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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Mandalay walking event sees over 4000 participants



Participants in the early morning walk seen at the starting point in front of the Main Hall of the University of Mandalay. The mass walking event was held to mark the All-Round Youth Development Festival (Mandalay). **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

OVER 4000 people took part in a mass walking event held in Mandalay to mark the All-Round Youth Development Festival (Mandalay) yesterday morning.

The event, which started in front of the Main Hall of the Mandalay University, was held with the aim of developing the five strengths of youths — physical,

intellectual, moral, societal and economic — including academic and technological knowledge and ethics of youths and building a future human society through their excellent views.

At 5am, Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint, Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Dr Myint Htwe, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, deputy ministers, mem-

bers of the region cabinet, departmental officials, rectors, teachers, students of various educational institutions and schools, government employees and local people took their respective positions at the starting point. The event started when Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe fired a gun shot. The participants walked along the university ring road that passed the

Convocation Hall, the four-storey building, Inwa Hall and U Razak Hall. When they arrived back at the starting point, they performed physical exercises.

Well-wishers provided the participants with traditional snacks, soft drinks and coffee.

At 7am, Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Dr Myint Htwe, deputy minis-

ters, directors-general and officials enjoyed taekwondo, wushu, karatedo and gymnastic skills of athletes and performances of Myanmar Fitness Dance troupe of the region sports subcommittees of the Sports and Physical Education Department at the indoor stadium of the university. —Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House) ■

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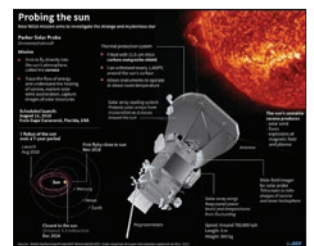
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Myanmar-Japan Joint Committee holds workshop to develop bond market

THE fourth workshop of the Myanmar-Japan Joint Committee to develop bond market was held at the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) yesterday afternoon, with a focus on developing the bond market.

Attending the meeting were Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, who is also Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, commission members, managing director of Yangon Stock Exchange and officials, officials from the Japanese embassy, the JICA expert, counsellors appointed to CBM, DICA and IRD from Japan, officials from the Japanese Ministry of Finance, Japan Exchange Group, the Department of Financial Services, and Daiwa Institute of Research Holdings Ltd.

During the workshop, they discussed increasing the number of companies listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange by holding discussions related to investment



Officials from the various organizations and government departments involved in the Myanmar-Japan Joint Committee discuss developing the bond market at the committee's fourth workshop. PHOTO: MNA

and selling initial shares to the public once every three months and preparations for the upcoming YSX EXPO 2018 in September this year.

They also discussed disseminating information related to Yangon Stock Exchange's progress

and processes in media channels, the progress of the Listing Consultation Division formed in the Yangon Stock Exchange

that provides free consultation services for companies interested in entering the Yangon Stock Exchange's listing, the work progress of the Special Task Force formed with support from JICA that conducts field inspections and surveys in potential companies for entering the Yangon Stock Exchange's listing.

Also discussed were preparations made by the Myanmar Accountancy Council for setting the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) for companies in the investment market to adhere to 2022-2023 due date, and the processes of security and exchange companies in the country.

The Myanmar-Japan Joint Committee is formed with the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Yangon Stock Exchange, Japan Exchange Group, the Department of Financial Services, and Daiwa Institute of Research Holdings, Ltd.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Public roundtable talk titled 'Youths and Philanthropy' held

A PUBLIC roundtable talk titled 'Youth and Philanthropy' was held in Sagaing Region yesterday morning.

The roundtable talk was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and wife, Deputy Minister for Information and wife, officials and town's elders, responsible persons from Thukha Kari Organization, members of the volunteering groups and trainees from the Sagaing Education University.

During the roundtable talk, Sagaing Region Hluttaw representative Daw Su Myat Htet said that every volunteering tasks should be conducted with non-discrimination and philanthropic mind.

Next, author Ye Shan focused on having goodwill in the philanthropic work and author amaung (Bagan)

on cooperation with having good understanding between youths and adults, Chairman of the Thukha Kari Organization U Soe Win on nurturing the children from a young age to have kind and philanthropic mind, and author Zaw Naung Tun on performances of the philanthropic organizations, along with their performances.

Questions and answers session followed.

Then Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said that public talks are to be freely discussed in accordance with features of democracy.

In doing so, discussions should be made in a civilized manner and avoiding harsh speech to be successful. Starting from this roundtable talks, cooperation is needed to become good practices, he said. —Man (Kopwar) ■

Community centre, mobile library opened in Sagaing

THE Department of Information and Public Relations, under the Ministry of Information, and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation have collaborated and opened a community centre and the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation mobile library in Sagaing, both of which were formally unveiled during a ceremony at the Sagaing District Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) yesterday morning.

First and foremost, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Sagaing Region Hluttaw Speaker U Than, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Sagaing Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Zaw Win, District IPRD Director-General U Ye Naing and U Tun Hla Soe from Daw Khin Kyi Foundation cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially unveil the community centre and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation mobile library, as a student marching band played in the background.

The Union Minister, Regional Hluttaw Speaker and officials then sprinkled scented water on

the signboards of the community centre and mobile library.

Next, they toured the miniature museum and children's library in the community centre and the Union Minister, Regional Hluttaw Speaker, Deputy Minister and officials gifted toys to the children at the library. They also inspected the library hall, computer training hall and multipurpose hall in the community centre.

The second half of the ceremony continued in the multipurpose hall and Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivered a speech saying the Ministry of Information disseminates information, spreads education and provides entertainment programs to the public.

He said the IPRD directly interacts with the public, and its office and library house a children's reading room and miniature museum as well as conducting trainings, seminars, discussions, meetings and reading circles for the benefit of the public as they upgrade

into a community centre. The upgrading is supported by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation which helps open mobile libraries as book clubs, youth clubs and woman's clubs formed in the community centres. Adhering to the democratic value, public talks have been held to facilitate discussions among the public, with over a hundred public talks held across the nation, said the Union Minister.

Next, Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Zaw Win delivered a speech and U Tun Hla Soe from Daw Khin Kyi Foundation explained about the mobile library and how people can easily borrow books from it.

This was followed with words of gratitude for the community centre and mobile library by local elder U Aung Gyi representing the local people of Sagaing City.

A public talk under the title 'Youth and philanthropy' was held later on.—Sub-printing house ■

Bangladesh Foreign Minister meets Myanmar Interfaith Group

MR. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, met with the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning. During the meeting, they discussed possible solutions to the issues concerning Rakhine State and the cooperation of every concerned entity in Rakhine State's rehabilitation and reintegration processes.

Attending the meeting were the Bangladesh Foreign Minister and his delegation,

Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Patron of the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group Dr. Tin Hla, Chairperson U Thaung Htike, Vice-Chairs U Khin Maung Htay and U Nyunt Maung Shein, general secretary Dr. Thar Nyan and executive members, Director U Tun Nyunt of the Department of Religious Affairs, U Sein Maw, head of Yangon Region Religious Affairs Department, and other officials. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, meets with the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group in Sedona Hotel in Yangon. PHOTO:MNA



Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons



Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13th September

**The entire public needs to participate,
Trafficking in persons to eliminate...**

2018 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day's Objectives

- ❖ To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combating human trafficking as a national duty;
- ❖ To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- ❖ To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- ❖ To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders – government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

Consumer goods up by \$135 million this FY

MYANAMR imported US\$1.698 billion worth of consumer goods in the present fiscal year, an increase in value by \$135 million than that of the same time last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 April through 3 August this year, the public sector imported \$14.973 million worth of a wide range of consumer products, which showed a decrease by \$58 million from this time last FY. During the period, the private importers bought the same goods valued at \$1.683 billion, increasing by \$193 million against last FY.

At this time last fiscal year, the country's imports of consumer products were \$1.563 billion.

In the past four months of

this FY, the country imported capital goods worth \$2.355 billion and semi-finished goods worth \$2.593 billion.

Myanmar principally imports luxury products, personal goods, construction materials, chemicals, clothing and accessories, agricultural machinery, raw materials, household goods, food items and electronic devices from neighbouring countries.

The imports of consumer goods were valued at \$1.245 billion in the 2011-12 FY, \$1.4 billion in the 2012-13 FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-14 FY, \$2.9 billion in the 2014-15 FY, \$3.5 billion in the 2015-16 FY, more than \$4 billion in the 2016-17 FY and \$4.403 billion in the 2017-2018 FY.—Swe Nyein ■

Maungtaw border trade camp sees monthly increase in exports

THE export value at the Maungtaw border trade camp has been steadily increasing with each month with a noticeable rise in ginger (wet) exports, according to the border trade camp in Rakhine State, under the Department of Trade.

"Exports of ginger have seen the most increase in the Maungtaw border trade camp," said U Win Aye, assistant director and in-charge of the Maungtaw border trade camp. He continued, "The reason for the increase in exports is because they (Bangladesh) are approaching their festival periods and other merchants

tell me ginger is used in the soft drinks production, too. I'm not really sure how they use it in producing soft drinks. But this is why ginger exports have gone up. Freshwater fish from Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions have seen increased exports, too. This is the reason the Maungtaw border trade camp has reached its export quota. The export value has been increasing with each passing month."

The Maungtaw border trade camp has seen exports in the month of July of agricultural products such as rice, green gram, chickpea, tamarind, ginger (wet), jeng-

kol beans, turmeric and dried plum, fishery products such as hilsa, carp, anchovy and small dried fish, forestry products such as bamboo, industrial products such as packaged plum paste, quaker, longyi, perfume, pimple cream, thanakha blocks, candy and soap, and their combined export value has reached US\$ 808,907.167.

As of 10 August, the total export value in the border trade camp reached US\$ 357,330.384 for four types of agricultural products, four types of fishery products, one type of forestry product and one type of finished industrial goods. —Hein Htet Lin, Myo Thu Hein



Workers at the Maungtaw border trade camp load up a boat with bags of ginger, which has seen the most increase in export value in the current months, followed by exports of other agricultural products, fishery products, forestry products and industrial products. PHOTO: HEIN HTET LIN, MYO THU HEIN

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Nyi Zaw Moe, Hnin Pwint,
Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Yangon Region signs MoU for industrial development with Myanmar Wooree Co

THE Yangon Region government and South Korea-based Myanmar Wooree Company signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Yangon Region Economic Development Project at Yangon Region government office on 11 August.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein in an address said, "this event aims to the commercial development of Yangon Region. Signing an MoU between Yangon Region government and Myanmar Wooree Company is also the first step for the regional government to improve businesses in the commercial city of Yangon, in cooperation with economic development partner South Korea, under the guidance of the Ministry of Commerce.

The industrial development project area is located on the west bank of the Yangon River. It is also situated near the construction project area of the Yangon-Dala Bridge, which is a friendship bridge between Myanmar and South Korea. The construction of the bridge is slated to be completed in 2020-2021 fiscal



Officials sign MoU for Yangon Region Economic Development Project. **PHOTO: YANGON REGION GOVERNMENT**

year. "This bridge will bring a number of benefits to the industrial zone area implemented by Wooree Company and economic development for Yangon Region", said Yangon Region Chief Minister. In addition to this, Yangon Port is being planned

to be expanded to the mouth of Yangon River, he maintained.

Mr. Young Deuk Lee, chairperson of Myanmar Wooree Company, explained the industrial development zone construction activities and later signed an MoU with Yangon Region gov-

ernment. Officials then posed for a commemorative photo.

Present at the meeting were Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials from the regional government.—GNLM ■

National dengue management handbook to be distributed to doctors

By Nyein Nyein

A HANDBOOK on National Dengue Management will be sent to doctors in September, said Dr. Zaw Lin, deputy director of the dengue and elephantiasis programme, operating under the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The guidelines are developed by experts and special-

ists from the World Health Organization. The handbook also includes guidelines on adult dengue fever.

"Already, there were dengue guidelines for adolescents. These guidelines are now being updated, and the handbook now includes dengue guidelines for both adults and adolescents. It will be handed over to the doctors next month", said Dr Zaw

Lin. Additionally, to carry out effective dengue vector management, the health staff will be offered courses on prevention measures and treatment in regions and states, which are prone to dengue fever.

Dengue fever primarily occurs in children aged under 15. Currently, dengue has become a fatal disease for adolescents as well as adults.

Of the over 31,000 patients with dengue fever, 192 died, including 27 adolescents and adults, last year.

During this year, a total of 11,750 cases of dengue fever were recorded from 1 January to 4 August across the country, killing 59 people, according to a survey by the Public Health Department, under the Ministry of Health and Sports. ■

Two cyclone shelters constructed in Hainggyikyun Township

TWO cyclone shelters are being constructed by TN City Company in Kha Mauk Maw and Kan Chine villages, Hainggyikyun Township, Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region, beginning from June.

The structures are 80 feet in length, 72 feet in width and 25 feet in height, and they are designed to accommodate ap-

proximately 500 people. "Even though it is a cyclone shelter, it is a multi-purpose building. The shelters are being constructed under the management of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement," said U Tin Naing, Managing Director of TN City Company.

To construct the cyclone shelters, the National Natural

Disaster Management Committee in cooperation with the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement scrutinized and chose the companies that submitted tenders.

The project is being implemented by the National Natural Disaster Management Committee fund. An additional 17 cy-

clone shelters are also planned to be constructed in Ayeyawady Region. Recently, ten companies won the tender to construct the cyclone shelters.

"The National Natural Disaster Management Committee allowed Ks189 million for each project. All the projects will be implemented within six months. — Kyaw Thu Hein (IPRD) ■

Consumer Affairs Dept receives 140 online complaints in three months

By Nyein Nyein

THE Consumer Affairs Department has received about 140 online complaints from April to June. Of these, 27 are complaints about telecom services, said U Swe Tint Kyu, Director of Consumers Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

The Consumer Affairs Department and consumer complaints committees in states and regions are taking immediate action to resolve consumer complaints. Most complaints are

about internet speed, delay in fixing lines, and similar problems.

"About 27 complaints have been received after launching the website. At present, the department has received more than 140 online complaints in April, May and June of this year. Out of them, 27 complaints are about the telecom services," said U Swe Tint Kyu.

"Telecom service providers are promoting their services. Consumers can complain if service provided is not up to their pledges made during sales pro-

motion and advertisement," he added.

"We are facing unfair situation. There are also many complaints. There is an inadequacy in the Consumers Protection Law in the telecommunications sector. But there are some rules and regulations for the telecom service providers and consumer rights for users," said U Maung Maung, secretary of the Myanmar Consumers Union (MCU).

The MCU also called on the government to take effective action to prevent the grievances

of consumers, he added.

"The government is the main actor in this role, because most of the service providers received licenses from the government. Therefore, the government can control these technical problems. Also, it has a record of these service providers," he added.

"At the moment, telecom service providers are competing in their promotion of their services. They persuade consumers to use their services through advertisements, even

though they are not sure of providing the proposed services in future. That is why we say they lack responsibility and accountability," said U Swe Tint Kyu.

The Consumer Affairs Department has announced that telecom operators, including service providers holding licenses issued by the Directorate of Communications, are to follow exactly the rights and responsibilities provided to business owners under the Consumers Protection Law, as well as restrictions and prohibitions. ■

Myanmar-ROK trade slightly decrease from April to June

EXTERNAL trade with the Republic of Korea in the first half of the current six-month interim fiscal period hit US\$186.9 million, which showed a slight decrease in value by \$1.7 million from this time last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

This year, Myanmar's imports outdid exports in bilateral trade with South Korea. Between April and June this year, Myanmar's export to South Korea was worth \$82.3 million, while its import exceeded \$100 million.

At the same period last year, trade with the East Asian country was valued at \$188.6 million, including \$56.9 million in exports

and \$131.8 million in imports. Compared with the same period last year, this year saw an increase in the value of bilateral exports by over \$25 million.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, including cashew nuts, mangoes, rice, beans and pulses, and other miscellaneous products to South Korea. Cosmetics, foodstuff, electronic equipment, mobile devices and other commodities are imported from South Korea.

According to the ministry's yearly trade statistics, trade between the two countries in the last fiscal year 2017-2018 totalled \$798.4 million, decreasing



Cargo ships carrying goods are seen in Yangon River. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

by \$76 million against the previous 2016-2017 FY's total of \$866 million.

Trade between the two countries reached its peak of \$1.57 billion in the 2013-2014 FY.

It decreased to \$862 million in the 2014-2015 FY and \$656 million in 2015-2016 FY.

According to a report of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration,

South Korea's investments in Myanmar this year reached \$7.8 million from two projects. Last year, its investment in Myanmar was worth \$253.9 million. —Khine Khant ■

Licences to be revoked if importers fail to settle violation within 30 days

Twenty-nine automobile companies from Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw are warned by the Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicle Import for violating rules, and are urged to settle their violation within 30 days. The supervisory committee conducted an inspection tour to check whether or not car sales centers abided by the prescribed rules and regulation. They found 29 companies violating the rules. Those companies are urged to settle their violations within 30 days to the supervisory committee,

which regulates vehicle registrations, imports and taxation. If those companies fail to settle this, the import licenses of companies' directors will be revoked and company registration will be cancelled. The Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicle Import released an official announcement on 16 October 2017 to the effect that the year 2014 would be set as the limit for the oldest models that can be imported in 2018. Only vehicles with left-hand drive are allowed to be imported, under the new policy. —GNLM ■

Singapore-Myanmar trade exceeds \$1 billion in three months

MYANMAR'S trade value with Singapore exceeded US\$1 billion from April to June, but the country's import outdoes export, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Singapore is the second largest trading partner of Myanmar in the region, after Thailand. Myanmar's export to Singapore was worth only \$130 million, while import was valued at \$933.7 million.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, footwear,

textile and clothing, minerals and animal products to Singapore, while its imports are plastic, fuel oil, capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer products, metals and chemicals.

Myanmar's bilateral trade with Singapore registered at \$3.83 billion in 2017-2018 fiscal year, \$2.96 billion in 2016-2017 FY, \$3.69 billion in 2015-2016 FY, \$4.89 billion in 2014-2015 FY, \$3.6 billion in 2013-2014 FY, \$2.82 billion in 2012-2013 FY, \$3.05 billion in 2011-2012 FY.

Singapore listed enterprises brought \$53 million into the country, as of June during the six-month interim period prior to the next FY 2018-2019, according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Additionally, Singapore placed first on the list of countries with largest FDI inflow in Thilawa Special Economic Zone with investments of \$598 million so far, followed by Japan with \$441 million and Thailand with over \$170 million. —Khine Khant ■

All-Round Youth Development Festival (Mandalay)



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, government officials, teachers and students from various regional universities and colleges actively participate in the early morning walk along the University of Mandalay's circuit, leading up to the All-Round Youth Development Festival to be held in the university's premises later in the day. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Students and faculty members of Mandalay's universities and colleges take a documentary photo with Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and government officials in front of the entrance to the main hall of the University of Mandalay, after the early morning walk. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



A musician entertains the audience during the evening part of the music program at the youth festival. **PHOTO: MNA**



Famous musicians and vocalists perform live in front of the audience, in the morning and evening parts of the music program, at the All-Round Youth Development Festival (Mandalay). **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Erdogan says crash of lira 'political plot' against Turkey

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday slammed the crash of the lira amid a widening spat with the United States as a "political plot" and said his country would instead seek new markets and new allies.

"The aim of the operation is to make Turkey surrender in all areas from finance to politics. We are once again facing a political, underhand plot. With God's permission we will overcome this," Erdogan told his party members in the Black Sea city of Trabzon.

The embattled Turkish lira tumbled over 16 percent to new record lows against the dollar as strains with the United States intensified over a number of issues including the detention of a pastor as well as Washington's cooperation with Syrian Kurdish militia force in the fight against Islamic State.

"We can only say 'good-bye' to anyone who sacrifices its strategic partnership and a half century alliance with a country of 81 million for the sake of relations with terror groups," Erdogan said.

"You dare to sacrifice 81-million Turkey for a priest who is linked to terror groups?"

US President Donald Trump said Friday he had doubled steel and aluminium tariffs on Turkey, which pushed the Turkish lira to new historic lows against the dollar.

The White House said the newly imposed sanctions would take effect from August 13.

Turkey remains at loggerheads with the United States in one of the worst spats between the two NATO allies in years



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan delivers a speech during a ceremony marking the second anniversary of the attempted coup at the Presidential Palace in Ankara, on July 15, 2018. **PHOTO:AFP**

over the detention for the last two years of American pastor Andrew Brunson and a host of other issues.

"We will give our answer, by shifting to new markets,

new partnerships and new alliances, to the one who waged an economic war against the entire world and also included our country," Erdogan said. —AFP ■



Frontier guards and local police help reinforce fishing boats at a dock in the Luqiao District of Taizhou City, east China's Zhejiang Province. China's national observatory on Sunday upgraded the alert for typhoon Yagi from blue to yellow, as the typhoon is forecast to make landfall in the eastern coastal region Sunday night. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China upgrades alert for typhoon Yagi

BELJING — China's national observatory on Sunday upgraded the alert for typhoon Yagi from blue to yellow, as the typhoon is forecast to make landfall in the eastern coastal region Sunday night.

At 5 p.m., the center of Yagi, this year's 14th typhoon, was over the East China Sea about 235 km southeast of the city of Taizhou, Zhejiang Province, the

National Meteorological Center (NMC) said in a statement.

It will move at a pace of around 35 km per hour towards the northwest with increasing force, and will make landfall in Zhejiang Province Sunday night, the center said.

Yagi will weaken after making landfall and continue to move northwest inland, the NMC said.

China has a four-tier

color-coded weather warning system for typhoons with red representing the most severe, followed by orange, yellow, and blue.

The NMC suggested local governments prepare for possible disasters, ships in affected areas return to port, and residents along the typhoon's path stay indoors until it passes. — Xinhua ■

China-Belarus Industrial Park propels Belarusian economy

MINSK — The China-Belarus industrial park Great Stone, a pivot of the Silk Road Economic Belt, serves as an engine of the Belarusian economy, the park's chief administrator told the Chinese media in an interview on Friday.

The industrial park, a special economic zone created by both countries within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, serves as a key platform for attracting worldwide high technology and investment, Alexander Yaroshenko said. Widely hailed as a "pearl" on the Belt and Road, the park secures Belarus a strong suit for its geopolitical significance.

Geographically, it sits at the heartland of Europe, linking up with the huge European Union market in the west and with Russia and Kazakhstan in the east through the Eurasian Economic Union.

Politically, it thrives in a relatively favorable environment marked by domestic stability, the park head pointed out.

Another competitive edge of the park is the partnership with China, which boasts richer experience in economic zone development and unquestion-

able strength in capital and technology, he said.

The park is managed based on the model of China's Suzhou Industrial Park.

There are so far 20 Chinese companies out of the 36 companies that have already settled in the park. Yaroshenko believes that the Chinese investors are leading the development of the Great Stone.

Both countries have also coordinated with each other on relevant legal efforts, with Belarus rolling out No. 166 presidential decree last May, the third one serving the park.

The decree fully incorporated advanced experience from China, such as the notion of providing "one-stop" services. Speaking of the upcoming China International Import Expo to be held in Shanghai this November, the former vice minister of the Ministry of Economy expressed high expectations for fruitful outcomes benefiting the Great Stone industry park and Belarus as a whole. Belarus stands ready to actively take part in the Expo and use the Expo to promote Belarusian products and investment opportunities, he said. —Xinhua ■

Developing spirit of cooperation between young and older people vital for growth

YOUTHS are the future and hope of any nation. They are talented and innovative — they are the symbol of strength and persistence.

We need to empower the next generation so that they can take their responsibility of strengthening a system laid down by the previous generation.

Myanmar is leading a people-based system, because people are the most effective resource of the system to benefit the country and the people.

Building a system is similar to construction of a road. Whether the condition of the road our country will have to walk can bear the big challenges will be decided by our people.

The future road of the country should be 'all-weather road', which is trafficable in all weather conditions.

To get a high-quality road, it is necessary to use good materials and a good system when we start building a road.

Likewise, one of the main materials which are necessary for building a country is our people. Our people's morality and qualifications are good materials. We need a good system to make correct use of these good resources.

The country is paying attention to nurturing our youths to become leaders and positive contributors in their communities and to strengthening the system of the Union, so that it will be able to meet the challenges when the country faces conflicts and obstacles.

Though young people have less experience than older people, they are generally less pessimistic than older people.

Generally, it is found that older people take pragmatic approach to an issue but young people are more inclined to ideology.

It means we can bring success to our every effort for the country in the spirit of cooperation between the youths and older people.

All youths must be redirected to reach greater heights in their lives. Older people need to work hand-in-hand with younger people to empower them.

The nation's future rests on the next generation's livelihood, skills and sense of personal security.

At the same time, we would like to urge our young people to develop the spirit of cooperation to get good friends on their road to all-round development.

A nation that fails to invest in the future of its young people is a doomed nation.

... one of the main materials which are necessary for building a country is our people. Our people's morality and qualifications are good materials. We need a good system to make right use of these good resources.

THE Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) and the Ministry of Education (MOE) of Myanmar are jointly reforming school health programme with a greater emphasis on health promotion and health literacy, environmental health and sanitation, non-communication disease prevention, including mental health, injury and violence prevention.

Ministry of Health and Sports has been implementing health promoting schools under the slogan: "A health promoting school is a school constantly strengthening its capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning and working." Myanmar has adopted the concept of health promotion in school settings since the beginning of Global School Health Initiatives in 1996. Health promoting school programme was introduced into existing school health services aiming to promote health standards for all students, skills and knowledge needed for adoption of healthy lifestyle. In principle, a health promoting school encompasses healthy school policies; school's physical and social environment; health education, skills, literacy, and health services; and community engagement.

Current health status of school children in Myanmar

Myanmar Global School-based School Health Surveys were conducted twice, one in 2007 and another in 2016. The surveys showed overall health behaviour and risk factors across spectrums of health among students aged 13-15 years, ranging from dietary behaviours, hygiene, mental health, physical activity, alcohol and tobacco use, to protective factors, knowledge about HIV infection and AIDS and violence and unintentional injuries.

Generally, students' personal hygiene in Myanmar, including hand washing before and after meals, as well as after using toilet, and teeth brushing, is in good coverage. Percentage of students who reported rarely washing their hands or cleaning their teeth is very low. Students who directly engaged risk behaviours are also low. However, they were exposed to tobacco as second-hand smokers from their environment. Regarding physical activity and dietary behaviour, most students are at risk of becoming overweight, as most students are not physically active or having fruits and vegetables on regular basis.

Concerning mental health indicators among students, considering suicide, planning suicide and attempted suicide are also



Comprehensive School Health Strategies in Myanmar

2018 School Health Strategy

By: Dr Aung Tun
Ministry of Health and Sports

increasing, about seven times in recent decade. Associating with nutrition and physical activity, 7.6% of students were at risk for overweight ($> +1SD$ for BMI) and 18.0% were under weight ($< -2SD$ for BMI). The double burden of malnutrition is clearly present in this country. Sedentary behaviour, such as children who spent three or more hours per day, existed at 16.4%.

School Health Division of the Department of Public Health is responsible for planning and implementation of school health program in Myanmar. This division is headed by a Director, supported by a team of technical staff. State/Region directors are responsible for school health program activities at the respective state and region. A Township Officer for MCH/School/Nutrition is assigned to carry out school health activities in each township.

Comprehensive School Health Strategy (2017-2022)

National Consultation meeting on Comprehensive School Health Strategy was conducted in December 2016, participated by approximately 70 participants from MOHS and MOE. The comprehensive school health (CHS) strategy (2017-2022) was developed, based on the context of National Health Plan 2017-2022 for younger generation, which comes from both education and health sectors. This Comprehensive School Health Strategy (2017-2022) is crafted to improve quality of education and health of students through holistic health promoting school approach, along with factors, influencing health of students especially from families and communities.

Major Comprehensive School Health strategies are:

Strategic 1: Strengthen and develop health promoting school structure and system,

Strategic 2: Improve health and well-being through health literacy and services, Strategic 3: Harmonize health and education through health promoting schools, and

Strategic 4: Strengthen community partnership in Health Promoting Schools

Strategic 1 is fundamental to effective and successful interventions to improve child and adolescent health as well as promote health to the whole community through schools, students and teachers. It will also enhance coordination and mobilization of resources.

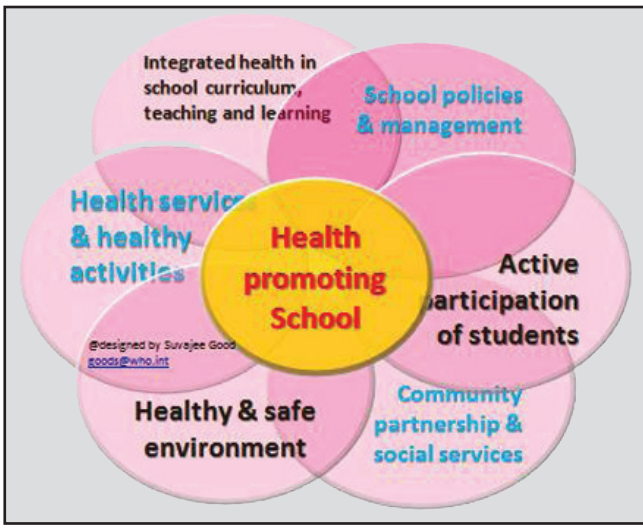
Strategic 2 is the key toward promotion of health in school settings that include school students, teachers, parents and community participation in children's health and wellbeing, as well as providing multiple effects on health and sustainable development. Health services and health promotion in schools can be cascaded in different sets of activities that ensure health and well-being of students.

Strategic 3 provides linkage between health and education goals, as well as approaches that have been utilized, promoted, or advocated for schools in the past and for future programmes as potential partners are involved.

Strategic 4 includes cooperation not only by children's parents but also by community people, because partnerships with local communities are indispensable factors for the effective implementation and success of health promotion schools. The health and education services through schools are included as well as cooperation of the local communities.

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Health Promoting School Framework

Health Week

this not only affects the health and development of the students, but how it contributes to productivity, economic growth and ultimately, national development.

During this period, five health promoting school activities will be implemented in all basic education schools of the country. National-level School Health Week ceremony will be held in Loikaw, Kayah State, this year. The prioritized health promoting school activities includes school environmental sanitation, school medical examination and treatment, prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases, school health education, school nutrition promotion and food safety. Ministry of Health and Sports will also launch its school deworming campaign across the country.



Central Level School Health Committee Meeting (1/2018) held on 12 June. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Recent developments in school health in Myanmar

1. Implementation of School Health Programme, as one of the three priorities of Ministry of Health and Sports, since 1 April 2016.
2. Dr Aye Zin Latt of Shwabo Constituency urged the Union Government to create a long term strategic plan with the Ministry of Health and Sports and other respective ministries to draft a national policy on school health and to allot a suitable amount of the national budget annually for the initiative, during the 25th day meeting of the seventh session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw (7 March 2018). The motion was discussed by 15 MPs and the Pyithu Hluttaw approved the motion. Ministry of Health and Sports also approved the motion so that a suitable budget can be allotted to the School Health Programme, under the Ministry of Health and Sports after the Hluttaw's approval.
3. Implementation of long

term program for school nutrition and food safety in line with the Pyithu Hluttaw's motion (2 February 2018).

4. Formation of new school health committees at central, state/region, district and township levels by the Office of the President Order No. 21/2018 (dated 8 February 2018).

5. With the objective to scale up and sustain comprehensive school health activities in Myanmar, Ministry of Health and Sports and Ministry of Education held a coordination meeting of Central Level School Health Committee (1/2018) on 12 June 2018.

2018 School Health Week

In collaboration with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Sports will observe this year's National School Health Week from August 13 to 17, 2018.

The primary goal of the National School Health Week is to spread the word regarding the importance of school health and how

School Children's Health, Tomorrow's Wealth

In the era of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), health and its determinants cut across all sectors and require multi-sectoral coordination. Myanmar is one of the countries that has aspiration towards sustainable and inclusive development, that health and well-being of the people are at the centre of development. Best investment on health is for prevention and promotion. Promoting health through school setting is the most cost effective that produces viable outcomes. A synergic interface between the health service sector and the education sector from the central to the grassroots level is a foundation for promoting people's health, enhancing health literacy, and enabling people to access health and education services at all levels.

That is One Step for Myanmar School Health, One Giant Leap for Myanmar People.

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Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs M.S.T on 12-8-2018)

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (3) feet at Hpaan above its danger level. It may fall about (½) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying area in Hpaan Township, to take precaution measure.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 12th August, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 13th AUGUST, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Bago Region, (Northern and Southern) Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Magway Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9 - 12) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong Monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th AUGUST, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th AUGUST, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th AUGUST, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Mali in presidential runoff overshadowed by security crisis

BAMAKO — Malians were called to the ballot box on Sunday for a presidential runoff likely to see Ibrahim Boubacar Keita return to office despite criticism of his handling of the country's security crisis.

The second round is a rerun of a 2013 faceoff that Keita won by a landslide over former finance minister Soumaila Cisse.

This year's campaign saw fierce attacks on his failure to dampen a wave of jihadist bloodshed and ethnic violence.

But public enthusiasm has been low and the opposition is fractured.

Keita, 73, was credited with 41.7 percent of the July 29 first-round vote while Cisse, 68, picked up 17.78 percent. Cisse insisted on Friday he could turn things around on polling day—warning the status quo would only bring “chaos” in a “torn nation.”

But he failed to unite the opposition behind him, and first-round challengers have either backed the president or refused to give voting instructions.

Few Malians attended a string of planned marches and protests called for by opposition leaders in the capital Bamako ahead of the run-off.

As a result, Keita, commonly



Demonstrators take part in a protest against incumbent Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in Bamako on the eve of the second round of presidential elections. **PHOTO: AFP**

named “IBK” after his initials, is the clear favourite.

A few hundred Keita supporters gathered late on Friday in the capital of Bamako for the last meeting of the campaign.

“He needs to finish what he started,” Silandou Soumare, a civil servant, told AFP. “With all Malians on board, we can have peace in Mali!”

In 2013, Keita won more than three-quarters of the vote.

Peace deal

Voting will be open from 0800 to 1800 GMT. Turnout was low in the first round of voting at around 40 percent.

The first round was peppered by violent attacks and threats from armed groups that led to several hundred polling stations being closed, mainly in the lawless central region.

Security services said Saturday they had disrupted a plot

to carry out “targeted attacks” in the capital Bamako on the eve of the runoff.

Three members of a “commando” cell who were planning attacks had been arrested, the security services said in a statement, adding that the trio were also suspected of involvement in a robbery which left three people dead in 2016.

Security will be tightened for the second round, an aide in the

prime minister's office said, with 20 percent more soldiers on duty.

This means 36,000 Malian military will be deployed, 6,000 more than two weeks earlier, with a particular focus on the Mopti region in the centre of the country where voting stations had been closed, Cheick Oumar told AFP.

The three main opposition candidates mounted a last-ditch legal challenge to the first-round result, alleging ballot-box stuffing and other irregularities. But their petition was rejected by the Constitutional Court.

Cisse's party told AFP in the early hours of Sunday that ballot papers were already circulating, several hours before polls opened.

Outside Mali, the hope is that the winner will strengthen a 2015 accord that the fragile Sahel state sees as its foundation for peace.

The deal brought together the government, government-allied groups and former Tuareg rebels. But a state of emergency heads into its fourth year in November.

Jihadist violence has spread from the north to the centre and south of the vast country and spilled into neighbouring Burkina Faso and Niger, often inflaming communal conflicts. —AFP ■

Officer killed, 16 injured in fire exchange with terrorists in Amman, Jordan

AMMAN—A security officer was killed in an exchange of fire with terrorists in the city of Al Salt, northwest of capital Amman, the government said Saturday night.

Minister of State for Media Affairs Jumana Ghunaimat said the terrorists hiding in a building opened fire on security forces who were chasing them. The terrorists, the minister said, were behind an attack on Friday by an explosive device that killed a security officer in Fuheis in Amman.

“When the police forces entered the building, the terrorists blew up the building,” she said in a statement. The terrorists refused to surrender and started opening heavy fire.

At least 16 other civilians and officers were injured, according to security sources who preferred

to be anonymous.

The security operations are still ongoing until late Saturday while three terrorists were arrested, said the minister.

Medics at Salt Public Hospital called for blood donation.

“We have many injuries ... Many of the injured are in serious conditions. We need blood donations,” one of the medics at the hospital told Xinhua.

On Friday, a Jordanian officer was killed and six others were injured when a primitive explosive device detonated in Fuheis area near Amman, according to a news release from the Interior Ministry Saturday.

The ministry said that investigations were underway and no group claimed responsibility for the attack yet. —Xinhua ■

Egypt forces foil suicide attack on church in Cairo

CAIRO—Egyptian forces have thwarted on Saturday an attempted attack on a church in Cairo before the suicide bomber exploded himself, state-run Ahram news website reported.

The bomber attempted to infiltrate the crowds of Copts, who were celebrating the birthday of Mary that started on 7 August, outside Al-Azra Church in Shoubra district in north of the capital.

Due to the intensive security measures near the church, the suicide bomber had to detonate his explosive belt on a bridge overlooking the church, the report added.

The man wearing phosphoric jacket has detonated the belt some 250 meters away from the church, official news agency



Police officers stand guard at the site where a suicide bomber detonated his explosive belt in Cairo, Egypt, 11 August 2018. Egyptian forces have thwarted on Saturday an attempted attack on a church in Cairo before the suicide bomber infiltrating into the crowd, state-run Ahram news website reported. **PHOTO: Xinhua**

MENA reported.

No other casualties were reported.

Since the ouster of the former Islamist President Mohamed Morsi in 2013 by the army in response to mass protests

against his rule, Egypt has been facing a wave of anti-security terrorist attacks that killed hundreds of security men.

Some of the attacks also have targeted civilians and churches in recent years. —Xinhua ■

Spain PM urges EU nations to confront migrant crisis as “common challenge”

MADRID — Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Sunday urged all members of the European Union (EU) to unite and confront the migrant crisis as a “common challenge”.

Reducing the inequality of the migrants among EU member states should be one of the objectives for the European Union at present and in future, Sanchez told a joint press conference with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

“This is something that we can only achieve as a whole, not with isolated sight among the member states of the European Union. I think Spain and Germany share that vision,” he said.

Sanchez held talks with Merkel in the city of San Lucar de Barrameda in southern Spain.

Merkel told the press conference that the migrants should be distributed equally among EU members. “They have to be spread across the European Union, as this is a challenge for all members, not just for a few countries,” Merkel said.

Speaking after her arrival on Saturday, Merkel said her country is backing Spain’s bid to stem the flow of migrants from Morocco to Europe via the Mediterranean, days after the two European countries signed a bilateral refugee deal, German news agency DPA reported.

Honest cooperation with African nations was important to secure the return of rejected asylum seekers, she added.

Sanchez said that Spain “is under enormous migration pressure coming from countries south of the Sahara”, according to DPA.

“We should reject the op-

portunism of those who only promise to repeat the solutions that have failed of the past,” he added.

“We can’t only talk about controlling the borders and the coasts of Europe, but also have to reinforce secondary movements and cooperation with African countries. Both Spain and Germany plan to do so,” Sanchez said.

On Monday, Berlin and Madrid reached an agreement to send migrants arriving in Germany back to Spain within 48 hours if they already have a pending asylum request there. Spain is the first EU country to sign such an agreement with Germany.

When asked whether the deal was only symbolic, given that so few asylum-seekers actually arrive in Germany after registering in Spain, Merkel said that it showed “that Germany and Spain support a European solution” to the migration question.

Merkel is hoping to strike similar deals with Greece and Italy, after a major showdown on asylum policy with German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer that threatened to topple her coalition in early July.

Spain has rescued 22,858 migrants from the sea during the first seven months of 2018, according to a government report, which is more than any other country in the EU.

Both Sanchez and Merkel confirmed that the EU will increase the funds for Morocco, the key country to control migratory pressure on the coasts of southern Spain, although neither of them specified the amount. — Xinhua ■



Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez (R) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel attend a joint press conference in Sanlucar de Barrameda, Cadiz, Spain, on 11 August 2018. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Saturday urged all members of the European Union (EU) to unite and confront the migrant crisis as a “common challenge”. PHOTO: XINHUA

Investors sue Tesla’s Musk over go-private tweets

NEW YORK — Two investors filed suit against Tesla CEO Elon Musk and the electric car company after he tweeted he wanted to take the firm private, causing the share price to inflate and short-selling investors to lose millions.

On Tuesday, Musk said he could finance the buyout of Tesla, founded in 2003, at a large premium to current valuation, at a price of \$420 a share.

As a result, Tesla shares jumped 11 percent, causing so-called short-sellers who have been betting on the stock crashing for years to lose millions.

Short-selling involves borrowing overpriced shares in the belief that their price will decline, so they can be sold and then bought back at a lower price.

Musk, often the center of controversy, did not prove he had the funds to finance the operation — despite tweeting “funding secured.”

Kalman Isaacs, one of the investors who filed suit Friday in a San Francisco court, claimed Musk’s tweets were



Elon Musk has done little to hide his disdain toward financial speculators, whom he regularly mocks on his Twitter account. PHOTO: AFP

“designed to completely decimate short-sellers.” He said he had to buy around 3,000 Tesla shares on Wednesday, the day after Musk’s tweets, to limit his losses.

William Chamberlain, another investor, also filed suit with accusations of artificial inflation.

Chamberlain said Musk and Tesla “artificially drove the price of Tesla shares up as much as \$45.47 from their August 6, 2018 closing price (\$341.99).”

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulator contacted Tesla to

inquire whether Musk’s statements were factual and why the disclosure was made on Twitter rather than in a regulatory filing, according to media reports.

Musk has done little to hide his disdain toward financial speculators, whom he regularly mocks on his Twitter account.

In a blog post, he said going private would liberate the company from the quarterly reporting cycle, allowing it to be “free from as much distraction and short-term thinking as possible.” —AFP ■

‘Suicidal’ airport worker steals, crashes empty plane from Seattle airport

SEATTLE — A 29-year-old “suicidal” airport worker who commandeered an empty plane from Seattle’s main airport and took it on an hour-long flight chased by F-15 fighter jets before crashing into a small island did not commit any security violations, officials said Saturday. Horizon Air employee Richard Russell told an air traffic controller he was “just a broken man” minutes before dying late Friday in the Bombardier Q400 twin-engine turboprop plane, appearing to apologize for his actions. Law enforcement officials identified him to US media.

Authorities ruled out any link to terror. But consternation grew over the safety gaps that allowed an airport worker to easily gain access to a commercial airliner and fly it over a major metropolitan area.

“Everybody’s stunned... that something like this would

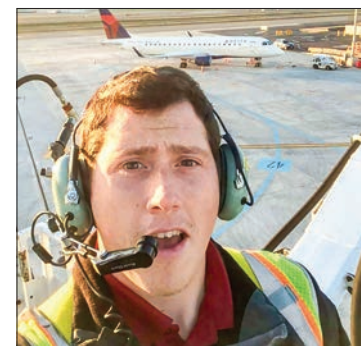
happen,” said recently retired Horizon operational supervisor Rick Christenson. “How could it? Everybody’s been through background checks.”

Russell “had access legitimately” to the plane, said Mike Ehl, director of aviation operations at the airport in the northwestern US state of Washington, adding that “no security violations were committed.”

Video taken by a bystander showed the 76-seat plane making a big, slow loop-the-loop as US Air Force F-15 jets gave chase, then flying low over Puget Sound before crashing into sparsely populated Ketron Island, setting trees on fire. “To our knowledge, he didn’t have a pilot’s license,” Gary Beck, CEO of Alaska Airlines affiliate Horizon, told reporters.

“Commercial aircraft are complex machines... No idea how he achieved that experience.”

But Russell’s role at Horizon, where he had worked since 2015,



This undated selfie picture available on social media on 11 August 2018 shows Richard B Russell, a ground service agent at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport who stole a plane and flew it for about an hour before crashing on an island. PHOTO: AFP

involved towing aircraft as part of a two person team, in addition to loading and unloading cargo and luggage and cleaning the aircraft, according to Beck. “At this time, we believe he was the only one in the aircraft but of course, we haven’t confirmed that at the crash site,” said Jay Tabb, chief of the FBI’s Seattle division. —AFP ■

Caspian Sea nations to sign landmark deal

AKTAU (Kazakhstan) — The leaders of the five states bordering the Caspian Sea meet in Kazakhstan on Sunday to sign a landmark deal on the inland sea which boasts a wealth of oil and gas reserves and sturgeon.

Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan are expected to agree a long-awaited convention on the legal status of the sea, which has been disputed since the collapse of the Soviet Union rendered obsolete agreements between Tehran and Moscow.

Talks in the port city of Aktau should help ease tensions in a militarised region where the legal limbo has scuppered lucrative projects and strained relations among nations along the Caspian's 7,000-kilometre (4,350-mile) shoreline.

The Kremlin said the convention keeps most of the sea in shared use but divides up the seabed and underground resources.

It does not allow military bases from any other countries to be sited on the Caspian.

'Once a frontier oil province'

Sunday's summit is the fifth of its kind since 2002 but there have been more than 50 lower-level meetings since the Soviet breakup spawned four new countries on the shores of the Caspian.

The deal will settle a long-lasting dispute on whether the Caspian is a sea or a lake — which means it falls under different international laws.

The draft agreement, briefly

made public on a Russian government portal in June, refers to the Caspian as a sea but the provisions give it "a special legal status", Russian deputy foreign minister Grigory Karasin told *Kommersant* daily.

It is the Caspian's vast hydrocarbon reserves — estimated at around 50 billion barrels of oil and just under 300 trillion cubic feet (8.4 trillion cubic metres) of natural gas in proved and probable reserves — that have made a deal both vital and complex to achieve.

"Disputes arose when the Caspian was a frontier oil province," said John Roberts, a non-resident senior fellow at Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center, while it is "now well established, with major fields approaching peak... production."

'Expand cooperation'

Any deal will "expand the field for multilateral cooperation" between the five states, said Ilham Shaban, who heads the Caspian Barrel thinktank.

But some are likely to view it as more of a breakthrough than others.

Energy-rich but isolated Turkmenistan is particularly excited and President Gurganguly Berdymukhammedov has called for annual Caspian Sea Day celebrations from Sunday onwards.

Turkmenistan could benefit from a concession allowing the construction of underwater pipelines, which were previously blocked by the other states.

Nevertheless, analysts cau-



A man and a child stand in the water at a beach in the Caspian Sea port city of Mahmoud Abad, in northern Mazandaran province on 16 June 2016. **PHOTO: AFP**

tion that Turkmenistan's long-held plan to send gas through a trans-Caspian pipeline to markets in Europe via Azerbaijan is not necessarily closer to becoming reality.

The plan was previously opposed by Russia and Iran, which could still attempt to block the pipeline — valued at up to \$5 billion — on environmental grounds.

"A deal in Aktau is not a legal prerequisite for the construction of the Trans-Caspian Pipeline," said Kate Mallinson, Associate Fellow for the Russia and Eurasia Programme at Chatham House.

"Neither will a major transport corridor to export Turkmen gas to Europe emerge overnight."

Kudos and caviar

As previous exclusive arbiters of Caspian agreements, Russia and Iran could be seen as the new deal's biggest losers.

But while Moscow has ceded ground on underwater pipelines "it gains political kudos for breaking a log-jam," enhancing its image as diplomatic dealmaker, said Roberts of the Eurasia Center.

Russia will welcome the clause barring third countries from having military bases on the Caspian, underscoring its military dominance there, said Shaban of Caspian Barrel.

Iran gets the smallest share of the Caspian spoils under the new deal, but could take advantage of new legal clarity to

engage in joint hydrocarbons ventures with Azerbaijan.

In the past Tehran has resorted to hostile naval manoeuvres to defend its claims to contested territory.

Beyond military and economic questions, the agreement also offers hope for the Caspian's ecological diversity.

Reportedly depleted stocks of the beluga sturgeon, whose eggs are prized globally as caviar, may now grow thanks to "a clear common regime for the waters of the Central Caspian," Roberts said.

The deal could result "not only in stricter quotas for sturgeon fishing, but in stricter enforcement of these quotas," he added. —AFP ■

Lombok quake death toll reaches almost 400

JAKARTA — The death toll from Sunday's magnitude 6.9 earthquake on the Indonesian island of Lombok has reached 387, a government official said Saturday.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said the figure included two people who were

killed on neighboring Bali Island.

A total of 334 fatalities occurred in the island's North Lombok Regency, where the quake's epicenter was located. Sutopo said the death toll is expected to rise further due to people being buried by landslides. According to Sutopo, 13,688 people were

injured and 387,067 people have been displaced. "Some people actually don't need to evacuate because their houses were strong enough to withstand the quake but they have been traumatized by the quakes," the senior government official said, referring to the quake and continuing aftershocks. Almost 70,000 houses and buildings, including schools, hospitals, public health centers and mosques, were also damaged or destroyed by the quake, as well as six bridges, blocking access to affected areas, Sutopo said. The Jakarta-based Meteorological, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said more than 521 aftershocks have hit the island since Sunday's major quake, with 21 of them having magnitudes between 5 and 6.2. —Kyodo ■



Photo taken on 7 August 2018 shows a house damaged by a major earthquake in Indonesia's Lombok island. **PHOTO: KYODO**

China lowers prices of 14 cancer drugs

BEIJING — China's state medical insurance administration has lowered the procurement prices of 14 cancer drugs, asking provincial-level drug procurement platforms to follow the new standard by the end of September. The National Healthcare Security Administration said Saturday patients are expected to be able to buy these drugs starting from September.

The decision was based on a recent circular on the adjustment of medical insurance reimbursement and procurement prices of cancer drugs.

The administration will further its guidance to make sure the new prices are implemented,

in order to allow the public to enjoy the benefits as soon as possible, a source from the administration said. Negotiations have been underway between the administration and pharmaceutical companies to add more affordable cancer drugs to the country's medical insurance reimbursement list. A range of drugs have been selected, with the administration confirming the producers' willingness to further negotiate. The drugs are all crucial in dealing with hematological neoplasms and solid tumors, and have great clinical value and bode huge benefits to patients, the administration said. —Xinhua ■

Farmers in war-torn Afghanistan hit by worst drought in decades

MAZAR-i-SHARIF—After his wheat crop failed and wells dried up, Ghulam Abbas sold his animals and joined thousands of other farmers migrating to cities as Afghanistan's worst drought in living memory ravages the war-torn country.

A huge shortfall in snow and rain across much of the country over the normally wet colder months decimated the winter harvest, threatening the already precarious livelihoods of millions of farmers and sparking warnings of severe food shortages.

Like hundreds of farming families in Charkint village in the normally fertile northern province of Balkh, Abbas, 45, has moved with 11 family members to the provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif to find work.

"I don't remember a drought as severe as this year's," Abbas, who has been a farmer for more than three decades, told AFP.

"We never had to leave

our village or sell our animals because of a drought in the past."

As dry conditions and high temperatures persist, there are growing concerns about the spring and summer crops that will be harvested later this year.

Afghanistan's 2018 wheat harvest is already expected to be the lowest since at least 2011, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, set up by USAID in 1985.

Faced with an estimated shortfall of 2.5 million tonnes of wheat this year, more than two million people could become "severely food insecure" and would be in "desperate need" of humanitarian assistance in the next six months, the United Nations has warned.

Tens of thousands of sheep and goats have died and many farmers have eaten the seeds for the next planting season, as rivers and wells dry up and pastures turn to dust.

"If the authorities and

the international community don't step up to this challenge now, Afghanistan could face a calamity as we head into the next winter," UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Afghanistan Toby Lanzer told AFP recently.

But thousands of farmers like Abbas have already given up hope, abandoning their land and moving their families to towns and cities to survive. The UN estimates more than 70,000 people have been displaced to urban areas due to the drought.

"Three years ago it rained and snowed well in our village," Abbas said.

"The crops yielded well and I made more than 300,000 afs (afghanis, or nearly \$4,300). But this year, even though I sold my sheep and goats, I made less than 100,000 afs (about \$1,400)."

Not enough help

The lack of precipitation in Balkh has left most of its farming and grazing land parched, Zabiullah Zoobin, provincial direc-



A girl carries containers to collect water on the outskirts of Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan, where a lack of snow and rain in recent months has badly hit the harvest, sparking warnings of severe food shortages. **PHOTO: AFP**

tor of crops and cultivation management, told AFP recently. More than 450,000 farmers and nomadic herders in the province have slaughtered their cattle, goats and sheep, or sold them for a pittance,

he added.

"All villagers are wondering what to do with their livestock and how to keep them alive because that is all they have in life," Haji Sorab, a sheep and goat herder in Dawlat Abad

district, told AFP.

The drought adds to Afghanistan's woes as its security forces struggle to beat back Taliban and Islamic State militants, and civilian casualties remain at record levels. —AFP ■

NOTICE to Yojin Myanmar Engineering Co., Ltd and Public Announcement

Notice is hereby given under the instruction of **J.K Global Firm Co., Ltd.** whoes registered address is at No. 62A, Part 3, Pin Lon Housing Estate, Padamyia Hninsi Street, North Dagon Township.

My Client **J.K Global Firm Co., Ltd.** and **Yojin Myanmar Engineering Co., Ltd.** have signed the Contract entitled **Construction Contract for Machine & Equipment Construction Work with Additional Items** on February 4, 2018 for performing installation works in **Yojin Myanmar Cement Plant Project (Thilawa Special Economic Zone)**. All works of above Contract have been mechanically completed on May 30, 2018. And my Client **J.K Global Firm Co., Ltd.** has already informed **Yojin Myanmar Engineering Co., Ltd.** of such mechanical completion achievement.

Despite extensive efforts of **J.K Global Firm Co., Ltd.** for delivering all contractual scopes with quality as per Contract requirements on time for critical startup within the first week of June 2018. **Yojin Myanmar Engineering Co., Ltd** failed to honor their contractual obligations to release overdue payments for contractual progress invoices. In this regard, **J.K Global Firm Co., Ltd.** has sent several reminders and notifications in order to settle above overdue payments at the earliest date. However, **Yojin Myanmar Engineering Co., Ltd.** has been persistently ignoring these notifications without any reasons to settle outstanding overdue payments.

Therefore, this NOTICE hereby notifies **Yojin Myanmar Engineering Co., Ltd.** to come personally and duly settle the outstanding overdue payments for **J.K Global Firm Co., Ltd** as per the Contract terms, within seven (7) calendar days from the date hereof this NOTICE. The prompt contractual action shall be taken against **Yojin Myanmar Engineering Co., Ltd** in accordance with applicable Rules and Laws as stipulated in the Contract if **Yojin Myanmar Engineering Co., Ltd.** fails to do so.

As instructed by **J.K Global Firm Co., Ltd.**
Daw Minn Shandy Hpyoe **Daw Su Su Mon**
Advocate No-12846 **Advocate No-13496**
ZILLION SM (Legal Consultants & Law Firm)
NO.1007, (12+1) Parami Condo, 16-Ward, Hlaing Tsp,
Yangon. Myanmar. PH: 09799664556, 09799664557

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(15/ 2018)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-004(18-19)	100 Ton Travelling Block with Hook (YG90) (1) Set	US\$
(2)	IFB-005(18-19)	Rotary Swivel (2) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-006(18-19)	Rotary Table Complete Package for ZJ 50 D Drilling Rig (15) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-007(18-19)	Rotary Table Complete Package for L 350 Card Well Rig (6) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-008(18-19)	30 Ton Hydraulic Mobile Crane (Wheel Type) (1) Unit	US\$
(6)	IFB-009(18-19)	Excavator(Bucket Capacity 1.2 m³)(1)Unit	US\$
(7)	IFB-010(18-19)	Excavator(Bucket Capacity 0.14 m³)(1)Unit	US\$
(8)	IFB-011(18-19)	Maintenance, Inspection and Spare Requirement for Ywama GRS (1) Lot	US\$
(9)	IFB-012(18-19)	Metering Station Upgrade, Inspection and Spare for Kyaukphyu (1) Lot	US\$
(10)	IFB-013(18-19)	Maintenance and Inspection Spare Requirement for PLC Daw Nyein (1) Lot	US\$
(11)	IFB-014(18-19)	CNG Supply Gas Purifying System Maintenance & Upgrade (1) Lot	US\$
(12)	DMP/L-065(18-19)	Spares for GM 8V-71 Engine (22) Items	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-066(18-19)	Travelling Block with Hook (DG-315 Hook) (1) Set	Ks
(14)	DMP/L-067(18-19)	Flodrift Real Time Inclination Tool Complete Set (1) Set	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-068(18-19)	Well Head Equipment(2900 Series)(4) Sets	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-069(18-19)	Well Head Equipment(1500 Series)(3) Sets	Ks
(17)	DMP/L-070(18-19)	Well Head Equipment(900 Series)(2) Sets	Ks
(18)	DMP/L-071(18-19)	Well Head Equipment(600 Series)(4) Sets	Ks
(19)	DMP/L-072(18-19)	228D-213-120 Type Pumping Unit (1) No	Ks
(20)	DMP/L-073(18-19)	114D-119-86 Type Pumping Unit (1) No	Ks
(21)	DMP/L-074(18-19)	40D-76-48 Type Pumping Unit (2) Nos	Ks
(22)	DMP/L-075(18-19)	Electrical Spares for HDD Rig (3) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moe.gov.mm) as from **13 August 2018**. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 12 September 2018**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time- 12-9-2018, 14:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206

Romanian dressmakers revel in Dior folk coat vogue

BEIUS (Roumanie) — They may feel aggrieved at not obtaining an official seal of approval, but traditional Romanian dressmakers are riding a wave of demand for their folk designs after a top fashion house inadvertently showcased their craft.

Clothes makers from the northwestern Bihor region were more than a little bemused when they got wind of a 2017 Dior collection.

Their jaws notably dropped when they saw an embroidered folk coat which looked strikingly similar to the “cojocel binsenesc” waistcoat their region has been producing for around a century.

A Romanian version of the garment, historically worn on important occasions, sells at home and abroad for around 500 euros (\$580) — almost a month’s salary in one of the European Union’s poorest countries.

The Dior coat did not go unnoticed among the wider population either; after a resident of the regional city of Beius spotted it in a Singapore shop and posted it on Facebook, sparking a strong response from users which was picked up by the media.

“That day, I posted my first comment on Facebook, thanking the Dior fashion house for appreciating this beautiful item,” Dorina Hanza, a 52-year-old embroiderer who cottoned on to the

similarity, told AFP.

La Blouse Roumaine, which promotes the Romanian blouse to encourage women to wear it, juxtaposed the different versions side by side on Twitter, adding #givecredit.

Yet Dior, which did not respond to AFP’s requests for comment, may well have done the Bihor designers a favour.

Demand has soared since the social media posts pointing out the similarities between both versions of the heavily embroidered, multicolour, sheepskin sleeveless jacket with black fur edging.

“Since then, everybody wants one” from the traditional source, enthused Ana Florea, who runs a designers’ group in Beius, near the Hungarian border.

“This waistcoat is 100 per cent ours,” she insisted.

Hanza, while happy to see the Romanian version in the lime-light, said she just wished Dior could have given a nod to their apparent inspiration.

“They could have said, ‘we borrowed this from the Romanian people,’” said Hanza, adding “the tradition might have been lost” had the current controversy not emerged.

“Thanks Dior”

Diana Naprodean, 44, also sees an upside to the Dior gar-

ment.

“That proves it’s really pretty,” said the librarian, a hobbyist crocheter and embroiderer who has just produced her own first attempt at the traditional waistcoat.

“Thanks Dior. Thanks to you we have begun to love our traditional costume again,” said Diana Herdelo, 33, another from the Beius group who is weaving one of her own.

The waistcoat is made from local Bihor sheepskin after a tanning process of around three weeks. It is then tailored and decorated with local style embroidery and worn by both men and women, although the length and motifs differ.

With traditional regional costumes being worn by fewer and fewer people, demand for the clothes had almost died out until the controversy over the Dior jacket reignited interest.

One important detail on the Dior version did not escape the notice of Bihor residents though — the jacket worn by the fashion model was adorned with motifs — a phallic symbol — strictly worn only by men.

“Tradition doesn’t allow a woman to wear a man’s cojocel or the other way around,” Hanza said.

With interest piqued, Romania’s Beau Monde magazine and



Dressmakers from Romania’s northwestern Bihor region were surprised to see an embroidered folk coat in a collection by Dior which looked strikingly similar to the “cojocel binsenesc” waistcoat their region has been producing for around a century. **PHOTO: AFP**

the McCann advertising agency have launched an ad campaign entitled Bihor Couture, along with a website where fans can order a jacket and other traditional items.

The site has already taken around 1,000 orders.

“Our goal is to help people in this region and showcase their work and their traditions which were in danger of dying out,” says Beau Monde’s former editor-in-chief Roxana Dobrita. **“Culture is a living thing”**

McCann’s creative director for Romania Catalin Dobre said he believes that “the fashion industry should do more to support traditions.

“Across the globe, the lead-

ing brands take their inspiration from different cultures without recognising it,” he told AFP in an email.

Horatiu Ilea, curator of the Romanian Peasant Museum, said he believes any accusations against Dior in this case are unjustified.

“Culture is a living thing. Ideas get bounced around, you can’t stop that,” he told AFP, adding that “cultural appropriation” has been going on since ancient times.

Rather than demand some form of redress, Ilea urged Romania “to benefit from this incident, by, for example, launching a campaign promoting traditional and artisanal work.” —AFP ■

Nobel-winning writer V.S. Naipaul dies aged 85

LONDON — British author V.S. Naipaul, a famously outspoken Nobel laureate who wrote on the traumas of post-colonial change, has died at the age of 85.

Naipaul, who was born in Trinidad and the son of an Indian civil servant, was best known for works including “A House for Mr

Biswas” and his Man Booker Prize-winning “In A Free State”.

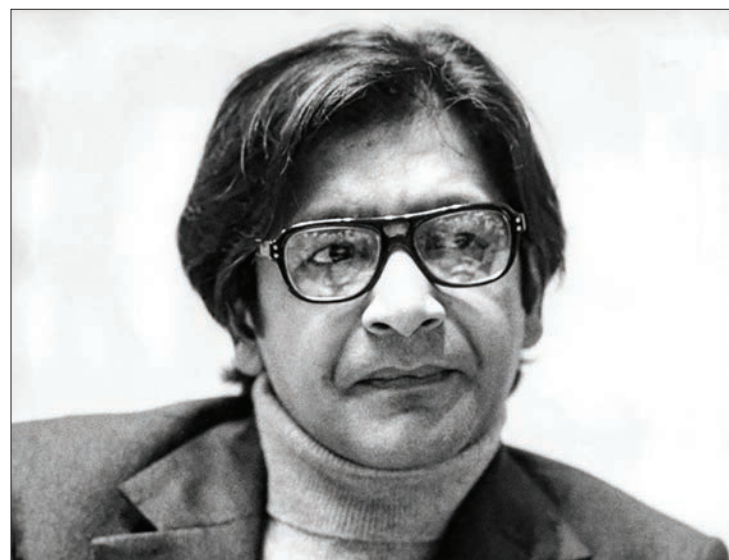
“He died surrounded by those he loved having lived a life which was full of wonderful creativity and endeavour,” his wife Lady Nadira Naipaul said in a statement on Saturday. She described the outspoken author as

a “giant in all that he achieved”.

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul settled in England and studied English literature at Oxford University on a scholarship.

But he spent much of his time travelling and despite becoming a pillar of Britain’s cultural establishment, was also a symbol of modern rootlessness.

Naipaul’s early works focused on the West Indies, but came to encompass countries around the world. He stirred controversy in the past, describing post-colonial countries as “half-made societies” and arguing that Islam both enslaved and attempted to wipe out other cultures. When he was awarded the 2001 Nobel prize for literature, the Swedish Academy described him as a “literary circumnavigator, only ever really at home in himself, in his inimitable voice”. It said he was “the annalist of the destinies of empires in the moral sense: what they do to human beings”. —AFP ■



P1401 Nobel prize-winning British author V.S. Naipaul wrote more than 30 books, and was one of the first winners of the Booker Prize in 1971 for “In A Free State”. **PHOTO: AFP**

Standard of music has fallen badly: Tochi Raina

MUMBAI — Singer-composer Tochi Raina says poetry in songs has died down resulting in deterioration of the quality of music being produced.

Tochi who has sung popular tracks like “Ik Tara”, “Kabira” says today anyone can play two strings on a guitar and write a track but they lack depth.

“The standard of music has fallen badly today which has affected the poetry in songs. The poetry is dead today and without it the music can never be good. It’s our responsibility to bring back these things,” Tochi told PTI.

“In the older times, people were inherently philosophers who would train in music and then compose songs. Today, the generation doesn’t know philosophy, they pick up guitar, play two strings and make a song. So the poetry died and

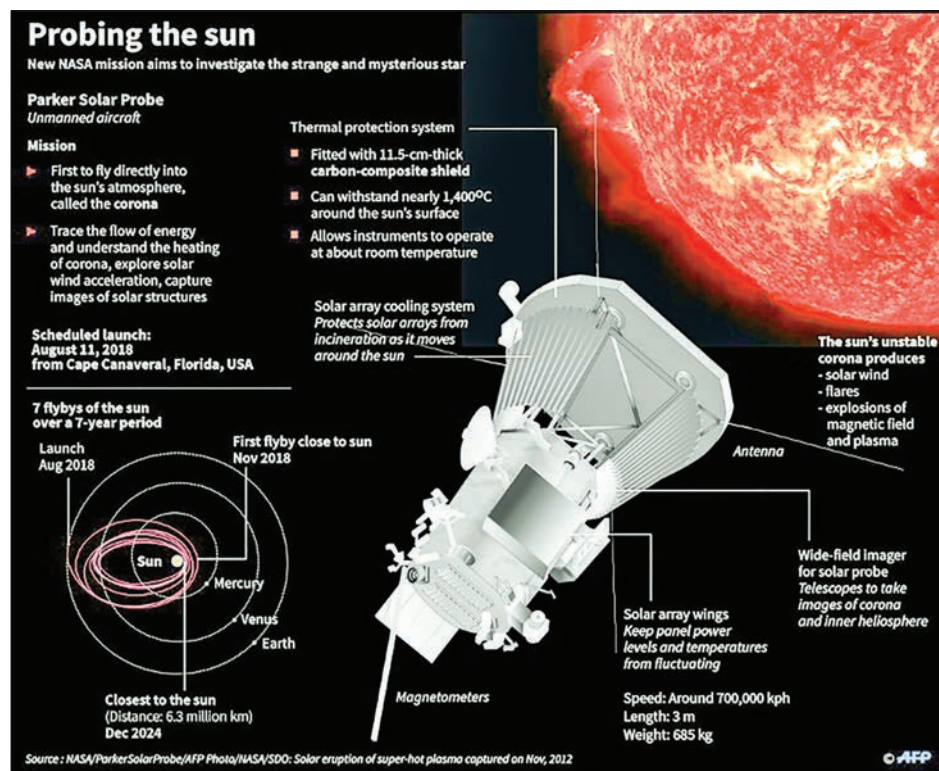
the standard fell,” he added.

Tochi recently sang “Rab-e-illahi” a Sufi track for Drishyam Play, an initiative by Drishyam Films to curate and promote fresh music from different parts of the country.

Composed by Band Of Bandagi comprising him and his brother Neeru Rawal, the singer said the song is heavily inspired from his life and everything he grew up experiencing- including running away from home.

Hailing from a music family, Tochi ran away from his home in Nepal, where his father an electrical engineer in CPWD was posted. “After tenth grade, I ran from my home with Rs 100. I went to Patiala and then came to Delhi. I slept on road and then I met Pandit Vinod Kumar, who was the discipline of Ustad bade Ghulam Ali Khan. —PTI ■

NASA postpones for 24 hours launch of historic spaceship to Sun



Probing the sun. **PHOTO: AFP**

NASA postponed until Sunday the launch of the first ever spacecraft to fly directly toward the Sun on a mission to plunge into our star's sizzling atmosphere and unlock its mysteries.

The reason for the delay was not immediately clear, but was called for after a gaseous helium alarm was sounded in the last moments before liftoff, officials said.

Engineers are taking utmost caution with the \$1.5 billion Parker Solar Probe, which Thomas Zurbuchen, head of NASA's science mission directorate, described as one of the agency's most "strategically im-

portant missions." The next launch window opens at 3:31 am (0731 GMT) on Sunday, when weather conditions are 60 percent favorable for launch, NASA said. By coming closer to the Sun than any spacecraft in history, the unmanned probe's main goal is to unveil the secrets of the corona, the unusual atmosphere around the Sun.

Not only is the corona about 300 times hotter than the Sun's surface, but it also hurls powerful plasma and energetic particles that can unleash geomagnetic space storms, wreaking havoc on Earth by disrupting the power grid. These solar

outbursts are poorly understood, but pack the potential to wipe out power to millions of people.

'Full of mysteries'

The probe is protected by an ultra-powerful heat shield that is 4.5 inches (11.43 centimeters) thick.

The shield should enable the spacecraft to survive its close shave with the fiery star, coming within 3.83 million miles (6.16 million kilometers) of the Sun's surface.

The heat shield is built to withstand radiation equivalent to up to about 500 times the Sun's radiation on Earth.

Even in a region where temperatures can reach more than a million degrees Fahrenheit, the sunlight is expected to heat the shield to just around 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit (1,371 degrees Celsius).

If all works as planned, the inside of the spacecraft should stay at just 85 degrees Fahrenheit. "The sun is full of mysteries," said Nicky Fox, project scientist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab.

91-year-old namesake

The tools on board will measure the expanding corona and continually flowing atmosphere known as the solar wind, which solar physicist Eugene Parker first described in 1958. Parker, now 91, recalled that at first some people did not believe in his theory.

But then, the launch of NASA's Mariner 2 spacecraft in 1962—becoming the first robotic spacecraft to make a successful planetary encounter—proved them wrong. —AFP ■



File photo of wooden spoons made by natural woods. The new family of bio-inspired polymeric woods is supposed to replace the natural wood when used in harsh environments. **PHOTO: Xinhua**

Chinese researchers develop new way to make high-quality artificial wood

WASHINGTON—Chinese scientists developed a new strategy for large-scale fabrication of bio-inspired artificial wood that manifested lightweight and high-strength properties with the mechanical strength comparable to that of natural wood.

A study published on Friday in the journal *Science Advances* described the high-performance polymeric materials with wood-like cellular microstructures.

A research team led by Yu Shuhong from the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) transformed traditional phenolic resin and melamine resin into the artificial wood-like materials by self-assembly and the thermocuring process.

Their strategy provided a new route to fabricate and engineer a wide range of high-performance biomimetic engineering composite materials with desirable multiple functions and advantages over the traditional counterparts, having broad potential applications in many technical fields. The liquid thermoset resins were firstly "unidirectionally" frozen to prepare a "green body" with the cellular structure, followed by the subsequent thermocuring to get the artificial polymeric woods. They are highly controllable in the pore size and wall thickness.

Starting from aqueous solution, the strategy also represented a green approach to prepare multifunctional artificial woods by compositing various nanomaterials, such as cellulose nanofibers and graphene oxide, according to the study.

Compared with natural woods, the artificial woods have better corrosion resistance to water and acid with no decrease in mechanical properties. They also have better thermal insulation and fire retardancy.

The artificial polymeric woods stand out from other engineering materials such as cellular ceramic materials and aerogels in terms of specific strength and thermal insulation properties.

As a kind of biomimetic engineering materials, this new family of bio-inspired polymeric woods is supposed to replace the natural wood when used in harsh environments, Yu told Xinhua. —Xinhua ■

Vaccine row erupts in Italy as populist govt seeks to ease rules

ROME—A row is erupting over vaccines in Italy as the country's new populist government fights to roll back a law that bans children from attending school if they haven't received a series of jabs.

The law, adopted last year by the centre-left government that was booted out of power in March, made it compulsory for children in pre-school education to be vaccinated against 10 diseases, including measles, tetanus and poliomyelitis.

Parents who have not vaccinated their children by the time they reach school age (six years old in Italy) face a fine of up to 500 euros. The new administration — formed of the anti-establishment Five Star Movement and the nationalist League — is leading the charge against the law.

Last week, the upper house Senate approved an amendment proposed by Five Star and the League pushing back enforcement of compulsory vaccination for pre-schoolers to



Italy's new administration is leading the charge against a law that bans children from attending school if they haven't received a series of jabs. **PHOTO: AFP**

the 2019-20 school year, pending a complete revision of the law after the summer recess.

New health minister Giulia Grillo, from Five Star, has drafted a new bill introducing what she calls a "flexible obligation", giving priority to education on the benefits of vaccines, encourages use of compulsory vac-

cination only over short periods and instances when the coverage rate is too low.

Grillo, a doctor, claims there will be guarantees that children who haven't been immunised could be enrolled in classes where the WHO recommended coverage is assured. —AFP ■



Off to a flyer: Jorginho scored on his Premier League debut. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chelsea, Spurs off to winning starts, Richarlison shines for Everton

LONDON — Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri got off to a winning Premier League start as new signing Jorginho slotted home coolly from the penalty spot in a 3-0 win at Huddersfield on Saturday.

Tottenham also made light of discontent over their lack of summer transfer activity by resisting a late Newcastle onslaught to win 2-1 at St James' Park thanks to goals from Jan Vertonghen and Dele Alli.

Richarlison struck twice on debut for 10-man Everton to show he may justify his £50 million price tag and hold highly-fancied Wolves 2-2 on their return to the top flight.

And Watford, Bournemouth and Crystal Palace picked up 2-0 wins on the opening weekend of the season.

Chelsea have endured a turbulent pre-season with Sarri replacing fellow Italian Antonio Conte less than a month before the campaign

got underway.

The Londoners also smashed their transfer record and set a new world-record fee for a goalkeeper in splashing 80 million euros (£72 million, \$92 million) on Kepa Arrizabalaga this week after Thibaut Courtois departed for Real Madrid.

"The situation until now has been very difficult. On Monday four players from the World Cup arrived and then on Tuesday another two, so it's not been easy for me at the moment," said Sarri, who believes it will take two months for his side to be at their best. But Kepa was rarely troubled in recording a clean sheet as the visitors' greater quality told at the John Smith's Stadium after a slow start.

"The game was more difficult than the result. If you see the result you think it was a very easy match but in the first half it was very difficult

against physical opponents," said Sarri.

Crucially Chelsea have held onto Eden Hazard, but while the Belgian was only deemed fit enough for a place on the bench following his World Cup exertions, N'Golo Kante was thrown straight into the side after starring in Russia for world champions France.

Kante has been deployed in a more advanced role due to Jorginho's arrival and was on the end of Willian's cross to open the scoring 11 minutes before half-time.

Moments later Marcos Alonso was upended inside the area and Jorginho cheekily slotted home after a hop in his run up wrong-footed Ben Hamer. Hazard was introduced for the final 15 minutes and looked keen to make up for lost time as he teed up Pedro Rodriguez to round off the scoring. —AFP ■

Myanmar to compete in U-21 International Football Tournament in China

AT the invitation of Chinese Football Association (CFA), Myanmar U-21 national football team will participate in U-21 four-country invitation cup, the U-21 International Football Tournament, in China, from 4 to 8 September, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The CFA has invited Uz-

bekistan U-21 team and Tajikistan U-21 team, along with Myanmar U-21, to play against host China U-21 team in the tournament.

In preparation for the 2019 ASEAN U-22 Championship, Asia U-23 Qualifications and 2019 SEA Games, the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)

has accepted an invitation from CFA to participate in the tournament, said an official.

Myanmar U-21 national team will be headed by its head coach U Kyi Lwin, and 25 footballers have been selected from Myanmar National League clubs, said an official from MFF. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Don't forget we're the best, Guardiola tells City Stars

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom) — Pep Guardiola insists his Manchester City players should remember their all-conquering form of last season when their title defence kicks off with a testing visit to Arsenal on Sunday.

The City manager has rejected the notion that his stars, who won the league title by a record 19 points three months ago, should forget about that glorious campaign and focus only on the months ahead.

Instead, he has told his players to use their form of last year -- in which they also set records for most points, wins and goals in the Premier League era -- to launch another championship charge.

"People say now we have to forget what we did last season. No way," said Guardiola.

"I don't want to forget what we have done last season. I know exactly what we did to achieve that, and that is where we start from. That's the basic principle.

"Now, when I say something to them, they know exactly what we have to do."

City kick off the league campaign with one 'title' already in their trophy cabinet, after last weekend's comfortable Community Shield victory over Chelsea.

Although the competition hardly carries the weight of other trophies, it was an emphatic statement from City that they are ready to continue where they left off last season.

"That's the dream," Guardiola said. "A win helps to win more. You don't choose titles and it (Community Shield) was a final and we spoke about that.

"They know we work a lot and I have spoken many times with them. I work a lot and I am good on that.

"I have said many times I am not a special guy but I am so good at working, working, working a lot and they have to work too.

"It is impossible to have the season all the time that is perfect.

"We will have bad moments and we will have to work to overcome them because in the end the players react to what the club is, what the manager and the staff are."

'Do our job'

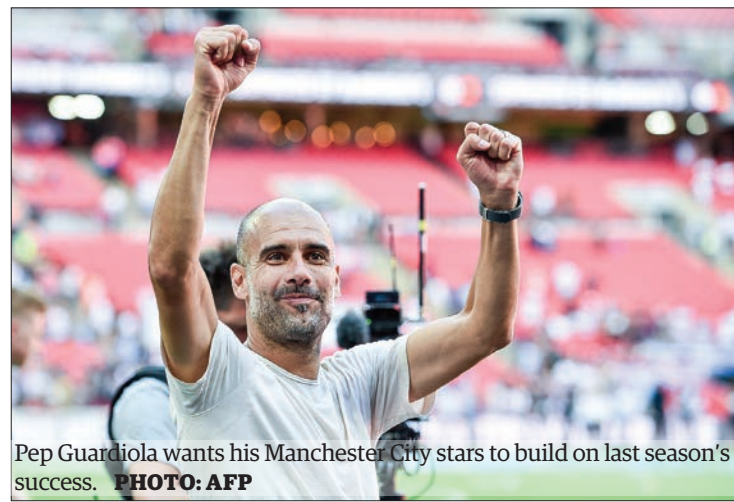
Despite last season's stunning achievements, Guardiola was his usual guarded self when talking about City's prospects for the year ahead, believing as many as five other teams could prevent him from becoming the first manager in a decade to retain the title.

"We can do our job, yes, but maybe Liverpool, Arsenal, Tottenham and Chelsea can do their job better and win," he said. "Forget how much Liverpool have spent because they may have spent a lot, but last season they were a good team as well.

"Maybe Tottenham could not spend because of the stadium, but there is Chelsea with Jorginho, Kovacic and Kante in the middle, and Hazard, Willian, Pedro and Morata up front so you cannot say they are not contenders to win.

"Or Manchester United. People ask how will they do, but I know a little bit about the manager and in that situation how good they handle that. Arsenal are other contenders too. That's why it is nice. "But if we do our job, we will be there. We were the best last season, definitely, there is no doubt about it.

"We can be excellent, but others can be too -- there can be six contenders." —AFP ■



Pep Guardiola wants his Manchester City stars to build on last season's success. **PHOTO: AFP**