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Message Extended by U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy

15 September 2018

My fellow citizens,

At the outset, I would like to extend my best wishes for all citizens of Myanmar to fully enjoy the essence of democracy in unity and for the democratic practices to flourish in Myanmar on this auspicious occasion of the International Day of Democracy.

The 62nd United Nations General Assembly in 2007 designated 15 September as the International Day of De-

mocracy to annually celebrate with the aim to honour the sovereign countries practicing democracy, to promote and uphold the practices of democracy, to strengthen the spirit of democracy among the people, and to carry on the democratic reform process in the future.

This year marks the eighth anniversary of the celebration of the International Day of Democracy in Myanmar. In other words, it can be said that our country

has undergone democratic transition for eight years.

My fellow citizens,

The theme selected by the Inter-Parliamentary Union this year is "Oversight". In a democratic society, government is a basic entity existed together with political parties, civil societies, other associations and the media.

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Vice President U Myint Swe arrives back from People's Republic of China

A DELEGATION led by Vice President U Myint Swe attended the 15th China-ASEAN Expo and 15th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China, left Nanning by air for Kunming yesterday morning.

The Vice President and party was seen off by Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region China Communist Party Guangxi Committee Permanent Committee member, political and legal affairs committee secretary H.E. Mr. Huang Shi-yong, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Foreign Affairs Office Deputy Director General Ms. Chen Jie, Myanmar Consul-General in Nanning U Soe Thet Naung and officials at the Nanning International Airport.



SEE PAGE-7 Vice President U Myint Swe welcomed by Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang at Yangon International Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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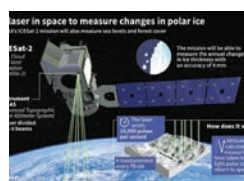
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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves signing of Non-Proliferation Treaty

By Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

AT the 22nd-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, the Hluttaw approved Myanmar signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Also at the meeting, officials from union level organisations explained about the matter of allocation and usage of Ks 11,049.135 million emergency fund in 2018 Union Budget Law sent by the President, Hluttaw decided and approved by paragraph the Myanmar travel bill and Myanmar dental, oral medical council bill, and Hluttaw discussed US\$ 298.9 million ADB loan for Ministry of Electricity and Energy electricity network development project sent by the President.

Myanmar to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

At the meeting, Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency 2 first spoke in support of Myanmar signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The matter was also discussed by Dr. San Maung Maung of Bago Region constituency 1, Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency, U Win Myint Aung of Tabayin constituency, Dr. Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency, U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1, Dr. Tin Aung of Kyaukse constituency, U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency 5, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

representative Lt-Col Zaw Tun Oo and U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10.

In his explanation about the Treaty, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin said nuclear weapons remains the biggest threat to world peace, security and existence of humans.

At the moment tension and escalation of arms race among countries owning nuclear weapons are rising.

Due to misunderstanding among countries owning nuclear weapons, nuclear conflicts can occur. Nuclear accidents due to earthquakes and other natural disasters as well as powerful weapons falling into terrorists' hands will ultimately result in nuclear disaster.

As the treaty is the first treaty in the history of the world that had legal binding and the treaty was approved with the majority of the world's

122 countries' supported at the United Nations in July 2017, the Union Minister also supported Myanmar signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Hluttaw decided to approve Myanmar signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Discussion on Ks 11,049.135 million emergency fund in 2018 Union Budget Law

Next, officials from union level organisations explained about the matter of allocation and usage of Ks 11,049.135 million emergency fund in 2018 Union Budget Law, sent by the President.

In his explanation, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said Ks700 million of the emergency fund will be used to construct an approach road to bridge No. 7 at Taung Inn Village on Shwepyithaung

Inn-Tongyi road in Mandalay Region, Pyin Oo Lwin District, Singu Township. The old wooden bridge was destroyed due to water erosion in August 2017 and a new reinforced concrete bridge is being planned to be built and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is requested to approve this.

Union level officials from Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation also explained about the matter of allocation and usage of the emergency fund.

After the explanation Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hluttaw putting on record the matter of allocation and usage of Ks 11,049.135 million emergency fund in 2018 Union Budget Law for one Ministry of Construction work, one Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation work and one work related to Mandalay Region government.

Hluttaw approve Myanmar Travel Bill and Myanmar dental, oral medical council bill

Afterwards, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hluttaw approving the Myanmar travel bill and Myanmar dental, oral, medical council bill, after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Hluttaw discuss US\$298.9 million ADB loan for electricity network development project

Following this, U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, Dr. Tin Tin Win of Bago Region constituency 5, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, U Okka Min of Taninthayi Region constituency 8, U Nyan Lin of Shwepyitha constituency, U Saw Sha Phon Hwa of Kayin State constituency 12, U Kyaw Shwe of Yanbye constituency, U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5, U Ohn Khin of Pulaw constituency, Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency 5, U Nay Lin Tun of Bokpyin constituency, U Soe Paing Htay of Myeik constituency, Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11, U Thet Naing Oo of Yebu constituency, U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8 and Daw Tin Tin Yi of Kyunsu constituency discussed US\$298.9 million ADB loan for Ministry of Electricity and Energy electricity network development project, sent by the President.

The 23rd-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 19 September, it is learnt. ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting over tax administration bill at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall, yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee Chairman U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, dep-

uty chairmen, secretaries, joint secretary and committee members from Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee, Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members, officials from Office of the Supreme Court of Myanmar, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Union Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA ■



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein attending the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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FROM PAGE-1

Therefore, they all bear the responsibility to oversee in order to maintain and strengthen democracy. If we all fulfill our own responsibility, the significance of the theme “Oversight” will become meaningful.

Democracy is endowed with Justice, Freedom and Equality. Democracy also leads to peace and development of a country and prosperity for its people. Moreover, Democracy guarantees the right to live, freedom and happiness.

Equality according to the individual’s physical and mental power, equality of opportunities, legal equality and equality in doing business and economic sectors are the values of democracy for the people. The famous German philosopher Immanuel Kant quoted “If all the countries in the world practice democracy, it would be able to establish an era of perpetual peace.” Democracy is the primary source of peace. That is why Democracy is priceless.

Collective strength and concerted efforts exerted by all the nationalities are crucial in building a Democratic Federal Union which all our people aspire to. We are also witnessing that the entire people are collectively striving for the emergence of a Democratic Federal Union. As democratic system is centred on people’s collective strength and power, we have to put people’s aspirations and desires at the forefront. We also need to take into account the basic rights, freedom and minority rights of each and every citizen in a democratic system. Similarly, it is important for people’s representatives to find solutions by consensus and in a transparent manner.

At the same time, we need to be aware of the risks of bogus democracy. Democracy-related risks involve people who do not want democracy, who wish to destroy democracy, who do not believe in democracy, who believe in democracy but wish to take democratic transition into their own hands leading to the revitalization of dictator-

ship, who misuse democracy in favour of dictatorship and who wish to take over people’s power not in line with democratic practices. We need to be seriously cautious of those risks.

My fellow citizens,

Myanmar is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country as many ethnic nationalities with different cultural backgrounds and faiths live together. It is important to create harmony and unity in diversity. Creating harmony and unity would assure the success of the national reconciliation and peace process, emergence of a Federal Union and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people.

Peace and stability are fundamental in order to achieve these goals. It is impossible to maintain development without peace. In this regard, I would like to stress that each and every one of us need to fulfil our own duties and responsibilities in the interests of the nation and its people.

Because of the desire, demand and dedication of the people of Myanmar for the democratic rights of freedom, equality and justice, Myanmar is now on the path to democracy. It can be compared that nascent democracy is like a toddler learning to walk; we have to be careful not to falter at this stage and need to have a right balance. If we wish democracy to survive, we have to respect the rule of law and existing rules and regulations. Basic principles of democracy such as patience and forgiveness have to be practiced among individuals and institutions. Compromise, negotiation and coordination are the essence of democracy, which are crucial for a thriving democracy.

If we look back at our history of pre-independence, our forefathers had well-planned inspirations to build up what type of country, what would be the rights of the people. Our national anthem reflects democratic norms such as fairness, freedom, equality and neutrality.

Therefore, I would like to urge the people to consistently strive to implement those rights, enshrined in the national anthem.

During her visit to Singapore last month, the State Counsellor delivered a lecture with the theme of “Myanmar’s Democratic Transition: Challenges and Way Forward”. In the lecture, the State Counsellor underscored that people’s participation in democratic transformation process is a powerful strength as well as a big challenge. It is a dire challenge to integrate the wills and aspirations of the millions of people to highlight amazing complex diversities of the country. The State Counsellor reiterated her belief that the citizens of Myanmar would successfully overcome the challenges of democratic transformation process. These facts highlight the primary role of the people to achieve our objectives.

The democratic system is based on the theory which stated that “democratic government is to serve the people, not the people are to serve the government”. To nurture democracy, we have to abstain from wrong-doings and it is necessary for all to take part in establishing democratic root to foster peace, development, human rights and rule of law. In democratic system, people have the right to learn, the right to know and the right to speech. Besides, they would be able to get a chance to enjoy the rights to contribute to the political process of the country.

My fellow citizens,

Therefore, on the Day of International Democracy, may I convey this message and my best wishes for all ethnic nationals to be able to strive together with “collective strength” of the people to bring about a united and harmonious society in the spirit of mutual understanding, respect, trust and amity as well as for successful building of a Democratic Federal Union.



Union Election Commission Chairman receives NDI Country Director

UNION ELECTION Commission Chairman received National Democratic Institute (NDI) Country Director Ms. Kenza Aqertit and party at Union Election Commission office, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Union Election Commission Chairman explained about works conducted to hold the by-election on 3 November 2018, freely, fairly, transparently, truthfully and acceptable to all; invitations made to international election observers to monitor the election and progressively raising the election process step by step, based on suggestions made by international election observers.

NDI Senior Program Manager Mr. Mario Mitre explained about support provided to election monitors from civil society



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein meets with National Democratic Institute (NDI) Country Director Ms. Kenza Aqertit and party yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

organisations in 2015 General Election, 2017 and 2018 by-elections, support to be provided to election monitors from civil society organisations in the 2020 General Election and cooperation with Union Election Commission. In return, Union Election Commission Chairman explained further about support provided

to civil society organisations and cooperation work process for 2020 General Election.

Present at the meeting were Union Election Commission members U Aung Myint, U Soe Rae, U Tun Khin, U Hla Tint, U Myint Naing, U Than Htay and officials from commission office. — MNA ■

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www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Kyaw Myaing

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

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
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gnlmdaily@gmail.com

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Senior General meets potato farmers in Heho Township

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party met with potato farmers in Bawnin village tract, Heho Town, Kalaw Township yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, Quarter-master-General Lt-Gen Nyo Saw and Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Lin Aung explained about agriculture production in the region and officials from state agriculture department, Heho Town potato planters association chairman and potato farmers explained about planting potato in the region, requirement of good potato varieties, and difficulties faced in market distribution.

Next, the Senior General said the visit was to study about putting potatoes in the ration that the Tatmadaw personnel were consuming daily. There were evidences of Myanmar planting potatoes and export-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with officials and local people in Heho yesterday.

PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

ing to foreign countries and it will be more beneficial to plant good potato varieties. When conducting agriculture works having good quality, technique, soil and water is important, and the Senior General quoted the suggestion and remarks of people actually planting potatoes to increase yield.

The Senior General also urged the use of natural organic fertilizers, instead of chemical fertilizer, and to raise

animals to obtain natural fertilizers. Consumption of potatoes in Myanmar is lower than other countries, and information and knowledge need to be provided to increase consumption and create a market. The Senior General spoke of his belief of potato becoming a major agriculture product of Myanmar. If systematically grown, it could be exported to foreign countries as before. The Senior General said the Tatmadaw would

provide the best assistance it can and once potato planting becomes developed, Shan people's saying of Shan farmers donating half of what they have can be realized sooner.

Afterwards, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services inspected potatoes produced in the region and presented gifts to officials and farmers, according to a news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. — MNA ■

Tourist arrival through Tachilek border exceeds 420,000 since April

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism reported on Friday that Tachilek, a Myanmar-Thailand border, hosted a total of 422,954 visitors, including 41,600 day trippers, between 1 April and 13 September, this year.

According to the ministry's report, the number of foreigners visiting the country through the Tachilek border in the second week of this month was 21,669 in total, increasing by over 3,900 visitors in comparison with the previous week ending on 6 September, when the town hosted a total of 17,737

foreigners.

Myanmar is now emphasizing the development of border tourism based on the country's natural scenery and a wide variety of tangible and intangible cultural heritages. This activity is aimed at boosting the country's earning through tourism.

Due to its efforts, tourists from neighbouring Thailand, China and other countries continuously enter Myanmar through Tachilek land border, visiting the town and nearby destinations on a one-day or overnight trip.



Tourists and local people checking out clothes at a shop in Tachilek.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

In Tachilek, Lwemwe area, Pintauk Waterfall, Talaw market, Bayintnaung statue, Wankauing market, Koemyoshin spirit house, the replica of Shweda-

gon Pagoda, Koehtet Waterfall, Padaung Village, Chinese temples and Buddhist monasteries in the town are famous among foreign visitors.—GNLM ■

Mangroves to be planted in four Yangon townships

By May Thet Hnin

MANGROVES will be planted in Kayan, Thongwa, Kyauktan and Kungyangon townships, Yangon Region, said U Hla Win, the head of Yangon Region Fisheries Department.

"Mangroves will be planted in four townships that border the sea in Yangon Region, as a National Plan of Action to prevent natural disasters, such as Nargis. We will replant mangrove forests to protect Yangon from cyclone," he added.

We have already conducted negotiations with shrimp farm owners in August, because there are many shrimp farms in this region. These farms use the natural way of using the tide to harvest shrimps and more natural food for shrimps is expected to be obtained through planting of mangroves said U Hla Win. Authorities had granted over 10,000 acres of land in the four townships for shrimp farming. The plan will allow shrimp farms to continue under the ratio of 40 per cent for shrimp farm and 60

per cent mangroves planting. Forest department wants full planting of mangroves, but this means there wouldn't be any shrimp farms. The chief minister was explained about how this was done in Rakhine State and he accepted this arrangement, he added.

A combined team comprising of Forest Department, Fisheries Department, land records department and General Administration Department will conduct field inspection trips to implement the joint shrimp

farming and mangrove planting plan. In the open season, the chief minister himself will conduct field inspection trips to implement the project as quickly as possible.

Mangrove-friendly aquaculture is practiced in many countries of the world. Practicing the same system in Myanmar can provide natural defence against natural disasters, while not affecting the breeding of fish and prawns, said U Win Khaing, general secretary of Myanmar Fisheries Federation. ■

Pyapon sends 7,500 viss of fish, shrimps daily to Yangon

OVER 7,000 viss of fish and shrimps from Pyapon Township in Ayeyawady Region daily go to Yangon market due to the current weather condition, pleasing the fishermen there. The month of September sees a plenty of freshwater fish and shrimps, especially in delta regions. During this period, fish and shrimps are sold at prices lower than Ks10,000 per viss (3.6 lb). Normally, the prices are above Ks10,000 per viss.

Depending on the variety of fish, sellers in the Pyapon market call out a price between Ks4,000 and Ks10,000 a viss. The prices of marketable mango fish and dwarf catfish were Ks6,000-

Ks10,000 per viss on yesterday, according to the market. Fish and shrimps from Pyapon market are normally sent to Sanpya Fish Market, one of the largest wholesale fish markets in Yangon, every evening. Cargos are usually delivered by both sea and land routes. During these days, between 7,500 and 10,000 viss of fish and shrimps daily enter the Yangon market, wholesalers say. Myanmar also contributes aquaculture products internationally, as a developing country. Its exports of marine products exceeded US\$254 million in the current six-month interim fiscal period.—Aung Win (Pyapon) ■



Shrimps from Pyapon seen at a market. **PHOTO: AUNG WIN (PYAPON)**

Price of gold at record high

By May Thet Hnin

THE price of gold has reached a record high of about Ks 996,500 per tical on 14 September, thanks to the rising US dollar exchange rate.

The global gold prices are US\$1,206 per ounce at present time. The US dollar exchange rate started to increase from the second week of August and went over Ks1,500 per dollar. At the moment, one US dollar is Ks1,557 in the local currency exchange market.

Historically, this is the highest gold price and due to this, gold market is cool with not much buying or selling.

“The market is cool. Only a few people buy in the morning and try to sell it back in the

evening. There are hardly anyone who are making finished products at the shops, said U Tin Tun, chairman of Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association. Potential sellers are also watching the market, hoping for further increase in price. Sellers aren't selling much, and buyers aren't buying much said U Ohn Myaing, secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association. An escalating trade war between the US and China resulted in dollar appreciation in international currency markets, including Myanmar.

Gold price reached a low of Ks 930,000 per tical this year, and it has been gradually increasing starting from August, reaching an all-time highest price this month. ■



Gold jewellery displayed at a shop in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

Maritime trade up by \$1.7 bln against last year

MYNAMAR'S maritime trade between 1 April and 7 September this year reached nearly US\$12.3 billion, up by \$1.7 billion, as against the same period in the last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported on Friday.

The current trade figures covered \$4.98 billion in exports and \$7.3 billion in imports. This year saw an increase in value of both export and import sectors. Exports increased by over \$1 billion in comparison with the similar time last year, whereas imports rose by \$606 million.

At this time last year, the

country's external trade by sea totalled \$10.6 billion, with exports worth \$3.8 billion and imports worth \$6.7 billion.

Myanmar transports roughly 80 per cent of goods through sea routes, importing three main groups of commodities, such as capital goods, consumer products and intermediate goods, and exporting seven major groups of commodities—agricultural, animal and aquaculture products, forest-based products, minerals, manufacturing goods and other miscellaneous items.

Maritime trade between Myanmar and international countries are increasing year by year.

According to the ministry's annual report, the maritime trade was \$14.67 billion in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. It rose to \$20.37 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$22.37 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$20.56 billion in the 2015-2016 FY and \$21.43 billion in the 2016-2017 FY.

The country's external trade by sea reached its peak of \$25.019 billion in the last 2017-2018 fiscal year.—Khine Khant ■

Trade with France increases slightly in four months

EXTERNAL trade between Myanmar and France, a member of the European Union, topped US\$132 million in the past four months, a slight increase in value by \$9.8 million from this time last year, when the bilateral trade was \$123 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce's latest report.

In bilateral trade, Myanmar's imports from France are always greater than its exports. From April through July this year, the country's exports to France reached \$51.8 million, while its imports were \$81 million. When compared with the

same period in the last year, this year saw an increase in export value by over \$26 million, whereas the imports from France increased by \$16 million.

Myanmar's exports to France include textile products, clothing accessories, vegetables, certain roots and tubers, charcoal, pearls and wood. Its imports from the western European country involves machinery, mechanical appliances, plastic products, pharmaceutical products, glassware, paper and paperboard.

The ministry's data show that Myanmar-France trade

reached its peak of \$260 million in the last financial year 2017-2018. The trade between the two countries was \$176 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$110 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$61 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$36 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$48 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$81 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, France's investment in Myanmar was \$7.34 million in the last FY. The country sees no new investment from France till the end of July this year.—Shwe Khine ■

Kachin Democratic Party presents policy, stance and work program



U Phon San, General Secretary of Kachin Democratic Party.

General Secretary U Phon San of Kachin Democratic Party presented the party's policy, stance and work program on radio and television on 14 September.

Following is a translation of the presentation:

Belief

Our country would emerge as an eternal peace and developed nation, only when diverse nationalities residing together in the state could build a genuine federal union, in accordance with the Panglong spirit, based on the rights of self-determination, self-creation, self-administration, building trust among the people, and having equality, freedom, democratic practice, along with full advantage of in-born human rights.

The Kachin Democratic Party believes that Kachin State should also fulfill the above norms in unity and unison among the entire people, irrespective of race and religion, and must work hand in hand so as to create a prosperous and flourishing state.

Name of the party and definition

Esteemed voters and citizens,

Definition of the party is based on the following four points.

- (1) The Kachin Democratic Party represents the entire people.
- (2) The Kachin Democratic Party always aims for the participation of the Kachin nationals and entire people in the state, and is a party based on true federal democracy and human rights in conjunction with equality and justice.

- (3) The party aims at national reconciliation of all people residing in the Kachin State, irrespective of race and religion.

- (4) The party would resolutely carry out for the achievement of sustainable peace and full democracy in the Kachin State.

Party policy

Esteemed voters and citizens,

We believe that a party must take the responsibility to carry out all social matters related with the people. In the implementation of the party tasks, all events of the past must be taken as lessons, harmonized with present matters and work for a successful future federal union.

Therefore, the party has laid down the following policies:

(a) Political outlook of the party

- (1) The Kachin Democratic Party believes that stable and secure peace is necessary as an integral part for the development and prosperity of Kachin State. Therefore, the party would actively join hands for the achievement of internal peace process.
- (2) The party would vigorously carry out attainment of full unity of the nationalities.
- (3) In a practicing democracy, the administration is applied as majority rule and the respect of minority rights with the term, "majority rule and minority rights", and our party is pushing ahead for its full implementation in the whole country.

- (4) In serving the interests of the Union and for the benefit of the State, our party would cooperate hand in hand in harmony with other political parties.
- (5) When any problem crops up, it would be solved by finding solutions through negotiations.
- (6) The inborn basic human rights of all human beings would be protected and enhanced.
- (7) The rights of the minority would be protected within the framework of the law.

(b) Economic policy of the party

- (1) The party would support the independent market economic system, and it is termed as, "free marketing system".
- (2) The agricultural and animal breeding sectors are to be supported with modern scientific techniques.
- (3) Normal commerce and trade would be supported and encouraged, which could be termed as, "normal trade".
- (4) With a view to developing the state, systematically extracting natural resources of the state would be supported.
- (5) Rural area development tasks and private sector businesses would be encouraged for improvement.
- (6) Internal and foreign investments and joint venture projects are to be encouraged and expanded.
- (7) Support would be provided to establish more business and trade owned by national entrepreneurs from local areas.
- (8) Support and encouragement would be provided to explore and establish new economic ventures.

(c) Social sector of the party

- (1) Priority would be given for the development of human resources.
- (2) Tasks are to be carried out for the basic needs of the people such as food, clothing and shelter, in conjunction with the upgrading of social living standard.
- (3) Public health and fitness would be enhanced along with elevated moral character.



Party logo.

- (4) Modern and developed education system would be implemented.
- (5) Special emphasis would be given for the emergence of law and justice that are to be abided by all citizens and to encourage good moral character of the people.
- (6) Support and encouragement would be made to uplift the tradition, customs, literature, culture and arts of nationalities.

(d) Future task of the party

- (1) Utmost efforts would be exerted in creating the Kachin State stable and firm as an integrated part of the Union, where sustainable peace is being established with development and prosperity.
- (2) National reconciliation would be established without fail so that all the nationals residing in Kachin State can live in unity and peaceful harmony.
- (3) Efforts would be made to further nurture multiparty democratic system in the Kachin State.
- (4) The economic sector would be implemented in line with the policy laid down by the party, as mentioned above.

(e) Development program of the party

Development of the Kachin State would be implemented mainly in the following sectors.

- (1) Emphasis would be given for better road and communications.
- (2) Agriculture and animal breeding would be encouraged with modern techniques.
- (3) Adequate and sufficient electricity generation would be enhanced.
- (4) Compulsory free education system for the primary level would be practiced and the literature of the nationals would be officially taught in all government schools.

- (5) In the health sector, hospitals and dispensaries would be established in all areas and necessary medical staff, medicines, and hospital equipment would be provided adequately.
- (6) In Kachin State, conservation of environment and water resources would be managed systematically. Forests, rivers and lakes are to be conserved and managed. Especially, the Ayeyawady River must be managed and controlled to flow properly in its original state.
- (7) Our party would maintain understanding and cordial relations with other parties. In the interest of the nation and the people, our party would join hands with all legal organizations.
- (8) In connection with peasants' matters, it would be handled systematically, in accordance with law. If there are cases of confiscated lands, matters would be dealt and settled through justice, in accordance with law. Peasants would be allowed to work and manage independently on their own lands in the cultivation of crops and animal and fish breeding. Manual farming system would be upgraded into agricultural mechanization.
- (9) Regarding the matter of workers, work places would be created into an atmosphere where workers are independent, active and happy. The welfare of the workers would be established. Rights and entitlements of the workers would be fully secured. Justice would prevail in all the workplaces. Good workers that abide work disciplines would be trained, nurtured and uplifted, and Kachin State would be developed in an added momentum.

Translated by UMT (HK)

Vice President U Myint Swe arrives back from People's Republic of China

FROM PAGE-1

Upon arrival in Kunming, the Vice President and party were welcomed by Yunnan Province Foreign Affairs Office Deputy Director General Mr. Wang Wei, Kunming-based Myanmar Consul-General U Soe Paing and officials at the Kunming International Airport.

The Vice President and party

attended a luncheon hosted by Yunnan Province Deputy Governor Mr. Wang Wei and then left Kunming by air to arrive in Yangon in the evening.

The Vice President and party was welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Chinese Ambassador to

Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and officials at the Yangon International Airport.

The Vice President was accompanied by Union Ministers Dr. Than Myint and U Soe Win, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo, Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw banks and finance development committee chairman, and departmental officials.—MNA ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann receives Egyptian Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received Egyptian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Khaled Mohamed Abdelrahman Abdlesalam at Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw at noon yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on legal matters, bilateral relations and co-operation.—MNA



Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann receives Egyptian Ambassador Mr. Khaled Mohamed Abdelrahman Abdlesalam. PHOTO: MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 33/2018

5th Waxing of Tawthalin 1380 ME
14th September 2018

Termination of duty of Yangon Region Advocate General

In accordance with the provisions stated in Article 268 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Article 29 of the Anti-Corruption Law, Advocate General of Yangon Region U Han Htoo has been terminated from his position.

Sd/ Win Myint
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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 rains, and overflowed through their spillways.

People have been urged not to worry about the overflowing

water as it goes through spillways into the rivers, the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department stated.

A total of 37 dams and reservoirs are currently overflowing yesterday, said the department.—MNA

Leaders in armed conflict areas expected to meet soon to reduce tension

UNION Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) concluded its 18th meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon yesterday.

According to a participant at the meeting, which started on 12 September, leaders in armed conflict areas will meet to reduce the tension between both sides.

During the meeting, the peace makers discussed implementation of the resolution made at the previous meeting, the report on plan of JMC-U for next year, starting from 1st October, observation of peace making efforts in Myanmar by Norway, the implementation of ceasefire agreement between the 17th and 18th meetings, works of the local civilian monitoring (LCM) groups and drawing plans for the monitoring work at local-level.

"During the three-day meeting, we discussed the LCM issue. Regarding the LCM, we will carry out a pilot project in

Shan, Kayin and Mon states. Therefore, we discussed the capability and measures to be taken by LCM. We made 15 resolutions in this three-day meeting, and the principles to be decided by JMC also came out in this meeting," said Dr. Shwe Khar. On the second day of the meeting, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Chairman of the Union-level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMCU), called for all sides in conflict areas to avoid area settlement and amassing military power to prevent armed conflicts, while everyone is working to build trust among each other. Asked how the meeting decided the proposal of the New Mon State Party to be included in the State-level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-S), Dr. Shwe Khar said the issue will be discussed at the Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM).

The 18th meeting also discussed the recruitment of the RCSS during the period between the 17th and 18th meetings,

and JMC-S (Shan State) complained about the recruitment, according to the meeting.

JMC also sent letters to the RCSS to solve the issue, as youth members of the NLC were also recruited by the RCSS, demanding the RCSS to release the people as soon as possible,

according to the meeting. "We discussed a lot of issues related with RCSS in this meeting. We hope that we can meet the leaders of the RCSS soon.

The second thing is plans for holding a meeting between ground force commanders of both sides is under discus-

sion. The ground force commanders of the RCSS and the Tatmadaw are expected to meet soon. I expect that the issue would be solved after the meeting," said Dr. Shwe Khar. LCM groups will be formed in Mon and Shan states.—Ye Khaung Nyunt ■



18th meeting of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) being convened. PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

Public awareness needed to fight human trafficking

HUMAN trafficking is not something we think of as being a major problem in Myanmar, but the truth is that a majority of women who illegally migrate to neighbouring countries for jobs fall prey to the trafficking form of forced marriage and forced labour.

Adults and youths are being forced into prostitution and unpaid labor in our own backyard at an alarming rate.

The Sixth Anti-Trafficking In Persons Day of Myanmar we observed on Thursday has alerted us to increase awareness and encourage more efforts to fight the trafficking in persons, one of the worst scourges of humanity.

The trafficking of people for the purpose of enriching the traffickers is the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. The victims are recruited from our most vulnerable community.

As Myanmar is a source country and overwhelmed by grievances arising from trafficking persons, we must work hard to educate the public, to find and punish human traffickers and protect their victims.

“

Together with the efforts of the public, community leaders and organizations nationwide, we can curb the horrific damage caused by human trafficking and child exploitation.

This year's motto of Anti-Trafficking In Persons “The entire public needs to participate, Trafficking in persons to eliminate...” has underlined the important role of the people in fighting the crime.

We do believe that only with collective strength resulting from the participation of the entire public will trafficking in persons be combated.

According to the global report released on 19 July, 2018, it is found that Myanmar ranks the eighteenth in position among 167 countries; 575,000 people, which is approximately equivalent to 10% of the country's population are living under modern slavery.

The types of modern slavery identified by the report include, apart from normal slavery, human smuggling, forced labour, slaves purchased with money, forced marriage and having the under-aged do work and selling them.

According to the 2017 data, it is found that in 73.34% of the cases people were trafficked into China, in 4.37%, they were trafficked into

Thailand and in 0.29%, they were trafficked into Malaysia, 21.28% of the cases took place in the domicile.

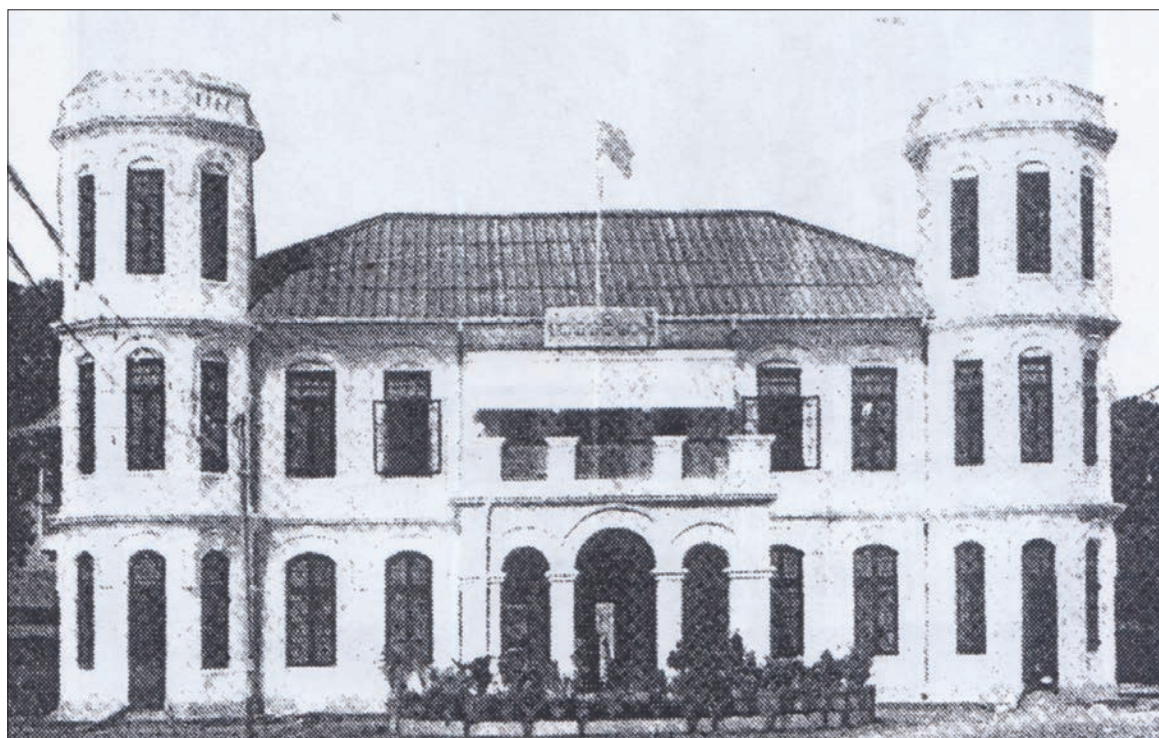
The trafficking of men, women and children for the purpose of exploitation is a horrendous crime that has no place in our society.

In response to this growing epidemic, necessary activities are being conducted to revise and approve the 2005 Anti-Trafficking In Persons Law, in the horizon of the third five-year (2017-2021) plan

The book on cooperation guidelines between Station Police and Anti-Trafficking In Person Task Force Police and the book on victim-centred approach and victims of trafficking identification process were distributed to police officers across the country this year.

No single piece of legislation will end human trafficking, but every bill brings greater attention to this problem hiding in plain sight and further empowers victims to regain control of their lives.

Together with the efforts of the public, community leaders and organizations nationwide, we can curb the horrific damage caused by human trafficking and child exploitation.



Sorrento Villa now serves EMS International.

SORRENTO

By Maung Hlaing

WHEN I joined the Sarpay Beikman, under the Printing and Publishing Corporation, Ministry of Information, in 1980, the Sorrento Villa building was one of the printing plants. It was called the Sarpay Beikman Press, or just Printing Plant, which was under the direct control of the Chief Editor (Additional Director) of the Sarpay Beikman (Board).

Sorrento Villa was situated at 361, Pyay Road (at the junction of Hanthawady Roundabout or circle), in Yangon. After 1988, the Printing and Publishing Corporation became the Printing and Publishing Enterprise (PPE). In those days, PPE had to implement the printing tasks assigned by State or State organizations, in accordance with business-oriented targets. In this way, Sorrento Villa was known as Sarpay Beikman Printing House, where Myanmar Year Book (Encyclopaedia), People's Handbook Series, Thuta Padetha Magazine, General Knowledge on translated works, and Shwe Thway Children's Journal were printed and produced.

Although Sorrento Villa was a historic building, people gradually came to forget the importance of this building. As for the younger generation of today, they hardly know about it. The emergence of Sorrento Villa was inter-woven with the independence struggles of Myanmar. However, the name, “Sorrento Villa Plan”, is still in the heart of the older generations.

Sorrento Villa has been locat-

ed since pre-war time. Due to lack of traces and clues, we fail to know the name of the owner and the construction period. According to Myanmar scholar Dr.Thaw Kaung and ex-ambassador U Thet Tun, the name of “Sorrento” might have come from Europe. According to the dictionary, “Sorrento” is a small town in Canpania, south Italy, with some 16,500 inhabitants. It is a popular tourist destination which can be reached easily from Naples and Pompeii, as it lies at the southeastern end of the Ciruonvesuviana rail line. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, “Villa” means “a house usually in the countryside, especially in southern Europe”.

It is vividly seen that the building is quite different from Myanmar's traditional one. I was told that a foreign lawyer had lived in this European style building, before he went back to Europe.

Before World War II, U Chit Maung, Chairman of the then Rangoon Development Trust, had lived in this building.

It was 6 June 1947. On that day, representatives, economists and officials met to deliberate on the national rehabilitation needs, under the leadership of Bogoyoke Aung San, the architect of Myanmar's independence, and drafted ahead a Two-Year Plan on Economic Development of Myanmar, after regaining our national independence. The plan came to be known as “Sorrento Villa Plan” after the venue of the meeting. Bogoyoke Aung San, who chaired the conference, made a historic speech. It was the last speech in

the life of the national architect of independence, who became a Martyr on 19 July 1947.

Actually, the Sorrento Villa Plan was beneficial not only to the economic situation of the nation, but also to the literary world of the nation.

“A translation department should be established to translate useful books and have them published in the interest of the people,” said Bogoyoke Aung San in his speech. We can vividly see the farsightedness that paved the way to save the people from the age of darkness. To implement his speech, the Burma Translation Society (BTS), or Sarpay Beikman, was established on 26 August 1947. Then Sorrento Villa, located at 361, Pyay Road, was found while seeking a place of peace and quiet to implement the tasks of the BTS.

After Sorrento Villa had been leased, the Burma Translation Society was moved from the two-storied building in the former compound of Judson College of the then Rangoon University, where Dr.St.John lived, to the Sorrento Villa in May 1948. The name of the society was changed into more honourable “Sarpay Beikman”. Later, the name was used in English as “Palace of Literature” when necessary. The motto, “Ahmaung Khwin-ywe Alin Hsaung-ant”, written in Myanmar by Saya Min Thu Wun, was translated into English as “Light, where darkness was” by Saya U Khin Zaw (K).

After the building had been leased at the monthly rate of Ks567/-for ten months, it was bought outright. As the Burma



Original Sorrento Villa

VILLA AND I

Translation Society was a body which served the people as a leading light on a non-profit basis, the Rangoon Development Committee sold the building and the three-and-a-half-acre compound for Ks112,500/-. When the compound was to be fenced in 1953-54, additional half-an-acre, which was not included in the former compound, was bought for Ks7,020 by the BTS.

As a result of implementing the suggestions made by Bogoyoke Aung San at the Sorrento Villa, a grand publishing house emerged. Although it received occasional government subsidy because of the educational nature of its work, the Sarpay Beikman is not a government organization. It is a private, non-political institute, governed by a Managing Council whose members, in addition to its President, Premier U Nu, included U Tin, Minister for Trade Development, Dr. U E Maung, ex-Justice of the Supreme Court, U Ohn, Counsellor to the Premier, U Cho, Executive Officer of the United States Educational Foundation in Burma, U Thein Han (Saya Zawgyi), Librarian of the University of Rangoon, U Myo Min, Professor at the Department of English, University of Rangoon, U Wun (Saya Min Thu Wun), Director of the University Translation and Publications Department, U Ba, Director of Education, U Chan Htoon, Justice of the Supreme Court, U Khin Zaw (Saya K), Director of Burma Broadcasting Service, U Aung Min, Director of Social Welfare, U Thant, Secretary to the Premier, and U Thet Su, Chairman of Social and Economic

Council.

They were those who played the leading roles in the political, economic, social and literary arenas. Because of them, the Sorrento Villa Printing Plant came into being and literary activities were carried out. In the 1950s, the printing plant was known as the most modern one in Southeast Asia where all our books were printed. In this building, Myanmar Encyclopaedia, Ludu Theikpan Kyan (Science for the masses), school textbooks, Sarpay Beikman monthly magazine, People's Handbook Series, books for children and other useful reading materials were produced.

In the compound of Sorrento Villa, literary awards for the best Myanmar novel, best translation of a Great Book, best work in belles-lettres, and the best work on any subject of general knowledge were presented. These awards proved to be an important stimulant in the production of "New Life" literature. The building also introduced adult education extension course. It sponsored and administered a school of journalism.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Union Culture, talks and shows were held at the amphitheatre in the compound. Often, as many as 1,000 people attended the events, which became a Friday evening highlight in Yangon's cultural life. These open-air performances were held weekly from early November until the advent of the monsoon in May.

In pre-war time, Sorrento Villa served the Rangoon (Yangon) City Development for years. In post-war period, the building

served as the venue where Sorrento Villa Plan, or a Two-Year Plan on Economic Development of Myanmar was drafted.

Throughout the ages of Parliament Democracy, Revolutionary Council, Lanzin Party, or Burma Socialist Programme Party, State Law and Order Restoration Council and State Peace and Development Council, the building contributed enormously to literary development. Before it was handed over to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the building was set apart as a special place where foreign literary delegations were received and literary seminars and paper reading sessions were held under the auspices of the Ministry of Information.

As matters related to the Myanmar independence struggles were deliberated there, and as it enhanced Myanmar literary interest, the Sorrento Villa was proclaimed as a national heritage on 1 August 1996 by the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

On 12 March 2003, the Ministry of Information handed over the building of Sorrento Villa to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. From 1 April 2006 onwards, the service of EMS International has been carried out.

O dutiful Sorrento Villa! I salute you!

Ref :

1. ဆိုရန်တိုပီလာ, တက္ကသိုလ် ခင်မောင်ဇော်, ချင်းတွင်းမဂ္ဂဇင်း (နိုဝင်ဘာ၊ ၂၀၀၈)
2. ကိုလိုနီခေတ် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသမိုင်း အဘိဓာန်၊ မောင်မြဟန် (မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာ)
3. SARPAY BEIKMAN, Palace of Literature, Sept. 1958.



KEEP COOL AND CARRY ON

THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL




ကမ္ဘာ့အိုဇုန်းလွှာထိန်းသိမ်းရေးနေ့

16 SEPTEMBER 2018

#OZONEDAY



ကမ္ဘာ့အပူချိန်လျှော့ချဖို့ ဆက်လက်ဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 14 September 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 15 September 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway regions, Northern Shan, Chin and Rakhine states, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing and Mandalay regions, Kachin, (Southern and Eastern)Shan and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanintheyi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9)feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanintheyi Coasts and about (3-6)feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from Northern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 September 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 September 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 September 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region and widespread in Yangon Region.

Myanmar military delegation arrives Pune, India, to attend BIMSTEC Army Chief's Conclave

A MYANMAR military delegation led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win arrived Pune, India, yesterday to attend the BIMSTEC Army Chief's Conclave.

The military delegation led by Vice-Senior General Soe Win

and wife left Yangon International Airport on 13 September evening and arrived Pune at 3:25 am next day. The Vice-Senior General is paying the goodwill visit at the invitation of India's Army Chief General Bipin Rawat, according to the news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.—MNA ■



Vice-Senior General Soe Win arrives Pune Airport. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun meets with officials and staff from the Global New Light of Myanmar daily yesterday.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun meets GNLM staff

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun met and discussed with the *Global New Light of Myanmar* (GNLM) newspaper officials, the editorial team and personnel working at the GNLM newspaper office, located on Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun spoke about raising the

quality of the newspaper and ensuring a flawless edition. The Deputy Minister urged the staff to suggest on work requirements and to achieve work site fulfilment. Officials and staff then discussed about work conducted and the Deputy Minister coordinated over the discussion. Next, the Deputy Minister accompanied by officials inspected the GNLM newspaper office.—MNA ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrols

THE Myanmar Border Police and Border Guards from Bangladesh have conducted coordinated patrols along their sides of the border, and along the Naf River.

Security forces from the two countries conducted coordinat-

ed ground patrols from border posts 34 to 36 and from 48 to 49 on 13 September.

Besides, security forces from the two countries conducted coordinated naval patrols along the Naf River on the same day.

Two high-speed water crafts from No. 2 Border Guard Force in area-5, Maungtaw, and two water crafts from Bangladeshi side participated in the patrol along the river, according to news release from the Myanmar Police Force.—GNLM ■



Myanmar Border Police and Border Guards Bangladesh conducting coordinated naval patrols.

PHOTO: MPF



Pregnant women and children receive cash from officials. **PHOTO: HEIN HTET ZAW (MYANMA ALINN)**

Cash aid provided for pregnant women, children in Maungtaw

THE MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement launched its 4th and 5th activities to provide cash aid to expecting women and children below two years in Maungtaw yesterday.

Under the maternal and child cash transfer programme, the ministry's officials and leaders of the villages presented

Ks90,000 for six months to each expecting woman and children below two years from Rakhine, Islam and Hindu communities in villages in Maungtaw Township. A total of 166 pregnant women and children from the areas received the cash assistance. Over 113.7 million kyats will be provided to 1,264 preg-

nant women and children next three days, according to the ministry.

The ministry is conducting the cash transfer programme in Chin State and the Naga Self-administered Zone, providing cash assistance to the pregnant women and children.—Aye Min Thu (Mirror) ■

France admits Algeria war ‘system’ led to torture

PARIS — France admitted Thursday that it instigated a “system” that led to torture during Algeria’s independence war, a conflict that remains hugely sensitive six decades on.

President Emmanuel Macron is set to acknowledge that mathematician Maurice Audin, a Communist pro-independence activist who disappeared in 1957, “died under torture stemming from the system instigated while Algeria was part of France”, his office said.

Macron, who was due to visit Audin’s widow later Thursday, will also announce “the opening of archives on the subject of disappeared civilians and soldiers, both French and Algerian”.

During the 1954-62 war, which claimed some 1.5 million Algerian lives, French forces brutally cracked down on independence fighters in the colony ruled by Paris for 130 years.

Hundreds of thousands of young French men were conscripted to fight in a conflict that left deep scars in France’s national psyche as it wound down from being a colonial power after World War II. The French state has never previously admitted that its military forces routinely used torture during the war.

Macron, the first president born after the conflict, sparked



French President Emmanuel Macron sparked controversy on the campaign trail last year by declaring that France’s colonisation of Algeria was a “crime against humanity”. **PHOTO: AFP**

controversy on the campaign trail last year by declaring that France’s colonisation of Algeria was a “crime against humanity”.

He later walked back the comments, calling for “neither denial nor repentance” over France’s colonial history and adding: “We cannot remain trapped in the past”.

On Thursday he will visit the widow of Audin, whose disappearance has long been a source of fascination in France.

An assistant professor at the University of Algiers, Audin was 25 when he was arrested at his home by French paratroopers, accused of harbouring armed members of the Algerian Communist Party. He was tortured repeatedly in a villa in the Algiers

neighbourhood of El Biar. His widow Josette was told 10 days later that the mathematician had escaped while being transferred between jails. This remained the official version of events until 2014, when Macron’s predecessor Francois Hollande acknowledged that Audin died in detention. Historian Sylvie Thenault said the French state’s acknowledgement that Audin’s death resulted from a “system” pointed to a broader recognition of wrongdoing.

“Through recognition of the state’s responsibilities in the disappearance of Maurice Audin, have the state’s responsibilities in all disappearances in Algiers in 1957 not been recognised?” she wrote on *The Conversation*, a news website. —AFP ■

US halfway to its 2025 Paris Agreement goal

SAN FRANCISCO — Thanks to bottom-up efforts from cities, states and businesses to reduce carbon emissions, the United States is almost halfway to meeting its original 2025 Paris Agreement goal without federal policy support, according to a newly released report.

The report, “Fulfilling America’s Pledge,” released at the ongoing Global Climate Action Summit held in San Francisco, was presented by summit co-chairs California Governor Jerry Brown and United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Climate Action Michael Bloomberg on Thursday.

Using a purpose-built integrated assessment model incorporating thousands of aggregated data points from across diverse non-federal actors, the report finds that current commitments and market forces will cut economy-wide emissions 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, roughly two-thirds of the way to America’s pledge under the Paris Agreement, which called for reductions of 26 to 28 percent over that period.

“While headlines focus on the political fights in Washington, the real action on climate change is happening in cities, states, and the private sector,”

said Bloomberg. He added that the country needs more leadership from the federal government, “but until we get it, this report can serve as a blueprint for national climate action, driven from the bottom up.”

The report, prepared by researchers at the University of Maryland and the Rocky Mountain Institute, an independent think tank, analyzed 10 high-impact climate action strategies across most major economic sectors and all greenhouse gases, including electricity, transportation, buildings, oil and gas methane, natural and working lands, and hydrofluorocarbons.

It identifies the most plausible pathways for accelerated implementation of climate commitments by cities, states and businesses, all within realistic legal and political constraints and without federal policy support. Such pathways include: setting and implementing more stringent renewable energy procurement policies, accelerating the phase-out of super-polluting refrigerant gases, and mapping and repairing methane leaks from natural gas pipelines.

“States, cities, businesses, universities and non-profits are showing the way with real commitment and real action on climate,” said Brown. — Xinhua ■

Hungary vote deepens rift in European right

BRUSSELS — The European Parliament’s vote to censure Hungary presents the assembly’s dominant centre-right bloc with a dilemma over whether to retain its populist Hungarian allies or expel them months before elections.

Some European lawmakers, or MEPs, say the vote means it is now inevitable the European People’s Party (EPP), which gathers political movements from several countries, will oust the Fidesz group of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

But others voice fears the EPP would be shooting itself in the foot by expelling a party that could boost support for populists in the May parliament elections.

Still others accuse major players like French President Emmanuel Macron of trying to exploit the rift within the EPP to benefit pro-European centrists and liberals. The parliament on Wednesday mustered the two-thirds majority needed to push for unprecedented sanctions against Orban’s government because most EPP members lined up behind it. EPP members are focusing on the immediate consequences for them, as the Article Seven process the parliament invoked is a long one.

The move is seen as unlikely to ever lead to unprecedented sanctions that would strip Hungary of its European Union voting rights, which any member state could veto. The EPP, which holds 218 of the 750



The centre-right European People’s party is the dominant bloc in the European Parliament. **PHOTO: AFP**

seats in parliament, voted 115 for the move to punish Orban’s government to 57 against, with 28 abstentions.

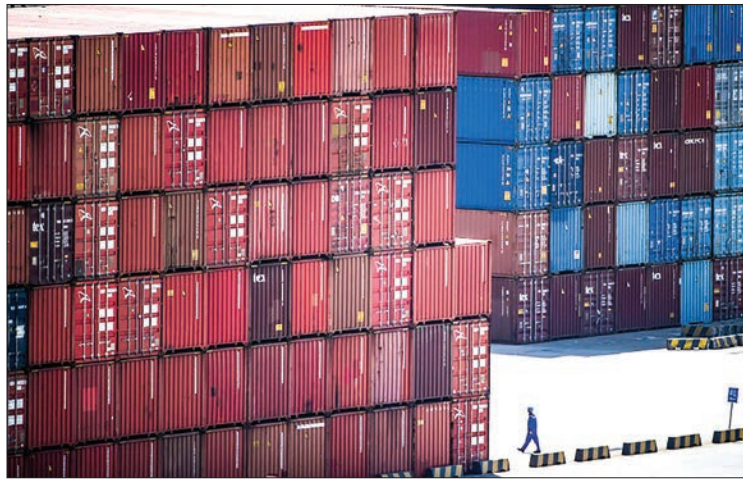
EPP leader Manfred Weber, an ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, threw his weight behind the vote even if he did not instruct colleagues to follow suit.

Dutch Greens MEP Judith

Sargentini praised Weber’s “very responsible” example for swaying the vote in favour of the motion she sponsored. She said he did the right thing to trumpet European values as he runs for the head of the executive European Commission, a position which will be vacant after next year’s parliamentary elections. Guy Verhofstadt, a former Bel-

gian prime minister who heads the liberal ALDE group, had been blunt in calling for the EPP to no longer compromise with Orban. “Please, stop this nightmare,” Verhofstadt said. French Greens MEP Philippe Lamberts warned the EPP that it should “realise what is at stake, which is even its identity.” —AFP ■

China welcomes US trade talks offer as new tariffs loom



China said the 'escalation of the trade conflict is not in the interest of either party'. **PHOTO: AFP**

BEIJING — China welcomed on Thursday a US offer to hold fresh trade talks, adding that the two are discussing the details, providing some hope the world's top two economies could step back from the brink of an all-out trade war.

The countries have been engaged in an escalating tit-for-tat trade fight for months but on Wednesday it emerged that US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin had invited top Chinese officials to discuss the issue.

"The Chinese side believes that the escalation of the trade conflict is not in the interest of either party," commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng told reporters at a regular news briefing.

Beijing "has indeed received an invitation from the US and holds a welcoming attitude to it",

said Gao, noting the "two sides are still communicating on the specific details". News of the possible high-level talks comes as a new business survey released Thursday showed that the majority of US firms in China are beginning to feel the pinch of the tit-for-tat trade battle. The fight had looked like it would spiral further after US President Donald Trump last week threatened to impose tariffs on all \$500 billion worth of imports from China.

Hopes for the resumption of negotiations sent Asian markets rallying with Hong Kong surging 2.5 percent — having fallen for six straight days and into a bear market — and Shanghai more than one percent higher.

But analysts cautioned the two sides may still be far from

coming to an agreement.

The Trump administration may not be fully aligned on the matter, with the US Trade Representative still seeming to want to apply pressure, while Beijing may not be ready to budge on its positions, economist Andrew Polk wrote in the Trivium China newsletter. "We don't think China has much more to offer than they already have, and the US doesn't seem like it's inclined to accept what is currently on the table," Polk told AFP.

"We may be in for another round of disappointment," Polk forecast of the "umpteenth round" of trade negotiations.

Next wave

Trump imposed the first phase of tariffs this summer on \$50 billion of Chinese exports, including high-end technology parts and manufactured goods, while Beijing fired back dollar-for-dollar at US soybeans, autos and other farm goods.

The next wave of 25 percent tariffs on a further \$200 billion in imports will loom over any talks — after a public consultation period for affected businesses came to an end last Thursday.

Beijing has pledged to hit back with five to 25 percent tariffs on \$60 billion in US imports in retaliation for any measures from the US. —AFP ■

Two Koreas open joint liaison office in North

KAESONG (North Korea) — North and South Korea opened a joint liaison office in the Northern city of Kaesong on Friday as they knit closer ties ahead of President Moon Jae-in's visit to Pyongyang next week.

"A new chapter in history is open here today," South Korean unification minister Cho Myoung-gyon told a ceremony, calling the office "another symbol of peace jointly created by the South and the North".

The nuclear-armed North's chief delegate Ri Son Gwon responded in kind, calling it a "substantial fruit nourished by the people of the north and south".

The two Koreas have sought to pursue joint projects in multiple fields since the April summit

ly cancelled a planned visit by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Pyongyang, after the North condemned "gangster-like" demands for what it called its unilateral disarmament.

But Kim has since sent Trump a letter seeking a second summit and held a military parade for his country's 70th birthday without showing off any intercontinental ballistic missiles, prompting warm tweets from the US president and raising hopes of progress.

Easing tensions

The liaison office stands in a city that was initially part of the South after Moscow and Washington divided Korea between them in the closing days



South Korea's President Moon Jae-in and the North's Kim Jong Un will hold their third summit this year in Pyongyang. **PHOTO: AFP**

between Moon and the North's leader Kim Jong Un in the Demilitarized Zone that divides the peninsula, even as US efforts to secure concrete progress towards Pyongyang's denuclearisation have stalled.

Moon is due in the North's capital on Tuesday for a three-day visit, his third summit with Kim this year after he orchestrated a rapid diplomatic thaw on the peninsula and brokered June's Singapore summit between the North Korean leader and US President Donald Trump.

There Kim backed denuclearisation of the "Korean peninsula", but no details were agreed and Washington and Pyongyang have sparred since over what that means and how it will be achieved.

The North was "willing to denuclearise", Moon said Thursday, while the US was willing to "end hostile relations" and provide security guarantees, "but there is a blockage as both sides are demanding each other to act first".

Last month, Trump abrupt-

ly found itself in the North after the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

The four-storey building includes separate Northern and Southern offices and a joint conference room, and Seoul's unification ministry said it would become a "round-the-clock consultation and communication channel" for advancing inter-Korean relations, improving ties between the US and the North, and easing military tensions.

It will be manned by some 20 officials each from both sides, headed by a vice minister-level appointment.

But critics have questioned whether the supplies provided to set it up are a violation of the multiple sanctions imposed on the North over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes. Around 50 people from each side attended the ceremony, reports said, including Southern businessmen who used to run companies in the now-shuttered Kaesong industrial zone. —AFP ■

Water projects help improve water supplies in village of NW China's Ningxia



Villager He Jinwen (r) gets water from well in Hejiakouzi Village of Hanjiaoshui Township in Zhongning County, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on 6 September 2018. In 2004, a project diverting water from the Yellow River eased Hanjiaoshui's water shortage. Many migrant workers returned hometown. Under the guidance of local government, they planted watermelon and developed cultivation industry. In March of 2017, Ningxia started the construction of another water project to improve water supplies in Hanjiaoshui. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

in
Picture

Low-carbon economy ‘growth story of the century’

SAN FRANCISCO — As thousands of mayors, governors, CEOs and experts gather in San Francisco this week for the Global Climate Action Summit, economist Nicholas Stern called for big thinking and bold action to avoid the worst ravages of catastrophic global warming.

A report released earlier this month by the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, which he co-chairs, concludes that strategic investment today across five sectors — energy, cities, food and land use, water and industry — would deliver trillions in benefits over the next 12 years, ranging from 700,000 fewer premature deaths from air pollution to more than 65 millions new low-carbon jobs. A former chief economist of the World Bank, Stern was appointed by the British government to



In this file photo taken on 8 September, 2018, a woman wears a sign on her head at Civic Center Plaza after marching in the 'Rise For Climate' global action in San Francisco, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

review the economics of climate change, resulting in the highly influential 2006 Stern Review. Today, he chairs the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics.

How high are the stakes?

“Our civilization has

arisen in just the last 10,000 years, when temperatures varying by plus or minus one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit).”

“Continuing down the path we are on would see an increase — within a century or so — of 3 or 4 Celsius (5.4°F to 7.2°F), something Earth hasn’t known for three million years.”

“Coastal areas would be under water, deserts will have expanded, hurricanes would become much more intense.

Many parts of the world would become uninhabitable. Hundreds of millions would have to move, perhaps billions. The risk of serious conflict would be high.”

What’s changed in a decade?

“The science is even more worrying than we thought, and the cost of inaction is much bigger. At the same time, the cost of action — due to technological change — is far lower.”

“Who would have thought then that renewables with storage would already be out-competing fossil fuels in the marketplace, even without a price on carbon?”

“And who would have thought that the heads of the major car companies would all be agreeing that the era of the internal combustion engine is coming to an end?” “And there is so much more in the pipeline. This is the growth story of the 21st century. There is no long-run high carbon growth story.”

What’s it going to take?

“We are not moving anywhere near fast

enough. The Paris target is ‘well below’ 2°C. But even at 1°C, we are experiencing very severe effects. This will add to the pressure.”

“Also, if we invest differently — it doesn’t have to cost all that much — we can have cities where we can move, breathe and be productive. The attraction of the different ways of living will start to appear.”

“We are now seeing measures that will change the whole pattern of investment. Also, young people are looking to work in places that are more responsible. Paul Polman, the head of Unilever, has been strong on sustainability. His company gets 1.8 million job applications every year — they are getting the very best.” “We have to hope that these factors will support the kind of acceleration we need in these next two or three years.”

—AFP ■

One piece of plastic could pose 20 pct death risk for sea turtles

LONDON — Consuming just one piece of plastic waste could significantly increase the chance of death for a sea turtle, according to a study on link between sea turtle mortality and plastic debris ingestion.

Researchers found there was a one in five chance of death for a turtle who consumed just one

plastic item, and the probability rose to 50 per cent for 14 pieces.

Sea turtles are among the first taxa recorded to ingest plastic debris, a phenomenon that occurs in every region of the world and in all seven marine turtle species.

Those floating plastic wastes are often mistaken by marine life for tasty

jellyfish. Globally, it is estimated that approximately 52 per cent of all sea turtles have ingested plastic debris.

It happens at all stages of a sea turtle’s lifecycle, and particularly most frequent in juvenile stages. Around 23 per cent of juveniles and 54 per cent of post-hatchling turtles have ingested plastic compared

to 16 per cent of adults. Scientists say that is because young turtles are less selective in what they eat, and they drift and float with the ocean currents as does much of the buoyant, small lightweight plastic.

The accumulation and persistence of plastic debris in the marine environment is of increasing concern.— Xinhua ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1090 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1090 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-9-2018 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
SHIPPING**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO. (1833-1834)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO. (1833-1834) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S’PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SEA PROSPERITY VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SEA PROSPERITY VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES
(S’PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V RATANA THIDA VOY. NO. (126W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V RATANA THIDA VOY. NO. (126W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

Hockney poised to set auction record for living artist



A woman looks at David Hockney's "Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)" during a press preview on 13 September 2018 at Christie's New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW YORK — An iconic oil painting by British artist David Hockney estimated to be worth \$80 million is going on sale in New York, poised to set an auction record for the most expensive work by a living artist.

"Portrait of an Artist (Pool with two figures)" will go under the hammer in November, expected to break the record held by American Jeff Koons's \$58.4 million "Balloon Dog (Orange)," set in 2013, Christie's said.

Alex Rotter, co-chairman of post-war and contemporary

art at the auction house, called the Hockney "one of the great masterpieces of the modern era."

The painting represents the "apex" of the British pop artist's two most celebrated motifs, Rotter explained, the glistening water of a swimming pool and the double portrait with two people interacting.

In the picture, a smartly dressed man, standing on the edge of the pool, looks pensively at another figure swimming toward him, with an idyllic mountain view in the background.

The first man depicts Hockney's former lover and muse, Peter Schlesinger, who was one of his students at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The picture dates back to 1972, the year that their great love affair ended, and the swimmer could be Peter's new lover, Rotter said.

One of Hockney's most celebrated works, it has featured on the cover of a number of monographs about the artist and was part of an international retrospective devoted to Hockney to celebrate his 80th birthday in 2017.

"From the Tate (in London) to the Centre Pompidou (in Paris) to the Metropolitan Museum (in New York), this painting was always a stand-out, a painting that everybody gravitated to," said Rotter. While Christie's declined to reveal the identity of the seller, Bloomberg and the Art-net website reported that it was owned by British billionaire Joe Lewis, who owns the Tavistock Group, London Premier League soccer team Tottenham Hotspur, and whom Forbes estimates to be worth \$5 billion. —AFP ■



Visitors look at Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot's "Agostina" (1866) at the National Gallery of Art in Washington on 5 September 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Camille Corot's vision revealed in intimate figure paintings

WASHINGTON — When Camille Corot's figure paintings last went on display more than a century ago, they stunned Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque, who paid tribute to the French painter in their groundbreaking Cubist creations.

Through December 31, the National Gallery of Art in Washington is presenting dozens of portraits of women that are some of the most intimate, rarely seen and modern works of an artist celebrated for his dreamy landscapes.

They reveal the 19th century painter as a missing link between the staid formalism of classical and romantic painting with the impressionism and modernism that followed.

The tension of works caught between these radically different approaches is palpable.

Here, Corot pushed the boundaries of what was acceptable as a finished painting in ways he never dared with his uber-popular landscapes, of which he created nearly 3,000 — not counting the many forgeries.

"It is a rarefied arena in which he can be more experimental and try out new things," said exhibition curator Mary Morton, the head of the museum's department of French paintings.

The show includes works loaned from some of the most prestigious public and private collections in Europe and the United States.

'Experimental'

There are nudes — daringly devoid of classical references — almost comical riffs on myths and models, often dressed in Ital-

ian "peasant" garb and imbued with a kind of erotic melancholy particular to Corot, complete with nonchalant cleavage.

The pictures are sometimes hazy but the languid faces emerge into sharper focus out of a dark backdrop with near-abstract elements painted with quick, loose brushstrokes.

The sometimes unsettling aesthetics paved the way toward painting for the sake of painting, where a picture that deliberately reveals the artist's hand is presented as finished without being completely resolved.

Unlike a separate show at the Musee Marmottan Monet in Paris earlier this year, this one focuses exclusively on Corot's female subjects, apart from a lone picture representing Saint Sebastian.

A portrait that bears the mysterious title of "Woman with a Pearl" (circa 1868-1870) references both with its title Vermeer's famous portrait ("Girl with a Pearl Earring") and with her unsettling gaze none less than Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa.

Corot created a myth all of his own in an intriguing composition ("Bacchante with a Panther," 1860) featuring a child mounted on a panther while a reclining nude dangles a dead bird before the feline's mouth, the whole thing made even more enigmatic by dark lighting.

Coming full circle, Corot toward the end of his life in the late 1860s and early 1870s depicted his models in studio settings with a hand touching one of his landscapes and the other holding a mandolin, hinting at his love of music. —AFP ■

Tel Aviv beats out Jerusalem to host 2019 Eurovision Song Contest

GENEVA — The Eurovision Song Contest will make its glitzy debut in Tel Aviv next year, the European Broadcasting Union announced Thursday, after it beat rival Israeli contenders to host the annual music spectacle.

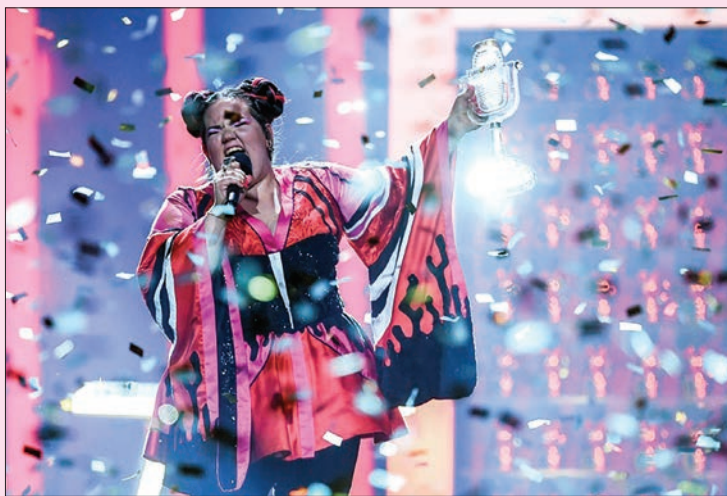
The decision follows Israeli singer Netta Barzilai's victory in this year's contest in Lisbon, with a song inspired by the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment, earning her nation the right to hold the 2019 Eurovision.

Tel Aviv trounced rival bids from Jerusalem and Eilat after the song contest's board asked Israeli public broadcaster KAN to present at least two potential candidate cities for the annual competition, the EBU said.

"All the bids were exemplary but in the end we decided that Tel Aviv provides the best overall setup for the world's largest live music event," EBU chief Jon Ola Sand said in a statement.

Barzilai's win was Israel's fourth victory and the country previously hosted the contest in Jerusalem in 1979 and 1999.

Israeli Prime Minister Ben-



Israel earned the right to host next year's Eurovision in May when Israeli singer Netta Barzilai won the 2018 contest in Lisbon. **PHOTO: AFP**

jamin Netanyahu said it was "privileged" to host the contest.

"Tel Aviv is an international city, a vibrant city, and the whole world will see it and Israel," he said.

The show must go on?

Barzilai, 25, won the 2018 contest with an eye-catching and bizarre performance of her up-tempo song "Toy", in which she wore a multicoloured kimono and added clucking sounds and chicken-like dance moves.

Her victory in May led to an outpouring of pride in Israel, with elated crowds breaking into song in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square, as well as at Jerusalem's main open air market.

But Tel Aviv's bid to host next year's Eurovision has hit several hurdles along the way.

A financial dispute between KAN and the Israeli government had threatened to derail the plans to hold next year's event in Israel, but that issue was resolved last month. —AFP ■

NASA space lasers to reveal new depths of planet's ice loss

TAMPA (United States) — NASA is poised to launch Saturday its most advanced space laser ever, ICESat-2, a \$1 billion dollar mission to reveal the depths of the Earth's melting ice as the climate warms.

The half-ton satellite, about the size of a smart-car, is scheduled to blast off atop a Delta II rocket on September 15 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

The 40-minute launch window opens at 5:46 am local time (1246 GMT).

The mission is "exceptionally important for science," Richard Slonaker, ICESat-2 program executive at NASA, told reporters ahead of the launch.

That's because it has been nearly a decade since NASA had a tool in orbit to measure ice sheet surface elevation across the globe.

The preceding mission, ICESat, launched in 2003 and ended in 2009. From it, scien-

tists learned that sea ice was thinning, and ice cover was disappearing from coastal areas in Greenland and Antarctica.

In the intervening nine years, an aircraft mission, called Operation IceBridge, has flown over the Arctic and Antarctic, "taking height measurements and documenting the changing ice," NASA said.

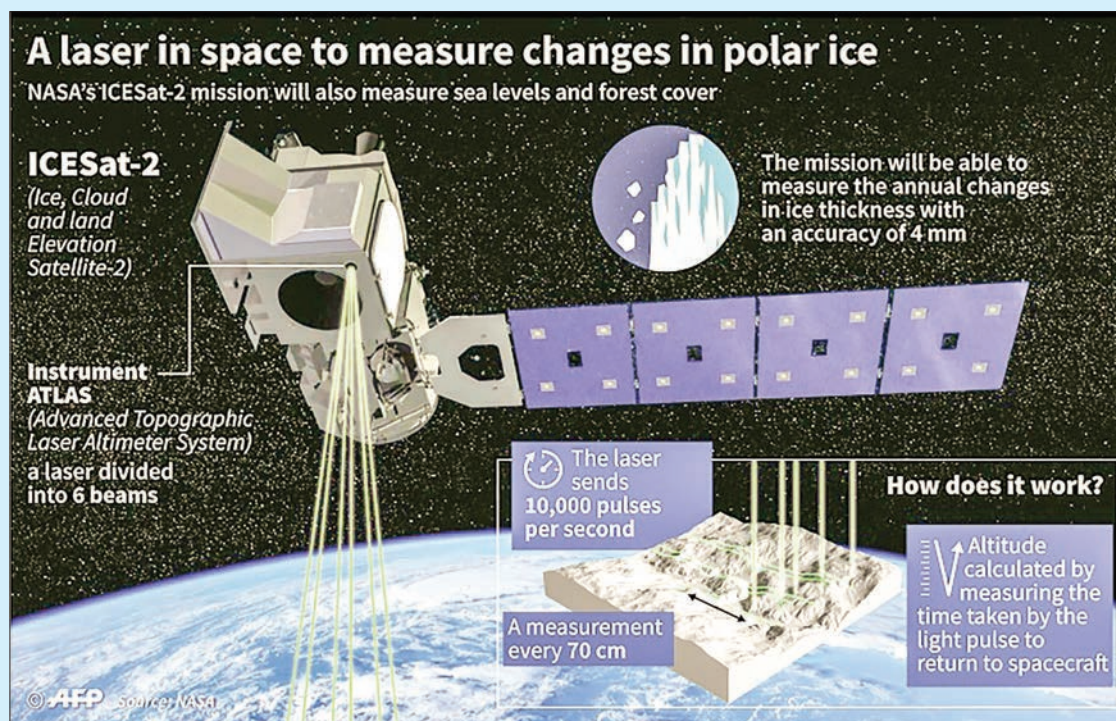
But an update is urgently needed.

Humanity's constant reliance on fossil fuels for energy means planet-warming greenhouse gases are continuing to mount.

Global average temperatures are climbing year after year, with four of the hottest years in modern times all taking place from 2014-2017.

Ice cover is shrinking in the Arctic and Greenland, adding to sea level rise that threatens hundreds of millions of people along the coastlines.

ICESat-2 should help scien-



As global average temperatures continue to climb, NASA's ICESat-2 will help scientists understand how much melting the ice sheets are contributing to sea level rise. **PHOTO: AFP**

tists understand just how much melting the ice sheets are contributing to sea level rise.

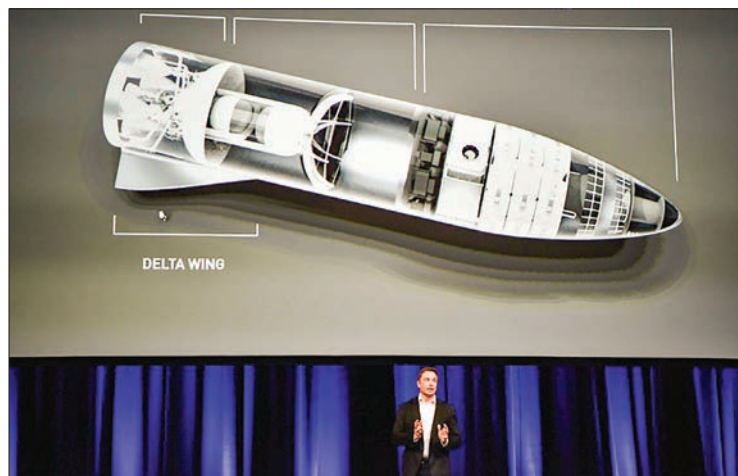
"We are going to be able to look at specifically how the ice is

changing just over the course of a single year," said Tom Wagner, cryosphere program scientist at NASA.

Adding this precise level of

data to that collected in prior years should boost scientists' understanding of climate change and improve forecasts of sea level rise, he said. —AFP ■

SpaceX announces new plan to send tourist around Moon



Billionaire entrepreneur and founder of SpaceX Elon Musk, pictured in September 2017 speaking below a computer generated illustration of his new rocket, says he wants to enable space travel for "everyday people" **PHOTO: AFP**

LOS ANGELES — SpaceX on Thursday announced a new plan to launch a tourist around the Moon using its Big Falcon Rocket (BFR), a massive launch vehicle that is being designed to carry people into deep space.

"SpaceX has signed the world's first private passenger to fly around the Moon aboard our BFR launch vehicle — an important step toward enabling access for everyday people who dream of traveling to space," the company said on Twitter.

SpaceX gave no further details, but said more information would follow on Monday.

This is not the first time

the California-based company, headed by Internet entrepreneur and Tesla electric car CEO Elon Musk, has touted plans to send tourists around the Moon.

In February, 2017, SpaceX announced it would send the world's first two space tourists around the Moon in late 2018.

That plan called for them to ride on a Dragon crew vehicle, similar to the cargo ships that SpaceX routinely sends loaded with supplies to the International Space Station.

They would have blasted off aboard a Falcon Heavy rocket.

However, the company has remained mum about those plans in recent months.

The names and identities of those two tourists — and how much they intended to pay — were never revealed.

SpaceX declined an AFP request for more details, but said further information would follow Monday at an event lasting from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm (0030 GMT to 0200 GMT).

Footprints on the Moon

Humans have not set foot on the Moon since the final Apollo mission in 1972, capping an era of US national pride.

American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to explore the lunar surface in 1969, a moment seen and heard around the world when Armstrong declared "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Only 24 people in history have ever been to the Moon.

US President Donald Trump has championed plans to put boots on the Moon again, as NASA works on building a lunar gateway that would serve as a launching point for missions heading even further into deep space, such as asteroids or Mars. —AFP ■

Genetic test helps predict disease recurrence in myelodysplastic syndrome

CHICAGO — A DNA-based analysis of blood cells soon after a stem cell transplant can predict the likelihood of disease recurrence in patients with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), according to a study at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

In the study, published Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine, the researchers performed DNA sequencing to identify mutations in the cancerous cells before stem cell transplantation in 86 patients with MDS, a group of cancerous disorders characterized by dysfunctional blood cells.

Of these patients, 35 experienced disease recurrence at a median of 141 days after transplant, and 51 did not develop a recurrence within a median follow-up of about one year. Mutations found before the transplant established a genetic "fingerprint" of each patient's cancer. About one month after a stem cell transplant, the researchers sequenced each patient's blood cells again to see if they could still detect the cancer's fingerprint.

The patients whose cancer fingerprints could be detected 30 days after the transplants had

about four times the risk of disease recurrence in the first year after their transplant, compared with patients with no genetic sign of cancer cells, which are 53 percent and 13 percent, respectively, according to the researchers.

To identify cancer fingerprints, the researchers first used a broad sequencing approach to detect mutations in over 20,000 genes, then narrowed their analysis to include only 40 genes.

Though the 40-gene test was not able to identify a cancer fingerprint in as many patients as looking at all genes, it still identified most high-risk patients and demonstrated that a similar test could be practical for future use in patients. MDS is difficult to diagnose. Symptoms often are related to low blood cell counts. Many people with the disease may never know they have it because they may experience only nonspecific symptoms such as fatigue or shortness of breath.

But others may have a more aggressive form that is eventually fatal. About one-third of MDS patients progress to acute myeloid leukemia, a fast-growing blood cancer that also can be fatal. —Xinhua ■

Tottenham to test Liverpool's title credentials as Watford eye Man Utd scalp

LONDON — A perfect start from their opening four games has raised expectations over Liverpool's title credentials, but Jurgen Klopp's men face their first serious test of the Premier League campaign at Tottenham on Saturday.

After dismissing West Ham 4-0 on the opening weekend of the season, Liverpool have had to show a more resilient approach in narrow victories over Crystal Palace, Brighton and Leicester, compared to the free-scoring side that romped to the Champions League final last season.

Indeed, the only goal the Reds have conceded so far this term came from a howler by £65-million (\$84 million) goalkeeper Alisson Becker in trying to dribble his way out of trouble at Leicester.

The installation of Joe Gomez alongside Virgil van Dijk at centre-back, allied to the con-

tinued improvement of young full-backs Andrew Robertson and Trent Alexander-Arnold and the addition of Alisson, makes the current Liverpool defence far harder to breach than on their last visit to Wembley.

Harry Kane ran riot back then in October last year, scoring twice and forcing Klopp to substitute Dejan Lovren after just 30 minutes as Spurs cruised to a 4-1 win.

Kane will be keen to get back among the goals with lingering questions over his early-season form and fitness in a World Cup hangover since picking up the Golden Boot in Russia.

And there will be even more responsibility on Kane's shoulders with captain Hugo Lloris and Dele Alli ruled out through injury.

Defeat at Watford just before the international break punctured Spurs' own push to be considered title contenders.

But victory will take them level with Liverpool at the top of the table for at least a few hours before other front-runners Chelsea, Watford and Manchester City are in action later on Saturday.

More United woe at Watford?

Watford are the early surprise package of the season thanks to four straight wins to stand alongside pace-setters Liverpool and Chelsea.

Hornets boss Javi Gracia has earned a reputation for big scalps, upending Barcelona and Real Madrid during his time in Spain with Malaga, and thrashing Chelsea 4-1 in his first match in charge at Vicarage Road to go with victory over Spurs two weeks ago.

United got back on track with a comfortable win at Burnley before the international break to calm the storm surrounding Jose Mourinho's future.

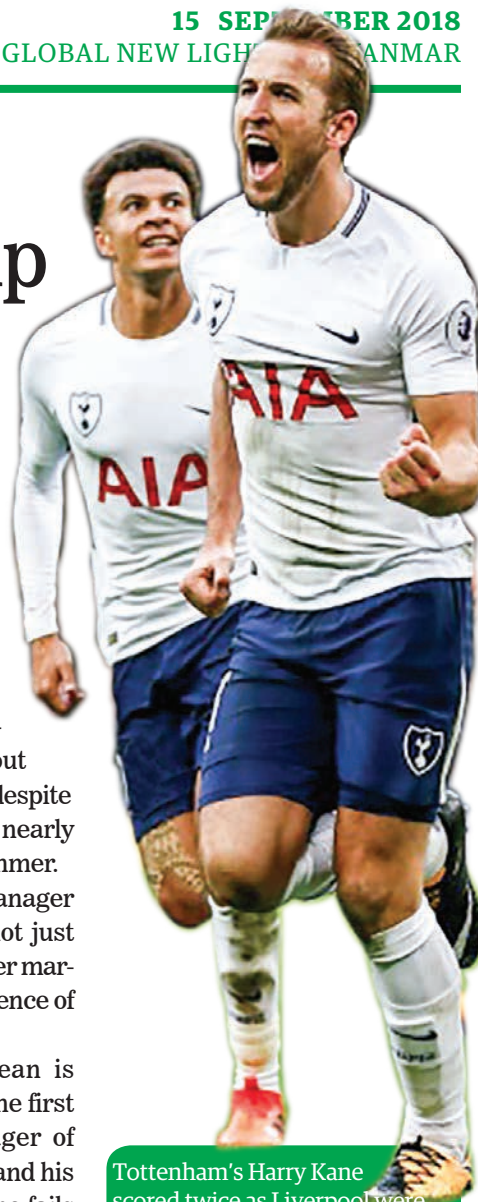
But should Mourinho's men suffer a third defeat in five league games, the chances of catching the likes of Liverpool and City would already look forlorn.

Pellegrini needs points

At the other end of the table, West Ham remain the only side without a point after four games despite a huge transfer spend of nearly £100 million over the summer.

Former Man City manager Manuel Pellegrini has not just been backed in the transfer market, but also with the patience of the Hammers hierarchy.

However, the Chilean is now the favourite to be the first Premier League manager of the season to be sacked and his odds will only shorten if he fails to inspire a response away to Everton on Sunday. — AFP ■



Tottenham's Harry Kane scored twice as Liverpool were thrashed 4-1 on their last visit to Wembley. PHOTO: AFP

Aubameyang, Lacazette double act offers hope for Arsenal



Arsenal's French striker Alexandre Lacazette celebrates at Cardiff. PHOTO: AFP

NEWCASTLE (United Kingdom) — Unai Emery is set to unleash Alexandre Lacazette and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang at Newcastle on Saturday as the Arsenal manager looks to maintain his side's free-scoring revival.

The Premier League season may be only a few weeks old, but

Emery is beginning to get his feet under the table at the Emirates Stadium after succeeding Arsene Wenger.

The Gunners began with defeats against Manchester City and Chelsea before getting the better of West Ham and then Cardiff.

The first two fixtures saw

Emery begin with Gabon star Aubameyang as his starting striker and French forward Lacazette come on in the second half, at the expense of a midfielder.

It was a similar story against West Ham in Arsenal's third match.

Lacazette came on for Alex Iwobi at half-time but with a much

more tangible result: Arsenal looked far more potent with the Frenchman on the pitch and went on to seal a 3-1 victory — Emery's first as Gunners boss.

Both forwards started in the 3-2 win at Cardiff before the international break, forming a lively double act to grab their first goals of the season.

Lacazette's 81st-minute strike proved decisive in Arsenal's second victory under Emery.

So will the pair continue at St James' Park on Saturday?

Emery, who played Lacazette as the main striker and pushed Aubameyang to the left at Cardiff, is unlikely to go fully retro with a 4-4-2 formation but gave no indication that he intended to bench one of his superstar forwards.

"I am very happy with the last two victories in the Premier League and also with the performances," he said when asked if both might start.

"I want to push every player to be okay to help the team if for one minute, 30 minutes or half time or 90 minutes." — AFP ■

Play Usain Bolt in defence, says Vicente del Bosque

SYDNEY — World Cup-winning coach Vicente del Bosque has some advice for sprint king Usain Bolt's new Australian club — play him in defence.

The Jamaican superstar has been handed the chance to train with the Central Coast Mariners for an indefinite period in a bid to prove he has what it takes to earn a professional playing contract.

The eight-time Olympic champion made his debut late last month in a 20-minute cameo as a substitute during a friendly, starting in his favoured left wing position.

He nearly scored but tired quickly and admitted he was not match-fit, with Australian pundits saying he had plenty of work ahead to make the grade.

Del Bosque, whose eight-year reign as Spain coach ended after their last-16 exit at Euro 2016, said it was possible Bolt could fulfil his dream of becoming a footballer, despite being 32. — AFP ■