Kha Co., Ltd.
No. (95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th mile. Mayangone Township, Yangon Region.

Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer Chrysalis Crop Pte., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name-

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Evo Paung Thae Pa Lae 4G	Evo Taung Thu Let Swel 4G	Pyrazosulfuron ethyl 0.04%	Provisional	2015-2892

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address-Evogro Co., Ltd.
No. (95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th mile. Mayangone Township, Yangon Region.

Singapore firm charged with supplying alcohol to N Korea

SINGAPORE — A Singaporean firm was charged Thursday with supplying large amounts of alcohol to North Korea in violation of UN sanctions, the latest case of illicit trade between the countries.

SINSMS Pte Ltd, an affiliate of a Chinese company, illicitly shipped wines and spirits worth about Sg\$665,000 (US\$480,000) to the North four times in 2016 and 2017, according to charge sheets.

The shipments were sent to an unidentified per-

son in North Korea through the Chinese city of Dalian, which is near their border, the charges said.

The company faces a fine of up to Sg\$1.0 million (US\$719,000) if convicted.

Last year, the US Treasury Department accused the Singapore firm and the Chinese company, Dalian Sun Moon Star International Logistics Trading Co Ltd, of having “worked together to facilitate illicit shipments to North Korea”.

It said they used falsi-

fied shipping documents to export alcohol and tobacco.

The UN Security Council has adopted sanctions in response to the North’s ballistic missile and nuclear tests, while Singapore has introduced laws to enforce them and in 2017 suspended trade ties with the North.

There have been several cases in recent years of companies and individuals in the city-state allegedly supplying banned goods to the North. In October, two men were charged with



FILE PHOTO: The company faces a fine of up to Sg\$1.0 million (US\$719,000) if convicted. **PHOTO: AFP**

supplying luxury goods, including jewellery and watches, to North Korea.

In 2016, a shipping firm in the city was fined for its

role in an attempt to smuggle Soviet-era weapons and fighter jets from Cuba to the North. The company was initially found guilty

of two charges, but it was cleared of one count on appeal and had its fine reduced, local media reported. —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (021N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (021N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-8-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ENDEAVOUR STRAIT

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ENDEAVOUR STRAIT VOY. NO. (1634) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-8-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL
LOGISTICS CO, LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V LADY LILLY

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V LADY LILLY VOY. NO. (1904316) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-8-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of IBTT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES
SINGAPORE PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

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Russia releases French banker from jail into house arrest

MOSCOW — A Moscow court on Thursday released French banker Philippe Delpal from jail into house arrest, days before a summit between the Russian and French presidents.

Delpal, a senior executive in investment firm Baring Vostok, was arrested in February together with company chief Michael Calvey and other suspects.

The arrests raised serious concerns among foreign investors in Russia.

Judge Anatoly Korolev in the Moscow City court ruled in

favour of Delpal's appeal against last month's decision to extend his detention by another three months.

Delpal was released in the courtroom, an AFP correspondent there said.

The surprise decision came ahead of talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, who are meeting at a seaside retreat in southern France on Monday.

The case alleges that Calvey, Delpal, and other suspects de-

frauded Russia's Vostochny Bank of 2.5 billion rubles (US\$38.7 million) — charges they deny as fabricated by a competitor.

Speaking during Thursday's hearing, Delpal rejected the allegations and promised he would not leave Russia if released from detention during the investigation.

"I am not implicated in this alleged crime," he said. "My life is in Moscow, fleeing is not an option because it will seem like I recognise my guilt."

His release into house ar-



The arrest of French banker Philippe Delpal raised serious concerns among foreign investors in Russia. **PHOTO AFP**

rest follows a similar decision for Calvey, a longtime investor in Russia whose fund gave a headstart to some of the country's top

companies.

Delpal has lived in Russia with his wife and two children for the last 15 years.. —AFP ■

EU water bombers join Greek firemen to douse island wildfire

ATHENS — Greece deployed Thursday nearly 400 firefighters backed by EU firebombers to try to put out a massive wildfire on the island of Evia burning through a pristine pine forest

for a third day.

"We are more optimistic today because the winds have died down," Yiorgos Kostopoulos, civil protection supervisor for Evia, told state TV ERT.



Firefighters managed to contain the fire in a ravine near the village of Platana, backed by nearly 100 vehicles, nine helicopters and nine planes. **PHOTO: AFP**

Firefighters managed to contain the fire in a ravine near the village of Platana, backed by nearly 100 vehicles, nine helicopters and 12 planes, including two from Italy and one from Spain.

"We are doing whatever we can to create additional fire defences near the village," Kostopoulos said as an earth mover dug a trench behind him.

The wildfire has caused inestimable damage to the local 550-hectare mountain wildlife sanctuary of Agrilitsa.

It could take another two days to extinguish the flames, a fire department spokesman told Thema radio.

"My shed was burned, there are no more trees for resin collection, so apart from my house, I have nothing else," a local resident told state TV ERT

The EU's Copernicus emergency management service has calculated that at least 2,300 hectares (nearly 5,700 acres) have been lost to the fire.

Local community head Dimitris Yiannoutsos told web TV Open there was "total destruction" in the forest but admitted that with the fire still active, officials were "unable to fully estimate the extent of the damage."

The fire broke out in the early hours of Tuesday on Greece's second-largest island, prompting the evacuation of four villages including Platana.

EU Humanitarian Commissioner Christos Stylianides on Wednesday called the mobilisation of Greek forces "exemplary" after emergency crews managed to save inhabited areas. —AFP ■

Mexican court orders govt to detail medical marijuana rules

MEXICO CITY — The Mexican Supreme Court ordered the government to come up with rules surrounding the use of medical marijuana Wednesday after granting a child permission to use a drug derived from cannabis to treat epilepsy.

The Ministry of Health has 180 business days to establish regulations around the therapeutic use of cannabis and its derivatives, the country's top court said in a statement. Mexico's Congress approved the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes in 2017 after a two-year fight, and President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who took office late last year, has said he would consider legalizing certain drugs. His government, however, revoked a decision that authorized the sale of 38 cannabis-derived products, such as dietary supplements, drinks and cosmetics, to be sold in pharmacies. The court said the agency should have issued the rules within 180 days after the original decree legalizing medical marijuana came into effect in June 2017, and since they hadn't, the child had been forced to seek permission from authorities to use a cannabis oil. "With the absence of norms to regulate the use of therapeutic use of cannabis, it is impossible for the claimant to access treatment related to this substance," the court said. The Ministry of Health responded in a statement, saying it would "fully comply" with the ruling and added it would ensure the child's treatment. —AFP ■

Libya capital flights suspended after deadly rocket fire

TRIPOLI — Flights from the Libyan capital's sole functioning airport were suspended Thursday after deadly overnight rocket fire, a spokesman for the country's unity government said.

Moustafa al-Mejji of the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) said Wednesday night's rocket fire "killed a guard and wounded several security agents tasked with protecting the airport".

The attack was carried out by "the militias of (military strongman Khalifa) Haftar from their positions south of Tripoli", he told AFP, adding that flights to Mitiga were being diverted.

Located east of Tripoli, Mit-

iga is a former military airbase that has been used by civilian traffic since Tripoli international airport suffered severe damage during fighting in 2014.

Mitiga is in a zone under the control of forces loyal to the GNA and has often been targeted, leading to repeated suspensions of flights.

Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army launched an offensive in April to seize Tripoli from GNA forces. It has encountered stiff resistance, resulting in stalemate in the capital's southern outskirts.

United Nations envoy Ghasan Salame, in a report to the UN Security Council at the end

of last month, urged "authorities in Tripoli to cease using the airport for military purposes and

for the attacking forces to halt immediately their targeting of it". —AFP ■



Grounded planes sit on the tarmac at Mitiga International Airport near the Libyan capital Tripoli. **PHOTO: AFP**

India's Modi hails 'path-breaking' Kashmir move

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed on Thursday his “path-breaking” move to strip Kashmir of its autonomy, as his Pakistani counterpart warned of possible “ethnic cleansing”.

Parts of Kashmir that India controls — it is split with arch-rival Pakistan — have been under lockdown since 4 August, with freedom of movement restricted and phones and the internet cut.

A day later, New Delhi scrapped Article 370 in the Indian constitution that had granted Kashmir special status, splitting the state of Jammu and Kashmir in two and downgrading them to union territories.

In a speech from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort in Delhi for Indian Independence Day, Modi said that the decision



Indian PM Narendra Modi said the decision in Kashmir was one of several 'path-breaking' moves. PHOTO: AFP

was one of several “path-breaking” moves by his newly re-elected administration. He said “fresh thinking” was needed after seven decades of failure to ensure harmony in the picturesque but

tragic former Himalayan kingdom, where tens of thousands have died in the past 30 years.

“We do not believe in creating problems or prolonging them. In less than 70 days of

the new government, Article 370 has become history. And in both houses of parliament, two-thirds of the members supported this step,” said Modi, 68.

“The old arrangement in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh encouraged corruption and nepotism, as well as injustice when it came to rights of women, children, (low-caste) Dalits, tribal communities,” he said.

“Their dreams get new wings.”

Extra troops

Fearing unrest over India's latest move, tens of thousands of extra Indian troops have been deployed to Kashmir — joining 500,000 already there — turning parts of the main city of Srinagar into a fortress of roadblocks and barbed wire.—AFP ■

China 'will not sit by' if HK crisis worsens: Chinese envoy

LONDON — China will not “sit by and watch” and is ready to “quell the unrest swiftly” if the crisis in Hong Kong becomes “uncontrollable”, China's ambassador to London said on Thursday.

“If the situation deteriorates further into unrest uncontrollable by the SAR (Special Administrative Region) government, then the central government will not sit by and watch,” Liu Xiaoming said in a televised press conference.

“We have enough solutions and enough power to quell the unrest swiftly,” he said.

Images taken by AFP earlier on Thursday showed thousands of Chinese military personnel waving red flags and parading at a sports stadium in the city of Shenzhen, just across the border from Hong Kong. Dozens of armoured personnel carriers and supply trucks were also parked nearby. “We hope this will end in an orderly way. In the meantime we are fully prepared for the worst,” Liu said. He also protested against “foreign interference” in the Hong Kong protests and urged British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government to handle the issue with “great caution”.—AFP ■

Prior experience mandatory for climbing Mt. Everest, Nepal says

KATHMANDU—Having come under intense criticism for nine deaths on Mt. Everest last climbing season, Nepal said Wednesday that inexperienced climbers will no longer be issued permits to climb the world's highest mountain.

“For climbing Mt. Everest or any other peak taller than 8,000 meters, a climber must

produce proof of having climbed a peak in Nepal that is over 6,500 meters tall,” Ghanashyam Upadhyaya, chief of the five-member panel, told Kyodo News.

This provision is among a slew of measures recommended Wednesday by a panel constituted by the government in June to make climbing safer.

The provision is expected to put to a halt a worrying trend of wealthy climbers literally buying trips to the top of the 8,848-meter peak, putting lives of guides and support staff at risk.

“Climbing regulations will be revised according to these recommendations,” said Upadhyaya, who is also

spokesman of the Ministry of Tourism.

A 57-page report submitted by the panel says climbers will also have to produce proof of being free of any illness, include provisions for search and rescue in their insurance policy, and hire one experienced Nepali guide to accompany the climber to the top.—Kyodo News ■

Many South Koreans rally against Japanese gov't on Liberation Day

SEOUL — Many South Koreans rallied Thursday against the Japanese government's recent

export control measures and its stance regarding issues of wartime history on the occasion

of the 74th Liberation Day, which marks the end of Japanese colonial rule.

The anniversary came as tensions between the two neighbors are escalating after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's administration tightened export controls on Seoul following a string of South Korean court rulings last year ordering compensation for wartime labor.

In front of the Seoul City Hall, hundreds of South Korean citizens joined a rally in the morning.

Many of them, amid heavy rain, loudly chanted, “Abe should stop economic retaliation and Japan should make compensation in accordance with the rulings by the Supreme Court.”

At the rally, Yang Geum Deuk, 89, who won a wartime labor compensation case against Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., said through a microphone, “My wish is to hear a word of apology from

Abe before I die. I need your support.”

Lee Chun Sik, 95, the sole survivor among four plaintiffs who won a case against Japan's Nippon Steel Corp., told Kyodo News that Abe's government is “very rude” as it has insisted that Japan will not make compensation.

From Japan, supporters of plaintiffs and members of labor unions took part in the rally, where Lee came in a wheelchair. Afterward, the participants marched from the Seoul City Hall to the Japanese Embassy, holding photographs of deceased plaintiffs and others.

At night, more than 10,000 citizens of all ages gathered at Gwanghwamun Square in the center of Seoul, with a large number of them raising placards saying, “No Abe.” South Koreans also joined a candle light rally to protest against Abe.—Kyodo News ■



Yang Geum Deuk (front row left) and Lee Chun Sik (R) at a rally against the Japanese government in Seoul on 15 August, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

AFF Women's Championship: Myanmar to play Indonesia today

THE Myanmar national women's football team will play a Group B match in the AFF Women's Championship 2019 against the Indonesia women's team today at the Institute of Physical Education Stadium in Chonburi, Thailand.

Myanmar was placed in Group B of the tourney, together with Viet Nam, Cambodia and Indonesia, while host Thailand is in Group A, along with the Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Malaysia.

The press conference for the Championship was held on 14 August in Chonburi, Thailand, and head coaches of both teams described their preparations, plus their feelings about the tourney.

Myanmar head coach U

Win Thu Moe said that his team has practiced for two months. The team must compete as best it can, since the team has new players and is aiming to reach the Finals match. The team will debut against the Cambodia team for the first time, though the Indonesia and Viet Nam teams are former competitors who have played against each other many times.

Indonesia head coach Rully Nere also said that his team has practiced for six weeks. "Our group will be tough as we face the World FIFA ranked high level teams, Myanmar and Viet Nam. We are here for a couple of weeks to prepare for the tourney, and already were tested while playing two of Thailand's football clubs,"

he said.

Cambodia head coach Meas Samoeun said that all matches against Myanmar, Viet Nam and Indonesia will be difficult. "But we will do our best. We have prepared by playing international friendly matches", he added.

Viet Nam head coach Mai Duc Chung said that the tourney is important for women's football in all South East Asian countries.

"Our team had trained in Japan in preparation for the tourney. Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines teams are powerhouses in ASEAN. We will play all teams with the best of respect," he added

Today's match: Myanmar vs Indonesia will be live streamed



Myanmar women's team head coach U Win Thu Moe speaking at a press conference ahead of AFF Women's Championship 2019 in Chonburi, Thailand. **PHOTO: MFF**

on Thailand's channel Mycujoo [video/fa-thailand?id=72733](https://mycujoo.tv/video/fa-thailand?id=72733).—
on the link <https://mycujoo.tv/> Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Sagaing United's midfielder Myo Min Phyto (red) jumps in the air, vies for the ball against Southern Myanmar FC's player during previous match of Myanmar National League. **PHOTO: MNL**

Sagaing's midfielder Myo Min Phyto to miss match against Dagon FC

MIDFIELDER of Sagaing United Myo Min Phyto will miss away match against Dagon FC on 17 August as part of Week-21 of the MPT Myanmar National League 2019 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Youth midfielder Myo Min Phyto will not play in the match as he faces a match ban on account of getting three yellow cards in the previous matches, accord-

ing to the Myanmar National League.

He has played 19 matches out of 20 for his team, and has shown brilliant skills, scoring two goals so far.

When the two teams met last, Sagaing United had beaten Dagon FC by 3-0.

The match between Sagaing United and Dagon FC will be shown on Fortune TV, a free-

to-air channel. After playing 20 matches in the Myanmar National League, Sagaing United is standing in the 7th place with 27 points from seven wins, six draws, and seven losses.

Meanwhile, Dagon FC, which is trying to jump from relegation zone, with the 14 points from four wins, two draws, and fourteen losses.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Football: Ozil, Kolasinac in contention for Arsenal return

LONDON — Arsenal manager Unai Emery will have Mesut Ozil and Sead Kolasinac available for Burnley's visit to the Emirates on Saturday (Aug 17) after the pair missed last weekend's trip to Newcastle over security fears.

Ozil and Kolasinac were caught in an attempted car-jacking in London last month.

CCTV footage showed Kolasinac leaping from the vehicle to confront the knife-wielding raiders while Ozil remained inside the car with his newlywed wife Amine Gulse, a former Miss Turkey. Arsenal then withdrew the pair for the Gunners opening Premier League game of the season on Tyneside due to "further security incidents."

However, Emery confirmed both had returned to training this week and could feature at the weekend. "Yes, 100 per cent," said the Spanish coach when asked if Ozil and Kolasinac were mentally ready to return.

"Their mentality is focused on us, for training and the match.

"My focus is to be positive and think the players are 100 per cent with their mind here."

Police confirmed on Sunday that two men had been charged with a public order offence in connection to the two players.

Reports suggested the men were arrested after becoming involved in an altercation with security staff outside Ozil's house.—AFP ■



A video clip accompanying the story showed Bosnian defender Kolasinac, who was a passenger, outside the vehicle and confronting the attackers. **PHOTO: AFP**