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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Changes in legal system and government administrative machinery

- * In its nation building endeavour, the government continues to strive to amend laws that are no longer agreeable to democratic values and accepted human rights standards.
- * The Union Government aims to institute the rule of law, through the development and promulgation of laws, rules and regulations, law enforcement, and the administration of justice through the legal system to promote good governance.

(Excerpted from the report on the current work of the government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

General Post Office celebrates 110th Birthday

YANGON'S General Post Office, one of the blue-plaque-installed colonial era buildings of the rapidly developing commercial hub, where modern structures are taking the place of historical edifices, celebrated its 110th Birthday yesterday. Amidst concerns over the vanishing of its colonial era buildings one after another under rapid modernization projects, the ceremony may be an encouraging sign for supporters, especially, the Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT), campaigning for the preservation and protection of Yangon's heritage.

Among the cities of South-east Asia, Yangon, as stated by some reports, has the highest number of colonial era buildings as the city became the country's administrative capital under British rule in 1885. At its birthday party, the General Post Office disseminated knowledge of the postal code of the country's three administrative areas in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



SEE PAGE-3 Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and officials opening the 110th Birthday event of the General Post Office yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Myanmar promotes tourism at Tourism Expo Japan 2018

TOURISM Expo Japan 2018 was opened at Tokyo Big Sight Convention Centre, Tokyo, Japan on 20 September.

A delegation led by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung attended the opening ceremony.

During the ceremony, the Union Minister opened the booth representing Myanmar.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister attended the 2nd Tourism Expo Japan Ministerial Round Table in Collaboration with United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

The roundtable discussion was held with a motto titled, "Community Based Sustainable Tourism Development", and attended by Ministers for Tourism from five ASEAN countries and other tourism sector developed countries.

In the afternoon, the Union



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung and party pose for a documentary photo at the Tourism Expo Japan 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

Minister attended the welcoming ceremony of World Travel and Tourism Council. The Union Minister then met with Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Mr. Keiichi Ishii and discussed promoting the tourism sector by signing an MoU between the two countries,

planting cherry trees in Yangon and easing of VISA restriction issues.

On the morning of 21 September, the Union Minister attended the signing ceremony of MoU between Myanmar and Japan at Japan Tourism Agency.

The MoU was signed by

Commissioner Mr. Hiroshi Tabata and Deputy Director-General Daw Khin Than Win from Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister attended the meeting with social media and focused on Myanmar tourism sector development.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party attended the Myanmar Evening Event held at Myanmar Booth at Tourism Expo Japan 2018.

The event was crowded with many visitors as it contained entertainments of Myanmar traditional dances and Myanmar musical instruments, serving the guests Myanmar traditional foods and photo-taking event by wearing ethnic dresses.

With the aim of promoting Myanmar tourism, 13 companies from Myanmar demonstrated at the Tourism Expo Japan 2018.

The biggest travel expo of Japan was coloured with booths from 1441 organizations from 136 countries.

During the expo, 414 people bought tour packages and 890 tour package sellers were seen.—MNA ■

Panel discussion on movie pre-production held in Yangon

THE Panel Discussion on Making Good Movie: Pre-Production was held at the Film Development Centre in Shwetaungkyar Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, yesterday afternoon.

First, the opening speech was delivered by U Aye Kywe, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Information and Public Relations, followed by a speech from U Zin Wine, Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization.

Next, Daw Swe Zin Htike, member of the administration board of the Film Development Centre, led the panel discussion and explained about the pre-production stages of filmmaking.

Daw Swe Zin Htike was then joined by movie director U Zaw Myint Oo, screenwriter L Min Pyae Mon, and movie



Swe Zin Htike, Christina Kyi, Zaw Myint Oo and L Min Pyae Mon sharing knowledge of the movie field. **PHOTO: MNA**

director Christina Kyi, sharing their experiences concerning

the pre-planning stages in the production, screenwriting and

directing aspects of a film.

Next, the panelists replied

to questions asked by members of the audience, including Thukamein Film & Video Production U Kyaw Kyaw, Sayar U Myint Thein Pe, and youth movie director Ko Thaw Zin.

Afterwards, Sayar U Myint Thein Pe, member of the advisory board of the Film Development Centre, delivered the congratulatory speech.

The panel discussion was joint-facilitated by the Department of Information and Public Relations under the Ministry of Information and the Film Development Centre management with the aim of cultivating experience when producing films.

The panel discussion was attended by movie producers, directors, screenwriters, youth directors, movie enthusiasts and members of the media.—Yi Yi Myint ■

Miss Universe Nay Pyi Taw 2018 contest held

THE Miss Universe Naypyitaw 2018 contest was held last night at the Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw's hotel zone. Attending the event were wives of union ministers, the wife of the Union Attorney-General, the wife of the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, the wife of the Nay Pyi Taw Council

Chairman, the Chairperson of the Nay Pyi Taw Council branch of the Women's Affairs Federation and officials, invited guests, contest coordinators, and contestants.

First, the master of ceremonies formally opened the Miss Universe Naypyitaw 2018 contest and then introduced each of the

judges to the audience, followed by an introduction of the sponsor companies.

The Miss Universe contestants then opened the event with dance exhibitions.

Next, a video showing the contestants visiting the main sponsor and venue sponsor companies was played. The

contestants then competed in the Myanmar clothing round, dressed in traditional attire.

The next round saw the contestants in their evening gowns, with eight of the contestants chosen to move on to the next stage. The chosen eight then competed with guest singers, with five of the contestants chosen from

the eight. The interview part of the contest was then held. Afterwards, Miss Universe Naypyitaw 2017 Su Myat Phoo performed her final walk, followed by officials awarding the title and prizes of the Miss Universe Naypyitaw 2018 to the winner, along with taking commemorative photos.—MNA ■

China assures help in Thatbyinnyu Pagoda renovation

CHINESE government has agreed to the provision of assistance for the renovation of Thatbyinnyu Pagoda in Bagan where the past glory of Myanmar can be witnessed.

“We will deliver advanced technology and technicians at our own cost for the pagoda renovation work,” promised Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang at the signing ceremony between the two governments at Thatbyinnyu Pagoda in Bagan on 22 September.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko said, “Thatbyinnyu Pagoda is included in the nearly 400 stupas that were hit by the earthquake in August 2016”, expressing thanks for the Chinese cooperation.

Another attendee, Chief

Minister of Mandalay Region Dr Zaw Myint Maung, in his address said, Chinese technical and technological cooperation would ensure the sustainable existence of cultural heritage, alongside the improvement in the capacity of staff concerned of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in their preservation and renovation work, requesting further Chinese cooperation in heritage conservation programs in other places of the country.

“The Mandalay Region government is working together with local and foreign experts, local administrative bodies in renovating and preserving ancient cultural heritages in their original design,” said the chief minister.

“China also made cash donations for the renovation of earthquake-hit pagodas,” said



Officials signing at the ceremony to exchange letter on conservation and restoration of Thatbyinnyu Pagoda. PHOTO: MNA

Chief Minister of Magway Region Dr Aung Moe Nyo who was also present at the signing ceremony. He then prayed for the health and happiness of the leaders and the people of China.

Ambassador Mr Hong Liang, on behalf of Chinese government, and the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, on behalf of the government of Myanmar, signed the

MoU.

“We have witnessed the international involvement in the renovation of Bagan pagodas damaged by the earthquake,” said the ambassador, saying, “It is a privilege for us to partake in the renovation of the highest pagoda of the ancient cultural zone.

“Hopefully, this cooperation will serve as a springboard for further cementing of Sino-Myan-

mar cordial relations and mutual understanding and cooperation in the future,” said the ambassador.

A documentary photo session followed after the ambassador’s speech.

Also present at the ceremony that lasted for an hour were cabinet members of Mandalay Region government, officials of the ministry, MPs from Bagan-NyaungU and others. —MNA ■

Campaign talks of two parties on 25, 27 Sept

The Mirror Daily, the Myanmar Alinn Daily and the Global New Light of Myanmar will present campaign talks of the Public of Labour Party on 25 September and National United Democratic Party on 27 September. — MNA ■

General Post Office celebrates 110th Birthday

FROM PAGE-1

JICA is rendering assistance, including codes for the development of postal services in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Yangon and Mandalay regions as better knowledge of postal code and postal service is an important sector.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, deputy ministers U Kyaw Myo and U Tha Oo, Yangon Region cabinet member Daw Nilar Kyaw and Daw Moe Moe Lwin of YHT formally inaugurated the cer-

emony, held at the 110-year old building on Strand Road, another historic facility of Yangon.

The Union Minister and party visited the booths where postal stamps of successive past eras were displayed. Vocalist Mori Saki Win entertained the visitors with songs. Apart from the performance of Mori Saki Win, who was appointed the ambassador of postal code, there were demonstrations on the use of postal codes. JICA will provide postal code books, posters, calendars and postcards to Myanmar Post. —MNA ■

Postcode book for townships in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw issued, ambassador appointed

By May Thet Hnin

AN event to issue postcode book for townships in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw and appointing ambassador for postcode endorsement was held yesterday at Yangon General Post Office, in collaboration between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Myanmar Post, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung attended the event. Officials from the Myanmar Post and JICA Myanmar office were also present.

The postcode book was issued once in 1980 and 2011. However, the public still lacks postal code knowledge. The book is developed by the Myanmar Post and issued by the JICA.

“Previously issued books provided only the code number of the post office. Only the post office staff can understand the code number of their offices. The public cannot easily trace the origin of the post office through the mail. They will understand this only if they enquire it at the nearest post office. The updated postcode book can help people find easily from which office



An event to issue postcode book for townships in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw was held yesterday at Yangon General Post Office. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

the mails come, through their address. It states postcodes of the villages, village tract, wards, townships in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw”, said U Khan Aung, managing director of the Myanmar Post.

The JICA, since 2016, has been carrying out a project for improvement of postal operations, providing technical training. The issue of postcode is a part of that project, said Masayuki Karasawa, chief representative of JICA Myanmar.

Postcode helps sort the mailing easily. This being so, accurate postcode is a must for postal service in order to arrive correctly to the designated ad-

dress. Labelling postcode on mail minimizes risk for loss and facilitates the mailing. It will prevent from sending the wrong address. Postcode is the basic of postal operation. The aim of issuing postcode book is to facilitate postal service, he continued.

At the event, Mori Saki Win, a popular singer and actor in Myanmar and Japan, was appointed as ambassador for postcode. He will act as a friendship bridge for future cooperation between the two countries besides issuing postcode, said Mr. Masayuki Karasawa. JICA has plans to develop postcode book for other towns. ■

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Union Minister in Thailand to discuss issues of Myanmar migrant workers

AT the invitation of Thailand's Ministry of Labour, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe arrived in Bangkok, Thailand at 9:50 am on 22 September.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party, along with Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than, met with officials from Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) and social organizations for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand at the Emerald Hotel in Bangkok.

During the meeting, the Union Minister focused on about 120,000 Myanmar migrant workers now already legal workers in Thailand, and fishery workers in Thailand to have legal opportunities during this trip.

Officials from MOEAF and social organizations also briefed on education for Myanmar workers' children and requirements.

The Union Minister and party will leave for Ranong, Thailand to discuss issues regarding Myanmar fishery workers in Thailand and for smoother MoU system, it is learnt.—Pwint Thitsar ■



Union Minister U Thein Swe attending a meeting in Thailand regarding Myanmar migrant workers there. **PHOTO: PWINT THITSAR**

Visit of Indian Naval Units to Yangon

AS part of the ongoing bilateral mechanisms between India and Myanmar, two Indian Naval ships, *Kulish* and *Battimalv* along with one Indian Navy *Dornier* aircraft will visit Yangon from 24 to 26 September, 2018 for Opening Ceremony of the 7th IN-MN Coordinated Patrol. The coordinated patrol is to maintain maritime security with in respective side of maritime boundary and enhance mutual understanding between navies through operational exchange.

Commodore *Ashutosh Ridhorkar*, Naval Component Commander, Port Blair, is the Senior Officer embarked onboard INS

Kulish.

INS *Kulish* is the third of indigenously manufactured *Kora* Class Guided Missile Corvettes, commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2001, and presently based at Port Blair. Equipped with multitude of weapons and sensors, the ship is also designed to embark indigenously manufactured *Dhruv* (ALH) or *Chetak* helicopter. Cdr *Deepak Bali* is in command of *Kulish* and heads crew of over 120 personnel.

INS *Battimalv* is a Fast Attack Craft with top speed of over 28 knots commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2006. The ship undertakes regular patrolling



An Indian Naval ship seen in the ocean. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

and surveillance missions in the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands, and is commanded by Lieutenant Commander *MC Chanddeep*, who heads a crew of over 50 personnel.

Major activities in Yangon include opening ceremony of the coordinated patrol, courtesy calls, sports & social interactions, and visit to places of interest.—GNLM ■

Police members donate blood



A policeman donating blood in Pyay. **PHOTO: MAUNG SHWE WIN (PYAY)**

TO mark the 54th Myanmar Police Force Day, which falls on October 1, a total of 63 police members from Pyay District in Bago Region recently donated blood at the 500-bed hospital in the town of Pyay. The blood donation ceremony was held at the hospital between 7 am and 11.30 am on September 18.

Present at the ceremony

were Police Captain Myint Aye from Pyay District Police Department and other police officers, and Daw Khin May Thwin, medical superintendent of the hospital. At the ceremony, the Police Captain donated five eggs per head, whereas the medical superintendent offered tonics and health drinks, containing iron.—Maung Shwe Win (Pyay) ■

Man arrested for illegally transporting wood in Pwintbyu

FOREST officials arrested a man, illegally transporting logs of hardwood by a lorry on September 22 night, according to the Pwintbyu Township Forestry Department.

The officials, who received

information about the illegal transport through a route near Hsedaw Village in Maezali area in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, conducted an inspection there at around 10.30 pm on that day.

They discovered 30 of various kinds of hardwood logs weighing about 2.4 tons.

The officials arrested lorry driver, Thet Naing Soe, who will face legal charges under Section 42 (a) of the existing

Forest Law. The lorry and the logs were also seized. Authorities are still conducting further investigation under the guidance of Magway Region Forestry Department.—Ye Win Naing (NyaungU) ■

Export to Hong Kong outperforms import from April to July

MYANMAR'S export to Hong Kong, the Special Administrative Region of the Republic of China, surpassed its import, with export worth US\$177 million and import valued only \$5.7 million from April to July of mini-budget period, according to data of the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of trade between Myanmar and Hong Kong was worth US\$183 million. Myanmar's major items exported to Hong Kong includes precious stones, agricultural products, fishery products and garments, while its import comprises mainly telecommunications equipment and optical goods. The economic interactions between Myanmar and Hong Kong have been increas-

ing rapidly. Hong Kong has emerged as the third largest investor in Myanmar, following the first and second largest investors—Singapore and Myanmar. Since 1988, Hong Kong has brought foreign direct investments of \$7.75 billion with 148 enterprises as of August 2018, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Bilateral trades were worth \$385.63 million in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, \$234.46 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$316 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$343.8 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$502.7 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$27.28 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$51 million in the 2011-2012 FY, respectively. — GNLM ■



Workers at a factory that exports fishery products to foreign countries. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Trade with Malaysia up by \$134 million in four months

MYANMAR-Malaysia trade topped US\$488 million in the first four months of the current six-months fiscal period, commencing this April, up by \$134 million against the same time last year, according to the monthly data report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The current trade figures included \$80 million in exports and \$408 million in imports. At this time last year, trade between the two countries totalled \$353.9 million, with exports worth \$79.86 million and imports worth \$274 million.

Monthly, Myanmar exports marine products, clothes, forest-based products and agricultural commodities to Malaysia. Its imports from the ASEAN member state include oil, consumer products, intermediate goods, plastic ware, chemicals, stones and glass, footwear, min-

erals, metals, construction appliances, wire, medical products and electronic devices, among other things.

The ministry's annual statistical report shows that Myanmar-Malaysia trade reached a record high of \$1.089 billion in the last 2017-2018 financial year. The bilateral trade was \$980 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$750 million in the 2015-2016 FY, over \$1 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$948 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$458 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$455 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Malaysian investment in Myanmar in the previous 2017-2018 FY was \$21.9 million. Its new investment in the county, till the end of August this year, reached \$7.34 million from one project. — Shwe Khine ■

Border trade with Bangladesh increases by \$59 million

BORDER trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh, over the past five and a half months reached US\$67 million, which saw an increase in value by \$59 million from this time last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Between 1 April and 14 September this year, Myanmar exported domestic products amounting to \$9.8 million to Bangladesh and it imported commodities worth \$57.8 million from the neighbouring country.

The two countries conduct border trade mainly

through the Sittway and Maungtaw gates.

During the period, Myanmar exported commodities worth \$5.194 million to the South Asian country from the Sittway border trade camp, and goods worth \$4.613 million through the Maungtaw border. This year saw an increase in the value of Myanmar-Bangladesh trade from the Sittway border, while the bilateral trade through the Maungtaw gate slightly decreased by \$0.5 million.

The bilateral export/import includes marketable

ginger, peanuts, mung beans, dried plums, garlic, rice, salt-water prawns and fish, bamboos, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, knitwear, beverages, tobacco, plastics and wood.

Myanmar's international trade through sea routes accounted for 80 per cent of its total trade, while the remaining trade was conducted through border gates. The country conducts border trade with neighbouring countries through 16 land border gates. — Khine Khant ■

Exports up by \$1.6 billion as of mid-September

MYANMAR'S exports to foreign countries reached US\$7.64 billion between 1 April and 14 September of mini-budget period, showing an increase of \$1.6 billion compared to last fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As of mid-September, the figure is up by \$1.6 billion compared with \$6 billion in the similar period of last year. Of the seven export groups, agriculture and forestry sectors showed a decline in exports, while exports of livestock,

fishery, minerals, finished industrial goods and other export groups increased.

Export values were registered at \$1.9 billion for agro products, \$160 million for livestock, \$266 million for fishery products, \$879 million for minerals, \$86.3 million for forestry products, \$4 billion for manufactured goods and \$1 billion for other goods.

The country's exports not only depend on natural resources and the agro industry, but also on fishery exports and the Cutting, Making,

Packing (CMP) garment export.

The agriculture sector made up 25 per cent of total export volume, while CMP garment export from manufacturing sector accounted for 16 per cent.

Myanmar exports its goods through sea and border trade gates. Exports through the sea route fetched \$5.18 billion, while \$22.45 billion worth of exports flowed into neighbouring countries through the border trade gates. — GNLM ■

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Arakan League for Democracy Party presents policy, stance and work program



Chairman U Kyaw Myint of Arakan League for Democracy Party.

CHAIRMAN U Kyaw Myint of Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) Party presented the party's policy, stance and work program on radio and TV on 23 September.

Following is a translation of the presentation:

May you all enjoy happiness.

I am U Kyaw Myint, Chairman of Arakan League for Democracy.

The party will stand for the 2018 by-election in three constituencies. U Thein Maung will stand for Rathetdaung Township constituency 2, Rakhine State Hluttaw, Daw Thet Thet Aye for the Pyithu Hluttaw seat of Tarmwe Township, Yangon Region, and U Maung Hla Kyaw for Seikkan Township constituency 2, Yangon Region.

The party emerged during the 1988 democracy uprising. It was founded under the leadership of Rakhine-Myanmar Pandita U Oo Tha Tun and Dr U Saw Mra Aung. It has adopted a policy with the belief that only a true federal union based on democracy, equality among all the ethnic races and self-determination, will serve the interest of the Rakhine people. In the 1990 generation elections eleven of its candidates were elected, thus becoming the third highest winner of the election in Myanmar.

The party will achieve

success only if it joins hands with other nationalities in implementing its policy. So it has joined and is playing a leading role in the United Nationalities League for Democracy (UNLD). The UNLD and the National League for Democracy (NLD) issued the Bo Aung Kyaw joint statement on 29-8-1990 to build a future Union which fully guaranteed racial equality, political equality, self-determination, democracy and human rights.

After the years following 1990, the party took part in the Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP) and tried to realize its policy.

Its registration was abolished in 1992. The Arakan League for Democracy applied registration for the second time in 2012 to continue implementing its original aims. It actively took part in the United Nationalities Alliance (UNA).

As a proof of its respect for the aspiration of the entire Rakhine people and with the belief to serve the interest of Rakhine people more, it joined hands with Rakhine Nationalities Development Party. In 2017, the party was formed for the third time and applied for registration.

Since its formation in 1988, it laid down 16 work programs under the policy adopted by the

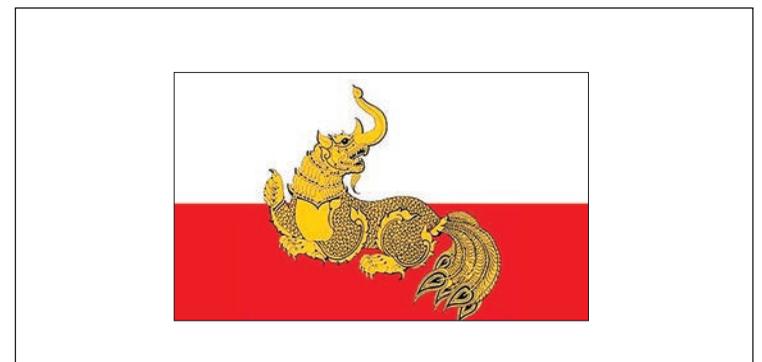
leaders. I will present only the important work programs.

The problem that occurred in northern Rakhine State has become a national issue. The problem of illegal Bengali migrants grew larger together with the weakness in policies that were adopted under the post-independence condition, weakness in the rule of law and corruption. The problem has now become a national concern. Local Rakhine people are the first to be hit hard by any wrong move. Preceding events stand witness to the fact. So, cooperation with locals is required in solving the problem. In this regard, the party adopted a work program prioritizing the task of safeguarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country.

We can say that Myanmar is facing external dangers. So, there must be unity among all the national races. We must stop the internal conflicts and restore peace without fail. The main stakeholders – the government, the Tatmadaw and armed ethnic groups – must hold dialogue with tolerance and wider outlook for national interest. The powerful group must be the first to show its high-mindedness. The party adopted the task of ending the internal conflicts and restoring eternal peace as a priority work program.

The 2008 Constitution needs some amendments to the provisions that are not agreeable to the basic democratic principles and the federal principles. The party adds such constitutional amendments in its work program.

Farmers in Rakhine State are also facing hardships because of land seizures for various reasons. As Rakhine State is an agro-based region, ALD regards the work of protecting farmers as its utmost important task. Land problems are one of the most important issues of



Party logo.

the ALD.

Youths in Rakhine State are migrating to other places of the country and foreign countries for various reasons including, shortage of job opportunities. So, women are working in the male-dominated jobs. We believe in generating decent jobs for Rakhine men to return home and earn their living together with their family. So, it is one of our priority tasks.

Indiscriminate felling of trees and quarries in Rakhine State are destroying its ecosystem, particularly, the colour of Thanzit river at Kyaukphyu deep-sea port has become brown. We haven't seen any action taken against this matter yet. ALD has laid down plans to protect the natural environment in cooperation with local civil organizations and local people.

Decent policies can harness the international investments in the interest of locals, but indecent policies cannot. The people will suffer from ill consequences of the investment projects that exploit natural resources and make social changes. So we need effective laws and principles and also the strict observance of such legal procedures, and this is one of our priority tasks.

We have laid down a work project to set up a system that invites public participation and voices in the trade and production sectors for the interest of the locals.

Drugs problem among youths of Rakhine State has reached an alarming situation.

Sadly, drugs that are available even at roadside betel shops are destroying the future of local youths and the state itself. So, we will cooperate with the relevant departments for the enforcement of the law to end this situation.

The work programs of ALD also includes the task of protecting the rights of youths, workers, women and children, promoting education, health, social and economic opportunities and rediscovering and preserving cultural heritage.

Rakhine State has been in the list of the poorest states of Myanmar for over ten years. Sadly, Rakhine State cannot free itself from impoverishment, despite its rich natural resources and geopolitical and geo-economical location. It is so unreasonable and regretful. Hence, the party will practically implement its policy and work programs to free the state from poverty. We urge the locals as well as Rakhines who are in other places to harmoniously join hands with us.

Visionary persons like Rakhine-Myanmar Pandita U Oo Tha Tun and Dr U Saw Mra Aung laid down the policy and work programs of ALD. Vote for ALD as it will fully safeguard the interest of Rakhine people, ensure self-determination and protect Rakhine people from the dangers of aliens.

People of Rakhine State, rise up in unity for acquiring the right of self-determination.

Thank you.

Translated by TMT

US ports fear they will be big losers in trade war

NEW YORK — America's ports are fearful that they will be big losers as the escalating trade fight between Washington and Beijing bites into business.

The anxiety is that tit-for-tat tariffs between the two economic superpowers will crimp shipments, denting port revenues.

Kurt Nagle, head of the American Association of Port Authorities, called the state of play "concerning," following the latest back-and-forth this week between the United States and China.

"The total amount of tariffs and international retaliation affect 10 percent of the total trade in American ports," or about \$160 billion in revenues, Nagle said.

The various trade wars thus far have had a mixed effect, with some ports seeing sharp declines in some products, even as others report a surge in activity intended to beat the new levies.

The mammoth US economy is sustained by about 100 ports around the country that manage the flow of goods inward and outbound at points of embarkation along the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes.

In the first six months of



Trade conflict so far have had a mixed effect, with some ports seeing sharp declines, even as others report a surge. PHOTO: AFP

2018, the port of New Orleans saw a drop of 350,000 tons of steel compared with the year-ago period, a big hit for a flagship product that is used in a petroleum-focused region.

"It represents between three and five million dollars," said Robert Landry, vice president of the Port of New Orleans. "For us it's very big."

Major sources of the steel

include Turkey, China and South Korea. All but South Korea were affected by a 25 percent tariff on steel imposed by US President Donald Trump this spring.

The New Orleans port also suffered a 10 percent drop in aluminum imports, which was also included in the same tariff action, while retaliatory Chinese tariffs on poultry have hit those exports.

Los Angeles surge

Meanwhile, with new tariffs looming in the US-China standoff, the Port of Los Angeles has seen a surge in some products.

"In May, June and July, cargo owners tried to beat the volumes," said Phillip Sanfield, a spokesman for the port, for which China is a key market, accounting last year for about half its trade in total value.

But the acceleration earlier this year may not last after the United States this week announced tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods, a move quickly followed by the Chinese rebuttal to impose levies on \$60 billion in US goods.

Trade war fears are also a source of unease for port workers, particularly in areas like southern California where the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach account for one in nine jobs. There are about three million port workers nationwide.

But that angst extends to other regions. "The East Coast ports in New York, New Jersey, Georgia and Virginia will also be very affected," Sanfield said.

The trade war has also worried the maritime shipping industry, which deals in \$4.6 trillion worth of goods annually, employs 23 million people and pays \$320 billion in taxes each year, according to the AAPA.

Landry of the New Orleans port said he was "optimistic" of an eventual solution.

"I just don't know how long it's gonna take," he said.

"We can probably take another six months, but at some point it's going to be very hard to face the situation." —AFP ■



Gold usually moves in the opposite direction with the US dollar. PHOTO: XINHUA

Gold futures edge lower on stronger US dollar

CHICAGO — Gold futures on the COMEX division of the New York Mercantile Exchange ended at one week low on Friday as the US dollar strengthened. The most active gold contract for December delivery was down 10 US dollars, or 0.83 percent, to close at 1,201.3 dollars per ounce. The US dollar index, which measures the greenback against six rivals, went up 0.36 percent to 94.24 as of 1905 GMT. Gold usually moves in the

opposite direction with the US dollar, which means if the dollar goes strong, gold futures will fall as gold, priced in US dollar, becomes expensive for investors using other currencies. As for other precious metals, silver for December delivery added 5.4 cents, or 0.38 percent, to settle at 14.359 dollars per ounce. Platinum for October went down 4.6 dollars, or 0.55 percent, to close at 829.6 dollars per ounce.—Xinhua ■

China sees upgrading structure in outbound direct investment

BEIJING — China's outbound direct investment (ODI) has seen its structure upgrading, with less irrational spending, more diverse destinations and higher efficiency, according to official information.

The country's ODI in the Jan.-Aug. period amounted to 74.1 billion US dollars, rising 7.8 percent year on year, Ministry of Commerce (MOC) data showed.

The investment had a better structure in industrial layout, according to the MOC. Spending on leasing and business services, manufacturing, mining, wholesale and retail sectors accounted for 33.4 percent, 16.6 percent, 10.3 percent and 9.3 percent of the total ODI, respectively.

No new investment projects were reported in real estate, sports or entertainment, which used to draw a plethora of irrational funds from the country.

The structure of Chinese investors also improved, said Wang Jianjun, an official with the department of foreign capital and overseas investment at the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

Privately-controlled entities accounted for 70 percent of all outbound investors over the past two years, according to Wang.

In addition, the destinations of ODI have become more diverse and balanced.

Countries along the Belt and Road accounted for 12 percent of China's ODI last year, according to a report released by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). In the first eight months of this year, ODI in these countries rose 12 percent year on year to 9.6 billion dollars, MOC data showed.

The top 10 countries and regions attracting Chinese investors accounted for less than half of the total number of Chinese firms investing overseas, dispelling worries of over-reliance on a single market and showing relatively low risks for investment, the CCPIT report said.

Meanwhile, Chinese firms have improved their management of outbound investment, according to Wang with the NDRC.

Over 70 percent of China's outbound investors were profitable or broke even in 2017, Wang said.

Altogether, around 40,000 Chinese enterprises in 190 countries and regions are employing over 1.3 million local residents and paying over 30 billion yuan (about 4.39 billion dollars) in taxes annually to local governments, he noted.—Xinhua ■

Government's efforts in developing agricultural sector

Agricultural sector is the foundation of the national economy, as roughly 70 per cent of the country's population relies on the farming industry. It can be said that agricultural development is directly associated with the quality of life of farmers. To ensure farming rights for them, the Farmland Law 2012 and the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law 2012 have been amended and enacted, according to the country's prevailing situation.

Also, improvement of the agricultural sector is intertwined with the maintenance and repair of the irrigation system, including dams. The system sufficiently irrigates about 1.23 million acres of monsoon paddy and about 1.167 million acres of summer paddy. Thanks to it, an additional 260,000 acres of summer paddy could now be irrigated.

The government has dug about 1,500 tube-wells to ensure farmers get more water for their cultivation. Moreover, it dug about 400 new tube-wells to be used primarily as a source of drinking water.

In the farming sector, an extensive use of agricultural mechanisation could minimize cultivation time and reduce wastages. Thanks to the government's attempts to implement mechanised farming, crops can now be grown and completely harvested by machinery on about 75 per cent of the net plantation areas.

As part of its serious effort, the government was able to implement the successful release of up to 63,417 acres of farmland that was confiscated during the past history of the nation. Of the total, 13,091 acres have been returned to the farmers and the remaining 50,326 acres to the respective ministries, states and regions.

The key objective of the government is to boost the country's economy, based on the farming sector. And to reach this objective, the government is trying to promote the country's agricultural production, according to its national export strategy.

The government has been continuously putting forth efforts to fulfill the basic needs of the sector, including attainment of good quality seeds, utilisation of production machinery, systematic use of fertilizers and insecticides, and resolving the issue of a scarcity of farm technicians. In addition, the government has been making efforts in obtaining loans from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to encourage a shift from conventional to mechanized farming. Arrangements have also been made to disburse loans to farmers through the Myanma Economic Bank.

Regarding agricultural loans, the government has increased the loan amount from Ks100,000 to Ks150,000 per acre of paddy. For other crops, the loan amount has been raised from Ks20,000 to Ks50,000 per acre, with plans to increase the amount to Ks100,000. These implementations clearly prove the government's strenuous efforts in developing the agricultural sector, which is the cornerstone of the country's economy.

PaO National Organization Party paper read at 2018 International Day of Democracy ceremony

GREETINGS and well wishes for health and prosperity to all personalities who are attending the 2018 International Day of Democracy ceremony. I am U Khun Aung Kyaw from the PaO National Organization Party.

It's learnt that International Parliamentary Union (IPU) decided to hold International Day of Democracy in 2007 on September 15, and Myanmar has been celebrating International Democracy Day for 8 times. As for Myanmar, the purpose of holding this day means, "We cherish democracy and Myanmar is a democratic State". We all understand and accept that "Democracy is a system where people can choose and elect the government they cherish". But there are many different types of democratic systems that have been adopted in many countries. The main point that we need to take into consider-

ation is building a democratic nation suitable for our political situation, historical background and cultural conditions.

The standard of democracy can be defined as "freedom, equality and discipline", thus it is duty bound for the people to safeguard the essence of democracy and instill and promote the democracy spirit among themselves, and the government and people should abide by the norms and ethics of democracy. We can create a disciplined democratic country by safeguarding the essence of democracy together.

In this regard, our PaO National Organization Party wants to say that there is no absolute sound system in politics. There is always pros and cons, and we have to admit that we are facing many challenges and obstacles in the democratization process, although a democratic system

is being practiced in our country. It is a challenge that can be experienced in the tender stage of democratic system and transition period, especially in states where democracy is just emerging. As for the government and people, efforts have to be made to find ways and means of dealing with the issue of practicing democratic ways. It is duty bound for the government as well as the people to tackle this issue, because people have power and the government is also responsible for it in a democratic system.

Now is the time for our country to march towards a genuine democratic federal State through a multi-party democratic system. We have to reinforce a democratic system while moving forward to a federal State. The path that leads to a federal State will not be strong if the democratic



U Khun Aung Kyaw

foundation is weak. Because we have to take into consideration power sharing, diversity and minority rights that derives from a democratic system based on minority practicing democracy. Therefore, it is needed to reinforce the democratic system that is being practiced for the time being, so that we can build our Democratic Federal Union.

As the motto goes, "Let's all lend a hand in making democracy thrive", our PaO National Organization Party is making efforts for the democratic system to flourish, in cooperation with our national races. I would like to conclude my paper by praying that our country may gain rapid development and bear fruitful results from the 21st Century Panglong Conference, thereby, building a Democratic Federal Union together. Thank you.

Ta-Arng (Palaung) National Party paper read at 2018 International Day of Democracy ceremony

AT the outset, I would like to extend my best wishes to the national-level dignitaries and other personalities from different states and regions to be auspicious and healthy.

I am Daw Nan Moe, member of Ta-Arng (Palaung) National Party Central Committee and Pyithu Hluttaw representative from Man Ton constituency of Palaung Self-administered Region. I am going to present the paper, on behalf of Ta-Arng (Palaung) National Party.

Esteemed personalities Once we say the word "Democracy", it goes without saying that "Democracy" is a system that the whole world accepts as "a people-governed system" derived from the people. That's why many countries in the world have adopted a democratic system because there is no better system than democracy up to now. In this regard, we have to think how to say the fact that the power comes from the people. We can just see the title of "Oversight" on this occasion of International Democracy Day.

Who will make the adjustment regarding the thriving of democracy? The motto of the Hluttaw goes: "People's voice, Hluttaw's voice, People's will is Hluttaw's will, People's Expectation is Hluttaw's implementation." As the people's voice is the Hluttaw's voice, the Hluttaw will take into consideration all voices of the entire people that meant to express the people's Oversight. But, in reality, to the extent that democracy can be effective is largely dependent upon the country's genuineness and maturity, comprehending democracy and the acceptance of people. First and foremost, let's look at the role of checks and balances of the Hluttaw, including holding in check the ministry-wise measures for the administration sector and implementation of people welfare schemes through the approval of the Hluttaw. In many democratic nations, a series of discussion and resolutions, including warfare and political affairs of the state, can be made through the Hluttaw.

It can be called a democratic Hluttaw of the country if the citi-



Daw Nan Moe

zens obey the laws, prescribe protective laws, and making checks and balances of the administrative

as well as military sectors for political affairs. As for the Hluttaw, these are some of the measures

that can make democracy thrive.

As for people-centered democratic nations, the role of making adjustments for the so-called "the civil oversight" is very important. Moreover, the media that claims to be the fourth pillar of democracy plays a vital role in disseminating the true news to the people, and it can help the progress of the democratization process of the country. For the fifth pillar, more efforts are needed to promote the socio-economic life of the people, and the roles of legislature, administrative, judiciary and media can be considered the essential elements of democratic nations.

As for some countries with emerging democratic system like Myanmar, it will be difficult to make adjustments when people are weak in understanding the essence of democracy. The government alone will find it difficult to enhance necessary capacity-building skills for the people. In this regard, the role of Civil Society Organizations is of pivotal importance and should be strong so that it can promote democracy, human

rights and good governance together with the people.

The essence of democracy is to hold regular elections, to respect and obey the citizen rights, transparency, check and balance, political equality and freedom. Both government and people are needed to abide by the laws and regulations. To oppress the minority is against the principles of democracy, and we should not neglect the wishes of minority while making consensus with the approval of majority.

Thus it is important to make sure that there should be parliamentary oversight in order to thrive in a democratic system. It is necessary to make check and balance between the defense and administrative sectors in order to emerge good protective laws for the citizens from the Hluttaw. I would like to conclude my paper by urging to protect the interests of the citizens and to promote the role of civil oversight, that aims make the democratic system strong. May people's democratic system live long!



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 23rd September, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is feeble over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 24th September, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Chin State, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, Shan and Mon States, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin and Kayin States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Ayeyarwady Region. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (1 - 4) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th September, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th September, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th September, 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). - Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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Iran vows 'crushing response' after gunmen kill 29 at army parade near Iraqi border

TEHRAN—Iranian President Hassan Rouhani vowed a “crushing” response after assailants sprayed a crowd with gunfire, shooting dead at least 29 people including women and children Saturday at a military parade near the Iraqi border.

The Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility for the rare assault in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, while Iranian officials blamed “a foreign regime” backed by the United States.

A local journalist who witnessed the attack said shots rang out for 10 to 15 minutes and that at least one of the assailants, armed with a Kalashnikov assault rifle, wore the uniform of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

“We realised it was a terrorist attack as bodyguards (of officials) started shooting,” Behrad Ghasemi told AFP. “Everything went haywire and soldiers started running.”

“The terrorists had no particular target and didn't really seem to care as they shot anyone they could with rapid gunfire.”

Ahvaz lies in Khuzestan, a province bordering Iraq that has a large ethnic Arab community and has seen separatist violence in the past that Iran has blamed on its regional rivals.

Iran summoned diplomats from Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain over their “hosting of some members of the terror-



The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the parade attack in southwestern Iran. PHOTO: AFP

ist group” which carried out the attack, state media said Sunday.

“It is not acceptable that the European Union does not blacklist members of these terrorist groups as long as they do not perpetrate a crime on... European soil,” official news agency IRNA quoted foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi as saying.

After addressing a similar parade in Tehran to commemorate the start of the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, Rouhani warned

that “the response of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the smallest threat will be crushing”.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the attack was carried out by “terrorists recruited, trained, armed & paid by a foreign regime”.

“Iran holds regional terror sponsors and their US masters accountable for such attacks,” he wrote on Twitter.

Bloody crime

IS claimed the attack via its

propaganda mouthpiece Amaq and, according to intelligence monitor SITE, said the attack was in response to Iranian involvement in conflicts across the region. State television gave a toll of 29 dead and 57 wounded, while IRNA said those killed included women and children who were spectators at the parade.

Three attackers were killed at the scene and the fourth died later of his injuries, said armed forces spokesman Brigadier Gen-

eral Abolfazl Shekarchi.

The Revolutionary Guards accused Shiite-dominated Iran's Sunni arch-rival Saudi Arabia of funding the attackers, while Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also blamed Iran's pro-US rivals.

Tehran-backed Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah condemned the “terrorist” attack, saying that “repulsive Satanic hands” were behind it.

“This operation was a continuation of the other forms of war the United States and its allies are waging, directly or indirectly,” it said. In a message to Russia's close regional ally, President Vladimir Putin said he was “appalled by this bloody crime”, while Syria, another ally, neighbouring Turkey and France also expressed condolences.

Khuzestan was a major battleground of the 1980s war with Iraq and the province saw unrest in 2005 and 2011, but has since been largely quiet. Kurdish rebels frequently attack military patrols on the border further north, but attacks on regime targets in major cities are rare.

On June 7, 2017 in Tehran, 17 people were killed and dozens wounded in simultaneous attacks on the parliament and on the tomb of revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini—the first inside Iran claimed by IS. —AFP ■

Yemen's Houthi rebels say ballistic missile fired at Saudi regional airport

SANAA—Yemen's Houthi rebels said they fired a ballistic missile toward “a regional airport” at the Saudi border city of Jizan on Saturday, Houthi-controlled Saba news agency reported. The attack took place on Saturday night, the Houthis said.

The airport serves Jizan, the capital city of Jizan Province in Saudi Arabia. It is also known as King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Airport, named after the late Saudi king.

Meanwhile, Saudi air forces on Saturday night intercepted and destroyed a missile fired from Yemen toward the border city of Jizan, Saudi-owned Al

Arabiya television reported.

The latest attack has brought the number of missiles shot from Yemen targeting various Saudi cities to 198, said Al Arabiya. Although the frequency of the missile attacks has increased recently, most of them were intercepted and destroyed without causing injuries.

Saudi Arabia has been targeted by Yemeni Houthi rebels for having been leading a war against them since 2015. The Houthis say their missile attacks were launched in response to the coalition airstrikes on Houthi-controlled lands in Yemen.—Xinhua ■

Clashes in Libya's Tripoli kill 10

TRIPOLI—Libyan Ministry of Health on Saturday revealed that Friday's clashes in the capital Tripoli have killed 10 people and injured 59 others, including civilians.

The Ministry's Wounded Affairs Department said Friday's casualties have increased the death toll of the fighting between warring parties to 106 deaths and 365 injuries since the beginning of the fighting in Aug. 26.

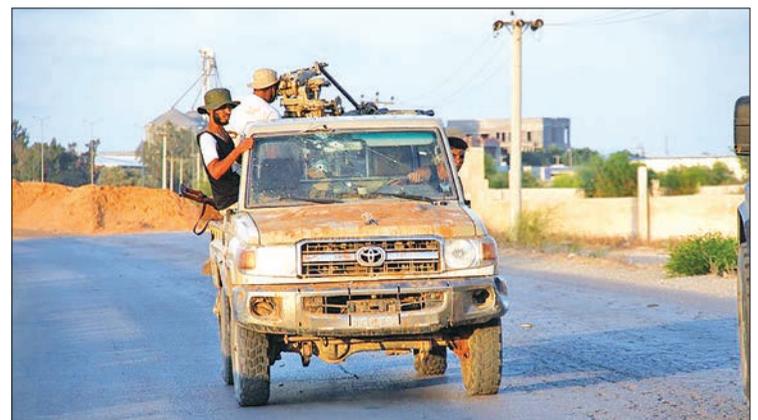
Clashes continued despite the warning from the UN Support Mission in Libya on Thursday against attacks on residential areas. The mission also reminded the warring parties of the signed binding cease-fire agreement and stressed that exposing civilians to harm is prohibited by International Hu-

manitarian Law.

Violent clashes continued in southern Tripoli between forces allied with the UN-backed government and the “7th Brigade” militia from the city of Tarhuna,

some 80 km southeast of Tripoli.

Libya has been suffering in security and escalating violence since the fall of former leader Muammar Gaddafi's regime in 2011.—Xinhua ■



Forces loyal to the government of National Reconciliation participate in fighting between warring parties in southern Tripoli, Libya on 22 September 2018. Libyan Ministry of Health on Saturday revealed that Friday's clashes in the capital Tripoli have killed 10 people and injured 59 others, including civilians. PHOTO: XINHUA

UK Labour hopes to paper over Brexit splits for united front

LONDON — Britain's Labour Party kicks off its annual conference on Sunday hoping to prove it is ready to unseat the embattled Conservative government despite its own splits on Brexit and rows over anti-Semitism.

Leader Jeremy Corbyn has a golden opportunity to capitalise on Prime Minister Theresa May's weakness after European Union leaders rejected her Brexit plans on Thursday.

But he must first ensure that his party's internal tensions take a back seat to bolster his image as a prime-minister-in-waiting.

"The sheer levels of animosity that exists between Corbyn and his opponents is quite remarkable," Anand Menon, political professor at King's College London, told AFP ahead of the four-day event in Liverpool.

Brexit is one of the fault lines, dividing even allies.

Most of Corbyn's MPs and

his younger supporters are in favour of the EU, but many voters in the party's working-class heartlands back Brexit.

Corbyn has so far tried to avoid the divisive subject, instead sticking to promoting a domestic social agenda that helped him upset the odds at last year's general election and strip May of her parliamentary majority.

But with Brexit negotiations due to come to a climax before the end of the year, party members look set to force a debate and a vote on the conference floor pushing for a second referendum, something Corbyn has said he is against.

"The big controversial thing would be... whether Labour commits itself to a second referendum... because Corbyn has been trying to keep as ambiguous as possible," Steven Fielding, professor at University of Nottingham, told AFP. —AFP ■



Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has a golden opportunity to capitalise on Prime Minister Theresa May's weakness after European Union leaders rejected her Brexit plans on Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Peru opens case against former president

LIMA — Peru's Attorney General's Office on Saturday opened a preliminary case against former president, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, for the vote buying allegations that led to his resignation in March.

The authorities said via Twitter that Attorney General Pedro Chavarry decided on Friday to begin proceedings against the former president and a number of other senior political figures.

A variety of charges are being set against the politicians, including alleged bribery, improper use of influence and

membership of a criminal gang.

The body also reported the widening of a case against former Agriculture Minister Jose Arista, who is accused of bribery.

Pedro Pablo Kuczynski resigned as president on March 21 after a video showing his allies trying to buy votes from other lawmakers to avoid an impeachment motion.

The former president had survived an impeachment vote in December 2017 for allegedly receiving illegal payments from Brazilian construction company Odebrecht. —Xinhua ■

Supreme Court nominee accuser agrees to testify before US Senate

WASHINGTON — The woman whose sexual assault allegation threatens to bring down President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee has agreed to testify in the Senate, her lawyers said Saturday, setting up a dramatic showdown next week.

Christine Blasey Ford's decision followed days of negotiations and came after Trump turned against her and said her accusation could not be true.

Ford "accepts the committee's request to provide her first-hand knowledge of Brett Kavanaugh's sexual misconduct next week," said a message from her lawyers to the Senate Judiciary Committee, US media reported.

Hours later, multiple outlets including *Politico* and *The Daily Beast* reported the hearing would take place on Thursday, citing sources familiar with a phone call between the committee and Ford's lawyers.

The tentative deal capped a day of frenetic developments, with time running out for Trump to get his hand-picked conservative judge confirmed — thereby tilting the Supreme Court firmly to the right for years to come — before November elections when Republicans risk losing control of Congress.

Earlier, the panel had given the California professor until 2:30 pm (1830 GMT) to decide whether to appear, after she rejected a Friday evening deadline imposed by the committee's Republican leader, Chuck Grassley.

"Although many aspects of the proposal you provided via email, on (Friday) are fundamentally inconsistent with the committee's promise of a fair, impartial investigation into her allegations, and we are disappointed with the leaks and the bullying that have tainted the process, we are hopeful that we can reach agreement on details," read the lawyers' letter cited by *The Washington Post*.

The White House criticized Ford for allegedly dithering. "But one thing has remained consistent: Brett Kavanaugh remains ready, willing and eager to testify as soon as possible," it added.

Denial

Ford alleges that Kavanaugh drunkenly assaulted her at a party when he was 17, she



Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh denies knowledge of any sexual assault and wants to give his side of the story to the Senate Judiciary Committee. **PHOTO: AFP**

was 15 and they were attending private schools outside Washington in the 1980s.

Kavanaugh denies knowledge of any such assault and wants to give his side of the story to the committee.

Grassley had wanted the hearing to take place on Wednesday, but Ford asked that it be held on Thursday at the earliest and to be able to call as a witness a man she says was present during the assault.

The committee's Republican leadership turned down those demands.

After several days of maintaining a relatively neutral posture, Trump on Friday declared that Ford was lying.

"TAKE THE VOTE!" Trump tweeted, blaming "radical left wing politicians" for the controversy.

A call for respect

According to Trump, the fact that Ford remained silent until now shows the incident probably never happened — even if this runs counter to what experts say is the typical reaction of sexual assault victims afraid or too embarrassed to report.

"I have no doubt that, if the attack on Dr Ford was as bad as she says," Trump tweeted, "charges would have been immediately filed with local Law Enforcement Authorities by either her or her loving parents."

The senior senator for Trump's Democratic foes, Chuck Schumer, called the president's logic a "highly offensive misunderstanding of surviving trauma," while Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein said: "We must treat sexual assault survivors with respect, not bully or

try to silence them."

Even one of Trump's own Republican senators, Susan Collins — who sits on the Judiciary Committee — said she was "appalled by the president's tweet."

"We know that allegations of sexual assault are some of the most under-reported crimes that exist," Collins said.

Trump's outburst saw a new #MeToo era hashtag storm the internet, with people — mostly women — sharing why they did not report being assaulted under the Twitter hashtag #WhyIDidntReport.

Ford told the *Post* she went public with her claims because she felt her "civic responsibility" was "outweighing my anguish and terror about retaliation" after the basic outlines of the story emerged in the media.

Ford's husband, Russell Ford, was quoted by the *Post* as saying the thought that Kavanaugh could be considered for the Supreme Court after Trump took office troubled his wife so much that she considered moving as far away as New Zealand.

"She was like, 'I can't deal with this,'" Russell Ford said. "I cannot live in this country if he's in the Supreme Court."

Republicans are frustrated over what they say was the deliberate timing of the last-minute revelation of Ford's allegation, accusing Democrats of seeking to prevent the process from finishing before the midterm elections in a few weeks.

For their part, Democrats say Republicans are mounting an unseemly rush to get Kavanaugh into the nine-member Supreme Court while they still control the legislature. —AFP ■

Maldives strongman eyes new term in controversial poll

COLOMBO — Voting began in a controversial presidential election in the Maldives Sunday, amid fears that the process has been rigged in China-friendly strongman Abdulla Yameen's favour.

Yameen has imprisoned or forced into exile all his main rivals, and is expected to retain his hold on power in the Indian Ocean island nation.

Foreign monitors and the opposition have slammed his government for its crackdown on opponents and the media, and urged the international community not to recognise the results of the election.

Before polls opened, police raided the campaign headquarters of the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), searched the building for several hours in a bid to stop what they called "illegal activities". There were no arrests.

Despite the crackdown, hundreds of Maldivians headed to polling booths before voting began in the capital Male.

"There is a lot of enthusi-

asm. Voters lined up to vote despite overcast weather," MDP party worker Shauna Aminath said. Yameen has borrowed hundreds of millions of dollars from China to build up infrastructure, alarming the nation's longtime backer India.

The European Union has said it is ready to impose travel bans and asset freezes on individuals "if the situation does not improve", while the United States has warned it would "consider appropriate measures" against those undermining democracy in the country of 1,200 islands. Some 262,000 people in the archipelago — famed for its white beaches and blue lagoons — can vote in an election from which independent international monitors have been barred.

Only a handful of foreign media have been allowed in.

The Asian Network for Free Elections, a foreign monitoring group, said the campaign was heavily tilted in favour of the 59-year-old Yameen.

The network said it did not expect a fair contest.

"In the absence of any scrutiny (of the elections) or pressure (on the government), sombre events surely loom ahead for the people of Maldives," it said on the eve of the vote.

In February, Yameen alarmed the international community by imposing a state of emergency, suspending the constitution and sending troops to stop members of parliament who were trying to impeach him.

The chief justice and a judge of the Supreme Court were jailed along with Yameen's half-brother Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, president for 30 years until 2008 and the man who helped Yameen come to power in 2013.

The UN said the arrest of judges was an "outright assault on democracy".

Silencing dissent

Mohamed Nasheed, the Maldives' first democratically elected president from 2008-12 but now in exile, called Friday for the international community to reject the election results.

"Mathematically, it is not



Maldives President Abdulla Yameen has imprisoned or forced into exile all his main rivals. **PHOTO: AFP**

possible for Yameen to win because all opposition parties are united against him," said Nasheed, who is based in Sri Lanka.

"But the results they will announce will be different to what is actually in the ballot boxes."

Nasheed was forced to withdraw from the presidential race after the Maldives election commission disqualified him because of a 2015 terrorism conviction. The United Nations said the conviction and 13-year jail sentence were politically motivated, but Yameen's government has refused to abide by the UN ruling.

The relatively unknown Solih has Nasheed's backing. There are no other candidates.

Solih has struggled for visi-

bility with the electorate because the media is fearful of falling foul of heavy-handed decrees and reporting restrictions.

The government has used "vaguely worded laws to silence dissent and to intimidate and imprison critics", some of whom have been assaulted and even murdered, according to Human Rights Watch. Eligible voters in neighbouring Sri Lanka and India along with those in Malaysia and Britain are entitled to vote on Sunday. The results are expected by midday Monday.

A candidate must secure 50 percent of the vote to win outright, failing which there would be a run off three days later. —AFP ■

Indonesia kicks off presidential race as currency slumps



Opinion polls show Indonesian President Joko Widodo well ahead of his main challenger Prabowo Subianto. **PHOTO: AFP**

JAKARTA — Campaigning for Indonesia's presidential election in April kicked off Sunday, pitting incumbent Joko Widodo against a former military general in the race to lead the world's third-biggest democracy.

Opinion polls show Widodo, whose down-to-earth style and ambitious infrastructure drive have made him popular with many Indonesians, well ahead of his main challenger Prabowo Subianto.

But his bid for a second term is facing headwinds over his eco-

nom record, with the Indonesian rupiah sitting at two-decade lows, and fears of a fake news campaign intended to disrupt his re-election.

Some 186 million voters in the world's largest Muslim-majority country are expected to go to the polls on April 17, in an election which will also decide members of national and local parliaments.

Both leaders — dressed in traditional Indonesian folk costumes — attended an official campaign launch in central Ja-

karta Sunday morning, in which they pledged to run a peaceful contest free from hoaxes and the politicisation of ethnicity and religion.

Many Indonesians will be keen to avoid a repeat of the Jakarta gubernatorial elections in 2017, which were marked by massive street demonstrations led by hardline Muslims opposed to the capital's former governor who is ethnic Chinese and a Christian.

Analysts say campaigning is likely to focus on the economy, inequality, identity politics and rising intolerance across the sprawling Southeast Asian archipelago.

Widodo, who is popularly known as Jokowi, surprised many Indonesians in August by choosing to run alongside conservative Islamic cleric Ma'ruf Amin.

Amin, 75, is chairman of the country's top Islamic authority, the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), which issues fatwas, and is known for his disparaging views towards certain minorities.

About 90 per cent of Indonesia's 260 million people have traditionally followed a moderate

form of Islam, but there are concerns that it is taking an increasingly conservative turn.

The pair will square off against Prabowo and former deputy Jakarta governor Sandiaga Uno, a businessman and private equity tycoon.

Prabowo, who lost to Widodo in 2014, was a top military figure in the chaotic months before dictator Suharto was toppled by student protests in 1998.

Following the strongman's downfall, he admitted ordering the abduction of democracy activists and was discharged from the military.

The first major survey by the Indonesian Survey Circle (LSI) after candidate registration closed showed Jokowi and Amin with 52 percent support ahead of Prabowo and Uno on 30 percent.

Widodo had a similar level of backing at the start of campaigning in 2014, only to watch the gap shrink dramatically as polling day neared. Pundits say Widodo, who has hired billionaire Inter Milan chairman Erick Thohir as his campaign manager, is most vulnerable when it comes to the economy and inequality. —AFP ■

50 injured as bus overturns in northern India

NEW DELHI — More than 50 people have been injured after a bus overturned and fell into a ditch in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, police said Sunday. The accident occurred at Haredi bypass on the Delhi-Haridwar national highway in the state's Muzzaffarnagar district.

"The bus carrying some 60 passengers overturned after its driver failed to spot a pothole on the road. Some 50 people sustained injuries in the accident," a police official said. Eye-witnesses told cops that the bus was travelling at a speed above the permissible limit as a result of which the driver failed to apply brakes when the vehicle fell into the pothole.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said. "The driver of the bus could be booked for rash and negligent driving after the probe," he added. India has the highest number of road fatalities in the world. Road accidents occur mostly due to poor driving or badly maintained roads and vehicles. —Xinhua ■

Indonesia halts new palm oil plantation development

JAKARTA — Indonesia's president has signed a moratorium on all new palm oil plantation development, an official said Thursday, in a move hailed by environmentalists.

The moratorium effectively halts any new land being made available for plantations in the world's top producer of the edible vegetable oil, a key ingredient in many everyday goods, from biscuits to shampoo and make-up.

President Joko Widodo signed the instruction, which will last three years, on Wednesday, Prabianto Mukti Wibowo, a deputy minister at the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, told AFP.

"(The moratorium) is to improve the governance of sustainable palm oil plantations, provide legal certainty, increase the

productivity of smallholder palm oil plantations, maintain environmental sustainability and contribute to the reduction in greenhouse gases," he told AFP in a WhatsApp message.

Plantations on Sumatra island, Papua and the Indonesian part of Borneo have expanded in recent years as demand for palm oil has skyrocketed, bringing huge profits to companies and healthy tax revenues to the government.

But the rapid growth has been blamed for the destruction of tropical forests that are home to many endangered species, and forest fires that occur every year during the dry season due to illegal slash-and-burn clearance.

The Indonesian Forum for the Environment, Walhi, welcomed the moratorium.



The rapid growth of palm oil plantations has been blamed for the destruction of tropical forests that are home to many endangered species, and forest fires that occur every year during the dry season due to illegal slash-and-burn clearance. **PHOTO: AFP**

"The presidential instruction is a good first step in restructuring natural resource management, especially in the palm oil sector," it said in a statement, adding ideally it would be in place for 25 years.

The moratorium was first proposed in 2015, following devastating blazes that cloaked large stretches of Southeast Asia in toxic smog for weeks.

A moratorium on conversions of new peat lands was established in

2011 to improve management and reduce fires, but campaigners say this is sometimes ignored when local governments grant concessions.

Poor spatial data and overlapping forestry maps are a major hindrance for

authorities trying to enforce regulations governing them.

In 2015, the government banned new development on all peat lands after swathes of carbon-rich peat were drained for use as plantations in recent years, creating highly flammable areas.

The decision comes as Indonesia and Malaysia battle a move by the European Parliament to ban the use of palm oil in biofuels.

It voted earlier this year voted in favour of a draft law on renewable energy that calls for the use of palm oil in biofuels to be banned from 2030, amid mounting worries about its impact on the environment.

Indonesia and Malaysia will be hard hit as they are the world's top exporters of palm oil. —AFP ■

Carbon taxes necessary in climate fight: World Bank chief

MONTREAL — Fighting global warming will necessarily require taxing carbon emissions, or setting a price on carbon pollution, the World Bank's chief executive said Wednesday at a G7 environment meeting in Canada.

"We believe very strongly that we can send an economic signal by introducing a shadow price for carbon," Kristalina Georgieva told AFP, referring to a method of calculating a price per tonne of carbon that includes the social costs of pollution.

"We are the last generation that can do something to fight climate change but we are also the first generation that has to live with its consequences," she said.

"There is a consensus among scientists and economists that carbon pricing is the best way to signal to economies that the behavior has to change."

According to the Institute for Climate Economics, 46 countries and 26 subnational governments have established a carbon



The World Bank's chief executive says a carbon tax on emissions is necessary to fight global warming. **PHOTO: AFP**

pricing policy as of April 1, either using a carbon tax or a carbon market in which quotas are set for big polluters who then have the option to buy or sell credits from other companies.

These policies added US\$30 billion to government coffers, with prices per tonne ranging from US\$1 to US\$133.

But, according to the OECD, the amount being charged is insufficient to meet climate targets. The World Bank is "making every major step to integrate climate action into all of our lending policies," Georgieva commented.

One week after UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that the world has only two years left to act in order to avert disastrous consequences of runaway climate change, Georgieva added her voice to the call to arms, saying it was "critical" that nations take action now.

The gathering of the Group of Seven industrialized nations along with the EU in the Canadian port city of Halifax is looking also to adopt new international rules to stop plastics from further accumulating in the world's oceans. —AFP ■

Microplastics may enter foodchain through mosquitoes

PARIS — Mosquito larvae have been observed ingesting microscopic plastic beads — similar to the tiny plastic shards broken down from man-made products such as synthetic clothing, car tyres and contact lenses — litter much of the world's oceans.

Hard to spot and harder to collect, they can seriously harm marine wildlife and are believed to pose a significant risk to human health as they move through the food chain and contaminate water supplies.

Now researchers of the University of Reading believe they have proof for the first time that microplastics can enter our ecosystem by air via mosquitoes and other flying insects.

The team observed mosquito larvae ingesting microscopic plastic beads — similar to the tiny plastic balls found in everyday cosmetic products — before monitoring them through their life cycle.

They found that many of the particles were transferred into the mosquitoes' adult form, meaning whatever creatures then ate the flying insects in the wild would also ingest the plastic. —AFP ■

Announcement to make objection

The following insecticide registered in Myanmar Insecticide Registration Board by foreign producer Sinamyang Group Pte. Ltd, Singapore will be imported, distributed, sold by Naing Toe Aung (Myanmar) Agro Group Co., Ltd changed from internal original distributor Asian Crops Global Co., Ltd.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	QUICKER 5 EC	Quizalofop-P-ethyl 5% EC	Provisional	P 2017-3917

Therefore, it is announced to come and object within two weeks to additional secretary, Myanmar Insecticide Registration Board, crops prevention branch, west Kyogone, Insein Township if want to object on the changes of the said distributor.

Original distributor - Asian Crops Global Co., Ltd
No. 49/A, Thiri Mingalar (2) Street, (8) Ward, Kamayut Township, Yangon, City.

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No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	LANBO 2.5 EC	Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5% EC	Provisional	P 2017-3913
2.	TOPPER 70 WP	Thiophante - methyl 70% WP	Provisional	P 2017-3918

Therefore, it is announced to come and object within two weeks to additional secretary, Myanmar Insecticide Registration Board, crops prevention branch, west Kyogone, Insein Township if want to object on the changes of the said distributor.

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A woman walks behind an ice sculpture spelling out the word "truth" by artist duo Ligorano Reese, with the US Capitol in the background, in Washington on 22 September 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Melting ice sculpture protests 'fake news' at US Capitol

WASHINGTON — Artists melted a ton of ice spelling out the word "truth" in the shadow of the US Capitol on Saturday, in a poetic protest at the caustic state of politics in the era of "fake news" under President Donald Trump.

"Truth Be Told," measuring 10 feet wide by seven feet tall, is the sixth sculpture in the "Melted Away" series launched in 2006 by artist duo LigoranoReese. Marshall Reese and Nora Ligorano, both 62 years old, have collaborated on art projects for nearly four decades, including woven fiber optic mesh, video and new media in clocks, mirrors and books.

Their other temporary monuments shaped out of ice have included the words "de-

mocracy," "economy," "middle class," "the future" and "the American dream."

The artists decided to take their call for more transparency and honesty to Washington "because ice is a material that disappears, it's an urgent moment and truth is really melting," Ligorano told AFP, as crowds gathered around the sculpture.

"It's speaking truth to power."

Young and old alike touched the sculpture and snapped photographs under sunny skies.

A frozen T collapsed first. The first T and R then collapsed against one another in a big crash, leaving only "UH" for a moment until those letters, too, vanished.

The artists collaborate with

locals for their projects and here used sculptors at Ice Lab in nearby Baltimore to carve into the ice.

"It's the first time I've walked into one of these places and was greeted by a woman who was dressed as an Eskimo," Ligorano said of the sculpture's ice carver. The work and its hours-long melting process was streamed live online.

On Friday, the artists organized a poetry reading with Washington-based poets and on Sunday will join a panel with journalists, watchdogs and other creatives focused on the "quest to uphold truth."

"It's as much a Trump protest as a call for more transparency and a call for more honesty," said Ligorano. —AFP ■

When audience is unhappy I get restless: Rohit Shetty

MUMBAI — Rohit Shetty, one of the most successful commercial directors of the Hindi film industry, says love and acceptance of the audience motivates him to give his best to every project.

The director said his aim is to provide entertainment to the people and he wants them to enjoy his films, irrespective of what the critics are saying.

"I think of audience, especially my family audience, while writing or making or editing a film. I want them to enjoy my films. I am more happy when audience is happy. When they are laughing and cheering.

"It gives me high and happiness. If a person goes to watch a film, he puts 10 per cent of his earning in it. So I should see to it that they are entertained. When audience is not happy, I feel restless," Rohit told reporters here Friday at the Jagran Cinema Summit.

The director said whenever his film releases, his team goes to the theatres to gauge the audiences reaction.

"For me personally, after my film releases we have a team that goes to check and understand the reaction of the audience. I feel there has to be a reality check. I have a team who have been working with me for years and there is a emotional bond that we share. I consider and think over the suggestions that they give."

Rohit believes with time cinema has changed and a filmmaker should not be worried as to what works and what does not with the audiences.

"Cinema was always chang-

ing and developing when Manmohan Desai was making 'Amar Akbar Anthony'. There was Hrishkesh Mukherjee making 'Milli'. Earlier it was commercial and parallel or art film and today it is multiplex kind of film. A good film is a good film and a bad film is bad."

He also shared if he ever decides to make a biopic, it will be on Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

"If I ever have to make a film then it will be on Shivaji. It needs lot of money," he said.

Talking about trend of biopics in the film industry, Rohit added, "Trend keeps coming and changing and if the audience is liking it then there is no harm in making a film in that space."

The director believes that his frequent collaborator Ajay Devgn has a big role in his success as a filmmaker. The two have worked together on "Golmaal" and "Singham" series, "Zameen", "Bol Bachchan".

"We met once or twice on sets before Ajay's 'Phool Aur Kante' came and then we started working together. He started his own company and told me to work with him," he said.

"When I started I knew I don't need to struggle as Ajay is there. My first film happened because of Ajay and it did not work and he stood by me. And when we were doing 'Golmaal', industry people were like 'Action director and actor known for action are making a comedy'. But Ajay has always stood by me.. I am what I am because of him," he added. —PTI ■

Met to sublease modern art annex in surprise move

NEW YORK — New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art made a surprise announcement Friday it would reboot stalled renovations of its modern and contemporary wing, and temporarily turn over the building housing the works to the nearby Frick Collection.

In 2014, the Met had announced it would rebuild its southwest wing that runs along Fifth Avenue at an estimated cost of \$600 million — but its deteriorating financial situation forced the museum to rein in its plans.

Despite pulling in record crowds, the storied institution — one of the world's largest art museums with collections spanning the globe from antiquity onward

— was forced to cut costs by curbing hiring, announcing voluntary buyouts and postponing the renovation project by several years.

Thomas Campbell, who had led the Met since 2009, then stepped down in 2017, with some accusing him of trying to do too much too soon. During his tenure, the museum had opened a modern and contemporary art annex, the Met Breuer, in the Madison Avenue building formerly home to the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Critics admonished the move, saying the Met was dividing its resources in an already financially strapped time.

Under the new arrangement,

the Met will essentially sublease the building to another mainstay of the Upper East Side, the Frick Collection, as that museum renovates its own building, a Gilded Age mansion.

Letting the Frick finish off the last several years of the building's eight-year lease would allow the Met to save some \$18 million, according to *The New York Times*. A spokeswoman for the Frick told AFP its own construction would take an estimated two years.

The Met's lease for the Breuer building will expire in 2023. It remains unclear what will happen next to the concrete, inverted pyramid-shaped museum



Visitors on the opening day of The Met Breuer, an expansion of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in 2016. PHOTO: AFP

opened in 1966.

A spokesman for the Whitney, which still owns the modernist building designed by Bau-

haus-trained architect Marcel Breuer, declined to comment on what might next be in store for the space. —AFP ■

Late to the party, German carmakers join race against Tesla

FRANKFURT AM MAIN — After years watching Tesla's electric cars speed ahead while they have been on the defensive over an industry-wide diesel emissions scandal, German high-end manufacturers have finally unveiled their first challengers to the Californian upstart.

Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler, BMW and Volkswagen's Audi and Porsche subsidiaries between them control some 80 percent of the worldwide premium car market.

But until recently they offered little battery-powered, zero-emission competition to Tesla and its bombastic chief executive Elon Musk.

That changed this month,

pollution.

Wild ride for Tesla

The entrance of the three German behemoths into the electric race is far more consequential for Tesla than smaller fish like Britain's Jaguar, whose "I-PACE" is already on sale in the UK. And the US tech firm faces major hurdles of its own, struggling to stem losses that have been going on for years while trying to reassure investors and customers of its chief executive's mental health.

Musk was filmed drinking whisky and smoking cannabis (which is legal in California) with radio host Joe Rogan earlier this month, and in August



German carmakers are going after Tesla. PHOTO: AFP

with all three groups unveiling their first all-electric SUVs slated for release over the next two years.

Audi rolled out its "E-Tron", BMW its "iNext" and Mercedes its "EQC", while Porsche presented an electric coupe, the "Mission E".

In total, German carmakers have vowed a total of almost 40 billion euros (\$46.7 billion) of investment in battery-powered vehicles in the coming three years, industry association VDA says.

With a market share of around eight percent in Germany — compared with Tesla's 0.1 percent — Audi hopes electric cars will account for around one in three sales by 2025.

"Finally, it's getting started!" auto industry expert Ferdinand Dudenhoeffer told AFP.

Time is pressing, as sales of engines powered by automakers' longtime growth driver diesel have plummeted in the face of plans by many large cities to ban them to bring down air

revealed he was suffering from intense stress and fatigue in an interview with the *New York Times*.

On Tuesday, Tesla confirmed that the US Department of Justice was investigating the company over Musk's tweet announcing a plan to remove its shares from the stock market.

Also on Twitter, the South African entrepreneur admitted Tuesday that after months spent overcoming "production hell" on the firm's mass-market Model 3, it was now in "delivery logistics hell" struggling to get cars to buyers — while promising "rapid progress".

For expert Dudenhoeffer, "Tesla is the market leader and has great strength in innovation, but the coming six to nine months will be a decisive test" for its chief executive.

"If he doesn't manage to stabilise the Model 3 and make the firm profitable, it will get very complicated for him, including with regard to his investors." —AFP ■

Alcohol responsible for one in 20 deaths worldwide: WHO

GENEVA — Alcohol kills three million people worldwide each year — more than AIDS, violence and road accidents combined, the World Health Organization said Friday, adding that men are particularly at risk.

The UN health agency's latest report on alcohol and health pointed out that alcohol causes more than one in 20 deaths globally each year, including drink driving, alcohol-induced violence and abuse and a multitude of diseases and disorders. Men account for more than three quarters of alcohol-related deaths, the nearly 500-page report found.

"Far too many people, their families and communities suffer the consequences of the harmful use of alcohol through violence, injuries, mental health problems and diseases like cancer and stroke," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement. Drinking is linked to more than 200 health conditions, including liver cirrhosis and some cancers. Alcohol abuse also makes people more susceptible to infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV and pneumonia, the report found.

The some three million alcohol-related deaths registered globally in 2016 — the latest available statistics — account for 5.3 percent of all deaths that year.

For young people, the numbers are even more alarming,



Latest available WHO data, from 2016, shows there were three million alcohol-related deaths globally — accounting for 5.3 per cent of all deaths that year — with drinking linked to dozens of illnesses. PHOTO: AFP

with a full 13.5 per cent of all deaths among 20-29-year-olds considered to be alcohol-related, the study found.

'Unacceptably high'

In comparison, HIV/AIDS was responsible for 1.8 percent of global deaths in 2016, road injuries accounted for 2.5 per cent and violence for 0.8 per cent, it said.

The latest numbers are lower than those in WHO's last report on global alcohol consumption, published in 2014.

There are "some positive global trends", the agency said, noting shrinking prevalence of heavy episodic drinking and alcohol-related deaths since 2010.

But it warned that "the overall burden of disease and injuries caused by the harmful use of al-

cohol is unacceptably high," especially in Europe and the Americas. Globally, an estimated 237 million men and 46 million women suffer from alcohol use disorders, WHO said. Alcohol abuse affects nearly 15 per cent of men and 3.5 percent of women in Europe, and 11.5 per cent of men and 5.1 per cent of women in the Americas, it pointed out.

Alcohol consumption overall is unevenly distributed around the globe, with well over half of the world's population over the age of 15 abstaining completely.

On average, the 2.3 billion people currently considered drinkers — meaning they have drunk alcohol at least once in the past year — consume 33 grammes of pure alcohol per day. —AFP ■

DNA analysis identifies 5 subtypes of type 2 diabetes

WASHINGTON — American scientists used genomic data to identify five distinct groups of DNA sites that cause distinct forms of type 2 diabetes, potentially allowing physicians to give interventions based on the cause rather than the symptoms of the disease.

The study published in this week's *PLOS Medicine* revealed that inherited genetic changes might underlie the variability observed among patients in the clinic, with several pathophysiological processes potentially leading to high blood sugar and its resulting consequences.

"When treating type 2 diabetes, we have a dozen or so medications we can use, but after you start someone on the standard algorithm, it's

primarily trial and error," said the paper's senior author Jose Florez, an endocrinologist at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH).

"We need a more granular approach that addresses the many different molecular processes leading to high blood sugar," said Florez.

Florez's team found that DNA variations could be grouped into clusters based on how they impact diabetes-related traits. For instance, genetic changes linked to high triglyceride levels are likely to work through the same biological processes.

Miriam Udler, an endocrinologist at MGH and postdoctoral researcher in the Florez lab, applied a "soft-clustering" approach that allowed each var-

iant to fall into more than one cluster.

"The soft-clustering method is better for studying complex diseases, in which disease-related genetic sites may regulate not just one gene or process, but several," said Udler.

The new algorithm with a computational tool revealed five clusters of genetic variants distinguished by distinct underlying cellular processes, within the existing major divisions of insulin-deficient and insulin-resistant disease.

Two of these clusters contain variants that suggest pancreatic beta cells aren't working properly, but that differ in their impacts on levels of the insulin precursor, proinsulin, according to the study. —Xinhua ■

Yangon Region holds men's body-building contest

YANGON Region held its men's body-building contest at Aung San Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday morning.

A total of 51 contestants participated.

Eight of the participants were from the 60 kilo division, seven from 65 kilo, six from 70 kilo, five from 75 kilo, seven from over 75 kilo, and 18

from the Man Physique kilo division.

First, second and third prizes for each kilo divisions were given awards, after the competition.

Winners at this competition will be enrolled in the states and regions competition to be held on 10 November, it is learnt.—A Kay Lin ■



Dr. Thazin Lwin, a judge and Yangon Distance University professor of Chemistry Department, awards a medal to a winner of the body building competition. **PHOTO: A KAY LIN**

MFF, MNL, MPT to jointly hold launching ceremony of FBSEP 2018

MYANMAR Football Federation (MFF) and Myanmar National League (MNL) will hold a launching ceremony of Football Basic Skill Education Program (FBSEP) 2018, in partnership with Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (MPT), at the MFF's conference room on 25 September afternoon, according to Myanmar Football Federation source.

The FBSEP aims at nurturing brilliant new-generation footballers on whom the country can rely in the future football arena.

MPT has joined hands with the MFF and the MNL in support of its motto: 'New generation of harmonious steps toward future' and

it has sponsored this joint program, regarding it as a long-term project for 2018 to 2020.

The FBSEP will distribute DVDs shooting practice sessions and games of demonstration which will feature a variety of footballing basic skills such as football controls, passes, possession and dribbles to basic education schools, MNL clubs, township football associations.

MFF put more efforts into producing DVD spotlighting practice sessions with the aim of improving Myanma football arena.

This program is the first-ever attempt of the MFF. —Htut Htut (Twante) ■



Myanmar wins one gold, three silver and two bronze medals in 1st Asiana Indoor Skydiving Championship in China. **PHOTO: AYE MIN**

Myanmar earns gold in 1st Asiana Indoor Skydiving Championship in China

MYANMAR collected one gold, three silver and two bronze medals in 1st Asiana Indoor Skydiving Championship, which was held from 18 to 23 September in Chongqing, China. Representing Myanmar were athletes from Myanmar Parachute Federation and Indoor Skydiving (MEC).

In the 2 ways Senior Female Asiana Competition, Ma Nann

Oo Khin and Ma Nway Pyae Sone Lynn represented Myanmar's Indoor Skydiving and won a gold medal, while they also achieved a bronze medal in the 2 ways Senior Open Competition. In the 2 ways Junior Asiana and 2 ways Junior Open competitions, Ma Thae Nadi Aung and Ma Hnin Thazin Maung from Pride International School Myanmar garnered two

silver medals. In the 4 ways Female Asiana and 4 ways Female Open competitions, four Myanmar athletes participated and collected a silver and a bronze medals.

The Championship was also participated by China, France, Singapore, Latvia, Hungary, UAE, Kata, Indonesia and Malaysia.—Aye Min ■

Joshua overpowers Povetkin to retain world heavyweight titles with seventh-round finish

LONDON—Britain's Anthony Joshua retained his world heavyweight titles by inflicting the first stoppage defeat of Alexander Povetkin's professional career with a ruthless seventh-round finish at Wembley Stadium on Saturday. A previously close contest turned in Joshua's favour decisively when he sent the Russian crashing to the canvas with a straight right hand and left hook.

Povetkin gamely beat the count but Joshua piled in before referee Steve Gray stopped the contest at one minute and 59 seconds of the seventh round.

Victory saw Joshua extend his unbeaten professional record to 22 wins from 22 fights, with 21 knockouts, in front of a raucous home crowd.

"Povetkin is a very tough challenger and he proved it to-night," Joshua told Sky Sports.

"I realised he was strong to the head but weak to the body.

"I got my knockout streak back, I found my right hand again." Joshua was putting his International Boxing Federation, World Boxing Association and World Boxing Organisation belts on the line against 39-year-old Russian challenger Povetkin.

This fight was the latest in a line of professional heavyweight title bouts, featuring the likes of Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier and George Foreman, between two former Olympic champions, with Joshua having won gold in front of his home crowd at the 2012 London Games -- eight years after Povetkin stood atop the podium in Athens.

Joshua, 28, had a significant height and reach advantage of several inches over Povetkin.

Friday's weigh-in also confirmed a significant size differ-

ence, with Joshua tipping the scales at 17 stone 8 pounds (111.5 kilogrammes) compared to Povetkin's 15st 12lbs.

This fight saw Joshua returning to the scene of arguably his greatest triumph, an 11th-round stoppage of former champion Wladimir Klitschko last year. Klitschko was the only man to have previously inflicted a blemish on Povetkin's now 36-fight record, with a points win back in 2013. Joshua, born in nearby Watford but based in London, had been taken the distance for the first time as a professional in his last title defence -- a unanimous points victory over New Zealand's Joseph Parker in Cardiff in March. The undercard of that fight saw Povetkin serve notice of his formidable punching power with a sickening knockout of Britain's David Price. —AFP ■