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FLOOD DANGER RISING

Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Ngawun rivers have exceeded danger levels

WHILE exceeding danger levels around several towns the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers have threatened to flood people living in low-lying areas.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has alerted people living in low-lying areas in Mandalay, Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions to take precautions against possible flooding.

According to observations yesterday the water level of the Ayeyawady River reached above danger levels in Mandalay and Sagaing and is expected to remain above danger levels for the next two days.

Meanwhile, the Chindwin River is expected to remain above its danger level at Homelin, Phaungpyin and Kalewa for next two to three days.

The swollen Ayeyawady River has also threatened Myinmu, Pakokku and NyaungU in upper Myanmar and Hinthada, Zalun, and Myinmu in Ayeyawady delta with floods.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has reportedly warned residents of villages within Ayeyawady Region's Ngathangchaung Township to relocate to higher ground as the Ngawun River is on the brink of bursting its bank.

The water levels of the Ngawun River have reportedly exceeded by a-foot-and-a-half the 1,130cm recognised "danger level" due to torrential downpours which hit the region from the onset of July.

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Firemen and volunteers lay sand bags on the bank of Ayeyawady River in Mandalay to prevent overflow of water. PHOTO: MYANMAR FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Suspended projects in Mon State to resume if found to be of public benefit

U Min Min Oo, Minister of Mon State, has stated six projects within the state, suspended during the tenure of the erstwhile U Thein Sein government, will resume should they be found to be of public benefit.

"No decision has been made yet as to whether [these projects] will resume or not; they've been suspended for now. If these pro-

jects are found to be evident of clear public benefit, then they will resume," said the minister.

Three union and three state-level projects were earmarked for implementation during the previous government term, but upon announcement of suspending of the three union-level projects, the state-level projects subsequently

followed suit.

A sugar refinery in Bilin Township; a foreign investment project to distribute water purified from the Attaran River to Mawlamyine; and an initiative to construct a highway bus terminal in Mudon with a BOT system, are the three union-level planned projects.

While, affordable wooden

housing in Mawlamyine's Mandalay Ward; a project to upscale Mawlamyine's hotels; and a high-rise housing project in the state capital's Bogone Ward, are reportedly the state-level projects which have been suspended.

"We've had offers from construction companies in regard to the timber housing project. But, this issue wasn't ever included in

government cabinet meetings; it was always left out," laments U Min Min Oo. "That said, we will make construction of affordable housing for government staff and the homeless within Mon State, in the same manner as has been completed in other states and regions around the country, a priority during our term in office."

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The Senior General pouring water onto a plant. PHOTO: MYAWADY

C-in-C's Office (Army, Navy and Air) plants more than 430,000 trees

COMMANDER-in-Chief's (Army, Navy and Air) Office conducted a tree planting ceremony for the second time for this rainy season in Nay Pyi Taw, with the participation of families of the office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

During the ceremony, more than 430,000 trees including 5,000 teak trees were planted yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla encouraged the participants growing trees during the ceremony.—Myawady

Workers demonstrate in protest of arbitration council's election

LABOUR organisations staged a rally in front of the City Hall in Yangon yesterday in protest of the selection of labour representatives to the arbitration council and the arbitration body.

Demonstrators cited lack of transparency and justice as the reason for their protest, saying that they had won legal permission for the protest from the

courts of the townships concerned.

The arbitration council of Yangon Region held a representatives election on 8 July and the arbitration body on 12 July.

U Htay, court lawyer and member of the arbitration council, denied any prior knowledge of the representatives election, calling for a rerun of the election

to ensure transparency and justice.

The arbitration council was formed in 2012 with five representatives each of the employers, workers and the government. Representatives are elected every two years, with the July election as its third. A total of 500 workers took part in the demonstration.—Myanmar News Agency



Workers seen participating in a protest against election of representatives to the arbitration council and arbitration body. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Government temporarily closes large-scale Ayeyawady brewery

THE Yaung Ni Brewery, situated in Ayeyawady Region's Myanaung Township, has been ordered by regional government to suspend its activities after the Brewery was found to be in violation of waste management regulations.

The government's directive comes following a surprise inspection to the brewery during which it was discovered they were polluting nearby streams and irrigation channels with their waste water without first puri-

fying it. "Regulations were set which stipulate the brewery has until the end of August to definitively test its purification system. Furthermore, in the manner as agreed [with the plant owners] we have instructed they temporarily suspend their alcohol processing operations after they were found, upon inspection, to be expelling wastage into the environment, which they agreed would be the consequence if they were discovered to be committing such acts," said U Win Htay,

Minister of Electricity, Industry and Communication for Ayeyawady Region.

The brewery will reportedly be permitted to resume its activities if they agree to mitigate the harmful effects on local residents, from expelling pollutants from the plant into the local environment, by running their plant in accordance with stipulated regulations. Further inspections will reportedly also be made to ascertain whether the plant's tax records in order and whether they are producing quantities of alcohol in the manner with which government regulations permit.

During a regular session of the Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw, Daw Su Su Aung, MP for Myan Aung Township, reportedly requested the closure of the brewery because of its infliction upon the health and lives of local residents caused by the reckless expelling of dangerous waste from the plant into the environment and local water supplies.—Myitmakha News Agency



Social welfare dished out to Kengtung's centenarians

A TOTAL of 60 elderly people, comprising five centenarians and 55 nonagenarians, from eastern Shan State's Kengtung Township, were provided with social welfare on Monday, according to the Department of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement for Kengtung Township.

The issuing of social security to the elderly, which commenced on Monday, has been provided via ward and village administrators concerned, said U Kyaw Thu Naing, assistant director of the aforementioned department.

"We have a list of 153 elderly people in the eastern Shan State, according to more recently collected data. Each centenarian is provided with an annual old-age pension of K20,000 while nonagenarians

receive slightly less each year, a total of K15,000, both of which have been issued by administrative offices concerned," he said.

Any elderly person absent from the data collection can reportedly contact township, ward and village level administrative offices concerned or contact U Kyaw Thu Naing by phone on 09420707619.

The budget of the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement reportedly provides social welfare for elderly people all over the country.

Nonagenarians received K3,000 more annually during the tenure of the former government, while social welfare funds were reportedly procured through the 25% cut to salaries of all government ministers.—Myitmakha News Agency

Vice President describes CLMV conference as huge economic opportunity for foreign investment

CAMBODIA, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam continued their joint conference in Yangon yesterday, with an address by Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

The “Four Countries, One Destination” conference was held in Melia Yangon Hotel under the theme of “Connecting Tourism and Expanding Cooperation in Banking Sector”.

Speaking at the meeting, Vice President U Henry Van Thio described the “Four Countries, One Destination” plan as a huge economic opportunity to create a superb environment for greater production market and foreign investment among the four countries.

The vice president vowed to expand cooperation in the implementation of the plan for mutual development, especially in connecting key tourism industries.

He pointed out the need for awareness of the negative im-

pacts which the growth of the tourism industry can have. He also called for closer cooperation in the development of tourism based on mutual benefits.

The conference discussed ways to promote cooperation in banking and extend aviation links, reaching an agreement to organise the conference on tourism promotion every two years.

In the evening, Vice President U Henry Van Thio met Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam Mr Vu Duc Dam at Melia Yangon Hotel. Their discussion focused on promotion of investments, tourism and banking between the two countries.

The vice president also attended a dinner hosted at the hotel in commemoration of the successful opening of the “Four Countries, One Destination” conference.

Viet Nam has established economic links in trade and tourism with the country for six



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and representatives from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam pose for photos in ASEAN way at “Four Countries, One Destination” conference in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

years and is ranked tenth with an investment of US\$693 million.

Prior to the conference, the Bank of Investment and Development of Viet Nam (BIDV) inaugurated its branch in Yangon, with speeches by BIDV Chairman Tran Bac Ha and Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pham Thanh Dung.

Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung

extended the operating licence to BIDV’s Yangon branch Chief Executive Officer Mr Chan Duc Tu.

In commemoration of the opening ceremony, an official of BIDV’s Yangon branch donated an ambulance and computers worth US\$135,000.

Hotel and Tourism Union Minister U Ohn Maung addressed the launch of the Melia

Yangon hotel while Hoang Anh Gia Lia (HAGL) Corporation’s CEO Mr Vo Truong Son and Melia Hotel International’s Vice Chairman Bernardo Cabot extended greetings.

The newly opened hotel is next to the Myanmar Plaza shopping centre.

The HAGL group has operated 370 hotels in 43 countries.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Suspended projects in Mon State ...

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Despite vehement public objection, the erstwhile government implemented a series of projects, such as the MCL concrete factory in Kyaikmaraw; the sucking up of sand from the Thanlwin River on the outskirts of Mawlamyine for export to Singapore; and the rock producing initiatives in Paung Township’s Oakthada village, without prior public consultation; only informing them upon project completion. As such, Dr Min Kyi Win, Minister of Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation for Mon State, has

expressed the current government have been left to pick up the pieces.

“Foreign investment has poured into Mon State. Projects to be implemented within Mon State during this new government administration need to be carried out with utmost transparency with the local residents concerned,” said the minister.

Domestic and foreign organizations have held talks with new Mon State government, but the government has, to date, reportedly not yet permitted the construction of any project activities.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Appointment of Ambassador agreed

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. SOK Chea as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. SOK Chea was born on 12th June 1976 in Prey Veng Province, Cambodia. He obtained a Bachelor’s degree of Education in English from Institute of Foreign Languages of Royal University of Phnom Penh of Cambodia, and a Master’s degree in Political Science from Ramkhamhaeng University of Thailand.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia in 1996 and has served in various capacities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia. From 2010-2013, he served as Consul-General at the Consulate-General of Cambodia in Shanghai, People’s Republic of China and currently, he is serving as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Mr. SOK Chea is married, and has three children.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Ngawun rivers ...

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“We’ve connected with local authorities to remind those residing beside the [Ngawan] river in Ngathaingchaung Township to temporarily move to higher ground as water levels could continue to augment,” said Daw San San Maw, director of disaster management of the MRCS.

Monasteries and schools within the villages have reportedly been prepared as temporary shelters to accommodate villagers in case of emergency.

“All the dwellings along the side of the river get completely submerged by water when the

river bursts its banks. In times prior, household belongings got completely sodden as villagers weren’t told of potential imminent flooding. These days however we can make the necessary preparations in advance as groups from the town come to warn us of the state of the river,” said U Min Lwin, a riverside resident of Ngathaingchaung Township.

The MRCS’s emergency rescue team, meanwhile, has reportedly made it known that water levels of the Ngawan River could continue to surpass the danger level for the township for a five day period.

Over 1,600 residents from more than 560 households within Sagaing Region’s Mawlaik Township have been forced to relocate to shelters catering for flood victims after the Chindwin River burst its banks, according to records of the Sagaing Region Police Department.

The waters of the Chindwin reportedly washed into 569 Mawlaik homes, forcing homeowners from all but three of those dwellings - a total of 1,627 villagers - to evacuate to nearby monasteries, community halls and schools.—*GNLM with Myitmakha News Agency*

Civil society to amend consumer protection laws

EFFORTS are currently being made to by civil society group, the Myanmar Consumer Protection Association (MCPA), to submit a document to the Hluttaw for amendments to the Consumer Protection and Prevention from Danger of Chemical and Associated Materials Laws, which were enacted during the erstwhile U Thein Sein government, the association has made known.

“We’ve drawn up amendments to weaknesses of the laws. We’ve heard, too, that the new government is making efforts to amend both of these laws. But, we’ve yet to see any requests from government for inputs to such amendments from civil society organizations. We’ll put to-

gether [amendments] in consultation with consumer and legal experts. This document will then be presented to Hluttaw via MPs and the relevant consumer committees,” explained U Ba Oak Khine, chair of the MCPA.

He continued by stating the document, while will advise amendments to the Consumer Protection Law, will be drawn up in an unbiased fashion, with inputs from both academic experts and workers employed within the consumer sector, before being submitted to the Hluttaw before the year is out, while meetings will be also held with Hluttaw MPs outside the confines of parliament.

The Prevention from Danger

of Chemical and Associated Materials Law was enacted during 2013, a precursor for the Consumer Protection Law which was passed through parliament the following year.

“The weakness of these laws must now be amended. That weak point manifests itself in the continual trading of prohibited consumer goods. Chemical dyes are also still being traded with ease. They’re still being used in the production of tofu and the ‘mote hpat’ variety of noodles. This undermines the law, and so it should be amended as a result,” said U Win Myint, chair of the Unity and Education Committee, which sits under the MCPA.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Lab technicians to receive capacity building training for malaria

With its National Malaria Programme, the Ministry of Health and Sports will soon conduct a capacity building training for laboratory technicians in township hospitals to improve their skills.

The ministry has received US\$1.8 million from the Asian Development Bank through University Remote Control (URC) to raise funds to perform quality improvement at national laboratories as well as to promote currently running malaria control projects.

The funds will be spent on the reduction of mortalities caused by malaria in 10 target townships with the highest mor-

talidity rate.

Currently, the ministry plays a vital role in implementing the national malaria programme that targets to eliminate malaria by 2020, Dr Than Win, deputy director of the Public Health Department.

Some hospitals need modern medical equipment including microscopes to produce exact laboratory test results, he added.

According to the ministry, the number of confirmed malaria cases of each State/ Region showed a downward trend but is still high in the western and northern parts, especially in Rakhine State and Sagaing Region,

which remain to top the list of the reported outbreaks of malaria.

Most malaria transmission occurs in forested foothill zones below an altitude of 1,000 meters.

High risk groups are residents near or in the forest, plantation workers and migrants.

According to the ministry's data, nine in 1,000 people were infected with malaria in 2007 but the number of reported cases declined to 5.13 in 2013 while 2.18 in 100,000 people died of malaria in 2007 but the mortality rate declined to 0.48 in 2013.—200

Population survey of the disabled to be conducted

A NATIONAL population survey of persons with disability will soon be conducted by Myanmar Council of Persons with Disabilities (MCPD), a local non-profit organization, its spokesperson said.

"We will make a research using the collected survey data to submit the results to the relevant ministries to implement all-inclusive education in the country that will benefit children with disabilities to have easy access to ed-

ucation," said Daw Aye Thinzar Maung of the MCPD said.

Some disabled children at government schools are facing difficulties in sitting examinations for lack of disabled facilities, she added. According to the 2014 nationwide census, the disabled population accounts for more than 2.3 millions (4.6%) of the country's total population of over 51 million with half of them being the blind.—200

At least 18 died of infectious diseases

At least 18 people including elderly person and children in Naga Self-administered Zone township of Lahe in Sagaing Region died of communicable diseases within one and a half month, according to the township health department.

Over 150 villagers from Htankhawlanma Village in Lahe Township are inflicted with viral diseases including diarrhoea, influ-

enza, cough and eye diseases commencing from 6 June. The deadly infection killed at least 18 of them including 13 children and five adults. Healthcare providers from the township health department and rural health centre have been providing medical treatment to all villagers diagnosed with infectious diseases since the third week of July.—Shar Hsat (Lahe IPRD)

Crime NEWS



The elephant carcass being seen in the creek. PHOTO: KO THEIN AYE (PHADO)

Wild elephant dies of gun wounds in Yenwe Creek

A MALE elephant was found dead on Friday in Yenwe Creek in Kyaukdaga Township in Bago Region, police reported yesterday.

Forest Ranger U Kyaw Kyaw Oo, villagers, security members of Yenwe Hydropower Plant and local police took the elephant carcass from the creek

with the use of motor boats after the forest officer received a report submitted by a security staffer of Yenwe Dam, who heard the roar of the wild elephant while he was on duty near the gate of the dam.

According to U Zaw Min Tun, deputy head of the region livestock breeding and veteri-

nary department, the wild mammal with 3-inch tusks died of gun wounds. The elephant is around eight feet.

Police are still investigating the case in their attempt to arrest those who killed the prohibited wild animals.—Ko Thein Aye (Phado)

Middle-aged man found dead under bridge in Singu Tsp

A MAN in his early 50s was found dead on Friday under the bridge over a drainage ditch located in front of the town hall in Singu Township in Mandalay Region.

Acting on a tip-off from a

member of public, police investigated the scene.

They discovered a man dead with no injuries in the water.

The police identified the man as Jack Mya Thaug, who resides

in Singu Township.

The body of the dead man has been taken to the township hospital for a post-mortem examination.

Police are still investigating the case.—Win Maung

Ten escaped from home fire in Haka

A HOME fire broke out in Haka, a town in Chin State, on Saturday early morning, destroying a 26x22 foot wooden house, leaving no people injured, police reported yesterday.

The blaze was caused by an overheated wire connected with a television set placed at the home of U Van Thio in Myothit Ward.

The flame was put out by around 20 firefighters, who controlled the blaze within 35 minutes.

Ten people from the house managed to escape the blaze. They are now being accommodated at their relatives' houses.

The house owner will face charges under Section 285 of the Penal Code.—District IPRD

Young man arrested for theft

A 24-year-old man was arrested on Wednesday for suspicion of stealing the property of a local hotel owner from a village in Tachilek in Shan State.

Police found a suspect called Naing Lin Tun on a road near Edin Village on that day. Police seized the suspect when he was unable to prove his ownership of Ks500,000 and 2,000 Thai bahts.

According to the investigators, Naing Lin Tun served as a security staffer at the Mithasu (family) Hotel owned by Nang

Nwan Hon. The suspect admitted he had stolen the cash and jewelries worth nearly Ks17 million from a safe placed in bedroom of the hotel owner on 26 July as he urgently needed the money for personal use.

He kept only cash with him, leaving the rest stolen items near the owner's residence.

Police collected all stolen materials as evidences. The suspect has been charged under Section 380 of the Penal Code.—Kyemon



Naing Lin Tun with the stolen property. PHOTO: KYEMON

LOCAL Business

IRD honours KBZ for top income tax payment for 2014-15 FY

THE Internal Revenue Department (IRD) honoured yesterday the Kanbawza Bank Ltd for becoming the top income tax payer of 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Kanbawza Bank, which is often branded as KBZ, was once again the top income tax payer this year with more than K22 billion in tax payment during the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

With the achievement this year, KBZ has achieved the top position for the largest income tax payer for four consecutive years.

IRD said in the certificate of honour presented to the Kanbawza Co Ltd that it appreciated

the achievement of the Kanbawza Bank Ltd for its contribution to the State with largest income tax payment and for its efforts for development of the economy of the country, wishing the Kanbawza Bank Ltd a big growth in its economy in the future and further contribution to the development of the country and the peoples, said the certificate of honour awarded by the IRD.

KBZ Bank paid more than K6 billion in tax during the 2011-12 fiscal year, more than K10 billion during the 2012-2013 FY and more than K17 billion during the 2013-2014 FY.

Meanwhile, KBZ paid the

State nearly 23 billion in prepaid tax for the 2015-2016 FY and K28 billion for the 2016-2017 FY and is currently paying more than K32 billion for the 2017-18 FY.

KBZ Bank Ltd is operating its services nationwide with more than 600 ATM machines and more than 17,000 employees, in accordance with the guidance of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

It has also spent more than K105 billion so far on its nationwide philanthropic work including education, health, regional development and disaster preparedness through its KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation.—*Thura Lwin (Eco)*

European companies not interested to establish auto manufacturing factories in Myanmar

EUROPEAN companies are not very much interested to establish auto car companies in Myanmar because cars manufactured from European countries are so expensive that only a small number of Myanmar can afford to buy, said an official from Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association.

The prices of those cars are exorbitantly high, and thus, majority cannot afford to buy them. As a result of this, European auto manufacturing companies

show near zero interest to set up the factory because they are bound to lose. It will take some time for them to make investment in this sector. When people have come to prosper later on, they might purchase those luxury cars, he added.

However, European companies have planned to open car showrooms in Myanmar to penetrate Myanmar's auto market. Only Japan companies will make investment in establishing the auto manufacturing companies starting from 2017. —200



Farmers plant paddy seedlings in the rain-fed field in Myawady.
PHOTO: TUN TUN Oo (MYAWADY)

Second phase project of Thilawa SEZ on 2,000 hectares to kick off at the end of monsoon

THE infrastructure building of second phase project on 2,000 hectares of land at Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will kick off at the end of monsoon, said U Win Aung, the chairman of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Limited.

First phase (Zone A) has been implemented on 400 hectares out of over 2,400 hectares of land of Thilawa SEZ. A total of 73 investors from 16 foreign countries have made investment of US\$760million in the Zone A, according to announcement released by Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Limited.

The production is expected to earn US\$241million per year. The amount of investment has increased since April of last year, and it is expected to reach US\$1-billion in a few years to come. The production value is expected to reach US\$340million.

The foreign direct investments are made in garment factories, construction related materials production like steel products factory and cement factory, food-stuff and beverages factories, canning factories fertilizer plants, agricultural products enterprises, motor vehicles and auto spare parts productions businesses, medicines and medicinal products enterprises. —200

Paddy price raises its head again at the end of July

The price of paddy has bounced back from two weeks of downward price at the end of July, allowing the farmers to do well.

The paddy price has dropped down from Ks450,000 to Ks400,000 per 100 baskets starting from second week of July. The decreased price was attributed to the excessive supply after harvest time of summer

crops and the low demand from China.

The cultivation costs around Ks300,000 per acre including the interest rate those farmers who do not have the capital. When there was no demand for paddy and the paddy price was on the decline, the farmers are being faced with financial difficulty to pay the cost of harvest-

ing without seeking any cultivation loan.

At the moment, paddy price has raised its head again, allowing the farmers to survive from this difficulty.

Farmers are so happy with the high price of summer crops when they are being faced with severe financial difficulty, said U Myo Lin, a farmer from Kan-

thit village of KhinOo Township. A total of 267,216 acres of land were put under cultivation of the summer crops in Shwebo district with the use of irrigation water from Thaphanseik dam. The supply of paddy was excessively high at the harvest time of these crops. And thus, the paddy price was so low that there is no buyer. —*YaungNi Tin Win*

The dark side of Duterte's deadly but popular drugs war

MANILA — When the image of Jennelyn Olaires weeping as she cradled the body of her slain husband went viral in the Philippines, President Rodrigo Duterte called it melodramatic.

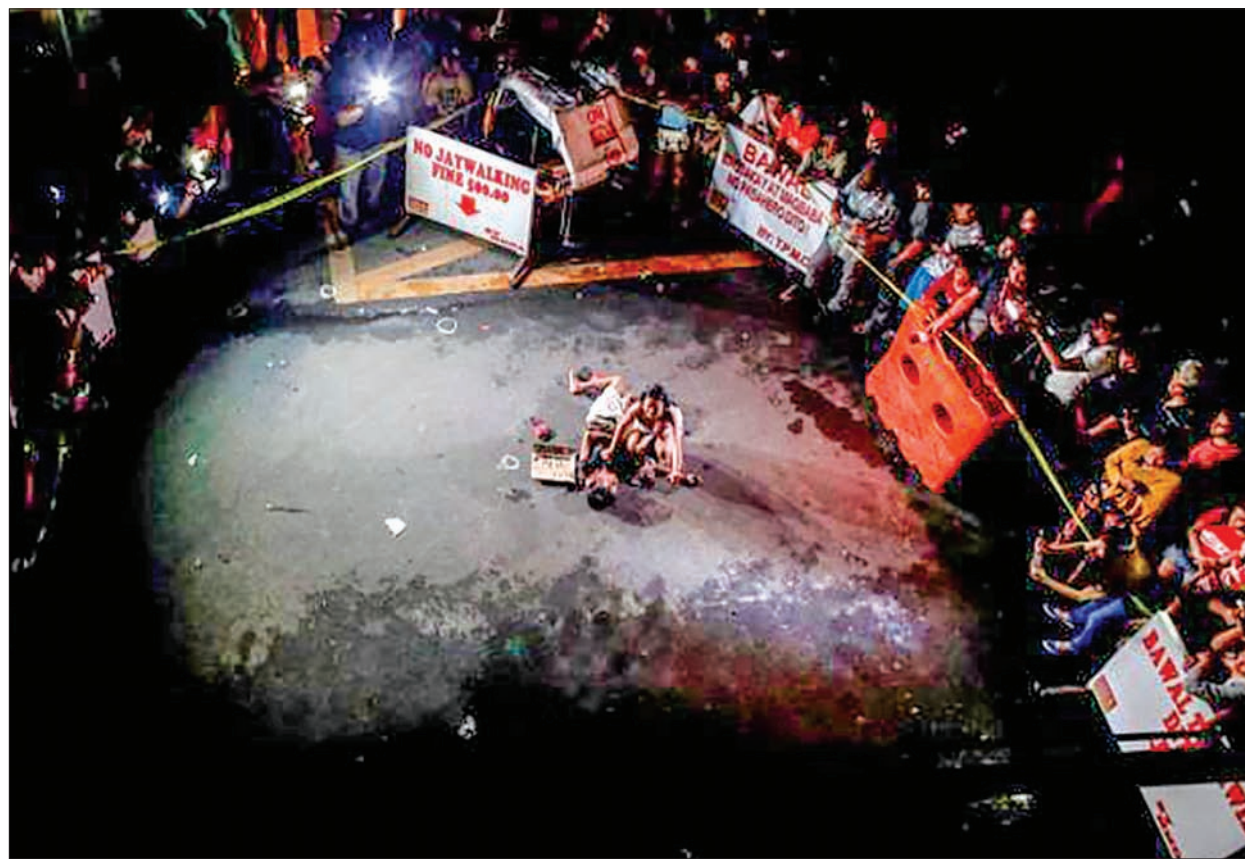
There's not much Duterte hasn't said when it comes to his war on drugs, his only real election platform and his big promise to the 16 million Filipinos who swept him to power in May by a massive margin.

And "the punisher", as he is known, has been true to his word.

Hundreds of suspected drug dealers have been killed since Duterte took office just one month ago. Six were assassinated in a single night in Manila, among them Michael Siaron, Olaires's 29-year-old husband who was shot dead by unknown assailants on motorcycles.

"A friend called out that Michael was shot. I ran out to see him," Olaires, 26, said in a rundown part of the capital's Pasay area, with its ubiquitous slums, squatters and thieves.

"Thoughts were running in my mind. It can't be you. You don't deserve this. There are others who



Jennelyn Olaires, 26, weeps over the body of her partner, who was killed on a street by a vigilante group, according to police, in a spate of drug related killings in Pasay city, Metro Manila, Philippines on 23 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

deserve this more than you," she said, recalling the moment she discovered his body.

"If I only have wings, I will quickly fly to his side."

Photographers surrounded her behind a police cordon as she held his

body. A piece of cardboard was left next to his corpse with the word "pusher" written on it.

Dozens of similar killings have taken place almost daily in the Philippines, but with drugs and crime so deep-rooted, there

is barely any public outrage.

Some 316 suspected drug dealers were killed from 1-27 July, 195 of which were vigilante killings, according to police. Human rights groups estimate the body count to be

at least double the official number.

Duterte has not condemned vigilante killings. He has previously promoted them.

The tough-talking former mayor of Davao City mentioned the im-

age of Olaires holding her husband in his state of the union address on Monday and said media had tried to portray it as being like the Michelangelo's Pieta, the sculpture of Mary holding the body of Jesus.

Olaires will bury her husband on Sunday. She concedes he was a drug user but says it is impossible he was a dealer because they were too poor and could barely pay for their next meal.

Siaron made money by riding a pedicab — a bicycle with a sidecar — and did odd jobs.

He even voted for Duterte in the 9 May election.

"They must kill the ones who don't deserve to live anymore, the ones who are a menace to society. Because they cause harm to others. But not the innocent people," she said.

"I don't need the public's sympathy. I don't need the president to notice us."

"I know that he doesn't like this kind of people. But for me, I just hope that they get the true offenders."

Asked if she had a message to tell Duterte, she said: "kill drugs, not people." —Reuters

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Former Singaporean President S.R. Nathan hospitalised following stroke

SINGAPORE — Singapore's former President S.R. Nathan suffered a stroke on Sunday, and remains in a critical condition in hospital, the country's prime minister's office announced.

"(Nathan) suffered a stroke early this morning. He is in critical condition in the Intensive Care Unit at the Singapore General," it said in a statement.

Sellapan Ramanathan Nathan, better known by his initials, was born on 3 July 1924. He was Singa-

pore's sixth president, serving from 1 September 1999 to 31 August 2011.

The post is an elected one with largely ceremonial powers which had been slightly expanded to make some key decisions.

Before becoming president, he worked as a senior official in the Foreign Ministry and as the director of the Security and Intelligence Division in the Defence Ministry.

He made international headlines with 1974's Laju ferry incident, during

which he and others from the government negotiated with four hijackers from the Japanese Red Army and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine for the safe release of the ship's crew, and accompanied the hijackers on a flight to Kuwait as a means of guaranteeing their safe passage after they had released their hostages.

After he stepped down as president, he was appointed to senior honorary positions at some local universities.—Kyodo News



Singapore's President Sellapan Rama Nathan. PHOTO: REUTERS

China issues warning ahead of Typhoon Nida

BEIJING — China issued a "yellow alert" for Typhoon Nida, predicting it would hit the southern province of Guangdong on Tuesday, state-owned Xinhua news agency reported.

The National Meteorological Centre (NMC) issued the third-most severe alert on a four-colour

scale, warning of strong winds and heavy rain along the coast affecting Guangdong, Fujian and Hainan provinces as well as the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Nida will be the fourth typhoon to hit China this year with natural disasters killing 800 people since

June, the worst casualties since a similar period in 2011.

The storm is currently off the coast of the Philippines, and weather reports indicate it will also hit the financial centre Hong Kong.

Nida is expected to pick up speed with winds

forecasted to reach 38-45 meters per second by the time it makes landfall, according to the NMC.

Earlier this month, Typhoon Nepartak drove at least 420,000 Chinese from their homes and caused more than 7.1 billion yuan (\$1.07 billion) in losses in Fujian province —Reuters

IN PICTURE



Malaysia holds Durian Festival for sales promotion

People choose durian fruits during the Durian Festival held in Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, on 30 July, 2016. The three-day long festival aims to promote sales of durian fruits. PHOTO: XINHUA

Sri Lanka's 'joint opposition' aims to defeat government

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's "Joint Opposition," who are staunch supporters of former President Mahinda Rajapakse, on Sunday said it would defeat President Maithripala Sirisena's government in the coming months and form a new regime under the former president.

Joint Opposition parliamentarian Udaya Gammanpila told Xinhua that a procession by the Joint Opposition which had begun from Kandy in Sri Lanka's Central District on 28 July had received "tremendous support" from the public and thousands had already joined the procession which will conclude in capital Colombo this week.

"We are overwhelmed by the support we have received from the public. Despite the many hindrances caused by the government to stop this procession, we are going to go ahead and make sure we gain a major-

ity in parliament soon," Gammanpila said.

The parliamentarian further said that certain members of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) who are part of the existing coalition government had also shown their support to the Joint Opposition and had informed their supporters to join the procession.

President Sirisena, in a statement on Saturday, said that any street protests would not shake his regime and the national government formed between the SLFP and the United National Party (UNP) would continue for the next five years, reversing an earlier decision of working together for two years.

Sirisena said that his government also dedicated itself to fulfilling the mandate given to the people and would continue with its economic and development plans.—Xinhua

Philippines may still impose ceasefire with Maoist-led rebels

MANILA — The Philippines may still re-impose a ceasefire with Maoist-led guerrillas, a senior administration official said on Sunday, a day after it was withdrawn by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte lifted the unilateral truce with the communist New People's Army on Saturday evening, six days after it was declared as a goodwill gesture ahead of formal peace negotiations in Oslo next month.

The move came after rebels did not respond to a deadline to reciprocate the government's truce.

"We may work out a negotiated truce with the Communists," Jesus Dureza, presidential peace adviser, told Reuters. "It was in our agenda when the formal peace talks resume in Oslo. The peace talks will go on as scheduled."

The peace talks, brokered by Norway, will resume on 20 August, four years after bogging down due to rebels' demand for the release of 500 political prisoners. The government has now promised to free them for health and humanitarian reasons.

Dureza said he welcomed a statement from rebel leader Jose Maria Siso, who was interviewed on local television

hours after Duterte withdrew the ceasefire, saying the communists had also intended to impose a truce but it was overtaken by events.

"This is what we have been waiting for," Dureza said in a statement. "The leadership of the CPP/NPA/NDF announced through the media its belated but still strategic and awaited decision to also declare its own unilateral ceasefire."

On Sunday, the central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines offered to declare a truce together with the government on 20 August.

"The time-frame can be determined through negotiations," the rebel statement said, adding the two sides can "discuss points for cooperation and coordination and determine ways of preventing armed skirmishes, misunderstandings and miscommunications during the course of the peace talks".

Duterte's decision on Saturday to call off the ceasefire came after reports that Maoist-led rebels had killed a militiaman and wounded four others in an ambush on Wednesday when they were returning to an army base in Davao del Norte to comply with the government's unilateral truce.—Reuters

Taiwan's former President Lee Teng-hui urges cooperation with Japan

ISHIGAKI (Japan) — Former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui on Sunday urged Taiwan and Japan to develop a new model for bilateral exchanges based on the cooperation between Taiwan and the island of Ishigaki in Japan's southernmost prefecture of Okinawa.

Describing Taiwan as Japan's "lifeline," Lee said Taiwan and Japan were linked by fate, and "should be closely working together."

The cooperation model between Ishigaki and Taiwan serves as a sound example of bilateral collaboration, he said.

Lee, who is in Ishigaki for a five-day visit, told an audience of around 500 people, who had come to hear him speak, that Taiwan and Japan have laid a sound foundation for cooperation over the last century, and he hopes the two sides can deepen their cooperation in a new era where new challenges abound.

Lee said Ishigaki and Taiwan developed a close relationship during the Japanese colonial period, from 1895 to 1945.

During the 1930s, a significant number of Taiwanese farmers emigrated to Ishigaki, bringing with them water buffalos and the knowledge of and skills for growing pineapples.

After World War II ended, the relationship between Taiwan and Ishigaki continued. Some Taiwanese immigrants decid-

ed to stay there and continued to work with other immigrants coming from Okinawa's main island. Together, they revived Ishigaki's pineapple industry in the 1950s.

The long history between Taiwan and Ishigaki sets a perfect example for bilateral interactions between Taiwan and Japan, Lee said. Over the years, cooperation between Taiwan and Japan has expanded from agriculture to technology and other areas. As the Japanese government has proposed an economy policy focusing on the Internet of things, or IOT, Lee said Taiwan, which also plans to develop the IOT industry, could

consider establishing an IOT alliance with Japan.

The term refers to the industry of connecting devices and services to each other to allow the sharing of information and data.

Lee, who arrived in Ishigaki on Saturday, will meet with Taiwanese expatriates on Monday and visit a farmers' association on Tuesday, before arriving back in Taiwan on Wednesday.

It is Lee's eighth visit to Japan after 12 years as president. As Taiwan's first directly elected president, Lee led the self-governed island from January 1988 to May 2000.—Kyodo News



Former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui (R front) and his wife Tseng Wen-hui (L front) visit a monument on 30 July, 2016, on the island of Ishigaki in Okinawa Prefecture that honours Taiwanese farmers who emigrated to the island before World War II. Lee, 93, began a five-day visit to Okinawa the same day, making his first overseas trip since suffering a minor stroke in late 2015. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Opinion

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Once and for all

Kyaw Thura

When it comes to politics, nobody's point of view is universal. On the whole, politicking is just an act of political parties pushing forward what they think is right. It is often claimed that there is no such thing as universal truth in politics, but common ends.

The same thing can be said of peace building. Peace talks are not meant to argue over eternal truth. In fact, the peace

process is seeking ways to strike a balance between reality and suitability. In this respect, compromise is widely viewed as an unavoidable part of consensus politics, which is critical for our country to move forward. Consensus, however, is unreachable in the absence of sincere negotiation. It should be noted that negotiation is supposed to be a process for dealing with the differences and finding some common ground rather

than solving the dispute by finding out the truth.

At a time when the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference is beginning to take shape, the good news is that none of the ethnic armed organisations in the recent Mai Ja Yang conference talked of the secession from the Union. All the stakeholders engaged in the peace process should learn the lessons from history. Despite some disagreements, all

the armed groups should balance each other to maintain the country in a state of political stability and national development.

It is not an easy task to find common ground in the political polarisation, but heart-to-heart talks will somehow break down barriers to the successful organisation of the ethnically inclusive peace conference and the restoration of lasting peace once and for all.

Laws and Orders need Stricter Enforcement

Khin Maung Myint

In a country where there is laxity in the enforcement of law and order, crimes would be rampant and there wouldn't be security or safety for the populace. Worse still is the situation where there is no rule of law. Such conditions could lead to public unrests and riots or even to armed conflicts, resulting in bloodsheds and would deprive peace and tranquility.

Laws and orders need proper and strict enforcements. Though every citizen is duty bound or has an obligation to obey the laws and orders according to the concept of civic duty, enforcements of the laws and orders are necessary in any country. Even with enforcements, crimes or un-disciplined activities are rampant everywhere in the world, and our country is no exception.

Recently, I have noticed an upsurge of crimes in our country, according to the news in the media. Cases of murders, rapes, armed robberies, looting, car accidents due to over-speedings, drunk-drivings and reckless drivings, human traffickings, etc, are being reported almost daily in the

media. In actual fact, the crime rates may not be increasing, but they seem to be increasing because of the transparency and freedom of press, they are being made more public today than before. Anyhow, such crimes should be strictly and effectively suppressed.

I believe that the police are more active and efficient nowadays. Their presence is more visible, now, than ever before: performing their duties with great proficiencies. A fact evident during this year's Martyrs Day celebrations, which should be lauded. In the past they had been sidelined and their roles were diminished. Now it is very heartening to see them shouldering, not only the law and order enforcements, but also taking more responsibilities of the public security, which are their main roles. They have regained their rightful status. As they are gaining more latitude in performing their duties, I expect them to be more diligent and stricter in enforcing the law and order.

Enforcements of law and order do not end with the police actions only. The judiciary, also, have to be more supportive towards that endeavour by passing

down more effective sentences, within the legal bounds, to the culprits who are found guilty. To be able to achieve that, the judicial proceedings should be more independent, that is: free of any outside influence. There should be nobody above the law. The general administrative officials also play important roles in maintaining law and order, thus should also get actively involved in the maintenance of law and order.

Here, the role of the people or the citizens should not be ignored. Their co-operations are indispensable. The citizens should fulfil their civic duties by abiding by the laws and orders, and also assisting the authorities by giving informations of criminal activities in their neighbourhoods, malpractices by unscrupulous persons, giving volunteer services, such as: standing security, fire and flood watches when the situations necessitate.

The role of the military in the enforcement of law and order is also of much importance. When civil unrests: rallies, demonstrations and riots get out of control, the military can be called in, to assist the civil authorities by giving "aid to civil power". Close coordinations and co-operations among all the aforementioned de-

partments or organizations and the citizens would greatly contribute to the rule of law in the country.

If there is no rule of law there would be civil unrests, which would lead a country into chaos, that could create hindrances to the development of that country; a situation which is absolutely undesirable and should be avoided at all cost. Thus, it is the duty of all the people to work, hand in hand, towards a peaceful and tranquil country where law and order prevail. Undesirable elements, who instigate civil unrest by falsely leading the public to turn against one another or against the authorities, by giving hate speeches, whereby promoting racism and religionism in the name of nationalism should not be tolerated. Drastic and exemplary actions should be taken against such persons.

Here, I would like to say a few words concerning the vocabularies--racism, religionism and nationalism. During the struggles for independence, every country promote nationalism to the highest degrees. It is a strategy to rally the whole nation to rise up against the colonialists. Many patriotic persons, irrespective of their race

or religion, rose to the occasion and joined the demonstrations or revolutions, in whichever direction the cause may take, to gain the coveted independence. However, many countries tone down the nationalistic spirits once they attained their goals. The reasons: in my opinion is, because too much nationalism could lead to racism and could farther lead to religionism. All these traits are not only undesirable, but they are also detrimental to the unity and solidarity among the diverse populations of a country.

We had witnessed the extreme racism of the Nazis that had caused great losses to the world, and the communism, which can be categorized as "anti-religionism" had also done its share of damage too. Thus, I would like to humbly request the neo-nationalists to stop instigating racism and religionism and plead to all the racists and religionists to abandon their stances that are undermining the unity and solidarity of the people. Let us strive in unity towards a developed and prosperous nation, where law and order, unity and peace prevail and create a haven where all the diverse races and religions or faiths could live together in harmony again.

First-ever political literature reading successfully concludes

The first-ever political literature reading plus a monsoon book fair, organised by the Ministry of Information, successfully concluded in the compound of the Central Printing Factory of the Printing and Publishing Department on Thein-byu road, Yangon, yesterday.

Six resource persons, all of whom are influential writers on politics, read their papers on the international political landscape of successive times, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Printing and Publishing Department's Director-General U

Aung Myo Myint and officials presented honoraria to the resource persons.

As the last day coincided with the holiday yesterday, the bookshops saw more visitors than the two previous days.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Books selling better on Sunday, the last day. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

BIDV celebrates grand opening of its branch in Myanmar

THE Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Viet Nam (BIDV) celebrated the grand opening of its branch (BIDV Yangon) in Yangon City, Myanmar. This is among the series of events that BIDV co-organizes including the “Four Countries—One Destination” conference on connecting tourism and expanding cooperation in banking sector among Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV).

H.E. U Henry Van Thio, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. Men Sam An, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Vu Duc Dam, Deputy Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, H.E. Sonexay Siphandone, Deputy Prime Minister of Laos People's Democratic Republic, H.E. U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Kim Anh, Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Viet Nam, H.E. Mr. CheaChan To, Gov-



The grand opening ceremony of BIDV Yangon Branch being formally opened by Vice President. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

ernor of the National Bank of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Somphao Phaysith, Governor of the Bank of the Lao PDR and ministry leaders, BIDV's important partners, organizations and customers from CLMV countries were

in attendance.

Addressing at the Grand Opening ceremony, the Chairman of AVIM/BIDV stressed: “The Grand Opening of BIDV Yangon Branch marks the participation and extension of BIDV

in Myanmar's finance and banking sector in line with BIDV's strategies of diversifying markets, promoting the development in important areas, and expanding the bank's operations in the CLM. —GNLM

Flooding renders Kalay farmland non-arable

TUMULTUOUS flooding which torn across whole swathes of western Myanmar last year has completely disseminated nearly 6,000 acres of farmland within Sagaing Region's Kalay Township, to the point where the farmland is no longer arable, according to the Department of Agriculture for Kalay Township.

“We've been providing soil rehabilitation and we issued a statement on data, collected until April this year, pertaining to the extent of damaged farmlands [within the region]. We've also assisted with soil restoration during the last three months of May, June and July,” said U Dha Han Htan, assistant officer of the aforementioned department.

The statement on the extent of damaged farmlands was issued by the department on 7 April earlier this year, while a final measurement is presently being taken. “Some 300 acres of farmland were damaged, being covered in silt. Sesame crops have been grown on some of these such farmlands, but the majority of farmland has been abandoned due to its poor condition,” said U Aung Win Thu, a farmer from Kalay Township's Htomar village. A total of 5802.86 acres were destroyed within Kalay Township by last year's flooding, of which 2941.25 acres were covered with a layer of silt left behind by the residing flood waters, according to the Department of Agriculture.—Myitmakha News Agency

Fish breeders seek access to dams and irrigation channels

THE Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) has announced that a proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation by a group of entrepreneurs, entreating permission to conduct fish farming activities within dams and irrigation channels across the country.

“We've submitted a propos-

al to the Minister [of Agriculture] for permission to conduct fish breeding activities within irrigation channels, dams and reservoirs - which the minister has accepted,” said U Win Kyaing, general secretary of the MFF.

The proposal was reportedly presented to the ministry this July following those involved in the fish farming industry being

slammed with heavy, K1 million per acre, fines for the digging of fish ponds upon land designated for farming activities.

“An agreed outcome of talks held between fishery entrepreneurs and the Ministry of Irrigation was that permission would be granted with a set of regulations which fish farmers must adhere too,” added U Win Kyaing.

“In terms of implementation, previously encountered difficulties must be overcome gradually.”

The permitting of fish breeding enterprises within irrigation channels and dams could reportedly help prop-up Myanmar's fish breeding sector, while the country is known to boast more than 300 irrigation channels.—Myitmakha News Agency

Taxpaying is People's duty

Yazar (Development Studies)

MYANMAR is one of the lowest levels of tax yield in the ASEAN region as well as a ballooning budget deficit.

Members of the parliament debated recently on the report of the parliamentary joint Public Accounts Committee on the tax collection target for the second six months of this fiscal year, urging the need for reforming taxes in order to foster the country's current social and economic reforms.

According to MP Daw Thet Thet Khine, our country's expenditures have exceeded tax collections annually.

During the debate, she suggested reformation of the taxation system in order to increase the effectiveness of tax collection while the country's total tax revenues have made up less than 5 per cent of the gross domestic product. It is found that total tax revenue as percentage of the GDP in Viet Nam

and Singapore is 14 per cent and in China, India and Thailand is 17 per cent respectively.

The lawmaker also urged the government to encourage the businesses and the citizens to take pride in paying their taxes.

In fact, taxation reform is critical for scaling up the country's economic and social reforms, thereby contributing towards job creation and boosting the government's performance in tax collection.

The discussion of the MP Daw Thet Thet Khine is important for Myanmar which is just walking on the path to democracy. In fact, tax collection is not intended to get money for the government's expenditure but to implement the following objectives of State.

They are: to establish a fair and balanced monetary system which helps correct currency regulation and prevent inflation, to keep domestic consumption, investment and saving on balance, to assist

for stability of prices of consumer products and to balance wealth in the country and to underpin the economic development.

The Internal Revenue Development is currently collecting income tax by the 1974 Income Tax Law, the commercial tax by the 1990 Commercial Tax Law, the Stamp tax by the 1899 Myanmar Stamp Act and the 1870 Court Fees Act, and the state lottery tax by the Directives Pertaining to State Lottery.

Tax receipts fell below the target in seven types of taxes which are among 19 types of taxes in Myanmar.

Highlighting the importance of income tax, commercial tax, custom duty and special commodity tax for the country, the secretary said there is a need to raise some types of taxes year after year while there will be a decrease in other tax rates.

This main theme of this opinion is how important of the income tax is for a country.

An income tax is a tax im-

posed on individuals or entities (taxpayers) that varies with the income or profits (taxable income) of the taxpayer.

The government needs to make the country's taxation system effective and every taxpayer should take pride in paying tax to the country, considering they are contributing to the economy of the country.

It is found that the country set its target of more than K1335 billion in tax for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and earned more than K1327 billion in tax collection. At a time when the country is building itself to become a modern one, every taxpayer should contribute their payment to the country until the revenue from the tax exceeds the target by many folds.

It is easy to criticize the government over low budget allocation on education, health etc. However, a few people know how the budget comes from. To lower budget allocations, they just put accusing finger on the natural resources.

Recently, the Internal Revenue Department honoured the top income taxpayers. Among them, it is encouraging to see the Kanbawza Bank Ltd who was again the top one this year, getting the

top income taxpayer for four consecutive years.

This year, it paid the State more than K22 billion and ranked top in the list of income taxpayers.

The Internal Revenue Department appreciated the KBZ Bank Ltd for its contribution to the country by paying largest amount of income tax for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. KBZ Bank paid more than K6 billion in tax during the 2011-12 fiscal year, more than K10 billion during the 2012-2013 FY and more than K17 billion during the 2013-2014 FY.

KBZ also paid the State nearly 23 billion in prepaid tax for the 2015-206 FY and K28 billion for the 2016-207 FY and is currently paying more than K32 billion for the 2017-18 FY.

At the ceremony, U Nyo Myint, Senior Executive Director, also expressed, on behalf of the company Ltd, his pride in paying the tax to the country, vowing to pay tax to the country dutifully every year.

It is the duties or responsibilities of a citizen to pay tax to the country. We all should take pride in paying taxes to the country in order to help the government to accomplish a series of objectives.



Prime Minister Theresa May.
PHOTO: REUTERS

UK PM May pledges new action to tackle 'barbaric evil' of modern slavery

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May set out a drive to tackle modern slavery in Britain on Sunday, pledging more funding and a new cross-government taskforce to help stamp out what she called a "barbaric evil".

She made the pledge as a review into the 2015 Modern Slavery Act, pioneered by May in her previous role as interior minister, showed that in 2015, 40 per cent more victims had been identified and 14 per cent more slavery offences had been prosecuted.

Nearly 46 million people are enslaved globally, according to the 2016 Global Slavery Index, which estimated there were 11,700 victims living in Britain.

"From nail bars and car washes to sheds and rundown caravans, people are enduring experiences that are simply horrifying in their inhumanity," May wrote in the *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper.

"This is the great human rights issue of our time, and as prime minister I am determined that we will make it a national and international mission to rid our world of this barbaric evil," May said.

The International Labour Organisation estimates that forced labour generates global profits of about \$150 billion per year, mainly from the Asia-Pacific region and developed economies, including the European Union.

May, who took office earlier this month, said 33.5 million pounds (\$44.32 million) of the overseas aid budget would be put into a five-year fund designed to tackle the issue in countries, like Nigeria, which are the source of proven human trafficking routes into Britain.

May also said she would set up a taskforce that would hold regular meetings "to coordinate and drive further progress in the

battle against this cruel exploitation".

The Modern Slavery Act, seen as a milestone in the international fight against slavery, requires businesses to disclose what action they have taken to ensure their supply chains are free of slave labour. It also introduced tougher criminal sanctions for perpetrators and more victim protection.

A year after it was introduced, a review found a 289 slavery offences had been prosecuted in 2015, up from 253 in 2014, while the number of referrals to the national support system for victims had risen to 3,266 from 2,340.

The review's author, barrister Caroline Haughey, welcomed the impact of the new laws, but said more needed to be done to make sure they were being applied consistently across the country.—*Reuters*

Vucic: Work, results most important for new government

BELGRADE — Work and results will be the most important as regards the composition of the future government, says Serbian Prime Minister designate Aleksandar Vucic.

"For me, politics is a matter of results, not love and hate. Whether I love someone or not is not important to me, but whether they are capable of doing something or not. That is because I am not the only one who loves results, everyone loves them. Even more importantly, everyone needs them," Vucic told the *Ekspres daily* in an



Serbian Prime Minister designate Aleksandar Vucic. PHOTO: TANJUG

interview. Vucic said the team that would make up the new government needed to help him to revive the "energy and the faith" of the voters in order to get Serbia going and change it irrevocably.

That is why forming that team is taking so long, Vucic said, adding that he did not want his future cabinet to include people unwilling to admit they did not know everything.—*Tanjug*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey says to include more gov't ministers in top military body

ANKARA — Turkey will add more ministers to its supreme military council, the government said in its official gazette on Sunday, adding that deputy prime ministers, and the heads of the justice, interior and foreign affairs ministries would become members.

The move is the latest in a series of steps taken by President Tayyip Erdogan to rein in the power of the armed forces following the failed 15-16 July coup, which saw a faction of the military attempt to topple the government.—*Reuters*

Mayor of Chinese provincial capital Hefei investigated for graft

HEFEI — Chinese authorities are investigating the mayor of provincial capital Hefei on suspicion of serious discipline violations, state-owned Xinhua reported on Sunday, using the euphemism generally applied to graft.

The report cited the provincial anti-graft agency and did not elaborate.

Zhang Qingjun has served as mayor of the capital of Anhui province since 2012.

Since taking office nearly four years ago, President Xi Jinping has launched a sweeping campaign to combat corruption that has taken down many top officials in the party, government, military and state-owned companies.—*Reuters*

Cambodian Prime Minister blames US for Middle East violence

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen on Sunday pinned the blame on the United States for bloody conflicts in Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries.

Addressing to a group of youth at the Peace Palace here, he said that under the excuse of promoting democracy and human rights, the US has inflamed conflicts in Middle Eastern countries that left hundreds or thousands of people dead every day and forced millions to flee their countries to Europe.

"This is the result of doing politics wrongly, and the wrongdoer is the United States," Hun Sen said.

He added that the US-led invasion in Iraq, which had led to Saddam Hussein's death, has dragged the oil-rich nation into chronic conflict.—*Xinhua*

Nine people found dead near Pemex pipelines in western Mexico

MEXICO CITY — The state prosecutor's office in Mexico's western state of Michoacan said on Saturday that nine people were found dead near Pemex pipelines in the municipality of Cuitzeo.

In a statement, the prosecutor's office said it was investigating whether the incident was related to fuel theft.

Local media reported that the bodies were burnt, and eight were found inside of a charred pick-up truck while a ninth was found close by.—*Reuters*

Vietnamese man arrested on suspicion of killing colleague in Nagoya

NAGOYA — A male Vietnamese national was arrested Sunday on suspicion of killing a work colleague near their apartment in Nagoya, central Japan.

Nguyen Van Duc is suspected of stabbing Duong Van Chien, his Vietnamese roommate, in the neck with a knife on the grounds of the apartment on Saturday night, according to local police.

The 21-year-old suspect has admitted to the allegations, the police said.

A man who drove the two home after having dinner together with other people Saturday night called the police around 10:30 pm after finding the 30-year-old Vietnamese bleeding from his neck.

He died from loss of blood four hours after arriving at a hospital.—*Kyodo News*

Turkey expels nearly 1,400 personnel from armed forces

ISTANBUL/DIYARBAKIR — The Turkish government dismissed nearly 1,400 military personnel for suspected links to a cleric it blames for an attempted coup, state media said on Sunday, hours after President Tayyip Erdogan announced sweeping changes to the armed forces.

The expulsions are the latest attempt by Erdogan to bring Turkey's military — long seen as the guardians of the secular republic — firmly under government control. On Saturday he said he planned to shut down existing military academies and put the armed forces under the command of the Defence Ministry.

State-run Anadolu Agency said on Sunday that 1,389 military personnel had been dismissed for suspected links to the US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, who is accused by Turkey of orchestrat-

ing the 15-16 July failed putsch. Gulen, who lives in self-imposed exile in the United States, has denied the charges and condemned the coup.

Earlier this week, more than 1,700 military personnel were dishonorably discharged for their role in the putsch, which saw a faction of the armed forces commandeer tanks, helicopters and warplanes in an attempt to topple the government. Erdogan has said 237 people were killed and more than 2,100 wounded.

Erdogan, who narrowly escaped capture and possible death on the night of the coup, told Reuters in an interview last week that the military, NATO's second-biggest, needed "fresh blood". The dishonorable discharges included about 40 per cent of Turkey's admirals and generals.

So far, more than 60,000 peo-



Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan addresses the audience as he visits the Turkish police special forces base damaged by fighting during a coup attempt in Ankara, Turkey, on 29 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ple in the military, judiciary, civil service and schools have been either detained, removed or suspended over suspected links with Gulen. Turkey's Western allies condemned the attempted coup, but have been rattled by the scale

of the resulting crackdown.

The aggressive cuts to the military come when it is stretched by heavy fighting with Kurdish insurgents in the mainly Kurdish southeast and threats from Islamic State militants at its border with

Syria.

Turkey's military is a member of the US-led coalition against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. Its Incirlik Air Base is used by coalition forces for missions against Islamic State.—Reuters

US-backed forces now control 40 per cent of IS-held city of Manbij

BEIRUT — US-backed forces now control 40 per cent of the Islamic State-held Syrian city of Manbij after advances in the last day that secured them key areas inside the city near the Turkish border, a monitor said on Sunday.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the Syria Democratic Forces (SDF), with the support of air strikes, had seized much of the eastern part of the besieged city after slower advances in recent weeks mainly in the western sector.

The monitor said the fighters were able to capture a clinic, school and a roundabout in the heart of eastern Manbij after heavy fighting. There were no confirmed

reports of casualties. At least 2,300 trapped civilians were also able to leave the city but thousands of residents are still inside, slowing the advances by the US-backed forces.

Activists and residents say dozens of civilians have been killed this month in air strikes in the city and to the north, and rights watchdog Amnesty International said the US-led coalition must do more to prevent civilian deaths.

The US-backed alliance includes a Kurdish militia and Arab allies that joined it last year. It launched the campaign nearly two months ago with the backing of US special forces to drive Islamic State from its last stretch of the Syrian-Turkish frontier.—Reuters

Militants launch car bomb, gun attack on Somali police base, seven dead

MOGADISHU — Attackers set off two car bombs outside a police base in Somalia's capital before gunmen stormed inside on Sunday, leaving at least seven people dead, police said.

Islamist group al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the assault on the headquarters of Somalia's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Mogadishu, saying fighting was ongoing.

It was the second major operation in the city this week by the Islamist militants who have kept up their guerilla war on the Western-backed government in the face of US drone strikes and African peacekeeping forces.

Heavy gunfire rang out inside for about half an hour after the first blast, said witnesses.

The bodies of four civilians lay in the street near the compound which was partially destroyed. A kiosk near the wall caught fire.

"We have confirmed seven dead including civilians and two militants," Ali Mohamed, a police officer, told Reuters.

Al Shabaab's military operations spokesman, Abdiyas Abu Musab, said one of its suicide bombers had started Sunday's attack by ramming a car bomb into the building's gate.

In al Shabaab's first attack

this week, 13 people were killed when two car bombs went off at the gate of the African Union's main peacekeeper's base on Tuesday.

Security analysts had warned that the group could step up its attacks, taking advantage of the distraction caused by campaigning for a presidential election due in August.

Al Shabaab, seeking to impose its harsh form of Islam on the Horn of Africa nation, has also launched attacks in Kenya and Uganda, which have contributed troops to the African Union peacekeeping force.—Reuters

Militants attack two energy plants in north Iraq, kill at least four



Smoke rises after an attack at Bai Hassan oil station, northwest of Kirkuk, Iraq, on 31 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

KIRKUK, (Iraq) — Militants stormed two energy facilities in northern Iraq on Sunday, shooting at least four workers and detonating explosives that sent flames into the sky, security sources said.

The first attack, on the AB2 gas compressor station, about 15 km (10 miles) northwest of Kirkuk, started around 0300 (0000 GMT) when four gunmen with hand grenades broke through the external door, leaving two guards in critical condition.

They then shot dead four employees in a control room inside and planted explosives charges, around five of which went off, the sources said.

Forces from the elite counter-terrorism service stormed the facility, regained control and freed 15 other employees who had hidden in a separate room.

The attackers could not be found and may have escaped to launch a second attack on the Bai Hassan oil station, 25 km further northwest, the sources said.

The militants there used the same approach to enter the facility before blowing up an oil storage tank inside, the sources said. They were still clashing with security forces there, and casualty figures were not immediately clear.

There have been no claims of responsibility for either attack, but

Islamic State has previously targeted oil facilities in the area with explosives, targeting oil wells at Khabbaz oilfield southwest of Kirkuk.

Islamic State militants, who seized a third of the OPEC producer's territory in 2014, have since been pushed back in many areas by an array of Iraqi forces backed by US-led coalition air strikes.

Kurdish peshmerga forces, which have pushed back Islamic State in northern Iraq and thus expanded the territory of their autonomous region, have controlled Kirkuk and surrounding areas for two years.—Reuters

611th anniv of ancient Chinese navigator's visit marked in Indonesia



Local people perform dragon dance during a memorial ceremony to commemorate the 611th anniversary of ancient Chinese navigator Zheng He's visit in Semarang, capital city of Central Java Province, Indonesia, on 31 July 2016. Zheng He commanded expeditionary voyages to South-east Asia, South Asia, Western Asia, and East Africa from 1405 to 1433. Semarang is one of several ports in Java visited by him in his seven expeditions to the Western Ocean. PHOTO: XINHUA

Gunfire in Austin, Texas, leaves one woman dead, 3 hospitalised

AUSTIN, (Texas) — One woman was killed and three people were hospitalised with bullet wounds in overnight shooting incidents in the Texas capital of Austin, emergency officials said on social media early on Sunday.

Austin police said in a message on Twitter there had been "separate shootings within the same area" of the city's downtown, adding: "Both scenes are

secure at this time."

The Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services agency said on Twitter that one woman had been killed and two other women and one man taken to hospital with gunshot wounds.

A fourth person was also hurt but declined medical treatment, according to the social media post from the agency.

An Austin police represent-

ative declined in an email to immediately provide further details.

The shootings follow several major acts of gun violence in the United States over the past several weeks.

On 12 June, a gunman who sympathized with Islamist extremist groups killed 49 people at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, in the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.

On 7 July, a US military veteran shot and killed five police officers in Dallas in the deadliest day for US law enforcement since the 11 September, 2001, attacks.

Just over a week later another gunman killed three officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Both attackers were killed by police.

Austin has a population of more than 900,000.—Reuters

Uncle Sam's hidden agenda behind THAAD deployment

BEIJING — With the installation of an anti-missile missile system that can hardly cover Seoul but is able to spy on China and Russia's Far East, the United States aims to defend nobody in East Asia, but its insatiable appetite for hegemony and military advantage.

The hidden agenda of Uncle Sam in deploying the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD) on the southeastern part of the Korean Peninsula is perfectly based on its excuse of a so-called "missile threat" from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which is deemed as "rogue state" and "axis of evil" by Washington.

Defending allies from bullying by missiles of a "rogue state" naturally strengthens Washington's moral high ground. Nevertheless, the reality is far less noble than what Uncle Sam portrays.

The fact that THAAD shields all US barracks on the peninsula while leaving Seoul and its surrounding cities housing almost half of the country's population unprotected completely unmasks Uncle Sam's hidden agenda.

For starters, deploying THAAD in South Korea is a crucial step to heal the Achilles heel of Washington's anti-missile missile system in the Asia Pacific, which has long been nagged by its inadequate recognition ability.

With the help of THAAD's X band radar commanding surveillance of an area that extends over 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometres) from the peninsula, i.e. almost half of China's territory and the southern part of Russia's Far East, the United States can effectively and immediately raise the recognition accuracy.—Xinhua

UK and China regulators discuss framework for financial projects

HONG KONG — British and Chinese securities watchdogs are discussing an agreement that will pave the way for landmark financial services projects between the countries, sources said, easing fears that Britain could be a less attractive partner for such deals after last month's vote to leave the European Union.

Britain's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) are cooperating on a regulatory framework for a scheme for distributing fund products in each other's jurisdiction and a proposed Lon-

don-Shanghai link for trading shares, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Britain, home to the EU's biggest finance sector, has been pushing in recent years to deepen its financial services ties with China, which has agreed to these and other cross-border financial services schemes as part of the UK-China Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) programme.

The UK's former Chancellor George Osborne and Chinese vice premier Ma Kai said at last September's EFD meeting in Beijing that they would explore

the creation of a London-Shanghai equity link and mutual funds recognition scheme, but neither government has provided further details.

There are, however, other complications in the economic links between the two countries since the EU vote ended the premiership of Britain's David Cameron, who along with Osborne had been keen to develop cooperation with Beijing.

New Prime Minister Theresa May stepped in on Friday to delay a planned Chinese investment in a new British nuclear plant to review security concerns, a for-

mer colleague and a source said on Saturday.

Vince Cable, who was business secretary from 2010 to 2015, also told BBC Radio that during Cameron's tenure May had made "quite clear she was unhappy about the rather gung-ho approach to Chinese investment".

Even so, the formal cooperation between the FCA and CSRC signals that the financial projects at least are going ahead, with one source saying the discussions had remained "very positive".

Some market watchers had raised concerns that leaving the EU, which puts in doubt the UK's

future access to the trading bloc and its "passports" to provide financial services there, could scupper such projects by limiting their potential scope and appeal.

"So far none of the cross-border exchange initiatives has been derailed by the risk of Britain leaving the European economic area and the associated passporting rights," said Frederic Ponzo, managing partner at financial services consultancy GreySpark Partners in London.

"What is clear is that the CSRC and the FCA will not stop cooperating after the vote to leave the EU," he added.—Reuters

Many Houthis, seven Saudi troops killed near Yemen border

CAIRO — Seven Saudi troops and dozens of Houthi fighters were killed in heavy fighting on the border with Yemen, Saudi state news agency SPA reported on Sunday, as the main combatants in Yemen's war prepared for a further week of peace talks in Kuwait.

The UN-sponsored negotiations had been on the verge of collapse after a new row erupted last week between the Saudi-backed government and its Iranian-allied Houthi foes and renewed fighting broke out.

But UN Yemen envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said the talks between the Houthis and their General

People's Congress party allies and the internationally-recognised government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi had been extended by a week.

"We hope that the delegations can utilize this remaining week to achieve progress on the path towards peace," he said in a statement.

The slow-moving negotiations are aimed at ending a 16-month-old conflict that has killed more than 6,400 people, nearly half of them civilians, and displaced more than 2.5 million.

A truce that began in April has slowed the momen-

tum of fighting, in which a Saudi-led coalition has been trying to restore Hadi to power and roll back Houthi gains, but violence continues almost daily.

The coalition said Houthi fighters, backed by troops loyal to former president and GPC chief Ali Abdullah Saleh, tried to breach the Saudi border at the Rabou'a area on Saturday, igniting heavy fighting.

It said in a statement that dozens of Houthi fighters were killed near the border strip and their military vehicles destroyed by coalition aircraft that repelled their assault.

One Saudi officer and

six soldiers died in the fighting, the statement, carried by Saudi state news agency SPA said.

Peace prospects dimmed on Thursday when the Houthis and GPC said they had set up a body to unilaterally run Yemen. The move was criticised by Cheikh Ahmed as a breach of UN Security Council Resolution 2216, which urges the Houthis to refrain from unilateral acts that could erode Yemen's political transition.

In apparent protest at the Houthi-GPC move, Hadi's delegates to the talks said they planned to pull out of the negotiations.

But Cheikh Ahmed proposed to both sides on Saturday that the Houthis quit the capital Sanaa and Hodeidah and Taiz cities, and talks subsequently be convened on forming a new government that would include the Houthis, delegates at the Kuwait talks said.

While Hadi accepted the proposal, the Houthis dismissed the proposal as a non-starter but said they would stay in Kuwait for the talks. "We have asserted to Ould Cheikh (Ahmed) that the solution must be comprehensive and that no subject is delayed," the Houthi delegation said in a statement.—Reuters

Chinese police seize nearly 400 baby Siamese crocodiles

BEIJING — Border police seized 399 baby Siamese crocodiles, a protected endangered species, in southern China, state-owned Xinhua news agency reported on Sunday.

The roughly 25-cm long crocodiles were about 15 days old and were likely trafficked from Viet Nam, the report said. Police in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region said they saw three nervous-looking men moving goods in front of the house where the crocodiles were found and approached them for questioning. One man was caught, while the two others escaped.

Siamese crocodile skin is used to produce handbags and other luxury leather goods, but the reptiles can only be raised in China with a licence and trafficking in them is illegal, according to Xinhua.

China is a major destination market for many products made using exotic, and often endangered, species. The government has held high-profile events to destroy large caches of illicit animal products in attempt to discourage trafficking in them.—Reuters

India says to bring back workers facing 'food crisis' in Saudi

NEW DELHI/DUBAI — India said on Sunday it will send a government minister to Saudi Arabia to try to bring back more than 10,000 Indian workers who are facing a "food crisis" because they are unable to afford meals after being laid off from their jobs.

Low oil prices have forced the Saudi government to slash spending since last year, putting heavy pressure on the finances of local construction firms which rely on state contracts.

As a result, some companies have been struggling

to pay foreign workers and have laid off tens of thousands, leaving many with no money for food let alone for tickets home.

India's Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj on Saturday said over 10,000 Indians in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were facing a "food crisis" because of economic hardships, while appealing to an estimated 3 millions Indians living in Saudi Arabia for help.

"Large number of Indians have lost their jobs in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The employers have not

paid wages, closed down their factories," she tweeted on Saturday.

One of the country's two junior foreign ministers, V.K. Singh, will travel to Saudi Arabia next week.

Swaraj said on Saturday that India's other junior foreign minister, M.J. Akbar, would take up the issue with the authorities in the two Middle Eastern countries, saying the government was monitoring the situation on an hourly basis.

"While situation in Kuwait is manageable, matters are much worse in Saudi

Arabia," she said in a tweet.

Separately, the Consulate General of India in Jeddah said on its official Twitter feed on Saturday that it had distributed 15,475 kg of food over the past three days in association with the Indian community.

It posted pictures of Indian people queuing up to collect the food packets.

The hardships faced by Indian migrants come amid rising protests about working conditions in Saudi Arabia.

Hundreds of foreign workers at construction firm

Saudi Oger staged a public protest in Jeddah at the weekend to demand seven months of unpaid wages, Saudi Arabia's Arab News reported. They were dispersed by police after disrupting traffic.

Saudi Oger did not respond to a telephone call and an email seeking comment.

The Saudi government says it investigates any complaints of companies not paying wages and if necessary, obliges them to do so with fines and other penalties.—Reuters

Philippine gov't ready to extend help to areas affected by storm

MANILA — The Philippine government assured assistance to residents in areas being hit by tropical storm Nida, locally named Carina, which made landfall in northern province of Cagayan Sunday afternoon.

Nida, which made a landfall over Cagayan province at 1:20 pm local time, is packing maximum sustained winds of up to 95 kilometres per hour near the center and gusts of up to 120 kph.

Presidential Communications Office Secretary Martin Andanar, in an interview over a state-run radio station, said that some 30,000 food packs are prepositioned in Region 1 or Ilocos Region, and 1,900 in Region 8 or Eastern Visayas.

He cautioned residents in low-lying areas especially those on the eastern and northern seaboard of the country as tropical storm Nida intensifies.

He urged fisherfolk to

delay going to sea as precaution.

The weather disturbance is bringing moderate to heavy rainfall that poses danger and the threats of flooding and storm surge, the official added.

Some areas in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela lost their power supply due to the weather disturbance, he said, quoting the energy department. The tropical storm is expected to be outside the Philippines by Tuesday morning.—Xinhua

5 die in building collapse near Mumbai

NEW DELHI — At least five people have been killed and 10 others injured after a two-storeyed building collapsed near Mumbai Sunday, a senior police official said. The death toll may go up as some 15 others are feared trapped under the debris of the building that collapsed

at Bhiwandi in Thane near Mumbai around 5am local time, he said.

"Eight families were residing in the building. While five bodies have been pulled out of the debris by rescuers, 10 people were brought out alive," the official said, on condition of anonymity.

The 10 injured people have been rushed to a nearby hospital where the condition of a few are said to be serious, he said.

Local TV channels showed footage of rescue operations being carried out by the fire brigade and the disaster management officials.—Xinhua

ကွန်ပျူတာ စနစ်ဖြင့်ထိန်းသော
MECHANICAL CAR PARKING

Side View: 14'4" height, 18' width, 7'2" depth.
Front View: 7'2" width, 7'2" depth.
Plan View: 21'6" width, 18' depth, 7'2" spacing between cars.
Front View (plan): 21'6" width, 14'4" height, 7'2" spacing between cars.

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: 09.259.81.37.37
: 09.259.81.46.46

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J.K. Rowling bids farewell to Harry Potter at 'Cursed Child' gala

LONDON — A new “Harry Potter” play that opened to swooning reviews and delighted gasps from the audience marks the end of the journey for the beloved boy wizard, his creator J.K. Rowling said at the play’s premiere in London on Saturday. Billed as the eighth installment in the series, the play “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child” and a book based on its script have helped awaken a new wave of Pottermania five years since the previous episode was made into a movie.

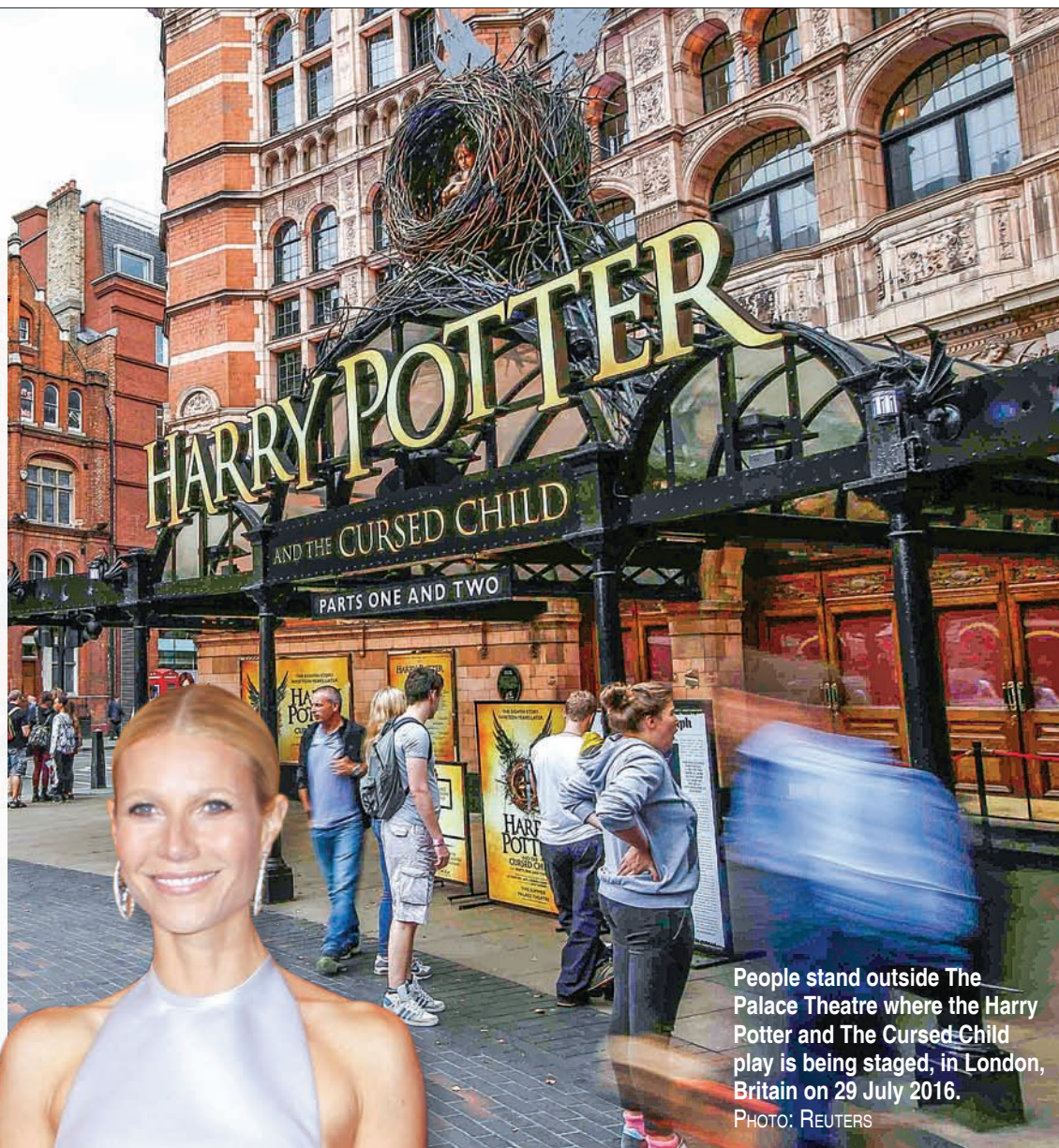
Throng of fans crowded bookstores for the midnight release of the book, hours after the play in London’s West End theatre district dazzled theatre-goers with swishing capes, billowy wraiths floating overhead and illusionist tricks of actors appearing to vanish into thin air.

Asked if the book and play heralded a new phase of stories,

Rowling told Reuters: “No, no.”

“He goes on a very big journey during these two plays and then, yeah, I think we’re done. This is the next generation, you know,” said Rowling, who later appeared on stage during a standing ovation at the end of the show. “So, I’m thrilled to see it realised so beautifully but, no, Harry is done now.” Based on a story by Rowling, playwright Jack Thorne and director John Tiffany, “Cursed Child” picks up the story 19 years later, featuring Potter as a 37-year-old overworked employee of the Ministry of Magic and father of three. The play, a marathon affair running over five hours and split into two parts, is sold out through May 2017. Enthusiasts from around the world queued outside the ornate Palace Theatre for a glimpse of Rowling and the cast of the production.

—Reuters



People stand outside The Palace Theatre where the Harry Potter and The Cursed Child play is being staged, in London, Britain on 29 July 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

‘Game of Thrones’ to end with season 8

LOS ANGELES — Winter is finally set to bid goodbye to “Game of Thrones” as HBO has confirmed the popular fantasy series will go off air after its eighth season.

New HBO programming president Casey Bloys told the press yesterday at the Television Critics Association’s summer press tour that the plan is for the yet-to-be announced eighth season of the adaptation of George RR Martin’s novel to be its last, according to The Hollywood Reporter. “Yes, I think [the show-runners, DB Weiss and David Benioff] have a very specific plan about the number of seasons they

want to do,” Bloys said.

“If I could get them to do more, I would take 10 seasons but we want to take their lead with what they could do and what the best version of the show is.”

Though the episode count, and a potential spin-off, remain big questions. Meanwhile, the upcoming seventh season will premiere in summer 2017. The seven-episode drama will be based in Northern Ireland with portions filming in Spain and Iceland.—PTI

Apple Music, Tidal rivalry ruining music, feels Kanye West

LOS ANGELES — Rapper Kanye West believes the competition between Apple Music and Tidal is ruining the “music game”.

The 39-year-old “Famous” rapper has asked Apple Music to buy Jay Z’s streaming service Tidal.

“This Tidal Apple beef is (ruining) the music game ... I

need Tim Cook Jay Z Dez Jimmy Larry me and Drake Scooter on the phone or in a room this week!!!!... “To hell with all this swinging contest. We all are going be dead in 100 Years. Let the kids have the music. Apple give Jay his check for Tidal. (sic),” he tweeted.—PTI

Gwyneth Paltrow.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Gwyneth Paltrow to get married this year?

LONDON — Actress Gwyneth Paltrow will reportedly get married later this year.

The 43-year-old “Iron Man 3” star is planning to tie the knot with producer Brad Falchuk and has even enlisted the services of a wedding planner, reported Femalefirst.

“Gwyneth and Brad are talking seriously about marriage and are in the process of picking a day at the end of autumn and they want something low key, most likely in the desert where they often go for weekend breaks,” a source said.

The actress’ divorce from Coldplay frontman Chris Martin — the father of her children Apple, 12, and 10-year-old Moses, was finalized earlier this month.

“Gwyn and Brad are crazy about each other. There was chemistry from day one and she likes to think they are ‘twin flames,’ which is an even stronger romantic connection than soulmates. “She’s also very keen to try for a baby with Brad. She’s always talked about having a third child in her forties, even when she was with Chris, but the thought of doing this with Brad feels right. But first things first - a wedding,” the source added.—PTI

‘Psycho Raman’ wins best Asian genre film award at BiFan

MUMBAI — Anurag Kashyap’s serial killing drama “Psycho Raman” won the best Asian genre film award at Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival, Korea.

Deepak Sampat won the best actor award for Rohit Mittal’s “Auto Head” at the festival.

Kashyap, 43, took to Twitter to share the news with his fans.

“Psycho Raman wins Best Asian genre film @BiFan(Korea) and Rohit Mittal’s ‘Auto Head’ wins best Actor for ‘Deepak Sampat’,” he tweeted. The film, starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Vicky Kaushal, is inspired by real life serial killer Raman Raghav, who operated in Mumbai in mid-1960s and released in Hindi as “Raman Raghav 2.0”.—PTI

US sailor lends hand to clean Rio's bay before Games

RIO DE JANEIRO — Bobbing on Rio de Janeiro's Guanabara Bay in a blue and white fishing boat, American sailor Brad Funk uses a plastic bin to scoop rubbish from the waters where Olympic sailing races will take place next month.

Funk missed out on his dream of competing in Rio 2016 in the two-man 49er sailing class, but travelled to Brazil anyway with the aim of clearing the path for those who did, including his girlfriend British windsurfer Bryony Shaw.

A native of Clearwater, Florida, Funk is leading his own clean-up effort to help remove rubbish from the Bay which is clogged by sewage from some 15 municipalities, home to some 9 million people.

"I decided that if I am not going to compete, I want the sailors to not have problems when they sail," he told Reuters. "I love Rio, and it is very important to me that the Olympic Games is a success and the trash does not get stuck on the sailboats, taking medals away from them."

In recent months, concern flared over pollution levels in the bay and nearby sea, where sail-



American sailor Brad Funk collects garbage during a small clean-up effort to remove rubbish from the notoriously dirty Guanabara Bay, ahead of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 29 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing, windsurfing and long-distance swimming events are being held.

Two academic studies seen by Reuters in June showed the waters were infected by drug-resistant super bacteria and microbes normally found only in hospitals.

The State Environmental Agency (Inea), which is conducting daily monitoring of water quality with the help of the World Health Organisation (WHO), insists the water quality is fine, helped by the rapid movement of

water through the mouth of the bay where events will be held.

More worrying for many competitors, however, is the floating debris which could crash against boats and slow them down in the competition.

Inea has deployed 12 green eco-boats — each with a wire metal scoop on the front that lifts rubbish out of the water and into its hull. It has also placed 17 red floating eco-barriers across the mouth of rivers and canals feeding the bay, which collect debris floating on the water's surface.

Just the eco-barrier in the Canal do Cunha had collected 208 tonnes of rubbish in the last month, Inea said.

Brazilian sailors said recently that the work of eco-boats picking up rubbish along competition routes had improved the situation considerably, but that more needed to be done.

Inea has appealed to Rio's citizens to stop throwing waste into canals and into the bay.

On the airplane over to Rio, Funk met Camila Avelar who decided to volunteer to help his effort, hoping to inspire a chain reaction.

"A lot of people say that the two of us trying to clear the rubbish from the sea will not make any difference," Avelar said. "But I don't think that is the point, it is the attitude and encouraging other people to do the same thing." —Reuters

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(1-8-2016, Monday)

6:00 am

• Paritta by Venerable MinGun Sayadaw

7:35 am

• People's Talk

8:35 am

• Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

9:35 am

• Documentary

10:35 am

• The Farmer

11:15 am

• Documentary (ASEAN)

11:35 am

• MRTV's Youth Programme

12:35 pm

• TV Drama Series

1:45 pm

• Teleplay

2:40 pm

• Mono Classical Songs

3:35 pm

• Tasty Trip

4:10 pm

• University of Distance Education (TV Lecture) — Fourth Year (Myanmar)

4:35 pm

• Socio Economic Scenes

5:15 pm

• Documentary

5:35 pm

• Yes or No Talk Show (Season-2) "Personal Development (Part-2)

6:35 pm

• Documentary (Law)

7:15 pm

• TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

• News / International News/ Weather Report

9:00 pm

• News

• MCN Debate

• TV Drama Series

• Nay Ma Win Ah Hla Myar (Mar Mar Aye) (Part-2)

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

Teaching community through capoeira in a hardscrabble Rio slum

RIO DE JANEIRO — Manoel Pereira Costa is a star on this sprawling mountainside in Rio de Janeiro.

No matter the nook or cranny, neighbours are eager to greet him anywhere he goes in maze-like Rocinha, one of the biggest and best-known slums, or favelas, that dot the city landscape. As Rio gears up to host the first-ever Olympics in South America, bringing all manner of sport to a country best known for soccer, Costa is revered for helping local youth in the troubled neighbourhood through capoeira, a Brazilian martial art.

Over the past three decades, he has run neighbourhood workshops that give kids a chance to immerse themselves in a tradition with roots in the dance, fighting and percussion practices of Afri-

cans brought to Brazil as slaves.

In a favela with a history of violence between police and drug gangs, or armed battles between traffickers themselves, capoeira is an outlet that gives kids a sense of community — its practice a collective exercise blending characteristics of drum circles, sparring and tag-team gymnastics.

"There is a very negative image of this neighbourhood," says 56-year-old Costa. "We more than anything want to teach about community, about citizenry, so that kids understand that they are part of something," Costa, or "Master Manel" as his students call their coach and mentor, came to Rio at the age of 19 from the northeastern state of Bahia, where capoeira is most traditional. Currently with some 300 students, Costa does not

charge for the courses. His programme, known as "Awaken Capoeira," instead relies on financing from donors that include the city government and local merchants.

Costa's thousands of former students have gone into fields including television and modeling. Others have gone on to become teachers themselves, in Rio and across Brazil. Several, including a son of Costa's now living in Norway, are even teaching capoeira abroad. They have helped organise trips for Costa and some of his students to perform in countries including Italy, Germany and the Netherlands. With thousands of athletes now descending on Rio for the Olympics, which start 5 August, Costa sees another opportunity for his students to feel a connection to something bigger. —Reuters

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(1-8-2016, Monday)

06 : 00 pm

• Weather Report
• Music Programme

06 : 10 pm

• Cartoon Programme "Meet The Robinsons" (Part-1)

07 : 00 pm

• International Drama Series

07 : 40 pm

• International Drama Series

08 : 20 pm

• MRTV Entertainment Music
• Local Tour Guide: Pho Khant

08 : 50 pm

• Safari World

09 : 10 pm

• International Movie

09 : 20 pm

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

09 : 40 pm

• Music Programme

10 : 00 pm

• Myanmar Traditional Instruments - Myanmar Harp (Episode-1)

10 : 20 pm

• Myanmar Video

From 1-8-2016 (Monday) 6:00 pm
To 2-8-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm

mitv Myanmar International

(1-8-2016 07:00am ~ 2-8-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am

Am

News

07:26 Am

Am

The Rising Glory of Myanmar Arts

07:55 Am

Am

Black Gold (Part- II)

08:03 Am

Am

News

08:26 Am

Am

U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-I)

08:46 Am

Am

Orchid Lover

08:55 Am

Am

Kid's Home

09:03 Am

Am

News

09:26 Am

Am

Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-1)

09:51 Am

Am

Kayah Style

10:03 Am

Am

News

10:25 Am

Am

The Legend of An Ambulatory Surgeon (EP-1)

10:50 Am

Am

Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03 Pm

Pm

News

07:27 Pm

Pm

Food Trip (EP-4) (Part-1)

07:45 Pm

Pm

.....Shan Novices To Be.....

08:03 Pm

Pm

News

08:26 Pm

Pm

Taste of Myanmar (Shan - Flat-Rice-Noodle Soup)

08:42 Pm

Pm

A Person with Faith

08:50 Pm

Pm

Indian Footsteps

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Smiles better for British Open leader Jutanugarn

WOBURN (England) — Ariya Jutanugarn, who likes to smile before going into her pre-shot routine, was grinning from ear-to-ear after surging two strokes clear of the field in the Ricoh Women's British Open third round on Saturday.

The 20-year-old Thai, who reeled off three LPGA Tour wins in a row in May, fired six birdies in a faultless 66 to finish on 16-under-par 200 in the fourth and penultimate major of the season at Woburn.

South Korean Lee Mi-rim (69), who led after the opening two days, was in second place on 202, three ahead of American Mo Martin (69).

Catriona Matthew was flying the flag for Britain on 206 after carding a 71. Jutanugarn took the tournament by the scruff of the neck by birdying the second, third, fifth and eighth holes before making further inroads on par at the 10th and 14th.

Asked about her unusual pre-shot routine, she told reporters: "I really want to try to feel relaxed and I feel like whatever is going to make me happy is to smile".

Jutanugarn seemed set to bag the first major win of her career in April when she led late on at the ANA Inspiration but three closing bogeys ruined her chances in California.

The Thai, who has not used her driver all week at the relatively short 6,448-yard Marquess Course at Woburn, said she was now aware of how to play under pressure.

"The only thing I have to do is focus on what is under my control," said Jutanugarn.

World number one Lydia Ko was down the field on three-under 213. The South Korean-born New Zealander looked as if she might launch a charge with six birdies in nine holes from the eighth but a dou-



Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn during her third round during RICOH Women's British Open 2016 at Woburn Golf & Country Club, England on 30 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ble-bogey at the last stopped her in her tracks.

"I hit a really wayward tee shot," said Ko after losing her ball at the 18th. "It's tough to finish like that."

"The best cure for a double-bogey is a toffee, or sugar, any type of sugar; I love my chocolate," she said laughing.

The third round was no laughing matter for Britain's Charley Hull as the Woburn member watched her title hopes go up in smoke with a triple-bogey seven on the first hole.

"I hit my drive left and then had a shot that flew off a downslope," said the 20-year-old after a 75 gave her a total of 214.

"I think it hit a path, hit a tree and ended up 60 yards over the right-hand side so I got a bit of bad luck there. Apart from that I felt like I played pretty decent, I just didn't hole any putts."

—Reuters

Ibrahimovic scores spectacular goal on Man United debut

STOCKHOLM — Zlatan Ibrahimovic netted a superb goal just four minutes into his Manchester United debut and promised that there would be much more to come after they thrashed Turkish side Galatasaray 5-2 in a friendly in Gothenburg on Saturday.

The 34-year-old Swede, who arrived at Old Trafford on a free transfer after a trophy-laden four-year spell with Paris St Germain, wasted no time in making his presence felt, flinging himself into the air to meet Antonio Valencia's cross.

He did not get the cleanest contact on the ball but his scissors kick bounced past Fernando Muslera in Galatasaray's goal and sent thousands of Swedish fans into raptures.

With Wayne Rooney netting twice and Valencia recording three assists against the rudderless Turkish outfit, a delighted Ibrahimovic said it was shaping up to be an exciting season, especially if United's transfer target Paul Pogba arrives from Juventus.

"I'm going to help the team as much as I can and do what I'm good at, creating chances and scoring goals," he told Swedish TV.

"There is something big on the go, it's going to be very interesting this year. Let us say that if Pogba comes too, it's going to be very interesting," he added with a smile. Galatasaray threatened to spoil Zlatan's party when Sinan Gumus headed the equaliser from



Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic warms up before the match during Pre Season Friendly at Ullevi Stadium, Goteborg, Sweden on 30 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

a Wesley Sneijder free kick, and Portuguese winger Bruma then rifled home to put Galatasaray ahead four minutes before the break.

Ibrahimovic went off at half-time as coach Jose Mourinho rang the changes, but starting fullback Valencia was again the architect as Rooney steered home United's second 10 minutes into the second half. When Marcus Rashford

was felled in the box three minutes later, Rooney stepped up to fire home the resulting penalty.

Valencia got his third assist when Marouane Fellaini headed home his cross, before substitute Juan Mata stabbed in a fifth to round off a dominant display by United, who open their Premier League campaign away to Bournemouth on 14 August. —Reuters

Brazil warm up for Olympics with easy win over Japan

SAO PAULO — Brazil scored twice in a dominant first half to beat Japan 2-0 in their final Olympic warmup friendly on Saturday before they begin their bid for a first soccer gold medal at next month's home Games.

Santos striker Gabriel Barbosa opened the scoring after 32 minutes when his shot was deflected past Japan keeper Kosuke Nakamura.

Marquinhos scored a second eight minutes later when he beat two defenders to the ball to head home a corner.

Brazil were dominant throughout and particularly in

the first half when Neymar and Thiago Maia both hit the woodwork.

Barcelona striker Neymar was the outstanding performer for the home side and was ably supported by Felipe Anderson in the first half.

The game was a useful warmup ahead of next month's Olympics when Brazil, playing at home in South America's first Olympics, will attempt to win the only international title that has so far eluded them.

Brazil face South Africa, Iraq and Denmark in the group stage. —Reuters



Gabriel Barbosa scores during 2016 Rio Olympics Football friendly at Goiania, Brazil on 30 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS