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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 4 October 2018

## Amending the Constitution, national reconciliation, building a Democratic Federal Union

The 2008 Constitution should be amended step-by-step, to guarantee the smooth transition. Similarly, the Democratic Federal Union can only be implemented if we can ensure freedom, equality and mutual respect among the ethnic people.

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

# Kubota Co., sales reps donate 16,300 backpacks, stationery sets for students



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Kubota Company representatives and students pose for a documentary photo at the donation ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE Kubota Company and sales representatives from Kubota donated backpacks and stationery for students, during a ceremony held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi spoke at the ceremony, saying that a similar donation of backpacks and stationery by the Kubota Company last year was donated to the sight- and hearing-impaired students in

Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing regions and to the needy students in Kachin and Rakhine states. He expressed his gratitude for this year's donation and said it will be distributed to the needy students throughout all corners of Myanmar.

Following, Mr. Kunitomo Sato, Managing Director of Kubota Myanmar, delivered a speech.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi accepted the donation of backpacks and stationery sets, donated

by Kubota Myanmar Company.

The donation, a joint-endeavor by Kubota Company and Kubota sales representatives, consists of 16,300 sets of backpacks and stationery, worth approximately Ks 75 million. —MNA ■

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Union Minister U Han Zaw, Dr. Katharina Spiess and Country Director Ms. Eva Schneider of German KfW development bank cut ribbon to open the roads in Kalaw Township, Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Upgraded German-Myanmar friendship rural roads in southern Shan State inaugurated

A RURAL road constructed with the assistance of German KfW development bank was opened yesterday in Kalaw Township, southern Shan State.

The new road will benefit over 15,540 people from 30 villages in the area and would directly result in promotion of socio-economic life of local people. The road is 13.48 km long and 4.5 metre wide.

Speaking at the ceremony to inaugurate the road, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw stressed the importance of rural roads in promoting the so-

cio-economic life of rural people, disclosing that the country is in need of all-weather roads in rural areas. He also said that his ministry is drafting policies for road and bridge development as part of efforts for smooth transportation in the country.

Under the assistance of German KfW development bank, upgrading the rural roads in Taunggyi District started in 2014 at a cost of 7 million euros, and the upgrading of the roads with a total distance of 30 km have been completed. Meanwhile, the work on upgrading of six rural

roads with a total distance of 60.5 km in Taunggyi, Kalaw, Hopone, Nyaungshwe and Yaksawk townships were upgraded at a cost of 11 million euros, and they were also commissioned into service yesterday.

The roads were opened in the presence of Union Minister U Han Zaw and Dr. Katharina Spiess and Country Director Ms. Eva Schneider of German KfW development bank. Besides, MoU on 10.90 million euros assistance was signed on 27 February to upgrade rural roads in Taunggyi and Loilem districts.—MNA ■

## Union Minister seeks assistance from UNISDR to reduce disaster impacts



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets with Ms. Mami Mizutori at the Office of the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, who is in Geneva, Switzerland, attending the 69<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (Ex-COM), received Ms. Mami Mizutori, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-Gen-

eral for Disaster Risk Reduction, at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

At the meeting, Dr. Win Myat Aye asked the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) to provide technical assistance to Myanmar, as the country is carrying out assessment of possible disasters

in regions and states.

Myanmar is implementing the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction-2017 (MAPDRR), which was drafted in accordance with the Sendai Framework.

His ministry is also reviewing laws related to disasters to be able to carry out preparedness and response to disasters effectively with the use of the cooperation of the people.

Ms. Mami Mizutori pledged to aid works for disaster preparedness and reduction in Myanmar, acknowledging the country report submitted to MAPDRR, in accordance with the Sendai Framework.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye also held talks with permanent representatives and officials of partner countries over Rakhine State issue including current humanitarian aid, readiness for repatriation in Rakhine State and efforts for the rule of law in the country.—MNA ■

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 35/2018

9<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tawthalin,  
1380 ME  
3 October 2018

## Resignation of Rakhine State High Court judge approved

In accordance with the provisions stated in Article 312 Section (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Article 49 Section (a) of the Union Judiciary Law, Daw San San Yi, judge of the High Court of the Rakhine State, has been approved to resign on her own volition from the position of judge of the High Court of the Rakhine State, with effect from 1 November, 2018.

*Sd/ Win Myint*  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## Myanmar, Japan sign MoU on financial assistance for Water Supply Project in southern Yangon

JAPAN and Myanmar inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Japan's financial assistance of Yen 4.176 billion for the Water Supply Project in southern Yangon yesterday.

U Set Aung, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, on behalf of the government of Japan, signed the MoU.

The project is aimed at promoting drinking water and communal water supply for the people in Dala, Seik-kyi-Khanaungto, Twantay, Ka-

whmu and Kungyangon townships and improving the water supply system.

"Japan is using its official development aid to improve the infrastructures in Myanmar, giving priorities to transportation, electricity and energy and development of Yangon," said Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama.

He continued to say that Japan would cooperate with Myanmar government in developing the infrastructures in Myanmar.—MNA ■



Deputy Minister of Planning and Finance and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar signing an MoU on Japan's financial assistance for Water Supply Project in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Minister, Japanese Amb discuss port, airport projects



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung meets with Japanese Ambassador Mr. Ichiro Maruyama in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

U THANT SIN MAUNG, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro

Maruyama at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they openly discussed matters relating to development of Thil-

awa Port, NyaungU Airport and Pakokku Airport, and upgrading the Kyimyindine Railway Station in Yangon. —MNA ■

## National tripartite preparatory meeting held for 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour

MINISTRY of Labour, Immigration and Population held a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday in preparation for 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour, (AFML) which is slated to be held in Singapore from 29 to 30 October.

The National Tripartite Preparatory Meeting is aimed at reviewing the progress of the implementation of suggestions at the previous AFML, promoting decent jobs for migrant workers in ASEAN region and encouraging digital technology in dealing with the migrant labour issues.

The tripartite meeting, participated by representatives from the government, employers, employees and civil society organizations was jointly

conducted by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the International Labour Organization.

The theme of the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN forum on Migrant Labour is “Digitalization to Promote Decent Work.”

In his key-note address at the meeting, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe stressed the important role of the digital technology in managing migrant workers in the region. Following his address, Ms. Anna Engblom, chief technical adviser from ILO Triangle in ASEAN project and Ms. Heather McBride, first secretary from Embassy of Canada to Myanmar, delivered key-note addresses.

The attendees at the meeting discussed topics under the title, “Digitalisation to Promote Decent Work for Migrant Workers in ASEAN”, of the 11th AFML.

Union Minister labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received Direct Contacts Mission leader Prof. Yozo Yokota and team at the Ministry’s meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to six decisions of the ILO’s Committee on Implication of Standards, tripartite meetings on labour issues, drafting related with labour and recommendations of the Direct Contacts Mission.—MNA ■



Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe holds talks with Direct Contacts Mission Leader Prof. Yozo Yokota and team in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Minister inspects preparations for jade sales

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Chairman of Myanmar Jade Exhibition Central Committee, inspected preparations for holding jade sales in November at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During his tour of inspection, the Union Minister visited the car parking, registration building and the jade garden.

Earth and concrete works are being carried out in the

garden to give more space for displaying jade lots. He also visited the Mani Yadana Jade Hall where he heard reports on preparations for the sales.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee will conduct sales of raw gems and jades in local Kyat currency at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 12 to 17 November.—MNA ■



Union Minister U Ohn Win inspects the Mani Yadana Jade Hall where the Gems Emporium would be held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Minister attends opening ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Renewable Energy (RE)-INVEST 2018



Union Minister U Win Khaing attends the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Renewable Energy (RE)-INVEST 2018 in New Delhi, India. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing attended the opening ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Renewable Energy (RE)-INVEST 2018, which was held at VigyanBhawan hall, New Delhi, India, on 2 October.

At the opening ceremony, United Nations General Secretary Mr. Antonio Guterres and Indian Prime Minister Mr. Nar-

endra Modi delivered speeches.

The three-day meeting will discuss matters related to investment of renewable energy sector and is set to be held from 3 to 5 October. During the meeting, they attended the energy minister level meetings and will discuss matters related to electrical power and energy sector.—MNA ■

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# Action to be taken against flag disrespect at cinemas

By Nyein Nyein

THOSE who fail to pay respect to the national flag when the national anthem is played at cinemas can carry a sentence of at least three years, said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, Yangon Region Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs.

She was responding to U Moe Myint, a Hluttaw representative from constituency 2

of South Okkalapa Township, who raised a question at the fourteenth-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the Second Yangon Region Hluttaw, held on 2 October, whether or not those who remain seated when the national flag and anthem is played at cinemas can be taken action against, under the Union Flag Law, as they do not even bother to a request for showing respect to the flag at cinemas.

Regarding national flag, Chapter 4 Section 13 of the Union Flag Law, issued by the State Peace and Development Council, states that those disrespecting the national flag shall be liable to imprisonment of more than three years and/or fined Ks300,000, said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo. Therefore, more awareness on how to respond when the national flag and anthem is played will be raised,

she added. Cinema-goers have been prompted to stand as a sign of respect before every film screening across the country.

The Ministry of Information has instructed those who rent theaters to display a reminder to bow to the flag when playing the anthem, as many are found not to stand up deliberately. The related department has been freely distributing a digital clip of the national flag to cinemas. ■

# Pesticide residue risk assessment conducted

By May Thet Hnin

ACTIVITIES to assess pesticide residue on plants are being carried out by the Amyotha Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development Committee, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program, said U Aung Kyi Nyunt, chairperson of that committee and Amyotha Hluttaw representative of Magway Region, constituency 4.

The study will be conducted based on data from Hluttaw representatives, officials of the Agriculture Department and civil service organizations for farmers' rights.

"Hluttaw representatives will have an idea on how farmers use pesticide on which crops through those assessment activities. Agriculture Department provides information on legal

and illegal pesticide products in the market. Additionally, we will listen to the voice of the supporters for farmers' rights", said U Aung Kyi Nyunt.

"We will compile all the data to bring out suggestions. After that, we will put forward that report to the parliament. Hopefully, this report will bring out a helpful suggestion for the government", he continued.

Illegal importation of non-compliant pesticide products can result in pesticide misuse, threat to food safety and harmful effects. To protect from unwanted cases, Hluttaw decided to conduct assessment activities, to which experts will give assistance.

There are over 3,300 registered companies allowed for pesticide importation. This year, over 40,000 tons of pesticide were

imported, said U Aung Kyaw Oo, director of Plant Production Division under the Agriculture Department.

The Plant Production Division has stated that the pesticide label should include importer country, company name, supplier, distributor, brand name, pesticide shelf-life and logo. When import permitted goods arrive at port, samples are taken to the laboratory for further examination. Only quality products are allowed for distribution. We also conduct inspection tour every six months to assure that there is only quality product in the market. At present, there are pesticide products which are no longer allowed for import, he continued.

"There are many cases of illegal pesticides. Some pesticides failed to label Myanmar

and they are shipped back to the country of origin. Therefore, some companies are affected from this, as about ten containers are sent back to importer countries. Some do not include full label, and expiry date. Some imports expiration date have their due. And we reject that kind of products", said U Aung Kyaw Oo.

All stakeholders, including distributors, stores and consumers need to come together to tackle illegal importation of those disqualified products. Additionally, there are disposal problems for pesticide boxes and packages.

The Pesticide Law was enacted in 1990 and amended in 2016. Those who violate the law can be sentenced to five years imprisonment and fined Ks1 million. ■

# Registration accepted for Taunggyi hot air balloon competition

TAUNGGYI Tazaungdaing festival and hot air balloon competition is held annually. This year, event organizers are starting to accept registration of competitors since 1 October, giving the competitors a month of registration period. On the first day, 20 teams registered for the competition.

The famous hot-air balloon competition at the Taunggyi Tazaungdaing festival will be held from 15 to 22 November at the Awaiya hot-air balloon square in Taunggyi, southern Shan State. Prizes will be awarded on 23 November, and those who wish to participate are to register with an endorsement by a relevant ward administrator, said the competition convening committee secretary Dr. Than Win.

"We are going to accept registration of the teams for a month. About 20 teams registered on the first day. We try to celebrate this event by making it more

attractive year after year. This hot-air balloon competition is the only one, not only in the country but in the world as well. All are getting ready to participate in this competition," he added.

Event organizers have also announced the terms and conditions of the competition, which will be held like last year. The plan is to get enlisted as the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage. So competitors are asked to compete under the traditional techniques. It is this year's uniqueness, said Dr. Than Win.

The committee does not allow the use of pictures on balloons that can affect national unity. Beer, alcohol and cigarette are also not permitted. The dimensions of the hot-air balloons are set and gun powder usage per hot-air balloon for special pyro-technic displays are limited to 40 viss a (viss equals 3.6 lb), it is learnt. — Khin Sett Wai ■

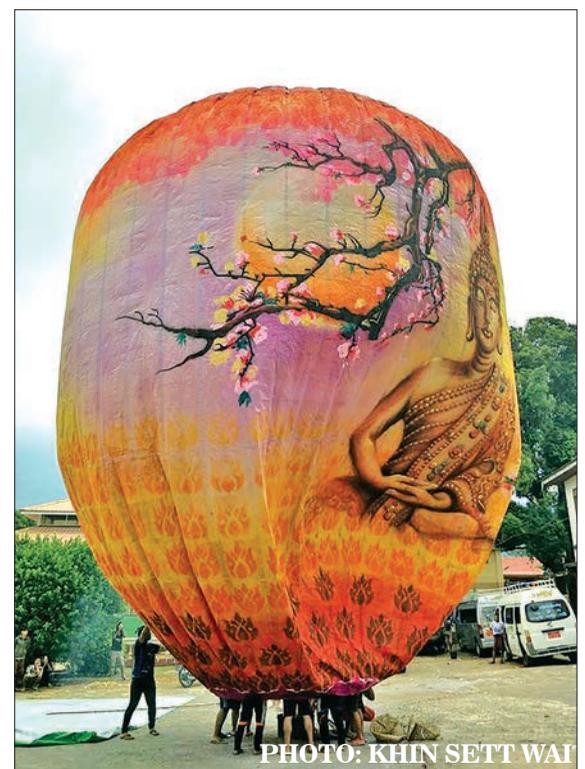


PHOTO: KHIN SETT WAI

# YSX trading falls in September

THE value of traded stocks on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in September showed a significant decrease, compared to August's trading.

The figure plunged to an estimated value of Ks954 million, with trading volume of 218,595 shares. August's trading was registered at 334,367 shares with trading value of Ks1.5 billion, according to monthly trading data released online by YSX.

At present, shares of five listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), My-

anmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB) and TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd. — are being traded on the YSX.

Stock trading values of the listed companies were registered at Ks1.21 billion in January, Ks 746 million in February, Ks778 million in March, Ks875 million in April, Ks869 million in May, all-time new low of Ks666 million in June, Ks1.23 billion in July and the highest of Ks1.5 billion in August.



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

This year, YSX increased the matching time from two to four per day. In addition to this, in order to increase the number of new investors and encourage

existing investors to trade more actively by letting them know about financial review and future prospects of YSX's listed companies, YSX held a promotional

event for investors.

YSX still fails to attract local stock traders even after publicity discussions, expo and educative talks of stock market. —GNLM ■

## High demand brings hope to chili growers



A farmer harvests chilies at a field in Kangyidaunt, Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

THE number of chili growers has dramatically increased in upper Myanmar, thanks to a high demand for the kitchen crop after watermelon and muskmelon this year.

“Local farmers have turned to chili this year than other crops because chili saw good price last year, while market for other crops was down”, said Ko Thit, a farmer from Budalin, who grows chili this year. “That’s why, local farmers put chili instead of peas under their farmland this year,” he added.

China’s demand for chili from Myanmar is high annually in winter season, but a species which is less spicy is popular

for the Chinese market.

Chili has become popular since 2016, and this year saw the highest number of acres of chili, said chili grower U Myat from ChaungU.

Chili is a major agricultural crop in Myanmar. The ministry gave its nod to the re-export of chilies, but chili powder producers are unable to supply to foreign markets, despite importing raw materials from India.

Myanmar has 400,000 acres of chili plantations, which produce at least 1 million tonnes of chillies. Domestic consumption is so high that only small volumes are exported to China and Thailand. —Myo Win Htun (Monywa) ■

## Sugar re-export volume down last month

FOLLOWING suspension of issuance of new licences for sugar re-export on 17 August, Muse-China border trade in September has witnessed a significant fall of sugar re-export volume, compared to August, according to an announcement of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (Myantrade).

Sugar re-export in September was registered at over 139,610 tons, which is down from August’s volume of 262,196 tons. In addition to export volume, export price in September was 300 yuan lower than August’s price of 3,800 yuan per ton.

The decrease in re-export is attributed to the suspension of issuance of new licences for re-export and also transportation difficulties in China’s trade route, according to Myantrade.

Re-export aims to receive hard currency earnings. However, sugar has been purchased with dollars, imported into Myanmar and then sold with yuan and re-exported to China. This practice results in a net outflow of dollars that also reduces the value of the kyat, overall.

New licence for sugar re-export is temporarily suspended due to soaring US dollar exchange rate in a floating

exchange rate system. However, previously permitted licences are still valid to import.

Myanmar’s merchants import sugar mostly from Thailand and India, and also from Brazil, Qatar and UAE, and then it is re-exported to China through the Sino-Myanmar checkpoints, as Myanmar sugar millers are unable to produce quality sugar that meets the export criteria for the lack of advanced refining machinery. The imported sugar under re-export system is not allowed to be consumed domestically, in order to protect local sugar millers. —Ko Htet ■

## Austrian trade mission seeks ways to promote investment

MYANMAR and Austrian traders held a business matching in Yangon yesterday, discussing prospects for promoting investment and trade between the two countries.

The Austrian Trade Mission includes traders from 15 companies.

The meeting was held,

following the trade mission’s visit to Yangon and Mandalay from 1 to 3 October.

The meeting is aimed at implementing procedures related to attracting investment from Austria and finding new business opportunities.

The Austrian Trade Mission is established with 15

companies from health care, water and waste management, reuse and recycle for energy, industry, mining and engineering sectors.

The mission will carry out strengthening the bilateral relations and win-win cooperation between the businesses of the two countries. — Myint Maung Soe ■

## Second wave of ballots for upcoming 2018 by-election printed, distributed

Ballots to be used in the 2018 by-election have been printed by the Printing and Publishing Department under the Ministry of Information and handed over to the respective state and regional election sub-commissions in a formal ceremony at the Nay Pyi Taw printing house, located at the fork in Kayepin Street, Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, at 9am on 2 October.

### Ballot transportation to local and overseas voters explained

Concerning the ballot hand-over, Union Election Commission (UEC) Director (Management) U Kyaw Kyaw Soe said the ballots handed over today will be used in the by-elections held on 3 November 2018, and that they have been distributed twice separately.

He said the first wave of ballots were distributed on 4 September for advance polling and this second wave is for use at the voting booths in the upcoming by-elections throughout the 13 state and regional constituents.

U Kyaw Kyaw Soe said a security detail and officials and staff from the respective township election sub-commission are present when the ballots are handed over. He said distant places such as Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states usually receive the ballots first. He said the security detail accompanying the ballots consist of police officers assigned by the Ministry of Home Affairs.



U Tun Tun Naing.



U Kyaw Kyaw Soe.



Printing and Publishing Department staff hand over ballot papers to respective election sub-commissions in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 October. **PHOTO: THIHA SITHU**

He said they accompany the ballots until they are handed over to the relevant township police station and stored in their vault for safekeeping.

Arrangements for overseas voters are carried out with foreign embassies, who have collected lists of overseas voters using the prescribed Form 15, said U Kyaw Kyaw Soe. He said

lists of overseas voters are first sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before arriving at the Union Election Commission. After the UEC has scrutinized the list and given approval, the ballots for the overseas voters are collected from their respective township of origin and sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who send it to the foreign embassies,

he said.

U Kyaw Kyaw Soe said after the citizens residing abroad have cast their ballots, they are collected and returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, then to the UEC, and then to the relevant township election sub-commissions. He said inspections of the quality of the ballots are made by a deputy director from the commission. **Ballot printing process explained**

U Tun Tun Naing, the Deputy Director (Printing) of the Printing and Publishing Department under the Ministry of Information, explained about the actual ballot printing process.

He said the Union Election Commission gave the orders to begin printing the ballots for the upcoming by-election on 15 August 2018. The ballots will be used in casting votes for vacancies in the 13 constituencies with 452,700 ballots printed for the Pyithu Hluttaw, 233,950 ballots printed for the Amyotha Hluttaw, 347,500 ballots printed for the state/regional Hluttaws, and 94,900 ballots printed for vacant ethnic national constituencies; making a total of 1,129,050 ballots printed for the upcoming byelection.

U Tun Tun Naing said the ballots were solely printed at the Nay Pyi Taw printing press for three days straight from 29 to 31 August. He said yellow 80 GSM woodfree paper from Indonesia, with watermarks for security,

were used to print the ballots. He added that the Ministry of Home Affairs provided security details and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy ensured there was an uninterrupted supply of electricity during the ballot printing period. The Printing and Publishing Department has safely printed standard ballots for the 2010 general election, 2012 by-election, 2015 general election, 2017 by-election, and the upcoming 2018 by-election, said U Tun Tun Naing.

The Printing and Publishing Department has already delivered 2,259 ballot booklets containing 50 ballot sheets each; a total of 112,950 ballot sheets for overseas voters to foreign embassies and election sub-commissions on 4 September. The remaining 20,322 ballot booklets, also containing 50 ballots each; a total of 1,016,100 ballot sheets were printed on 2 October.

In the upcoming by-election on 3 November 2018, the vacant constituencies for Pyithu Hluttaw are Kanpetlet, Laikha, Tamway, and Myingyan; the vacant constituency for Amyotha Hluttaw is Kachin State Amyotha Hluttaw constituency 2; and the vacant constituencies for state/regional Hluttaws are Matupi, Tamu, Ottwin, Thabeikkyin, Yathedaung, Minbu, Seikkan, and the Mandalay Region Hluttaw's Shan Ethnic National Constituency. —Zin Oo (Myanma Alin) ■

## WORLD BUSINESS

### Death toll hits 1,407 as int'l assistance begins to pour in

JAKARTA — The death toll from the powerful earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck the Indonesian island of Sulawesi last week has risen to 1,407 as bodies continue to be found in the rubble, authorities said Wednesday.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told a press conference that another 2,549 people suffered serious injuries, while 114 are listed as missing, including one South Korean.

Sutopo also said those displaced in the disaster now total 70,821. The death toll increased from 1,234 the previous day, while the number of seriously injured tripled from 799.

The magnitude 7.5 quake struck on Friday, triggering a tsunami with 3-meter-high waves that caused widespread devastation and loss of life. Most of the deaths occurred in Palu, the capital of Central Sulawesi province, and the nearby coastal town of Donggala, which bore the brunt of the tsunamis. To speed up disaster relief, Indonesia is accepting some foreign aid, limited to air transport, water treatment, generators and tents. Over 25 countries have so far offered help.

Among them, Japan on Wednesday dispatched a Hercules C-130 transport plane carrying 40 defense personnel to deliver relief supplies, including tents,

water purifiers and generators, to affected areas, while eight other defense personnel have been sent to assess the damage situation for possible additional assistance.

Singapore, which sent two C-130 aircraft to Indonesia on Tuesday that delivered humanitarian supplies, and said Wednesday they will remain there to help evacuate displaced people from disaster-hit areas. The Indonesian government has specifically requested the C-130 as the quake has damaged the runway at Palu's airport so that it can now only accommodate aircraft that can land on less than 2,000 meters of runway. Australia on Wednesday announced a A\$5 million (US\$3.5



People bring out items from their village affected by soil liquefaction in Palu in Indonesia's Sulawesi Island on 3 October 2018, after a magnitude 7.5 earthquake and ensuing tsunami struck the region on 28 September. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

million) package of humanitarian assistance to provide temporary shelter, access to safe drinking water and health care for injured and displaced people, and said it would deploy a medical team and military assets if needed.

The remoteness of much of the area and loss of communications infrastructure continue to make it difficult for Indonesian authorities to assess the full scale of the disaster at this stage.—Kyodo News ■



Photo taken on 2 October 2018 shows a general view of the opening session of the 2018 WTO Public Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, on 2 October 2018. The Director General of the World Trade Organization Roberto Azevedo and Jack Ma, Executive Chairman of China's Alibaba Group, said Tuesday that technology should not be feared but rather harnessed to develop trade and society. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Future of world trade is small businesses, e-commerce: Jack Ma

GENEVA — The Director General of the World Trade Organization Roberto Azevedo and Jack Ma, Executive Chairman of China's Alibaba Group both said Tuesday that technology should not be feared but rather harnessed to develop trade and society.

"We cannot stop technology. The only thing you can do is to embrace it," said Ma, who was one of the keynote speakers at the opening session of the 2018 WTO Public Forum. He said the future of world trade is small business and e-commerce.

"More and more trade will be happening through digital platforms. New ways of delivering products will come on stream. New kinds of services will be created," said Azevedo in opening remarks at the forum that each year brings public debate to the WTO here.

Azevedo described Ma as "surely one of the most remarkable business leaders and vi-

sionaries of our time. Jack has been named a Sustainable Development Goals advocate by the United Nations."

This year the four-day forum is titled Trade 2030 a look into the future.

Ma was one of the keynote speakers at the opening plenary debate along with two young entrepreneurs, the head of UN Environment and a former assistant U.S. Trade Representative and trade negotiator, who now runs a services coalition.

"In the next 30 years, 80 percent of small business will benefit from globalization. In 2030 more than 85 percent of business will be e-commerce. Ninety-nine percent of trade will be online and less than one percent of trade will be offline," Ma said.

Much of current world trade is seen in containers, while in 2020 most of it will be in packages, he said.

"Today, we see made in Chi-

na, made in the U.S., made in Switzerland. In 2030 we will see made in the Internet," said Ma to loud applause.

According to the WTO head, new technologies are emerging, while environmental risks are growing that are challenging the way the world thinks about trade.

"If the proper synergies are in place, particularly regarding public policies, by 2030 the technological revolution could help fuel additional trade growth of around 30 percentage points," said Azevedo.

"So we have to ask -- is the global trading system that we have today equipped for that new environment?"

The WTO chief stressed he believes that the fundamental principles still apply, as enshrined in the WTO agreements: "the importance of clear rules, openness, cooperation, and non-discrimination." —Xinhua ■

## Businesses hope new Cabinet will work for fair trade with US

TOKYO — Japanese business leaders on Tuesday expressed hope that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's new Cabinet will focus on trade talks with the United States to ensure that their competitiveness and growth will be maintained. Economic circles welcomed the expected continuation of government policies as key economic ministers were retained in the new Cabinet, but called for further steps on fiscal consolidation as the state budget plan for fiscal 2019 may top 100 trillion yen (\$880 billion) for the first time due to rising social security costs and defense spending.

"As there have been protectionist moves by some countries, the uncertain outlook for the auto industry, whose operations are global, continues," said Akio Toyoda, chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, who is also president of Toyota Motor Corp. "We hope that the Japanese government will continue to push for a framework of free and fair trade," said Toyoda in a statement, following an agreement between Abe and US President Donald Trump last week to start negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement, including in the auto and agriculture sectors. Abe said he confirmed with Trump that Japan will be exempted from the potential imposition of tariffs on imports of cars and auto parts as long as trade negotiations are under way, a source of relief for the auto industry for the time being.

"One of the important issues will be the Japanese government's response" to a Japan-US agreement, said Chairman Kuniharu Nakamura of the Japan Foreign Trade Council. "We hope the Japanese government will continue to exert leadership to



Akio Toyoda, chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, who is also president of Toyota Motor Corp. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

strengthen and maintain an open and free international economic order based on fair rules."

Hiroaki Nakanishi, chairman of the Japan Business Federation, known as Keidanren, called the new Cabinet lineup "stable."

Speaking to reporters, Nakanishi urged the government to "absolutely" make good on its plan to raise the consumption tax in October next year to 10 percent from the current 8 percent. Abe has postponed the hike from the initial plan of April 2017.

Akio Mimura, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, echoed the view on the consumption tax and called for more efforts to implement preventive steps to mitigate damage from natural disasters, to reconstruct disaster-hit areas and to carry out social security reforms.

In a Cabinet reshuffle Tuesday, Abe retained six key ministers of his 19 Cabinet members, including Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso, who doubles as finance minister; Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko and economic revitalization minister Toshimitsu Motegi.—Kyodo News ■

## Singapore to form global commodity e-trading platform to facilitate cross-border trade

SINGAPORE — Several Singaporean companies and one Chinese company on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to integrate and provide logistics services for the Commodities Intelligence Centre (CIC), the first physical commodity B2B e-trading platform based in Singapore.

According to a press release, Global eTrade Services (GeTS),

a subsidiary of CrimsonLogic, signed the MoU with Zallsoon Information Technology, Pacific International Lines (PIL) Group, YCH Group, WLNA and China's Zall Group to form CALISTA, a global trade and supply chain platform for CIC, a joint venture between Zall Group, Singapore Exchange Limited and GeTS.

Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry Koh

Poh Koon was present at the signing ceremony at the inaugural Singapore Logistics Forum 2018.

According to CIC CEO Peter Yu, the CIC, the first B2B spot commodity e-trading platform anchored in Singapore, will open up new opportunities for logistics players to capture value from the cross-border trade flows and supply chain activities that come through Singapore and beyond.

Eugene Wong, chairman of CrimsonLogic and GeTS, said Singapore is an important global logistics and trading hub and they are strategically positioned to capture the potential voluminous trade flow between China, ASEAN and to the rest of the world. CALISTA brings together the regulatory and financial activities of logistics on a digital eco-system that serves the com-

munity of logistics players and stakeholders.

Formerly launched by GeTS and PSA International in April 2018, the platform allows logistics companies to streamline processes, documents and data in the flow of goods within and across countries and facilitate supply chain activities such as shipping, freight-forwarding and warehousing.—Xinhua ■

# In need of waste management plan

**W**ASTE management poses a great problem both to the government and the people. With a dramatic increase in population in urban areas, the problem of waste management seems to be greater in Myanmar.

Cities experience flooding caused by the indiscriminate disposal of all types wastes, including plastic wastes into the drains, whenever it rains. The situation has become critical due to the large amount of waste that collects in and clogs the drainage ditches.

The air pollution and health hazards to people in nearby wards caused by the garbage dump fire at Yangon during April 2018 is a warning to prioritize the systematic management of waste products all over the country.

Vice President U Myint Swe has urged departments concerned at the Sixth Coordination Meeting of National-level Environmental Conservation Committee on 28 September to draw and implement a guideline on systematic collection and disposal of wastes, including plastics, based on waste management strategy in the country, giving priority to major cities such as Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.



When we think about drawing long and short term natural environment conservation programs and setting priority works, we should be reminded of the 3 R's: recycle, reuse and reduce policy.

When we think about drawing long and short term natural environment conservation programs and setting priority works, we should be reminded of the 3 R's: recycle, reuse and reduce policy.

Myanmar's sound traditional practices of using renewable resources instead of plastic, highlights the country's significant examples, such as clay pots to store drinking water, and the use of cane baskets and leaves for shopping. Cane chairs and bamboo chairs are good examples of Myanmar handicrafts.

Our ancestors saved everything. Every citizen applying these good traditional practices continuously can help reduce plastic pollution.

That philosophy of repurposing changed over subsequent decades as we embraced throwaway goods mostly made of plastic that often takes more time being manufactured than the time we spend using them.

It is time to go back to putting a priority on reusable goods. Rethinking grocery bags is an easy place to start.

Although there are limitations in human resources, technical requirements and funding needs in implementing the maintenance of the natural environment and climate change matters to support the country's economic policy, socio-economic development of the country and the people, it is believed that difficulties and challenges can be overcome step by step with the combined efforts of all who are involved in this.

The government cannot do it alone either. Reducing plastic waste needs a concerted effort led by the ministries concerned and the private sector. Furthermore, management of plastic wastes and waste management in general need to be done from the ground up, from the village and ward level. We need to get all the people involved through effective mobilization and public talks to educate and motivate the people. There is no room for flexibility when it comes to plastic.

# A good teacher and teaching

By Arakan Sein

*“Teaching should be regarded as a profession; it is a form of public service that requires teachers of expert knowledge and specialized skills, required and maintained through rigorous study; it also calls for a sense of personal and corporal responsibility for the education welfare of the pupils in their charge.”*

1966 UNESCO/ILO recommendation concerning the status of teachers

World Teachers' Day is held annually on October 5. More than 100 countries across the world celebrate World Teachers' Day, established in 1994, after the signing of 1966 UNESCO/ ILO recommendation concerning the status of teachers, which is a standard-setting instrument that addresses the status and situations of teachers around the world.

*“Although we are in charge of four UN bodies which deal with many aspects of education, we can definitely say that, without proper training and support, we could not step into a school classroom and teach effectively.”*

Excerpts from the joint statement sent to the World Teachers' Day on 5 October, 2003, by UNESCO, ILO, UNDP and UNICEF

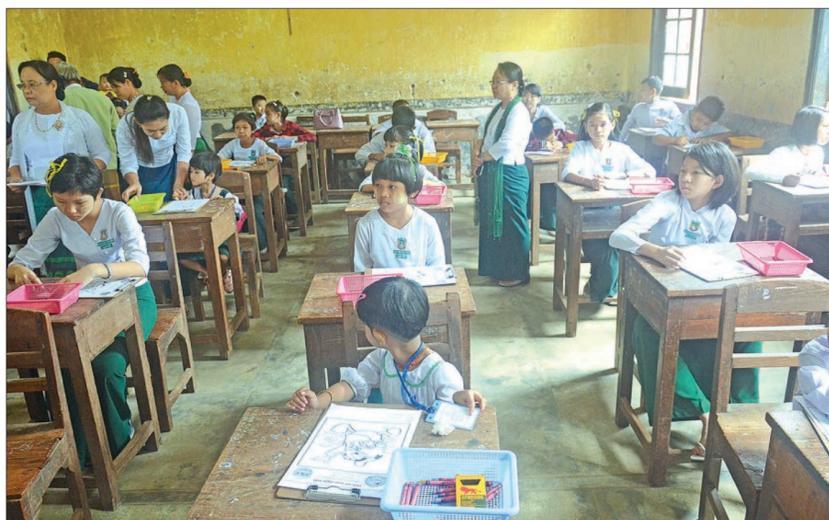


PHOTO:PHOE KHWAR

On this auspicious day, the heads of four UN organizations asked parents and all citizens to take a moment to think of a difference that a good teacher, a memorable teacher, has made in their life. Where would they be now if that teacher hadn't crossed their path, if, demotivated that teacher had already left the profession?

World Teachers' Day aims to focus on appreciating, assessing and improving the educators of the world. Teachers play a very important role in shaping our lives.

They are the ones who guide us and also motivate us to follow the right path. It is teachers who always support their students to do better in life. They are like a candle which melts itself to lighten the life of others.

**Importance, history and significance of Teachers' Day: celebration in India**

Teachers' Day is celebrated every year in India on September 5 to mark the birth of Dr. Radhakrishnan, who wrote, “The philoso-

phy of Rabindranath Tagore placed the India philosophy on the world map.”

**Sri Lanka (July 6, 2016)**

Teachers play an important role in our life, making us become successful in career and business. A good teacher helps us become good human beings in society and good citizens of the country. Teachers know that students are the future of any nation. They impart the data and information in the brains of students to analyze.

**China**

September 10 is a holiday for World Teachers' Day. This holiday has existed in China as early as the Middle Ages. Teachers and coaches have always been honoured and respected in China.

**The Philippines**

The Department of Education honors teachers across the country with month-long commemoration starting from September 5 to October 5. Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones stated the following: We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dearest teachers who treat learners as their own children, who devote themselves to lifelong mission of combating illiteracy, and who work above and beyond the call of duty. All regional offices, school division offices, and public and private schools across the country are enjoined to follow synchronized activities including information dissemination, resource mobilization, posting of streamers and announcements, and conduct of specific activities and other undertakings that shall highlight and honor teachers' contributions to the society.

On the other hand, teachers take an oath of allegiance for the welfare of students: to respect and defend against anyone the

uniqueness of each child; to stand by for his or her physical and mental integrity; to take awareness of his or her emotions; to listen to him or her; to challenge and promote their gifts and potentials and to protect them where they are weak and to support them where it is needed; to prepare them to take over responsibility within and for the community; to let them learn the world; to give them a vision of a better world and the confidence that it might be achievable.

**World Teachers' Day in Myanmar**

To implement all education projects successfully and effectively, the Minister for Education has urged all educators to teach in freedom and empower teachers, according to the theme of World Teachers' Day 2017.

In passing, I would like to add something of our uniqueness that Myanmar society considers teachers as one of five gems (others being Buddha, dhamma, sangha and parents). In accordance with this noble tradition, I hope we will celebrate World Teachers' Day on 5 October along with other countries across the world.

References: Wikipedia, Google



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Wednesday 3 October 2018)

**SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs M.S.T:** During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, scattered in Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Chin and Rakhine states, fairly widespread in Southern Shan, Kayin and Mon states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Mandalay Region and isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing Region. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Thabeikkyin (3.82)inches, Sagaing (2.27) inches, Kyaukse (2.16)inches, Loilin (1.69)inches, Mogok (1.34)inches, Hinthada and Loikaw (1.26) inches each, Patheingyi (1.25)inches, Tada U (1.14)inches, Pyapon (1.11)inches and Magway (1.07) inches.

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 4 October 2018:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Chin State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Magway, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states and fairly widespread in Bago Region and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**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:** Likelihood of withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from Southern Myanmar areas.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 October 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 October 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 October 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

# Reflections on the International Day of Democracy

By Arakan Sein

**A**S I studied several papers of many parties read on the International Day of Democracy, I came to realize that we all want to be on a path for a free democratic system. This article shares my knowledge with my compatriots from across the country.

**Definition of 'democracy'**

Democracy is a universal value based on the freely-expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of life. There is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region. At the suggestion of Inter-Parliamentary Union, September 15 was chosen as the date of the Universal Declaration on Democracy. The Declaration affirms the principles

of democracy, the elements and exercise of democratic government and the international scope of democracy.

**Challenges to democracy**

1. Foundational challenge: different countries face different kinds of challenges.
2. Change of Expansion: most of the established democracies face change of expansion; it involves applying basic principle of democratic government across all religions, different social groups and various institutions.
3. Deepening of democracy: the third challenge of deepening of democracy is faced by every democracy in one form or another.

Theme for 2018 observance is “Democracy under strain: solutions for a changing world”. Coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Day is also an

opportunity to highlight the value of freedom and respect of human rights as essential elements of democracy.

**Challenges to democracy in Myanmar**

On 4 January 1948, Myanmar achieved independence from Britain and became a democracy under the parliamentary system, with Sao Shwe Thaik as the first president and U Nu as the first prime minister. But in 1962, General Ne Win led a coup d'etat and established a socialist military government, expropriated private businesses and followed an economic policy of isolation.

After five decades of military rule, Myanmar held its first elections on November 8, 2015 with a landslide victory for the opposition party National League for Democracy (NLD). Most observers declared the elections as free and

fair, and many people in Myanmar and abroad hoped that the country can make a historic transition to democracy again. The NLD's victory is one of the most promising developments in Myanmar's recent history, but there is still a long road ahead before the nation's political future is secure.

In particular, several serious challenges lie ahead for the incumbent government:

1. The government has little experience running any bureaucracies, let alone a large, complex and ethnically diverse country.
2. The government will have to tackle deep-rooted corruption and high inflation.
3. For reaching a peace treaty with insurgent groups.

We have to admit that inflation is due to weak economy of our country, as it happens to be among the poorest in the ASEAN countries after suffering from decades

of stagnation, mismanagement and isolation.

Lack of an educated workforce skilled in modern technology hinders Myanmar's economy although recent reforms and developments carried out by the new government in collaboration with foreign countries and organizations aim to make this a thing of the past.

While the government has been working to establish peace, stability and a Democratic Federal Union, there are many challenges ahead.

Previous governments tried to resolve the Rakhine State issue for over 70 years. Since ARSA attacks on the police stations and military outposts in October, 2016, the Rakhine State situation has become unstable, with a significant number of people fleeing to Bangladesh. But coordinated patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh

signals the situation will be settled amicably by both sides.

Myanmar has commemorated International Day for Democracy for eight consecutive years since 2011.

“We must continue our approach of resolving formidable challenges through dialogues and collaborations in strengthening the foundation of democracy. The pace of democracy might be slow, but it is the only way to overcome 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges,” Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat said.

In conclusion, the resounding victory of the opposition party NLD in 2015 general elections has raised hope for a successful political transition from a military rule to a free democratic system. This transition is widely believed to be the determining factor for the future of our country.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) headquarters in Vienna. **PHOTO: AFP**

## IAEA fends off Israel pressure over Iran

VIENNA (Austria) — The UN's nuclear watchdog on Tuesday refused to "take at face value" Israel's claims that Iran is harbouring a secret atomic warehouse, fending off pressure to inspect the allegedly suspect site.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made the claim in front of the UN General Assembly last week.

Without explicitly referring to Netanyahu's claim, IAEA chief Yukiya Amano insisted that the agency's independence was "of paramount importance" for its work. The IAEA "uses all safeguards-relevant information available to it but it does not take any information at face value," Amano said in a statement.

Netanyahu accused Iran of operating a "secret atomic warehouse for storing massive amounts of equipment and material from Iran's secret nuclear

weapons programme."

He urged the IAEA to inspect the site. Amano said the IAEA would not be told how to do its work. "All information obtained, including from third parties, is subject to rigorous review," he said.

He said the IAEA's work "must always be impartial, factual, and professional."

Under the 2015 deal, Iran agreed to scale down its nuclear activities and submit to IAEA inspections in exchange for relief from sanctions.

Israel bitterly opposes the deal and congratulated US President Donald Trump for walking away from it earlier this year.

The IAEA has repeatedly said that Iran is continuing to meet its commitments under the deal. Amano said on Tuesday that evaluations of Iran's compliance were "ongoing."—AFP ■

## Kurdish moderate Barham Saleh elected Iraq president

BAGHDAD (Iraq) — Moderate Kurdish candidate Barham Saleh swept to the post of president of Iraq Tuesday evening in a parliamentary vote pitting Kurdish heavyweights against each other for the first time following an ill-fated independence referendum.

Saleh routed his main rival Fuad Hussein with 219 votes to 22, dealing a blow to Hussein's main backer, former Kurdish regional president Massud Barzani who was the architect of the September 2017 poll.

The new president instructed former vice president Adel Abdel Mahdi, a veteran of Iraqi

politics since the fall of Saddam Hussein, to form a government.

Tuesday's poll follows a weekend parliamentary election in the Kurdish autonomous region, mired in economic crisis and still in shock from the fallout of the plebiscite which sparked a punishing response from Baghdad. The largely ceremonial role of president has been reserved for the Kurds since Iraq's first multi-party elections in 2005, two years after the US-led invasion that toppled dictator Saddam.

Under a tacit accord between the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the PUK would

hold the federal presidency and the KDP the post of Iraqi Kurdistan's president.

But the Iraqi Kurdish presidency has been left vacant since KDP leader Massud Barzani's mandate ended following the September 2017 referendum that he championed — setting up a showdown in Baghdad.

The vote for an Iraqi president was scheduled for Monday before being postponed due to the lack of a quorum.

In a first round of polling Tuesday, neither Saleh nor Hussein won the two-thirds vote necessary to win outright, forcing a second round.—AFP ■

## Syria rebel zone deal step towards 'liberation'

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — Syria's foreign minister said a deal to create a demilitarised zone in a northwestern rebel stronghold was a step towards "liberating" the territory, in comments aired on Tuesday.

"We have expressed the hope that the Russian-Turkish agreement is a step towards the liberation of Idlib," Walid Muallem said in an interview with the Lebanese Al-Mayadeen channel.

On 17 September, regime ally Moscow agreed with Ankara to create a buffer area ringing Idlib in a bid to avert a massive government blitz on the northwestern opposition bastion.

The area would be free of

both jihadists and heavy arms by mid-October.

The deal has so far averted a massive assault on the region by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government, but its implementation is expected to be complex.

Pro-Turkey rebels have cautiously accepted the deal, but some have rejected it, saying the zone would only encompass territory currently under rebel control and objecting to the presence of Russian military police.

The dominant force in the region bordering Turkey, the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) alliance led by jihadists of Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, had on Satur-

day still not responded.

Muallem said he was confident in Turkey's ability to fulfil its side of the deal "because of its knowledge of factions" on the ground. He said fighters from the area would be allowed to stay, while those from other areas would go home and foreigners would leave through Turkey.

Damascus has repeatedly accused its northern neighbour of backing "terrorists" and facilitating their passage into Syria.

But Muallem said it would be "necessary in the future to normalise relations" between the two countries — providing Turkey withdrew its troops from Syria.—AFP ■

## 60 migrants feared drowned in Guinea-Bissau capsized

BISSAU (Guinea-Bissau) — A small boat carrying migrants has capsized off Guinea-Bissau, a port official said, adding that the vessel may have had more than 60 people on board when it set off.

Commander Siga Batista said the pirogue, a narrow wooden fishing vessel, sank on Monday night off the impoverished West African country, which has 200 kilometres (120 miles) of coastline and no patrol ships to save lives on the high seas.

"An overloaded pirogue, transporting illegal migrants, capsized in our waters," Batista told AFP by telephone, saying that the fisheries surveillance department had alerted him to the disaster.

"We don't know how many people were on board when the

boat sank, nor their identity or even their nationality. But according to information that has reached me there were more than 60 people on board the pirogue," Batista added.

No survivors have been found but local radio stations have asked fishermen to tell authorities if they spot any bodies or passengers still alive.

"Due to the financial situation, we have had difficulty organising a rescue operation," Batista said.

The coastal surveillance agency has two speedboats, but these are often prevented from leaving the port due to lack of fuel, a navy officer told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Guinea-Bissau, a former Portuguese colony, is one of the



At least seven migrants drowned after the heavily overcrowded boat they were sailing on overturned on 25 May, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

world's poorest countries. The 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence on September 24 passed without festivities as all available finan-

cial resources were put towards organising legislative elections scheduled for 18 November. The country has been in the grip of a

power struggle since August 2015 and many hope the polls will help to end the long-running political crisis.—AFP ■

# Trio win Nobel Chemistry Prize for research harnessing evolution

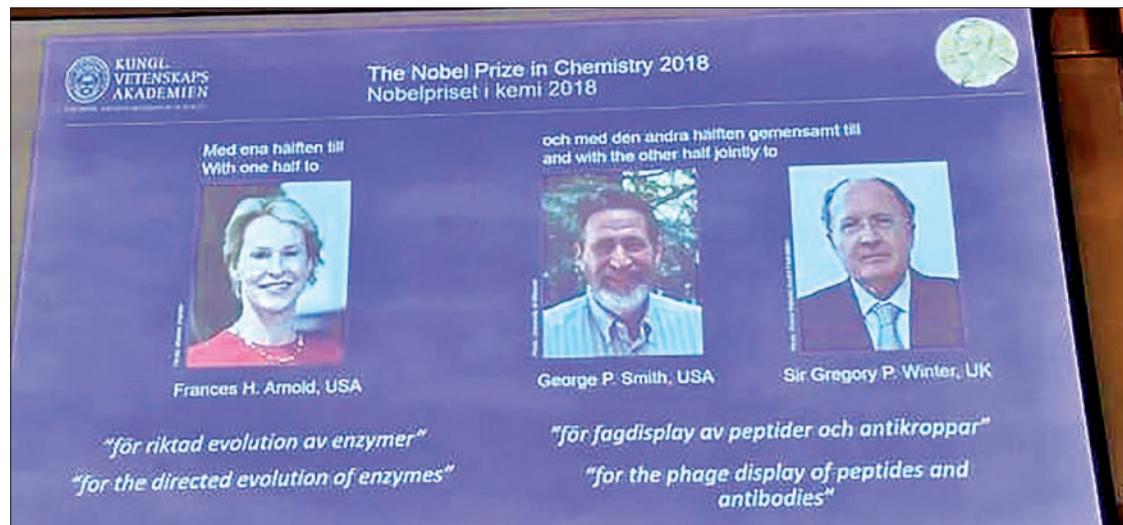
STOCKHOLM (Sweden) — US scientists Frances Arnold and George Smith and British researcher Gregory Winter won the Nobel Chemistry Prize on Wednesday for applying the principles of evolution to develop enzymes used to make everything from biofuels to medicine.

Arnold, just the fifth woman to clinch chemistry's most prestigious honour, won one half of the nine million Swedish kronor (about \$1.01 million or 870,000 euros) award, while Smith and Winter shared the other half.

"The 2018 Nobel Laureates in Chemistry have taken control of evolution and used it for purposes that bring the greatest benefit to humankind," the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences said.

The trio used the same principles of evolution — genetic change and selection — to develop proteins used in a range of fields.

"They have applied the principles of Darwin in test tubes. They have used the molecular understanding we have of the evolutionary process and recreated the process in their labs,"



US scientists Frances Arnold and George Smith and British researcher Gregory Winter have won the 2018 Nobel Chemistry Prize. **PHOTO: AFP**

the head of the Academy's Nobel Chemistry committee, Claes Gustafsson, told reporters.

"They have been able to make evolution many 1000s of times faster and redirect it to create new proteins."

Arnold, 62, who has survived breast cancer and is a single mother to three sons, is a professor of chemical engineering at the California Institute of Technology.

Her method of rewriting DNA to mimic evolution has

helped solve problems such as replacing toxic chemicals like fossil fuels. As a result, renewable resources like sugar cane are being converted into biofuels. More environmentally friendly chemical substances are being developed, improving everyday products such as laundry and dishwashing detergents to enhance their performance in cold temperatures.

"The most beautiful, complex, and functional objects on the

planet have been made by evolution. We can now use evolution to make things that no human knows how to design," Arnold said in 2016.

"Evolution is the most powerful engineering method in the world, and we should make use of it to find new biological solutions to problems," she said.

"Instead of pumping oil out of the ground for making gasoline, now we can use sunlight stored in plants."

## Curing cancer

Meanwhile, Smith, of the University of Missouri, and Winter, a 67-year-old genetic engineer at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge, developed an "elegant method" known as phage display, where a bacteriophage — a virus that infects bacteria — can be used to evolve new proteins, the jury said.

Pharmaceuticals for rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel diseases have resulted from their research, as well as anti-bodies that can neutralise toxins, counteract autoimmune diseases and cure metastatic cancer.

"The discoveries by George Smith and Greg Winter are having an enormous impact, particularly on medicine with antibody drugs that have fewer side effects and are more efficient," Goran Hansson, the head of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, told reporters.

Alfred Nobel, who created the prizes in his will, was himself a chemist, and devised his famed awards in part to atone for inventing dynamite.— AFP ■

# Ricin suspected in mail sent to Trump, Pentagon

WASHINGTON—Mail addressed to President Donald Trump and the Pentagon was suspected of containing the deadly poison ricin, officials said on Tuesday.

The US Secret Service said it had obtained a "suspicious envelope" addressed to Trump on Monday, the same day at least two suspicious packages were intercepted at a screening center for Pentagon mail, according to a Defence Department spokesman. "The envelope was not received at the White House, nor did it ever enter the White House," the Secret Service said.

"We can confirm that we are working jointly with our law enforcement partners to fully investigate this matter."

Chris Sherwood, a Pentagon spokesman, said authorities at its screening site "recognized some suspicious packages," noting they were "suspected to be ricin." He stressed that authorities were still waiting for confirmation that the packages contained ricin. Pentagon police referred the matter to the FBI



US Defence Department personnel, wearing protective suits, screen mail as it arrives at the Pentagon. **PHOTO: AFP**

for investigation.

A defence official told AFP the packages were addressed to Defence Secretary Jim Mattis and Navy chief Admiral John Richardson. While located on the Pentagon campus, the mail facility is not within the main building itself. Employees wear white protective suits in order to examine mail suspected of containing ricin, which has been used in terror plots.

The White and Penta-

gon pieces of mail were likely linked and contained a crude substance made from castor bean that authorities were not technically calling "ricin" until further testing, CNN reported, citing a source familiar with the joint federal investigation.

Produced by processing castor beans, ricin is lethal in minute doses if swallowed, inhaled or injected. It is 6,000 times more potent than cyanide, with no known antidote.— AFP ■

# Russian defence contractor to present project of advanced multiple rocket launcher

MOSCOW — Russia's Tecmash defence enterprise (part of the Rostec state corporation) will soon present its project of an advanced small-caliber multiple launch rocket system soon, Tecmash Deputy Director General Alexander Kochkin has told TASS.

"We have drafted a blueprint of this system and will submit this proposal to the Defence Ministry soon," he said. The official added that Tecmash is now seeking other possible partners in the project. According to earlier reports, Tecmash plans to create a

robotized small-caliber multiple launch rocket system to be used by special forces, naval infantry and airborne troops. The system is intended to destroy targets on the ground and in the air, including helicopters and drones, at the distance of 1.5-2 kilometres and the altitude of below one kilometre.

The yet unnamed system, featuring the possibility of remote control, will use both special projectiles and unguided 50-80-millimeter rockets that are already in service with the Russian Armed Forces.—Tass ■



Launch of an unguided rocket. **PHOTO: TASS**

# Kin of abductees expect Abe, aides to lead negotiations with N Korea

TOKYO — Families of Japanese abducted by North Korea decades ago expressed hope on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his close aides will lead negotiations with Pyongyang to bring back all the victims.

Chief Secretary Yoshihide Suga, who had his tenure extended as a government spokesman in the Cabinet reshuffle, was named to double as the minister in charge of the abduction issue. The top government spokesman is known as Abe's right-hand man. "Having a direct subordinate of the prime minister to address the abduction issue is an advantage, which wasn't achieved in the past," said Shigeo Iizuka, who heads the group representing abductees' families. Teruaki Masumoto, whose sister Rumiko was abducted in 1978, said it is hard to eval-



Shigeo Iizuka, head of a group representing abductees' families, speaks to reporters in Ageo, Saitama Prefecture on 2 October, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

uate the reshuffle because they have asked for a full-time minister, but said he "welcomes it if the issue is going to be addressed under the Cabinet's initiative." Citing an accord

between Japan and North Korea in 2014 under which Pyongyang agreed to reinvestigate the issue of the past abductions but later abandoned, Masumoto said, "I can't trust in the

Foreign Ministry. I hope the prime minister's office will take the lead in the negotiations." "I call for immediate action to bring back the victims," said the 80-year-old Iizuka, whose sister Yaeko Taguchi was abducted in 1978 at the age of 22.

Before the latest Cabinet reshuffle, the minister of health, labour and welfare has doubled in the role.

Tomoyuki Kawazoe, a member of an organization supporting the abductees' families, said, "I think who will be the minister in charge of the abduction issue doesn't matter because the negotiations will be handled by the Foreign Ministry." "At a critical moment in terms of how to start the summit between Japan and North Korea, I want the government to listen to various opinions and tackle them sincerely," he said. —Kyodo News ■

# Time running out for survivors as Indonesia toll tops 1,400

WANI (Indonesia) — The death toll in Indonesia's twin quake-tsunami disaster passed 1,400 on Wednesday, with time running out to rescue survivors and the UN warning of "vast" unmet needs.

National disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said the number of dead had risen to 1,407 across four areas around the ravaged seaside city of Palu, and 519 bodies had been already buried.

Authorities set a tentative deadline of Friday to find anyone still trapped under rubble, at which point — a week after this devastating double disaster — the chances of finding survivors will dwindle to almost zero.

Government rescue workers are focusing on half a dozen key sites around the city — the Hotel Roa-Roa where up to 60 people are still believed buried, a shopping mall, a restaurant and the Balaroa

area where the sheer force of the quake turned the earth temporarily to mush.

At least 150 people are unaccounted for beneath the rubble, officials said.

According to the UN's humanitarian office almost 200,000 people need urgent help, among them tens of thousands of children, with an estimated 66,000 homes destroyed or damaged by the 7.5-magnitude quake and the tsunami it spawned.

Despite the Indonesian government urging foreign rescue teams to "stand down" because the crisis was in hand, residents in hard-hit, remote villages like Wani in Donggala province say little help has arrived and hope is fading.

"Twelve people in this area haven't yet been found," Mohammad Thahir Talib told AFP.

"In the area to the south, because there hasn't been an evacuation

we don't know if there are bodies. It's possible there are more," the 39-year-old said.

In Geneva, the United Nations expressed frustration at the slow pace of the response.

"There are still large areas of what might be the worst-affected areas that haven't been properly reached, but the teams are pushing, they are doing what they can," Jens Laerke, from the UN's humanitarian office, told reporters late Tuesday.

The World Health Organization has estimated that across Donggala, some 310,000 people have been affected by the disaster. Survivors are battling thirst and hunger, with food and clean water in short supply, and local hospitals are overwhelmed by the number of injured.

Officials on the ground said that while the government was now inviting offers of help, there is still

no "mechanism for this to be implemented". Landing slots at Palu airport are snapped up by the Indonesian military, although it was expected to be open to commercial flights from 7:59am on Thursday. Palu's port, a key transit point for aid, has been damaged.

Signs of desperation are growing, with police officers forced to fire warning shots and teargas on Tuesday to ward off people ransacking shops.

Six of the Indonesian social affairs ministry's trucks laden with supplies were reportedly looted en route to Palu.

In the main route north out of the city, an AFP journalist saw youths blocking the road and ask for "donations" to clear the way. Widodo, who faces reelection next year, insisted the military and the police were in full control. "There is no such thing as looting," he said on a visit to Palu. —AFP ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY  
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date : 05<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

Invitation for Bids

IDA, Credit No : 5727-MM

Contract Title : Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Bago (West) and Ayeyarwaddy for National Electrification Project

Reference No : MOEE-NEP/C1-W7/18 & MOEE-NEP/C1-W8/18

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W7/18 for Bago (West) and MOEE-NEP/C1-W8/18 for Ayeyarwaddy.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W7/18 for Bago (West) and MOEE-NEP/C1-W8/18 for Ayeyarwaddy in the following locations.

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding

MOEE-NEP/ C1-W7 /18 process for Bago (West) is:

- Lot 1: Pyay District - 59 villages
- Lot 2: Pyay District - 95 villages
- Lot 3: Thayarwady District - 83 villages
- Lot 4: Thayarwady District - 47 villages
- Lot 5: Thayarwady District - 57 villages
- Lot 6: Thayarwady District - 69 villages
- Lot 7: Thayarwady District - 69 villages
- Lot 8: Thayarwady District - 41 villages
- Lot 9: Thayarwady District - 70 villages

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding

MOEE-NEP/ C1-W8/18 process for Ayeyarwaddy is:

- Lot 1: Pathien District - 44 villages
- Lot 2: Pathien District - 89 villages
- Lot 3: Pathien District - 72 villages
- Lot 4: Hinthada District - 72 villages
- Lot 5: Hinthada District - 49 villages
- Lot 6: Hinthada District - 42 villages
- Lot 7: Maupin District - 48 villages
- Lot 8: Maupin District - 73 villages
- Lot 9: Myaungmya District - 52 villages
- Lot 10: Pyapon/ Labutta District - 71 villages

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and [nep.pmomoep@gmail.com](mailto:nep.pmomoep@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [09:30 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, (10:00 A.M) - Myanmar Time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below.

7. All bids must be accompanied by "Bid-Security"

8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: Project Manager  
Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)  
Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy  
City: Nay Pyi Taw /ZIP Code: 15011  
Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Telephone: +95 67 3431175  
Facsimile number: +95 67 3431176  
Electronic mail address: [nep.pmomoep@gmail.com](mailto:nep.pmomoep@gmail.com)

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
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# Climate change, pests, fallen trees a deadly recipe for US forests

LOS ANGELES—Severe drought, insect infestation and poor forest management have combined in recent years to kill millions of trees in the American West—130 million in California alone—and provide fuel for huge wildfires.

The crisis is all the more alarming as hundreds of millions of hectares of land were scorched this summer out west in several states, causing a dozen or so deaths. Last Thursday, for instance, the government agency in charge of overseeing firefighting in forests said no fewer than 71 wildfires were burning.

And things could get worse. Early this year experts warned of the risk of a new, potentially much more dangerous kind of forest fire. They blame the rampant mortality of trees, mainly conifers, which has ravaged forests as a result of drought and beetle



Trees killed by the mountain pine beetle at a park in Utah. PHOTO: AFP

infestation. In the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, some forests have lost 90 per cent of their trees, prompting authorities to declare a state of emergency. As for the link between tree deaths and the rise in forest fires, the factors at play are complex and sometimes deceiving, said Brandon Collins, a researcher who has co-authored a book on the issue.

## 'Eruptive and unpredictable'

"The simplest sort of interpretation is that having dead trees just means that you have a lot more dry fuel for fires. You might expect fires to burn more intensely, quickly," Collins told AFP. But the nature and behavior of these fires does not fundamentally change, said Collins, who is a researcher with the US Forest Service and the

University of California at Berkeley. Over time, the needles from dead trees fall to the ground, denying "fuel continuity" that helps fire spread from treetop to treetop. This can lead to a reduction in so-called "crown fires," said Collins.

However, over a longer time scale of 10 to 15 years, the problem becomes the presence of lots of dead trees that have fallen to the ground. —AFP ■

# Indonesia's Mount Soputan erupts on tsunami-hit island

JAKARTA (Indonesia) — Indonesia's Mount Soputan volcano on the quake-and-tsunami-hit island of Sulawesi erupted Wednesday, spewing volcanic ash 4,000 metres into the air.

The state disaster agency warned people to stay at least four kilometres (two and a half miles) away but said there was no need to evacuate for the time being. Images showed an eruption visible for miles around, with a cloud of ash

cal column with a mushroom-shaped top.

Soputan is around 1,000 kilometres from the town of Palu where a 7.5 magnitude earthquake triggered a tsunami that lashed the coastline killing almost 1,400 people.

Indonesia is situated on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", a vast zone of geological instability where the collision of tectonic plates causes frequent quakes and major volcanic activity. —AFP ■



Photo shows fumes billowing from a volcano on Sulawesi Island, Indonesia, on Oct. 3, 2018. (Photo courtesy of the National Disaster Mitigation Agency of Indonesia) (PHOTO NOT FOR SALE) PHOTO:Kyodo

## Myanma Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.21 feet to 20.93 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of October 8<sup>th</sup> to October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

## INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and sports for the supply of Medical Equipments for Yangon Children Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital by Donation of Government of Republic of India.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supply Division, Department of Medical Services, office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (8.10.2018).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (5-11-2018) 15:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the phone No. 067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Tender Receiving and Evaluation Committee  
Ministry of Health and Sports

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (108 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (108 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING  
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHA 0092 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHA 0092 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T./A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVACNE CONTAINER  
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANDAMAN STAR VOY. NO. (010 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANDAMAN STAR VOY. NO. (010 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 CONTINENTAL  
SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (227 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (227 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

# Thai bay made famous in 'The Beach' shut indefinitely

BANGKOK (Thailand)—The glittering Thai bay immortalised in the movie "The Beach" will be closed indefinitely to allow it to recover from the impact of hordes of tourists, an official said Wednesday, as a temporary ban on visitors expired.

Maya Bay, ringed by cliffs on Ko Phi Phi Ley island, was made famous when it featured in the 2000 film starring Leonardo DiCaprio. It was initially shut for four months in June due to beach erosion and pollution as the white-sand paradise sagged under pressure from thousands of day-trippers arriving by boat.

But a survey of the problem during the temporary ban made clear that the short-term fix was not going to work and that the damage was worse than originally thought.

"We have evaluated each month and found out that the ecological system was seriously destroyed from tourism of up to 5,000 people daily," Songtam Suk-sawang, director of the National Parks office, told AFP.

"It's very difficult to remedy and rehabilitate because its beach was completely destroyed



Thousands of tourists descended on Thailand's Maya Bay daily before the ban. PHOTO: AFP

as well the plants which cover it," he said, adding it was "impossible" for recovery to occur in the allotted time.

Thailand's Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation announced the indefinite closure in a royal gazette published on 1 October.

It said that the restrictions

on tourism would not be lifted until the ecosystem "fully recovers to a normal situation".

Besides beach erosion, heavy traffic around the azure waters can also damage sensitive coral reefs, already vulnerable to rising sea temperatures and climate change.

Countries across the region

from the Philippines to Indonesia are waking up to the problem of beach tourism overload and the plastic waste and degradation that can come with it.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte announced in April a six-month closure of the popular Boracay beach resort, calling the destination a "cesspool".—AFP ■

## Hollywood heists: Four arrested for LA celebrity home burglaries

LOS ANGELES—Four people have been arrested for allegedly burglarizing the homes of celebrities including singer Rihanna and baseball star Yasiel Puig, Los Angeles police announced on Tuesday. Authorities said they believe the suspects are part of a larger ring that specializes in breaking into the homes of athletes, actors and Hollywood film producers for theft.

The home of basketball star LeBron James appeared on a list of dwelling that was seized by police and appeared to name future targets for robbery. The homes of actors Viola Davis and Matt Damon were also on the list. The suspects are three teens, two aged 19 and one 18, and the 34-year-old mother of one of them. "During recent months, the Los Angeles Police Department has become aware of a series of residential burglaries targeting actors, producers, musicians and professional athletes living in the Los Angeles area," Lillian Carranza, head of the LAPD commercial crimes division, told a news conference.—AFP ■

## Tokyo-area Moomin theme park completes construction

SAITAMA (Japan)—A ceremony marking the end of construction work was held on Wednesday for Japan's first Moomin-themed amusement park, which is located near Tokyo and scheduled for a phased opening beginning this November. Newly appointed Finnish Ambassador to Japan Pekka Orpana was among those attending the event in Hanno, Saitama Prefecture, to celebrate the completion of the park named Metsa, built in a 23.6-hectare forest area surrounding a manmade lake.

The park consists of two areas — Metsa Village, featuring restaurants and other facilities offering glimpses into Northern European lifestyles, and Moomin Valley Park, which contains structures from Moomin stories and where attractions will be held. The former is slated to open on 9 November, while the latter opens on 16 March next year, according to investment firm FinTech Global Inc, a major stakeholder. Initially, the Tokyo-based company had eyed launching the amusement park in 2015, but adjusted its timeline due to difficulties finding a proper site. Infrastructural work started in June of last year.—Kyodo News ■



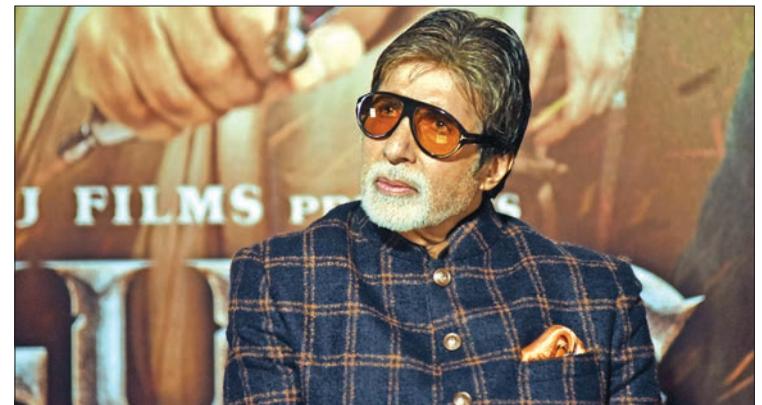
Rendering supplied by FinTech Global Inc shows a part of Metsa, a Moomin-themed amusement park. PHOTO: Kyodo News

## Krishna Raj Kapoor kept vast family of celebrated individuals together: Bachchan

MUMBAI—Megastar Amitabh Bachchan paid homage to Krishna Raj Kapoor, wife of legendary actor Raj Kapoor, saying she kept a "vast family of celebrated individuals" united. Krishna Raj Kapoor passed away Monday due to cardiac arrest. She was 87. Bachchan took to his blog to remember the departed soul.

"Krishna Raj Kapoor... The matriarch of the family... The epitome of grace and dignity... Gentle and loving to all... Caring... Faultless in etiquette and family protocol... She kept this vast family of celebrated individuals together as one bond," the actor wrote. He quoted Krishna Raj Kapoor's "famous lines".

"When you shall go as a bride into your husbands home, you must decide whether you want to carry scissors with you or a pair of knitting needles... Scissors symbolising the cutting of relations in the new home and family; knitting needles, to knit the family together..." the actor,



Indian Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan participates to the trailer launch of the upcoming Indian film 'Thugs of Hindostan' in Mumbai on 27 September, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

who also attended her cremation, wrote. She was cremated according to Sikh and Hindu rituals.

Her sons, Randhir and Rajiv, performed the last rites, in the presence of family members including granddaughters Kareena and Riddhima, daughter Rima Jain, grandsons Armaan and Adar and Shashi Kapoor's son.

Rishi Kapoor, along with wife Neetu and son Ranbir were not present. The veteran actor recently went to the US for med-

ical treatment.

Also present at the crematorium were Anil Kapoor, Karan Johar, Alia Bhatt, Aamir Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Saif Ali Khan, Anil Ambani, Sanjay Kapoor, Boney Kapoor, Ayan Mukerji, Arjun Kapoor, Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani.

Raj Kapoor married Krishna Malhotra in May 1946 and the couple had five children – three sons, Randhir, Rishi and Rajiv, and two daughters, Ritu and Rima.—PTI ■

## ‘Tools made of light’: Nobel-winning laser science, explained

PARIS — After three scientists won the Nobel Physics Prize on Tuesday for groundbreaking discoveries harnessing the power of lasers, here are a few basic facts about their research.

### What is a laser?

Lasers are a light source, just like torches, but with special properties, according to Ian Musgrave, the Vulcan Laser Group Leader at the UK’s Central Laser Facility.

Normally when light leaves a torch it spreads out — he compared it to children leaving school in different directions and wearing different coats.

But a laser concentrates the light, he said, as if all the children were forced to march in close step wearing the same uniform.

The difference comes from the cavity used to trap and condition the light before it is emitted, as well as how the light is generated, he added.

This why the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences hailed Tuesday’s Nobel winners as crafting “tools made of light”.

### What are optical tweezers?

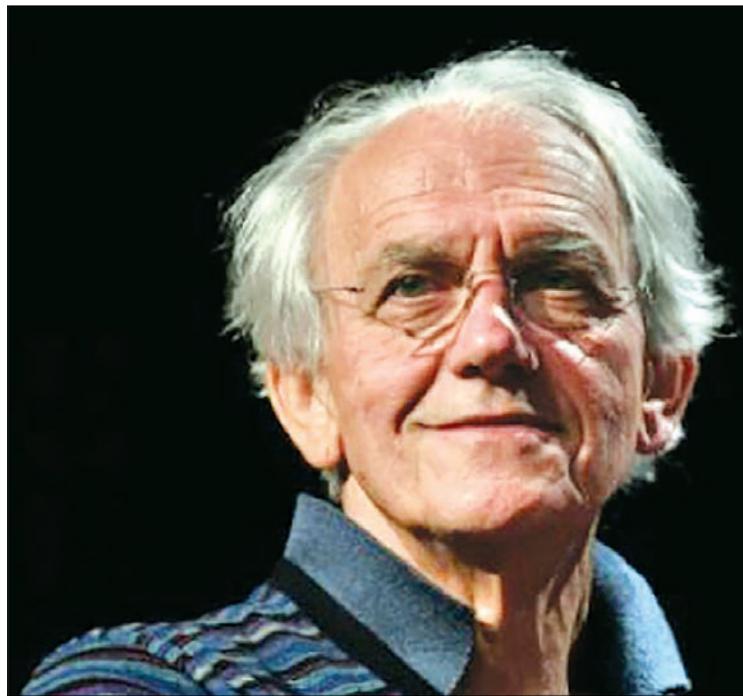
Arthur Ashkin of the United States was awarded the Nobel for inventing optical tweezers, which use the radiation pressure of a tiny focused beam of light to trap very small objects.

His tweezers let researchers catch, cut and move around things without anything touching them, which has resulted in innumerable applications across many fields of science and medicine.

For example, they’ve been used to trap a water droplet to study how they behave when they’re in a cloud, or grab droplets from an asthma inhaler to find out how it can be better dispersed inside lungs, Musgrave said.

### What are optical pulses?

Scientists have always



Gerard Mourou of France was one of three researchers to win the 2018 Nobel Physics Prize for inventions in the field of laser physics.

PHOTO: AFP

pushed to create more powerful lasers, but by the mid-1980s they hit a wall: they couldn’t increase the power without destroying what was amplifying the beam.

Then Donna Strickland of Canada and Frenchman Gerard Mourou, who also shared Tuesday’s Nobel prize, invented a technique called chirped-pulse amplification, which let scientists continue to boost power while keeping the intensity safe.

It works by stretching an ultra-short laser pulse in time, amplifying it, and squeezing it together again, creating the shortest and most intense laser pulses the world has ever seen.

The most common use that came from this breakthrough — so far — is corrective eye surgery.

But it also opened the way for scientists to continue pushing the boundaries of laser power, Musgrave said, allowing them to create extreme conditions to understand how magnetic fields are generated in space and what it’s like inside a planet’s core.

The pulses are also now so

fast — as quick as a hundred attoseconds, one billionth of a billionth of a second — they have revealed the secrets of electrons.

### What’s next?

Nobel-winner Mourou isn’t done amping up laser power. He has initiated and led the development of Extreme Light Infrastructure, which has three sites across Europe and is expected to be complete in a few years.

The peak power of its laser is planned to be 10 petawatts — equivalent to an incredibly short flash from a hundred thousand billion light bulbs.

How powerful and how short can the pulses get? Some predict a future laser of 100 petawatts or more, or as quick as mere zeptoseconds — a trillionth of a billionth of a second.

It’s difficult to predict just how such lasers could be used, but scientists hope that they will help destroy nuclear waste, zap cancer cells, unravel quantum physics, clear debris from space and even be a new clean energy source.—AFP ■

## Japan space probe launches new robot onto asteroid

TOKYO — A Japanese probe launched a new observation robot towards an asteroid on Wednesday as it pursues a mission to shed light on the origins of the solar system.

The Hayabusa2 probe launched the French-German Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout, or MASCOT, towards the Ryugu asteroid’s surface, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said.

“We can confirm that the MASCOT separated from the spacecraft as planned,” the agency said in a tweet on its official account. It was not clear how long it would take for confirmation of the robot’s safe landing on the asteroid, where it is expected to collect a wide range of data.

“It is hugely significant to take data from the surface of an asteroid, we have high expectations for the scientific data,” Hayabusa2 mission manager Makoto Yoshikawa said at a briefing before the landing.

The 10-kilogramme (22-pound) box-shaped MASCOT is loaded with sensors. It can take images at multiple wavelengths, investigate minerals with a microscope, gauge surface temperatures and measure magnetic fields. MASCOT’s launch comes 10 days after the Hayabusa2 dropped a pair of MINERVA-II micro-rovers on the Ryugu asteroid — a world first.

Unlike those machines, MASCOT will be largely immobile — it will “jump” just once on its mission, and it can turn on its sides. And while the rovers will spend several months on the asteroid, the MASCOT has a maximum battery life of just 16 hours, and will transmit the data it collects to the Hayabusa2 before running out of juice.

The Hayabusa2 is scheduled later this month to deploy an “impactor” that will explode above the asteroid, shooting a two-kilo (four-pound) copper object into it to blast a small crater on the surface. The probe will then hover over the artificial crater and collect samples using an extended arm. The samples of “fresh” materials, unexposed to millennia of wind and radiation, could help answer some fundamental questions about life and the universe, including whether elements from space helped give rise to life on Earth. Hayabusa2, about the size of a large fridge and equipped with solar panels, is the successor to JAXA’s first asteroid explorer, Hayabusa — Japanese for falcon.

That probe returned from a smaller, potato-shaped, asteroid in 2010 with dust samples despite various setbacks during an epic seven-year odyssey and was hailed as a scientific triumph.

The Hayabusa2 mission was launched in December 2014 and will return to Earth with its sam-



MASCOT’s launch comes 10 days after the Hayabusa 2 dropped a pair of MINERVA-II micro-rovers on the Ryugu asteroid — a world first. PHOTO: AFP

## Facebook adds new tools to stem online bullying

SAN FRANCISCO (United States) — Facebook on Tuesday stepped up ways to battle bullying and harassment at the leading social network.

The initiative calls for new tools and programs to help users control “unwanted, offensive

or hurtful experiences on Facebook,” global head of safety Antigone Davis said in a blog post.

“Everyone deserves to feel safe on Facebook,” Davis said.

Facebook users will be able to hide or delete groups of comments, including responses, in-

stead of having to remove them one at a time, according to Davis.

The feature was rolling out on desktop computers and Android-powered mobile devices, and promised to reach versions of the application on Apple gadgets in coming months. Facebook also

began letting people report bullying or harassment on behalf of friends reluctant to complain to the social network themselves.

“Being the target of unwanted attention can be stressful and some people may not feel comfortable reporting a bully or har-

asser,” Davis said. “If you see a friend or family member being bullied or harassed, now you can report someone on their behalf.”

A team at Facebook reviews complaints to determine whether reported posts violate policies at the social network.—AFP ■



Mr Eric Abrams, the newly-appointed technical director (right) speaks at the press conference. PHOTO: MFF

## Press conference held on appointment of new MFF technical director

MYANMAR Football Federation (MFF) held a press conference on the appointment of Mr. Eric Abrams as the new technical director, at the MFF conference hall on 2 October.

At the outset of the press conference, MFF CEO U Phone Naing Zaw delivered an address, saying decision has been made to appoint a highly-profile technical director who is equipped with international experience and capable of improving Myanmar football standard in a different way. He said he fully believes Mr. Eric Abrams could bring a big change to brighten

the future image of Myanmar football arena.

Regarding questions raised by journalists, Mr. Eric Abrams replied Myanmar people are very desirous of playing football. Countries achieving success in national selected teams, men's and women's, are not many in the world. Myanmar is one of the most successful countries in football. Unlike Myanmar, countries not loving football are now standing above Myanmar on the world football ranking. During his duty at MFF, he said, he would like Myanmar to move on its world football ranking.

He called on all stakeholders to make more efforts for the development of Myanmar football arena.

The MFF signed Mr Eric Abrams, a Belgium, as its new technical director for a three-year deal.

Present on the occasion were U Phone Naing Zaw, U Soe Moe Kyaw, CEO of Myanmar National League, U Ko Ko Thein, General Secretary of the MFF, U Tin Myint Aung, Joint General Secretary of the MFF, Mr. Eric Abrams, officials concerned and journalists. —Htut Htut (Twante) ■

## Real Madrid beaten by CSKA Moscow in Champions League

MOSCOW (Russia)—Champions League holders Real Madrid slumped to a shock 1-0 group-stage defeat at the hands of CSKA Moscow in Russia on Tuesday.

Croatian winger Nikola Vlastić scored the only goal of the

game in the second minute at the Luzhniki Stadium.

The Russians held on after having goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev sent off in injury time, and they leapfrog the reigning European champions to go top of Group G.—AFP ■

## Myanmar U-17 men's football squad leaves for Japan

AT the invitation of Japan Football Association (JFA), Myanmar U-17 men's football squad left Yangon International Airport for Japan, on 2 October, to take part in JENESYS 2018 Japan-Mekong U-17 Football Tournament.

U Sithu Win will act as the manager and U Nyi Nyi Latt as the chief coach. Myanmar football squad is comprised of 25 members, including 20 players and 5 managers and coaches.

JENESYS 2018 Japan-Mekong U-17 Football Tournament will be held in Fukushima, Japan, from 3 to 10 October, in two groups. Myanmar is in Group B, together with Viet Nam, Japan and Cambodia.

It will play against Viet Nam on 5 October, Japan on 6 October and Cambodia on 7 October. — Htut Htut (Twante) ■



Myanmar U-17 men's football squad before departure for Japan. PHOTO: MFF

## Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2018 opens in Mandalay

AN opening ceremony of Badminton Asia U-17, U-15 Junior Championships 2018 was held at Mandalaythiri Stadium in Mandalay, yesterday. Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein attended the ceremony.

A total of 17 nations are participating: Myanmar, India, Japan, Nepal, Thailand, Macau, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Singapore, Viet Nam, Hong Kong, Brunei, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Chinese Taipei.

Altogether 350 badminton players, along with 80 coaches, are competing for their best.

The championship tournament will be held from 3 to 7 October, and entrance fees for the tournament is free.—Mann (Kopwar) ■

## We don't have 'technical quality': Mourinho admits United problems

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Jose Mourinho risked causing another rift with his Manchester United stars as he slammed his defence's lack of "technical quality" after their 0-0 draw with Valencia.

The frustrating Champions League clash at Old Trafford means Mourinho's side have gone four games without a win in all competitions. United rarely looked like scoring against their out-of-form opponents and were booed off at full-time. It was another blow for Mourinho, who has come under fire after presiding over United's worst since to a league season for 29 years. Mourinho has feuded with star midfielder Paul Pogba, as well as other members of his squad. And now he has taken a swipe at his back four, which against Valencia featured Antonio Valencia, Chris Smalling, Eric Bailly and Luke Shaw.

"We don't have the technical quality to build from the back," Mourinho said. "The players tried. They raised the level of their intensity in spite of the fact we don't have many with that intensity. We had probably a couple of the biggest chances to win it but I have accepted the result as a fair result."

Mourinho admitted United had focused on stopping Valencia causing them problems, even though they were at home, because his team are so badly lacking confidence at present. "We tried to do something we did well which was to stop a fast team on the counter attack. We knew we wouldn't create 20 chances," he said.

"Our attacking players aren't in their best moments of confidence and individual level. We thought with three or four chances we would score and win the game. —AFP ■



Manchester United's Chilean striker Alexis Sanchez (L) vies with Valencia's Spanish defender Jose Luis Gaya Pena during the Champions League group H football match between Manchester United and Valencia at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England on 2 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP