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State Counsellor returns from Japan after working visit

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has concluded her working visit to Japan to attend the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting and Japan-Mekong Economic Forum held in Tokyo and left Japan by All Nippon Airways at 11:30am local time yesterday.

The State Counsellor and her delegation were seen off at Tokyo Narita Airport by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Thurein Thant Zin, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Saw Min, officials from the Myanmar embassy and military attaché's office, and the families of embassy staff.

The State Counsellor and her delegation arrived back at Yangon International Airport at 4:30pm yesterday, where they were welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon City Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Director-General Daw Kay Thi Soe of the Strategic Studies and Training Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japanese Chargé d'affaires Mr. Toru Maeda and officials. —MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomed back by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials at the Yangon International Airport, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife present Buddha's image to Sayadaw at Wat Ong Teu Buddhist Monastery. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Laos

AT the invitation of the Laotian Minister of National Defence Lieutenant-General Chansamone Chanyalath, a Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation, led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, left for the Lao People's Democratic Republic yesterday.

The delegation comprises of Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and senior military officers, Com-

mander of the Triangle Region Command Major General Khin Hlaing and officials.

At the Wattay International Airport in Laos, the delegation was welcomed by Brigadier-General Kenchanh Nanthalangsy and wife, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Ko Ko Naing and wife, Myanmar military attaché' (Army, Navy and Air) Colonel Kyaw Kyaw Min and wife and responsible officials.

In the afternoon, the delega-

tion led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited the Wat Ong Teu Buddhist Monastery.

The delegation also paid homage to the 460 year-old biggest bronze Buddha image of Laos at the Ong Teu Mahavihan.

Then they offered flowers, water and candles to the Buddha image. The Senior General also visited Myanmar military attaché's office, according to the news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.—MNA ■

Workshop on transport connectivity among CLMV-T countries held in Yangon

MYANMAR hosted the Capacity Building Workshop on Strengthening Transport Connectivity among CLMV-T countries in Yangon on 9 and 10 October, attracting about 50 experts from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Korea and Malaysia. During the two-day workshop, which was jointly conducted by the Ministry of Transport and Communications and UNESCAP, attendees discussed challenges for seamless transport connec-

tivity along coastal routes of the CLMV-T countries.

Speaking at the ceremony, Permanent Secretary U Win Khant of the Ministry of Transport and Communications said the workshop would benefit Myanmar as the country is weak in trans-border transport connectivity. Mr. Sandeep Raj Jain, representative of UNESCAP Transport Division, said enhancing transport connectivity will bring benefits due to geographical proximity

among CLMV-T countries and UNESCAP will continuously help like the commencement.

All participants of the workshop agreed to take pragmatic approach with trailer swap method to overcome challenges for seamless transport connectivity caused by non-physical barriers. Coastal shipping is becoming important for sustainable transport connectivity as it helps reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.—MNA ■

Appointment of Ambassador agreed

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr. Szilveszter Bus as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hungary to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr. Szilveszter Bus was born in Tatabánya, Hungary on 8 February 1967. He earned a Master Degree in International Relations from Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1991. Since then, he has served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Embassies of Hungary in Sweden and Canada. He has also served as Director-General for the Americas and as Ambassador of Hungary to Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, East Timor, ASEAN, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Since July 2015, he has been serving as Deputy State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. He is married with 4 sons.—MNA ■

UNSG's Special Envoy arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

MS. Christine Schraner Burgener, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar arrived in Nay Pyi Taw from Bangkok, Thailand at 6:55 pm

yesterday. She was welcomed by responsible officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA ■



UN Secretary General's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener arrives at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

Women of different religions hold discussion in Maungtaw

A DISCUSSION for women from different religious backgrounds was held on 9 and 10 October at the District General Administration Department in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

Participating in the meeting were Director-General Dr. San San Aye of the Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Mr. Roelof

Meyer, former Defence Minister of South Africa and current member of the Advisory Board for the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, and other board members, the head District GAD U Soe Aung and officials, and female delegates representing different religious backgrounds from various townships.

Afterwards, the Director-General and Advisory Board members looked around the local wet market in Maungtaw Township, where local people were going around their daily tasks. The delegates discussed peace and harmony between the two communities of Pantaw Pyin Village and Aungbala Village at the District Administration Office.—Kyaw Thu Win ■



Discussion for women from different religions held in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: KO AUNG KYAW**

Youth Sector

The role of active young entrepreneurs has become important among today's businessmen. The government has been providing support to have more young entrepreneurs emerged. These young businessmen are the future of Myanmar's business environment. More businesses at the international level will emerge by supporting and nurturing them.

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

Restoration of Bagan's quake-hit pagodas needs to minimize damages in disasters: VP U Myint Swe



Vice President U Myint Swe on an inspection tour of Bagan cultural region. PHOTO: MNA

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe called for taking into account the possible potential damages to pagodas in Bagan in possible future disasters when the quake-hit pagodas are restored.

"When we carry out restoration and conservation, it is necessary to formulate a four-year plan with step by step approach as part of efforts for preventing damages caused by possible disasters," said Vice President U Myint Swe at the third meeting of the leading committee for restoration and conservation of the pagodas in Bagan.

The Vice President also stressed the need to conserve the pagodas without damaging their original architectural designs through coordination between ministries concerned and local and foreign experts.

"When earthquake-hit pagodas and religious edifices are renovated and restored, we are working together with the UNESCO so that the Bagan cultural heritage zone can meet the standards for the World Heritage List," said U Myint Swe.

A total of 389 pagodas were damaged by a 6.8 magnitude earthquake on 24 August 2016 and emergency restoration work

on the pagodas completed within four months after the disaster.

A total of 325 earthquake-hit pagodas have been restored and conserved so far in two years, 21 are under conservation and 43 remained to be restored.

Following the earthquake, local and foreign experts set priorities for renovation and restoration of damaged pagodas: 36 pagodas to be renovated as the first priority, 53 as the second priority and 76 as the third priority, and minor restoration for 224 in all.

There has not been such an earthquake in Bagan since July 1975.

The Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone, where over 3,000 ancient pagodas and religious edifices can be seen in one place, has been in existence for more than one thousand years, and it is one of the tourist attractions of Myanmar.

The leading committee chaired by Vice President U Myint Swe was formed under the notification issued by the Office of the President on 29 September 2016, with a view to preserving ruins of damaged pagodas and religious edifices operates with two working committees and five

sub-committees.

Duties of the committee include giving protection to damaged pagodas to prevent from any more damage, making arrangements for pilgrims to pay homage to pagodas safely and making consultations with experts and architects to preserve

"...we are working together with the UNESCO so that the Bagan cultural heritage zone can meet the standards for the World Heritage List.

— Vice President U Myint Swe

the pagodas without damaging their original architectural design.

Until now, donation money for the restoration and conservation up to 30 September 2018 reached over Ks 4.6 billion, US\$1.1million, Thai Baht 10820, Singapore \$ 7250, Japan Yen 30000 and other kinds of currencies.

The Vice President also urged the authorities concerned

to use the donations systematically under the supervision of the officially formed committee.

Following his address, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko reported on the situation of step-by-step restoration of the pagodas, fund, submission of ap-

for Information Dr. Pe Myint reported on releasing information in timely manner with regard to renovation and restoration of pagodas and requirements for producing documentary about prevention of pagodas in Bagan from damages in disasters and to promote Bagan in the eyes of the world.

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw reported on completion of the restoration and renovation of the quake-hit pagodas and future plans for minimizing damages in disasters.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung reported on the situation of the pagodas which are under construction, preparation of collecting list of weak pagodas and recommendations on the pagodas.

Local architectural experts also reported on their work together with foreign experts to restore and conserve the pagodas, view mount and cleanliness in Bagan.

Ten resolutions were made at the meeting.

Following the meeting, Vice President U Myint Swe inspected restoration and renovation of quake-hit pagodas.—MNA ■

plication for putting the Bagan cultural zone in the UNESCO list and sustainable development in Bagan.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on providing security to tourists in Bagan and Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung on plans for providing machinery for restoration and renovation of pagodas, if required.

Afterwards, Union Minister

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Raising revenue prompts return to parking charges

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON authorities will again be collecting car parking charges to raise the country's revenue, as cases of illegal parking fees are on the rise, which cannot generate country's revenue, said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

He was responding to a question raised by Daw Kyi Pyar, Hluttaw representative from Kyauktada Township constituency 1 at the 19th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the Second Yangon Region Hluttaw held on 9 October. She asked if there is a plan to collect parking fees on designated roads starting from 1 October.

"Tax collection on vendors and car parking was abolished before 2015 election. The tax can contribute to the country's revenue but the country does not receive any of them. The abolishing of tax collection results in non-disciplinary actions of the vendors selling on the streets. Illegal parking fees collection is rampant. This move to recollect parking fees aims to raise the country's revenue", said the Yangon mayor.

Previously, ten parking restriction zones were set up in downtown areas of Yangon City, Tenders were called for downtown Yangon parking facilities. Parking fees collection were suspended starting from 1 December 2014. According to Yangon Region government's meeting 28/2018 held on 26 July 2018, they decided to invite tenders for parking fees collection at Ks200 per hour by setting eight parking zones in the Central Business District area.

Competitive bidding was invited in the state-owned newspapers issued 22 and 23 August 2018. Of eight zones, five were successfully bid at. Tender for



Beginning this month, vehicles are being charged for parking on streets and roads in eight designated zones in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

the remaining three zones were invited again as the proposed companies did not meet floor price, said U Maung Maung Soe.

Tender invitation matters should have been discussed with Hluttaw representatives. There might be flaws in responsibility, accountability and management as some companies that won tender transfer their businesses to small companies, Daw Kyi Pyar stressed.

When we make contract with those companies, necessary measures will be embodied into the contract to ensure systematic parking. The remaining three zones are already put out to tender. In a bid to collect parking fees simultaneously, the collection period is set from 1 November 2018 to 31 March 2019. After that, more effective Smart Car Parking System is

planned to be launched, said Yangon mayor. Vehicle parking on streets and roads in designated eight zones is being charged at Ks200 per hour between 8 am and 6 pm starting from 1 October, 2018, which have been notified to the public through state-owned newspapers, journals and FM radio. It has been informed to Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) authorities, township administrators, Myanmar Police Force, Traffic Police Force and Hluttaw members, Yangon mayor continued.

"I agreed with parking fees collection. But systematic collection at reasonable rate with better service is a must," said Daw Kyi Pyar.

"We understand the management of roads are under YCDC. But people freely park the cars at the side of the roads as commercial hub Yangon's roads are cramped and there

is no specific designated area for the vehicles to park. However, collecting parking fees of Ks100/200 will cause difficulties for downtown residents when they park the cars in front of their own houses.

"Therefore, I like to suggest particular plan for them like monthly or yearly payment", said Daw Kyi Pyar.

Yangon mayor responded that parking collection time is set from 8 am to 6 pm. People should consider it as parking in public area, instead of parking in front of their houses.

Returning to parking fees is issued according to section 33 sub-section (A) of YCDC law. Since 24 August 1995, no one is allowed to park the cars on the roads violating traffic rules, and those drivers who fail to pay parking fees and those violating the laws shall be taken action against under existing law. ■

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Illegal goods seized in Yaypu, Mayanchaung checkpoints

A COMBINED team comprised of officers and staff from the departments concerned is checking for illegal goods at Yaypu and Mayanchaung checkpoints which were reopened on 1 March, it is learnt.

There were 596 export vehicles and 553 import vehicles along Mandalay-Muse Pyidaungsu road as well as 27 export vehicles and 126 import vehicles along Yangon-Myawady road on 9 October.

The combined team found two cases of illegal goods worth Ks0.74 million at Mayanchaung checkpoint on 9 October 2018.

Among those cases, the team stopped two six-wheel vehicles at Mayanchaung

checkpoint and seized assorted biscuit (320 kg), soy milk (300l) and car turbo brand new (600 kg), the total worth of Ks0.74 million, for which cannot show any legal documents. —GNLM ■

Development strategy sought to spur local coffee industry

By May Thet Hnin

THE Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is drafting a Myanmar Coffee Development Strategy by receiving ideas contributed by all stakeholders engaged in coffee supply chain, said U Myint Swe, director of coffee crop division.

“Strategy for Myanmar’s coffee sector will be drawn up, aiming for next 20 to 30 years. We expect to develop long-term plan, embodying target of coffee plantation acreage in coming 30 years, revenue from coffee industry and job opportunities. All suggestions will be added into strategic planning to spur

the development of coffee industry”, he said.

Multiple key stakeholders, including coffee buyers, coffee bean roasters, businessmen, international non-governmental organizations, non-government organizations and those interested persons can make suggestions in Myanmar Coffee Development Strategy planning.

In order to draw up strategy, working groups were first formed at coffee forum held May last year. They are currently coming up together.

“I took responsibility to hear the voices of Shan and Kayah growers. I will manage to select team leaders to voice their requirements on behalf of our

growers. We will separately go to project areas”, said Daw Lay Lay Myint, Genius coffee producer and managing director of Aung Nay Lin Tun Company.

That strategy is slated to be completed within one or two years. Myanmar, being rich with land resources, can grow both highland coffee Arabica (which can be grown best above 2,500 feet) and lowland coffee Robusta. The country still has untouched land for coffee plantation. Coffee bean is a profitable cash crop and a promising sector to earn country’s revenue with expansion of coffee plantations. However, growers have only small access to loan plans and the government-backed loans might

help effectuate the development of coffee sector, she continued.

“Based on my past experiences in coffee industry, government’s support plays a vital role in improving coffee sector. Government-backed loan is a crucial factor in the success of coffee production in Viet Nam and China. Sure, public attention is more important to the industry. Now, coffee crop has attracted many growers.

“It is necessary to grab more public attention year over year. Myanmar’s coffee production is earlier than Viet Nam’s, yet, the country lags behind Viet Nam when they can earn US\$3 billion from coffee export. We will

follow Viet Nam’s steps in coffee production by adapting to our land and weather conditions”, said U Myint Swe.

At present, Myanmar can export only about 1,000 tons per year while it imports 4,000 tons. There are high quality coffee producers as well as some organic coffee suppliers working commercially. Myanmar’s coffee has penetrated markets of Asia, European countries and the US and it needs to boost its production, said the coffee growers.

There are 40,000 highland coffee plantation acres and about 10,000 lowland acres in Myanmar, totaling 50,000 acres. Shan State is the main producer of coffee beans. ■

Tight border security halts rice, sugar, corn exports to China

By May Thet Hnin

MYANMAR’S rice, sugar and corn exports are suspended due to China’s tight security in border area of Muse between China and Myanmar, according to Muse trade center.

Corn export has halted since last week. Similarly, rice cannot be exported since two days ago. Sugar trade suspension has lasted for 20 days and nearly 100,000 tons of sugar are stockpiled in border market, said Khun Min Thant, an official from Muse trade center.

“China has been tightening its security on cross-border corn trade in Shweli and Kyegaung areas since last week. They are inspecting trucks and warehouses along trade routes. They are seizing the imported goods at the ports of their side”, he said.

Such cases are not unusual. China tightens corn and rice trade, but the confiscation is not that strict. However, sugar has become a restricted good

to protect their merchants, and they are strictly tightening the sugar export.

“It is normal that goods pile up when the trade route is tightly inspected. Sometimes, warehouses are cramped with stockpile for a week to ten days. Some merchants do not possess a warehouse. They usually control rice and sugar illegal trade, but China rarely bans corn trade”, said Khun Min Thant.

China’s tight security in border area halted rice trade. Muse market previously witnessed daily supply of 2,000 to 7,000 tons. In recent days, rice inflow to Myanmar’s border market plunged down to 1,000 tons, said U Chan Thar Oo, Vice chairman of Muse commodity depot “If the country’s border trade suspension remains unchanged, it will undermine the country’s economy as 70 per cent of agro export goes to China.

“Additionally, main export items are restricted. The vol-

ume of rice export last year reached 3.6 million tons, yet we are facing many challenges to reach the target export of 2.5 million tons this year”, he maintained. Around 20,000 tons are left in the depot due to low supply, despite rice trade suspension.

China has set import quotas on some agro products, including rice. Tax is exorbitantly high for merchants when the import volume exceeds the quota limit, resulting in illegal rice flow to China.

Therefore, China’s confiscation of rice in the border areas often occur. Local merchants want legal preferential trade at a cheap tax rate through negotiation between China and Myanmar governments. Despite suspension on rice, sugar and corn trade, watermelon, green grams, rubber, sesame seeds, onions are regularly traded but Muse depot do not witness inflow of other pulses these days, according to yesterday’s Muse

Lacquerware business using horsetails on verge of extinction



A traditional hand-made lacquerware workshop using bamboo-strip base mixed with horsehair. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

LACQUERWARE business using horsetails for some delicate pieces are on the brink of extinction in Bagan area, NyaungU District, Mandalay Region.

Lacquerware business has been passing from old generations in Bagan-NyaungU areas. Lacquerware businesses using bamboo have nothing to worry about but only one or two crafters survived in lacquerware business using horsetails. They are experiencing hardships due to high price of horsetails, lack of demand for lacquerware and different steps in processing.

In old days, lacquerware businesses flourished in Bagan

area. Now, only one has survived in West Phwarsaw Village. There are three types of raw materials used in lacquerware: bamboo, horsetails and wood.

The process of making lacquerware takes around one and half hour for single lacquerware bowl. Those lacquerwares using horsetails are of high quality. A viss of horsetails is worth Ks50,000.

Daw San San Aye, lacquerware artist from West Phwarsaw Village, stressed her concerns that high input cost and different steps in making lacquerware might lead to its extinction gradually. — Ko Htein (Ngathayauk) ■

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The Peace Process Steering Team holds a meeting to prepare for summit near Mount Poba on 15 October.
PHOTO: EPRN

NCA signatories hold preliminary meeting ahead of summit

THE Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) of the ethnic signatories to the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement (NCA) held an emergency preliminary meeting in Chiang Mai yesterday, and which will continue today.

The two-day meeting will discuss about the summit between top leaders from the government, Tatmadaw, and the 10 near NCA signatories, scheduled to be held the foot of Mount Poba on 15 October.

PPST Chairman and Karen National Union (KNU) Chairman Saw Mutu Say Poe said the meeting is held to review the reports of the preparatory team that attended the unofficial discussions held with the Union Government concerning the upcoming 10-plus-10 summit so that a single unified stand can be established, with an appropriate course of actions drawn up from it. He said the action plan will attempt to bridge the profound gap between basic political principles of all stakeholders.

The KNU Chairman said they have to find out if both sides adhere to the NCA and review

the preparatory team's reports to see if they are consistent with the NCA. This is because the NCA was accomplished after traversing through numerous difficulties, and such it is a roadmap that cannot be deviated from, said the KNU Chairman.

He added that the KNU's policy is to work together on similar tasks and to separate work on different tasks. He said the time is crucial for all 10 NCA signatories to establish a unified stand and to find ways for the non-signatories to participate in the peace process so that a future federal democratic union can be realized.

In a press conference held by the Office of the President in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 October, Director-General U Zaw Htay said the upcoming summit is vital and could resolve the issues that are delaying the peace process since top government officials will be attending.

He said both State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Commander-in-Chief Sen-Gen Min Aung Hlaing will be attending the upcoming summit,

stressing that even in the peace process' highest meeting, the Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM), only the Deputy Commander-in-Chief was present.

"This summit is the first of its kind," said U Zaw Htay. He continued, saying, "How deep the consideration and desire for peace will be evident by whether you attend the summit or not. If you don't attend then you have to state your reason to the public. We've requested all Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) to attend the summit to resolve all issues delaying the peace process."

The official signing of the NCA will reach its 3rd anniversary this 15 October, which is why the 10-plus-10 summit between the top leaders of the government, Tatmadaw and EAOs is being held to accelerate the peace process.

The Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PLNO) has released an announcement that approves and welcomes the upcoming summit. —Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol

A COORDINATED patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at the border mile posts 43 to 44 from 10:40 am to 11:00 am on 9 October.

Members of the Myanmar patrol were from No.1 Border Police sub-division, Area 2, Maungtau Township, and the Bangladesh patrol was led by Subedar Md. Salim Miah of No. 11 Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB).

Likewise, on the same day at 10:00 am, a troop of border po-

lice members from No.4 Border Police sub-division (Maungtau) station conducted a coordinated patrol with two water crafts along the Naf River.

The troop in the two water crafts met with Bangladesh's troop led by Naib Subedar Md. Humayunkubir of BGB 2 in two water crafts at the middle of the Naf River and patrolled together along the river at 10:35 am, according to the Police Information Department.—Police Information ■

lice members from No.4 Border Police sub-division (Maungtau) station conducted a coordinated patrol with two water crafts along the Naf River.



Myanmar Border Police troop conduct coordinated patrol along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. **PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE**

Five family members return to Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre

A FAMILY of five displaced people returned to Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, Maungtau District, in Rakhine State on 10 October around 8 am, according to the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre.

U Soe Tun, the Deputy Director of the Administration Department of reception centre, and U Thant Zin, the Deputy Director of the Department of Immigration and Population, scrutinized Mohamad Eitnu, 43, and his four family members. The authorities also conducted the e-ID registration process for them while the Department of Immigration and Population has

issued the application for National Verification Card (NVC) for those who would like to apply for citizenship.

Then, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided them with food and other items, including kitchen utensils, after they received their medical checkup and medicines.

The authorities will hand over the returnees to the Hla Pho Khaung camp through Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre. Myanmar has been ready to accept verified returnees since 23 January 2018.—Township IPRD ■

Boy found dead with stab wounds in Maungtau

AN investigation is under way after a 16-year-old boy was found dead with stab wounds near Tone Chaung Village, Maungtau Township, Rakhine State on Monday.

The body was identified as Maung Hlaing Myint Aung, 16, a Dai Net ethnic whose father's name is U Phyu Maung and was living in Aung Zan Village,

Maungtau Township. He suffered a cut on the left side of his neck and two cuts on the back of his head.

In the morning of incident, Maung Hlaing Myint Aung went to Khamaung Seik Village for shopping and did not arrive back home till 5pm, which prompted his father to call U Maung Ba Sein

in Khamaung Seik Village where the latter replied that Maung Hlaing Myint Aung had already left for home around 4:30pm.

U Phyu Maung took about 20 villagers to search for his son and they found the dead body near Tone Chaung Village School at 9:25 pm.—Maungtau District (IPRD) ■



Medical team provides physical check up to the returnees at Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, Maungtau District, in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

Leaders need to fix broken economic models: IMF chief

NUSA DUA, (Indonesia) — World leaders need to fix global trading systems instead of trying to tear them down, International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde said Wednesday, in a rebuke to nationalist politicians pushing tariffs and protectionism.

Her comments come as a trade spat between China and the United States threatens economic growth around the world, with IMF experts warning of “new vulnerabilities” in the global system.

“We need to work together to de-escalate and resolve the current trade disputes,” Lagarde said at an IMF and World Bank gathering in Bali.

“We need to join hands to fix the current trade system, not destroy it,” she added.

Around 32,000 members of the global financial elite are on the Indonesian holiday island for a week of discussions that have been clouded by US President Donald Trump’s America First trade policy.

Trump has levied or threatened tariffs on goods from economies around the world, notably China, but also on traditional allies such as the European Union.

The head of the World Trade Organization warned that a “full-



International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde (L) laughs with Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati during a forum entitled “Empowering Women in the Workplace” in Nusa Dua on October 9, 2018, ahead of the start of the 2018 IMF/World Bank annual meetings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. The success of female athletes like US Open tennis champ Naomi Osaka can help break down stereotypes that are crucial to opening more doors for women in the workplace, the IMF chief Lagarde said. PHOTO: AFP

blown commercial war” could shrink global trade by nearly 18 percent and also knock worldwide GDP

“The US and China would suffer considerably,” added Roberto Azevedo, director general of the global trade body.

Higher US interest rates has also helped send emerging market currencies into a tail

spin, as countries that borrowed heavily in dollars race to pay back their debt.

The IMF’s latest report on world financial stability, released Wednesday, said global growth could be at risk if emerging markets deteriorate further or trade tensions escalate.

“New vulnerabilities have emerged and the resilience of

the global financial system has yet to be tested,” it said in the twice-yearly Global Financial Stability Report.

Market participants “appear complacent” about the potential risks from a “sudden, sharp tightening of conditions” — like rising interest rates or declining access to capital.

More tariffs and their coun-

termesures “could lead to a broader tightening of financial conditions, with negative implications for the global economy and financial stability,” the fund warned.

‘Bit depressed’

Lagarde told her audience Wednesday that she did not feel overly gloomy about global conditions.

“It’s tempting to be a bit depressed about this perspective but I’m actually hopeful because there is a clear appetite to improve and expand trade,” she said. Prominent US academic Jeffrey Sachs was less diplomatic in his assessment of Trump’s shepherding of American trade relationships, slamming the president’s repeated claims that deficits with China and other nations meant Americans were being taken advantage of.

“Trade deficits don’t (necessarily) mean cheating by the other side... This is the United States trying stop China’s growth — it’s a terrible idea,” Sachs, director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, told a seminar. “All the accusations against China are completely trumped up... Grossly exaggerated.” — AFP ■

US tightens restrictions on foreign investment in key sectors

WASHINGTON — The US government on Wednesday announced a plan for tougher oversight of foreign investment in key technology industries, a move seen as largely targeted at China.

President Donald Trump has accused China of rampant theft of American technology and used that as justification for imposing punitive tariffs on thousands of products amounting to more than \$250 billion in annual imports.

The new rules, which take effect November 10, updated 30-year-old statutes giving the president broad powers to block foreign investments in sensitive industries or those deemed harmful to US national security.

The reform allows the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to review any investment, not just company takeovers, in an American firm in one of 27 key sectors.

“These temporary regula-

tions address specific risks to US critical technology,” Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement on Wednesday.

Those include aeronautics, telecommunications, computers, semiconductors and batteries, a senior US Treasury official told reporters.

The industries were selected because they are ones where “the threat of erosion of technological superiority from foreign direct investment...requires immediate attention,” the official said. But the products subject to higher scrutiny only account for 2.5 percent of the total.

The official said the rules did not target a particular country, but CFIUS, an intergovernmental panel overseen by the Treasury, has blocked takeovers by Chinese investors. In some cases just the prospect of a review has discouraged deals.

In announcing the reform

in August, Trump made it clear the focus would be on Beijing and the threats to national security. He said China “won’t be stealing our companies anymore, especially companies that are quite complex.”

Congress approved the law known as FIRRMA with bipartisan support, and Treasury is implementing new rules under a pilot program until the final version takes effect in 15 months.

There are three criteria for increased scrutiny: any foreign investment, even a minority stake; whether the foreign investor gets a seat on the board of directors of the US tech company; and whether the foreign investor can influence the company’s decision-making process.

Treasury has not indicated how small a foreign stake would trigger the additional oversight but has said it hopes to complete reviews within 30 days. — AFP ■

EU: Brexit means new controls on trade to N. Ireland

BRUSSELS, (Belgium) — Britain will have to accept limited new administrative controls on trade with Northern Ireland in any negotiated Brexit deal, Europe’s chief negotiator warned on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Theresa May has insisted that she will not agree to any Brexit that would encroach on British sovereignty, and her Northern Irish allies in parliament have rejected such procedures.

“Both the EU and the UK exclude having a physical border on the island of Ireland, therefore what will arrive into Northern Ireland will also be arriving in our single market,” Michel Barnier said.

The negotiator said the measures would only be a stop-gap while a new trading relationship is agreed with Britain, and would be minimised if London agrees to join a full

customs union under EU rules.

“We are still open having a customs union with the UK. Such a customs union would eliminate an important part of custom checks,” he said.

But in the meantime, under the EU vision of a Brexit deal, companies on the British mainland shipping goods to Northern Ireland will fill out “customs declarations online and in advance.”

“The only visible systematic checks between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK would involve scanning the bar codes on lorries or containers, which could be done on ferries or in transit ports,” he said.

Regulatory checks on industrial goods produced within Northern Ireland for export to the EU could be carried out by “market surveillance regulators” at the factory, rather than at the border. — AFP ■

Consider both sides, not just one, in solving issues

MYANMAR is taking firm steps to resolve the Rakhine issue, but, at the same time, other voices are demanding to take quick steps to resolve the issue.

Some friends have taken a certain approach on how they can help Myanmar and how it can help resolving the issue.

Some are supposed to be trying to understand instead of making judgements on their own.

We assume that peace and stability and development in Rakhine is important for establishing democracy in Myanmar.

Regarding repatriation of displaced persons, the Union Government has carried out short-term and long-term recommendations included in Dr. Kofi Annan's report and handled by the government.

Out of 88 points proposed by the Dr. Kofi Annan's advisory commission, over 80 have been implemented through cooperation and the remaining six to seven points are being implemented through step-by-step approach, as they are considered long-term issues mentioned in the commission's report.

A citizenship issue, a long-term issue, needs to be settled through step-by-step approach.

Steps, including bringing harmony between the two communities in Rakhine State, need to be firm in the long-run.

What we are working today is to look for peaceful means to address the most complex issue of Rakhine State without jeopardizing our national interest.

A government has to listen to different views and voices and has to take all different views into consideration, but those outside a country have options to hold a view as they like.

To solve the Rakhine issue, what we need today from our friends is understanding of the efforts being made by us.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told the NHK correspondent in Japan in an exclusive interview recently that "I don't

care about the prizes and honors as such. I'm sorry that friends are not as steadfast as they might be. Because I think friendship means understanding, basically, trying to understand rather than to just make your own judgement, but prizes come and prizes go."

"There are many people who do not even realize what the situation in the Rakhine state alone is like. Let alone in the whole of Myanmar, but these days, it's always quick fixes and instant gratification. Everything has to be done immediately and quickly. But we can't afford to do that, because we have to cope with the consequences in the long run," she said.

If our friends really want Myanmar to become a stable country under democratic rule, they should take a constructive approach bringing all sides within Myanmar together to collaborate on thorny issues, such as the Rakhine issue and the peace process

Rasa (aesthetics) literature

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

MYANMAR today is alive with literary movements and activities across the country. Group discussions on literature. Festivals of literature for juveniles, schools, colleges, universities, researchers, reading rooms, using of libraries, etc., etc. Educational and information programmes in all public media are also spotlighted these days in our country. The writer heartily welcomes these good tidings.

In this article, the writer wishes to discuss about his views about rasa literature (aesthetics literature), which the State Counsellor and the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has so often emphasized upon its importance for us.

Libraries have their own style of differentiating knowledge literature) from aesthetic literature) and non-fiction knowledge literature). Here we need to know clearly and precisely what aesthetics or rasa is and how many kinds of aesthetics or rasas we have. The following table is based upon the three sources the writer had studied:

1. Pali Myanmar Dictionary by U Hoke Sein
 2. အလင်္ကာပန်းကုံး by Ashin Kumara, Hmawbi Sasana wunsauung Kyaung Taik
 3. Dictionary Alinka San Pali.
- There are 9 kinds of rasa (aesthetics)
1. Singara Rasa Erotic, sentiment love, sexual passion
သိင်္ဂါရ ရသာ ဝိနိမ္မာ ယောဂီယ ချစ်ကြိုက်ခြင်း တင့်တယ်သပွယ်ခြင်း ဝတ်စားဟန်ဆင်
 2. Hassa Rasa Laughter, joke, ridiculous
ဟာသ ရသာ ရယ်စွဲခြင်း
 3. Karuna Rasa Compassion, pity, mercy
တရုဏာရသာ သနားခြင်း
 4. Rudda Rasa Furious
ရုဒ္ဓရသာ ကြမ်းကြုတ်ခြင်း ခက်ထန်ခြင်း
 5. Vira Rasa Brave, heroic, mighty
ဝီရ ရသာ ရဲရင့်ခြင်း
 6. Bhayanaka Rassa Frightful, horrible
ဘယနက ရသာ ထိတ်လန့် ကြောက်မက်ဖွယ်စေသာ
 7. Bibhaccha Rassa Awful, loathsome, contemptible
ဝိဘန္ဓ ရသာ ရွံရှာခြင်း ခက်ဆုတ်ခြင်း
 8. Abbhuta Rassa Wonderful, marvelous
အဗ္ဗူတ ရသာ အံ့ဩဖွယ်ရာ
 9. Santa Rassa Calmness, tranquility, serenity, peacefulness
သန္တ - ရသာ တည်ငြိမ်အေးချမ်းမှု သာယာမှု

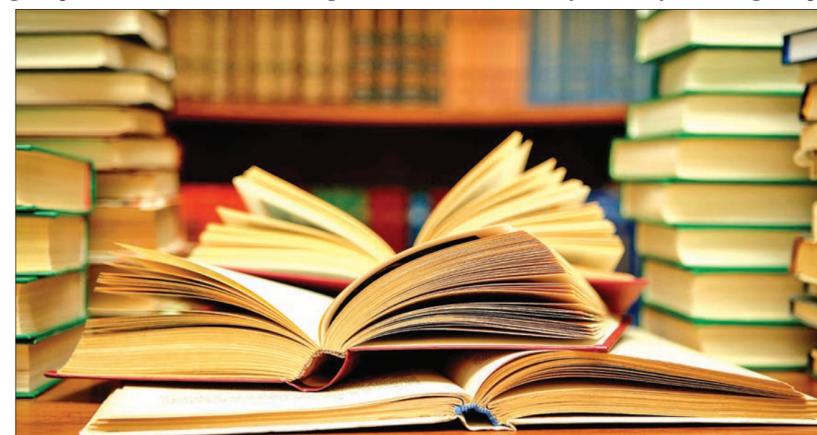
In the writer's experience and opinion only a very thin line of demarcation can be drawn between knowledge literature and aesthetic literature) We all know that literature emerged in our country since undateable age. All kinds of writing materials, stone, wood, bamboo, reed, chalk, coal are available across the country and writing process passed through pictorial, phonetic and alphabetical stages. In pre-Bagan ages, writing had already emerged full-fledged. Thanks to the monastic education of Bagan Period, not only the three Rs' (Reading, Writing, Arithmetic) had spread far and wide, but also higher learning had been achieved. The credit for which goes to the practice of Theravada Buddhism which is a literary religion. A glance at different periods of the history of Myanmar literature from its remote past to the present day, we are sure to find that Myanmar literature is a happy blend of knowledge and aesthetics သုတ and ရသာ.

All three forms of literature emerged since the time of its origin and till today. Prose (တေးဇာတ်) Verse (လင်္ကာ) and Dramatic (ဇာတ် ပြဇာတ် or play) of all periods contain both knowledge and aesthetics သုတ and ရသာ. Even in the early Bagan stone inscriptions which recorded the history of constructions of religious

monuments, palaces, dams, irrigation canals and public works, their donors, not only tell us the knowledge of facts, but also aesthetics (rasa) of the donors or builders. Their prayers, their blessings and their curses upon destroyers of their good works show aesthetics (rasas) of the time.

Among well-known Bagan stone inscriptions King Kyanzitha's Mon inscriptions, Yaza kumar stone inscription and monk envoy Shin Dithapamaukha's stone inscription are most outstanding examples to show that Bagan inscriptional literature was a blend of သုတ knowledge and ရသာ aesthetic literature. King Kyanzitha's Mon Inscription gives us Karuna rasa တရုဏာရသာ of the King towards his people. Yaza kumar's 4 language stone inscription records the fulfillment of filial duties to parents. Monk envoy's inscription contains calmness and peacefulness rasa in the conduct of diplomacy. Besides two famous Verses "Mya Kan Tha" and Ode to Mt Popa give us not only knowledge of geography and history of the places but also santa rasa in the case of "Mya Kan Tha" linka and karuna rasa in the case of Ode to Mt. Popa.

In the death song of Minister Ananta Suriya, we gain karuna rasa, Vira rasa and Santa rasa (Compassion, Braveness and Calmness) with which the minister gave up his life to the executioners leaving his death



song he composed impromptu for his master King and for all human beings. Myanmar literatures in the periods after Bagan, strike the same tone and reveal the same character: Literature of the short Pinya Period (1298-1364 AD) during which shield dances and songs emerged give knowledge of its geography, history, economy and socio-cultural life of the time, as well as vira rasa of shield dances and shield songs.

Inwa Period (1364-1555 AD), rightfully metaphorized "the Golden Age of Myanmar Literature", produced many prose, and verse literary outputs by monks as well as laity. To mention but a few are monks Shin Ottamakyaw, Shin Maha Silawuntha, Shin Maha Rathathara, Shin Ohn Nyo, Shin Kheyma, Kantaw Min Kyaung Sayadaw, Kyi Kan Shin Gyi and among laymen writers U Ya, U Toe, Taungdwingyi Saya Kyaw, Nandwin Mi Phya, Mi Nyo, Mei Kway etc. Their literary works are store houses of knowledge and rasa (aesthetic) literatures. Even the short Taungoo Period did not fail to produce knowledge and Rasa literatures. Poet laureate Nawade I and Prince of Taungoo Nat Shin Naung were prolific writers or composers of verse form Ratu. The former's prominent works contain 3 Ratu Verses about King Bayint Naung's Palace city and Palace "Kamboza Thadi". The latter Prince of Taungoo Nat Shin Naung composed ratu verses on any subject. love, battles, games, festivals, nature, etc. dedicated to the Buddha,

his love Princess Rajadatukalayay, seasonal flowers and gulee games. He was acclaimed "King of Ratu" ရတုသုရင် နတ်ရှင်နောင်.

In the succeeding periods namely Nyaung Yan Period, First Konbaung Period (1752- and second Konbaung Period 1885 AD), we find Myanmar literatures were written in the same vein — a blend of knowledge (သုတ) and aesthetics (ရသာ). To cut the story short, the writer would like to cite a few examples as follows. In Nyaung Yan Period, there emerged a new form of prose "history". U Kala's Maha Yazawun daw kyī was prominent. In it, we learn knowledge of historical facts of the past and his contemporary time. But he wrote it with vira rasa, inspiring our patriotic spirit. In the First Konbaung Period, both verse and prose forms were written by monk and lay authors. King Alaungmintaya Kyi, the founder of the Third Myanmar Empire became the role model for writing prose and verse literatures of the time. The military strategy and tactics he used in his national unification military campaigns, the bravery and fidelity of his 68 comrades-in-arms were faithfully recorded in proses and aesthetic song in different kinds of verses. His direct diplomacy in foreign relations was evidenced in the reports and diaries of Sir George Baker, the first British envoy sent to Myanmar king for diplo-

matic relations and trade, and the agreement signed and royal letter of direct contact with English King, George II, inscribed on a gold plate studded with rubies were literatures of that time blended with both knowledge (သုတ) and aesthetics (ရသာ). Late Konbaung Period exemplified the flourish of knowledge literature with aesthetics (Rasa). Though it was the period of political decline of Myanmar, in the late Konbaung Period we find Myanmar literatures of mixed knowledge and aesthetic types. To cite but few outstanding are literary works of Kinwun Mingyi, Yaw Min Gyi U Po Hlaing, playwright U Ponnya and Princess Hlaing Taik Khaung Tin. Kin Wun Mingyi's London Diaries are knowledge as well as aesthetic literature. In them, he recorded knowledge he witnessed with his appreciation and remarks in verses composed with rasas (aesthetics), Yaw Min Gyi U Po Hlaing's literary outputs also reveal both knowledge and aesthetics. Even his Treatises on Science and Technology, as well as political constitution —Chemistry, Anatomy, Telegraphy, Constitutional monarchy are combinations of knowledge and aesthetics (သုတ + ရသာစေလ). Playwright U Ponnya excelled in knowledge literature with aesthetics.

His proses, verses and plays give us knowledge of politics, economics and socio-cultural of his time with many aesthetics. Especially in giving us Singara rasa (erotic rasa), U Ponnya would go up to the height

of obscenity much to the delight of male youths and in his hassayasa, he could move the whole court of King Mindon to laughter. The baw lei ဘောလယ် songs of Princess Hlaing Taik Khaung Tin give us the knowledge of court life especially of her husband crown Prince Kanaung's philandering nights with singara rasa and karuna rasa. Myanmar literature not only continued to survive but also progressed with new forms, new concepts and new inspirations. Contacts with the technologically developed western countries —England, France, Italy and Germany—brought in advanced political, economic and socio-cultural ideas and systems. Myanmar traditional literature, exposed to such alien contacts began to change for better. Translation and adaptation of foreign literature had the effect of double-edged razar blades, cutting both ways. Introduction of English language and literature to the country promoted "anglicanization" of Myanmar people whom the British Colonial Government intended to turn into "Black Englishmen" to serve under them. That was very successful. But at the same time, it was the English language and literature that opened up Myanmar to the outside world to learn progress and advances in other countries, there by re-ignite their dormant patriotism.

As early as the second decade of the 20th century, a new wave of Myanmar literature emerged in the form of Burma Research Society (BRS) initiated by British scholars and researchers of Myanmar geography, geology, archaeology, anthropology and history and joined by Myanmar scholars and foreign scholars across the world. The publications of this Society Journal of Burma Research Society (JBRS) promoted both knowledge and aesthetic Myanmar literature.

The most outstanding happy result of this Society and Journal was (ခေတ်စမ်းစာပေ) Experimental New Burmese Literature. Its printed medium was called Gandaloka with a motto "Bricks are fallen down but we shall build with hewen stones" (မြေဘုတ်များပြိုလေရာ၊ ကျောက်အုတ်များနှင့်တည်ဆောက်အံ့). Keeping traditional Myanmar literature as our guide, a new venture was made in experimental literature which progressed into full bloom as witnessed by the emergence of new proses, verses and plays from the prolific pens of U Thein Han (Zawgyi), U Wun (Min Thu Wun), U Pe Maung Tin, Shwe U Daung, Tet Toe, P. Mo Nin, Dr. Htin Aung, Theikpan Maung Wa, U Myo Min, U Aye Maung, Thakhin Ba Thauung, Thakin Thein Pe (Thein Pe Myint), Thakhin Nu, Thakhin Aung San, Thakhin Than Htun, Thakhin Soe, Pantanaw U Thant. U Khant, Dagon Shwe Hmyar, Dagon Khin Khin Lay, Dagon Nat Shin, Thakhin Pho Hla Gyi, etc., etc. Their literary outputs are blended with knowledge and aesthetics.

That new Experimental literature grew into full bloom in the Japanese Occupation Period and Post Second World War Independence Period. But in the interregnum of nearly five decades in the transition from the 20th to 21st Centuries Myanmar literature, unfortunately, encountered with many setbacks due to Xenophobia of the leaders and cautious policy of Governments, untimely introduction of free democratic education/decline in educational system—subjects, teaching methods, quality and caliber of teachers, side effects of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) and sanctions and self-imposed isolation.

Now a complete U-turn is in progress for a change for the better. No turning back, no finding faults with the leaders and governments of the past. Forward move with the people, especially with new generations.

Take advantage of ICT, avoiding its side effects, young ones, learn and pursue Myanmar literature of knowledge and aesthetics သုတ, ရသာ မြန်မာစာပေ.

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာသဘာဝဘေးလျော့ပါးရေးနေ့
"REDUCING ECONOMIC LOSSES FROM DISASTERS HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM LIVES"
"ပြည်သူ့ဘဝ တိုးတက်ပြောင်းလဲဖို့၊ ဘေးဒဏ်ကြောင့် စီးပွားဆုံးရှုံးမှု လျော့ချဖို့"
၂၀၁၈ ခုနှစ်၊ အောက်တိုဘာလ ၁၃ ရက်



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Wednesday 10 October 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Bago and Taninthayi regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Magway Region and isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing Region. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Kyaukhtu (3.00) inches, Manaung (2.95) inches, Hpa-an (2.40) inches, Mindat (1.89) inches, Pinlaung, YeU and Pauk (1.77) inches each and Minbu(1.61) inches.

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30 hrs MST) today, the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "TITLI" over the westcentral Bay of Bengal move to Northwest wards and centered at about (130) miles South-Southeast of Gopalpur and about (100) miles Southeast of Kalingapatnam(India). Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and cloudy over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 11 October 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Bago and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin and Mon states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Sea will be moderate to rough sea elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9 - 12) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (6-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 October 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A moderate earthquake of magnitude (5.1) Richter Scale with its epicenter in inside Myanmar (about (6) miles north of Paukkhaung), latitude 18.99°N, longitude 95.55°E, depth (8) kilometers about (58) miles west of Taungoo, seismological observatory was recorded at (16)hr (58)min (05)sec MST on 10 October 2018.

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Most heavy arms out of planned Syria buffer zone

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — Jihadists and Turkish-backed rebels in Syria's last major opposition stronghold have withdrawn most of their heavy weapons from a planned buffer zone ahead of a Wednesday deadline, a monitor said.

The pullback is the first major test of a deal brokered by government ally Russia and rebel-backer Turkey last month to avoid what the United Nations warned would be the appalling humanitarian consequences of a major government offensive.

Under the agreement, all factions have until Wednesday to withdraw heavy weaponry from the 15- to 20-kilometre (nine- to 12-mile) wide buffer zone, which rings Idlib province and adjacent areas of the northwest.

And by Monday, the buffer zone must be free of all jihadists,

including those of the region's dominant armed group, the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) alliance led by Al-Qaeda's former Syria branch.

Analysts had expected Ankara to have a difficult time enforcing the 17 September deal but by Tuesday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the heavy weapons pullout was near complete.

"The buffer zone is now almost empty of any heavy weapons on the eve of the expiry of the deadline," the Britain-based monitor's chief, Rami Abdel Rahman, said.

HTS and smaller jihadist factions quietly began withdrawing their heavy arms on Saturday in an operation that continued through Monday night, the Observatory said.

The pro-Ankara Nation-

al Liberation Front said it had completed its weapons pullback on Monday.

'Forced to agree'

HTS, which controls more than two-thirds of the buffer zone around Idlib along with other jihadists, has not given any formal response to the 17 September truce deal.

But by beginning to pull out its weapons, the group was implementing it "de facto", Abdel Rahman said.

"No faction, rebel or jihadist, would be able to withstand the consequences of any escalation if the deal's terms were not met," Abdel Rahman said.

A source close to HTS told AFP it had come under irresistible pressure to fall in line to avoid further hardship for the rebel zone's three million residents,



Jihadists and Turkish-backed rebels in Syria's last major opposition stronghold have withdrawn most of their heavy weapons from a planned buffer zone ahead of a Wednesday deadline, in the first major test of a Russian- and Turkish-brokered truce deal. **PHOTO: AFP**

many of whom have fled previous bloody government offensives on other parts of Syria.

"Everybody has been forced to agree to the initiative, though reluctantly, so that people can enjoy a bit of security and safety after long years of suffering from the savagery of the regime and its allies," the source said.

The source said HTS was satisfied that the presence of the

Turkish troops, whose numbers have been increased in recent weeks, would prevent any Russian-backed government offensive. Under the terms of the deal, the buffer zone is to be patrolled by Turkish troops and Russian military police. But rebels objected to Moscow's presence in the zone and said they received Turkish guarantees that Russian patrols had been dropped. —AFP ■

Hunting a shadowy armed militia in DR Congo's 'triangle of death'

BENI (DR Congo) — "I am always anticipating an attack," says South African soldier Maijeko of how it feels to be in DR Congo's "triangle of death", where he is part of a UN peacekeeping force helping the Congolese army hunt down a militia group that is slaughtering civilians.

There has been a recent spike in violence in this volatile eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo blamed on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a shadowy armed group rooted in Ugandan Islamism.

Just last week, six civilians were killed during a night attack in the city of Beni by the ADF, which has no known leader and whose ideology and motives remain unclear.

AFP photojournalist John Wessels travelled for three days with 30 soldiers from the UN mission MONUSCO and the Congolese army to the troubled North Kivu province, where the ADF has killed hundreds of civilians since 2014.

On Friday, after reports of heavy mortar and machine gun fire, the troops headed to the

town of Oicha, north of Beni and near the border with Uganda.

The town's residents greeted them by throwing stones.

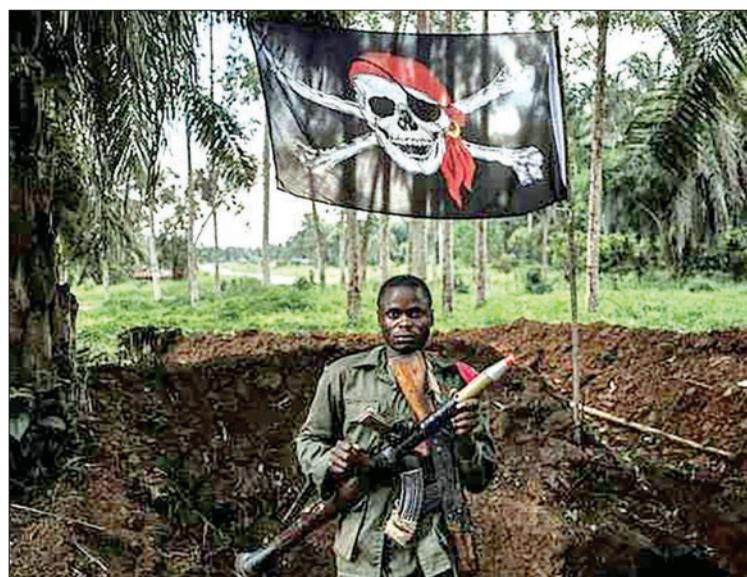
"The civilians get frustrated with us and MONUSCO, sometimes we arrive late, we have to fight harder to help the community change its mind about us," one of the Congolese soldiers said on the condition of anonymity.

Several homes in Oicha had been looted by ADF members, who melt back into the jungle after raids and attacks.

While the troops inspected the looted homes, deafening machine gunfire rang out from the jungle.

It seemed to be coming from near the town of Mbau, where 20 civilians were shot dead by the ADF in May.

The troops are based outside Oicha, where the blue helmets sleep uneasily — the ADF killed 15 Tanzanian peacekeepers in December in the deadliest attack on UN forces in 24 years. And the ADF, which is thought to have killed a total of more than 700 civilians over the last four years, regularly attacks Congolese army bases for weapons, ammunition and medical supplies. —AFP ■



A DR Congo soldier at a military base, often targeted by the ADF militia in raids for weapons, ammunition and medical supplies. **PHOTO: AFP**

PM-designate asks Iraqis to apply online for cabinet

BAGHDAD (Iraq) — Iraq's prime minister designate Adel Abdel Mahdi launched a website on Tuesday to allow candidates to apply for a ministerial position online as he struggles to form a government.

The unprecedented measure comes as Abdel Mahdi, a former Iraqi vice president, battles to overcome sharp party political differences and forge a viable governing coalition.

Abdel Mahdi was named prime minister on 2 October and, under the terms of the constitution, has until 1 November to form his government.

The new website gives would-be candidates a three-day opportunity — from Tuesday morning until Thursday afternoon — to register online for a ministerial post.

Applicants must register their personal data, indicate their political orientation and state whether they belong to any political party, according to the terms of registration found online.

Both men and women may apply. Applicants must have a university degree or equivalent qualification — a mandatory re-

quirement for joining the government.

Candidates can then choose the ministry they wish to head and must write a short statement of their vision of what makes a "successful leader" and "how to manage teams effectively".

Applicants are also asked to set out in their vision statement how they would tackle the problems facing their ministry of choice and "practical solutions" for doing so.

Abdel Hadi, 76, is a veteran of Iraq's fractious political scene.

He is seen as an independent who brings years of experience to the job, culminating in a spell as oil minister under his predecessor Haider al-Abadi.

A Shiite and native of Baghdad, the premier-designate is an economist by training and has the blessing of both of Iraq's feuding foreign power brokers — Iran and the United States.

He was assigned to form a government by new President Barham Saleh, a moderate Kurd who was elected by parliament on 2 October defeating the candidate of veteran nationalist leader Massud Barzani. —AFP ■

Ethics group urged probe on Nikki Haley travel

WASHINGTON — An anti-corruption group had urged an investigation into Nikki Haley's acceptance of private airplanes and free basketball tickets a day before she resigned Tuesday as US ambassador to the United Nations.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington had urged the State Department's inspector general to probe seven flights that Haley and her husband took last year on the luxury aircraft of businessmen from South Carolina, where she was formerly governor.

Haley, on a filing required of government employees, disclosed the flights from New York to South Carolina and Washington and estimated the highest value at \$1,066, based on the cost of commercial first-class tickets.

But the pressure group said that the value was more likely in the tens of thousands of dollars.

It said in its letter that Haley's disclosure form was "insufficient to resolve concerns about her frequent acceptance of expensive gifts."

Walter Shaub, who headed the Office of Government Ethics under president Barack Obama,



Nikki Haley announced her resignation as US ambassador to the United Nations, saying that she wanted time off after six years as governor and two in her current post. PHOTO: AFP

tweeted about the flights hours before Haley announced her resignation: "She undervalued them and it's not entirely clear if individuals or their companies bore the costs."

Haley also acknowledged receiving four tickets to a New York Knicks game worth a total of \$19,588 courtesy of Vivek Garipalli, a health care entrepreneur she described in the disclosure form as a longtime friend.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington said that the flights could have value in the range of the tickets. There was no immediate reaction from Haley or indication that the study was connected to her resignation. Haley, meeting with President Donald Trump, said that she wanted time off after six years as governor and nearly two representing his foreign policy at the United Nations. —AFP ■

Argentina protests British military exercises in Falklands

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina) — Argentina has made a formal protest with the British embassy in Buenos Aires to reject Britain's military exercises in the Falkland Islands, the foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

The two countries fought a war in 1982 in the South Atlantic islands ruled by Britain, and known in the Spanish-speaking world as the Malvinas.

Buenos Aires has "taken notice" that these exercises will take place from 15-29 October and will include missile launches, the ministry said in a statement.

"Argentina rejects the holding of these exercises in Argentine territory illegally occupied by the United Kingdom," it said.

The ministry added that the United Nations and other international bodies have urged both countries to resume negotiations for "a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute."

Argentina made a similar protest two years ago and Britain argued that the exercises were routine. The latest complaint comes after President Mauricio Macri warned Argentines late

last month that they face painful months ahead after his government pledged tough austerity measures to meet the terms of an enlarged crisis loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Argentina's currency has lost half its value against the dollar in 2018, hurting the purchasing power of millions of ordinary Argentines. Inflation is forecast to reach more than 40 per cent by the end of the year.

The war began when troops dispatched by then Argentine dictator Leopoldo Galtieri occupied the archipelago, prompting Britain to dispatch an expeditionary force which took back the territory. Argentina suffered 649 fatalities in the 74-day war, while 255 British troops and three islanders died.

Argentina argues it inherited the windswept islands from Spain when it gained independence in the 19th century.

Britain refuses to negotiate the status of the Falklands, as demanded by Argentina, arguing that the nearly 3,000 people living there voted in a referendum in 2013 to remain part of Britain. — AFP ■

Merkel's fragile alliance faces peril of regional polls

BERLIN (Germany) — Hit by a string of crises, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative union now faces two likely regional poll debacles, in Bavaria on Sunday and in Hesse two weeks later, further rocking her fragile coalition.

Only days ago she implored her centre-right CDU's lawmakers to support their allies of the more conservative CSU sister party in Bavaria, saying it was time "to face the voters rather than snipe away at each other".

The veteran chancellor has had a bumpy ride since the September 2017 general election was heavily impacted by her decision two years earlier to allow an influx of more than one million refugees and migrants.

Xenophobic backlash drove the rise of the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, complicating Merkel's efforts to forge a coalition, which took a painful six months.

Finally, the biggest election losers, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), reluctantly came on board, but Merkel soon faced fire from another quarter — her erstwhile ally, the CSU Interior Minister Horst Seehofer.

Seeking to match the AfD's tough line on immigration, he twice brought their coalition to the brink of collapse. But polls suggest his brinkmanship has only hurt the CSU, which is now polling at historic lows of 33-35 per cent and looks set to lose its absolute majority, as voters have fled either to the AfD or to the Greens. The surveys suggest that, at a time when the big mainstream parties are under fire in many western democracies, the wealthy Alpine state of Bavaria too faces a political earthquake.

Warning shot

In the election in the central state of Hesse on 28 October, Merkel's party is doing no bet-

ter in the opinion polls, and CDU state premier Volker Bouffier faces the threat of defeat.

Both regional elections will likely force acrobatic efforts to forge new stable coalition governments and could revive discontent against Merkel.

A debate has simmered about the succession to Merkel, whose centrist, pragmatic and compromise-seeking governing style has kept her in power since 2005, and whose fourth term runs until 2021.

Despite Merkel's past successes, "there can be no doubt that a change of method is needed," influential CDU lawmaker Norbert Roettgen told news weekly Der Spiegel, adding there is "a desire for change" in the party.

Weeks ago, CDU/CSU lawmakers fired a first warning shot when, in a surprise vote, they kicked out Merkel's long-time confidant Volker Kauder as

their parliamentary leader and replaced him with a relative unknown, Ralph Brinkhaus.

The chancellor herself will soon face her own party vote when she runs again to head the CDU at a December congress, a meeting that Roettgen predicted "will be decisive".

Twilight period

Merkel's situation is all the more complicated because, in addition to the grumbling in her own ranks, her dispirited junior coalition allies the SPD are still plagued by doubts about staying in government.

Many SPD rebels have strongly campaigned for the party to head into opposition to be able to speak its mind and regain its fighting spirit.

With the party now polling below 20 per cent nationally, the looming setbacks in Bavaria and Hesse are unlikely to improve the mood. Veteran CDU lawmak-

er and parliamentary speaker Wolfgang Schaeuble has mused openly about the SPD jumping ship, in an interview with newspaper Bild am Sonntag.

"If the SPD decides at some stage that it just can't go on, then it won't be the end of the world," he said, voicing confidence that the CDU could run a stable minority government.

As the AfD and the Greens are gaining at the expense of the mainstream parties, new state-level alliances such as a possible CSU-Greens coalition in Bavaria could point to future pacts at national level.

"We are in the twilight period of Merkel's rule in Germany," said Sudha David-Wilp of think-tank the German Marshall Fund.

"And the CDU/CSU will have to think about what kind of coalition they'd like to form if they want to stay in power when the next federal election comes around." — AFP ■

Japan offers to host 2nd US-N Korea summit

SEOUL — A South Korean newspaper reported on Wednesday that Japan has conveyed to the United States its readiness to host a second US-North Korea summit being arranged by Washington and Pyongyang.

The *Kyunghyang Shinmun*, without quoting a source, said North Korea has reacted positively to the offer, adding that Japan appears to be considering a “resort” other than Tokyo for the location of such a summit.

But in Tokyo, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga denied the report. As for Japan’s motive for hosting the planned summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the daily said Japan is likely seeking to avoid being kept from being involved in intensifying dialogue regarding the Korean Peninsula.

The report also alluded



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ed to speculation that if Japan hosted the summit, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe would also hold talks with Kim and could possibly reach some kind of agreement on the issue of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea decades ago. Abe, who is eager to resolve the long-standing abduction issue, is exploring summit talks

with Kim as the North Korean leader moves to build closer ties with the leaders of South Korea, China and the United States. On Tuesday, Trump said he is considering three or four possible locations for the second Trump-Kim summit, while saying he wants to hold it after US midterm elections on 6 November. —Kyodo News ■

S Korea reviewing lifting of standalone sanctions on DPRK: foreign minister

SEOUL — South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-hwa said Wednesday that her ministry was “reviewing with relevant ministries” the lifting of the country’s standalone sanctions against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Kang made the remarks during the parliamentary inspection of government offices at the National Assembly, after being asked by

Lee Hae-chan, chief of the ruling Democratic Party.

The country’s independent sanctions, called 24 May measures, were adopted in May 2010 by then Lee Myung-bak administration after a South Korean navy corvette sank in waters by what Seoul claimed was a DPRK torpedo attack.

The DPRK has denied any involvement in the incident.

The government

of former South Korean President Park Geun-hye, Lee’s successor, closed down the Kaesong Industrial Complex in the DPRK’s border town of Kaesong over Pyongyang’s fourth nuclear test in January 2016.

The factory park was the last remaining inter-Korean economic cooperation project after the 24 May measures cut all economic ties of the two Koreas.

—Xinhua ■

Philippines gives US \$300,000 worth of assistance to Indonesia to aid victims of quake, tsunami

MANILA — The Philippines has donated 16 million pesos (roughly 300,000 US dollars) worth of assistance to Indonesia ahead of its President Rodrigo Duterte’s visit to the country.

Duterte is scheduled to attend the leaders’ gathering of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Indonesia before attending the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group Annual Meeting in Bali. At a press briefing on Wednesday, Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia Leehiong Wee said that the Philippine government’s donation would be mainly made up of generator sets as well as water and medical supplies. —Xinhua ■

"DURGA PUJA (2018) INVITATION"

THE SARADIYA DURGA PUJA (Sandhi Mai Daw Puzaw Pwe) will be celebrated from Monday, the 15th October 2018 to Friday, the 19th October 2018 at Hindu temple Sri Sri Durga Bari No. 307, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

All are cordially invited to attend the Durga Puja Celebration with family and friends.
Durga Puja Celebration Committee 2018



Announcement

CFG Energy Pte., Ltd

CFG Energy Pte. Ltd., an International Oil & Gas Company, is planning Offshore Exploration Drilling campaigns on Block M-15 which is located off the coast of Tanintharyi Region, in the Andaman Sea. These projects concern the drilling of wells with objective to confirm the presence of hydrocarbon reservoirs. The exploration drilling project of Block M-15 would take place in 2019, according to the Myanmar regulation and especially the “EIA Procedure (2015)”, CFG Energy Pte. Ltd. requested an independent third-party consultant, ARTELIA, to perform the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) that would cover these projects. The EIA process will include consultation meetings, especially in Kyun Su and Myeik Townships, Tanintharyi Region. More information can be found on Canadian Foresight Group website: www.canadianforesight.com

Address : Unit 316, 3rd floor, C-2 Building, Shwe Hinn Thar Condo, 6 ½ Miles, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar
Phone : 01 654546

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (20/ 2018)

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

| Sr.No | Tender No | Description | Remark |
|-------|------------------|--|--------|
| (a) | IFB-033(18-19) | Assorted Sizes of Seamless Steel Casings (3)Items | US\$ |
| (b) | DMP/L-126(18-19) | Computer Accessories & Office Material (1)Lot | Ks |
| (c) | DMP/L-127(18-19) | Air Conditioner(3)Items | Ks |
| (d) | DMP/L-128(18-19) | Medical Equipment(3)Items | Ks |
| (e) | DMP/L-129(18-19) | Flodrift Real Time Inclination Tool Complete Set(1)Set | Ks |
| (f) | DMP/L-130(18-19) | Local Bentonite(500)M/Ton | Ks |

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moe.gov.mm) as from 8 October 2018. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 5 November 2018**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time- 5-11-2018, 14:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Intega Holdings Pte Ltd., a company organized under the laws of Singapore and having its principal office at 10 Anson Road, #26-04, International Plaza, 079903 Singapore is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark:-



Reg.No.4/5254/2018

Used in respect of: - Medicines; Nutritional Supplements; Pharmaceutical preparations; Veterinary preparations. (Int'l Class 05)

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to the existing laws of Myanmar.

Daw Nu Nu Khin (Legal Consultant) May Phyo Kin (H.G.P)
For. Intega Holdings Pte Ltd.
Myanmar Global Law Firm Ph: 0944322023
Dated: 11st October 2018

Dutch government loses landmark greenhouse gas appeal

THE HAGUE (Netherlands) — The Dutch government on Tuesday lost a legal appeal against a landmark court ruling which ordered it to slash greenhouse gases by at least 25 percent by 2020.

The Hague appeals court upheld a 2015 court victory by environmental rights group Urgenda, which sought to force a national reduction of emissions blamed for global warming.

“The state is acting unlawfully and in violation of the duty of care,” the ruling said, according to the Dutch news agency ANP.

The government had



The court’s head judge told the Dutch government that “up until now the state has done too little to prevent dangerous climate change”. PHOTO: AFP

argued that “because the court made a policy and political choice” it had over-

reached its powers.

The low-lying Netherlands is particularly vul-

nerable to sea level rises caused by climate change. Urgenda hailed the

decision, saying on Twitter: “The judge made mincemeat out of the state’s appeal. A 25 per cent drop by 2020 is only the minimum! The government needs to work!”.

The group brought the case in April 2015 on behalf of some 900 Dutch citizens.

The court at the time found in favour of the rights group, exhorting the government to do more in a ruling handed down a few months ahead of the Paris Climate Agreement.

The global Paris deal sets out measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent temperatures rising by

more than two degrees Celsius.

The appeals court ruling comes a day after the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) said in a landmark report Monday that warming is on track toward an unliveable 3°C or 4°C rise and avoiding global chaos will require a major transformation.

The Dutch government has plans to close two of its oldest coal-fire plants by 2025. Three remaining coal plants will have to shut by 2030, with the Netherlands committed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 49 per cent by then.—AFP ■

EU ministers split on auto emission curbs

LUXEMBOURG (Luxembourg) — EU ministers battled on Tuesday over the extent of emission cuts to be imposed on carmakers, in the wake of a warning by UN experts on the dangers of global warming.

Auto-making power Germany is leading a fierce resistance to a compromise plan tabled by Austria, which holds the rotating presidency of the European Union.

The Austrian plan would see a 35 per cent CO₂ reduction for new cars by 2030 — nine years later than the 2021 date in current plans.

German opposition is

backed by eastern European member states — while Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Nordic states are pushing for more ambitious reductions.

Austria’s proposal is greater than the target of 30 per cent suggested by the European Commission, the EU executive, but it remains well below the 40 per cent cut advocated by the European Parliament in a vote last week.

German Environment Minister Svenja Schulze, a social democrat, said that she would have liked to be able to support a more ambitious cut on behalf of Berlin, particularly after

the alarm signal sent by IPCC experts.

But she admitted that her coalition partner the CDU, the party of Chancellor Angela Merkel, was pushing the tougher line, which she would defend at the Luxembourg meeting.

Germany — home to Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW — is worried that if targets are set too high it would hurt exports and threaten jobs.

“I will represent the coordinated position,” Schulze said.

The ministerial talks in Luxembourg are expected to drag on late with any compromise achieved set



EU ministers agreed to a 35 per cent CO₂ reduction in emissions for new cars by 2030 compared to models made for 2021. PHOTO: AFP

for tough negotiations with MEPs and the commission in the coming weeks.

France, home to Renault and Peugeot, wants “a 40 per cent reduction in CO₂ emissions from cars in 2030”, French Environment Minister François de Rugy said as he arrived for the talks.

Countries pushing for

a more ambitious position pointed the finger directly at Berlin. “The German car industry is pushing the German environment policy against the wall, we want to put an end to this today,” Luxembourg’s Secretary of State for Sustainable Development, Claude Turmes, said. In the absence of consensus, a European official

said the decision could go to a majority vote, which Berlin risks losing.

Member States will also have to agree on targets for the share of electric vehicles in the overall fleet of car manufacturers, set at 35 per cent by 2030 and 20 per cent by 2025 by the European Parliament.—AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1042)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1042) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. (030 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. (030 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-10-2018 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 KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0107N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0107N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

'Bad Blood': Trump sours on Taylor Swift after Dem endorsement

WASHINGTON (United States)—US President Donald Trump said on Monday he liked pop superstar Taylor Swift's music "about 25 per cent less" after her endorsement of the Democrat in Tennessee's Senate race.

The "Bad Blood" singer backed Phil Bredesen on Sunday for the upper house in her home state, and unleashed a fierce attack on his opponent, Republican Marsha Blackburn, who currently serves in the House.

The president was asked for his reaction to the snub and told reporters at the White House he was "sure Taylor Swift doesn't know anything" about Blackburn.

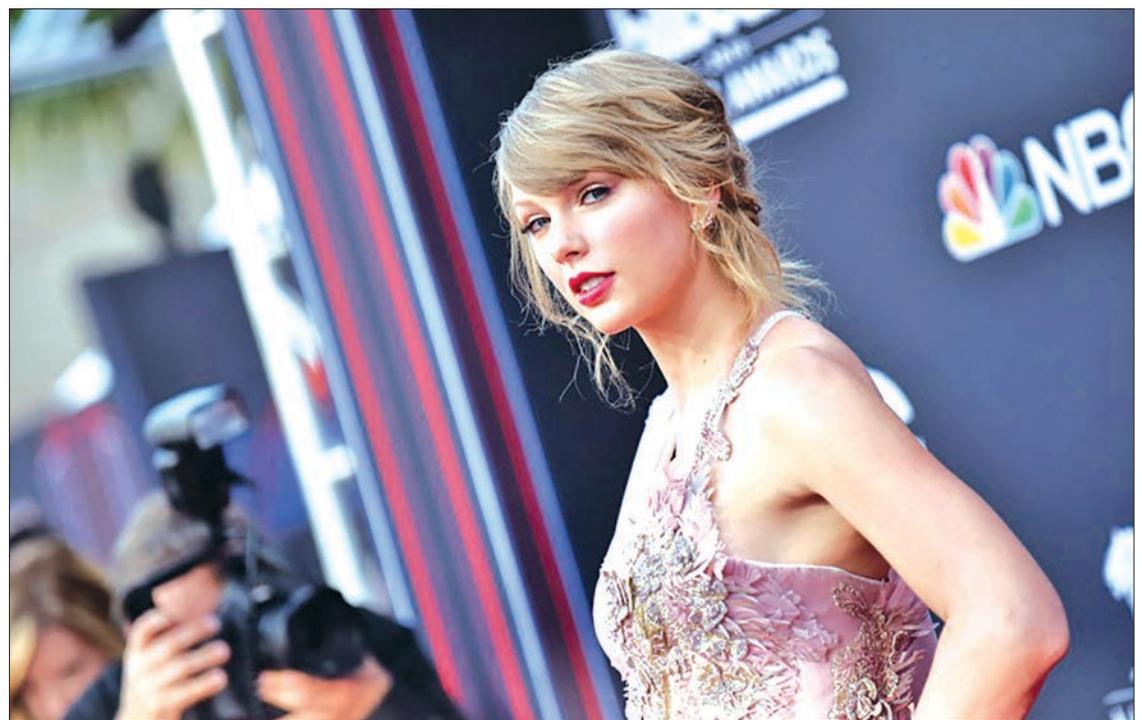
"Let's say that I like Taylor's

music about 25 per cent less now, okay?" Trump added, flashing what could best be described as a cheeky grin. Trump, it should be noted, has form going back years as something of a Swiftie.

"Glad to hear that @taylorswift13 will be co-hosting the Grammy nominations special on 12.5. Taylor is terrific!" he tweeted breathlessly in October 2012.

In August of that year, addressing her directly, he swooned: "Thanks for the beautiful picture—you are fantastic!"

The singer tends to stay above the political fray, but told her 112 million Instagram followers on Sunday she felt she needed to speak out ahead of the midterm



Taylor Swift used to be a favorite of US President Donald Trump. PHOTO: AFP

elections in November.

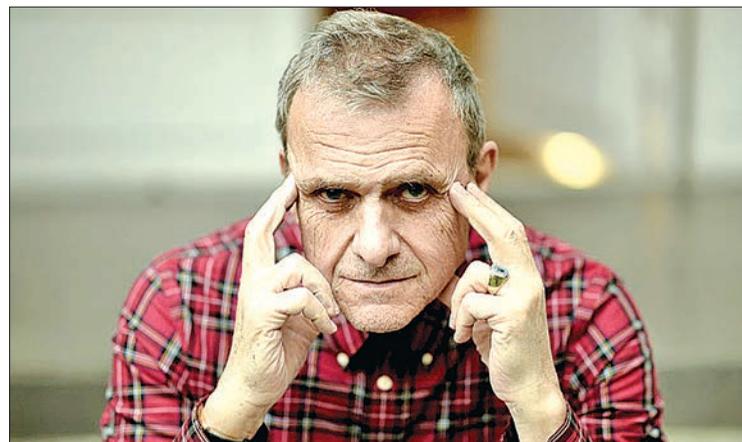
"As much as I have in the past and would like to continue voting for women in office, I cannot support Marsha Blackburn. Her voting record in Congress

appalls and terrifies me," the 28-year-old said.

"She voted against equal pay for women. She voted against the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which at-

tempts to protect women from domestic violence, stalking, and date rape."

Last year, Swift won a lawsuit against a former radio DJ she accused of groping her.—AFP ■



Jean-Charles de Castelbajac debuted in the fashion world with a collection he launched with his mother in 1968. PHOTO: AFP

Jean-Charles de Castelbajac new Benetton artistic director

MILAN—Italian group Benetton said on Monday it has named veteran fashion designer Jean-Charles de Castelbajac as artistic director of its men's and women's collections.

"We are happy to welcome Jean-Charles de Castelbajac into our big family," United Colorus of Benetton boss Luciano Benetton said in a statement, hailing his ability to "forecast tomorrow's social and fashion trends".

Born in Casablanca, Morocco in 1949, De Castelbajac debuted in the fashion world with a collection he launched with his mother in 1968. He inspired trends including "anti-fashion" and likes to make alternative use of objects, including a "fur coat" of teddy bears worn by Madonna.

"Born from a mix of punk and pop, his style is characterised by the use of strong colours and pop icons, the mix of old and new and a whimsical and irreverent

touch," Benetton said.

"United Colours of Benetton and I have always had a similar take on fashion, characterised by the passion for knitwear and the love of pop and rainbow Colours," Castelbajac said.

The company said it shared a passion for "contaminating fashion with art" with Castelbajac, who has worked with Andy Warhol, Miguel Barcelo, Keith Haring, Jean Michel Basquiat, M.I.A and Lady Gaga.

London's Victoria and Albert Museum exhibited Castelbajac's work in 2006, including a Campbell's soup can dress, the teddy-bear fur coat, giant Snoopy t-shirts and inflatable ponchos.

The museum hailed the maverick Castelbajac's "witty and flamboyant" designs that have dressed stars from Farah Fawcett in 1970s series "Charlie's Angels" to Mick Jagger and Elton John.—AFP ■

40 years on, Brittany tanker wreck is magnet for divers

RENNES (France)—Forty years after it sank, the remains of a super tanker wrecked off northwestern France have become a favourite spot for divers when the weather allows. On 16 March, 1978, the Amoco Cadiz tanker ran aground off the Brittany coast, causing one of the world's worst oil pollution disasters. The 227,000-ton tanker broke up on the

reefs off the small fishing port of Portsall, covering miles of coastline in oil. Its hull, broken into three separate rusted parts and now covered in seaweed, is slowly sinking into the seabed. Thousands of soldiers and volunteers spent three months cleaning up 360 kilometres (220 miles) of coastline and trying to save hundreds of oil-coated sea birds.—AFP ■

Thai filmmaker's intimate portrait of girl pop sensation

BANGKOK—Thai filmmaker Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit wasn't sure whether to believe it when he was offered unfettered, behind-the-scenes access into the normally closely guarded and secretive world of one of Asia's biggest pop idol bands.

Turns out the director got

closer than he could have ever dreamed. "There were no restrictions placed on me," said Nawapol, whose quirky arthouse films chronicling youth in the digital age have made him one of Thailand's most beloved auteurs.

"I just sat the band members down in front of the camera

and we started to talk. For them it was like confessions, like therapy." The result is the engaging documentary "BNK48: Girls Don't Cry", which frames the rise of a Thai pop sensation from complete unknowns to having hundreds of millions of fans.

Previous documentaries on Asia's pop idols have been carefully controlled by band management. Not so this time, as the film presents the young hopefuls of BNK48 and their real stories, rather than those dreamed up by a press office.

One member auditions for the band simply because it was her mother's wish, another because a fortune teller told her she would one day be a star, and a third because she had grown up fearing a life of anonymity.

On 16 March, 1978, the Amoco Cadiz tanker ran aground off the Brittany coast, causing one of the world's worst oil pollution disasters.—AFP ■



Girls' Generation member Choi Soo-young won the loudest cheers on the red carpet for BIFF's opening night. PHOTO: AFP

Japan space tourist says moon training ‘shouldn’t be too hard’

TOKYO (Japan)—Billionaire Japanese tycoon and future space tourist Yusaku Maezawa’s training to go the moon should not be too tricky, he joked on Tuesday, adding that he planned to use free time from his six-hour work day to squeeze it in.

The 42-year-old Maezawa paid an undisclosed sum for a ticket on fellow tycoon Elon Musk’s SpaceX rocket around the moon as early as 2023 and the passionate art collector also plans to take around half a dozen artists with him on the trip. “It hasn’t been decided yet what training I will need to undergo but Elon Musk has said it shouldn’t be too hard,” Maezawa jested, adding in Japanese, “I believe English will be a must.” Asked how he could fit astronaut training around his already hectic schedule, he said he adhered to his own company policy of working a six-hour day and devoting the rest of the time to personal projects.

“I don’t go to work from morning to night. I’m there three or four times a week and I try to go home after six hours,” Maezawa told a packed news conference in Tokyo. Maezawa will hitch a ride aboard Musk’s Big Falcon Rocket (BFR), which SpaceX has acknowledged may not be ready



Yusaku Maezawa paid an undisclosed sum for a ticket on fellow tycoon Elon Musk’s SpaceX rocket around the Moon as early as 2023. PHOTO: AFP

for human flight for at least five years. First announced in 2016 and estimated to cost \$5 billion, the BFR was touted as the most powerful rocket in history, even more potent than the Saturn V moon rocket that launched the Apollo missions five decades ago.

Maezawa said he had received “safety guarantees” that allowed him to be able to invite the artists along on the trip, although he confirmed he had not yet be-

gun negotiations with potential fellow-travellers. He said he was most looking forward to seeing the entire Earth from space.

“I look forward to getting close to the moon. I would like to see the Earth in full view... To see it with my own eyes, just thinking about it now makes tears well up in my own eyes,” he said.

Maezawa is chief executive of Japan’s largest online fashion store and is the 13th richest per-

son in Japan, with an estimated fortune of \$2.8 billion, according to business magazine *Forbes*.

He did not deny there were some commercial interests behind his decision to pay for a ticket to the moon, as the exposure has hugely boosted his profile.

“I was formerly known as ‘Maezawa the fashion guy’ and now it’s been updated to ‘Maezawa, who’s going to the moon,’” he said.—AFP ■

Scientists edit mice gene before birth to prevent congenital diseases

WASHINGTON—American scientists have for the first time performed prenatal gene editing to prevent a deadly metabolic disorder in lab animals, offering the potential to treat human congenital diseases before birth. The study published on Monday in the journal *Nature Medicine* described the proof-of-concept prenatal use of a low-toxic tool that can efficiently edit DNA building blocks in disease-causing genes.

Scientists from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and those at the University of Pennsylvania used two gene-editing tools to reduce cholesterol levels in healthy mice treated in utero.

They also improved liver function and prevented neonatal death in a subgroup of mice that had been engineered with a mutation causing the lethal liver disease called HT1.

HT1 in humans tends to happen during infancy, posing risks of liver failure or liver cancer. The prenatal treatment could open a door to disease prevention for HT1 and potentially for other congenital disorders, according to the study.

“We used base editing to turn off the effects of a disease-causing genetic mutation,” said the study’s co-leader Kiran Musunuru, associate professor of cardiovascular medicine at Penn University. “We also plan to use the same base-editing technique not just to disrupt a mutation’s effects, but to directly correct the mutation.”

They used base editor 3 (BE3) and a modified CRISPR-associated protein 9 to form a partially active version of the CRISPR-Cas 9 gene-editing tool, and harnessed it as a homing device to carry an enzyme to a highly specific genetic location in the liver cells of fetal mice.

Then the enzyme chemically modified the targeted genetic sequence, changing one type of DNA base to another, according to the study. BE3 is potentially safer than CRISPR-Cas9, because it does not fully cut the DNA molecule and not leave it vulnerable to unanticipated errors when the cut is repaired.—Xinhua ■

Facebook launches AI video-calling device ‘Portal’

LONDON—Facebook on Monday launched a range of AI-powered video-calling devices, a strategic revolution for the social network giant in its bid for a slice of a market currently dominated by Amazon and Google. “It’s been a big shift for the company,” Facebook’s vice president of consumer hardware Andrew Bosworth told AFP before the launch of “Portal”.

“We’ve seen a rise of video calling, on both Messenger and WhatsApp—it has been a tremendous trend,” he said.

The device, which will be available for pre-order in the United States from Monday, is designed to allow users to make video calls at home without having to stand immediately in front of the screen or hold a phone at arm’s length.

But the launch of a product putting a camera into homes is likely to raise privacy issues for the social media giant, which has

suffered several data breaches this year involving tens of millions of user accounts. Although Facebook acquired virtual reality headset manufacturer Oculus in 2014, this is the first time it has developed a consumer hardware product in-house.

‘Hey Portal’

Offering hands-free voice



Facebook’s new “Portal” video calling device is the first consumer hardware product it has developed in-house. PHOTO: AFP

control, Portal comes in two sizes, a 10-inch screen which retails at \$199 (173 euros) and a 15-inch version will go for \$349. And to start the call, all it takes is: “Hey Portal.”

During calls, it can also play music on Spotify as well as tell children stories via augmented effects app Story Time.

And it also comes bundled

with Amazon’s voice interface “Alexa”, enabling users to shop or control household appliances.

During a conversation, the integrated camera can automatically zoom out to include a second person, or be instructed to follow a certain individual as they walk around.

Facebook has moved to quickly allay security fears, saying that by keeping the processes on the actual device rather than in the cloud, the risk of hacking is lower than with a smartphone or computer. Calls will be encrypted, and the AI technology runs locally on Portal, not on Facebook servers. It only sends voice commands to the servers after hearing, “Hey Portal”.

The camera can be blocked by a cover and the device has a button for disabling both the lens and the microphone.—AFP ■

Myanmar National Futsal squad leaves for China



Myanmar National Futsal players are seen in a training session together with the coaches. **PHOTO: MFF**

AS part of preparations for taking part in the 2018 ASEAN Futsal Championship, Myanmar National Futsal squad left

for China on October 9 morning in order to do training activities. Myanmar National Futsal

squad will participate in the football training in Qingdon, the People's Republic of China (PRC) until 19 October.

The squad will demonstrate friendly matches against two Chinese clubs including China U-20 and a ROK club. The fixture for the warm-up matches will soon be released.

Myanmar National Futsal squad has brought 20 players to have trainings in China.

It is comprised of Zwe Pyae Sone (goalie), Kyaw Htet Aung (goalie), Yan Paing Hein (goalie), Thant Zin (player), Kaung Chit Thu (player), Ye Yint Oo (player), Kyaw Soe Moe (player), Naing Ye Kyaw (player), Pyae Phyo Maung-2 (player), Khin Zaw Lin (player), Pyae Phyo Maung-3 (player), Hlaing Min Tun (player), Ko Ko Lwin (player), Myo Myint Soe (player), Sai Pyone Aung (player), Nyein Min Soe (player), Aung Zin Oo (player), Naing Lin Tun Kyaw (player), Wai Zin Oo (player) and Pon Nya (player). —Htut Htut (Twantay)

Myanmar referees to attend course for referee instructor in Thailand

U WIN CHO, U Hla Min, U Win Htut, U Kyaw Soe and Daw Kawt Gar will attend Course for Referee Instructor (FUTURO III) 2018 Thailand from 9 to 14 October.

Thailand will provide instructor courses in respect of soccer, futsal and fitness.

Among the five referees, U Win Cho, U Hla Min and Daw Kawt Gar are going to attend the Football Referee Instructor Course, U Kyaw Soe, Futsal Referee Instructor Course and U Win Htut, Referee Fitness Instructor Course.—Htut Htut (Twantay)

Rooney calls on Man United players to 'stand up'

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Wayne Rooney has called on Manchester United's players to stand up and be counted, saying that manager Jose Mourinho is an easy target for the club's troubles.

United battled back from two goals down to beat Newcastle 3-2 at the weekend but are languishing in eighth place in the Premier League, seven points off top spot.

Following the win, Mourinho accused his critics of staging a "manhunt" to get him sacked after a string of bad results and rifts with players including French midfielder Paul Pogba. But former United captain Rooney, who now plays for DC United in Major League Soccer (MLS), said the players had to take some responsibility for the situation. "It's tough (at United), it has been a tough situation," he said in comments reported by Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper. "The players, the manager, it has been a tough start to the season. I know Jose is getting a load of stick but I said a few weeks ago, the players have to stand up. They have to be counted and they have to be better."

"The manager can do so much but then it is down to the players on the pitch to produce, and probably collectively. It (the poor run) is a bit of everything coming together but Jose is an easy target. Some of the players have to be better." — AFP ■

Wales ready to test Spain regardless of Bale's fitness

CARDIFF (United Kingdom)—Spain might not have to face Gareth Bale in Thursday's glamour friendly, but Wales striker Sam Vokes insists the Real Madrid star's absence won't give the visitors an easy ride in Cardiff. Bale is struggling with a groin injury after aggravating the problem during Real's defeat at Alaves on Saturday.

The 29-year-old also missed Real's Champions League tie at CSKA Moscow last week with the same issue and sat out Wales' training session when he arrived for international duty on Monday. Given his links with both countries, Bale would relish playing against Spain, who feature several of his Real team-mates, in the first meeting between the teams since 1985. But with Wales having a more significant Nations League tie against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on October 16, Bale—his country's record goalscorer—is likely to be rested against Spain to give him extra time to recover.

Even with Bale potentially on the sidelines, Burnley's Vokes is certain Wales will show they are more than a one-man band.

"Gareth is massive for us, but we've got a lot of players playing at top level now," Vokes said. "They are playing regularly as well and that can only help us. "If there are players missing there are others ready to step in." Vokes' confidence is built on the foundations laid by Ryan Giggs since he succeeded Chris Coleman as Wales manager in January. Wales produced one of their best performances in recent years when they thrashed the Republic 4-1 in their Nations League opener last month.

Their second taste of the competition, a 2-0 defeat in Denmark three days later, was not so productive for former Manchester United winger Giggs, who has won two and drawn one of his five matches.

But Giggs' tenure, notable for his use of emerging young talent, has already sparked enough enthusiasm to convince Welsh FA chiefs to schedule the Spain fixture for the 74,500-capacity Principality Stadium—their first appearance there since 2011.— AFP ■



Wales' striker Gareth Bale controls the ball during the UEFA Nations League football match between Wales and Republic of Ireland at Cardiff City Stadium in Cardiff on 6 September, 2018.

PHOTO: AFP