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VP U Myint Swe: 'Made in Myanmar' high-quality products should be promoted at prominent locations

THE Small and Medium Enterprises Development Work Committee (SMEDWC) held meeting No. (2/2018) at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Vice President U Myint Swe, SMEDWC Chairman, delivered a speech at the meeting.

Attending the meeting were SMEDWC Vice-Chairman Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, SMEDWC members including Union Ministers Dr. Than Myint and U Soe Win, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairperson Dr. Myo Aung, Chief Ministers from states and regions, Deputy Ministers, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Permanent Secretaries, other SMEDWC members, Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, experts, professionals, business-people and other officials.

In his speech, the Vice President said, in the first meeting of SMEDWC, held on 13 December 2017, the Fund Management Group, Report Writing Group and SME Agency were formed and that the three groups need to work in harmony with increased momentum. In the second meeting, held on 19 February 2018, a decision was made to form local branches of the SME Agency in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area and states and regions, said the Vice President.

The Vice President said he was delighted to see the Chief Ministers from states and re-



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses Small and Medium Enterprises Development Work Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

gions and ministers working and cooperating with enthusiasm in the different agencies. He added that he believed if the difficulties of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are solved and their actual requirements were fulfilled, then their competitive advantage will be realistically elevated.

The Vice President requested for the relevant states and regions to provide support to the six self-administered zones so that branches of the SME Agency can be opened there, as they are the only areas left with no agency branch while the Nay Pyi Taw Council and remaining states and regions each have a branch of the agency.

The Vice President said that with the leading facilitation of the SMEDWC, four MSME exhibitions and competitions have been held in four different states and regions, with collaboration between Mandalay Region and Kachin State in Mandalay City, between Magway Region, Chin State and Rakhine State in Magway City, between Shan State and Kayah State in Taunggyi City, and of Ayeyawady Region in Patheingyi City. The Vice President requested the cooperation of everyone, so that more MSME exhibitions and competitions can be held in the remaining states and regions and with each successive exhibition and competition getting better in promoting MSMEs and

forming business connections.

The Vice President said there are plans to invite private banks in the MSME regional product exhibition and competition to be held in Sagaing Region this month, so that they can observe the regional MSMEs and provide loans to those with a high chance for future success.

SMEDWC has the responsibility to support business start-ups and traditional SMEs in growing into strong SMEs and to set and implement strategic plans for MSMEs that win the regional competitions and those with good prospects to enter the global market, said the Vice President. He said he wished for products from struggling

MSMEs to be displayed for sale in local supermarkets and regional exhibition halls so as to give them motivation. He added that conducting promotions in states and regions will encourage the proliferation of rural SMEs. He said counters for 'Made in Myanmar' high-quality products should be allowed to be set up in airports, express bus terminals, prominent and famous locations, hotels, restaurants and supermarkets, in accordance with the available basic infrastructure in the region. He added that he noticed ASEAN countries display their regional products at their conferences and special occasions.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Fourth-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 9th regular session held

THE second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its fourth-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday, where asterisk-marked questions were answered, a motion tabled and a bill decided.

Opening of ethnic national media school (college)

In the asterisk-marked question and answer session, U Oo Hla Saw of Mrauk U constituency first raised a question on plans to open ethnic national media school (college). Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun replied on behalf of the Ministry of Information and together with Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and Rakhine State government.

The Deputy Minister said there are more than 100 ethnic nationals living in Myanmar and ethnic national media plays an important role in socio-economic development of ethnic nationals in the regions. With the abolishing of pre-publication censorship in August 2012, private media rapidly developed and together with it, ethnic media and me-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

dia formerly based abroad or in border regions moved into the country.

Some ethnic media combined to become the Burma News International (BNI) with 11 members in 2013 and had now grown to include 13 members. There are many more ethnic national media that have not become BNI members yet. BNI organized six ethnic national media conferences from 2013 to 2018 and the participation and

cooperation of the Ministry of Information and related state/region governments was seen to have assisted and supported ethnic national media development.

At the moment, 11 ethnic national television programs are broadcasted by state-owned media — Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) of the Ministry of Information, starting from 15 October 2013. Myanma Radio is also broadcasting 17 ethnic national radio programs.

Starting from 1 August 2014, sub-printing house (Mawlamyine) is printing and distributing 4 pages (color) of Sunday supplements in Mon, S'gaw Kayin, Pwo Kayin and Pa O languages in Myanma Alinn and Kyemon newspapers. An ethnic national section (Kachin language) supplement was printed by sub-printing house (Mandalay) and distributed in Kachin State every Saturday starting from 9 September 2017. An ethnic national section (in Myanmar language) was also included as supplement in Kyemon newspaper every Saturday starting from 30 September 2017.

A supplement (in Rakhine language) was also printed in sub-printing house (Sittway) every Wednesday starting from 20 September 2017 and distributed in Rakhine State. A special section on Rakhine State (in Myanmar language) was also printed in sub-printing house (Sittway) starting from 5 October 2017 and distributed in Rakhine State, said the Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Minister then

explained briefly about the work of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, formed by the previous government. This ministry organized a forum on sustainable development of ethnic nationals from 18 to 19 January 2018 and in the peace and ethnic national media sector. Nine points on media development was obtained, out of which one is to open an ethnic national media training school. Ministry of Ethnic Affairs had informed of the appropriateness of opening an ethnic national media school (college) said the Deputy Minister.

The Ministry of Information acknowledged the importance of ethnic national media development, but it has no plans at the moment to open an ethnic national media school (college), said the Deputy Minister. Instead of the Ministry of Information, this is better coordinated and conducted with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs that are at the moment providing courses on journalism, he added.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Fourth-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 9th regular session held

THE second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its fourth-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, where a proposal to donate a day's allowance of the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to flood-affected people was made, asterisk-marked questions asked and answered and a bill discussed.

A day's allowance of Hluttaw representatives donated to flood-affected people

First, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than proposed donating a day's allowance of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to people in states and regions of Myanmar, affected by flooding and inundation caused by heavy rains. An announcement of the Hluttaw approving the proposal was made after Hluttaw's approval was obtained.

Open Government Partnership membership

Replying to the first asterisk-marked question posed by U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9 on plans to becoming



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

a member of Open Government Partnership, Deputy Minister for State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin said Myanmar started the process of becoming a member of Open Government Partnership (OGP) after OGP proposed it in 2013. At the moment, Myanmar is not aiming toward becoming a member of OGP, but the work of the government is in accord with norms set by OGP, said the Deputy Minister.

From the financial side, financial information was published according to the budget year. In order to be transparent

in obtaining international aid, Myanmar is striving toward becoming a member of International Aid Transparency Initiative. A website is being hosted using Aid Information Management System, in order to be transparent in obtaining assistance and support from development partner countries. Financial information of Myanmar for five years, from fiscal year 2012-2013 to 2016-2017, was posted on the Ministry of Planning and Finance website. To be transparent in extractive sector and inflow of tax money to the country, second and third

EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) reports were submitted, posted and announced in Myanmar EITI website and the Ministry of Planning and Finance website. On Access to Information, the Ministry of Information is broadcasting on television channels. It is also broadcasted in 17 ethnic national languages. The ministry is publishing two Myanmar and one English daily newspapers. Myanmar Digital News is broadcasted from News Portal through MOI web portal Myanmar Facebook, website (Myanmar, English) MOI Blog and MOI Twitter.

The Ministry of Information had discussed the Right of Access to Information Bill eleven times and had drawn it up with 14 chapters and 68 clauses and is working toward enacting it. 46 newspapers, 542 journals, 444 magazines and 107 news agencies were being permitted for the private media sector of which 26 newspapers, 219 journals and 210 magazines were being published.

In addition to this, the present government is working to-

wards successfully implementing an e-Government system in Myanmar and had formed an e-Government steering committee and implementation work committee with President Office notification 14/2018 and was implementing it, setting priority projects and working toward having a complete ICT support plan.

The incumbent government had enacted the fourth amendment to the Anti-Corruption Law on 21 June 2018, formed the Anti-Corruption Commission on 23 November 2017 and conducting anti-corruption work. Furthermore, an announcement was made by the Office of the President on 8 May 2018 about the President submitting his assets and values to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker in accordance with the Constitution. Similarly, with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the list of assets and values of the Union level persons previously appointed and additionally appointed were being submitted to the President in accordance with the Union Government Law.

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Dawei, Kyaukpyu SEZs to be speeded up

VICE President U Henry Van Thio has called for speeding up the implementation of Dawei and Kyaukpyu special economic zones to achieve significant progress amid slow growth of the two zones.

In his capacity as the Chairman of the Myanmar Special Economic Zones Central Committee, the Vice President made the remarks in his opening address at the meeting of the central body held for the first time in 2018 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The central committee was formed in 2016.

A bid to develop the Kyaukpyu SEZ has been completed in accordance with international rules and regulations.

"Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone is directly related with the development of Myanmar and Rakhine State as well, and we must strive for successful implementation of the zone," said Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

In his address, the Vice President also expressed his belief that there would be progress in signing a framework agreement on the Kyaukpyu Deep Port project, as negotiations are underway.

Regarding the Dawei Special Economic Zone, Japan is participating as the Special Purpose Vehicle-SPV.

"All of us need to make ef-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers a speech at the meeting of the Central Committee for Special Economic Zones yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

forts for implementing the Dawei Special Economic Zone because the earlier the project completes, the earlier the country will see development," said the Vice President. He also urged the participants at the meeting to give suggestions for development of the country's economic zones as soon as possible.

The two zones are considered as slow growth zones in comparison to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone which has a total foreign investment of over US\$ 1.4 billion from 95 companies.

A total of 52 factories are operating there, creating job opportunities.

Implementation of Zone-A of Thilawa SEZ is nearly completed while construction of the Zone-B

is underway.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers U Thant Zin Maung, U Win Khaing, U Khin Maung Cho, Dr. Than Myint and U Soe Win, region and state Chief Ministers U Phyo Min Thein and Daw Le Le Maw, Deputy Ministers Dr. Tun Naing, U Aung Htoo and U Kyaw Lin, chairmen of the management committees of the special economic zones, vice chairmen and secretaries, Permanent Secretaries of the ministries and Directors-General of the respective departments.

At the meeting, Vice Chair of the Thilawa SEZ Management Committee Daw Nilar Kyaw reported on issues related with the Thilawa SEZ, while Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing,

Chairman of Dawei SEZ Management Committee, on issues related with Dawei SEZ. Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin discussed plans for construction of the two-lane road between Dawei and Htiikee.

The Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials also discussed issues related with implementation of the special economic zones.

After hearing reports, Vice President U Henry Van Thio suggested balancing the situation of the implementation of projects though they are targeted for economic development.

The Vice President also advised the Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee to review the current agreements

and MoUs and to give advice to the government, as the government is planning to implement the tripartite project with Thailand and Japan.

He also called for speeding up the implementation of the Dawei-Htiikee Road between Myanmar and Thailand.

Regarding the land issues at the Thilawa SEZ, Vice President U Henry Van Thio also suggested settling the issues in cooperation with the Yangon Region government, urging the Thilawa SEZ Management Committee to update the systems of the zones so as to meet international standards as it is considered the role model for other economic zones in Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Staff of UEC, sub-commissions receive skills for monitoring, assessing strategic plan 2019-2022

THE International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) opened a training on monitoring and assessing work of the Strategic Plan 2019-2022 and drawing plans at the Union Election Commission (UEC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. In his opening address at the opening ceremony, Chairman of UEC U Hla Thein called for cooperation of the sub-election commissions, ministries concerned, political parties and civil society organizations with the UEC to complete the tasks of the Strategic Plan 2019-2022.

The Strategic Plan 2019-2022 was drawn after seeking advice and suggestions from the region and state sub-commissions, political parties and CSOs this year for the 2020 general elections.

"Only when we monitor the sector-wise processes, can we



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein addresses the UEC strategic plan monitoring & evaluation methodology/plan training. **PHOTO: MNA**

know if the work can be completed in time and consequences of the implementation," said U Hla Thein. He also stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination in implementing the strategic plan in holding the free and fair elections in 2020 aspired by the people.

Following his address, Ms. Pascaline Krone, Deputy Coun-

try Director of the IFES, and Mr. Rakesh Sharma, Director of M & E and Survey Research, explained the training programmes and discussed the monitoring and assessing the processes of the 11 tasks included in the strategic plan. A total of 35 representatives from the UEC and its sub-commissions are attending the two-day training.—Myanmar News

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting on National Education and Legal Supporting laws

PYIDAUNGsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on National Education Law and Legal Supporting Law at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, deputy chairmen, secretaries and committee members of Joint Bill Committee, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and officials, members of Constitutional

Tribunal of the Union, secretaries and members of Pyithu Hluttaw committee for education promotion, Amyotha Hluttaw committee for education promotion, Pyithu Hluttaw judicial and legal affairs committee and legal affairs and special cases assessment commission, officials from Union Supreme Court Office and Union Attorney General's Office, secretaries and members of National Education Policy Commission and Union Legal Supporting Group and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Fourth-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 9th ...

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In conclusion, it is better to implement the opening of ethnic national media school (college) by coordinating among the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and state/region governments. The Ministry of Information will coordinate and assist in this, said the Deputy Minister in his answer to the question posed.

Plans to open a passport issuing office in Muse

Next, U Sai Pho Myat of Muse constituency posed a question on a plan to open a passport issuing office in Muse. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu explained that BP (Border Pass) book (red color) and TBP (Temporary Border Pass) ticket (green color) were being issued to Myanmar nationals for travel into China up to 60 km from the

border. In the past, applications can be made to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and with the permission of the Office of the President, Myanmar nationals with ordinary Myanmar passports and Chinese nationals with Chinese passports can cross the border and visit the other country. But starting from 21 November 2016, ordinary Myanmar passport holders were no longer permitted to cross the border into China because of security situation.

Myanmar citizens living in Muse can leave for foreign countries through Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay, and passports can be made in Lashio, which is only 110 miles from Muse. Passport office (Lashio) is also making timely assessment and issuing of passport to applicants, depending on local situation. Passport office (Lashio) occasionally conducts home service to Muse. As such, there

is no plan to open a passport issuing office in Muse, said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly, questions raised by U Oo Hla Saw of MraukU constituency, U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Maukmai constituency, Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency, U Naing Naing Win of Tamu constituency and U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency were answered by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu.

Motion to upgrade One Stop Shops to One Stop Service

After the question and answer session, U Tin Ko Ko Oo @ U A Tut of Bilin constituency tabled a motion urging the government to upgrade and implement One Stop Shops to One Stop Service.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced Hluttaw's agreement to discuss the motion after obtaining the con-

sensus of the Hluttaw. Following this Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced that Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to enroll their names.

Decision on Myanmar Tourism Bill

Afterwards, a bill committee member explained about amendment motions tabled by Hluttaw representatives on Myanmar Tourism Bill, approved and sent with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw and obtained the approval of the Hluttaw.

Following this, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the entire bill being approved by clauses and sub-clauses as amended and to proceed further on it.

The fifth-day meeting of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session will be held on 3 August, it is learnt.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

Fourth-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 9th ...

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On the cooperation and participation of the people, NGOs and INGOs, together with civil society organisations are participating in the government's Sector Coordination Groups (SCGs). Representatives of ethnic nationals, civil society organisations, economic organisations, experts and people who ought to participate were also participating in the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

The Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) in Rakhine State committee project work groups were formed with civilian experts, while 351 youth volunteers

were conducting it. Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs formed to implement women's development work was reformed as All-Myanmar Women's Affairs Committee. This committee is reporting to UN-CEDAW (United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) committee once every four years, implementing notifications, implementing ASEAN women's affairs committee work programme 2016-2020, implementing Gender Issues included in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and full participation of women in Myanmar society. As such, it is clear that even though Myanmar is not a member of Open Govern-

ment Partnership (OGP), it is conducting and implementing work that are according to the norms of OGP. The former government also had abolished the OGP steering committee and work committee before power was transferred to the incumbent government. Matters that were not revoked, rescinded or abolished could be restarted and worked on if need to. But it is not possible to restart matters that are revoked, rescinded or abolished and thus there is no plan to become a member of OGP, replied the deputy minister.

Asterisk-marked questions posed by U Tet Tun Aung of Rakhine State constituency 2, U Wai Sein Aung of Rakhine State constituency 1, U Myint Naing

of Rakhine State constituency 5 and U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State constituency 3 were then answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Discussion on Traditional Medicine Council Bill

After the question and answer session, U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4, U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2 and Dr. Kyaw Than Tun (Canton) of Mandalay Region constituency 3 discussed the Traditional Medicine Council Bill. The fifth-day meeting of the second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session will be continued today, it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■

MPPE sells locally-produced petrol to stabilise fuel oil price

IN order to stabilize the fuel oil price in the local market, the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) is selling petrol, produced in Myanmar, at state-owned fuel stations.

The MPPE has put on sale petrol, produced from the Petrochemical Complex (Thanbayarkan), Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, under the Ministry of Elec-

tricity and Energy, at Ks3,800 per gallon at state-owned fuel filling stations. According to private filling stations in Mandalay, the price of a litre of diesel reached around Ks690 in the retail market, while one litre of high quality diesel was sold at Ks975, Octane 92 at Ks950, Octane 95 at Ks995 and petrol at Ks900 on 30 July.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■



An employee at a fuel station fills up a car's oil tank.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

MyCO website to recommence access on 6 August, DICA launches MyCO kiosks

By May Thet Hnin

ACCORDING to Myanmar Companies Law 2017, registration and re-registration of companies through MyCO website commenced on 1 August. However, the MyCO registry system is currently experiencing traffic overload, resulting in server error, and forcing it to be shut down temporarily for at least a few days. MyCO system will recommence on Monday (August 6), said U Myo Min, a director from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). "We are trying to handle the error and MyCO system will resume on coming Monday. The DICA head office and regional offices will be opened to the public with newly-established MyCO kiosks, and users who urgently require company filing services will be able to access these kiosks without paying any service fees," he said.

The traffic overload was due to a large number of visitors who were downloading related documents and submitting du-



Myanmar Companies Law (2017) and Electronic Registry system (MyCO) launching ceremony held in Yangon on 1 August 2018. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

plicates, causing server error, such as delays in accessing the website, not being able to submit information and missing out data when entering information. "The applications cannot be approved until all the information and data are completed. There are duplicate submission cases,

causing some error," U Myo Min maintained.

On 1 August 2018, 30 applications were received, and only three of them were successfully approved. Regarding website error, U Aung Naing Oo, the Director-General at DICA, expressed his sincere apology to the site

problem on his Facebook page.

According to the posting, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience caused on its web page. To deal with the difficulty, the DICA's technical team is working together with experts and staff

from the Ministry of Planning and Finance. Having dealt with server error, the MyCO system with on-line payment will re-commence online electronic filing services on Monday, 6 August.

The new Myanmar Companies Law will bring about exemption to small companies, allowing them to set up a company with a single shareholder and a single director.

Additionally, there will be no extension of company registration and no blacklist. It also ensures easier decision-making and shortening the work process. Also, small companies no longer need to submit financial reports. The new law also allows foreigners holding 35 per cent of stake to engage in export/import, insurance and the stock market.

Out of 70,000 companies, 15,000 are joint ventures between foreign and local companies. In order to be adaptable with the current age, the Myanmar Companies Act 1914 was amended, and after four years, the Myanmar Companies Law was instituted. ■

Loikaw, Mae Hong Son sign sister city agreement for closer cooperation

KAYAH State government and Mae Hong Son province, Thailand, have signed a sister city agreement on 1 August at the meeting hall of Kayah State government office. The agreement will enhance cooperation between Kayah State's Loikaw and Mae Hong Son.

Present at the meeting were Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho, state officials from Kayah State transportation and electricity ministry, planning and finance ministry, and Mae Hong Son Governor Sirirat Chamupakarn leading a 34-member team.

Kayah State chief minister delivered an opening speech saying that they signed this Loikaw- Mae Hong Son sister city deal to strengthen ties between them. During Kayah State government's two-year-performance, it opened border gate and upgraded the roads. The chief minister also expressed

desire to cooperate in tourism, health and education sectors. Investors are also invited in Kayah State to benefit Loikaw with the Kayah State government providing the needs. He also encouraged exchanging ideas among the attendees.

Afterwards, Mae Hong Son governor expressed his greetings, maintaining that improvements will be made on BP-13 temporary route linking Mae Hong Son and Loikaw. He said there is not much difference between Kayah State and Mae Hong Son province, regarding culture and tradition. He added they will work closely with Kayah State government to have an open discussion and exchange information directly.

Kayah State transportation and electricity minister discussed that bilateral tourism will improve only if there is an international check point between them. "We have put

forth this to the Union Government and we wish Mae Hong Son authorities to do the same," he said.

Next, a state official from the planning and finance ministry said that the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and Mae Hong Son governor had made a commitment to develop international check point for BP-13 route during their visit. They also said they will work together to launch a seven-day and six-night trip plan after signing the sister city deal. As there is transportation difficulty, the plan could be started after November. To strengthen ties between the two countries, better transportation is crucial, he said.

Officials from respective sectors also raised questions. The ministers from Kayah State and Mae Hong Son delegation exchanged gifts afterwards.—Ko Sai (Loikaw) ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

• Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)	• City Mart (Junction Square)
• Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)	• City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
• Market Place by City Mart (Junction City)	• City Mart (Sule Square)
• City Mart (Aung San Stadium)	• City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
• City Mart (47th street)	• City Mart (Waizayandar)
• City Mart (Yankin)	• City Mart (Hledan)
• City Mart (China Town)	• City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
• City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)	• City Mart (Junction 8)
• City Mart (FMI)	• City Mart (St. John)
	• Ocean North Point (9 mile)
	• Ocean Shwegonedine

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker provides cash for flood victims

A CEREMONY to provide cash for flood-affected people was held at Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the ceremony, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat donated Ks 11.42 million for flood-affected people and day allowance of Ks 8.58 million from Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, and

the donations were accepted by Vice Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye.

Afterwards, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker received a document of honour given by the Union Minister.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat donates cash for flood-affected people to Vice Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker donates cash for flood-affected people

A CEREMONY was held at Amyotha Hluttaw guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to donate money for people in the flood-affected regions.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than donated a day's allowance of 223 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives totaling Ks 4.44 million to flood-affected people and the donation was accept-

ed by National Natural Disaster Management Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye.

The Union Minister then presented a document of honour to Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker. The ceremony was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare,



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than donates cash for flood-affected people to Vice Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye. **PHOTO: MNA**

Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, Amyotha Hluttaw

Affairs Committee chairmen, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw

representatives and officials from Amyotha Hluttaw office.

Drug Abuse Prevention and Management Team holds coordination meeting

PREVENTION and Management Team, under the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, held coordination meeting (1/2018) yesterday at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs and it was attended by Prevention and Management Team chairman, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Major-General Aung Thu and officials.

At the meeting, Prevention and Management Team chairman Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu gave the opening speech while Prevention and Management Team secretary Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Major-General Aung Naing Thu explained drug abuse prevention activities.

Then, Prevention and Management Team acting Joint-sec-



Prevention and Management Team holds the coordination meeting for Drug Abuse Control yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

retary acting head of anti-narcotic task force Police Col Kyaw Kyaw Han explained drug control processes while prevention department head of Anti-narcotic police force Police Col Shwe Nyar Maung explained the seized drug cases.

Finally, the members of

the Prevention and Management Team presented and discussed the issues they were facing. Prevention and Management Team chairman Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Major-General Aung Thu concluded the meeting with a closing speech.—MNA ■

Natural Disaster Management Committee issues advice for flood prevention

THE National Natural Disaster Management Committee (NNDMC) has issued advice to people in Madauk and Hpa-an townships living near the river

area and in lower parts of the ground, and issued caution to people in Mawlaik Township who lived near the river bank.—Myanmar News Agency ■

38 dams, reservoirs overflow through spillways

THE water level in some dams and reservoirs in regions and states exceeded the full tank levels due to torrential rain and overflowed through their spillways.

People have been urged not to worry about the overflowing water as it goes through spillways into the rivers, said the Irrigation and

Water Utilisation Management Department.

A total of 38 dams and reservoirs including Bawsin Dam (2) from Zegone Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region and Tamandu Dam from Myebon Township, MraukU District, Rakhine State are currently overflowing, said the department.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hands with General Secretary Mr Kozo Yamamoto in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Mr Kozo Yamamoto and party

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received a delegation led by Mr Kozo Yamamoto, General Secretary of Japan-Myanmar Parliamentary Friendship Association at Pyithu

Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed issues on promoting the friendship of the parliaments of the two coun-

tries, human resources development issues, along with scholarship programmes sending workers to Japan and launching vocational training institutes.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than shakes hands with General Secretary Mr Kozo Yamamoto in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Mr Kozo Yamamoto and party

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Mr. Kozo Yamamoto, General Secretary of Japan-Myanmar Parliamentary Friendship Association and his delegation at the Amyotha

Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed promoting parliament-to-parliament relations between Myan-

mar and Japan.

Present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

VP U Myint Swe: 'Made in Myanmar' high-quality products should be promoted at prominent locations

FROM PAGE-1

The Vice President said 65 per cent of the MSMEs in Myanmar are focused on converting agricultural products into value-added food products. Local MSMEs do not have the necessary equipment to test its products nor FDA licenses and therefore have a difficult time in earning trust from potential clients.

If ministries allow these MSMEs access to their laboratory test centers, then it can aid in acquiring a certificate of analysis that verifies a regulated product meets its specification, licensing an SME logo then the international community will recognize Myanmar's local MSMEs and earn the trust of consumers, said the Vice President.

In November 2018, Myanmar will host the 6th ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSME (ACCMSME), the ASEAN+3 meeting, a Financial Symposium with Japan, a meeting with OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development),

and other related meetings.

Attending the meetings will not only be representatives from ASEAN countries, but also from Japan, South Korea, Germany, USAID, OECD, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the German development agency GIZ.

In the meeting with OECD, support provided to MSMEs from ASEAN member country governments between 2015 and 2018 will be measured using eight criteria and the results from them will be discussed, said the President.

He added that the ACCMSME will be organizing meetings and events to put high-quality 'Made in Myanmar' products on display, linking MSMEs that won the regional competitions and MSMEs with good future prospects to ASEAN and international businesses, participating in one-to-one business meetings and trade shows.

The Vice President said there needs to be effective support for MSMEs targeted

at the action plans drawn for them in each state and region. He requested the attendants to openly discuss ongoing processes, future processes and suggestions concerning the development, market penetration, promoting trade and innovation for MSMEs; the backbone of the national economy.

Next, Union Ministers U Khin Maung Cho, Dr. Than Myint and U Soe Win explained about Small and Medium Enterprises Development Work Committee's (SMEDWC) progress report, ongoing processes and considerations for compromising rules and regulations, and the Fund Management Group's contribution for MSMEs' developments, respectively.

This was followed by Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo explaining the SME Agency's ongoing and future processes, and Report Writing Group Chairperson U Khin Maung Kyaw explaining his agency's progress and processes.

Afterwards, SMEDC members, including the Nay

Pyi Taw Council Chairperson, chief ministers from Kachin State, Kayah State, Chin State, Sagaing Region, Taninthayi Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Yangon Region, Shan State, and Ayeyawady Region, the Kayin State minister for electricity and industry, Rakhine State minister for finance, taxation, planning and economics, Mon State minister for planning, finance, immigration and population, Chairman of the UMFCCL, discussed the current progress and future processes for MSME development, the technological support and loans needed, and the opportunities for regional MSME development. SMEDC Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe then provided feedback and suggestions to the discussions and ended the meeting.

After the meeting, the Vice President observed the regional MSME products from states and regions on display on the ground floor of the Ministry of Industry.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Strong winds damage parts of Kyaukpyu airport

SOME parts of the Kyaukpyu airport in Rakhine State have been damaged by strong winds yesterday evening. The Rakhine State Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Chan Tha, regional Minister for Electricity and Road Transportation U Aung Kyaw Zan and local authorities raced to the airport to inspect the damaged parts. A 90-ft. long, 12-ft. wide aluminum frame near the airport's entrance, a ticket counter and a 28-ft. long, 8-ft. wide glass structure near the departure lounge were destroyed by the gusty winds.

The estimated value of the damaged parts at the airport was about Ks1,000,000.—Phyo Wai Lin (IPRD) ■

Corrigendum

Please read "U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw" and "U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw" in the news story "MPU holds 4/2018 meeting" on page-7 of 2 August issue of the *Global New Light of Myanmar*.—Ed

Rays of hope for our tigers

RAYS of hope for success of tiger conservation in upper Chindwin area are shining with new tiger babies being captured on camera traps.

With the help of 100 camera traps, research to survey the habitats of tigers and their prey were carried out in northern and southern Myanmar as part of efforts for conservation of iconic species, which are now at a critical crossroads, facing numerous threats to their survival.

There are two tiger species in Myanmar: Indian (or) Bengal tigers and Indo-China tigers. Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is also a natural habitat of Indian (or) Bengal tigers.

Tigers were once widespread in Myanmar, to the point that they were considered a serious risk to rural travellers in the 1800s, areas even close to what was then Rangoon.

Today, tigers are spotted in northern and upper Chindwin area and Taninthayi mountain range in southern Myanmar.

Current estimates for the number of the animals are plagued with a lack of systematic data, but recent official estimates put it at no more than 3,200 left in the wild across 14 'range states'.

The fight against wildlife trading should be effective. Otherwise, it would just cause an increase in prices of animal parts in the illegal markets.

Gold mining in the Hukawng Valley Tiger Reserve, the world's largest tiger reserve, is blamed for devastating

the tigers' habitat.

The Hukawng Valley Tiger Reserve covers 21,890 square kilometres. The Myanmar government has also designated 6,500 square kilometres of the valley as a protected forest reserve.

Myanmar, which is home to a rich variety of habitats and ecosystems, including 14 terrestrial eco-regions supporting 233 globally threatened species, has seen more cases involving the trade of elephant parts than other wildlife.

Within a 20-year period from 1994 to 2014, millions of tons of hardwood in the country were lost through illegal logging, as well as rare wildlife such as elephants, bears, tigers, leopards, peacocks and snakes, all of which fall prey to poaching. Hunting targeting tigers to supply the market demand in neighbouring countries is causing hindrances to the tiger conservation in Myanmar. The fight against wildlife trading should be effective. Otherwise, it would just cause an increase in prices of animal parts in the illegal markets.

We can realistically put an end to tiger destruction only through joint efforts between the government, international and local NGOs and many local groups and community members.



Interview with U Kyi Wai, Deputy Director of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department



By Thi Thi Min
Photo: Kaung Myat

MADAUK embankment remains safe, despite rising water level along the Sittoung River. Several parts of the states and regions in Myanmar have suffered severe flash flooding and landslides these days. Due to incessant rains, houses and roads were inundated, but the Madauk embankment remains safe. Following is a translation of an interview conducted with U Kyi Wai, Deputy Director of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department (IWUMD) regarding the stability and strength of the Madauk embankment:

on flooding.

Q: Could you explain us your safety measures taken at the above-mentioned states and regions?

A: For the safety of the region, we have already assigned high-ranking engineers in-charge to supervise and watch the conditions of embankments and the amount of moving water in the dams throughout day and night. In doing so, we go through checking the stability and strength of the embankment, while taking preliminary measures to store up necessary equipment, such as machinery, tools and labour force.



Q: Could you explain regarding the rumours that the Madauk embankment that is under the management of the IWUMD in Bago Region has been damaged?

A: Madauk embankment is 49 miles and a furlong long. It has been constructed aiming to prevent flooding along the western bank of the Sittoung River. Currently, we are making necessary preparations for flood hazards. There is a low lying area where water can overflow through the Shwegyin-Madauk road. It is about 40 miles away from the Sittoung River embankment. Rumours have it that Madauk embankment had been damaged. That's why people have misunderstandings about it. In reality, these are just fake information. As for the IWUMD, we are making all-out efforts to conduct flood safety measures, with the cooperation of the locals. Similarly, rumours of Pu Kaing dam damage is totally untrue. According to observations, water level at Pu Kaing embankment is below 6.5 feet from the top of the dam. The strength of the dam is in good condition, and there is no need to worry about it because we are making maintenance work on it.

Q: How about the condition and maintenance of the embankments in Ayeyawady Region?

A: There are a total of 6 dams that are under the supervision of the IWUMD in Ayeyawady Region. Out of them, Kanyin dam had overflowed up to 3.7 feet. The engineers in-charge are keeping a round the clock close watch on the strength of the dams. All the embankments are in good working condition.

Q: Could you let us know if there are any dams which remain at the danger level? What safety measures have you taken?

A: There is no standardization to measure which dams have reached the danger level. Only the dam embankments have this kind of standardization. Regarding safety measures, we have assigned high-ranking engineers to supervise the conditions round the clock, and official-concerned are also fulfilling the requirements. Through the state-run media and Facebook, we issue relevant information, news and updates to the public.

Q: People are worried about the strength of the embankments due to torrential rains. What would you say about it?

A: As for the IWUMD, we have drawn up a precise and thorough design for the strength and safety of the dams in the long run. That's why I would like to suggest that they should not worry about it.

Q: Could you tell us about the conditions of other embankments under the management of your department?

A: A total of 120 dam embankments are under the maintenance of our department across the country. These embankments total over 1850 miles long. They have played a vital role in preventive measures in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. The construction of these embankments has been about 150 years. Effective measures are being taken to supervise the safety of the people.

Q: What else would you like to say through us?

A: What I would like to inform through you is that the occurrences of flooding are mainly due to incessant and torrential rains. Please do not believe every bit of nonsense that are being rumoured about. As for our department, efforts are being made to disseminate accurate news and updates about the current conditions. — Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

We have drawn up a precise and thorough design for the strength and safety of the dams in the long run.



Flood Warning

(Issued at 16:00 hrs MST on 2-8-2018)

According to the (15:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mawlaik is observed as about (2½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days.

It is especially advised that people who have settled near the river bank and low lying areas at Mawlaik Township, to take precaution measure.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 2-8-2018)

Flood condition of Sittoung River

According to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (5) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may fall about (1½) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (5) feet at Hpa-an above its danger level. It may fall about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised that people who have settled near the river banks and lowlying areas in Hpa-an Township and Madauk, to avert due to the rise of water level.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 2nd August, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 3rd AUGUST, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Taninthyi regions, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Wave height will be about (7 - 11) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd AUGUST, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd AUGUST, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd AUGUST, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Three die in Zimbabwe post-election violence

HARARE—Three people died and scores of others were injured Wednesday when protesting opposition supporters clashed with army and police in the capital Harare.

Police spokeswoman Charity Charamba confirmed the deaths in the violence which also left property destroyed.

She warned leaders of the opposition MDC Alliance against inciting its supporters to engage in violent activities.

Scores of opposition supporters took to the streets of Harare to protest against the delay in announcement of presidential election results as well as alleged rigging of the vote.

"The police condemns in the strongest terms acts of vandalism and hooliganism that occurred in Harare. As investigations continue, we urge members of the public to remain calm and

peaceful and not to be persuaded or coerced into engaging in acts of violence," Charamba said.

She said police were keen to interview leaders of the MDC Alliance in connection with the deadly protests.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, meanwhile, called on Zimbabweans to remain calm and peaceful as the nation awaits announcement of all election results.

He blamed the MDC Alliance leadership for causing the protests.

"The incidents of violence and hooliganism which broke out in the afternoon came as a complete surprise," he said.

"We hold the opposition MDC Alliance leadership responsible for this disturbance of national peace which is meant to disrupt the electoral process," Mnangagwa said. "We hold the

party and its leadership responsible for any loss of life, injury or damage to property which arises from political violence which they have aided and abated."

Nkululeko Sibanda, the spokesperson of the MDC Alliance president Nelson Chamisa said the party regretted the deaths during the protests and criticized the security forces for using excessive force to quell the protests.

Chamisa claimed Tuesday that he had won the presidential poll and said his party will not accept a result to the contrary.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission has said results for the presidential poll are expected by Aug. 4.

According to the results declared by ZEC, the ruling ZANU-PF party won a parliamentary majority in the Monday elections. —Xinhua ■



Supporters of the opposition MDC Alliance attend a protest in Harare, Zimbabwe on 1 August 2018. Three people died and scores of others were injured Wednesday when protesting opposition supporters clashed with army and police in the capital Harare. Scores of opposition supporters took to the streets of Harare to protest against the delay in announcement of presidential election results as well as alleged rigging of the vote. **PHOTO : XINHUA**

Former DR Congo warlord Bemba lands in Kinshasa

KINSHASA—Former warlord and ex-vice president Jean-Pierre Bemba returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday after an 11-year absence, an AFP reporter saw.

Bemba, 55, arriving at Kinshasa airport from Belgium aboard a private plane, has vowed to contest the country's

twice-delayed elections, due on December 23. A few minutes after landing, Bemba, accompanied by his wife, went into a VIP suite at the airport. Hundreds of police clad in anti-riot gear were deployed in central Kinshasa and at the airport, located 25 kilometres (15 miles) from the city.

In June, Bemba was acquitted of war-crimes charges by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague after spending a decade behind bars.

Analysts say his return adds volatility to an already tense election for which candidates must submit their applications by August 8. —AFP ■

Amnesty accuses Turkey of tolerating Syrian rebel abuses in Afrin

ISTANBUL—Amnesty International on Thursday accused Turkish forces of allowing Syrian armed groups to commit major rights abuses in the northern region of Afrin, urging Ankara to immediately end the violations.

Turkey and allied Syrian rebels seized control of Afrin earlier this year after a military operation which ousted a Kurdish militia that is an ally of the United States but Ankara regards as a terror group.

Amnesty said that, since the takeover, residents in Afrin had been "enduring a wide range of violations" which Turkish armed forces "turned a blind eye" to.

"These violations include arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and confiscation of property and looting to which Turkey's armed forces have turned a blind eye," Amnesty said.

Some of the Syrian groups as well as Turkish armed forces have taken over schools, Amnesty claimed, which it said disrupted education for thousands of children.

Amnesty said residents told them that Afrin University was "completely shut down after it was destroyed and looted", adding only one school in Afrin city was accessible.

The rights group said that when contacted for comment, the Turkish government questioned its impartiality for using the terminology of Kurdish-dominated forces to describe regions.

Turkey says the People's Protection Units (YPG) militia it ousted from Afrin is an offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers' Party

(PKK) which has waged an insurgency in Turkey since 1984.

The PKK is blacklisted as a terror group by Ankara, the US and the European Union.

In the case of one woman, her uncle has been missing since an armed group escorted him to his house after he returned to his village three months earlier.

"They wouldn't tell his wife where they took him," the unnamed woman told Amnesty, denying the man, head of a local committee, had any links to the YPG.

Amnesty said some homes have been "occupied" by displaced families from the central Homs province and the southern area of Eastern Ghouta which was recently recaptured by the Syrian regime.

Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty's Middle East research director, said the Syrian armed groups continued to "wreak havoc on civilians, unchecked by Turkish forces". She argued Turkey was responsible for the welfare of civilians as well as maintaining law and order since it was the "occupying power" in Afrin.

"Without further delay, Turkey must end violations by pro-Turkish armed groups, hold perpetrators accountable, and commit to helping Afrin residents rebuild their lives," she added.

Turkish officials insist that the takeover has proved popular, with Afrin residents tired of YPG rule and Turkey able to improve utilities services after similar operations in towns like Jarabulus and Al-Bab east of Afrin. —AFP ■



Turkey and allied Syrian rebels seized control of Afrin (pictured April 2018) in early 2018 after a military operation which ousted a US-allied Kurdish militia that Ankara considers a terror group **PHOTO: AFP**

White House confirms India's invitation to Trump for visit, says no final decision

WASHINGTON — The White House said on Wednesday that India has invited US President Donald Trump for a visit to the Asian nation, but a final decision has not been made yet.

In a press briefing, White House spokesperson Sarah Sanders said that “the invitation has been extended, but I don’t believe a final decision has been made.”

She added that US secretaries of defense and state, namely, James Mattis and Mike Pompeo, will begin the potential discussion for a presidential visit later in the year in their travel to India in September. She noted that Washington-New Delhi relations have been a “deep and abiding strategic” one. Indian media reported earlier in July that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had invited Trump to be the chief guest for

next year’s Republic Day parade in January.

Mattis and Pompeo will meet with their Indian counterparts on 6 September in New Delhi for the inaugural US-India “2+2” Dialogue, which has been postponed several times.

Differences remained between the two nations over trade tariffs, US threatening to punish India’s oil purchase from Iran, and India’s proposed buying of S-400 missile defense system from Russia, leaving many to wonder if India even ranks in Trump’s priority list.

India has reportedly decided to counter Trump’s tariffs challenge by imposing additional customs duties up to 50 per cent on as many as 29 goods imported from the United States. The new customs duties will come into effect from Aug. 4, if the current standoff prevails.—Xinhua ■

US Korean War dead heading home at last

WASHINGTON — Sixty-five years after the Korean War ended, the remains of dozens of American soldiers killed during the brutal conflict are finally coming home.

Wednesday’s repatriation marks an important step after US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held a summit, during which Kim agreed to send home the war dead.

Trump, who has faced criticism over the pace of progress since the June meeting, praised Kim for “keeping his word,” and Vice President Mike Pence met families when the remains arrived back in the US at a ceremony in Hawaii. Caskets carrying the 55 sets of remains were draped in the blue-and-white flag of the United Nations. Many nations fought in the Korean War, but most of the cases are thought to contain US troops.

More than 35,000 Americans were killed on the Korean peninsula during the 1950-1953



Cases of remains of American soldiers from the Korean War, each draped with a white and blue UN flag, were lined up in rows. **PHOTO: AFP**

war, with 7,700 of these US troops still listed as missing in action — most of them in North Korea. “Some have called the Korean War the forgotten war. But today, we prove these heroes were never forgotten. Today our boys are coming home,” an emotional Pence said.

“My dad, lieutenant Ed Pence fought in combat in the Korean War. He came back with a medal on his chest. But my dad, gone

now 30 years, always told us the real heroes ...were the ones that didn’t get to come home,” the US vice president said.

It could take scientists and historians years to make final identifications.

John Byrd, director of scientific analysis at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), which has a large laboratory in Pearl Harbor, said preliminary findings suggest the remains are likely

American. They “are consistent with remains we have recovered in North Korea... in the past,” Byrd told reporters at Osan US Air Base in South Korea.

The cases had been kept there since Friday, awaiting their repatriation to Hawaii for further forensic analysis.

“There’s no reason at this point to doubt that they do relate to Korean War losses,” Byrd added. —AFP ■

Trump tweet calling for end of Mueller probe ‘not an order’

WASHINGTON — The White House on Wednesday sought to walk back a tweet from President Donald Trump calling for an end to the Russia election meddling probe, saying he was expressing an opinion, and not giving an order to the Justice Department.

In a series of tweets that quickly sparked accusations that Trump is publicly attempting to pervert justice, the Republican leader decried the investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller as “a disgrace” to the country.

“This is a terrible situation and Attorney General Jeff Sessions should stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now, be-

fore it continues to stain our country any further,” Trump said on Twitter. White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders later told reporters: “It’s not an order, it’s the president’s opinion.”

She noted that Trump wants the probe to “come to an end.” But she dismissed accusations of any legal wrongdoing, saying: “The president is not obstructing. He’s fighting back. The president is stating his opinion. He’s stating it clearly.”

Just ahead of the White House press briefing, Trump’s personal attorneys also sought to walk back the comment, insisting the president was not ordering Sessions to do anything.—AFP ■

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Flooding and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP) IDA Credit5889-MM Assignment Reference Number: C4-DOH-CS08 Assignment Title: International Road and Bridge Hydrologist Individual Consultant Position

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP). The Department of Highways (DOH) of the Ministry of Construction (MOC) who implements component 1 of the FLERP intend to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of one (1) specialized International Hydrologist in the broad area of Civil Road and Bridge Works. The position is a short-term assignment.

The works are situated along the Ngathaingyaung-Gwa-Thandwe road in Rakhine State and will be implemented in two stages. Stage 1 started in April 2018 with works requiring simple design only such as box culverts, masonry retaining walls and steel safety guard rails. Stage 2 will cover works that require comprehensive and detailed geotechnical and hydrological surveys. A first step into Phase 2 includes approximately nine (9) small-medium span bridge works which are being prepared from September 2018 to June 2019 with an expected works start date at the end of 2018. For the preparation of the works related to these bridges, DOH intends to contract an international road and bridge hydrologist specialist.

The main objective of this assignment is support by the International Road/Bridge Hydrologist to implement the Project by conducting technical tasks related to road/bridge hydrology to ensure proper maintenance to avoid major damages of the embankments and drainage structures during monsoon season, and helping to minimize adverse effects of floods upstream and/or downstream of the Project area. With the objective to inform roads assets design, the consultant will carry out a detailed hydrometrical survey and hydrological study of the road, river and bridge site supported by a national hydrologist.

Expressions of Interest including a detailed Curriculum Vitae must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by Friday 31 August 2018. The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the IC method set out in the World Bank Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants, January 2011 and revised July 2014. Interested Consultants should pay attention to paragraph 1.9 of these Guidelines, setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at the address below during office hours from 9:00 to 16:00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays, or by simple e-mail request to:

U Khin Zaw, FLERP Project Director, Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction, Office No. 11, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. Email: flerp.moc@gmail.com, Ph-067-407658, 09-2450600

Eiffel Tower shut in dispute over 'monstrous' queues

PARIS — Staff at the Eiffel Tower shut down the Paris landmark on Wednesday afternoon in protest over a new access policy which they say is generating "monstrous" queues for tourists.

Access to the monument, which welcomed more than six million visitors last year, was blocked from 1400 GMT, according to a sign at the base of the tower.

Staff had already been set to strike on Thursday.

The site's management said staff took action after talks with unions fell apart earlier on Wednesday afternoon. The site was not evacuated, and tourists already inside were allowed to finish their visits.

Yunhyie Park was unaware of the strike when she arrived this afternoon with her parents, who were making their first visit from

South Korea.

"Yesterday we saw (about the strike) and we hoped it wasn't true, but finally it's true," she told AFP. "It's really a shame."

Staff are angry over a decision last month to start setting aside half of the Eiffel Tower's daily tickets for people who buy them online in advance and choose a scheduled time for their visit.

Previously just 20 percent of tickets to go up the 324-metre (1,063-foot) "Iron Lady" could be booked ahead of time.

The tower's management has also started reserving specific elevators for each type of ticket holder, a move which "creates lines that are at times monstrous and often lopsided," the CGT union said.

During off-peak times for pre-booked tickets, such as the early afternoon, the reserved elevator might be

half empty -- despite lines of up to three hours at the elevator for walk-ins.

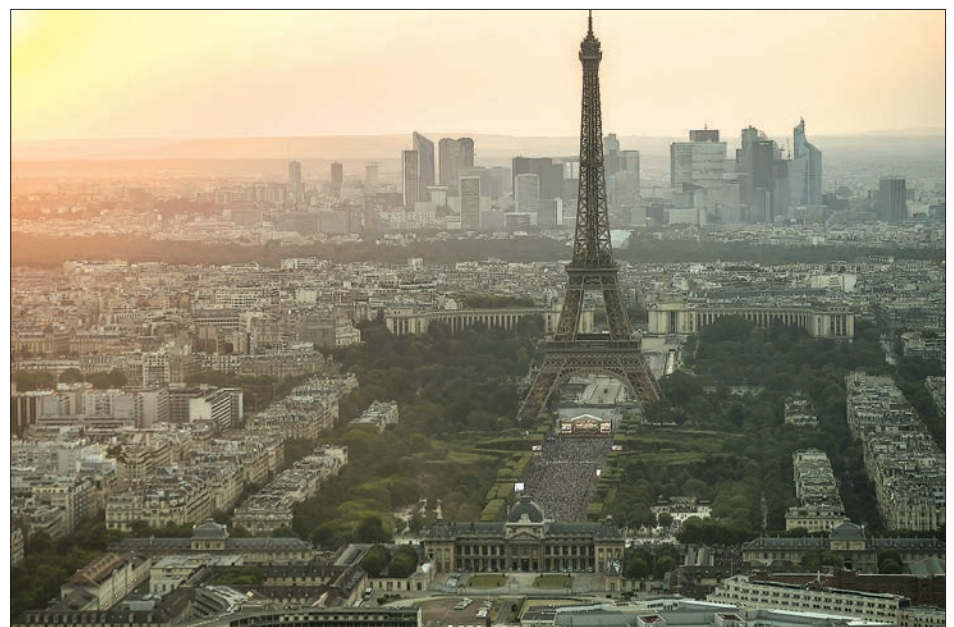
And high demand at the pre-booked elevator can cause back-ups that force people to wait long beyond their scheduled visit.

Hector had travelled from Monterey, Mexico, with his wife and children for their first trip to France, and was just about to reach the elevators when the doors shut.

"We've been here for two and a half hours, waiting for nothing," he said.

"We will take a look for tomorrow, but we will need to buy another ticket," he said, because pre-booked tickets will only be reimbursed — not exchanged for another time slot.

"Employees' patience has run out," the CGT's Denis Vavassori said on Monday, adding that many visitors were unhappy with



Staff are angry over a decision to start setting aside half of the Eiffel Tower's daily tickets for people who buy them online and choose a scheduled time for their visit. **PHOTO: AFP**

the long waits.

Staff want all the elevators to be available to all visitors, no matter what kind of ticket they have bought.

SETE, the company which runs the site, says it sells 10,000 online tickets

for the tower every day and that "the waiting time is very short".

"For visitors who come without tickets, the waiting time at the checkouts at the foot of the Eiffel Tower is exactly the same as last year, while the number of

visitors has increased," it insisted.

The tower has been hit by repeated strikes by its 300-strong staff in recent years over issues ranging from pick-pocketing to maintenance work. —AFP ■

Announcement of Appreciation

The Myanmar Companies Law 2017 has commenced on 1st August 2018 and Myanmar Companies Online "MyCO" registry has been launched for all new company registrations and existing company re-registrations. We, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, would like to warmly congratulate:

RECOMM BUSINESS SOLUTIONS MYANMAR CO., LTD

as the first company which has successfully registered &

UNIBIZ CO., LTD

as the first company which successfully re-registered

under the new Myanmar Companies Law on the MyCO registry.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

Tokyo med school altered test scores to keep women out

TOKYO—A Tokyo medical school for years altered the admission test results of female applicants to keep the number of women in the student body low, a Japanese newspaper reported Thursday.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* daily said the manipulation came to light while prosecutors were investigating a separate scandal in which the Tokyo Medical University is accused of illicitly admitting the son of an education ministry bureaucrat.

“Following the report this morning, we asked a law firm to launch an internal investigation into the reported issue,” Fumio Azuma, a spokesman for the university told AFP, adding that it hopes to announce the result of the probe later this month.

The law firm that will investigate the report already has an advisory con-



Japanese women are highly educated in general but the country's notoriously long work hours force many out of the workplace when they start families. **PHOTO: AFP**

tract with the university but its usual consulting lawyer will not be part of the investigating team, Azuma said.

The *Yomiuri*, citing unnamed sources, said the university began lowering the admission test scores of female applicants to its

medical school in 2011, after the 2010 results showed an increasing number of women were winning places. In 2010, around 40 percent of successful applicants were women, double the previous year.

After that, the univer-

sity began trying to keep the percentage of women admitted each year to around 30 per cent of the incoming class.

“Women often quit after graduating and becoming a doctor, when they get married and have a child,”

one source told the *Yomiuri*, in justifying the blanket alterations of admission scores.

“There is a consensus inside the university that male doctors support the university hospital,” which often requires emergency

duties and long shifts, the source told the daily.

The newspaper said the test scores of female applicants had been lowered across the board by administrators who applied a fixed coefficient to women's results. In 2018, the ratio of women accepted after the first round of tests was 14.5 per cent, compared with 18.9 per cent for men.

In the second and final test stage, just 2.9 per cent of female applicants were admitted, compared with 8.8 per cent of male applicants. The newspaper did not give figures for the current gender breakdown of the school's student body.

The university was reportedly already under investigation by the Tokyo District Prosecutor's Office over claims the privately-run school wrongly admitted the son of an education ministry official.

—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO (106N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO (106N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALTONIA VOY. NO (1801S/1802N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALTONIA VOY. NO (1801S/1802N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO (KHAD 0102N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO (KHAD 0102N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Notifications issued under section 462(a) of Myanmar Companies Law 2017

1. In exercise of the powers conferred under section 462(a) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration issues the following Notifications-

- (a) Notification No. 63/2018, prescribed Fees for registry transactions carried out using non-electronic means.
- (b) Notifications No. 64/2018, Prescribed fees for restoration of an existing company or body corporate that has failed to reregister on the electronic registry system within the reregistration period if it can provide sufficient cause, prior to its name being struck off the register.

2. The details of Notifications can be referred on the website of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration www.dica.gov.mm

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

Trade Mark: 09-251022355

New Zealand PM returns to work from maternity leave

WELLINGTON—New Zealand Prime Minister and new mum Jacinda Ardern, only the second world leader to give birth while in office, resumed her duties on Thursday, ending six weeks of maternity leave.

The 38-year-old has opted to work from home in Auckland until the weekend when she will relocate to the capital Wellington.

In a Facebook message last weekend, Ardern said the family were doing “really, really well, still we have absolutely no routine to speak of”.

“Life is obviously going to be a little bit different,” she added as she rocked her daughter Neve in a bassinet.

Ardern’s partner Clarke Gayford, who hosts a television fishing show, plans to be a stay-at-home dad and the main caregiver for their daughter.

The birth capped an eventful year for Ardern, who became prime minister in October just three months after taking charge of the Labour Party as it languished in the polls.

While she announced her pregnancy five months before the birth, Benazir Bhutto -- the first world leader to have a child while in office -- told almost no one she was pregnant until her daughter was born in January 1990.

Unlike Ardern, who was able to take maternity leave, the Pakistani prime minister underwent a caesarean section and then returned to work.

During Ardern’s absence, her deputy Winston Peters led the country. She resumed control when he left overnight for an ASEAN foreign ministers summit in Singapore.

Ardern said she will be “hitting the ground running” when she turns up at the office on Monday.

Her first week back would focus on issues that “really matter to me”, including mental health, the environment, trade-related affairs and an “employment-related announcement”.

With the veteran 73-year-old Peters at the helm, affairs



New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern is only the second world leader to give birth while in office **PHOTO: AFP**

of state ticked over quietly although business unease continues to quietly simmer in the background with a growing number of surveys showing a lack

of confidence in the centre-left government.

Ardern has said she is keen to work with business leaders and has been active in steps to

rescue the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, with her government also pushing an aggressive trade agenda. — AFP ■

Storms halt Pacific swim record attempt

TOKYO —Powerful storms have forced a Frenchman attempting to become the first person to swim cross the Pacific Ocean to suspend his bid, nearly two months into the mammoth undertaking.

Ben Lecomte set off on June 5 from Choshi in Japan, planning to swim across the ocean in six to eight months.

But after nearly two months swimming eight hours a day, severe storms forced the 51-year-old to head back to port in Japan, Seeker, a media company tracking the swim, said Wednesday.

“Two typhoons, Jongdari and Wukong, have interrupted his momentum and forced the ship to head back to port in Japan -- a development that reflects the difficulty of the journey and the unpredictability of the ocean,” Seeker said in a post that Lecomte also tweeted on his account.

“Lecomte is as determined as ever to forge ahead with his historic trans-Pacific journey.”

Seeker did not say when the attempt might resume.

Lecomte was 800 kilometres (500 miles) into the 9,000-km

swim when the weather forced the crew to turn back.

He consumed 8,000 calories a day to keep him going.

Part adventurer, part environmentalist, Lecomte organised the swim to raise awareness of plastic contamination and ocean pollution.

His support team conducted a raft of experiments on the trip, including collecting samples of plastic waste.

“The trash is way worse than we thought it would be,”

Maria Amenabar, a research assistant with the crew, told Seeker.

Lecomte said the scale of the pollution made him all the more determined to continue the swim.

“It’s more important now than ever that we make it to the Great Garbage Patch,” he said, referring to a massive vortex of trash that floats between the US states of Hawaii and California.

“I want to show people why our oceans are so important.” —AFP ■



Benoit Lecomte had organised the Pacific swim to raise awareness about ocean pollution **PHOTO: AFP**

Chile’s rock art llamas divulge secrets of ancient desert culture

ATACAMA (Chile) —Open air rock paintings in the world’s driest desert pay testament to the importance of the llama to millennia-old cultures that traversed the inhospitable terrain.

Conservationists working in Chile’s Atacama Desert want UNESCO to recognize the Taira Valley drawings as a heritage site so they can develop sustainable tourism in the region. Taira is “a celebration of life,” said archeologist Jose Bereguer, describing the site as “the most complex in South America” because of its astronomical importance as well as the significance to local shepherds. The rock art was a “shepherd’s rite” needed to ask the “deities that governed the skies and the earth” to increase their llama flocks.

First rediscovered by Swedish archeologist Stig Ryden in 1944, the Taira rock art is between 2,400 and 2,800 years old. It is made up of a gallery of 16

paintings more than 3,000 meters (9,842 feet) above sea level on the banks of the Loa River that traverses the desert.

The jewel in the crown are the Alero Taira drawings some 30 meters from the Loa in a natural shelter, in which the importance of the llama becomes abundantly clear. Not just the principal source of wealth for desert dwellers over thousands of years, the llama has been used in ritual ceremonies throughout the Andes for just as long, such as in the “Wilancha,” or sacrifice to “Pacha Mama,” or Mother Earth.

‘Possible to delve’

“No one can understand the things done 18,000 years ago because the cultures that did them have disappeared,” said Berenguer, curator at Santiago’s Museum of Pre-Columbian Art.

“Here, it’s possible to delve into the meaning because we have ethnography and because there are still people living in practically the same way as in the past.” —AFP ■

AI speeds up radiation treatment for cancer patients

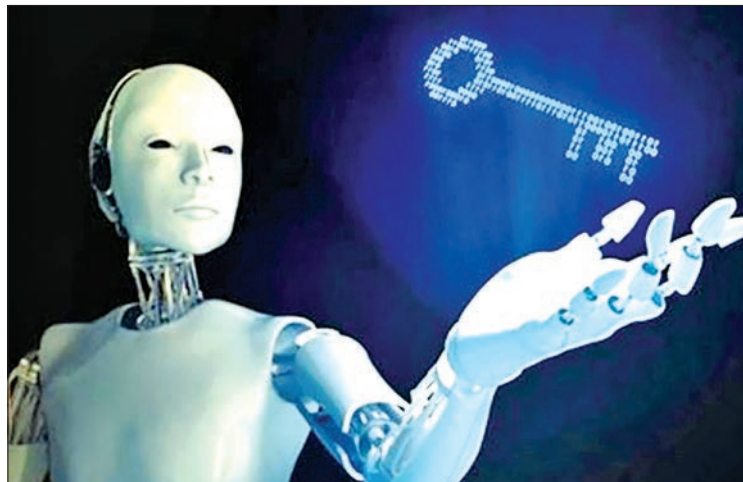
SHENZHEN—To prepare the radiation plan for a rectal cancer patient, physician Chen Bo used to spend more than an hour studying a CT scan image and manually determining the targeted area.

Now, with the help of the latest artificial intelligence (AI) technology, the whole process takes him less than three minutes.

At the Cancer Hospital of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, a new AI-powered computer program has helped doctors cut hours from the meticulous manual process of targeting radiation treatment.

The new program, developed by the Beijing-based cancer hospital and Shenzhen Haichuang medical company, uses deep-learning technology to predict patterns from previous samples and automatically produces plans for radiotherapy.

The program, which was put into clinical use in June, can now be used for rectal, breast and



The new AI-powered computer program which was put into clinical use in June, can now be used for rectal, breast and nasopharynx cancer. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

nasopharynx cancer. As the program improves, it is expected to be used for more types of cancer in the future. Using the new program, a physician can save about three hours to plan the radiation treatment for nasopharynx cancer, and about 50 minutes for breast cancer, according to Chen.

“By providing high-quality and precise radiotherapy services, the program can meet the

demand of a larger number of cancer patients,” said Li Yexiong, director of the radiotherapy department in the cancer hospital.

“Our department received more than 6,300 patients last year and many doctors were overworked,” said Li. “The program can save them a lot of time and energy so that they can provide better services to patients.” —Xinhua ■

German astronaut looks forward to working in China Space Station

COLOGNE (Germany) — “I would expect to do any type of work and take the same responsibility as any Chinese astronaut in CSS (China Space Station),” said Matthias Maurer, a German astronaut.

Maurer wishes he could work in CSS one day.

At the European Astronaut Center (EAC) under European Space Agency (ESA), located near

the West Germany’s city of Cologne, Maurer told Xinhua about his expectations for CSS. “I want to participate in both European and non-European experiments there.

Also (to) build a live video connection so that the European public can talk with the European astronauts in the CSS and see inside,” Maurer said. Before joining the ESA in 2010, Maurer

has already boasted rich international experience by studying and working in various countries including Germany, France, Spain and Britain.

In 2012, Maurer took part in the cooperation program between ESA and China and started to learn Chinese because he may need to use the language if he works in China’s Shenzhou spacecraft one day.—Xinhua ■



German astronaut Matthias Maurer shows the way to sleep in space station, in Cologne, Germany on 18 July 2018. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Some hospital bacteria growing ‘tolerant’ to sanitizers

TAMPA—Some hospital superbugs are growing increasingly tolerant to alcohol-based disinfectants found in hand washes and sanitizers, allowing increasing infections to take hold, an Australian study warned Wednesday.

Hand rubs and washes that contain disinfectants based on isopropyl or ethyl alcohol are widely used around the world, and have cut down dramatically on one type of superbug, called methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

But researchers have noticed a rise in another kind of bacteria that lives in the gut, called *Enterococcus faecium*, and can be spread via catheters, ventilators or central lines in a health care setting.

“Drug-resistant *E. faecium* infections have increased despite the use of alcohol disinfectants, and currently represent a leading cause of infections acquired in hospitals,” said the report in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*. *Enterococci* account for about one in 10 cases of hospital-acquired bacterial infections around the world, and are the fourth and fifth leading cause of sepsis in North America and Europe, respectively, according to background information in the article.

E. faecium in particular is believed to cause one-third of enterococcal infections in Australia, 90 percent of which are resistant to the antibiotic ampicillin, and 50 percent of which are also vancomycin-resistant.

“Costs associated with the management of patients infected with vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) are high because of the need for isolation rooms,

specialized cleaning regimens, and the impact on staff, bed availability, and other resources,” said the report.

To better understand the reasons for this bacteria’s spread, researchers analyzed bacterial samples taken from two hospitals in Melbourne, Australia from 1997 to 2015.

“The isolates gathered after 2009 were on average more tolerant to the alcohol compared to bacteria taken from before 2004,” said the report.

Being “tolerant” means the bacteria can survive exposure to alcohol longer.

The delay “is sufficient to allow the bacteria to escape alcohol killing and then cause infection,” study author Tim Stinear, a microbiologist at the Doherty Institute for Immunity and Infection at the University of Melbourne, told AFP in an email.

“The bacteria we examined in our study are a long way from becoming resistant to alcohol,” he added. More study is needed to confirm if these bacteria are also growing resistant to sanitizers in other hospitals worldwide.

Researchers aren’t sure why this particular type of bacteria is acting this way, but say it may be something about the physiology of *E. faecium* that makes it easier for the bacteria to evolve tolerance to alcohol exposure.

In the meantime, no one is suggesting hospitals stop using hand sanitizers, rather that other cleansing methods are needed, said Stinear. “Our findings do not signal the end of hand sanitizers, but indicate you cannot rely solely on alcohol-based disinfectants to control *E. faecium* in the hospital/health-care setting.” —AFP ■



Alcohol-based disinfectants are widely used around the world and have cut down dramatically on bacteria and superbugs, but Australian researcherse have noticed that certain strains of bacteria are growing “tolerant” to the sanitizers. **PHOTO: AFP**

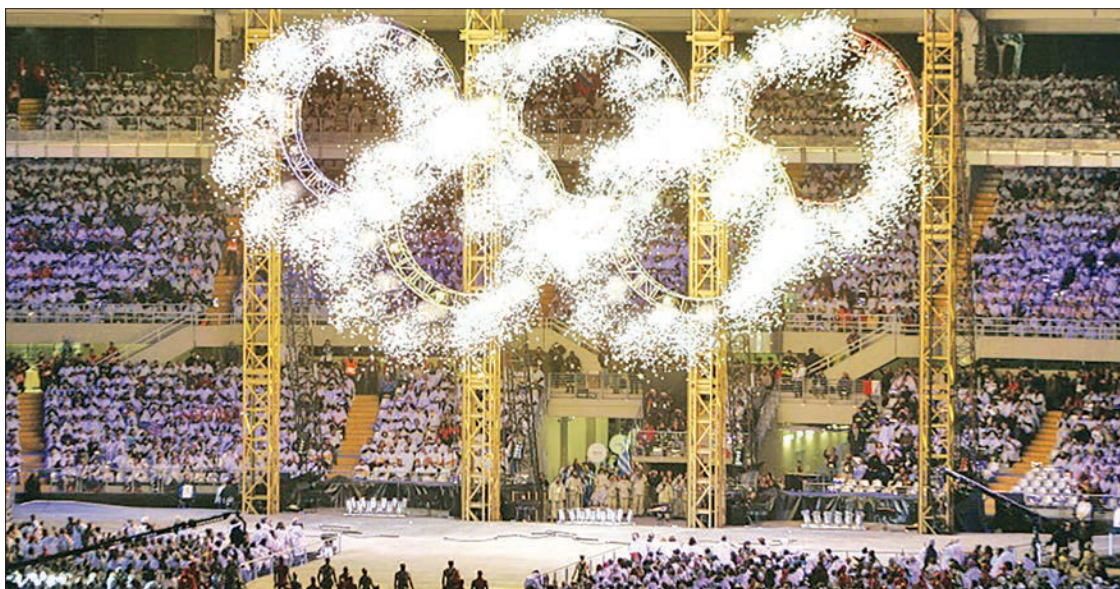
Italy's Olympic Committee approves multi-city 2026 Winter Games bid

ROME — The Italian Olympic Committee voted on Wednesday to ratify a bid for the 2026 Winter Games that would see three cities hosting the event for the first time.

"The National Council (of the Italian Olympic Committee, CONI) has resolved unanimously to send to the IOC (International Olympic Committee) the bid proposal of Milan, Turin and Cortina (d'Ampezzo) for the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Games," wrote CONI in a statement.

CONI is proposing to spread the games across a vast area of northern Italy, taking in the capitals of the Lombardy and Piedmont regions — Milan and Turin — and winter sport resort Cortina in the Veneto.

Over 388km (241 miles) separate north-western city Turin



Turin hosted the Winter Olympics in 2006 and is now part of a joint bid with Milan and Cortina for the 2026 Games. **PHOTO: AFP**

from Cortina d'Ampezzo, which is located in the Dolomite mountains near the border with Austria. The three cities submitted

separate expressions of interest in early July but CONI head Giovanni Malago announced on Tuesday that they would be pro-

posed as joint hosts.

It has also decided that neither Milan nor Turin would be lead city and all three are equal

partners.

"This is a great opportunity for our country, if we've got this far it means that there has been no opposition from the IOC," said Malago on Wednesday. "Let's see what happens from here, but our candidacy is very strong."

Turin was the sole host when the Winter Games were held in Italy in 2006, with the skiing based around Sestriere, some 90km away in Italy's western Alps.

The 2026 plan foresees ice hockey and speed skating in Turin, with some alpine skiing in Sestriere. Milan would have short-track speed skating, figure skating, ice hockey and curling and resorts in the Dolomites would host all the other events.

The host of the 2026 games will be chosen in Milan in September 2019. — AFP ■

Juventus top MLS All-Stars on penalties

ATLANTA — Serie A champions Juventus got the best of Major League Soccer's All-Stars in a penalty shootout on Wednesday after an entertaining 1-1 draw in the North American league's mid-season exhibition.

Before a crowd of 72,317 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium — home of MLS's Atlanta United — Juventus prevailed 5-3 in the shoot-out after New York Red Bulls forward Bradley Wright-Phillips missed his penalty attempt.

After Wright-Phillips' effort bounced off the post to leave Juventus up 4-3 — Mattia De Sciglio fired into the upper left corner past Columbus goalkeeper Zack Steffen to settle it. Andrea Favilli had put Juventus ahead in the 21st minute, heading in a curling

cross by Matheus Pereira.

The MLS All-Stars, selected from around the league through fan voting, pulled level in the 26th minute through Atlanta United's Josef Martinez — the Venezuela star and former Torino forward who leads MLS with 24 goals in 23 matches. Juventus keeper Wojciech Szczesny saved an initial effort, but after a scramble in the area, Martinez bundled the ball in to score in front of his home crowd.

"It's been a moving week here," Martinez said. "I have to thank all the fans in Atlanta for the way they support us all the time and the wonderful experience in this game."

It marked the second straight year that the All-Star Game ended in a 1-1 draw to go to a shoot-

out. Last year, Real Madrid beat the All-Stars 4-2 on penalties at Soldier Field in Chicago.

The crowd was the largest ever for the MLS All-Star game, surpassing the 70,728 for the 2010 edition in Houston.

The game was one of four matches for Juventus on their North American tour, but they haven't brought off-season acquisition Cristiano Ronaldo, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner whose 100 million-euro (\$117 million) move from European champions Real Madrid was announced in July. With three wins from three matches, Juventus will look to make it a clean sweep of the tour on Saturday night against Real Madrid at FedEx Field in Washington, DC. — AFP ■



The Philippines (blue) vie for the ball with Myanmar (white) in yesterday's Group (A) play of AFF U-16 Championship 2018 at Delta Sidoarjo Stadium in Indonesia. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar beat the Philippines in AFF U-16 Championship's Group play

MYANMAR U-16 boys' national football team secured their win in Group (A) play of the AFF U-16 Championship 2018 with a decisive 7-0 triumph over the Philippines U-16 team at Delta Sidoarjo Stadium in Sidoarjo, East Java, Indonesia yesterday.

Myanmar played with their utmost efforts and lined up with its star players, including Naung Naung Soe, PyaePhyo Aung and Aung Ko Oo.

In the first half, the winning goals for Myanmar were

scored by NaungNaungSoe at 2 and 29 minutes mark, Aung Ko Oo at 25 minute, Zaw Win Thein at 34 minute and PyaePhyo Aung at 46 minute.

In the second half, the winning goals for Myanmar were netted by Khun Kyaw Zin Hein at 53 minute mark and Wai Yan Soe at 77 minute.

Although the Philippines footballers obtained golden chances, they, unfortunately, could not change these opportunities to goals and ended the match with a big 7-0 win for Myanmar.— Lynn Thit (Tgi)■



Goalkeeper Zack Steffen of the MLS All-Stars fails to block a penalty shot by Mattia De Sciglio of Juventus during their 2018 MLS All-Star Game, at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia on 1 August. **PHOTO: AFP**