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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw gives green light to euro 30 million soft loan from Italy



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat delivers the speech at the eighth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the eighth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, the Hluttaw decided to accept a euro 30 million soft loan from Italy to implement projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The matter was sent to the Hluttaw by the President. During the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives also discussed a US\$40.5 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. This matter was also sent to the Hluttaw by the President.

Euro 30 million soft loan from Italy

Responding to suggestions made by Hluttaw representatives on the loan from Italy, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said that in continuing the implementation of rural electrification work, selection of villages, formation of village electrification committees, assuring quality and maintenance work would be conducted systematically, according to suggestions from Hluttaw representatives. In the same way, tenders would be called with the help and advice of international consultants, and a group consisting of international experts and departmental officials will assess and evaluate,

sign agreement, inspect samples, conduct preliminary project works, monitor and assure quality. The people putting up funds in proportion to the installed system are for them to have a sense of participation and for the sustained existence of the system. For people who are unable to put up their portion of fund, discussions would be made with the World Bank and current partner organizations, to determine suitable ways and means.

Private investors and rural people need to discuss first. Only when the private investors and rural people agree and the rural people can afford, should the work on the small scale electricity generation system work be

conducted by the Rural Development Department, investors and rural people.

The Italian government is providing the soft loan with the aim of supporting electrification of the entire country through a preliminary electrification system in villages far away from the national grid. With this loan, villages in states and regions that are far from the national grid and where transport is difficult will be provided with electricity. The euro 30 million is interest free with a grace period of 18 years and repayment period of 10 years. Starting from fiscal year 2036-2037, euro 3 million will be repaid every year. The repayment amount will be included in the yearly budget and will be

conducted with the permission and agreement of the Union Government and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, said the Deputy Minister.

In the same way Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing said the government is striving towards providing electricity to the entire country. At the moment, 41 per cent of the population is receiving electricity from the national grid but for people in places where transport is difficult, there are difficulties in constructing national grid lines and independent mini-grids need to be constructed. As this loan will enable the construction of mini-grids, it will provide electricity to such places speedily.

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Similarly, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said the works to be conducted with the loan will be implemented by the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Department of Rural Development and representatives from Italy will coordinate and continue the work of acquiring, utilizing and repaying the soft loan. Together with the loan regulations, procedures and reg-

ulations on purchasing materials should be followed as discussed by the Hluttaw representatives, said the Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy.

Discussion on US\$40.5 million loan from ADB

Next, matter sent by the President regarding the US\$40.5 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), matter sent by the President, for projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation was discussed by Hluttaw representatives.

Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Sein Win of Maubin



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

constituency, Tatmadaw representative Maj Zaw Win Naing, U Kyaw Lwin Aung of Sedoktara



Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing. **PHOTO: MNA**

constituency, U Kyaw Tote of Mandalay Region constituency 7, Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon

constituency, U Tun Tun of Pwint-byu constituency, U Win Win of Minbu constituency, U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency 4, U Yan Lin of Kyaiklat constituency, U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi constituency, Dr Tin Htay Aung of Yesagyo constituency, Dr. Zaw Win Myint of Singu constituency and U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency discussed the loan. The ninth-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held on 15 August, it is learnt. — Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing (MNA) ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting



Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein delivers the speech at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting over the Myanmar Dental, Oral Medicine Council Bill at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall, yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw,

Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, deputy chairmen, secretary, joint secretary and committee members, Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee, Amyotha Hluttaw Health, Sports and Cultural Affairs Committee, invited representatives, Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members, officials from Myanmar Dental, Oral Medicine Council and Myanmar Dental Association, Ministry of Health and Sports, officials from Union Attorney-General's office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw office. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kingdom of Thailand arrives Nay Pyi Taw



AT the invitation of U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinal, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by air in the evening of 13 August 2018 to hold the 9th Meeting of Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand and to attend the reception

commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Thailand. The Thai Foreign Minister was welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by U Thant Sin, Director General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Jukr Boon-Long, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and officials concerned. — Myanmar News Agency ■



ASEAN+3 working group meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

ASEAN+3 working group meets for student mobility, quality assurance of higher education

Sixth MEETING of the Working Group on Student Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education among ASEAN Plus Three Countries (APTWG) was held yesterday morning in Amara Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, drafts on

guideline and assessment on student exchange and mobility programs, work processes for 4th ASEAN plus Three (APT) Education Ministers meeting and 9th ASEAN + 3 Senior Officials Meeting on Education (9th SOMED +3) were discussed, it is learnt.

The meeting will be held for two days and is attended by representatives from ASEAN countries, representatives from three partner countries of China, Japan and South Korea and officials from department of higher education.—Myanmar News Agency ■

All-Round Youth Development Festival draws crowds at Mandalay University

PARENTS, teachers and students crowded the Mandalay University to enjoy the final day the All-Round Youth Development Festival yesterday.

Book stalls outside the university's convocation hall greeted the festival goers while Myanmar extempore talk and poem recitation were held at the four-storey building of the university.

Literary talks on youth policy, Myanmar and the role of youth, and the youth and art attracted most visitors.

Sport activities, a part of the festival, in the parade ground of the university brought the youths to learn physical exercises and to enjoy pleasure in traditional sport activities.

An artificial of traditional throne in the convocation hall and the banner "We Love Mandalay" depicted with flowers



A book shop at the festival is crowded with students. PHOTO: MNA

have attracted visitors.

Meanwhile, the festival goers grasped the photo opportunities in royal dresses in Pyu era, Bagan era, Innwa era and

Konbaung era.

Besides, the visitors also took photos together with ethnic people in their traditional dresses, statues and bullock

carts at the festival.

Other crowded place is the area where artists were creating portraits, caricatures and postcards.

There are 280 exhibit booths and stalls set up for the festival that will showcase various items from government departments, associations, regional universities and colleges, and books from Yangon and from within Mandalay.

The All-Round Youth Development Festival will include sporting activities such as volleyball, tug-of-war, htote-see-htoe (a Myanmar game combining elements of hopscotch and tag), pillow fights, endurance tests, gunny sack race, three-legged race, basketball and demonstrations of wushu, gymnastics, karate, taekwondo, and chinlone (cane ball).

There will also be booths

for science exhibits and job opportunities.

During the festival, Science Fair booths will be staged at the ground floor, with programs showcasing.

IT-related items, IT Quiz, Cyber Security Awareness, IT Power Test, IT consultants, Project Show, IT Book Show and Minecraft Game.

Besides, local and foreign companies have offered job opportunities to youths outside the building. Similarly, universities and basic education schools also set up booths displaying education affairs and health awareness, drug awareness and eradication of child abandonment.

The three-day kicked off on Saturday with opening address by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.—Aung Min Han ■

Views and opinions on All-Round Youth Development Festival (Mandalay)

By Min Htet Aung
(Mann Sub-printing house)

FOLLOWING are excerpts from interviews with the planners of the All-Round Youth Development Festival (Mandalay), which was held from 11 to 13 August, and some famous writers who attended it.

Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region

I exclusively came here to support the festival. It's a great success and there are many attendants. It's important for the youths to excel in academics as well as the five strengths of youth. The main aim of the festival is developing the academic and technical knowledge of the youths as well as their ethics and the five strengths of youths – physical, intellectual, moral, social and economic – and building a future human society through their excellent views. There is a saying from the State Counsellor. Everyone has the responsibility to ensure the all-round development of youths. That's why it's important for us, the government, parents and guardians and other relevant individuals to cooperate in our involvement on this matter.

Saya Chit Oo Nyo, Writer

This All-Round Youth Development Festival (Mandalay)

is filled with more people than the one held in Yangon last year. Perhaps it's because the location is more spacious too. There is a myriad of things here; entertainment, sports, exhibits. This festival makes me feel pleased and contented because so many (students and faculty from) schools are coming here. Both public and private schools. I can see the children buying books and their teachers requesting them to buy books too. Seeing these children buy books with their pocket money makes me feel pleased as a writer. I also think this will change the one-sided view of most adults that youths do not read anything.

Children are not sure what their own interests are yet nor have they explored the options. They do not yet know what they excel in. Attending this festival can awaken them to their personal interests. You could even call this festival a place that manifests the ingrained interests of youths. The festival includes all-rounded events that allows youths to discover what they excel in and what they would consider as a career. It opens them. In my opinion, I think the All-Round Youth Festival is a movement from the government. The festival is a success. Additionally, the State Counsellor did not hold a peace talk like she normally does, but instead she held a literary roundtable discussion which became an excellent



Dr. Zaw Myint Maung.



Saya Nyi Pu Lay (Writer).

movement. The objective was accomplished as well.

Saya Nyi Pu Lay, Writer

Implementing this festival was a good idea. I adore it. When I got to this festival I heard that it awakened the desire to read in children. Some people say they felt children in the roundtable discussion could have done better. From my perspective as an adult, I think it really reaches children on a deeper level if the



Saya Chit Oo Nyo (Writer).



Saya Soe Naing (Writer, University of Mandalay).

person they're talking to is another child, instead of an adult. Practically, twenty people is a lot. I wish there was a roundtable with businesspeople too. I welcome the roundtable talks with youths in this festival. It's better when the participants are scrambling to have their turn to speak as opposed to taking turns. I can see that the preparations have become more systematic. Questioners ask questions and the answerers provide answers.

I'm particularly pleased that children are attending this festival. They have a lot to learn and take as an example here for when they become youths as well. They will at least get something out of this. I especially wish for these festivals to be held in the regional areas.

Saya Soe Naing (University of Mandalay) Writer

In the youth festival, the State Counsellor is a writer and a poet herself. It's a festival where this writer and poet meets with the university students who enjoy literature. Hearing it makes me feel elated. The children were well articulated too. The State Counsellor also listened intently to the children and carefully replied to them. That an internationally educated lady paid a visit to the University of Mandalay is a significant event in the university's history. I take pride in this as an alumnus of the university. The education system suffered for decades.

This festival is one of the basic steps towards fixing that education system. This is initiating the transition from a rote memorization-based education to a system that encourages critical thinking. Modern students don't visit the museum as frequently anymore. I hope that these students turn towards libraries after participating in these roundtable discussions. ■

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UMFCCI to hold second B4B Insights Forum for entrepreneurs

A TWO-DAY B4B Insights Forum, hosted by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), will take place on 25 and 26 August at Mingala Hall of the UMFCCI.

The 1st B4B Insights Forum was successfully held in May of this year with a view to

developing private businesses, promoting public-private partnership and dealing with barriers and challenges faced by business persons.

Traders from local and foreign partner organizations and foreign companies operating businesses in Myanmar, entrepreneurs and officials are

invited to attend the forum.

There will be panel discussions of entrepreneurs from various sectors: tourism, logistics service, industrial enterprises, motor-vehicle businesses, food chains, garment businesses on Cutting, Making and Packaging basis, power supply and distribution,

health, information technology and currency exchange. Additionally, experts will also discuss existing laws, by-laws and policies.

For further information, one can dial 09-450200340 or send mail to UMFCCI through email address ma@umfcci.com.mm. —GNLM ■

Waterway buoys, markers to be installed in Mandalay-NyaungU waterway

WATERWAY navigation buoys and markers will be installed in August in the Mandalay—NyaungU Ayeyawady River waterway for safety of ships travelling round the clock, said U Aung Myo Khine, Component-3 Director from the Directorate from the Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

This project, implemented by National Water Resources Committee, is part of the Ayeyawady River Navigation Enhancement Plan from Mandalay to NyaungU. Over US\$30 million will be spent on the project for the enhancement plan from a \$100 million loan by the World Bank.

"The navigation markers currently installed in river ways are made in Myanmar and ships can travel only during the daytime because there are no night navigation markers. Light buoys and land markers for night



Ships anchored in the Ayeyawady River. PHOTO: KHINE SET WAI

navigation will be installed so that ships can travel safely both day and night. We will also install navigations markers on the bridges," he added.

There are two types of navigation markers: in the water and on the land. There are also

four types of international buoys in the water and two types of markers on the land. On bridges, navigation markers with lights will be installed, enabling navigators to see at night.

"The light markers will be installed one bridges. Red

light means 'do not enter,' while green light means 'permitted to pass.' In the past, ships cannot see clearly because there is no light at the navigation markers. Also new signals and markers will be added on land," he added.— Khine Set Wai ■

Second Myanmar-German Renewable Energies Symposium to be held

THE Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Myanmar (AHK) jointly with the 'Energy Solutions made in Germany,' an initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), and with support from the Berlin-based Renewables Academy AG (RENAC), will proudly host the Second My-

anmar-German Renewable Energies Symposium at Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon on 13 September.

This year, the symposium will be dedicated to powering Myanmar's industrial growth with renewable energy, with a focus on photovoltaics and biomass. The symposium will target decision makers from

private and public sector and is a free-of-charge event.

Myanmar's renewable energy sector is still at an early development stage but exhibits strong potential to substantially help to contribute closing the electricity gap by 2030 in a clean and efficient way.

During the conference, industrial growth with clean

energy, innovative models for green business growth, as well as solar and biomass power solutions for Myanmar's industry will be the leading topics.

The first edition of the symposium was held in October 2017 with more than a hundred participants from the Myanmar and German public and private energy sector.—GNLM ■

All-Round Youth Development Festival draws crowds at Mandalay University

All-Round Youth Development Festival (Mandalay) is held with the aim of promoting youths' skills, knowledge, ethical values, as well as developing their five strengths - physical, knowledge, character, friendship and wealth .



A book shop is crowded with students and visitors at the All-Round Youth Development Festival in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Crowds of visitors fill the exhibitions and booths at the All-Round Youth Development Festival at the Mandalay University. **PHOTO: MNA**



Students interact with mascots at the youth festival at the Mandalay University in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNA**



The audience enjoys an elephant dance at the All-Round Youth Development Festival in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNA**



Students observe an exhibition at youth festival. **PHOTO: MNA**



An award-giving ceremony at the youth development festival. **PHOTO:MNA**



Visitors are entertained with musical performances separated into morning and evening sessions, with vocals provided by famous celebrity singers, at the All-Round Youth Development Festival held at the University of Mandalay in Mandalay from 11 to 13 August. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Workshop on United Nations' participation in works to implement recommendations on Rakhine

A WORKSHOP on United Nations' participation in works to implement recommendations of Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State (CIRRS) was conducted yesterday morning in Hilton Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw. The workshop was attended by high ranking officials of committee member ministerial departments, Rakhine State government members and United Nations representatives.

First, CIRRS Chairman and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said CIRRS has been implementing the recommendations of the Investigation Commission led by Vice President U Myint Swe and Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by Mr. Kofi Annan for close to a year. Of the 88 recommendations made by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, 80 were being implemented. When implementing the recommendations, emphasis



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye poses for a documentary photo together with attendees at the workshop on United Nations' participation in works to implement recommendations of CIRRS. **PHOTO: MNA**

is placed toward stability and to be in accord with government policies and prevailing laws. The works need time but it is strongly believed that it could be successfully implemented. For the works to be successful, most important is achieving stability. Majority of the suggestions of the (investigation) committee are aimed at

socio-economic development and social harmony.

Rule of law is an important in stability and to increase rule of law, the people's cooperation in the police work processes need to be increased. International organisations are expected to cooperate in providing support and assistance to security forces

for increasing rule of law according to international norms and practices. Suggestions and assistances are requested for works on peaceful coexistence. To resolve reintegration, peace, stability and development in Rakhine State an Independent Commission of Enquiry has been formed as part of the local works.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had been signed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and meetings were conducted and field visits made to Rakhine State to resettle the returnees according to bilateral agreement. Efforts will be made toward achieving a long term sustainable solution for peace and stability in Rakhine State and of the suggestions made things that could benefit the country were being implemented. UN and international community is requested to cooperate in the implementing works of the suggestion on peace and development in Rakhine State and today's workshop is expected to produce effective outcomes and wish for the best said the Union Minister.

Next, the workshop was conducted where sector wise discussions were made it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Youths actively participate in orphan reduction and protection programmes

YOUTHS attending the All-Round Youth Development Festival (Mandalay) were seen actively participating in orphan reduction and protection programmes facilitated by the Orphans Reduction and Protection Association (Myanmar).

The programs began yesterday morning and vocalists

Sumo and Ma Thazin Thiri Khit entertained the audience with songs in Innwa Hall 9 at the University of Mandalay.

The programmes for raising awareness on reducing the number of orphans and protecting them included stage plays,

documentaries and roundtable discussions.

Dr. Mya Thida, General Secretary of the Orphans Reduction and Protection Association (Myanmar), talked about the programs saying, "We have our association's exhibition rooms in this festival and they have

posters and pamphlets to raise awareness. Every youth who came observed for themselves and then asked us questions. We answered to what they wanted to know and gave souvenirs to the youths who engaged in these question and answer dialogues."

She continued, "The exhibits have been set up to encourage active participation from the youths and the public. It's one of the tasks. I want the youths to participate as they engage in the roundtable talks in Innwa Hall 9."

"We also had a quiz, separated into three parts. The first part asked about proverbs relating to our culture and tradition, self-value, physical appearances and married life. The second part asked about reproductive health and if they have acquired the knowledge for it to the degree that they should. We gave prizes to the youths who could answer the questions with Ks150,000 for the first prize, Ks100,000 for the second price and Ks50,000 for third prize. This is something that will only succeed with public involvement. We must understand



Dr. Mya Thida, General Secretary of the Orphans Reduction and Protection Association (Myanmar). **PHOTO: MNA**

reproductive health. That's why we arranged for our exhibits in a way they can participate directly," said Dr. Mya Thida.

She added that, "Sumo and Ma Thazin Thiri Khit (vocalists) sang songs about our association, about orphans and about mothers. They performed in three places; at Innwa Hall 9 where we're located, at the MRTV congratulatory band and at the convocation hall." —Aung Min Han ■



Students and people observe programmes for raising awareness on reducing the number of orphans and protecting them at the festival. **PHOTO: MNA**

Red Cross Society of China donates US\$ 100,000 to Myanmar flood victims



Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang donates cash to Myanmar Red Cross Society in Yangon. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

THE Red Cross Society of China donated US\$ 100,000 to the Myanmar Red Cross Society for use in providing humanitarian aid to flood victims in Myanmar. The donation was made at the Myanmar Red Cross Society (Yangon) office on Strand Road at 3pm yesterday.

China's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang gave the donation on behalf of the Red Cross Society of China, which was accepted by Myanmar Red Cross Society President Prof. Dr. Mya Thu and fulltime executive members. The People's Republic of China has made several donations to the Myanmar Red Cross Society to support the humanitarian assistance provided in the flood-stricken areas in Myanmar. This is the fourth donation to be made.

Prof. Dr. Mya Thu, when

asked about the donation made from the Red Cross Society of China, said, "The (Chinese) ambassador told us to use the money wherever it was needed. But I said there are many affected areas and asked him which areas he wanted us to use the money and how. The ambassador replied it was our decision to make. He said he knew about Kayin State, Mon State and Bago Region. He wanted us to use it in the areas that were hit the hardest. We are doing what we can to quickly provide emergency supplies. We are also holding meetings in anticipation of a worsening situation. We are prepared."

She continued and said, "The People's Republic of China, via the Chinese Ambassador himself, has provided donations to the Myanmar Red Cross So-

ciety whenever a natural disaster has occurred. There are no restrictions concerning the donations and they admire our processes. From our side, we provide a report of how and where their donations have been used."

The Myanmar Red Cross Society has been responding to the flooding in the different areas of Myanmar since they began on 28 July.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society has opened an emergency Red Cross command center and has received information from Red Cross volunteers in the flood-affected areas, sent appropriate rescue equipment to the flood-stricken areas, and accepted donations for the flood-affected areas at the Red Cross office.—Myanmar News Agency ■

President's Office continue announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 10/2018 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking between 5 and 11 August.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information,

sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President from 5 to 11 August.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 15 August issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.

—GNLM ■

Myanmar-Bangladesh conduct coordinated naval patrol



Border police force patrolling in the Naf River. **PHOTO: POLICE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

A TEAM of six border police led by Police Captain Maung Maung Yin, the commander of Nga Khu Ya Territory, Subdivision 2 of the Border Police Force in Area 5 of Maungdaw Township, left from Naval Vessel Outpost (Maungdaw) with two highspeed naval vessels at 10:45am in 12 August and met up with a Bangladesh team of twelve border police led by Ma-

jor Shariful Islam of the Bangladesh Border Police Force No.2 at the confluence of Mingalargyi stream in the middle of the Naf River close to the two countries' borders.

They conducted a coordinated naval patrol together along the Naf River and arrived at nautical mile-11 near U-Shaykya Stream.—Police Information Department ■

Nyaunglebin Township Association (Yangon) donation for flood affected Madauk region people

DUE to heavy rain in July, Sit-toung River rise affecting people in Bago Region, Nyaunglebin Township, Madauk town area. Officials for Nyaunglebin Township Association (Yangon) came and donated cash donation totaling Ks 2.24 million for the flood affected people on 5 August. The cash donation was made by association chairman U Win Than Tun, vice chairman U Myint Nyein, secretary U Maung Maung Thet and party which was accepted by Amyotha Hluttaw representative Daw San San Myint, Region Hluttaw representative U Nyi Nyi Htwe, Madauk town chief administrator U Nay Zar Myo and



Nyaunglebin Township Association provides cash to flood affected people in Madauk. **PHOTO: MNA**

town elder U Myo Kyaw and said word of appreciation. Next, they

went by motor boats to visit and encourage flood affected people

and toured the relief camps it is learnt.—Ne Lin (Nyaunglebin)

37 dams, reservoirs overflow through spillways

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

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

A total of 37 dams and reservoirs are currently overflowing, said the department yesterday.—Myanmar News Agency ■

The power to shape mankind

NORMALLY, a person inherits reading habits from one of his family members, and if he develops this good habit, he can become a man of letters one day. So, we can say that reading habits begin at home.

Many people love reading, with some preferring aesthetic literature and others books on general knowledge. Both branches of literature can enrich our intellectual power and show the way towards success.

"In many cases, parents are worried when they found their children absorbed in aesthetic literature because they are afraid that their offspring might be overwhelmed by indecent literature" State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said during one of her round table talks with the youths.

At her open discussions with youngsters at Mandalay University convocation hall the other day, the State Counsellor pointed out the importance of distinguishing between the valuable literature and valueless literature in reading books.

In fact, literature, with high aesthetic value highlights the good parts and the bad parts of human society and nature, while discovering the nature of art, beauty, and taste, with the creation and appreciation of beauty.

As the saying goes, "The pen is mightier than the sword", a good aesthetic work has immense power to shape and benefit mankind.

In this regard, parents should be familiar with literature. Only then will they be able to differentiate between decent literature and indecent literature and guide their children correctly.

As regards the importance of reading habit, the State Counsellor said, "Our country needs books ... a lot of books." So, if every book of intellectual, technological, academic, artistic or general category on every shelf of every library meets the standard, we don't need to worry about any undesired influences of the bad literature.

Like its other counterparts, aesthetic literature can also give us valuable

lessons and knowledge and tell us the principles of human society and the nature of humans, as it has the power to win the hearts of the readers. Additionally, it also enriches our spiritual power.

In sharing knowledge about the benefits of reading aesthetic literature the State Counsellor stated, "Please also read books with aesthetic value. Because this particular branch of literature gives us greater knowledge about human relationship and emotions. It also teaches us the techniques on writing skills. A good literature is the way towards creating a perfect literary work."

Actually, books with artistic value are books about human beings. We can improve our writing skills through reading aesthetic literature. Youths who wish to become a writer should try through three steps. The first step is collection. First, he must collect good books. The second is learning. He must learn the means of compiling a good literary work. And the third is creation. After studying much, he must create his own style of writing.

As literary works with aesthetic value has a plot that goes through twists and turns or is inspired by a true event that gives us strength and courage, most of them can capture the imagination of the readers.

As the saying goes, "The pen is mightier than the sword", a good aesthetic work has immense power to shape and benefit mankind.

THE World Elephant Day is an international event which falls on 12 August of every year. The day was created by Canadian filmmaker Patricia Sims and Thailand's Elephant Reintroduction Foundation and first celebrated on 12 August 2012. Since then, the World Elephant Day has been annually celebrated in many countries. Also in Myanmar, the annual event is held in some places, like zoos and elephant camps on the day, raising awareness to the public to conserve and protect elephants from the numerous threats they face. The escalation of poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflict and mistreatment in captivity are just some of the threats to both African and Asian elephants. The slogan of World Elephant Day for the year 2018 is "Bringing the world together to help elephants."

There are two main types of elephants, namely, African elephant and Asian elephant, although it is estimated that there were once more than 350 species of elephants in the world. The African elephant is the larger of the two species left in the world. They have extremely large ears and both males and females grow tusks. The Asian elephant has a huge body but the ears are smaller than the other. Males develop tusks but females do not.

Both African and Asian elephants are listed as threatened species. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, African elephants are listed as Vulnerable (VU), meaning they face a high risk of endangerment in the medium term. Asian elephants are classed as Endangered (EN), meaning they face a high risk of extinction in the near future. Currently, the total population of African elephants is estimated to be about 400,000, and that of Asian elephants is estimated around 40,000. Population of both species are declining as they are at risk due to the high demand of their body parts. Their

Myanmar's elephants (In commemoration of t

By Aye Mar Wa

low birth rate is also a factor in the decreasing population.

Around 40,000 wild Asian elephants live scattered across thirteen countries in Asia. An insight of recognized three subspecies of Asian elephants show, (a) the Sri Lankan elephant occurs in Sri Lanka, (b) the Indian elephant occurs in mainland of Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Malay Peninsula, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam, and, (c) the Sumatran elephant occurs in Sumatra. Therefore, elephants found in Myanmar are the Indian subspecies of Asian elephants.

In Myanmar, elephants have had a long, rich and proud history. For thousands of years, they have been used for transportation, construction, agriculture and war. The white elephant in particular has long been regarded as a symbol of power and royal status. The elephant has been a revered animal and national treasure of Myanmar for centuries. Currently, among the estimated total population of 7,000 elephants in Myanmar, around 5,000 are in captivity and only about 1,400-2,000 elephants are left in the wild, although there were about 10,000 wild elephants in 1997. Although we have considered the number of 1,400-2,000 in the wild areas of Myanmar, the number might be lower as wild elephants are fast declining. There is a danger of Myanmar's wild elephant population disappearing within a few years. Some Asian elephants, especially those in Myanmar, are under the threat of extinction due to humans. The main threats to the survival of Myanmar's wild elephants are poaching, encroaching on their habitats and

mistreatment in captivity.

Poaching is one of the biggest threats to the survival of Myanmar's wild elephants; they are killed not only for their ivory but also for their body parts, such as skin, teeth, bones and hair; as well as meat and genitalia, which are used in traditional medicine. When some researchers went around the jungles, they found

WORLD ELEPHANT DAY



dead elephants, some rotten, some skinned, and some body parts, such as ears, tails, legs removed. How horrible indeed! Nowadays, most of the wild elephants are poached for their skin. The elephants found dead in the jungle did not even have tusks. Unlike African elephants, only 25 to 30 percent of male Asian elephants have tusks/ivories (percentage varies by region) and no females have them. Unlike poaching for ivory, the skin trade makes all elephants valuable to poachers. Females and even calves have been targeted. Actually, hunting or poaching females and calves is quickly driving a species towards extinction.

Elephant skin becomes a highly desired product like ivory in China. Chinese traditional medicines use pachyderm to formulate Chinese medicine. Many Chinese still believe that the elephant skin can cure skin fungi and infections, as well as intestinal diseases. Moreover, the skin is turned into fashion accessories. It is made into beads, bracelets or necklaces, due to certain properties that would benefit the skin of the wearer. Other parts of the body, such as teeth, bones and hair, meat and genitalia are also used to make traditional medicine. These reasons make elephant skin and other body parts become a high demand in



PHOTO: WCS MYANMAR

hants need help

he World Elephant Day)

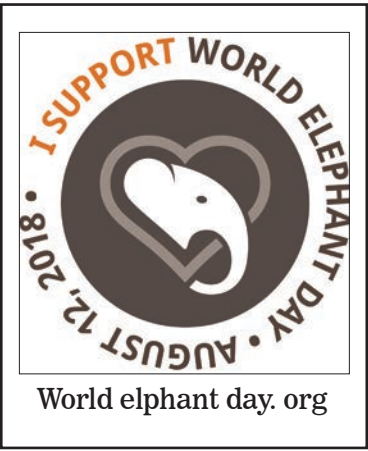
y (Researcher)

China, creating the biggest market for the elephant products. The increasing demand from China for elephant parts has led to the killing of more wild elephants of Myanmar. Besides, an emerging online market for elephant skin in China is also threatening the survival of Myanmar's wild elephants. Actually, elephant poaching, getting its skin and meat and



sending them to market as swift as possible is not a small task. However, poachers do it well because they have been organized and are well-funded to get elephant products. Some say that poachers may pay thousands of US dollars just for gaining information on the whereabouts of an elephant. The price of elephant skin products varies with market location and specific product type. Elephant skin pieces usually run from about US\$100 to about \$300 per kilogram, according to market prices. Elephant skin powder has a higher price, and bead prices are based on a combination of the size, color, clarity and design of the final products where applicable. Due to high prices and high demand, at least one elephant is killed by hunters in Myanmar every week according to the WWF-Myanmar. Conservation groups are warning that the species could soon disappear from the wild. Habitat loss is also one of the biggest threats to the survival of Myanmar's wild elephants. The fragmentation of habitat also creates isolation to wild elephants and allows poachers to catch them easily. In accordance with the growing human population, people expand into elephant territories forcing the pachyderms into smaller and smaller spaces. By this way, elephants' natural

habitats disappear, they lose their natural surroundings and often get killed. Elephants are one of the first species to suffer the consequences of habitat loss, because they require much larger areas of natural habitat than many other mammals. Moreover, deforestation is also a factor in the habitat loss faced by wild elephants. The loss of habitat leads to increasing conflicts between humans and elephants. In many rural communities in Myanmar, human-elephant conflicts have been increasing. When wild elephants face habitat loss, they would enter villages, raid crops, destroy houses and injure or kill people. Looking for water, elephants could walk through paddy fields and other crop plantations, which could destroy the livelihoods of a lot of people. They occasionally raid small houses if there is food stored inside. Besides, they would kill people. If wild elephants enter villages, even tame elephants could join these wild ones. Especially, such conflicts often occur in the villages of Ayeyarwady delta region (for example, in some village areas of Nga Pu Taw Township) and Bago Yoma hills. Many people and elephants are killed annually as a result of such conflicts. Researchers say they have often found dead elephants in places that have a lot of conflicts. Mistreatment in captivity includes one of the main threats to the survival of Myanmar's wild elephants. Captivity can be a serious threat to elephants, and Asian elephants are often illegally captured in the wild and trafficked into the lucrative tourism industry. In Myanmar, the capture of wild elephants from the wild is to supply the tourist trade in Thailand. Myanmar's elephants are caught illegally and smuggled alive to be used in the tourist industry of Thailand while they are facing the problem of habitat loss. Researchers for elephant conservation said that it is estimated that between 50 and 100 wild elephants are smuggled from Myanmar to Thailand every year. In addition to wild elephants, working/logging elephants are also at risk from multiple threats. The main problems are skin sores caused by harnesses, as well as infectious diseases. Infectious



viral diseases are a major issue, since they are difficult to treat, particularly in young elephants. There is another case yet that working elephants have to face. Although these pachyderms have economic value, in a bid to curb deforestation, the government implemented a nation-wide ban for the 2016-2017 financial year. Thus, both working elephants and mahouts became jobless, creating a financial crisis for their owners. A mature elephant can consume as much as 300 pounds of food each day. Some owners are unable to adopt elephants without a steady flow of income from their elephants. So they need to sell their elephants to others. Other jobless elephants are sent to elephant camps or sanctuaries. Actually, it is heartbreaking to elephants because they have strong attachment to their owners. For these reasons mentioned above, Myanmar elephants, a resource of the country, are walking towards the list of Critically Endangered (CR) species, meaning they face an extremely high risk of extinction in the immediate future, leading to Extinct in the Wild (EW). Captive individuals survive, but there is no free-living, natural population, making them Extinct (EX), meaning no remaining individuals of the species has survived. All of us must protect our elephants from extinction! Myanmar governmental associations, including the Forestry Department, some elephant conservation groups or associations, such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Fauna & Flora International (FFI), and some NGOs are working to protect, conserve and save Myanmar's elephants and trying to arrest elephant poachers and smugglers. However, it will not be enough. Public participation is also necessary for our elephants' survival. Myanmar's elephants actually need the help of the public. Only if all Myanmar people participate in the protection and conservation of the elephants, will Myanmar's pachyderms be free from the danger of extinction. ■



Flood Warning

(Issued at 15:00 hrs MST on 13-8-2018)

According to the (14:30) hrs MST observations today, the water level of Bilin River at Bilin is observed as about (2) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days. It is especially advised that people who have settled near the river banks and low lying areas at Bilin Township, to take precautionary measures.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:00 hrs MST on 13-8-2018)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River has exceeded by about (1) inch at Zalun above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (3½) feet at Hpa-an above its danger level. It may rise about (½) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Ngawun River

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun River has exceeded by about (1) inch at Thabaung above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

Flood condition of Toe River

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Toe River has exceeded by about (½) foot at Maubin above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

Advisory

It is especially advised that people who have settled near the river banks and low lying area in Zalun, Hpa-an, Maubin and Thabaung townships, to take precautionary measures.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 13 August, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 14 AUGUST, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Southern Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Kachin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Wave height will be about (9 - 12) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong Monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 AUGUST, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 AUGUST, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers which may heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 AUGUST, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Fire in Yangon General Hospital, no casualties

A FIRE broke out in Yangon General Hospital at 6:35pm yesterday as a result of an overheated light switch. The hospital reports there were no deaths or casualties resulting from the incident.

Ko Aung, a carer, said, "I heard shouts of fire and ran downstairs. There were fire engines and I was very frightened. My mother is at the hospital receiving treatment for her heart disease, so I was very worried. I saw patients being carried away. I heard that two heart-disease patients fainted, but I didn't see it myself."

The fire was caused by an overheated electric socket board in the minor operation theatre in the cancer outpatient department. The initial flames spread to the wooden beams on the ceiling and to the wires.

Arriving at the scene were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and relevant officials, reserve fire fighters, Red Cross members, police officers, and civil society organizations. Their combined efforts completely extinguished the fire at 7:10pm.

One of the firefighters involved in extinguishing the fire said there was a large volume of smoke coming out of the room when they arrived. He said, "We



A fire engine sits outside the Yangon General Hospital in response to fire that broke out in the cancer outpatient ward. **PHOTO: THURA**

didn't see any flames. We proceeded with caution since it was a radiotherapy department. We first vacuumed the smoke out of the building. Although they were flammable we had to be careful of the medical supplies. There were no injuries or casualties."

There are no reported casualties and the damage from the fire is estimated at Ks375,000. Officials from the Nuclear Energy Department under the Ministry of Education confirmed there was no radiological danger either.

A local resident near the hospital said, "We were pretty

worried when we heard there was a fire at the hospital. There were heart-disease patients and patients who were unable to move. It's a relief that when we hear there were no injuries. There was a similar incident last year. It was very worrying. Places like these need more fire safety."

The hospital announced that there were no deaths or casualties resulting from the fire last night, although it caused some unrest among the citizens of Yangon and the local residents near the hospital. — Zaw Gyi, Zarni Maung Aye Min Thu ■

Unusual rising of water level in Yangon River inundate low laying areas of Dala Township

DUE to the unusual high tide, water level in Yangon River rises around 4pm on 13 August and water flows into low lying wards around the port and ferry jetty in Dala Township reaching a water depth of about 4 ft. The tidal water level was above the level reached the day before and some houses were inundated. By 6pm the water began to subside. Despite the unusual high tide, Cherry ferry boats plying the Pansodan-Dala route continue its service at the scheduled time.

People staying in low lying wards and along the river were concerned about the rising water level. "The tide started to rise unusually high starting from the afternoon. Yesterday, it wasn't this high. As the tide rises in the afternoon, it is very dangerous for workers and students. They need to be careful. Parents also should warn their children not to enter the water in the creeks. They can be swept away," said a U Tun Tun, a local.

Due to the high tide in Dala Township, water rises up to more



Local residents waded through knee-high water levels in Dala Township. **PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

than 4 ft. in Khanaung Ywama village near the mouth of the river. A portion of a wall of a monastery collapsed said head of village administration U Kyi Soe. Similarly, due to water inflow into Kama Aung creek, main roads and side roads in Myoma ward (1), Myoma ward (2), Myomaw ward (3), Myoma ward (4), Antgyi east ward, Antgyi west ward were underwater. Water enters into some houses and bridge over Kama

Aung creek was underwater it is learnt. Yazathingyan road in Hmawset ward and the road along the creek was under water to a depth of one and half foot but the water subsided and there wasn't much to worry said ward administrator U Tin Shein. During the months of monsoon, and during high tide periods water rises to record levels but it usually subsides it is learnt. — Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala) ■

'Firework device' behind Mandalay blast on Sunday night

A homemade explosive device, which was made from fireworks, blasted on a road in Mandalay at 10:45 pm on Sunday and no one is injured in the incident and there was no damage to buildings.

The police found one AAA battery, one wire and a Samsung handset measuring 6 inches x 3 inches without cover and SIM card in it.

The investigation team led by Col Kyaw Kyaw Min, Mandalay Region Security and Border Affairs, found parts of a blue colour hot-air balloon and pieces of paper used for fireworks at 58 ft distance from the site where explosion happened, according to the local police source.

A type of gunpowder can not be tested by machine at the scene, said the police.

The Mandalay police said that the broken handset was used to leave false conception

that the explosion was detonated with the use of mobile phone, and the explosion was intended to cause panic to the public.

The investigation shows that the fireworks attached to a hot-air balloon were blasted.

An investigation into suspects for the blast is underway.— Myanmar News Agency ■



PHOTO:MNA

Shooting in Mandalay kills woman, leaves man in critical condition

A shooting in Mandalay's Chanmyathazi Township on Monday left a 40-year-old woman dead, injured her 40-year old husband critically, according to local police.

A gunman shot the couple namely Ma Huo Lao Peng, and her husband U Li Swam (a) Zaw Lin, 40, travelling by motorbike after the suspect tried to rob a bag from the woman, said the police.

Khun Kaw Lar (a) Maung Myo, the suspect, hit the motorbike of the couple by his motorbike and robbed a handbag from Ma Huo Lao Peng between Ywarle Street and Hninsi Street.

The couple was shot by the suspect when U Li Swam tried to fight back the suspect.

According to the witnesses, the gunman fired three shots,

and the woman was shot in her head and died on the spot and her husband was shot on his left chest. He is now in critical condition at the hospital.

Locals and nearby police ran after the gunman and seized him at the corner of the 53rd Street and Manawhari Road, together with a motorbike, a Point 32 pistol with 22 bullets, two cartridges, and one shell. The pistol was also found jammed.

The suspect was identified as Khun Kaw Lar (a) Maung Myo, son of U Wai Phyo of Kyauktalongyi Township, Shan State (South).

The motive behind the attack is under investigation, according to the police.

The police has opened the criminal case against the suspect.—Myanmar News Agency■



PHOTO:MNA

Trump trade rows are 'destroying' growth, says German minister

FRANKFURT AM MAIN — Germany's economy minister on Sunday lashed out at US President Donald Trump, slamming his global trade rows and efforts to "dictate" Europe's dealings with Iran through renewed US sanctions.

In an interview with German weekly *Bild am Sonntag*, Peter Altmaier warned of the damaging consequences of a full-blown US-China trade war, and expressed concern about Trump's decision to slap hefty metals tariffs on Turkey in an escalating diplomatic row.

"This trade war is slowing down and destroying economic growth, and creates new uncertainties," Altmaier said.

"The past has shown that consumers suffer most in trade wars, because goods become more expensive."

Trump has already slapped punitive tariffs on Chinese imports worth \$34 billion and additional levies on \$16 billion in Chinese goods will kick in later this month, with Beijing vowing to respond in kind.

Trump also announced on Friday that he would double tariffs on steel and aluminium from Turkey, pushing the lira to historic lows against the dollar.

The brewing trade conflict comes as the two NATO allies remain at loggerheads over the

detention of an American pastor and a host of other issues.

Altmaier however welcomed a recent easing of transatlantic tensions after European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker and Trump agreed to hold off on imposing new tit-for-tat tariffs for now.

The deal has "secured hundreds of thousands of jobs in Germany and Europe" but was only "a first step", he told *Bild*.

"At the end of the day we need global trade with lower tariffs, less protectionism and open markets."

Turning to the reimposition of US sanctions on Iran after Trump unilaterally quit

the 2015 nuclear pact, Altmaier stressed the importance of keeping European business deals in Iran alive.

A raft of companies including German carmaker Daimler have already announced they are pulling out of Iran because of the sanctions, which ban transactions involving US dollars.

"We will not let Washington dictate our trade relations with other countries and that's why we stand by the Vienna nuclear agreement to prevent Iran from producing atomic weapons," Altmaier said.

"Both nationally and in Europe, we are looking for ways to keep financial channels open," he added. —AFP ■



German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier says the trade rows initiated by US President Donald Trump are destroying economic growth. PHOTO: AFP

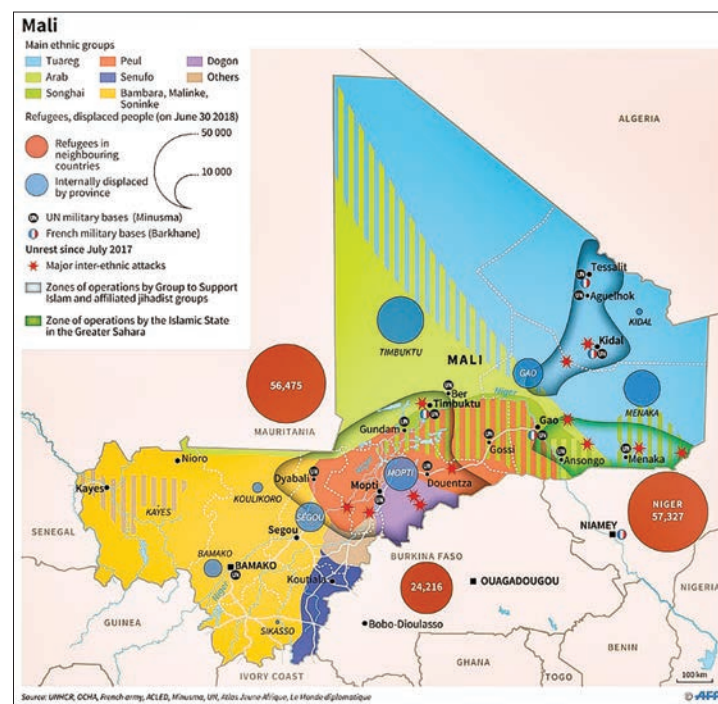


PHOTO: AFP

Mali counts votes after poll worker slain

BAMAKO — Vote counting was under way across Mali on Monday after a tense presidential runoff in which a poll worker was killed and 100 polling stations were forced to close due to the security threat from Islamist militants.

Security had been drastically boosted ahead of the election's second round between President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and former finance minister Soumaila Cisse.

But over 100 stations had to be closed in the restive central and northern regions, according to local observer group POCIM.

"Jihadists came this Sunday around 13:30 (1330 GMT) to a polling station in Arkodia," in the northern Timbuktu region, a local official told AFP.

"They asked everyone to put their hands up. The polling station president tried to escape. The jihadists shot and killed him," the source said.

The first round vote on July 29 was marred by violence and threats from armed groups that led to several hundred polling stations being closed — but no casualties had been reported.

Authorities in the vast West African nation said Saturday they had disrupted a plot to carry out "targeted attacks" in the capital Bamako on the eve of the vote.

Sunday's ballot in Mali is a rerun of a 2013 faceoff between Keita, 73, and Cisse, 68, amid a wave of jihadist bloodshed and ethnic violence.

This year's campaign saw fierce attacks on Keita's perceived failure to halt the violence, as well as mounting accusations of vote fraud.

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

"We hope the new president does better and knows how to make up for past mistakes," voter El Hajd Aliou Sow, a retired civil servant, told AFP.

Mali, a landlocked nation home to at least 20 ethnic groups where the majority of people live on less than \$2 a day, has battled jihadist attacks and intercommunal violence for years.

After the first-round vote the pool of candidates was reduced from 24 to two, as Keita was credited with 42 per cent of the vote and Cisse picked up 18 percent.

Fraud claims

Keita cast his vote in Bamako shortly after 0900 GMT Sunday and warned against "staged" electoral fraud after accusations of ballot box stuffing and other irregularities.

"How could you stage fraud when you are assured of the support of your people?" Keita said.

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

In at least five stations in the capital of Bamako, voting reports — which give the number of voters and votes cast for each candidate — were signed before the numbers were filled in, an AFP journalist witnessed.

"It is like signing a blank cheque," a source close to the organisation of the poll said. "You can imagine what happens in the rest of the country." —AFP ■



in Picture At least 43 killed in Saudi-led airstrike on north Yemen, mostly children
People gather at the site of an airstrike in Dhahyan, Saada province, Yemen, on 12 August 2018. Warplanes of the Saudi-led coalition targeted passenger buses in the Dhahyan popular market in northern Yemen province of Saada on Thursday, killing at least 43 people, mostly pupils under 10, and injuring 64 others. PHOTO: XINHUA

Koreas to hold Pyongyang summit in September

SEOUL — North and South Korea agreed Monday to hold a summit in Pyongyang in September; the South's Yonhap news agency reported following high-level talks in the Demilitarized Zone that divides the peninsula.

The two sides "agreed at the meeting to hold a South-North summit in Pyongyang in September as planned", Yonhap quoted a joint statement as saying, without giving a precise date.

A trip by the South's President Moon Jae-in to the North's capital would be the first such visit for more than a decade, as the diplomatic thaw on the pen-

insula builds. At the historic first summit between Moon and the North's leader Kim Jong Un in Panmunjom in April they agreed the South's president would visit Pyongyang during the autumn.

Monday's high-level talks, taking place on the northern side of the truce village in the Demilitarized Zone, were proposed by the North last week as it lashed out at Washington for pushing ahead with sanctions.

In his opening statement, the North's chief delegate Ri Son Gwon said: "As the Pyongyang meeting of the leaders of the north and south is being discussed, I think talking about the is-

sue will provide answers to the wishes of the people." Using a proverb describing a very intimate friend to refer to inter-Korean ties, Ri added: "We have opened an era where we are advancing hand in hand rather than standing in each other's way." Despite the rapprochement, international sanctions against the North for its nuclear and missile programmes have kept economic cooperation between the two Koreas from taking off, while little progress has been made on the key issue of Pyongyang's denuclearisation.

South Korea's Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyun, leading the



South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyun met with his North Korean counterpart Ri Son Gwon at the northern side of the border truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). PHOTO: AFP

delegation from Seoul, said it was important that the two Koreas keep "the same mind". "Many issues will be raised (at the meeting), but I think any problem can be resolved with that mindset," Cho added.

Rapid rapprochement
Cho addressed the

possibility of Pyongyang raising the issue of sanctions to the South, and said: "We will explain our position to the North."

The rapid rapprochement between the two neighbours that began this year paved the way for a landmark meeting between Kim and US

President Donald Trump in Singapore in June. Cross-border exchanges between the two Koreas have significantly increased since then, with the neighbours planning to hold reunions for war-separated families next week for the first time in three years.—AFP ■

Indoor playgrounds in hot demand as Japan swelters

TOKYO — Indoor playgrounds are proving an oasis for parents looking to allow their children to stay active safely as Japan sweats through a summer of record-breaking heat.

Parents are turning to playgrounds in air-conditioned shopping centers and other commercial enterprises when they would typically use public spaces outdoors.

"I fear the danger of heatstroke in the park," said a young mother who brought her 2-year-old boy to the Kid-O-Kid indoor playground in Yokohama on a weekday afternoon in late July. The indoor playground, which is about 190 square meters, has crash

mats, slides and other child-focused equipment so youngsters can run around safely in an area dedicated to them. The mother, who is nine months pregnant with her second child, bought a 12,800 yen amusement passport (about \$116) which gives her and her son unlimited access to the playground during the summer holiday period. She brings him there several times a week.

"At home, I would be showing him DVDs, but here he never gets bored," she said. The playground is one of 21 operated in 11 prefectures by Bornelund Inc., a Tokyo-based toy company. The number of visitors recently increased

sharply, especially in parts of western Japan which have suffered the worst of the summer heat. Peak hours are between 2 pm and 3 pm when the heat outside is most brutal. Many parents say they use the indoor playgrounds because it is difficult to keep their children occupied at home, a Bornelund official said.

The number of visitors to Pure Heart Kids Land, an indoor playground in Kakogawa, Hyogo Prefecture, increased 40 percent on July 15, compared with other Sundays.

According to rough estimates by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, ambulances were dispatched to carry a total of 22,647 people to hospitals for heatstroke across Japan during the week from 16 July, and 65 of those died. Both figures are the highest on record.—Kyodo News ■



Children play in a Kid-O-Kid playground in Yokohama, near Tokyo, on 27 July 2018. Indoor amusement facilities are drawing more families in Japan as the country has been hit by a heat wave. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CORRIGENDUM
In the Trademark Caution for TERRA mark appeared in p.13 of this Newspaper dated 8 August 2018, correct status of registration number is 4/7475/2018 (17.7.2018).

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



France has pledged to use only recycled plastic by 2025. PHOTO: AFP

France to set penalties on non-recycled plastic

PARIS — France plans to introduce a penalty system next year that would increase the costs of consumer goods with packaging made of non-recycled plastic, part of a pledge to use only recycled plastic nationwide by 2025, an environment ministry official said Sunday.

Brune Poirson, secretary of state for ecological transition, said the move was one of several to be implemented in coming years, including a deposit-refund scheme for plastic bottles.

“Declaring war on plastic is not enough. We need to transform the French economy,” she told the *Journal du Dimanche* newspaper. Under the new plan, products with recycled plastic packaging could cost up to 10 per cent less, Poirson said. “When there’s a choice between

two bottles, one made of recycled plastic and the other without, the first will be less expensive,” she said.

“When non-recycled plastic will cost more, that will eliminate much of the excessive packaging,” Poirson said. Flore Berlingen of the association Zero Waste France told AFP: “We’re hoping that companies play along so that clients aren’t the ones penalised” by the new measure. Emmanuel Guichard of the Elipso federation of plastic packaging makers gave a cautious welcome to the French plan.

“For bottles, giving consumers a choice is possible. But we can’t forget other items – today there’s no recycled plastic available for yogurt pots,” he said.

Ubiquitous images on social media of marine fauna suffocated by plastics, as

well as initiatives such as “plastic attacks” — which see shoppers dump all the packaging of their purchases outside supermarkets — have begun to spur political responses around the world.

‘Only part of the solution’

The French plan is “part of the solution, albeit incomplete, since it is only about recycling and not reducing plastic,” remarked Fanny Vismara, an organiser of “plastic attacks” in France. She noted that glass, unlike plastic, is “infinitely recyclable”.

Berlingen added: “Recycling is necessary but not sufficient. We absolutely must cut off the flow and have more stringent measures against over-packaging and disposable objects.”—AFP ■

Experts say Peruvian glaciers must be protected

LIMA — The system of glaciers in the Andes that Peru relies on for its water must be protected, said Jorge Richarte the director of the Andean Program of the Peruvian Mountain Institute on Saturday.

“The glaciers are one of the principal contributing sources of water for much of the population,” Richarte told Xinhua, referring to the coastal urban areas that depend on water from the mountain glaciers.

According to the expert, around 70 percent of the Peruvian population is located on the western flanks of the Andes mountain range and receive just two percent of the country’s rainfall.

“The glaciers are an enormous bank of water, from which we are deriving a vital service,” he stated.

Lima in particular,

with more than 9 million inhabitants, receives an extremely low level of rainfall, said the expert.

In the last few decades there has been a scarcity of water due to the central Andean mountain range losing around 60 percent of its glaciers, he added.

The effects of this loss have been the reduction in the flow of rivers, especially the Rimac—the most important source of potable water for Lima.

He underlined the necessity of adopting measures to protect the glaciers and avoid a worsening situation in the near future, pointing to the disappearance of two small glaciers in the southern Andean zone of the country as an example of the precarity of the nation’s water sources.

Erick Soriano, president of the National Institute for Research in

Glacier and Mountain Ecosystems of Peru also stressed that the threat of global warming on glaciers must be taken seriously.

“Water doesn’t come from taps, it comes from snow-capped mountains. We have to conserve them and treat them in a sustainable manner to preserve life,” he stated.

He also noted that populations located in mountainous areas could play an important role in the preservation of water sources.

However, in Soriano’s view, the water problems reported this summer were caused by poor water management rather than a lack of water coming from glaciers.

“Thankfully, up to now we do not have a shortage of water, but we do have a deficiency in the management of water,” said Soriano.—Xinhua ■



The glaciers are one of the principal contributing sources of water for much of the population. PHOTO: XINHUA

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V TORREST STRAIT VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TORREST STRAIT VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S’PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1815N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1815N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

‘The Meg’ chomps up competition at N.America box office

LOS ANGELES — The North American box office was under attack from sci-fi horror film ‘The Meg’ this weekend, industry estimates showed Sunday, as it more than doubled the earnings of its closest competitor to claim the top spot.

The Warner Bros. adaptation of Steve Alten’s ‘Meg: A Novel of Deep Terror’ (1997) took \$44.5 million in its first weekend in theaters, as viewers rushed to see Jason Statham as a rescue diver who tries to save scientists in a nuclear submarine from a huge, underwater shark attack.

Second place went to Tom Cruise’s ‘Mission: Impossible — Fallout,’ from Paramount, with

\$20 million earnings ending a two-week run at the top, according to industry tracker Exhibitor Relations.

‘Fallout,’ the sixth stunt-filled edition in the popular ‘M:I’ franchise, sees Cruise again do his own vertigo-inducing, cliff-hanging, exploding-car stunts — and has raked in \$162 million during three weeks in cinemas.

In at third was Disney’s live-animated hybrid ‘Christopher Robin’ — which tells the story of Winnie the Pooh’s now grown-up and stressed-out friend and how he reunites with his old stuffed friend — with ticket sales of \$12.4 million.



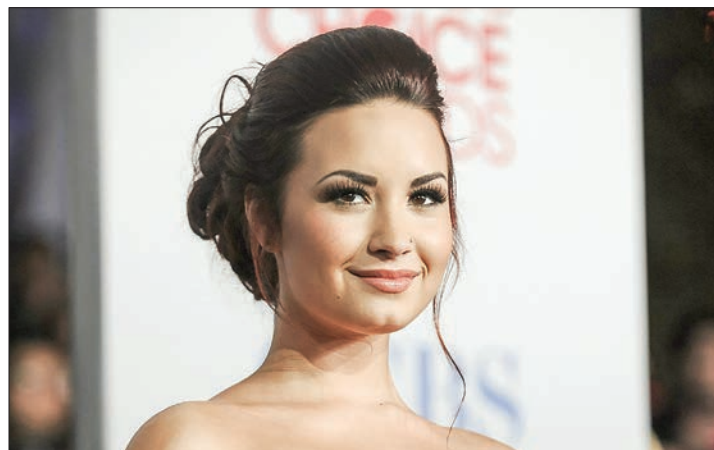
British actor Jason Statham and British model Rosie Huntington-Whiteley attend the US premiere of Warner Brothers Pictures ‘The Meg’ in Los Angeles, California, on 6 August, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Meanwhile, despite a poor reception from critics, Sony’s newly released ‘Slender Man’ took fourth place with \$11.4 million.

The supernatural horror story follows a group of friends who, enthralled by online stories about the mysterious Slender Man, try to prove he doesn’t really exist — only for one of them to go missing.

Fifth went to Spike Lee’s ‘BlacKkKlansman,’ which took \$10.8 million.

Starring John David Washington — son of Denzel Washington — it tells the true story of black detective Ron Stallworth, who in 1970s Colorado set out to infiltrate the local Ku Klux Klan chapter. —AFP ■



American singer-songwriter Demi Lovato. **PHOTO: PTI**

Demi Lovato temporarily leaves rehab

LOS ANGELES — Demi Lovato has reportedly left the rehabilitation facility she entered last week in search of additional treatment in Chicago.

According to *People* magazine, the 25-year-old singer and her mother, Dianna De La Garza, left Los Angeles and flew to Chicago to meet with a psychiatrist who specializes in mental health and sobriety treatment.

“She’s in the midst of recovery,” a source told the publication.

“It’s going to be a long road, and Demi knows that. Emotionally, it hasn’t been easy, but she’s doing okay,” it added.

Last month, Lovato overdosed on what was reported as an unspecified opioid. She was found unconscious in her Hollywood Hills residence. She was then taken to Cedars-Sinai hospital, where she listed in stable condition and has remained there since the incident.

Following her hospitaliza-

tion, the singer had cancelled performances in Atlantic City and Toronto, which were originally slated for July 26 and July 29 respectively.

Earlier this week, the singer cancelled the rest of her 2018 tour dates to focus on her recovery.

In an Instagram post recently, the singer spoke about her battle with addiction, saying she needed “time to heal and focus on my sobriety”.

“I have always been transparent about my journey with addiction. What I’ve learned is that this illness is not something that disappears or fades with time. It is something I must continue to overcome and have not done yet,” she wrote.

“...I now need time to heal and focus on my sobriety and road to recovery. The love you have all shown me will never be forgotten and I look forward to the day where I can say I came out on the other side,” she added. —PTI ■

Crowd-funded headstone marks lost grave of poet William Blake

LONDON — The lost resting place of British poet and artist William Blake was finally marked Sunday with a grave-stone, almost 200 years after he died.

Despite his influence today, Blake died in obscurity in 1827 and was buried in an unmarked common grave in Bunhill Fields, a London cemetery.

Only a plain memorial stone recorded that he was buried nearby, much to the dismay of two devotees who visited, and who decided to find his exact resting place.

Luis and Carol Garrido had as their guide the original coor-

dinates of his burial, which were based on a grid of graves but became confused when parts of the cemetery were converted into gardens.

After two years of research and some painstaking work with a tape measure, they found it, and the Blake Society -- of which they were members -- began fundraising for a new memorial to mark the spot.

The society raised £30,000 (33,500 euros, \$38,300) through donations from around the world, as well as a benefit gala.

The engraved slab of Portland Stone unveiled on Sunday reads: “Here lies William Blake,

1757-1827, Poet Artist Prophet”, followed by two lines of his verse.

“It matters that we recognise those who have contributed to our cultural heritage, and no creative genius has influenced people to the extraordinary extent as William Blake,” Nick Duncan, a trustee of the Blake Society, said in a press release.

“Yet almost two centuries after his death, Blake’s grave is unmarked. People walk unknowingly over it, dropping litter and thinking of other things.”

He added: “At last lovers of Blake from all over the world will have a point of pilgrimage.” —AFP ■



The original coordinates of Blake’s burial became confused when parts of the cemetery were converted into gardens. **PHOTO: AFP**

NASA launches Parker Solar Probe in first mission to 'touch Sun'

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida) — NASA on Sunday blasted off its first-ever spaceship to explore the Sun, the \$1.5 billion Parker Solar Probe, on a strategic mission to protect the Earth by unveiling the mysteries of dangerous solar storms.

The launch of the car-sized probe aboard a massive Delta IV-Heavy rocket lit the night sky at Cape Canaveral, Florida at 3:31 am (0731 GMT).

The unmanned spacecraft's mission is to get closer than any human-made object ever to the center of our solar system, plunging into the Sun's atmosphere, known as the corona, during a seven-year mission.

The probe is guarded by an ultra-powerful heat shield that can endure unprecedented levels of heat, and radiation 500 times that experienced on Earth.

When it nears the Sun, the probe will travel at some 430,000 miles per hour (692,000 kilometers per hour).

That will make it the fastest ever human-made object, speedy enough to travel from New York to Tokyo in one minute.

"This mission truly marks humanity's first visit to a star," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

"We've accomplished something that decades ago, lived solely in the realm of science fiction," he added, describing the probe as one of NASA's "strategically important" missions.

Strange veil

NASA has billed the mission as the first spacecraft to "touch the Sun."

In reality, it should come within 3.83 million miles (6.16 million kilometers) of the Sun's surface, close enough to study the curious phenomenon of the solar wind and the Sun's atmosphere, known as the corona, which is 300 times hotter than its surface.

Scientists hope this close encounter will give them a better understanding of solar wind and geomagnetic storms that risk wreaking chaos on Earth by knocking out the power grid.

These poorly understood solar outbursts could potential-

ly wipe out power to millions of people.

A worst-case scenario would cost up to two trillion dollars in the first year alone and take a decade for full recovery, experts say.

"The Parker Solar Probe will help us do a much better job of predicting when a disturbance in the solar wind could hit Earth," said Justin Kasper, a project scientist and professor at the University of Michigan.

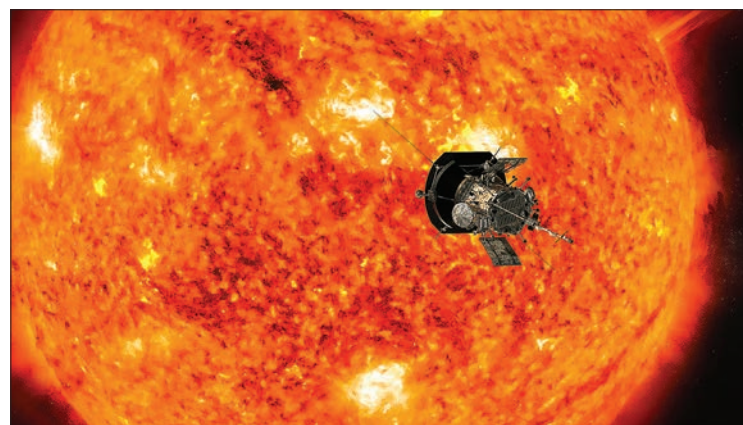
Knowing more about the solar wind and space storms will also help protect future deep space explorers as they journey toward the Moon or Mars.

Heat shield

A highly advanced heat shield just 4.5 inches (11.43 centimeters) thick was devised to keep the probe from melting.

The sunlight is expected to heat the shield to just around 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit (1,371 degrees Celsius).

Yet the inside of the spacecraft will stay at just 85 degrees Fahrenheit. The probe is set to make 24 passes through the



A rendering of NASA's Parker Solar Probe, the spacecraft that will fly through the Sun's corona to trace how energy and heat move through the star's atmosphere. **PHOTO: AFP**

corona, collecting data. "The sun is full of mysteries," said Nicky Fox, project scientist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab.

"We are ready. We have the perfect payload. We know the questions we want to answer."

'All I have to say is "Wow"'

The spacecraft is the only NASA probe in history to be named after a living person -- 91-year-old solar physicist Eugene Parker, who first described the solar wind in 1958.

Parker watched the launch at Cape Canaveral, and said it was his first time seeing a rocket blast off in person. "All I have to say is wow, here we go. We are in for some learning over the

next several years," Parker told NASA television. Scientists have wanted to build a spacecraft like this for more than 60 years, but only recently did the heat shield technology capable of protecting sensitive instruments become available.

Tools on board will measure high-energy particles associated with flares and coronal mass ejections, as well as the changing magnetic field around the Sun.

The first launch attempt on Saturday was postponed at the last minute due to technical problem related to a helium gas sensor on the rocket. But Sunday's bid "went off like clockwork," said NASA launch manager Omar Baez. —AFP ■

Pupils attend scientific carnival at youth activity center in SW China's Guizhou



in
Picture

Pupils view electric robot arms controlled by a volunteer during a scientific carnival at a youth activity center in Danzhai County, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Guizhou Province on 12 August 2018. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Most low-mass exoplanets are rocky

BEIJING — Most of the known low-mass extrasolar planets are rocky planets, just like Earth, according to a new measurement model jointly developed by Chinese and Swiss scientists.

The model, a result of cooperation between Jin Sheng from Purple Mountain Observatory, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Christoph Mordasini from University of Bern, Switzerland, can narrow the possibility of the bulk composition of those small and distant exoplanets.

Astronomers have detected nearly 4,000 exoplanets, including some Earth-size planets, thanks to the advancement of observation techniques in recent years.

However, scientists cannot derive the spectrum of these exoplanets due to their small masses and sizes, making it hard to analyze their composition.

Are Earth-like habitable planets prevalent in the universe? Are planets able to

maintain a large amount of water when migrating to a habitable orbit? Can low-mass exoplanets develop an atmosphere suitable for life? Answers to such questions rely on further analysis of the physical properties of these exoplanets, especially their composition.

A planet's bulk composition is usually figured out from its mean density, which is derived from its mass and radius. But this could lead to mistakes, as a planet with a silicate-iron core and a gas envelope may have the same mass-radius relation as a planet containing ice but no gas envelope.

Jin Sheng and Christoph Mordasini have simulated the formation and evolution of more than 100,000 planets in 10 billion years, with the outcome similar to the real detected planets in statistical distribution. It verifies the accuracy of the formation and evolution theory they have used in the model. —Xinhua ■

Local, foreign lethwei fighters to battle in 3rd MLWC event

THE Third Myanmar Lethwei World Championship (MLWC), featuring seven fights at present, will be held Sunday (19 August 2018) at Theinbyu Gymnasium, Kan Yeik Tha Road, near Kandawgyi lake in Yangon.

The weight classes are from 57kg to 80kg in which the bout between Tun Lwin Moe (Myanmar) and Kerrati Sririttidet (Thailand) is in the weight class of 65kg, while the fight between Phyan Thway (Myanmar) and Saw Gaw Mu Do (Myanmar) is in 70kg weight class.

Ye Thway Ni from Myanmar and Hamamoto Yuta

Cat from Japan will fight in the 57kg weight class, whereas the fight between Shwe Yar Man from Myanmar and Kohei Tokeshi from Japan is in the 73kg weight class. The match between Vo Ro Ni Ka from Myanmar and Elena Mischuck from Belarus is in the 60kg weight class.

In the 80kg weight class, there are two fights, Dave Leduc (Myanmar) vs Diesellek (Thailand) and Tun Tun Min (Myanmar) vs Daryl Lokuku (Congo).

The Sunday lethwei event will begin at 2pm. — K. Banaana ■



PHOTO: MLWC



Neymar scored his first goal for PSG since a 5-2 win over Strasbourg in February. PHOTO: AFP

Neymar on the mark as PSG up and running under Tuchel

PARIS — Neymar scored his first goal for Paris Saint-Germain since February as the French champions kicked off the new Ligue 1 season with a 3-0 defeat of Caen on Sunday.

The Brazilian star, who scored 19 times in 20 league games before fracturing his foot last season, struck just 10 minutes into his first start for the club in almost six months.

Adrien Rabiot netted a second for PSG before half-time and Timothy Weah, the son of 1995 Ballon d'Or winner and Liberia president George Weah, rounded out the victory with his first league goal.

Gianluigi Buffon also produced a couple of sharp saves on his home bow in goal for PSG as coach Thomas Tuchel made a winning start at the Parc des

Princes.

"We played a good match with lots of intensity, especially in the first half. In the second half we managed things a bit more because we're not yet at 100%," PSG captain Thiago Silva told Canal+. "Some players arrived late (for pre-season) and are not ready, like myself for example. At the end of the match I had lots of cramps, but well done to all the team for the match we played today. We're going to make more progress."

German Tuchel, who replaced Unai Emery on a two-year deal, was without a host of first-team regulars as PSG's trio of World Cup winners — Kylian Mbappe, Presnel Kimpembe and Alphonse Areola — showed off the trophy to fans before kick-off. —AFP ■

Tiger makes Ryder Cup case but Fowler, Simpson make US team

ST. LOUIS — Tiger Woods didn't get the victory he needed to qualify for the US Ryder Cup team on points on Sunday at the 100th PGA Championship.

But the 14-time major champion, unsure a year ago if he would ever play golf again, proved his point when it came to making his case to earn a captain's pick from Jim Furyk to play for the Americans next month in France.

The 42-year-old former world number one fired a six-under-par 64 in the final round at Bellerive Country Club to finish second to two-time US Open champion Brooks Koepka by two shots.

Woods electrified the crowd with some superb shotmaking, bringing roars from spectators to rival anything he inspired during his prime.

Eight months in his comeback from spinal fusion surgery, Woods proved beyond any doubt he has the skill to contend for a major title.

"I'm just very pleased at what I've done so far and now to be part of the Ryder Cup conversation, going from where I've come from to now in the last year, it has been pretty cool," Woods said.

Woods will be going to France when the US defends the trophy against Europe next month anyway. He's a vice captain on the American squad. Now he hopes to be playing also.

"I do want to be on the

team as a player," Woods said. "I'm going to be there either way."

Furyk said Wednesday he was open to the idea of Woods serving double duty as a player and vice captain but wanted to see what worked best for the team if that possibility arose.

"Our captain has some decisions to make after the first playoff events," Woods said. "We will sit down and give him our input and what we think, who should be on the team. And hopefully my name will be part of that process."

The US qualifying process ended Sunday with Jordan Spieth, Bubba Watson, Rickie Fowler and Webb Simpson taking the final four available spots, a list unchanged from the points leaders entering the week.

Four others — Koepka, 2017 PGA winner Justin Thomas, Masters winner Patrick Reed and top-ranked Dustin Johnson, had already clinched berths no matter how they fared this week.

Furyk will officially confirm the first eight US players on Monday. Top outsiders such as Phil Mickelson and Bryson De Chambeau missed the cut to doom their bids to break into the final list.

Simpson and Fowler, most vulnerable among the eight, did well enough to chase off any distant hopefuls. Fowler shared 12th

on 272. Simpson shared 19th on 273.—AFP ■



Tiger Woods, unsure a year ago if he would ever play golf again, proved his point when it came to making his case to earn a captain's pick to the US Ryder Cup team. PHOTO: AFP