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President U Win Myint attends the opening of IMF, World Bank annual meetings in Bali, Indonesia, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint attends opening ceremony of IMF, World Bank annual meetings

PRESIDENT U Win Myint attended the opening of the IMF, World Bank annual meetings as an honorary guest, held in Bali, Indonesia, yesterday.

First, Indonesian President Mr. Joko Widodo posed for a documentary photo together with Cambodian President Mr. Samdech Hunsen, Laotian Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Mdm. Christine Legarde, President of the World Bank Dr. Jim Yong Kim and representatives of the World Bank and the IMF.

The meeting was opened with an address by Indonesian President Mr. Joko Widodo, and was attended by leaders of Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam, finance and economic ministers and senior officials from ASEAN countries, and officials of the World Bank and IMF. After the opening ceremony, President U Win Myint visited the Garuda Wisnu Kencana cultural park on the Bali Island.

Afterwards, the President visited the view point and enjoyed the views in Bali.

The delegation led by President U Win Myint left Indonesia for Myanmar on a special flight and they were seen off at the Ngurah Rai International Airport by Chairman of Indonesia's Investment Coordination Board Mr. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Ambassador of Myanmar to Indonesia Daw Ei Ei Khin Aye, Myanmar's Permanent Representative to ASEAN U Min Lwin, senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Special Envoy of United Nations Secretary-General

Opening of Special Envoy's Office discussed

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener at 1000 hrs, on 12 October 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the State Counsellor and the Special Envoy exchanged views on the latest progress in the process of national reconciliation and peace, ongoing inter-communal dialogue and public awareness raising activities for building a harmonious society, opening of the office of Special Envoy in Nay Pyi Taw, the implementation of the repatriation for displaced persons in accordance with the bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh, the progress of the ongoing work of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICoE), addressing the challenges facing Myanmar including situation in Rakhine State and cooperation between Myanmar and the office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General.

Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

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Vice President attends 6th Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region MSME Product Exhibition opening ceremony

THE Small and Medium Enterprises Development Work Committee (SMEDWC) Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe opened the 6th Product Exhibition of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Nay Pyi Taw and Bago Region, held at Bago town hall yesterday morning.

The opening ceremony was attended by SMEDWC Vice Chairman Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Yin, Chief Judge Maung Maung Shwe, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun, Qatar Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Mansoor Mubarak S.B.Al-Khayarin, representatives of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, SMEDWC members, experts, technicians, MSME owners, heads of departments, donors and invited guests.

At the opening ceremony, SMEDWC Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe said that with the leadership of SMED-WC, MSMEs' local product exhibitions had been held in Union territory Nay Pyi Taw and states/ regions. The first for Kachin State and Mandalay Region was held in Mandalay, the second for Magway Region, Chin and Rakhine states in Magway, the third for Ayeyawady Region in Pathein, the fourth for Kayah and Shan states in Taunggyi and the fifth for Sagaing Region in Monywa successfully.

Today's exhibition of MSME products in Bago, Bago Region is the sixth and similar exhibitions will be held in Yangon Region, Mon State and Taninthayi Region. MSMEs products exhibition for the entire country and a National Award competition will be held in Nay Pyi Taw Union territory.

At such State-led exhibitions and competitions, the thoughts, ideas and efforts of other businesses and the effective introduction of the products to the market are to be copied and imitated, said the Vice President.

Only when economically innovative thoughts and views are developed and better production and services are provided can we compete with regional businesses and penetrate the internation-



Vice President U Myint Swe viewing traditional utensils at the opening ceremony of 6th Product Exhibition of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Nay Pyi Taw and Bago Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

al markets.

Myanmar's neighbor Thailand stands at 13 on the world stage and 3 in Asia in producing and exporting foods. The major exports of Thailand are rice, poultry, sugar, prawn, canned food, tuna and pineapple, and all are products that are also planted or raised in Myanmar.

As such, MSMEs producing agri-based food products are being encouraged and supported. If MSMEs are able to value add agriculture products and export, more foreign exchange can be earned as well as stabilizing the market.

In addition to this, if refuses or discarded products are used to produce new products, there'll be more profit as well as support the natural environments. For example, by using technology, rice hulls or rice husks can be made into fuel pellets and used locally or exported to countries, such as China, Japan and South Korea.

According to 2017 MSME survey of the MSMEs in Myanmar, about 13 per cent are still without electricity. All are urged to uncover new energy resources by using resources in Myanmar and wastes to produce products, such as fuel pellets from rice husks or hulls.

Nowadays, modern digital technologies are used in research, production, distribution, connecting and providing services to become a digital economy. Therefore, in support programs for MSMEs, such as courses and competitions, digital technology was seen to be employed.

Through participating in product exhibitions, MSMEs can advertise and promote their products and services to the public, gain information and opportunity on making their products and and results of the exhibitions and competitions. At the 15th China-ASEAN Expo held at Nanning, People's Republic of China, in September 2018, Myanmar MSMEs were able to exhibit food and beauty products, such as tea, coffee, elephant foot yam, etc. Eleven Myanmar MSMEs are participating in the China International SME Fair, held in

Only when economically innovative thoughts and views are developed and better production and services are provided can we compete with regional businesses and penetrate the international markets.

services more attractive to the public, receiving comments and feedbacks from the public, understand and fulfill the requirement of the public, establish contact with distributors, and coordinate and connect with other MSMEs along the supply chain. Therefore, businesses in Nay Pyi Taw and Bago Region are urged to grasp this opportunity.

In addition to supporting MSMEs, SMEDWC is implementing practical arrangements based on the outcomes Guangzhou, China, from 10 to 13 October. Our MSMEs are obtaining international experiences and ideas and are to increase their efforts in obtaining new markets. Winners of MSME exhibitions and competitions and prospective MSMEs were being noticed by the media and were progressing further and achieving success. It is indeed an honor and a pleasure to see MSMEs receiving enquiries and orders from organizations, associations and international visitors.

MSMEs are ever facing competitions and challenges in fulfilling the changing and shifting requirements of the consumers. In order to thrive and survive in such ever changing economic environment, MSMEs must not lose sight of news and information and strive toward improving the quality of their products and services, be competitive and obtain international markets. All are also urged to strive toward establishing an MSME community that supports the development of the country's economic, social and natural environment, said the Vice President.

Next, SMEDWC member Region Chief Minister U Win Thein explained about works done for development of MSMEs, in the region.

Afterwards SMEDWC Vice Chairman Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo, Region minister for industry, electricity and transportation U Than Win and Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun accepted cash donations by companies to hold the exhibition and in return presented the donors with certificate of honors to conclude the first part of the opening ceremony.

Following this, the second part of the 6th Product Exhibition and Competition (2018) of MSMEs in Nay Pyi Taw and Bago Region, cutting of the ceremonial ribbon was held at the parking lot in Shwemawdaw Pagoda, Bago.

At this event, Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Yin and Region minister for industry, electricity and transportation U Than Win cut the ceremonial ribbon and posed for a commemorative group photo with invited guests.

The Vice President and party then inspected the MSMEs' local products exhibits. The 6th product exhibition of MSMEs (2018) was jointly organized by Nay Pyi Taw Council, Bago Region Government and Ministry of Industry and will be held for five days.

During the exhibition period, a number of talks will also be conducted by experts and technicians, it is learnt.—MNA

President U Win Myint attends opening ceremony of IMF, World Bank annual meetings

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The delegation arrived back at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport at 7 pm yesterday, and they were welcomed by Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Deputy Minister for the Office of the President U Min Thu, Member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Col. Min Naung, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, Ambassador of Indonesia to Mvanmar Prof. Dr. Iza Fadri and wife and officials. — MNA ■



President U Win Myint poses for a documentary photo with other ASEAN leaders at the opening ceremony of the IMF, WB annual meetings. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko presents certificate of honour to Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than for donation of martyr Mahn Ba Khaing's Kayin national dress in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker donates martyr Mahn Ba Khaing's Kayin national dress

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than donated the Kayin national dress of his grandfather, the martyred leader Mahn Ba Khaing to National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw), at a ceremony held in the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife, Union Minister for **Religious Affairs and Culture** Thura U Aung Ko, Permanent Secretary, directors general, deputy directors general and officials from Amyotha Hluttaw and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

At the ceremony, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said the dress donated is a Kayin national dress worn by Grandfather Mahn Ba Khaing. Grandmother had passed on the dress down the family and was maintained as a family heritage. As Grandfather Mahn Ba Khaing was one of the nine martyred leaders, the dress is of historical value and instead of the family retaining it, it is more beneficial to

donate it to the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) and display it for the public to view, said Mahn Win Khaing Than. He then donated the dress which was accepted by Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko. Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko expressed his deep appreciation to Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife for donating such a valuable and historical dress.

Next Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and wife and Union Minister posed for a commemorative group photo. — MNA

Union Attorney General receives UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar

UNION Attorney General U tion works, status of enacting Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener and party at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, conflict in Rakhine State, peacemaking processes in Myanmar, law to prevent hate speech enacted by relevant ministry, status of anti-corrup-

Tun Tun Oo received United informant protection law and tasks performed by the Union Attorney General Office according to Union Attorney General Law were cordially discussed.

Also present at the meeting were Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin, Directors-General Daw Khin Cho Ohn and U Min Swe and Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw Naing. — MNA



Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo meets with United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR Aye Min Soe dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com Win Ko Ko Aung, kowink2aung@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR Ye Htut Tin,

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tun Tun Naing (Editor), intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor), nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS

Khaing Thanda Lwin, Hay Mar Tin Win, Ei Myat Mon Zaw Htet Oo Kyaw Zin Lin Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER

May Thet Hnin, reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com mayreporter.mm@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHER Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe

EDITORIAL SECTION (+95) (01)8604529, Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING (+95) (01) 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848 marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmdaily@gmail.com

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com www.facebook.com/TheGNLM



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Return of farmland reduces labour shortage in urban areas: Vice President

OVER 690 acres of confiscated farmland were returned to 149 farmers in MraukU District, Rakhine State, yesterday, in the presence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

Speaking at the ceremony, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Committee for Rescrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands, said the Union Government is speeding up efforts for solving land confiscation issues by adopting a policy and 52-point road map to be able to return the abandoned farmland to former owners as early as possible.

Out of 445.67 acres relinquished by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, 423.05 acres were returned to former owners who will cultivate crops on them.

Similarly, 55 acres relinquished by battalion 374 and 375 of the Ministry of Defence, were returned to 22 farmers in Kyauktaw, out of 327 acres relinquished by the Correctional Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Myebon Township, 203.2 acres of land suitable for farming were return to 43 farmers. "The return of farmland

would decrease the number of youths who walked out of rural areas and migrated to urban areas due to labour shortage, the number of families who live in urban areas like squatters, the number of our skilled human resources who migrated to overseas," said the Vice President.

He also stressed the need to systematically manage the land use in Myanmar as part of efforts for strengthening resources for the livelihood of the people, sustainable development and reducing the poverty in the country.

"I'd like to let you know that we are drafting the National Land Use Bill. It means we are taking steps for land use management in our country," said the Vice President.

He encouraged the committees under the Central Committee to solve the land confiscation issues dauntlessly in accordance with the policy and processes and within the framework of the law.

The Vice President also thanked the ministries concerned for returning the land to the farmers and encouraged

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project in Sittway, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

the farmers to boost crops till beyond sufficiency and becoming exporters.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu also reported on current efforts for solving land confiscation issue in Rakhine State.

Afterwards, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu presented the land use permit Form-3 to 50 farmers from Ywa Haung Taw Village from MraukU Township; Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu 23 farmers from Htaikpyinwa Village in MraukU Township and 11 farmers in Paukpinkwin Village in MraukU Township; Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw to 13 farmers from Akhasar Village and nine farmes from Latkokpin village in MraukU Township; Rakhine State Agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Mining Minister U Kyaw Lwin to 22 farmers from Myebon Township and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Hoe to 22 farmers from Myaybon Township.

Visit to Shitthaung Pagoda and Koe-Thaung Temple

Following the ceremony, Vice President U Henry Van Thio visited the Shitthaung Pagoda and Koe-Thaung Temple in MraukU and presented cash donations for restoration of the ancient religious edifices.

He also visited the Ancient Archaeological Museum in MraukU.

Inspection of Teinnyo Bridge Construction Site in MraukU

During the inspection tour of Teinnyo Bridge construction site in MraukU, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin and officials concerned reported on works being carried out.

Work on construction of the iron-reinforced bridge which links MraukU Township and Kyauktaw Township began on 15 May, 2017 and upon completion, the bridge will be 360 ft long. Kaladan River Project

Following the visit to the bridge, Vice President U Henry Van Thio also inspected the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project which is being jointly implemented by Myanmar and India.

The project will benefit southern Chin State and economy of the country, said the Vice President. He urged the departments concerned to make efforts for success of the project which will not only benefit the trade, transportation and regional development but also the rule of law and peace in the areas.

The Kaladan Multi-Modal transport project connects the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Myanmar by sea. It also then links the Sittwe seaport to Paletwa through the Kaladan River boat route and then from Paletwa on to Mizoram by road transport.

The project, which costs about US\$484 million, involves developing Sittwe to handle 20,000-ton vessels (up from the 2,000 to 3,000-ton ships it handles at present); building six 300-ton ships to shuttle in the river route; constructing two terminals, dredging the River Kaladan from Sittway to Paletwa to improve its navigability; building an inland terminal at Paletwa where cargo will be shifted from barges to trucks; and constructing a 129-km-long highway linking Paletwa to the Indian border.

The project would boost trade between Myanmar and India and would also help Myanmar to trade not only with India but also with other foreign countries, thanks to emergence of new ports.

Upgrading 500-bed hospital in Sittway

Afterwards, Vice President U Henry Van Thio visited the construction site of a four-storey building for the Sittway's 500-bed hospital.

During the visit to the hospital, the Vice President presented cash assistance to Ma Nurar Han from Thakkalpyin IDP Camp in Sittway, Ma Gul Arhartu from Hnetchaung IDP Cam in Pauktaw, and Ma Nwe Nwe Lin Tun from Darwai IDP Camp in Sittway receiving medical treatment at the hospital. **Tour of inspection of Satyoekya Bridge**

Afterwards, Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspected the Satyoekya Bridge which is under construction over the Satyoekya Creek in Sittway and the bridge is expected to be inaugurated in February this year.

Work on construction of the bridge started on 27 December, 2016. Before returning to Nay Pyi Taw, the Vice President also held a meeting with local authorities at the Rakhine State Government's meeting. At the meeting, he urged the authorities to make efforts for implementing the hydro power projects on the Laymyo River as the project is expected to produce about 700 MW.—MNA

Three main work processes

Nation building, establishing a Union and transition to democracy

- Now is the time to reconstruct the nation to make it a peaceful, stable and strong one.
- At the same time, effort is being exerted to build up a Union in which justice, freedom and equality, being the fundamental laws protecting human society (Loka Pala), aspired since attainment of independence, will prevail. The Union we are building ensures equality and justice in the political, economic and social spheres; it is pure in ideology and is owned and cherished by all.
- Additionally, efforts are also being taken to develop our democratic transition into a mature democracy. In fact, these three processes are not to be implemented separately, but all together.
 (Excerpted from the report on the current work of the government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

Over 900 jobs created by four YRIC approved projects

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region Investment Committee (YRIC) has permitted four projects, including garment enterprises, at YRIC meeting (14/2018), held on 10 October, creating over 900 jobs.

Those businesses are two local and two foreign businesses, with an estimated capital of US\$1.88 million and Ks1.55 billion. A total of 1,456 jobs are to be created from those businesses.

Since its establishment, YRIC have approved a total of 96 domestic and foreign businesses in the manufacturing, hotel services and other services sectors from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Viet Nam. India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, British Virgin Islands and Seychelles.

During the last fiscal year 2017-2018, YRIC allowed 39 foreign businesses and 9 domestic projects to invest in Yangon Region, with a capital of \$56.6 million and Ks2.3 billion, creating 22,481 jobs. Between April and October



Employees working at a production line of a large garment factory in Hlinethaya Township. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

2018, YRIC permitted 48 projects, including 36 foreign businesses and 12 domestic enterprises, with a total pledge amount of \$74.4 million and Ks22.8 billion. A total of 22,269 jobs emerged from those permitted enterprises. Manufacturing sector attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region. Those enterprises are engaged in manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes and Cutting, Making and Packing (CMP) garments.

At present, Yangon Region absorbed 60 per cent of foreign investments, and Mandalay attracts 30 per cent. Other regions and states attain only small portion of investments, according to the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Region and state investment committees are allowed to grant permission to investment proposals worth up to US\$5 million (Ks6 billion).

Between April and mid-September of the past mini-budget period, a total of 77 foreign enterprises received permits and endorsements from Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the respective regions and states investment committees, bringing in a capital of \$934 million. Overall, foreign direct investments of over \$1.65 billion flowed into the country, including growth capital and investments of over \$171 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Meanwhile, 84 domestic enterprises also received permits and endorsements from MIC and respective committees, with Ks909.95 billion. A total investment of Ks974.95 billion, including expansion capital, was brought into the country.

Green Gold cooperative exports first coffee container to European market

THE Green Gold cooperative has exported its first container of selected coffee to the European market on 12 October.

This represents an important milestone for the community of farmers in southern Shan State which has made important strides in the production and sale of coffee. It also represents a positive development in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) efforts to offer farmers a sustainable livelihood alternative to opium poppy cultivation. Since its creation in 2015, Green Gold, which now comprises 968 farmers, has worked together with UNODC to acquire knowledge and expertise about the coffee business, create coffee nurseries, establish sustainable plantations and identify markets and buyers.

As a result, by the end of 2017, the cooperative signed a 5-year partnership agreement with French company Malongo for the commercialisation of its harvests under fair-trade conditions.

The 2018 harvest came

from 60 villages across Loilem, Hopong and Ywangan townships. In one community, Pan Lim, the coffee was of such a high quality that Malongo agreed to pay a price of US\$8.00 per kilogram of green coffee beans – double the market average in Myanmar.

With the support of donors (governments of Finland, Germany and Switzerland), partners, and UNODC, Green Gold is currently taking steps to have its own processing infrastructure for its next harvest, which will allow it to control



additional steps in the value chain of coffee production.

UNODC has also supported farmers' obtainment of land ownership certificates, women's access to land ownership and forestry education. It will continue to undertake efforts to achieve goals set in the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: poverty reduction, hunger relief, sustainable and inclusive growth, gender equality and the promotion of peace, justice and strong institutions.—GNLM

Union Minister receives UNSG's Special Envoy on Myanmar, Denmark Ambassador separately

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received a delegation led by United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine

Schraner Burgener at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, national reconciliation and internal peace, amending the constitu-



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye shakes hands with UNSG's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

tion for building a Federal Democratic Union, performances of Implementation Committee on the Recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, conditions of Internally **Displaced People (IDP) camps** being closed and to be closed along with drawing up strategies for resettlement, cooperation with UN organizations, readiness of infrastructures for repatriation, issues about international aid, MoU signed between United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and issues about human rights and repatriation were discussed.

Similarly, the Union Minister also received Denmark Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. John Nielsen, it is learnt. — MNA

Myanmar, Morocco celebrate 40th Anniversary of diplomatic ties

A CEREMONY to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Morocco was held at the M-Gallery Hotel

in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. It was attended by Chairman

of Union Election Commission U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thidar.



40th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Morocco being held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

The ceremony was opened with greetings by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Ambassador of Morocco to Myanmar Mr. Abdelilah El Housni.

Afterwards, UEC Chairman U Hla Thein, Union Ministers and the Morocco Ambassador posed for a documentary photo.

The dignitaries enjoyed the performance of the two countries before a dinner in honour of them. The ceremony was also attended by Union Ministers U Win Khaing, Dr. Win Myat Aye, Nai Thet Lwin, Chairman of Myanmar Human **Rights Commission U Win Mra** and their wives, departmental heads and guests.— MNA

61st National Day, 85th Armed Forces Day of Malaysia, 60th Anniversary of Malaysia-Myanmar friendship celebrated

UNION MINISTER for Con- Myanmar and Malaysia. struction U Han Zaw and wife Daw Thwin Thwin Amie attended the 61st National Day and 85th Armed Forces Day of Malaysia and the 60th anniversary of Malaysia-Myanmar friendship celebration held at Wyndam Grand Royal Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

First, the ceremony was opened with national anthems of the Republic of the Union of

Then, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Zahairi Baharim and Union Minister U Han Zaw delivered messages of greetings.

Next, Union Minister and Malaysian Ambassador cut a cake commemorating Malaysia's 61st National Day and 60th anniversary of Malaysia-Myanmar Friendship and took a documentary photo with guests in attendance after which the Ambassador and his wife hosted a dinner for the guests.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Senior Tatmadaw Officials, Foreign Ambassadors to Myanmar, Charge d'affaires, representatives from UN organisations and invited guests attended the ceremony. --MNA 🔳



Chairman of MIC U Thaung Tun attends the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (17 / 2018) in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Investment Commission approves six investment proposals including education services

THE MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (17 / 2018) was convened at the meeting room of MIC in Yangon on 12 October 2018.

The meeting approved four education services, one manufacturing of shoes on CMP basics and one IT

wholesale and retail in relation to the investment proposals that can create over 1,900 job opportunities for local people.

The meeting was attended by U Thaung Tun, Chairman of MIC, and eight members of MIC.—MNA

NCA signatories arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

NATIONWIDE Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signatories, leaders from Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) who will attend a special meeting are arriving in Nay Pyi Taw by air.

The leaders of the EAOs include Member of the Central Executive Committee of ALP (Arakan Liberation Party) Daw Saw Mya Yarzar Linn, Vice Chairperson of Pa-O National Liberation

Organisation (PNLO) Khun Myint Tun, Chairperson of All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) U Than Khe, New Mon State Party (NMSP) Member of the central Committee Nai Aung Ma Ngay and Vice Chairperson of Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) Kyar Solomon. They were welcomed by responsible officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. — MNA



Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement signatories arrive at the Nay Pyi Taw international Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA





7

United stance and collaboration

ACHIEVING Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and • • Overcoming Development Gap through Regional and Global Collaborative Actions" was the theme of the ASEAN Leaders' Gathering held at Bali Resort in Indonesia on 11 October.

The Leaders' Gathering was attended by leaders from ASE-AN countries, and from international organizations including UN agencies, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The country leaders delivered speeches on their respective sustainable development goals.

In his address, President U Win Myint said we need to create 'winwin' strategies from the prevailing world economic system through our regional economic integration endeavor so that the benefits of international economic integration can be widely shared among us.

The President said that we must adopt different strategies to improve our cooperation to create a sense of ASEAN Community among the nations of the world. He said we also see the importance of a more compre-



To lessen the gap between Myanmar's sustainable development with that of other countries. we ourselves need to exert effort and energy into it.

tive collaboration with international organizations, including the United Nations, the World Bank and the IMF. There are major changes in the

hensive and effec-

global economic agenda. While the two great economic powerhouses prioritize in safeguarding their own economy,

the repercussions they generate create problematic issues for countries with emerging economies. There are many opportunities as well as challenges in today's global economic agenda. It is therefore imperative that we grab the opportunities while we address the challenges collectively.

The President mentioned that Myanmar had been isolated from the global economy for many years. He said necessary steps are being taken to muster the energy needed to revitalize the nation's economy. He added that the history of the country compels it to pass through an inevitable period.

In her speech at the Myanmar Investment Conference held recently in Tokyo, Japan, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said as Myanmar has only recently emerged from a lengthy period of self-imposed isolation, necessary steps are being taken to muster the energy needed to revitalize the nation's economy. She said the country's background compels it to currently pass through an inevitable period of its history.

The State Counsellor said we have developed a comprehensive social, economic and environmental policy reform agenda, the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, or MSDP, which provides a unifying and coherent roadmap for our future reforms. She said, structured around 3 Pillars, 5 Goals, 28 Strategies and 251 Action Plans, the MSDP can be seen as the expression of our national development vision; a vision which finds resonance in the global sustainable development agenda.

To lessen the gap between Myanmar's sustainable development with that of other countries, we ourselves need to exert effort and energy into it. When others are taking one step forward, we need to be taking four, five, ten steps in advance, or even vault ahead if we can. The only way we can achieve this is through collaborative actions and collective strength.

Government and businesses joining forces to tackle e-commerce development bottlenecks First Public-Private Dialogue on e-commerce in Nay Pyi Taw

By Department of Trade (WTO Division)

he advent and dissemination of ICT and digital trade is revolutionizing businesses and trade patterns on a global scale. Digital technology allows developing countries to leap frog stages of development and climb regional and global value chains. Digital commerce is here to stay and could well be the major part of trade transactions in the not too distant future. These are some of the take-aways from the "Digital Trade in a Digital Economy - Public-Private Dialogue on Emerging E-Marketplace in Myanmar", organized by the Ministry of Commerce on September 26, 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar vows to play an active part in international efforts to streamline the rules on e-commerce and in working on removing national barriers to e-commerce. The benefits of e-commerce for development are evident and should aid the further integration of Myanmar into the regional and multilateral trading system.

There is an unprecedented

DEAR members of the European

ation of Trade Unions Myanmar

@ Pyi Thit Nyunt Wai and I am

the elected President of the Con-

Greetings from the Confeder-

My name is Maung Maung

We are a registered trade un-

We strongly object with the

We, as the Federation of

ion confederation and represent

nine different sectors with 65,000

concept of the EU member states

withdrawing GSP from Myanmar.

Trade Unions (FTUB) (from

1992–2014) are an organization

that took the initiative to imple-

ment ILO Complaints mecha-

nism against the military re-

gime. Our action, supported by

the International Trade Union

Confederation (ITUC) and the

European Trade Union Council

(ETUC) at the ILO, prompted

the implementation of Article 33

of the ILO Constitution to start

the economic isolation of the

military regime. It took us over

dues paying members.

Union.

(CTUM).

federation.



opportunity for Myanmar to do digital, as well as financial, leapfrogging: to use technology to accelerate change and development, and to use e-commerce to move from a cash-only to a cashless society.

In October 2017, the Ministry of Commerce commissioned the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNC-TAD) to take stock of the country's eTrade readiness. The eTrade Readiness Assessment of Myanmar, launched globally on April 16, 2018, includes 48 priority actions, spread across seven key policy areas, to be considered to increase uptake of e-commerce in Myanmar: To implement these, the Ministry of Commerce is tasked to be the lead cooperation ministry to

accelerate the adoption of e-commerce by Government entities and businesses and therefore contribute to the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

In the past 10 months, the Ministry of Commerce, with support from the EIF Tier 1 project, has organized several Public-Private consultations on e-commerce (October 2017, December 2017, March 2018) that led to the first Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Digital Economy and E-Commerce organized in Nay Pyi Taw on September 26, 2018, and attended by 250 public and private sector participants.

The PPD benefitted from the Chairmanship of U Than Myint, (2)Union Minister for Commerce,

and U Zaw Min Win, President of UMFCCI. Several key players in Mvanmar E-Commerce Firms. represented in the roundtable discussion, raised their concerns reflecting the challenges and

> bottlenecks. The PPD highlighted some of the key bottlenecks to e-commerce uptake:

- (1) Improving and updating the legislative and regulatory framework for e-commerce, in particular: online consumer protection, data privacy and status of e-commerce platforms
- Deployment of and trust in electronic payments (e-bank-

An open letter to the EU members

twenty years and myself twenty four (24) years in exile to achieve the required political change.

We had to take the route of economic isolation as, although it was a military regime, we could not use arms to remove it and therefore the best possible nonviolent action was to impose economic sanctions.

At the moment, we have a democratically-elected government

ternational community, our govto the Rakhine State, Kachin State situation.

One reason is that we still are recovering from the economic sanctions that we had to impose on our country for political change and another is that the present government is struggling with the old bureaucracy.

These are not excuses for the human rights violations in

Rakhine State or in other ethnic areas but stating the fact – from our experience on the ground in developing trade unions.

Our organization and its members are not members of any political party, we have all religions and almost all ethnic nationalities within our membership.

CTUM has members in the private sector garment industry. Our affiliate, the Industrial Workers Federation of Mvanmar Yes, from the view of the in- (IWFM) represents over 16,000 members and their families in ernment has been slow to respond the Hlaingtharyar industrial zone of Yangon. Majority are young people, middle school level and women

The EU needs to think of what kind of livelihood these workers and their families will be looking to, should the withdrawl of GSP takes place and the garment orders shrink.

Should the GSP withdrawl take place and the placements

would be the direct impact scenario and it will be the EU that will be responsible for the following: the over 300,000 workers in the private sector garment

industry will migrate to either Thailand, Malaysia, and in the process, disrupt the ecosocial situations of the receiving countries as well as in Myanmar. (this is only one sector and the consequences will be felt more wider and harder) the arrest and suppression of narcotics, the anti-corruption activities, enforcing the judicial framework, the Labor Law Amendment etc; all these Good Governance initiatives under the political transition will be kicked in the face.

All the Social Dialogue trainings (run by the Danish Government), all the Industrial Relations trainings (run by

13 OCTOBER 2018

OPINION 9



urged government to continue the dialogue to address these

ing and mobile money)

- Lack of digital literacy, ICT (3)skills and awareness on opportunities and risks for **MSMEs**
- Competing mandates and priorities on digital economy and e-commerce among Government institutions
- (5) Challenges for the Government to generate revenues from e-commerce activities

Besides the lack of customization of platforms for content in Myanmar language and the limited command of English among the population, business and government included, it will be important to educate merchants and consumers on the benefits and pitfalls

of digital work and of e-commerce. Government has a role to play in educating the population on digital products, as well as in making sure that educational institutions incorporate digital literacy in their curriculum. The same goes for ensuring that tertiary educational bodies contribute to reducing the ICT skills gaps. Companies involved in the Internet economy, mostly MSMEs, can also work to provide education to encourage consumers to engage more online, including shopping and paying.

With robust growth and clear demand to go digital, Myanmar is attracting the attention of business accelerators and venture capitalists, fueling the booming tech start-ups industry. In the long run, more investors and incubators will be needed, complementing assistance from the government and banks to create the ecosystem needed for e-commerce to take off in Myanmar

The Ministry of Commerce will continue mobilizing public and private sector stakeholders in coming months, through sector-focused consultations and advocacy.

More information: digitaltradeunit.dot@gmail.com

of garments shrink, the following

the Donor Countries of the EU, Japan and the US with the ILO), all the Pre-Departure trainings for the migrants (run with LIFT funds by the ILO) – all these will be wasted.

As a country, we look for allies to help with development and trade-and we are disappointed that the EU sways with the lobbyists and looks more for the trees than the forest.

One question to the EU: when we used the economic sanctions on the military regime of Myanmar, it was more than a decade ago and the country was totally shut down. There was no media access, the government gave no access to the ILO or any international bodies. Myanmar now gives access to the troubled area. The Myanmar government, the UN and the EU all have received the "Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State titled - Towards

a Peaceful, Fair and Prosperous Future for the People of Rakhine" or as many call it the Kofi Annan Report. Based on that report, a program has been developed for resettlement of genuine refugees with the UN.

We, the trade unions of Myanmar, believe that in order to join the international community with dignity, all parts of the society need to participate in the political transition. The trade unions are participating as best as we can.

To the EU members, even though there is a labor force of 22 million to be introduced to Social **Dialogue and Industrial Relations** we have not been supported directly by EU funds.

Should the GSP withdrawl take place, we will be very disappointed as the EU will be destroying the foundations for Good Industrial Relations / Social Dialogue that the trade unions are laying down.

Why is the GSP with drawl being discussed ?

In the present situation is it really needed ?

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာသဘာဝဘေးလျော့ပါးရေးနေ့ **"REDUCING ECONOMIC LOSSES FROM DISASTERS HAS THE POWER** TO TRANSFORM LIVES"

"ပြည်သူ့ဘဝ တိုးတက်ပြောင်းလဲဖို့၊ ဘေးဒဏ်ကြောင့် စီးပွားဆုံးရှုံးမှု လျှော့ချစို့"

၂၀၁၈ ခုနှစ်၊ အောက်တိုဘာလ ၁၃ ရက်



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 4:00 pm Friday 12th October, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (13:30) hrs MST today, the Deep Depression over land (India) moved to Northeastwards and weaken gradually into a depression within next (6)hrs. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North and South Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy over the Andamar Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 13th October, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6 9) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (4-6) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

> Storm news 19:00 MST, 12 October 2018

Deep Depression

According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today the Deep Depression over land (India) has moved to East Northeastwards weakened into a depression It is forecast to move Northeast wards and weaken gradually in to a low pressure area during next (18) hrs. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North and South Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. **General caution**

Due to the Deep Depression, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states with isolated to regionally heavy falls within next (6) hrs.

Occasional squalls with moderate to rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (4-6) feet Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts Advisoy

People should be aware trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS (Issued at (12:00) hours MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (12) miles west of Hta Man Thi) latitude 25.34°N, longitude 95.10°E, depth (10) kilometers about (92) miles Northeast of Tamu seismological observatory was recorded at (11)hr. (29)min (03)sec MST on 12 October 2018.

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar latitude 22.23°N, longitude 93.27°E, depth (15) kilometers about (36) miles southwest of Haka seismological observatory was recorded at (20)hr. (48)min (16)sec MST on 12 October 2018.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at dinner hosted by Laotian Minister of National Defence in Vientiane on 11 October. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Senior General attends dinner hosted by Laotian Minister of National Defence

LAOTIAN Minister of National Defence Lieutenant-General Chansamone Chanyalath hosted a dinner in honor of a delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Don Chan Palace Hotel in Vientiane on 11 October. At the dinner, the Laotian Minister delivered a welcoming speech, and in return the Senior General delivered a speech of appreciation. Before and during the dinner, Lao People's Armed Forces dance troupe provided entertainment with cultural dances and songs. After the dinner, the Senior General and wife presented flower bouquets to the dance troupe and took commemorative photos together with the dance troupe, according to the news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services — MNA

Coord meeting held to convene Children's Literary Festival (Pathein)



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint seen inspecting preparations for Children's Literary Festival (Pathein) at the Pathein University yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A COORDINATION meeting was held in Ayeyawady Region Government office yesterday morning to hold Children's Literary Festival (Pathein) from 3 to 5 November.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said nation building requires natural resources as well as human resources. Knowledge and skills are required to become valuable human resources. Learning knowledge in school is fundamental in life and continuous learning is much required. As technical development rises human's learning process need to be continuous. Reading is important to do this.

A book sales event is included in the children's literary festival. In addition to organizing children's literary festivals, youth all round development festivals and youth talk circles were being organized with an aim for development of future youths, said the Union Minister.

Next, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung discussed about support to be provided by the region government on conducting the festival grandly, and Information and Public Relations Department Director General U Ye Naing explained about festival procedures

Afterwards, organizing committee chairman Ayeyawady Region minister for development affairs U Kyaw Myint explained about works conducted, festival organizing sub-committees and meeting attendees explained about arrangements made for the festival and the Union Minister and Chief Minister coordination on the discussions and explanations.

Children's Literary Festival (Pathein) will be held with an aim to make children love and enjoy literature, become life-long learners, gain the habit of working together, becoming learned, knowledgeable and sociable youths who will become future leaders

Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and related state/region governments and literary lovers jointly organized the Children's Literary Festival starting from 2016 in states/regions towns and cities, like Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Taunggyi, Monywa and Yangon. The forthcoming festival in Pathein will include story-telling competition, poem reciting competition, daily literary talks, games including tradition games, football and entertainments, it is learnt. Similarly, starting from 2017, it was held in 37 district level towns, it is learnt. Later in the afternoon, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and party inspected the site in Pathein University where the Children's Literary Festival will be held. — Region IPRD ■

Press Release for launching of ICOE website

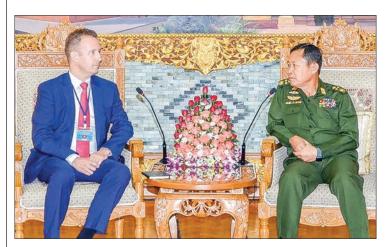
ICOE launches its new website (13 October 2018)

Today, 13 October 2018, the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) launches its website <u>www.icoe-myanmar.org</u>

The website aims to provide information on the activities of the ICOE in the implementation of its mandate. It also provides brief narratives of ICOE members, news/press release, activities, and contact information of ICOE.

The website of ICOE will also be linked with its facebook page, twitter and youtube when due.

Office of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) Nay Pyi Taw 13 October 2018



Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets with Netherlands Ambassador Mr. Wouter Jurgens in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice-Senior General receives Netherlands Ambassador

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win received Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Wouter Jurgens at the Bayintnaung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed relations of the Myanmar Government and Tatmadaw with European Union member countries, including Netherlands, status of releasing true news about events in Rakhine State, works of Independent Commission of Enquiry, peace process, achieving of peace depending upon will, sincerity and mutual trust, Netherlands' continued cooperation in Myanmar's democratic reform and peace process, according to a news release from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

Raw opium, stimulant tablets seized in Tachilek, Namtu

A TOTAL of 7.5 kg of raw opium and 10.5 kg of raw opium were seized from two motor bikes found near a road side near Yan Kaung Village, Tachilek Township on Thursday.

Similarly, on the same day, 23 stimulant tablets were seized from Kyaw Thaung and Ma Romar in Pan Hike quarter, Namtu Township. Later, police force also seized another 36 gram of opium, 6940 stimulant tablets, 5 grams of Ice and Ks 140000 from their house.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —MNA■

M.Ed. conferred on 176 UDNR ethnic graduates

UNIVERSITY for the Development of National Races (UDNR) of the Union held a graduation ceremony for Batch-16 of the twoyear education master course and Batch-2 of the five-year education degree course at the university's Convocation Hall, in Sagaing yesterday, and presenting job credentials to them.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region Dr. Myint Naing and Ministers for Sagaing Region, Ministry of Border Affairs, Education and Training Department, Director-General U Thein Htay Oo, Professor of University for the Development of National Races of the Union U Mya Win, Deputy Professor, tutors, invited guests, graduating students and their parents were present.

First, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung said University for the Development of National Races of the Union was established with the aim of promoting socio-economic development of the ethnic people



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, graduate students and dignitaries pose for a documentary photo in Sagaing. PHOTO: MNA

in the country.

So far, 13,304 have graduated from the university. Of them, 106 graduated with Master of Education, 35 with Master of Philosophy, 3,842 with Bachelor of Education, 742 with Diploma in Teaching, 956 with the Middle Education Teaching, 7,162 with Primary Education and 461 with Higher Education teaching.

Regarding the government, reform strategy plan (2017-2020) are also still planned for state employees and ethnics, without bias, accountability, efficiency and strong belief are also good backbone of democratic practices.

Honesty, accountability, responsibility and transparency of state employees represented the government and it is a very important fact to enhance trust between the country and people. Then, Union Minister for

Border Affairs, guests and grad-

uate students took documentary photos.

In the evening, the graduate students were honoured with dinner by the Union Minister and his wife.

Yesterday, Master of Education was conferred on 176 ethnic graduates.— MNA

Film analysis program to be held in Yangon

WITH the aim of enabling the observing and analyzing of a film from all angles, a film analysis program will be held at film exhibition hall, No. 50, Golden Valley, Bahan, Yangon on 14 October.

During the program, a movie titled "Still Life" shot by Director Jia Zhang-Ke will be shown and the film and reality analysis will be conducted, led by script writer Dr. Aung Min.

The movie, "Still Life" is an Art House Film type and achieved Film Award at Venice Film Festival in Italy in 2006 and also achieved Director Award Asian Film Festival in China in 2007.

As a sub-part of Cinematheque Program of Film Development Center Management group, a film and reality analysis were conducted on a movie titled "Yi Yi" shot by Director Edward Yang on 16 September and a movie titled "Rosetta" shot by Director Jean-Pierre and Lue Dardenne on 30 September. This is the third time a film and reality analysis is conducted, it is learnt.— MNA

Graduation Ceremony for CFDCM (1/2018) convened in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin delivers a speech at the graduation ceremony for CFDCM (1/2018) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

GRADUATION ceremony of Course for Deputy Chief of Mission (CFDCM) 1/2018 conducted by Strategic Studies and Training Department convened at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin delivered a speech at the graduation ceremony.

The course was conducted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from September 17 to October 12 and was attended by 15 high ranking officials and other officials.

At the course, subjects such as present Myanmar foreign policy and international politics, economic policy of the State, policy on protecting national interest, policy on trade and foreign investment, stability of Rakhine State, long term developmental matters, dos and don'ts on systematic usage of State funds, duties and responsibilities of Deputy Chief of Missions, anti-corruption law and media management matters were taught by Union Minister for International Cooperation, Union Minister for President Office, Union Minister

for Information, Union Minister for Trade, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar, Anti-Corruption Commission, Union Civil Service Board, Office of the Auditor General of the Union, directors general from departments, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, deputy ministers, chairmen, members and deputy directors general from Office of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine. — MNA ■



Attendees seen at a past film analysis program in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Gold price rises above Ks1 million per tical in recent days



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

THE domestic gold price climbed up above Ks1 million per tical (1.729 OZ) in recent days, which crashed the market, according to domestic gold market.

The domestic gold price reached a high of above Ks1,008,300 per tical in mid-September, with the US dollar gaining in local currency market. But when authorities questioned the unscrupulous who manipulated the currency exchange market, it led to the price fall in gold market. The gold price on 8 October was Ks997,500 per tical, and thereafter, it turned on an upward trend. It fetched Ks1,011,000 per tical on 10 October. The domestic gold price yesterday peaked to a new high of Ks1,027,000 per tical, according to Aung Thamardi gold and jewellery shop.

Meanwhile, global gold price was US\$1,220 per ounce.

Since August, US dollar exchange rate has been above Ks1,500. Dollar exchange rate on 17 September increased up to Ks1,570-1,580. The US dollar exchange rate yesterday was Ks1,590-1,600, according to local currency market.

The US dollar appreciation against local currency is a contributing factor to a surge in domestic gold price, said gold entrepreneurs.

The escalating trade war between the US and China led to dollar appreciation in global market. Domestic gold price has been unusually increasing with the soaring US dollar exchange rate. — GNLM

New investment supports traditional textiles, weavers

MYANMAR social enterprise, Myanmar Artisans, part of the INGO Turquoise Mountain, announced an investment of over US\$750,000 in the Myanmar traditional textiles industry, during the next two years, in cooperating with the DaNa Facility. The investment will initially take place in Kachin, Chin and Shan states, but it will spread to other states in Myanmar later.

Myanmar is bursting with rich, diverse textile traditions that live on through its abundance of highly skilled weavers. The Myanmar Artisans project will use these traditions and skills to improve the livelihoods of women and underserved groups in the sector through training, products development and forging better links to higher value markets. It will work across the country and also establish a central cut and sew workshop in Yangon's downtown area, keeping a crucial part of the tradition within the country, as well as focusing on product development and quality control.

"The British Government's Department for International Development (DfID) want to work in states and regions across Myanmar to support new innovative businesses and ensure that all areas of this great country benefit from investment and economic growth. Investing in new models of inclusive business in sectors such as textiles, agriculture and financial services has the potential to help transform the Myanmar economy, creating jobs and raising incomes," said Dr. Gail Marzetti, the head of the DfID at Myanmar Artisans project opening ceremony, which was held in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 10 October. "We are funding this programme because we believe that it is important that the traditional textiles of Myanmar continue to thrive and succeed in the future. We are supporting projects like this across every region of Myanmar because we believe that it is through responsible and inclusive growth that a country becomes truly prosperous." The unique scale and diversity of handweaving across Myanmar is extraordinary, and it is a real privilege to be working with such skilled artisans to develop products to get them to high value market, said Harry Wardill, country director of Turquoise Mountain.

Myanmar Artisans is already supporting hand weavers in Kachin State, and has a local regional coordinator in place to drive activity forward. During her visit, Dr Marzetti will also meet regional government officials at the Government Weaving School and visit one of the first weaving workshops the DaNa Facility is working with.—GNLM

Chinese merchants prefer buying AQSIQ registered agro products

CHINESE merchants are willing to make massive buying of agro products if they receive approval from food safety inspection mechanism — the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China — which can guarantee safety and quality of goods, said Dr. Myint Soe, vice president of Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP).

"We had links with a great number of buyers through China-ASEAN expo held last month in Nanning city, China. What we need is just AQSIQ registration", he added. Chinese merchants expressed their interest in Myanmar's Sein Ta Lone mango (Diamond Solitaire), avocado, muskmelon, chilli, elephant foot yam, cardamom, banana, tea leaf, etc. "Chinese merchants carried apples and pears by air to Myanmar and took back Myanmar's Sein Ta Lone, avocado, muskmelon and watermelon. We connected with a buyer who proposed to purchase 5 tons of tea leaves. Green chili produced form Kayan area are also received purchase order. Some want to buy banana.

This being so, exhibiting in international expos can bring about trade link between local suppliers and international traders, which benefits the farmers as well as the businessmen and also raise the country's revenue", said Dr. Myint Sein. Elephant foot yam and cardamom were previously restricted for export as they were included in the list of forest products. Now, the restriction has been lifted and they are available for export. Traders from China and Canada showed their interest in them. Sein Ta Lone mango production includes only 40 per cent of fresh and flawless fruits.

The remaining 60 per cent are for value-added production, which requires dryers and pest-killing machines, said the businessmen. MFVP called for government to government discussion in seeking AQSIQ certification at the meeting between Private Sector Development Committee, led by Vice President U Myint Swe, and businessmen, held on 6 October.

Additionally, he also requested to set respective zone areas for specific fruits and vegetables in order to produce quality vegetables and fulfill the market's demand.—May Thet Hnin

35-year-old fisherman losses lag in crocodile attack in Bogalay

A 35-year-old man lost leg in a crocodile attack on Thursday, becoming the fifth victim of the man-animal conflict in Ayeyawady Delta's Bogalay which lying close to the crocodile sanctuary.

Tun Win, 35, was attacked by the reptile while he was fishing in a river together with his wife.

He managed to escape from killing by the crocodile with the help of his wife, but lost his left leg in the attack occurred at 9 pm on Thursday.

The fisherman was taken to the hospital.

In five attacks in 2018, four injured and one was killed.

A woman was killed in a

crocodile attack in June in a river in Bogalay.

Myanmar's delta region is no stranger to crocodile attacks, as they occur yearly.

Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the mouth of the Ayeyawady River. The sanctuary attracts visitors keen on viewing crocodile hatching camps and conservation projects in the region's mangrove forests – the forests are in a steady decline due to deforestation in the area.

Wildlife conservation groups have erected warning signs to alert villagers that crocodiles pose a threat in the area.—Htay Naing (Bogalay)

With climate change fiction, novelists aim for 'radical empathy'

FRANKFURT AM MAIN (Germany) —As alarm bells over global warming ring louder, authors are increasingly turning to climate change fiction to dramatise the catastrophic effects of droughts, hurricanes and floods -- and inspire action.

Dubbed "cli-fi", the genre has seen an explosion in popularity in recent years as environmental changes sweep the globe and tales of a planet in turmoil appear less like science fiction and a lot more real.

"Climate change is slow-moving and intensely place-based," said US literary expert Elizabeth Rush, a lecturer at Brown University.

"It is difficult for us to notice these things in our day-to-day lives," she told AFP.

But with climate fiction, "you can imagine being a person whom flood or drought displaces, and with that imaginative stance can come radical empathy."

For Norwegian novelist Maja Lunde it started with a documentary about colony collapse disorder, the mysterious die-off of bees that has sparked international concern.

"I had an epiphany: this is what I want to write about," Lunde told AFP.

"The History of Bees", which conjures up a world without bees where humans have to hand-pollinate trees, became a global bestseller, shifting over a million copies and translated into more than 30 languages.

Sensing that she "wasn't done yet with this topic", Lunde has set out to write a quartet of climate change novels. The second book, "Blue" deals with a shortage of water and was published in Norway last year.

Lunde will discuss her novels at this week's Frankfurt book fair, the world's largest publishing event where climate change fiction is expected to feature prominently.

"I think we will see more of these books in the years to come," Lunde said. "People are caring

about climate change more and more... and authors



A flooded street after Hurricane Michael, the worst storm to hit Florida's Panhandle since records began in 1851, as scientists have warned that global warming will make storms more destructive. **PHOTO: AFP**

write about what makes them scared."

The latest UN climate report, which warned on Monday that drastic changes were needed to prevent Earth from hurtling towards an unlivable rise in temperature, showed that the situation was "getting worse", Lunde said.

"But we can still do a lot," she added. "We can all do something. I absolutely think that climate change fiction can change minds." 'The age of cli-fi'

US freelance journalist Dan Bloom, credited with coining the term "clifi" in 2010, described the genre as a literary cousin of sci-fi, but less escapist and "based on reality and real science".

The earliest examples date back decades with JG Ballard's 1962 novel "The Drowned World", where melting ice caps have partially submerged an abandoned London, considered a classic of the genre. But Taiwan-based

Bloom said cli-fi was "made for the 21st Century".

"Here we are: floods, heatwaves, water shortages, climate refugees... Cli-fi invented itself."

This year's unusually hot summer, when extreme wildfires ravaged parts of Europe and California, has made the public even more aware of climate events linked to global warming, Bloom said, fuelling "a hunger to read cli-fi novels".

But like any good novel, he stressed, cli-fi stories should at their core "be good storytelling, full of emotion and memorable characters."

Barbara Kingsolver's "Flight Behaviour" (2012), about the sudden arrival of huge flocks of monarch butterflies in a Tennessee forest, and Margaret Atwood's dystopian MaddAddam trilogy count among the mustreads of the genre.

"Literary critics are taking the genre serious now," Bloom said. "We have entered the age of cli-fi."

When done right, cli-fi novels can succeed where "boring" newspaper articles and scientific reports fall short, Bloom said.

"They can serve to help make readers more conscious of what's at stake as the world warms degree by degree. These novels can be wake-up calls, a cri de coeur."

University lecturer Rush agreed. Climate fiction "can be the spark that leads to planetary political transformation," she said.—AFP

Two dead in flash foods in southern France

MARSEILLE (France) — At least two people died when several cars were swept away by flash floods triggered by heavy rain Wednesday night in southern France, authorities said.

The storms were part

of a weather front that moved across the Mediterranean Sea, killing at least 10 in the Spanish island of Majorca and carrying away part of a motorway bridge in the Italian island of Sardinia.

Two bodies were

found in southern France in an overturned car stranded just off the Riviera coast near the town of Sainte-Maxime, French police said.

It was thought the car was among several that were carried out to sea after being swept away by the Garonnette river, a statement from local authorities said.

Helicopters and police teams searched the area which received nearly 200 mm (2.3 inches) of rain overnight.

The fire service said it rescued 16 people.

In the Spanish holiday island of Majorca, rescue workers were searching Thursday for a five-yearold boy and two German holiday-makers still missing after the flash floods there.

In Sardinia, part of a motorway bridge crossing a river near Caglieri collapsed in heavy rains, but there were no casualties as the road had been closed following reports of subsidence.—AFP

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1092 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1092 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (017N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (017N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 INTERASIA LINES Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE M.V RATANA THIDA VOY. NO. (127W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V RATANA THIDA VOY. NO. (127W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

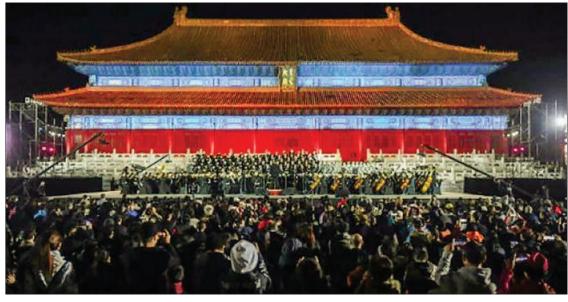
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

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Once the seat of China's emperors, the Forbidden City last played host to a classical music concert in 2001. **PHOTO: AFP**

Forbidden City hosts record label's 120th anniversary concert

BEIJING (China) — The world's oldest classical record label Deutsche Grammophon on Wednesday marked its 120th anniversary at a special concert in the historic Forbidden City in Beijing.

Once the seat of China's emperors, the palace last played host to a classical music concert in 2001 when the Three Tenors — Placido Domingo, Jose Carreras and the late Luciano Pavarotti -- performed before a 30,000-crowd.

Under a crisp, cool sky, the

Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of conductor Long Yu, opened the evening with an arrangement of Chinese composer Liu Tianhua's Enchanted Night.

The 1,200-strong crowd took in a repertoire which included Carl Orff's CarminaBurana and Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto.

Deutsche Grammophon president Clemens Trautmann told AFP that the Forbidden City was picked because of its significance. "What I find really fascinating is that the Latin text written by Bavarian monks (that formed the basis for the CarminaBurana) came into existence around the same time as the Forbidden City was built in the 13th century," he said.

"More fundamentally, Deutsche Grammophon has always been a very internationally minded label with a very diverse roster of exclusive artists and we want to foster cross-cultural dialogue here tonight and build bridges."—AFP

Modern art, antiques on show at Lebanon cube museum

EL-HERI (Lebanon) — At a new private museum in Lebanon, a contemporary sculpture of a mortar missile is displayed alongside millenia-old statues retrieved from the bottom of the sea.

Named after the Mesopotamian god of wisdom, the Nabu Museum opened in late September to showcase the cultural wealth of an ancient region devastated by conflict.

Its inaugural exhibition includes 60 contemporary works, as well as around 400 antiquities from Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Yemen.

"We have a more or less complete picture of what was once the cradle of civilisation," says French curator Pascal Odille. Next to a private beach in the village of El-Heri in Lebanon's north, the museum's collection sits in an impressive futuristic cube of steel, coated with a rusty orange patina.

A tall glass opening in the metal and concrete structure provides a view straight through the museum's interior and out to the sea. Designed by Iraqi artists, the museum for the first time opens up the private art and antiquities collections of wealthy businessmen to the public for free.

Drawn from the homes and warehouses of its patrons, the exhibits are displayed on two floors, floodlit by the sunlight streaming through the tall windows.

There are "ushabti" from Ancient Egypt, finely carved turquoise figurines traditionally placed in coffins to ensure passage to the afterlife.

Nearby, a contemporary sculpture of a mortar missile by Lebanese artist Katya Traboulsi is adorned with hieroglyphs.

The artwork is topped by a sculpted bust of the Ancient Egyptian god of the sky, Horus, instead of a warhead.

'Ray of optimism'

Visitors can see Lebanese artist SalibaDouaihy's abstract landscape paintings, one largely red, the other bright blue.

But they can also admire terracotta statues harking back to the Phoenician period found during marine excavations off the southern coast of Lebanon.

"You can see the seashell and limescale deposits on them," says Odille, of the figures from the sixth or seventh century BC.

The museum's founders -two Lebanese and a Syrian want it to be a beacon of hope in a region scarred by conflict and the brutality of jihadists.

"Nabu is the god of writing and wisdom. Not the god of war," says Lebanese co-founder JawadAdra.

"We're a ray of optimism in this region, amid all this obscurity," says the 64-year-old, whosecolourful, modern-art inspired tie contrasts with his grey suit.

The project cost \$7 million, the organisers say.

But the works on show only represent a fraction of its founders' private collections, and there are plans to switch the exhibits every few months.

Adra's personal collection includes 2,000 items from the Levant and Mesopotamia regions, according to the exhibition's catalogue.

The businessman says his hobby dates back to his childhood. "I've been collecting stamps and coins since I was 10," says Adra, who now heads a Beirut-based polling company and owns quality control labs in the Gulf. He says it is time to give back. To set up the museum, he banded together with Syrian business partner FidaJdeed, and fellow Lebanese entrepreneur Badr El-Hage, who runs a rare book firm in London.—AFP



French curator Pascal Odille says the Nabu Museum has "a more or less complete picture of what was once the cradle of civilisation". **PHOTO: AFP**

Danish Jews recall desperate escape from Nazis, 75 years on

COPENHAGEN (Denmark) — Freddy Vainer was only four years old when he and his family were forced to flee Copenhagen to escape being deported to Nazi concentration camps, but he remembers it like it was yesterday.

"My grandfather was at the synagogue on 1 October, 1943 when he found out that he had to flee," he said. That month nearly 7,000 Danish Jews made the desperate journey by boat to neighbouring Sweden.

Occupied by Nazi Germany since April 1940, Denmark surrendered but retained some independence of its institutions until the end of the summer of 1943, when the Danish government was forced to resign.

At first the Jewish population seemed relatively safe, and were not forced to wear a yellow star. But "in September orders from Berlin were being sent to deal with the so-called Jewish question," CecilieBanke, a researcher at the Danish Institute of International Studies, told AFP. She said that plans were leaked from within the German authorities so Denmark's Jewish population could be warned.

"This is the essence of the rescue operation, the Jewish population knew so they could actually flee and since information was leaked, the Danish population could also help Jews to flee," Banke added.

"This is the exception in the story of the Jews in World War Two," said Silja Vainer, Freddy's wife. More than 6,500 Jews who mainly lived in Copenhagen left their homes and hid mostly near the coast north of the capital before fleeing by sea, largely to the towns of Gilleleje and Snekkersten. While Freddy and his family hid in a house in the northwestern coastal town of Hellebaeck before finding someone to take them across the water, 197 others were arrested trying to escape.

The great escape

A fisherman agreed to take only five of Freddy's eight-member family. Freddy said he stayed at the docks with his mother and grandmother before finally crossing over.

The passage cost on average 1,000 Danish kroner per person (the equivalent today of 2,700 euros, \$3,100).

"My grandfather also paid for others who didn't have any money so that everyone could flee," Freddy, a former doctor in his eighties, recalled.

His future wife Silja was three-and-a-half years old during the exodus.

However the people smuggler her family's friends found refused to sail with adults and children together. —AFP

Crew of Soyuz rocket survive emergency landing after engine problem

MOSCOW (Russia) - The twoman crew of a Soyuz rocket made a successful emergency landing Thursday after an engine problem on lift-off to the International Space Station, in a major setback for the beleaguered Russian space industry.

US astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksey Ovchinin were rescued without injuries in Kazakhstan.

system worked, the vessel was able to land in Kazakhstan... the crew are alive," the Russian space agency Roscosmos said in a tweet.

The pair are in contact with ground control, the space agency said.

Over the past few years the Russian space industry has suffered a series of problems including the loss of a number of satellites and other spacecraft.

The rocket was launched was

from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 0840 GMT.

"The launch had a problem with the booster (rocket) a few seconds after the first stage separation and we can confirm now that the crew has started to go into ballistic descent mode," the voiceover on a NASA livestream from mission control in Houston said.

The NASA commentator "The emergency rescue later said the crew was in good condition and communicating with rescue workers after landing east of the Kazakh city of Zhezkazgan.

> The descent was sharper than usual meaning the crew was subjected to a greater G-force, but they have been prepared for this scenario in training, the commentator said

A source in the Russian space agency told AFP that rescue workers had reached the crew.

"Thank God"

The Kremlin confirmed the men had survived. Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists: "Thank God the cosmonauts are alive".

Roscosmos's online stream of the launch cut out shortly after lift-off.

Former military pilots Ovchinin and Hague were set to join Alexander Gerst of the European Space Agency, NASA's Serena Aunon-Chancellor and Sergey Prokopyev of Roscosmos following a six-hour flight.

The International Space Station — a rare point of cooperation between Moscow and Washington — has been orbiting the Earth at roughly 28,000 kilometres per

hour since 1998 and will mark its 20th birthday in November.

Hague was born in the same year the United States and the Soviet Union launched their first joint space mission, the Apol-



Hague and Ovchinin without in were rescued injuries Kazakhstan. PHOTO: AFP

lo-Soyuz, or Soyuz-Apollo mission in 1975.

Dmitry Rogozin, a firebrand nationalist politician who this year was appointed by President Vladimir Putin to head Roscosmos, said on Twitter he had ordered a state commission to probe the accident.

Rogozin was flying to the scene of the emergency landing, the space agency said.—AFP ■

Scientists finger culprits decimating France's oysters

PARIS (France) — A twopronged attack by a virus and bacteria is responsible for decimating France's 450-million euro (\$520 million) oyster industry, scientists said Thursday, potentially solving a decade-long mystery.

Beginning in 2008, large numbers of young Pacific oysters have died in French waters in certain years, with mortality as high as 100 percent in some farms. Scientists scrambling to find the cause identified severdieoffs, but could not find a consistent pattern.

A team of 30 researchers led by Yannick Gueguen from the **IFREMER** institute and Guillaume Mitta of the University of Perpignan conducted experiments to show how the herpes virus OsHV-1 weakens the young oysters' immune systems, opening the way for several bacteria that come in for the kill.

The disease-complex hits

al pathogens during different both farmed and wild Crassostrea gigas oysters, by far the largest commercial species in the world. Their findings were published in the journal Nature Communications.

The periodic outbreaks hit not only all French aquafarms, "but others in Europe, along with some in China, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea," Mitta told AFP. More than 80 percent of global oyster production is in China.—AFP ■



TOKYO (Japan) — A Japanese known as MASCOT — "Mobile probe sent to examine an asteroid in order to shed light on the origins of the solar system will now land on the rock several months later than planned, officials said Thursday.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) told reporters the Hayabusa2 probe is now expected to touch down on the Ryugu asteroid in "late January" at the earliest, rather than at the end of this month as initially expected.

JAXA project manager Yuichi Tsuda said they needed more time to prepare the landing as the latest data showed the asteroid surface was more rugged than expected.

"The mission... is to land without hitting rocks," Tsuda said, adding this was a "most difficult" operation.

"We had expected the surface would be smooth... but it seems there's no flat area."

Scientists are already receiving data from other machines deployed on the surface of the asteroid.

Last week, JAXA successfully landed a new 10-kilogramme (22-pound) observation robot Asteroid Surface Scout."

Loaded with sensors, the robot can take images at multiple wavelengths, investigate minerals with a microscope, gauge surface temperatures and measure magnetic fields.

Ten days earlier, a pair of MINERVA-II micro-rovers were dropped onto the asteroid -- marking the first time that moving, robotic observation devices have been successfully deployed.

These rovers are taking advantage of Ryugu's low gravity to jump around on the surface — travelling as far as 15 metres (49 feet) and staying above the surface for as long as 15 minutes to survey the asteroid's physical features with cameras and sensors.

Hayabusa2, about the size of a large fridge and equipped with solar panels, is the successor to JAXA's first asteroid explorer, Hayabusa, which is Japanese for falcon.

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



Researchers from the University of Perpignan not far from this oyster park in Arcachon Bay showed the disease-complex hits both farmed and wild Crassostrea gigas oysters, by far the largest commercial species in the world. **PHOTO: AFP**

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Leeds owner calls for 'Premier League 2' to boost coffers

LONDON — Leeds owner Andrea Radrizzani says it is time to create a "Premier League 2" to boost TV revenue for struggling Championship clubs.

The English Football League's current deal with Sky is worth almost £90 million (\$119 million) a season but will rise to £120 million a season from 2019-2024.

Championship clubs -- playing in England's second tier -- get the lion's share of that, as they do with the money the Premier League gives the EFL in solidarity payments, but this only adds up to about £7 million for each club.

Premier League clubs, however, get at least £100 million each from the league's domestic and international broadcast deals.

Radrizzani, who bought former English champions Leeds in 2017 and recruited mercurial Argentinian coach Marcelo Bielsa, thinks the gulf in income is



Leeds owner Andrea Radrizzani (left) has called for the creation of a "Premier League 2". PHOTO: AFP

too wide.

"The model of the Championship should be reconsidered because to keep changing owners every one, two, three years is not a fair system for the fans, for the clubs," he told the Sport Business Summit in London.

"It is really not sustainable to stay in the Championship. There are huge gaps between clubs coming down from the Premier League with parachute payments to the other teams on lower budgets. And the money generated from TV rights is small because it is split between 72 clubs (across three divisions).

"Maybe they need to consider another way to create value, Premier League 2 or something, that is sustainable even for the people who are not promoted.

"I think we should consider that a club like Leeds, that is watched by 500,000-600,000 people live on Sky, is getting only £2-2.5 million from the league (in TV rights) and actually penalises us because we're always on TV, maybe more than 20 times," he added. "It doesn't work."

In a statement, an EFL spokesman said the Championship "remains one of the most competitive and unpredictable divisions in world football", with attendances and revenues that beat many top divisions across Europe.

He also pointed out that the clubs promoted to the Premier League in 2016-17 all stayed up last season, while those relegated did not bounce back to the top flight. — AFP ■



Myanmar (white) vies for the ball against Indonesia (red) at the friendly match at the Wibawa Mukti Stadium in Indonesia. **PHOTO: MFF**

Indonesia beat Myanmar in friendly at their home

INDONESIA and myanmar national football teams played their friendly match at the Wibawa Mukti Stadium in Bekasi, Indonesia, on Thursday.

Indonesia made a better performance by beating Myanmar 3-0 in the friendly match.

Myanmar team was lined up with Sann Sat Naing, Htike Htike Aung, Thein Than Win, David Htan, Hlaing Bo Bo, Ye Ko Ko, Maung Maung Soe, Mg Mg Lwin, Soe Moe Kyaw, Si Thu Aung, and Kaung Sat Naing.

Indonesia's squad includes Andritany Ardhiyaksa, I Putu Gede Juni Antara, Fachruddin Aryanto, Ricky Fajrin, Alfath-Fathier; Zulfiandi, Evan Dimas Darmono; Febri Hariyadi, Stefano Lilipaly, Irfan Jaya, Alberto Goncalves.

Indonesia scored an opening goal by a cross from Febri-Hariyadi at 19 minutes and was slammed into goal by Alberto Goncalves.

Again, Indonesia player Irfan Jaya scored the second goal for his team at 25 minutes, before grabbing his third goal at 39 minutes.

Tactical changes in the second half heated up the match but failed to deliver any goal for either team.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

England turn to next generation to get creative against Croatia

LONDON — Just three months on from the bitter disappointment of losing a first World Cup semi-final for 28 years, England visit Croatia on Friday in the Nations League seeking not only revenge, but also a long-term solution to a familiar shortcoming.

For all the progress made by the Three Lions in a glorious Russian summer, a familiar lack of midfield authority ultimately undid England as Croatia's Luka Modric and Ivan Rakitic took control of their semi-final to come from a goal down in Moscow. It was a similar story when Spain came to Wembley last month to puncture England's feel-good factor by dominating the ball in a 2-1 Nations League win.

A run to the last four with the third youngest squad at the World Cup raised expectations of what is to come from a richly talented generation under Gareth Southgate's tutelage.

However, Southgate has gone even younger in his search for the midfield maestro he believes England have lacked since the days of Paul Gascoigne.

Jadon Sancho, 18, and Mason Mount, 19, who made moves to get more first team football, and James Maddison, who jumped to the Premier League, are all rewarded with a first

on call-up.

coach

Sancho has lit up the Bundesliga since making the brave decision to turn down Pep Guardiola's pleas to keep him at Manchester City and join Borussia Dortmund last year.

Compared to Neymar by his former England under-16

D a n Micciche, Sancho has more assists than any player in Europe's top five leagues with nine this season, including one in the Champions League.

"I believe in myself, so moving to Germany didn't faze me," said Sancho as he faced the media glare for the first time in an England shirt.

"I'm a bit tricky, direct, confident obviously. I believe in myself in one versus one situations."— AFP ■

James Maddison has made a big impact since making a summer move from Norwich to Leicester. **PHOTO: AFP**