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State Counsellor to pay working visit to Japan

AT the invitation of H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a working visit to Japan in the near future to hold bilateral talks and attend the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit which will be held in Tokyo, Japan.— MNA ■

Anti-narcotics

Three centres for youth rehabilitation managed by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, and nine centres for rehabilitation managed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement were opened to give assistance, education and treatment programs to people taking mind-altering drugs and other kinds of substances. Assistance and rehabilitation to people suffering both physically and mentally was also given through educational and vocational training.

(Excerpt from the report on the current work of the Union Government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses 54th Myanmar Police Force Day in Nay Pyi Taw



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers an opening address at the 54th Myanmar Police Force Day celebration in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Myint Swe delivered a speech at the 54th Myanmar Police Force Day held in Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

Present at the event were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than,

Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar Chairman U Myo Nyunt, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers, Union Auditor General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Union Supreme Court judges, Deputy

Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, Permanent Secretaries, Myanmar Police Force Chief, Directors General, deputy directors general, diplomats, local and international organizations, artists, local and foreign news media, invited guests and officials.

After the Myanmar Police

Force Day flag hoisting ceremony, a one-minute silence was observed in honor of Police Force personnel who gave their lives in the line of duty.

In his speech at the event, Vice President U Myint Swe said that after achieving independence, Myanmar Police Force

reforms were conducted and on 1 October 1964 it was renamed "People's Police Force" and that day was designated as Myanmar Police Force Day. It may be noted that its motto of "loyalty, integrity and courage" has been practiced and observed.

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects dam, road, bridges in Chin State

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who was in Falam Town, went yesterday morning to the proposed site where a new Var Bridge across the Manipur River will be constructed. The Vice President was accompanied by Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Than Htut, U Aung Htoo and U Kyaw Lin, and officials. The bridge construction site is near mile post 68/5 on the Kalay-Falam-Haka road. At the site, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin and officials explained about site selection for the bridge and the bridge construction plan.

Next, the Vice President and party inspected by car the repair and widening of Webula Road that connects Kalay-Natchaung-Var-Falam road.

Afterwards, they arrived at the Botvar bridge construction site where Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin and officials explained about the bridge, funding obtained and work processes.

From there, the Vice President and party arrived at Webula Town where the local people greeted them with traditional dances. The Vice President and party then went on to the Mani-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects Botvar bridge construction site in Chin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

pur multi-purpose dam project where Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department Director General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing explained about the project, funding requirements, annual fund usage, completion status of the project, arrangements made to transfer the dam under B.O.T. (build, operate, transfer) system and future works, and Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing and Chin State

Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai provided additional explanations.

In response to the explanations made, the Vice President said the Manipur multi-purpose dam project is not for agriculture only but also for electricity generation. Through the construction of the dam, the waterway along the river would become better and support the flow of goods as well as travel businesses. As the project would directly

benefit both Chin State and Sagaing Region, all are urged to work together in this. He then observed the project works being implemented from the view point.

The Manipur multi-purpose dam is situated in Chin State's Falam Township. The Manipur River is the biggest tributary of the Myittha River. By implementing the project, about 80,000 acres of farmlands can be pro-

vided with irrigation water, and according to the original design, 380 MW of hydro-electricity can be generated and would reduce and mitigate flooding and inundation in the Kalay plain area in the Myittha River basin.

From there, the Vice President and party went to Kalay Town, where they took a Myanmar National Airlines flight and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon. — MNA ■

Union Minister reaffirms readiness for repatriation in Rakhine State

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye reaffirmed Myanmar's readiness to accept the displaced people who left for Bangladesh, after the terrorist attacks in Rakhine State last year.

In his speech at the opening of the 69th meeting of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (Ex-COM) at the United Nations in New York yesterday, he also stressed the importance of the cooperation between Myanmar and Bangladesh to resolve the transnational issue.

Myanmar signed an agreement with Bangladesh to accept the displaced people within three months after their leaving for Bangladesh.

"We attach great importance to needs to create peace, stability



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attends the 69th meeting of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme in New York. **PHOTO: MNA**

and development for the repatriation process. Therefore, we signed the MoU with UNDP and UNHCR," said Dr. Win Myat Aye, who is also Vice Chairman of the

Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State.

Myanmar hoped that the undertakings of the UNDP and

UNHCR would be not only for the repatriation but also for sustainable peace and development in Rakhine State, through the suggestions and cooperation, said the Union Minister.

The implementation of the MoU has been commenced and the UN teams are now on ground making first phase of their assessment.

Myanmar Government has established the Independent Commission of Enquiry. The Commission is tasked to investigate allegations of human rights violations and related issues, following the terrorist attacks in Rakhine State, with a view to seeking accountability and reconciliation, and to formulate recommendations on steps to be taken to ensure peace and stability in Rakhine State.—MNA ■

Myanmar's statement on the Third Inter-Korean Summit

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar welcomes the Third Inter-Korean Summit, led by the Leaders of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which was held on 18-20 September 2018 in Pyongyang, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Myanmar applauds recent positive developments, including signing of a peace accord. Myanmar further commends the two leaders for their commitment to, and tireless efforts for, denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw

Dated: 1 October 2018

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses 54th Myanmar Police Force Day in Nay Pyi Taw

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Since 1 October 1995, it was called the Myanmar Police Force and was transformed both in appearance as well as in essence to serve the people more. It is now in the 54th year.

The four aims of the Myanmar Police Force implemented were internal security and peace, rule of law, protecting and preventing the danger of drugs and to conduct works that are beneficial for the people.

As social problems, community problems, economic problems and drug problems are related to increase or decrease of crime, the attempt to control effectively terrorist acts as well as various crimes that are occurring could not be depended solely on the laws and judiciary system that are in practice now. It is important for the police force to cooperate with the judiciary sector as well as education, health, housing settlement, job search sectors, media, local and foreign non-government organizations and civil organizations in all sectors.

When cooperating, the main problem that the Union level needs to resolve is the drug problem. In solving today's drug problem in the world, based on each country's background history, culture, development and ownership of resources, location and geographical situation, various approaches were seen to be used. Myanmar also had suffered from the drug problem like other countries of the world for many years, and based on the experience of successive governments, there is a requirement to handle the drug problem more effectively.

According to 2017 UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes) report opium growing decreased by 25 percent and drugs produced from opium also decreased by 14 percent. However, new ecstasy pills made with modern chemicals were produced, and as the demand is high both locally and abroad, production has increased. Only through cooperation between the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), relevant organizations and related departments can the demand be reduced and can there be effective control.

The drug problem destroys people's health, social life and

basic economy in many ways and the result of cross border crimes and acts of terror affect regional stability and rule of law. Myanmar has signed on as member of three conventions related to drugs in order to handle the drug problem together. Laws have been amended and enacted according to these conventions, and drug control and eradication organizations have been formed and projects drawn and implemented.

Handling of the drug prob-

lem in Myanmar could not be left to the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force preventive and judiciary sector strategy alone, and all sectors need to be considered.

United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem was held in April 2016, where work suggestions were established to draw up drug policies that included all sector approaches. Myanmar CCDAC also drew up and enacted a national drug control policy on 23 November 2017.

As per the new drug control policy, emphasis must be placed on socio-economic development of the people by reducing the drug problem through reducing opium production, developing substitutes, reducing usage and reducing follow up dangers, international cooperation, increasing research works and to be in line with human rights proclamations,

To implement the new national drug control policy, state/region wise discussions have

been conducted and an Action Plan will be drawn up and implemented within two years.

In order to systematically receive complaint and information from the public to prevent and eradicate the danger of drugs and psychotropic substances, the office of the President had established a Drug Activity Special Complaint Department.

Starting from 1997, Myanmar has designated combating human-trafficking as a national

task. More than 20 years have passed and during that period a Central Body for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force have been formed. Myanmar has signed on as member of United Nations resolution and ASEAN plan of action on the eradication of trafficking in persons and signed bilateral MOUs.

Myanmar is drawing up and implementing five-year plans to combat human trafficking. The third five-year plan from 2017-2021 will be implemented in four sectors; cooperating in project with policy, prevention, legal action and protection.

The Myanmar Police Force is a member of INTERPOL and is cooperating in police work with INTERPOL headquarters and among member countries, exchanging news on crimes, conducting workshops, training courses and crime prevention operations on cross border crimes.

Furthermore, Myanmar participated in INTERPOL crime eradication operations on fake medicine conducted in 2018, border region management work processes on preventing and eradicating human trafficking and inspecting and scrutinizing movement of suspected criminals and terrorists at the border gates in Southeast Asian countries by connecting with the INTERPOL data system.

Similarly, it is working with ASEAN National Police (ASE-

ANAPOL) and member countries by attending annual conferences and cooperating in various sectors.

Looking at the present situation, political, economic and social situations are changing and developing as technology changes and develops. Due to these changes and developments, new types of crimes evolve and continuous training and upgrade of the capability of the police force at all levels need to be done to handle instability caused by terrorism.

That is why police force personnel were sent to local and international workshops, discussions and trainings and from the experience gained, the capability of the personnel are not only raised but aimed towards making them to be on the same level internationally.

To increase the capacity of the police force, four areas have been designated in cooperating with international organizations. Training in police work to

be upgraded to the international level, police work involving participation of the people, human rights matters without gender discrimination, service oriented courses on police works, crime investigation courses, process on taking responsibility, cooperating with media, effective management and monitoring processes are being conducted.

The Myanmar Police Force is educating the people on legal and crime matters and expects to resolve and prevent crimes through increasing direct and indirect cooperation of the people.

The Myanmar Police Force was expanded and upgraded as it plays an important role in changes in the country, and the expanding relations with external police organizations, such as the International Police Force and ASEAN Police Force, also demanded the upgrading of the MPF, he added.

The Union Government has modernized the arms of the Myanmar Police Force due to the new forms of crimes and bought the MPF materials with modern technology, new laboratory kits for DNA test, communications equipment, Mobile X-Ray vehicles and other vehicles.

Outstanding members of the MPF are honoured every year, while those who fell while doing their duties for the country are posthumously honoured and the diligence of those who lost their limbs in action should also be acknowledged, he said.

The Vice President also stressed the need to ensuring transparency of the MPF in providing security services to the people, in accordance with the law, and sending correct information to the people as part of efforts for reducing the fears of the people.

"I would like to urge you to ensure transparency, accountability and responsibility in your works to become good members of the Myanmar Police Force and to do your duties in the interests of the people with honesty and impartiality," said the Vice President.

Following his speech, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe presented awards to two policemen for their excellent performance with bravery and to one DNA expert.

Outstanding police were also honored at this event.—MNA ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than look around the exhibition booths of Myanmar Police Force. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Fixed pilot station under construction at sea 20 miles from Yangon River

UNION MINISTER for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung inspected the construction process of a fixed pilot station, located 20 nautical miles from the mouth of Yangon River to the sea, on 30 September.

During the visit, the Union Minister and heads of departments, followed by Managing Director (Myanmar Branch) from China Harbour Engineering Co. Ltd, and officials checked the situation of waterline of the Yangon River, dredging sandbanks at the mouth of Yangon River, and the construction progress of harbors in Thilawa Port and of the fixed pilot station, with the Union Minister giving necessary instructions. Two pilot vessels will be anchored at the pilot station located 20 nautical miles from the mouth of Yangon River, according to the ministry.

He said marine pilots will be stationed at these pilot vessels and are tasked with driving moored ships to Yangon Port.

When the weather is bad, pilot vessels have to move to a safe place, they are unable to get enough rest, there is an increase vessel maintenance



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung inspects the construction process of a fixed pilot station. PHOTO: MNA

costs and a decline in security, consequently increasing the number of vessels in traffic and of staffs, meaning more space is required for a smooth operation, said the union minister.

He added that the pilots and staff will be able to successfully perform their duties after the pilot station is completed.

During the inspection,

the Union Minister expressed his thanks to China Harbour Engineering Co. Ltd for their high-quality construction service, and he instructed that the construction need to be completed within the designated period.

The total value of the project is US\$ 20.9 million and it includes constructions of one three-storey reinforce concrete building

(33.2mx30.4m), a harbour large enough for a GRT1500-sized vessel, a generator, a water treatment plant, a wastewater treatment plant, marine communication equipment, radar machinery and 3 pilot boats. The pilot station will accommodate 36 staff and the current construction is already 65 per cent completed. — GNLM ■

Daw Khin Myo Kyi sworn in as Yangon Region Advocate General

By Nyein Nyein

DAW KHIN MYO KYI, who was nominated as Yangon Region Advocate General by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, was sworn in at the Second Yangon Region Hluttaw seventh regular session 13th-day meeting, held yesterday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein nominated her to the vacant post of Yangon Region Advocate General at the Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting held on 26 September, and on 27 September, Hluttaw approved her appointment.

At her nomination, the Hluttaw announced for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to object to her appointment to do so with supporting evidences, but



Daw Khin Myo Kyi sworn in yesterday in the presence of the Speaker of the Yangon Region Hluttaw and parliamentarians at the Second Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting. PHOTO: YANGON REGION GOVERNMENT

there were no objection.

Daw Khin Myo Kyi who was appointed as Yangon Re-

gion Advocate General had served as a law office for 34 years, starting from 1984, and

had retired from the service last June. She is now 61 years old, it is learnt. ■

Rubber export target raised this fiscal year

By May Thet Hnin

ABOUT 170,000 tons of rubber are to be exported this fiscal year 2018-2019, said U Khaing Myint, secretary of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA).

We have increased export target, as latex production is likely to increase in the coming rubber season, he added.

“There are over 1.63 million acres of rubber plantations across the country and 700,000 acres can produce latex. The number of production acreages will increase up to 800,000 in coming season, and so we have increased the export volume”, said U Khaing Myint.

China constitutes 70 per cent of Myanmar’s rubber export, which also goes to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, South Korea, India and Japan. Myanmar’s rubber is primarily grown in Mon and Kayin states and Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi regions. About 150,000 tons of rubber were shipped to foreign markets last fiscal year.

Myanmar’s rubber produc-



Workers rolling raw rubber into sheets before drying in the sun. PHOTO: KHON (WIN PA)

ers are not consistent enough in assessing the quality of their products, as it varies across farms. Therefore, Myanmar’s rubber is sold at \$400 per ton lower than the global market price.

Group processing will result in quality constancy after rubber latex is sent to the respective rubber sheet smoking and latex

production factories.

At present, an ethnic-owned Rubber Smoked Sheet Factory established in Taninthayi Region is purchasing and processing rubber. With the Mon State government’s loan, rubber producers are planning to set up 28 standard rubber sheet factories. Kayin State has four similar ones.

Thailand-based South Land Myanmar Company is preparing to purchase rubber at an international price if it is of standard quality. The company is also preparing for establishment of more rubber factories in Mon State next season.

“Rubber farm owners need to produce quality rubber. If rub-

ber producers can ensure quality constancy, it will be offered similar price to the global price”, said U Khaing Myint.

Currently, most of the local rubber producers are still stuck in traditional methods, resulting in lack of quality. They are far removed from advanced technology, said rubber producers.

“I attended a rubber workshop, but I still cannot reach advanced rubber technology. If there are rubber education training courses and technology programmes, we will attend and follow them”, said Daw Lin Lin Tun, a rubber farm owner from Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State. Ribbed Smoked Sheet rubber RSS3 fetched US\$1,300 per ton in global market, while local rubber was worth Ks820 per pound yesterday.

At present, rubber law (draft) is being developed and it will be revealed to entrepreneurs in early 2019 for a review.

The government and rubber associations are endeavouring to set up a rubber central market after the rubber law comes into effect. ■

Consumer goods import up by \$379 million as of last week

IMPORT of consumer goods from 1 April to 21 September in mini-budget period (from April to September) was worth US\$2.52 billion, which is up by \$379 million, according to data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Consumer products such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and palm oil are imported. The private sector showed an income increase of \$437.69 million against last FY, whereas the public sector saw a decrease of \$58.68 million.

Meanwhile, import of capital goods such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel and air-

plane parts, amounted to \$3.27 billion, which was an increase of \$138.7 million, compared to that in similar period of last FY 2017-2018.

Intermediate goods make up most of the imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items.

The import value of raw materials is up by \$202.9 million against last FY.

Total import was valued at \$9.35 billion, whereas in the similar period during last FY, \$8.63 billion worth of import was seen. — GNLM ■

Myanmar to negotiate with Saudi Arabia on fish import ban

By May Thet Hnin

MYANMAR will negotiate again with Saudi Arabia concerning the latter’s suspension of fish imports from Myanmar, starting from 1 April, according to Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

A delegation led by officials of the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is planning to leave for Dubai to join a seafood show, which will be held at the end of October, and they are also arranging for a negotiation meeting again, said U Win Kyaing, secretary of MFF.

“The government officials have agreed MFF’s request for negotiations with Saudi Arabia. We hope this will happen. The government will lead the delegation, accompanying our representatives”, he continued.

Saudi Arabia has temporarily suspended fish and prawn imports from Myanmar, following the detection

of prawn disease.

At the beginning of 2017, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) detected white tail disease in freshwater prawns, bred in Myanmar. This prawn disease occurred in the beginning of 2017.

It has been already reported to OIE that the disease was not found in freshwater prawns this year. But, Saudi Arabia keeps imposing ban on fish and prawn imports from Myanmar.

Thereafter, officials from the two countries conducted a series of discussions. Saudi Arabia committed to an inspection tour to Myanmar. However, they have not made it until now.

Preparations are being made to negotiate with them again in order for local suppliers not to suffer for a long term.

Rohu farming ponds are primarily found in Twantay, Dedaye, Maubin, Kyaiklat, Pantanaw, Nyaungdon, Hlegu, Htantabin, Taikkyi, Letpadan,

Kayan townships. Domestic consumption accounts for only 25 per cent of production, whereas the remaining 75 per cent is mainly dependent on Saudi Arabia and Dubai.

A small portion of export also goes to Bangladesh. Forty per cent of Myanmar’s rohu export places on Saudi market while 30 per cent of other farmed fish are also exported to Saudi Arabia.

“High aqua feed hikes up production cost and fish price has been brought down to production cost.

Fish price in August, this year, dropped by Ks500-700 per viss (3.6 lb) compared to similar period of last year. Some farm fish only on a manageable scale”, said U San Htike from Manthit fish depot.

There are some 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the county, and Myanmar has earned US\$717 million through its fishery products as of March. ■

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Mawlamyine University faculty, law students visit Union Election Commission



UEC Chairman meets with faculty members and students of Department of Law from Mawlamyine University on an observation trip to Union Election Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Chairman of the Union Election Commission (UEC), UEC members, and officials from the UEC office received an observation group from Mawlamyine University, led by the head professor of the Department of Law and including 6 faculty members and 68 fifth-year law students, at the meeting hall of the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein delivered an address at the meeting hall, and first explained that the UEC is formed with 7 members, including the chairman, and that the main task of the UEC is to facilitate elections. He said a byelection to elect Hluttaw representatives vacant constituents is held, once the general election is completed. He said the election timeline can be divided into three parts; the pre-election period, the election period, and the post-election period.

The chairman said the pre-election period is a time for

amending laws and by-laws, strategic planning, and providing legal training and operational training to the staff and the relevant sub-commissions. He said the election period is for ensuring voters can exercise their voting rights, a peaceful transaction of the election, and for announcing the results of the election. He said the post-election period is for forming tribunals to review and respond to notes of protest concerning the election.

The UEC successfully carried out the 2017 byelections after 2015, and will carry out the 2018 byelections on 3 November, said the chairman.

The chairman said all countries that adhere to a democratic system holds elections. He said elections allow citizens to elect and appoint Hluttaw representatives whom they trust will implement the three branches of government, them being the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. He said the

UEC carries out these responsibilities while maintaining their five policies of freedom, equality, transparency, mutual trust, and results that conform with the will of the nation's citizens.

The chairman said that since the observation group present is made up of law students, they would have to observe and discover about election laws and bylaws, electoral process and procedures, the importance of an election for a nation, and the responsibility of the citizens, so that they disseminate this information to the public and be involved in the national establishment process, no matter how small the role may seem.

Next, the UEC officials gave explanations about their respective department's processes. This was followed by a Q&A session between the students and UEC officials, after which the UEC Chairman delivered the closing speech and concluded the event. —MNA

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

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 17/2018 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 29 September.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 29 September.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 3 October issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. —GNLM

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear civil cases

CHIEF JUSTICE of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court judges U Myint Aung and U Khin Maung Kyi of Special Appellate Bench sat at Union Supreme Court Room number 1 yesterday morning and heard four (Certiorari) civil cases and passed judgment on six (Certiorari) civil cases. —MNA



GAC Motor, showcased its signature vehicle models in Myanmar Plaza promotion area starting from 28 to 30 September. Models include the GS7, GM8, GS8, GS4, GS3 and GA4. —GNLM

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (41/2018) commences



Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu delivers a speech at the inauguration ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (41/2018) in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE inauguration ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (41/2018), conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at Wunzinminyarzar Hall of the Ministry in Yangon at 10:00 am yesterday, with opening remarks delivered by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present on the occasion were retired Myanmar Ambassadors, Directors-General and responsible officials of the departments under the ministry, senior diplomats, professors and instructors, as well

as trainees.

The 13-week long course comprises the subjects related to diplomacy, negotiation skills, international law, international conferencing, international relations and economics. Basic Diplomatic Skills (BDS) Course runs annually for those who have to engage in international relations, from private and public sectors, young graduates and those who want to learn more on those subjects.

The BDS Course was first introduced in 2000 and run twice a year. — MNA

Ordinary passport holders from Japan, ROK, China, Hong Kong, Macau welcomed at Ygn airport

A CEREMONY was held yesterday at Level 3 of Terminal 1 at the Yangon International Airport that introduced visa free arrangements to Myanmar for ordinary passport holders from Japan, South Korea, and from the special administrative regions of China — Macau and Hong Kong, and visa-on-arrival services for Chinese tourists arriving by flight. The ceremony also welcomed the aforementioned tourists.

Attending the ceremony were Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, South Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang-hwa, the consul

from the Chinese Embassy, the deputy director-general from the Department of Civil Aviation, the deputy director-general from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the administrative director from Aerodrome Co. Ltd, departmental officials, and invited guests.

Union Minister U Ohn Maung first delivered the opening speech and then took a documentary photo before touring inside Terminal 1.

Afterwards, the Union Minister, together with the Chinese military attaché, and other officials greeted and welcomed the 109 Chinese tourists from Air China (CA-415) flight and gave them gifts. The tourists were entertained with Kyaukse elephant dance, Thu Nge Taw dance, and



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung welcomes tourists at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Shwe Yoe-Daw Moe dance.

Similarly, in the evening, the Union Minister, together with the Japanese Ambassador and the administrative director from Aerodrome Co. Ltd, greeted and welcomed 131 Japanese tourists

from All Nippon Airways (NH-813) flight and gave them gifts and souvenir cards.

The Partners Co. Ltd. and East Field Co. Ltd. from Japan also gifted a specially made mascot figure to the Union Minister.

Later at night, South Korean tourists from Korea Air (KE-471) flight were also welcomed with gifts and entertained with Kyaukse elephant dance, Thu Nge Taw dance, and U Shwe Yoe-Daw Moe dance. — MNA ■

JMC-U delegation observes peace process in Nepal



A delegation of JMC-U poses for a documentary photo before departure for Nepal at the Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

A DELEGATION from the Union-level Joint Monitoring Committee — (JMC-U), led by Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, left for Nepal yesterday to observe the peace process in the country. The delegation flew from Yangon to Bangkok, Thailand, and then flew from there to Kathmandu Airport in Nepal.

The JMC-U observation trip is arranged by the Norwegian embassy in Yangon and will be six days long.

During the six-day JMC-U observation trip, the delegation

will meet with the Vice President of Nepal Mr. Nanda Kishor Pun, Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Gyawali, other government officials, and individuals who were involved in Nepal's peace process.

The JMC-U observation delegation consists of 15 members, including Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Vice-Chair 2 Sai Myo Thant, JMC-U members Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, and Rev. Saw Matthew Aye. — Nyunt Ko Ko ■

Myanmar signs Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free Terrorism

A HIGH-LEVEL Special Event for signature of the “Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free Terrorism” was held on 28 September 2018 at ECOSOC Chamber of the United Nations Headquarters in New York, organized by Kazakhstan, during the 73rd General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Myanmar delegation handed over the document, signed by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, Ambassador U Hau Do Suan, to H.E. Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minis-

ter for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan at the event.

The special event was also attended by Under Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism H.E. Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security H.E. Mr. Smail Chergui, Chair of the United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee and Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations H.E. Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Chair of the Advisory Board of UNCCT and the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United

Nations H.E. Ambassador Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi and high-level delegates from other states that have signed the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct will help to promote a global alliance of countries committed to prevent and fight against terrorism. Likewise, it also creates a venue for the countries to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations to implement recommendation embedded in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) and United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review. — MNA ■



Ambassador U Hau Do Suan poses for a photo with participants at the High-Level Special Event for signature of the “Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free Terrorism” in New York. **PHOTO: MNA**

Peaceful approach

THE 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) continued its fourth day meeting on 28 September 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. Myanmar delegation leader U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, delivered a general debate statement.

First, the Union Minister suggested that the United Nations should take constructive and peaceful approaches to create a better organization which is relevant to all nations. He then said, “We must not forget the core principles of the UN Charter, including the principle of sovereign equality. It is only through constructive and peaceful approaches that we will be able to create a better United Nations.”

In fact, the Union Minister reminded us of the need to strengthen the role of this important organization to overcome the complex challenges we face today,

while prioritizing the principles of equality and correct, fair and peaceful approach in solving the issues in connection with human rights.

The ARSA attacks of 2017 were not only against the security forces but also against diverse communities inhabiting Rakhine State. The attacks opened a chapter of fear and instability that led to a large outflow of refugees to Bangladesh. The attempts to mete out punishments in connection with the said displacement, without seeing the

problem from both angles, is against UN principles.

International attention has been focused on the outflow of those people while overlooking the broader picture of the various reasons, immediate as well as longstanding, that brought about the displacement. Nevertheless, the Government of Myanmar has persisted in its sincere efforts to address as a whole, the need for stability, reconciliation, and development to all communities in Rakhine State.

We recognize the crucial role of the United Nations in addressing the issue of Rakhine State and the present humanitarian crisis in particular. Accordingly, the Government of Myanmar signed an MoU with the UNDP and the UNHCR and is cooperating with the two UN bodies. At a time when we are working hard to build harmony on the ground, we are concerned that the release of a report, based on narratives and not on hard evidence, would only serve to inflame tensions further and potentially hinder our efforts to create the much-needed social cohesion in Rakhine State.

Anyhow, we the people of Myanmar are determined to solve the domestic problem with our own strength through peaceful approaches as our spirit remains ever strong. What's more, we all are standing in unity, ready to face all kinds of challenges in bringing peace, progress and national harmony in Rakhine State as well as in the whole of Myanmar.

Uplifting country's economy by promoting tourism

By Shin Min

A roundtable business discussion was held at MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw recently, during which matters relating to tourism were explored. Following are discussions by U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, U Khin Zaw, Advisor at Myanmar Tourism Federation, Daw Khin Than Win, Deputy Director General for Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Daw May Myat Mon Win, Chairperson of Myanmar Tourism Promotion Board, U Thet Lwin Toe, Chairperson of Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association, and U Aung Myo Min Din, Chairperson of Myanmar Hotelier Association.

Q: Here in this business discussion this week, we shall start our discussion titled, "Country's economy can be enhanced by promoting tourism". First and foremost, I would like to request our Union Minister to give a brief account of the performance of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

U Ohn Maung, Union Minister: As for our Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, efforts are being made to boost the tourism industry by laying down six national tourism policies, with the approval of the Central Committee for the Development of the National Tourism Industry, led by Vice President U Henry Van Thio. We, especially, aim at achieving poverty reduction, creating employment opportunities, improving human resource development and developing tourism destinations. Although our ministry is not a major source of income for the country, we are trying our best to earn foreign currency from the tourism industry. Implementation processes are being made to preserve and conserve natural environment, traditional heritages and customs of the local people in order to sustain the development of tourism industry while adopting the six national tourism policies in the community.

Tourism development

The ministry has designated Community-based Tourism (CBT) and Eco Tourism in the interests of local community in order to enjoy the benefits in a short period of time. As for the ministry, plans are under way to promote CBT in many areas, including Kyaikthale village in Twantay Township, Yangon Region.



Q: Could you explain about the implementation process of Community-based Tourism in Myanmar?

U Khin Zaw, Advisor: If globe-trotters from western countries go to a particular region, they usually have a sense of what to contribute to the local community, and return home bringing back experience from the local community. Thus, if we can offer tourists an authentic cultural exposure, I am sure that the CBT and Eco Tourism will flourish.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been making necessary arrangements for ASEAN+3 countries, such as Japan, South Korea and China, to gain easy access to study ways of life of the local community.

Daw Khin Than Win, Deputy Director General: Tourism is also called a "Smokeless Indus-

try", because it can make direct contribution to the economic development of the country, earning foreign currency besides creating employment opportunities. What I want to say is that the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is closely cooperating with eleven other associations. Currently, the ministry is supervising and monitoring the implementation process, as it had already drawn up the tourism master plan 2013 as well as policy documents regarding sustainable and community-based tourism, with the private partnership for human resource development.

Q: How do you manage the promotion of tourism marketing?

Daw May Myat Mon Win, Chairperson: Our association founded the Myanmar Marketing Company in 1996 and managed to put up proposals. At that time, tourism industry was quite hard to oper-

ate and resources were also very limited. Now, we even have the Myanmar Tourism Association. Within two or three years' time, the ministry started to provide assistance to private sector enterprises. With cooperation between the ministry and private partnerships, we are aiming to become one of the best destinations for tourists.

Tourism & Travel shows

To implement this, we went to tourism & travel shows four or five times a year, and this year we have already planned to go to some 19 shows held in South Korea, Japan, Europe, Australia, etc. We are going to implement tourism destination objectives by using modern techniques, including the Internet, mobile phones and digital platform.

U Thet Lwin Toe, Chairperson: The Union of Myanmar Travel

Association (UMTA) was formed under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels & Tourism in the year 2002 and is the principal association formed with the expressed purpose of organizing the private sector travel agencies, tour operators and travel-related businesses in the promotion of Myanmar as a premier travel destination. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is now working on a policy that encourages an all-inclusive tourism. Tourism can bring in a significant contribution to raising foreign exchange earnings. That's why we are discussing on how to relax some rules and regulations.

U Aung Myo Min Din, Chairperson: Well, the Myanmar Hotelier Association (MHA) was set up in 2003 under the close supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. MHA has, over the years, become a strong organization

and has established 19 hotelier associations in major tourist destinations, running under six main committees.

Q: What would be the major efforts for the development of Myanmar tourism?

U Ohn Maung, Union Minister: The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has laid down policies to promote tourism development. We have drawn up a new tourism law, with the cooperation of relevant ministries, UMTA, businesspersons and experts. The ministry has submitted the new Hotels and Tourism Law (draft) to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. After approval, regional and state governments will have the authority to grant license, currently managed by the ministry, thereby enabling hoteliers and tour operators to apply for work license in their own regions.

Daw Khin Than Win, Deputy Director General: The Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Law was prescribed in 1993 and we are still using it. As the Union Minister just mentioned, the new law will include three committees. The new Central Development Committee for the Tourism Industry has been formed in line with Union government's Order No 19/2017 for the development of tourism, including main projects and strategies. It will deal with respective ministries and departments in states and regions for the development of the tourism sector. The committee is tasked with boosting tourism development in rural areas, and in turn improving the socio-economic development of the people.

Q: Can the Union Minister discuss your plans for the tourism industry for the remaining tenure of the government?

U Ohn Maung, Union Minister: I am a hotelier who is familiar with the hotel industry, and I foresee the tourism market as very promising in the future. Myanmar is well endowed with natural beauties, including snow-capped mountains, that can help expand the tourism business of the country.

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung



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EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at (01:30) hours MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (6) miles northeast of Singu) latitude 22.62°N, longitude 96.04°E, depth (10) kilometers about (42) miles north of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (01)hr. (01)min (30)sec MST on 1 October 2018.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 1 October 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing and Magway regions, Northern Shan State, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Ayeyawady Region, Kachin and (Southern and Eastern)Shan states, scattered in Rakhine State and isolated in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Myaungmya (4.33) inches, Hmawbi (3.66) inches, Patheingyi (1.81)inches, Pinlaung and An (0.97)inch each, Mogoke (0.90)inch and Myittha (0.59)inch.

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 2 October 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah states and fairly widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally Heavy falls in Mandalay Region and isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing Region. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (2 - 5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Iran fires missiles against 'terrorist' camp in Syria

TEHRAN — Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Monday they had launched a missile attack against a "terrorist" headquarters in Syria in retaliation for a September attack on the Iranian city of Ahvaz.

"The headquarters of those responsible for the terrorist crime in Ahvaz was attacked a few minutes ago east of the Euphrates by several ballistic missiles fired by the aerospace branch of the Guardians of the Revolution," the Guards said on their official website.

"Based on preliminary reports, many takfiri terrorists and the leaders responsible for the terrorist crime in Ahvaz have been killed or wounded in this missile attack," the Guards added.

The term "takfiri", derived

from the Arabic word for anathema, is used by the Iranian authorities to refer to Sunni jihadists.

The Guards did not say where the missiles were launched from.

According to Iran's Fars news agency, the Guards fired Zolfaghar and Qiam missiles, with a range of 750 kilometres and 800 kilometres (465 and 500 miles), respectively.

On 22 September, 24 people were shot dead in an attack at a military parade in Ahvaz in southwest Iran. The Islamic State group, which Iran and its Damascus allies are fighting in Syria, has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani had vowed a "crushing" response in retaliation.—AFP ■



Iran Revolutionary Guard photo shows missiles being launched from an undisclosed location to target militants in eastern Syria. **PHOTO: AFP**

Israel says ready for UN crossing with Syria to reopen

JERUSALEM (Undefined) — Israel is prepared to open its side of the crossing point with Syria following the return of UN peacekeepers to the Golan Heights following a four-year absence, the army said.

Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman "authorised the re-opening of the Alpha gate of the Quneitra crossing between Israel and Syria, allowing the UN to resume activity via the crossing pending Syria's reopening their side," it said in a statement Saturday.

The UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) re-

sumed its patrols in the area of the crossing point in August, after withdrawing in 2014 when Al-Qaeda-linked rebels overran the area, three years into Syria's devastating civil war.

The return of UNDOF was made possible after Syrian government forces, backed by Russia, recaptured territory near the Golan, driving out rebel groups from a "de-escalation zone" agreed by Jordan, Russia and the United States.

Quneitra crossing is "an operational crossing for UNDOF in the implementation of its mandate," according to Nick

Birnback, a spokesman for UN Peacekeeping in New York.

UNDOF is working to "complete the rehabilitation of the Quneitra crossing" which is expected to be reopened soon, Birnback said in an email on Friday.

Israel seized much of the Golan Heights from Syria in the Six-Day War of 1967 and later annexed it in a move not recognised by the international community.

Established in 1974, UNDOF monitors a ceasefire line separating Israeli-occupied parts of the Golan Heights from Syria.

The Quneitra crossing was used by Druze living on the Israeli

side travelling to Syria for higher education or weddings. Druze farmers also exported apples to Syria through Quneitra.

At a tour of the Israeli side of the crossing on Thursday, Lieberman said that once Quneitra was open, authorities would have to "consider each possibility (for the crossing's use) according to the security situation".

"We're in different times now," he said.

Israel was "ready to open the crossing as it had been in the past", Lieberman told journalists accompanying him at the site.

"The ball is now in the Syri-

ans' court."

Syria's transport ministry also said Saturday its main border crossing with Jordan would reopen to trade next month for the first time in three years, although Amman said consultations were still ongoing.

Syrian government troops retook the Syrian side of the crossing in July under a deal with rebel fighters brokered by Moscow.

It had been sealed completely since rebels overran it in April 2015, choking off one of the most important trade routes for the government.—AFP ■

Nigeria's main unions suspend national strike

ABUJA (Nigeria) — Nigeria's main labour unions on Sunday suspended a national strike and announced further talks with the government about raising the minimum wage.

The blue collar Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and its white collar counterpart the Trade Union Congress (TUC) launched the strike on Wednesday. The unions have proposed a new monthly minimum wage of between 45,000 naira and 65,000 naira (\$125-\$180, 107-154 euros) against the current 18,000 naira.

NLC president Ayuba Wabba told reporters an invitation had

been received to resume talks with the government and private sector representatives on 4 and 5 October.

"We demand that this shall be the final session of the committee and a final report will be submitted to Mr President immediately," Wabba said in Nigeria's capital of Abuja. "In order to avail the committee of the necessary conducive environment to hold this crucial meeting and conclude it's work, organised labour has... decided to suspend the strike action with effect from today, Sunday 30 September, 2018," Wabba said.—AFP ■

Boko Haram commander killed over 'planned surrender'

KANO (Nigeria) — A Boko Haram commander was killed by his comrades over his alleged plan to surrender and handover hundreds of hostages to the Nigerian military, two sources told AFP on Sunday.

Ali Gaga was shot and killed on Thursday by other commanders in the IS-affiliated faction of Boko Haram after they uncovered his plan to surrender to Nigerian troops fighting the jihadist group in the Lake Chad region.

Gaga had arranged to rescue 300 hostages being held by the Islamists and hand them over to

troops before turning himself in.

His death comes after the group's de facto leader Mamman Nur was killed by radical lieutenants who accused him of betrayal and back channel peace talks with authorities, sparking fears of a hardline takeover in Boko Haram.

"The new leadership of the faction got to know of his plans and executed him," said one source about Gaga, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Gaga was forced to join the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in 2015 after the group seized his herd of cattle,

the source said. After joining the group he was trained in weapons handling and valued because of his mastery of the difficult terrain as a herder. He was in touch with some mediators and had concluded arrangements to switch sides and "take along around 300 hostages with him when the group found out", said a second source.

"Once they found out he was declared a traitor and killed."

The Nigerian military has in recent weeks intensified aerial bombings in the Lake Chad region where ISWAP is based, military sources told AFP.—AFP ■

US, Japanese pair win Nobel Medicine Prize for cancer therapy

STOCKHOLM (Sweden) — Two immunologists, James Allison of the US and Tasuku Honjo of Japan, won the 2018 Nobel Medicine Prize for research into how the body's natural defences can fight cancer, the jury said on Monday.

Unlike more traditional forms of cancer treatment that directly target cancer cells, Allison and Honjo figured out how to help the patient's own immune system tackle the cancer more quickly.

The award-winning discovery led to treatments targeting proteins made by some immune system cells that act as a "brake" on the body's natural defences killing cancer cells.

The Nobel Assembly said after announcing the prize in Stockholm that the therapy "has now revolutionised cancer treatment and has fundamentally changed the way we view how cancer can be managed."

In 1995, Allison was one of two scientists to identify the ligand CTLA-4 as an inhibitory receptor on T-cells.

T-cells are a type of white blood cell that play a central role in the body's natural immunity to disease.

Allison, 70, "realised the potential of releasing the brake and thereby unleashing our immune cells to attack tumours," the Nobel jury said during Monday's prize announcement in Stockholm.

Around the same time, Honjo discovered a protein on immune cells, the ligand PD-1, and eventually realised that it also worked a brake, but it acted differently.

Writing on his cancer centre's website, Allison said he was "honoured and humbled to



Members of the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine sit in front of a screen displaying James P Allison (l) and Tasuku Honjo, the winners of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, during a press conference at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden on 1 October, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

receive this prestigious recognition".

Antibodies against PD-1 have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration as an investigational new drug and developed for the treatment of cancer.

Research by Allison's team has meanwhile led to the development of a monoclonal antibody drug, which was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2011 for the treatment of melanoma.

"For more than 100 years, scientists attempted to engage the immune system in the fight against cancer. Until the seminal discoveries by the two laureates, progress into clinical development was modest," the Nobel jury said.

Allison, a professor at the University of Texas, and Honjo, a professor at Kyoto University, were in 2014 awarded the Tang

Prize, touted as Asia's version of the Nobels, for their research.

New therapies 'desperately needed'

Other cancer treatments have previously been awarded Nobel prizes, including methods for hormone treatment for prostate cancer in 1966, chemotherapy in 1988 and bone marrow transplantation for leukaemia in 1990.

"However, advanced cancer remains immensely difficult to treat, and novel therapeutic strategies are desperately needed," the Nobel Assembly said.

The duo will share the Nobel prize sum of nine million Swedish kronor (about \$1.01 million or 870,000 euros).

They will receive their prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on 10 December, the anniversary of the 1896 death of Alfred Nobel

who created the prizes in his last will and testament.

Last year, US geneticists Jeffrey Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael Young were awarded the medicine prize for their research on the role of genes in setting the "circadian clock" which regulates sleep and eating patterns, hormones and body temperature.

The winners of this year's physics prize will be announced on Tuesday, followed by the chemistry prize on Wednesday. The peace prize will be announced on Friday, and the economics prize will wrap up the Nobel season on Monday, 8 October.

For the first time since 1949, the Swedish Academy has postponed the announcement of the 2018 Nobel Literature Prize until next year, amid a #MeToo scandal and bitter internal dispute that has prevented it from functioning properly. — AFP ■

Brief in News

Germany approves extradition of Iran diplomat over bomb 'plot': court

BERLIN (Germany) — A German court said Monday it gave the green light for a Iranian diplomat linked to an alleged bomb plot against an Iranian opposition rally to be handed over to Belgium. The superior regional court in Bamberg said in a statement that it had on 27 September approved the extradition of the Iranian diplomat based in Vienna who has been named as Assadollah Assadi. "The wanted man cannot cite diplomatic immunity because he was on a several day holiday trip outside his host state Austria and not travelling between his host country and the state that dispatched him," the court said. — AFP ■

Pro-independence protesters in Catalonia block roads, railway line: TV

BARCELONA (Spain) — Pro-independence protesters obstructed major roads and a high-speed railway line in Spain's Catalonia region on Monday, one year after a banned referendum on secession that was marred by police violence. Hundreds of activists occupied the high-speed railway tracks in Girona, north of Barcelona, while the central streets in Barcelona and Lleida were blocked, as was the AP-7 motorway which leads to the French border, images on Catalan TV showed. — AFP ■

Three killed in rare US car blast

WASHINGTON (United States) — Autopsies are expected on Monday on the bodies of three men killed in a US car blast, a rare event which tight-lipped police called a criminal case.

The explosion in Allentown, Pennsylvania late Saturday, turned the car into a fireball and before it was reduced to twisted metal.

"It burst into flames while it was still going," Anthony Sealy, a witness, told WGAL TV. Coroner Scott Grim confirmed three men had been killed, but police said the victims were still being identified. — AFP ■

Party members join EU in rejecting May's Brexit plan

BIRMINGHAM (United Kingdom) — While Prime Minister Theresa May is doggedly defending her Brexit plan, delegates at her party's annual conference have joined the EU in writing it off — and suggest her own time in office is limited.

Conservative party members queued for two hours on Sunday to see leading Brexiteer Jacob Rees-Mogg denounce May's "Chequers plan" for close economic ties with the EU, one of half a dozen events he is addressing in Birmingham.

Across town, several Tory Eurosceptic MPs joined former

UK Independence Party (UKIP) leader Nigel Farage in demanding a clean break with the EU, at a rally attended by around 500 people waving British flags.

Similar crowds are expected at a conference event on Tuesday with former minister Boris Johnson, a rival for May's job who has condemned her plan as "deranged". "The prime minister is completely out of touch with the majority of party members," Michael Wilkins, 53, told AFP at the rally, seated near a giant poster saying "Save Brexit".

Many eurosceptic Tories want May to ditch her plan for

Britain to follow EU rules for goods, and instead secure a looser free trade agreement for after Brexit in March next year.

May insists her way is the only one that protects manufacturing supply lines and keeps open the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

After EU leaders in Salzburg last month rejected the plan, she demanded they show her "respect" in a defiant statement that went down well with party members.

"It was the sort of vigour we have been wanting to see from her," said Alexandra Philips, a

former UKIP member who is now a member of the Conservatives.

Listen to the people

Many of her critics have accused May of a lack of enthusiasm over Brexit, citing the fact she opposed leaving the EU in the 2016 referendum.

"It is stupid that after the biggest vote we have had in British history, we've got someone in charge who didn't believe in it," said Stuart Lloyd, 50, from near Birmingham, at the rally. He backed Johnson as a new leader, and "if not him, someone with those kind of views". — AFP ■

North and South Korea start land mine removal in DMZ

SEOUL — North and South Korea began work on Monday to remove land mines buried in the demilitarized zone dividing the two countries, the South's Defence Ministry said.

The mine removal work, which started at the Joint Security Area at the Panmunjeom border village, is part of an agreement between the two Koreas reached last month to reduce military tension on the border. It is expected to last until 20 October at the JSA and until 30 November at a former major battleground where they plan to conduct a joint excavation of remains from the 1950-53 Korean War.

At a summit in Pyongyang last month between South Korean President Moon Jae In and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the two Koreas signed a military agreement pledging to cease all hostile acts against each other.

The ministry sees the land mine removal work as the first step toward preventing armed conflict between the Koreas, a goal stipulated in the side



South Korean President Moon Jae In (R) and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un shake hands across the border between their countries at Panmunjeom in the Demilitarized Zone on April 27, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

agreement.

The DMZ is a 4-kilometre wide, 250-km long stretch of land. The JSA is separated by the Military Demarcation Line, which runs through the middle of the DMZ.

The two Koreas have agreed to disarm personnel at the JSA, which is patrolled by South Korean and US troops, on one side, and North Korean soldiers, on the other. —Kyodo News ■

India believes in peace but not at cost of self respect

NEW DELHI — India staunchly believes in peace and is committed to taking it forward, but it would not be at the cost of compromising its self-respect and sovereignty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday as he asserted that the armed forces will give a befitting reply to any attempt to destroy the atmosphere of peace in the country.

Recalling the 2016 surgical strikes, he said Indian troops gave a befitting reply to the "audacity of a proxy war" under the "garb of terrorism."

In his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio address, Modi said, "It has now been decided that our soldiers will give a befitting reply to whosoever makes an attempt to destroy the atmosphere of peace and progress in our nation."

He said India staunchly believe in peace and is committed to taking it forward, "but not at the cost of compromising our self-respect and sovereignty of our nation. India has always been resolutely committed to peace."

India has never eyed someone else's territory maliciously. "This in itself was our commitment and dedication towards peace," the PM said.

His remarks came days after India called off the planned meeting of foreign ministers in New York, citing the brutal kill-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PHOTO: PTI

ings of three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Ministry of External Affairs had said talks in the current circumstances would be futile and also cited stamps issued by Pakistan in July to "glorify" Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani as a reason for the cancellation.

Modi pointed out that India is one of the largest contributors to various United Nations Peace Keeping Forces in terms of sending its personnel.

"For decades, our brave soldiers wearing blue helmets have played a stellar role in ensuring maintenance of world peace," he said to drive home his point. He said yesterday Indians celebrated 'Paraakram Parva' to mark the second anniversary of the surgical strikes. "We remembered that surgical strike carried out in 2016, where our soldiers gave a befitting reply to the audacity of a proxy war under the garb of terrorism," he said. He said

such celebrations remind the youth of the glorious heritage of the army. "It also inspires us to maintain the unity & integrity of the country," he said.

Days before Air Force Day is celebrated on 8 October to mark its birth in 1932, Modi said "air warriors" have proved themselves to be the cynosure of every citizen's eye through display of sheer might in the skies.

He also recalled the contribution of the IAF in transporting men and material to Srinagar in 1947 when Pakistani attackers had tried to capture Jammu and Kashmir.

He said IAF played a key role in 1965, 1971 and the Kargil war. He said be it the relief and rescue work or disaster management, the country is indebted to the IAF for its commendable efforts.

He pointed out that the Air Force has set an example in ensuring gender equality and has opened its doors for women. — PTI ■

Death toll from Indonesia's quakes, tsunami soars to over 1,200

JAKARTA — Death toll of earthquakes and tsunami in Central Sulawesi province of central Indonesia has climbed to 1,203 on Monday.

Reports released by Disaster Management Institute of Indonesia, Care for Humanity and Humanity Data Center revealed that the data was counted in the provincial capital of Palu and Donggala district, not including figures from two other affected districts of Parigi Moutong and North Mamuju.

The data was obtained from four hospitals and three villages, one sub-district and one police station, as well as one mosque in Palu city and Donggala district.

Powerful and shallow under-earth quakes of measuring 6.0, 7.4 and 6.1 magnitude and a tsunami devastated the province on Friday, with the hardest-hit area being provincial capital Palu and Donggala district.

A total of 215 after-shocks have stricken the province so far.

The tsunami with the height of 0.5 to 3 meters devastated coastal areas near Talisa beach in Palu city and Donggala district, the meteorology and geophysics agency revealed.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes as it sits on a vulnerable quake-affected areas called the Pacific Ring of Fire. —Xinhua ■

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V STC COLUMBUS V- are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Two dead, over 150 injured as powerful typhoon wreaks havoc in Japan

TOKYO — A powerful typhoon swept through Japan's largest main island on Sunday through early Monday, leaving at least two people dead and over 150 others injured, while widely disrupting morning-hour commuter traffic in Tokyo.

Typhoon Trami passed over northeastern Japan to reach the Pacific on Monday morning after making landfall in western Japan the previous night. It rap-

idly traversed eastern and northern parts of Honshu, severely affecting the Tokyo metropolitan area, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The typhoon, the season's 24th, forced public transportation operators to shut down their services early Sunday in central, eastern and western Japan.

The resumption of services in the capital was delayed Monday morning

for safety checks and falling trees.

A 50-year-old truck driver was killed by a landslide in Tottori, western Japan, another man was found in a river and later confirmed dead in Yamanashi, west of Tokyo, and a woman in her 60s went missing in Miyazaki, southwestern Japan, after being washed away in an irrigation ditch, according to local authorities.

Major train stations in

the metropolitan area were overcrowded in the morning as services remained disrupted following massive cancellations since the day before, while many flights were cancelled through Monday.

"I won't make it on time because trains are way behind schedule," said a woman in her 40s who was commuting to her office in Fuchu, western Tokyo. "I don't know what time I will get there."

A train on the Keio Line collided with a wall that had collapsed over a railway in the capital's Setagaya Ward around 4:45 am. None of its 70 passengers were injured, and its operator Keio Corp. resumed services about four hours later.

East Japan Railway Co shut down all of its train services in the metropolitan area Sunday evening and had only resumed them partially by 9 am on Monday. The company said it was the first time it had stopped services early in Tokyo and surrounding areas after informing the public of its plans before-

hand.

Central Japan Railway Co. stopped all bullet trains on the Tokaido Shinkansen Line between Tokyo and Shin-Osaka after 5 pm on Sunday. The services were resumed around 7:30 am on Monday.

Shinkansen trains between Shin-Osaka and Hiroshima as well as many local railway services in western Japan were also halted on Sunday.

Kansai International Airport in Osaka, which was temporarily crippled by a typhoon in early September, reopened at 6 am, although many of the flights scheduled in the morning had been cancelled.

Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways plan to cancel more than 180 flights on Monday as massive cancellations of flights the previous day have made it difficult for them to arrange aircrafts.

The typhoon also caused power outage at some 450,000 households in Tokyo and its vicinities as of early Monday. Hachioji in the Tokyo suburbs saw

winds of up to 164 kilometres per hour, the fastest on record in the city, in the early hours.

Some 860,000 households in central Japan and 57,000 households in northeastern Japan and Niigata Prefecture were left without power as well.

As of 10 am on Monday, the typhoon was traveling northeast around 130 km east of Cape Erimo in Hokkaido at a speed of some 95 km with an atmospheric pressure of 970 hectopascals at its centre and packing winds of up to 180 kph, according to the agency.

Japan has been hit by a series of typhoons this year, including Typhoon Prapiroon, which brought downpours and caused floods and mudslides in western Japan.

On 4 September, Typhoon Jebi flooded a terminal and a runway at Kansai airport, built on an artificial island, and caused a tanker to smash into and damage a bridge connecting the airport with the mainland, stranding thousands of people at the airport at one point.—Kyodo News ■



Work is underway to clear a tree knocked down by Typhoon Trami from a street in Tokyo on 1 October, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

UN report on 'mission impossible' climate target

PARIS (France) — An executive summary of the UN special report on limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will be vetted in South Korea this week, line-by-line, by diplomats under the 195-nation Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

A draft version of this "Summary for Policymakers" obtained by AFP underscores how quickly global warming has outstripped humanity's attempts to tame it, and outlines stark options — all of them requiring a makeover of the global economy — for avoiding the worst ravages of climate change.

Here are key findings, grounded in some 6,000 peer-reviewed scientific studies:

Topline finding

The report lays out what it will take to prevent Earth's average surface temperature from rising beyond 1.5°C (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels.

Given an increase to date of a full degree Celsius, and our current trajectory toward an unliveable plus 3°C or 4°C world, the already narrow pathway to a 1.5°C cap has become a tightrope. At current levels of greenhouse gas emissions, the IPCC report finds with "high confidence", we will zoom past the 1.5°C marker around 2040.

To have at least a 50/50 chance of a 1.5°C world, the global economy must, by 2050, become "carbon neutral," with no additional CO₂ going into the atmosphere.

Carbon dioxide emissions, meanwhile, should peak not later than 2020, and curve sharply downward from there.

To date, we are still moving the wrong way: after remaining stable for three years — raising hopes the peak had come — emissions rose in 2017 to historic levels.

The 22-page Summary also details humanity's "carbon budget", the amount of carbon dioxide — the main greenhouse gas — we can dump into the atmosphere and still stay under the 1.5°C threshold.

The allowance, for a two-third's chance, is 550 billion tonnes, an amount we will emit on current trends within 14 years. —AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (19/ 2018)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(a)	IFB-029(18-19)	10" ERW API 5L Grade X-42 MS 3 LPE Coated Steel Line Pipes (32200) MTR	US\$
(b)	IFB-030(18-19)	8" ERW API 5L Grade X-42 MS 3 LPE Coated Steel Line Pipes (16100) MTR	US\$
(c)	IFB-031(18-19)	4" ERW API 5L Grade X-42 MS 3 LPE Coated Steel Line Pipes (16100) MTR	US\$
(d)	IFB-032(18-19)	20" LSAW API 5L Grade X-46 MS 3 LPE Coated Steel Line Pipes (24150) MTR	US\$
(e)	DMP/L-120(18-19)	13 5/8" x 5K Annular BOP Spares (2) Items	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-121(18-19)	Spares for D 3 T2 Drilling Rig Drawwork (4) Items	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-122(18-19)	Spares of Drill String, Reaming String and Break Out Unit of HDD Rig (16) Items	Ks
(h)	DMP/L-123(18-19)	Spares for Caterpillar Excavator (32) Items	Ks
(i)	DMP/L-124(18-19)	Spares for BT 5560/150 Triplex Pump Ex HDD Rig (5) Groups	Ks
(j)	DMP/L-125(18-19)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 50 D SR Rigs (16) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moe.gov.mm) as from 1 October 2018. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 29 October 2018**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time- 29-10-2018, 14:00 pm
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206

‘Night School’ passes the test in North American theaters

HOLLYWOOD (United States) — For once it was a comedy, not a superhero or horror flick, that topped North American box offices this weekend as Universal’s raucous new release “Night School” pulled in an estimated \$28 million, industry tracker *Exhibitor Relations* reported on Sunday. Kevin Hart stars as one of a group of misfits attending night school to earn their high school diplomas, under the firm tutelage of Tiffany Haddish. The film nearly paid off its \$29 million production costs over the three-day weekend, *Variety* reported.

In second was another new release, family animation “Smallfoot” from Warner Bros, which netted \$23 million. The comic tale about a group of Yeti who run into a human — to the amazement and consternation of both sides — features the voices of Channing Tatum, LeBron James, James Corden, Zendaya and Danny DeVito. Last weekend’s top attraction, Universal’s family film “The House With a Clock in Its Walls,” slipped to third spot, pulling in \$12.5 million. Jack Black and Cate Blanchett star alongside young

Owen Vaccaro as Lewis Barnavelt, an orphan sent to live with his warlock uncle.

In fourth was “A Simple Favor,” Lionsgate’s drama about a mommy blogger (Anna Kendrick) who investigates the mysterious disappearance of her friend (Blake Lively). It earned \$6.6 million. And fifth place went to horror film “The Nun” from Warner Bros, the latest fright fest in the popular “Conjuring” series. The story of a young nun, an exorcist and a guide stumbling onto a dark secret in Dracula country netted \$5.4 million.

Overall, the month brought smiles to Hollywood, ending as the second best September ever, trailing only last year’s record grosses, according to the Box-OfficeMojo website.

Rounding out this weekend’s top 10 were:

- “Hell Fest” (\$5.1 million)
- “Crazy Rich Asians” (\$4.2 million)
- “The Predator” (\$3.7 million)
- “White Boy Rick” (\$2.4 million)
- “Peppermint” (\$1.8 million) —AFP ■



Actors Tiffany Haddish and Kevin Hart are seen here at the recent Los Angeles premiere of ‘Night School,’ a raucous comedy that topped North American box offices for the three-day weekend. **PHOTO: AFP**

Gal Gadot in talks for ‘Death on the Nile’

LOS ANGELES — “Wonder Woman” star Gal Gadot is in negotiations to star in the “Death on the Nile,” Twentieth Century Fox’s follow-up to “Murder on the Orient Express”.

If the talks are finalised, the 33-year-old actor will portray socialite Linnet Doyle, recently married to the former fiancé of a past friend, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Kenneth Branagh is expected to come back as the director and reprise his role of the mus-

tachioed Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, though a deal is yet to be signed. Based on celebrated author Agatha Christie’s novel of the same name, the follow-up will chronicle Poirot’s vacation in Egypt where he discovers a murder on the banks of the Nile as a love triangle goes bad.

The book has been previously adapted into a 1978 film, with Peter Ustinov as Poirot along with Bette Davis, Mia Farrow, Maggie Smith, among others. —PTI ■



‘Juin-Octobre 1985’ by Chinese painter Zao Wou-Ki has been sold at auction for \$65 million. **PHOTO: AFP**

Abstract Zao Wou-Ki painting fetches \$65m: Sotheby’s

HONG KONG — A ten-metre-long triptych by Zao Wou-Ki — one of the 20th century’s most prominent Chinese painters — fetched \$65 million (HK\$510 million) at auction on Sunday, Sotheby’s Hong Kong said.

Entitled “Juin-Octobre 1985”, the abstract artwork was commissioned personally by the world-renowned Chinese-American architect IM Pei.

Zao and Pei were both born to affluent bankers during the Chinese Republican era. They first met in Paris in 1952 and began a long-running friendship, according to the auction house.

The triptych — Zao’s largest work — set a world auction record for the late Chinese-French artist, surpassing the \$26 million paid at Christie’s last year for the painting “29.01.64”.

The painting represents a period of Zao’s career which marks “a perfect example of how he merged Eastern and Western techniques and philosophy into the painting,” said Vinci Chang, head of modern Asian art at Sotheby’s, at a preview last week.

Born in China in 1920, Zao moved to Paris in 1948. He was influenced by Western modern-

ism and moved towards abstraction before also returning to Chinese brush-and-ink techniques by the early 1970s, according to Christie’s. He died in 2013.

Hong Kong auction houses have seen frenzied bidding among Asian buyers in recent years, with sales of diamonds, paintings and ancient ceramics shattering world records.

A nearly 1,000-year-old ink-on-paper handscroll entitled “Wood and Rock”, by one of China’s greatest literary masters Su Shi, is expected to fetch \$51 million at Christie’s Hong Kong in November. —AFP ■

Kanye West is now Ye, but unchanged on backing Trump

NEW YORK (United States) — Kanye West has decided that he now wants to be called Ye. But on political matters, nothing has changed for the pro-Donald Trump rapper.

“The being formally (sic) known as Kanye West. I am Ye,” he wrote on Twitter.

Ye has long been a nickname for West, along with Yeezy, and he chose “Ye” as the title of his last album.

He has previously said that he found a spiritual significance to “Ye” — the plural or formal version of the second-person pronoun in Middle English — as he so frequently read it in the Bible.

West — or, rather, Ye — announced the name change shortly before he appeared on “Saturday Night Live,” the widely watched television skit show.

He performed with fellow rapper Lil Pump dressed as water bottles, drawing an overwhelmingly negative reaction on social media where a number of professed fans questioned his

creative direction.

West closed the show by singing a track off “Ye” while wearing one of President Donald Trump’s signature red “Make America Great Again” caps. —AFP ■



Now known as Ye, the artist Kanye West, shown performing at the 2014 Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival in Manchester, Tennessee, is one of the few celebrities — and one of the only prominent African Americans — to support President Donald Trump. **PHOTO: AFP**

Fewer biofuels, more green space may benefit environment: study

CHICAGO — Growing and harvesting bioenergy crops, say corn for ethanol or trees to fuel power plants, is a poor use of land, which is a precious resource in the fight against climate change, said University of Michigan (UM) Energy Institute professor John DeCicco.

DeCicco's new opinion was an expansion of his earlier findings that biofuels are not inherently carbon-neutral, as they are widely purported to be.

The assumption that bioenergy simply recycles carbon is a major accounting error, DeCicco and William Schlesinger, president emeritus of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, held.

The core of the assumption is the idea that producing a biofuel and then burning it for energy moves a given amount of carbon from the biosphere to the atmosphere, and back again in an unending and stable cycle. That's in contrast to the current one-way flow of fossil-fuel carbon from the Earth to the atmosphere.

But DeCicco said he saw a problem here: For bioenergy to be actually carbon neutral, harvesting the biomass to produce it would have to greatly speed up the net flow of carbon from the atmosphere back into vegetation. Otherwise, many decades can pass before the "carbon debt" of excess carbon dioxide in the air

is repaid by future plant growth.

"All currently commercial forms of bioenergy require land and risk carbon debts that last decades into the future. Given the urgency of the climate problem, it is puzzling why some parties find these excess near-term CO2 emissions acceptable," the researchers noted.

In 2016, DeCicco published a study finding that just 37 percent, rather than 100 percent, of the carbon dioxide released from burning biofuels was balanced out by increased carbon uptake in crops over the first eight years of the U.S. biofuel mandate.

To reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere requires increasing the rate at which trees and other plants remove it from the air, DeCicco and Schlesinger pointed out.

"By avoiding deforestation and by reforesting harvested areas, up to one-third of current carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels could be sequestered in the biosphere," the researchers wrote. "Terrestrial carbon management can keep carbon out of the atmosphere for many decades."

The new opinion was published in the latest edition of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. —Xinhua ■

Russia may build first manned base on Moon's surface in 2030 — scientist



Roscosmos corporation said Russia had plans for building its own base for space crews on the surface of the Moon. **PHOTO: TASS**

MOSCOW — Russia may build the first manned base on the surface of the Moon in 2030, the chief of the nuclear planetology department at the Russian Academy of Sciences' Space Research Institute, Igor Mitrofanov, told TASS on Friday.

On Monday, Roscosmos corporation said Russia had plans for building its own base for space crews on the surface of the Moon. The possibility of cooperation with NASA or BRICS countries is being considered, the corporation said.

"I believe that Russia's first

inhabitable module on the surface of the Moon will emerge around 2030 or a little later. It will be the first forepost. Not a full-scale base yet, but a kind of guest house for visiting expeditions," Mitrofanov said. He believes that Russia is capable of carrying out such a program on its own both technologically and financially.

The first module of such a base will be equivalent in size to the module of the International Space Station. It will be planted firmly on the Moon's surface and covered

with a one-meter thick layer of lunar soil, which would protect it even from the effects of strong solar flares.

Mitrofanov said Russian cosmonauts would be able to move to the module from landing capsules, which are relatively small in size. The module would be equipped with a life support system using lunar resources, including water ice, which might be used to make fresh water and oxygen and, in the longer term, hydrogen that might serve as propellant in space rockets. —Tass ■

Nikon targets younger, net-savvy Thais to sell high-end cameras



Photo shows Nikon Corp.'s full-frame mirrorless cameras "Z7" (l), which went on sale in September 2018, and "Z6" to be released in November. **PHOTO: KYODO**

BANGKOK — Japanese camera maker Nikon Corp. has shifted its Asian sales target to a photo-uploading younger generation from professionals, offering handier models and opening its first showroom in Thailand. "The new full-frame mirrorless Z series is designed in response to demand from many customers for a cam-

era that has the great quality of DSLR (digital single-lens reflex) cameras but is lighter and easy to carry around," Toru Matsubara, president and managing director of Nikon Sales (Thailand) Co., told a recent news briefing.

Last month, Nikon launched its first full-frame mirrorless cameras. Its Sendai factory in north-

eastern Japan is producing the Z series at full capacity to meet strong demand. The company is targeting young trendsetters, women with high purchasing power and avid users of social media who regularly upload images.

Matsubara said the Thai market is solid, with constant demand for full-frame mirrorless and DSLR models.

Nikon, ranked fourth in Thailand in terms of camera market share, is trying to refresh its corporate image. "According to our survey, people perceived Nikon as a brand for a very skilled 40-year-old man who is difficult to communicate with," Veera Chaliopeyasakun-kun, general manager of the sales and marketing division at Nikon Sales (Thailand), told reporters. —Kyodo News ■

Hungarian scientific paper warns of extreme heatwaves' effects on human health

BUDAPEST — A Hungarian scientific paper published on Sunday warns people of the extreme heatwaves' effects on human health.

According to the paper, entitled "The effects of climate change on our health and healthsystem," the research by experts of Hungarian National Public Health Institute reveals "significant associations between daily mean temperature and mortality." A three-level heat health warning system based on the daily mortality and meteorological data of Budapest was introduced in 2005.

"In 2007, the strongest heat wave ever hit Hungary was recorded," the paper recalls. "Based on real time mortality data an excess mortality of 36 percent was recorded in the Central Hungarian Region."

The study notes that in the summer periods of 2003-2012, besides 2007, there were two more extreme hot summers: 2003 and 2012. The excess mortality was greater during the heat waves in June-July than in August. The association of emergency ambulance calls and daily mean temperatures was also studied using the data of Budapest. The increase of temperature significantly increased the calls due to cardiovascular diseases, while the greatest impact was revealed in the calls due to malaise, according to the paper.

The paper calls for more effective preventive measures to be in place to decrease vulnerability and enhance adaptive capacity to adverse health impacts of climate change. —Xinhua ■

Prize presentation ceremony for General Aung San Shield 2018 held

YANGON United took hold of the championship shield, winning 2-1 with a narrow margin over Hanthawady United, in the final showdown of the General Aung San Shield Knock-out Football Tournament at Yangon Aung San Stadium on 30 September.

The shield presentation ceremony came after the see-saw battle between Yangon United and Hanthawady United, attended by Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Adjutant General Lt-Gen Hsan Oo who presented the shield to the winning team of Yangon United.

First, the players of the two finalists and those who presenting the medals took positions outside the pitch and the prize presentation ceremony took place. Then, U Tin Maung Tun, Speaker of Yangon Region Parliament, gave away special prizes to the referees who were in-charge of the final match.

After that, Yangon Mayor Maung Maung Soe and Dr Sai Sam Tun, Vice-President of



Yangon United team which won the General Aung San Shield 2018 for the first time. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar Football Federation and Vice-President of Myanmar National League, presented silver medals to runners-up from Hanthawady United. Afterwards, Yoshiaki Banino, COO of MPT JO, presented K15 million to the runners-up.

Next, Yangon Chief Minister

U Phyo Min Thein and Adjutant General Lt-Gen Hsan Oo handed gold medals to the champions from the winning team of Yangon United. Subsequently, Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein, Chief of Bureau of Special Operations, presented K30 million to Yangon United, the first-ever champion of Bogyoke

Aung San's Shield.

Later, Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein presented a championship sub-shield and Adjutant General Lt-Gen Hsan Oo a championship shield to Yangon United.

Yangon United has reached the final stage for three times, but

now it has become the first-ever championship in General Aung San Shield Knock-out Football Tournament. Present among the audience were Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and ministers, Yangon Region Parliament Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Chief of Bureau of Special Operations Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein, Adjutant General Lt-Gen Hsan Oo, deputy commander of Yangon Command and military officers, President of MFF U Zaw Zaw, Vice-President of MFF and Vice-President of MNL Dr Sai Sam Tun, Yangon United owner U Pyae Phyo Teza, Hanthawady United owner U Aung Moe Kyaw, Shan United owner U Khun Naung Myint Wai, Ayeyawady United owner U Min Hlaing, officials of MFF, sponsorship companies, and MNL, Myanmar national men's football team and Myanmar national women's football teams, invited guests and football enthusiasts from Yangon and Bago regions. — Htut Htut (Twante) ■

Discarded Sanchez a window into Manchester United wasted millions

LONDON — Manchester United believed they were closing the gap on “noisy neighbours” Manchester City when they beat the Premier League champions to the signature of Alexis Sanchez just nine months ago. But as the Red Devils slumped to a third defeat just seven games into the new league season at West Ham on Saturday to already fall nine points adrift of City, Sanchez was nowhere to be seen.

That the Chilean was deemed not good enough to make Jose Mourinho's 18-man squad for such a shambolic display at the London Stadium speaks volumes for Sanchez's slide since joining United in January.

Prolific in four years at Arsenal and three seasons with Barcelona before then, Sanchez has scored just three times in 23 appearances under Mourinho — none of which have come this season.

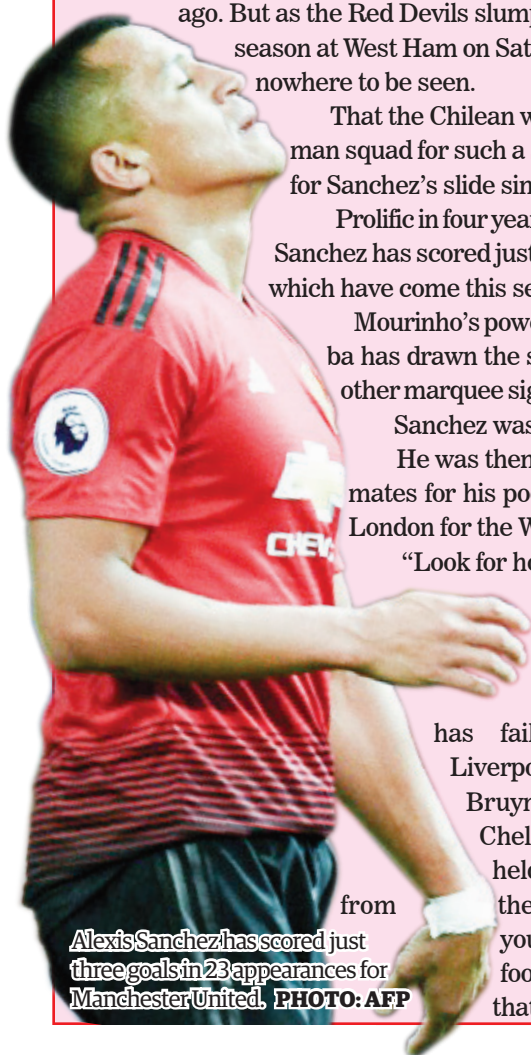
Mourinho's power battle with £89 million (\$116 million) midfielder Paul Pogba has drawn the spotlight from Sanchez. But Mourinho's patience with the other marquee signing of his time in charge at Old Trafford ran out this week.

Sanchez was hauled off during a 1-1 draw with Wolves last weekend.

He was then reportedly admonished by Mourinho in front of his teammates for his poor form and was the only outfield player who travelled to London for the West Ham debacle left out of the matchday squad.

“Look for how many months are people asking for (Anthony) Martial, Martial, Martial and saying how Alexis isn't playing well enough,” said Mourinho justifying his decision. “This week it was time to agree and leave Alexis out.”

Sanchez wouldn't be the first creative player Mourinho has failed to get the best out of. United's fiercest rivals City and Liverpool have benefited from Mohamed Salah and Kevin De Bruyne being discarded by the Portuguese during his time at Chelsea. When imploring Mourinho to attack more after being held by Wolves, Pogba defended Sanchez's struggles to adapt the more open football played at Barca and Arsenal. “When you play a long time with another team and you play different football in that other team you have some kind of adaptation that you have to have,” said the Frenchman. — AFP ■



from Alexis Sanchez has scored just three goals in 23 appearances for Manchester United. PHOTO: AFP



German international Leroy Sane has won his place in the Manchester City team back in time to face Hoffenheim in his homeland on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

Homecoming offers Man City's Sane chance to show Germany what they missed

LONDON — Manchester City travel to Hoffenheim on Tuesday desperately needing a win to kickstart a Champions League campaign that began with a shock 2-1 defeat to Lyon for the competition favourites.

There should therefore be no shortage of motivation for Pep Guardiola's men, but one member of the City squad will be especially keen to make a big impression back on German soil.

Leroy Sane was one of the stars of City's romp to a record 100 Premier League points and

the League Cup last season. The 22-year-old was crowned Young Player of the Year in England thanks to a stellar return of 14 goals and 19 assists in all competitions.

However, that still wasn't enough to earn him a place in Germany's World Cup squad as Sane was surprisingly cut from Joachim Loew's 23.

Sane may have had the last laugh as the defending champions crashed out in the group stages — the first time in 80 years Germany had fallen at the first hurdle. — AFP ■