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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 18 October 2018

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives US Baptist delegation

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U T Khun Myat received the American Baptist Churches USA delegation led by Ms. Leslie Carol Turley at the Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed parliamentary activities along with development of democracy Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were officials from Pyithu Hluttaw office.

The American Baptist Churches USA is situated in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, United States.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat holds talks with Ms. Leslie Carol Turley from the American Baptist Churches USA at the Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA



Rakhine State Gov't holds press conference on 2nd one-year term

RAKHINE STATE Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said that Rakhine State is more susceptible than other regions and states when it comes to peace and development and as such prioritizes safety and security.

The Chief Minister made the remark during the Rakhine State Government's press conference for their 2nd one-year performance, held at the meeting hall of the State Government Office yesterday.

The Chief Minister said so far, we saw visible improvements and we are inviting investments in prioritized agriculture and livestock sectors because they are the key development areas of Rakhine State.

He said that during FY 2017-2018, Rakhine State has 1,104,057 acres of farmland, 6,842 prawn breeding tanks and 110,895 acres of prawn farms, and opened 85 small-scale factories. In the same

"So far in 2018, Rakhine State has 20 domestic investment businesses and 27 foreign investment businesses"

FY, Rakhine State has utilized union and state funds from the Department of Highways and constructed 15 roads and bridges, 324 MPT GSM centres (as of March 2018), and 17 staff residences containing 212 rooms. They have also conducted 247 electricity supply operations in the same FY, said the Chief Minister.

Talking about the city development sector, he said his government has accomplished

20 projects for urban roads, and bridges as well as waterworks, constructing 136 basic education high schools and 108 branch schools, 108 basic education middle schools and 309 branch schools, and 828 kindergartens.

He said 4,337 positions for health officials have been approved in Rakhine State, and of those, 1,740 have been filled in and 2,597 are still vacant.

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Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman receives Vietnamese delegation

CHAIRMAN of the Anti-Corruption Commission U Aung Kyi received a delegation led by Mr. Dang Cong Huan, Deputy Head of the Governmental Inspection Department of Viet Nam, at the office of the commission in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed the cooperation among the Anti-Corruption Commission and governmental departments, private business personnel, civil society organizations and inter-

national anti-corruption bodies, and three tasks of the commission: raising awareness on anti-corruption, prevention actions and investigation processes to fight against the corruption in Myanmar.—MNA ■



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi poses for documentary photo with Viet Nam delegates. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rakhine State Gov't holds press conference on 2nd one-year term

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He said they have built one medical center, 18 maternal clinics, 4 school medical centers, 21 station medical centers, 100 rural health centers, and 558 sub-rural health centers.

The Chief Minister said they have achieved 37 per cent of their project objectives. The Customs Department has projected Ks 7.5 million for April to September in FY 2017-2018, and as of 21 September they have collected Ks 9.241 million, he said. Rakhine State has accomplished USD 9.075 million in export value, Ks 58.592 million in import value, and Ks 1,265.864 million in exports.

So far in 2018, Rakhine State has 20 domestic investment businesses and 27 foreign investment businesses. Ks 84.342 billion has been loaned to 113,129 farmers for 562,280 acres of farmland in FY 2017-2018. They have projected 24-hour electrification for Buthidaung Tsp by October 2018 and for Maungtaung Tsp by December 2018, said the Chief Minister. He added that Posco Daewoo



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu explains his government's second one-year performance at a press conference held at the Rakhine State Government office in Sittway yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Corporation is constructing a solar power plant to provide 24-hour electrification across Manaung Island.

The Chief Minister said they are working for MraukU archeological area to be included in the World Heritage List. The state government has funded construction of houses for displaced people in Kyauktaw

Tsp and Paletwa Tsp.

He said Rakhine State has 18 IDP camps housing 110,015 people. He said the IDP camps that were closed down were Nidan Camp in Kyauktaw Tsp previously containing 584 people, Pyinpyumaung Camp in Kyaukpyu Tsp previously containing 318 people, and No.6 Ward Camp in Yanbye Tsp pre-

viously containing 14 people. He said they are planning to close down the Myabon Taungpaw Ward Camp soon.

The Rakhine Chief Minister said they have accepted 171 returnees from 13 April to 26 September 2018.

He said 1,503 houses for resettlement are planned to be

constructed in Maungtaung Tsp and 478 have been constructed. Previously, 831 houses were being constructed but 58 of them ran out of donors, reducing the houses in construction phase to 773, while the list of houses in need of donor assistance has increased from 194 to 252. Construction is funded by the Union Government, state and region governments, NGOs and Int'l agencies. The Indian Government will support the construction of 250 prefabricated houses in Maungtaung Tsp for displaced people in Northern Rakhine.

Afterwards, Rakhine State Ministers delivered detailed performance reviews concerning their respective ministry departments, followed by a Q&A session with media members.

Attending the press conference were members of the Rakhine State Cabinet, the State Advocate and State Auditor, department officials, journalists from RFA, MRTV, SKYNET, 5PLUS News, DNG, EPA, and Narinjara News, residential elders, and civil society organization representatives. — Tin Tun (District IPRD) ■

Information Ministry makes rules of tender system for school textbooks clear

THE Committee for Accepting and Scrutinizing Tender for School Textbooks explained the rules of the tender system to private printing businesses at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 October.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, in his capacity as the chairman of the committee, said the tender processes would ensure transparency, adding that competition will be equal to everyone in accordance with the order 1/2017

of the Office of the President.

The ministry invited tender recently to purchase paper and other necessary items to print the textbooks for 2019-2020 academic year.

"We discussed the required quality for the books with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and we will show the expected quality of the text books," said the deputy minister.

Next, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information U Myo Myint Maung, in his ca-

capacity as the secretary of the committee, explained the nature of tender system and formation of sub-committees for putting out the tender for school textbooks.

U Ko Ko Naing, Deputy Director-General of the Printing and Publishing Department, and member of the committee explained the school textbook tender submitting process and the rules of the contract.

The officials replied to questions raised by printing



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun addresses the meeting for explaining school textbook tender system. **PHOTO: MNA**

entrepreneurs and the meeting came to an end with concluding

remarks by Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun.—MNA ■

Agricultural loans

A JICA two-step loan amounting to Kyats 200 billion was acquired to support farmers and help them have better access to finance during a transformation process towards mechanized farming, and Kyats 30 billion worth of loans have been extended to farmers so far. The Myanmar Economic Bank also plans to extend loans amounting to Kyats 200 billion for agriculture and livestock farming businesses.

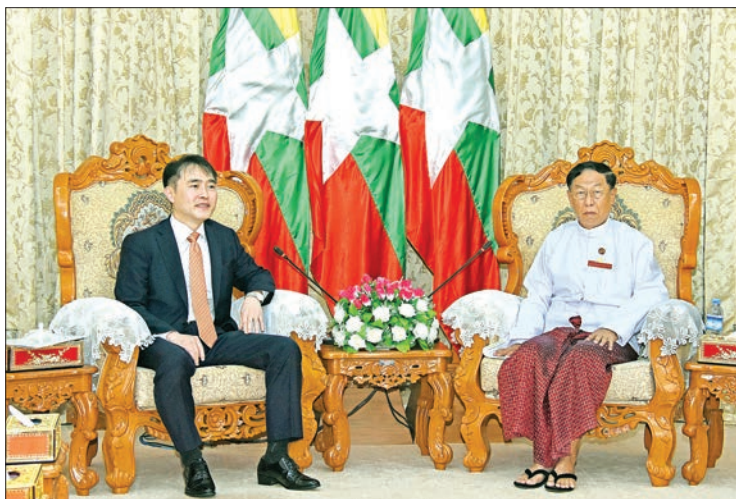
Agriculture loans extended by the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank have increased from Kyats 100,000 to Kyats 150,000 per acre for paddy farming. Loans extended for other crops have increased from Kyats 20,000 to Kyats 50,000 per acre and it is planned to further increase up to Kyats 100,000 per acre.

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

Union Election Commission Chairman receives ROK Ambassador to Myanmar

CHAIRMAN of the Union Election Commission (UEC) U Hla Thein received a delegation led by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to Myanmar, Mr. Lee Sang-hwa, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the UEC Chairman discussed the arrangement by the ROK National Election Commission (NEC) to observe the electoral process held in South Korea, the ICT-based electoral management courses offered by the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), while the ROK Ambassador discussed continued support in Myanmar's electoral



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein meets with ROK Ambassador Mr. Lee Sang-hwa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

process co-provided by the NEC of ROK and A-WEB. Next, they cordially discussed electoral processes. —MNA ■

Union Minister for Information receives Myanmar Music Association



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint meets with Myanmar Music Association members in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr. Pe Myint received officials from Myanmar Music Association at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said the association should be conduct-

ed independently with their set rules and regulations and his ministry will support the association in solving its issues and drive improvements of the music industry in Myanmar.

Officials from the Myan-

mar Music Association also discussed about their performances, tasks, rules and regulations and elections of association members. The Union Minister then replied to the officials and gave suggestions.

—MNA ■

MNHRC holds press conference

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) will be collaborating with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) for its own capacity-building initiatives.

The first step will involve APF evaluating the commission's current skill capacity and then giving advice based on it.

Ms. Rosslyn Joy Noonan, a high-ranking Ambassador of APF and former Chief Human Rights Commissioner of New Zealand, explained about their future operations at a press conference held in Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

MNHRC Chairman U Win Mra and UNDP Country Director Mr. Peter Batchelor delivered separate speeches, followed by Ms. Rosslyn Joy Noonan's explanation.

Ms. Noonan said she will review the MNHRC's current accomplishments, the require-

ments for improvement and what steps should be taken for building capacity. She said her evaluations will cover legal frameworks, leadership, management and organizational matters, how strategic plans are drafted and their implementations, how reports are accepted, research and analysis, how information is disseminated, how interactions are carried out with the government, civil society organizations and businesses, and monitoring and evaluation methods. Ms. Noonan, U Win Mra and Mr. Batchelor then replied to questions raised by the press conference attendants.

Attending the press conference were officials from the UN, Asian Development Bank, other international organizations, representatives from embassies of the EU and Myanmar's associate countries of Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, Norway, Australia, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, and commission members from MNHRC. —MNA ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol

A coordinated patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at the border posts 47 to 48 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am on 16 October. The Myanmar patrol was led by police lieutenant Zaw Lin Aung from Bor-

der Police sub-division (Aung Thabyae), Area 1, Maungdaw Township, and the Bangladesh patrol was led by Subedar Md. Mosharaf Hosssen of No. 11 Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB). —GNLM ■



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Nine poachers get three-year jail term for killing elephant in Taikkyi

NINE elephant poachers were sentenced to three years in jail on 16 October 2018 after being found guilty of killing a wild elephant at the Okkan Creek, Chaung Sauk village, Taikkyi Township, on 7 November 2016, said an official from the township court.

The court meted out a three-year imprisonment upon the elephant poachers identified as Ye Lin Aung, 27, Gyt Tu, 25, Thura, 24, Nay Lin, 24, Bo Bo, 24, Zaw Lin 43, Tin Htway, 36, Pho Lone, 60, under section 37(A) of the nat-

ural wildlife animals and tree protecting Law while Chaung Sauk former administrator U Than Lin, 50, was sentenced to four years and six months in prison under section 37(A) and 19 (F) of the Natural wildlife animals and tree protecting Law, said an official from CRO, Taikkyi township court.

The nine elephant poachers were also found guilty of killing another wild elephant, said an official from the Court. The police are in pursuit of eight elephant poachers who are believed to have managed

to escape from the scene.

Illegal hunting and wildlife trading are two of the reasons for the decline in the elephant numbers. The numbers of wild elephants in Myanmar have decreased due to fewer wild elephant corridors, a reduction in their pasture lands and human-elephant conflicts.

To prevent all these, the first elephant conservation action plan was set up based on scientific surveys. This is a 10-year action plan from 2018 to 2027.

The action plan includes

four major tasks, such as protection of wild elephants and their pasture lands, solving human-elephant conflicts, prevention of and enforcing action against illegal trading of elephants and their body parts, as well as managing tamed elephants.

There are more than 6,578 elephants in Myanmar, including 3,078 of Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs' elephants, 2,000 privately owned elephants and over 1,500 wild elephants. —Tun Hlaing (Myaing) ■

Passenger slashes driver's neck, drives away taxi in Kyauktan

A passenger slashed a throat of a taxi driver on the road between Kyauktan and Tada towns, Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region, on 16 October, and drove away the car.

While the police from Kyauktan police station arrived at the scene, they found the taxi driver falling down beside the road. The police sent him to the Kyauktan general hospital, which referred him to the Yangon General Hospital.

The taxi driver was identified as Zaw Moe Aung, 40, who lives in North Okkalapa Township. He has a deep cut in his throat, bleeding. However, the police said his injuries were not life-threatening.

The taxi driver provided



Police inspect the looted taxi four furlongs far from the scene of the crime. **PHOTO: AUNG SWE (SHWE TADA)**

police with a description of the suspect as a man in a dark complexion, wearing a grey sleeveless shirt and longyi with a knapsack on his back. He

allegedly hired the taxi from Shukhinthar road, Tharkayta Township, having agreed to pay Ks 23,000 to and from a place near Pilarkat pagoda,

Kyauktan township.

Upon arrival at the scene of the crime, the passenger asked the taxi driver to stop, and slit the taxi driver in the neck. The passenger drove away the taxi while the taxi driver tried to get out of the car. The driver shouted for help and the locals around there informed the Kyauktan police station of this incident.

The police will take legal action against the suspect under section 392 of the Penal Code. The police are searching the suspect who is believed to have managed to escape from the scene.

On 17 October, the looted taxi was found at a place four furlongs far from the scene of the crime. — Aung Swe (Shwe Tada) ■

Gas line leak repaired in time in Thaton

MYANMA Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy repaired the gas pipe leak on a farm land near Taikkyi Village, Thuwunnawady town, Thaton Township, Mon State on 15 October.

Gas pipe line in charge U Than Soe Naing from Kathikgyi Village said that

the gas pipe line with a radius of 20 inches was installed in 2002/2003 between Mottama offshore Kan Bauk and Yangon. Acting on the information, U Khin Maung Win, engineer-1 (J.E), and his team reached the gas leaking site and repaired at around 9 am.

"The area of gas pipe line is close to the sea and the iron

pipes were deteriorating because of long time installation. But it is not dangerous because it was installed far away from the residential area. Every year, we replaced the pipe with iron pipe covered the plastic pipe. We have already replaced the iron pipes with the plastic ones between Mu Thin Village and Kathik

kalay Village by Sittoung River side," said U Khin Maung Win from MOGE.

The gas leak also occurred this June 13 and also in last year. MOGE has planned to replace the old iron pipes with the new plastic ones in December between Kathik Village and the place which is 6 miles far, he added. — Khon (Win Pa) ■

Negotiations underway for trading pulses under G2G agreement

By May Thet Hnin

The Ministry of Commerce is conducting a series of negotiations with Indian authorities to strike business deals for trading types of pulses under the Government to Government (G2G) agreement.

“We negotiate with them through India Embassy. We will release official notification upon positive outcome from the negotiations. Currently, the negotiations are still ongoing and a draft has been formulated to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries. We will negotiate with them depending on that draft”, said U Yan Naing Tun, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar proposed to negotiate with India. Pulses trad-

ing matter was planned to be discussed at the annual minister-level Joint Trade Committee Meeting between Myanmar and India which was scheduled to be held in November. However, the meeting has been rescheduled to early 2019 as India's side is not ready. Prior to that meeting, negotiations will be ongoing”, he added.

“Myanmar's government is endeavouring to proceed to trading under G2G agreement as it is more secured. Discussions are underway between the pulses associations so that we can work in the long run under G2G agreement. We still do not know which result will come out as discussion is still ongoing on with the merchants and exporters from public and private sectors”, U Min Ko Oo, General Secretary

of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

It is nearly 30 years that Myanmar's mung bean and pigeon peas are placed on India's market. The growers are used to that trading. Unexpectedly, India practiced protectionism for the rights of their own growers, imposing quota on pulses importation. Following India's pulses import policy changes, last year saw a drastic downfall of the pulses prices. Nearly 300,000 tons of pulses were stockpiled in the market.

In a bid to deal with this, Myanmar officials went to India in early 2018. Later, India announced import quota of 150,000 tons of mung bean and green grams each and 200,000 tons of pigeon peas between mid-June

and August. Currently, India has bought all the quota amount of mung beans and they continued to import the beans by issuing special licences to some companies.

Nevertheless, the government has notified to the growers to reduce pulses production by supporting crop substitution since India is no longer reliable market for the growers. Starting from this year's crop cultivation season, the growers have come to scale down their pulses production and preparing for other crops.

“Pulses market is possibly to get stronger if G2G negotiations are conducted successfully. Otherwise, the G2G agreement is a kind of guarantee. The growers can decide how many acreages should grow depending on agree-

ment. If the market is structured well, it will benefit all the stakeholders in supply chain, including the growers, and merchants. If it does not turn out well as expected, the country will explore more export market opportunities and the growers will gradually turn to other potential crops which have market's demand”, said U Min Ko Oo.

Currently, only mung bean and pigeon peas fetch lower price while other pulses are getting good price with a regular demand.

Over 700,000 tons of various pulses were exported from 1 April to mid-October this year. This year does not witness significant export volume compared to the similar period of last year. Nevertheless, export value cannot keep up with last year's income. ■

Manufacturing sector attracts 60 foreign enterprises in past mini-budget period



Workers fix parts to Ford vehicle in a factory in East Dagon Myothit, Yangon. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE manufacturing sector absorbed foreign direct investments worth US\$706.67 million in 60 projects in past mini-budget period from April to September, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Between 1 April and 30 September, FDI flows of \$1.76 billion including expansion of capital were brought into the country. Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the respective investment committees of the states and regions allowed 85 enterprises to invest in the country.

The agriculture sector attracted two foreign investment projects with a capital of \$10.65 million. Livestock and Fisheries sectors witnessed three foreign

investment projects worth \$32.9 million. One project worth \$90.6 million invested in power sector. Similarly, one foreign project pulled in capital of \$314 million into transport and communications sectors. The real estate sector also received investments worth \$280.38 million in four projects. The hotels and tourism sector attained FDI of \$9.53 million in two foreign investment projects. Industrial estate sector also attracted one project worth \$34.48 million. Over \$277 million of FDIs were pumped into other services.

The MIC intended to attract foreign direct investments worth \$3 billion during the six-month interim period from April to September, prior to the next 2018-2019 fiscal year. Nevertheless,

only \$1.76 billion of FDIs flowed into the country.

MIC targets to attain \$5.8 billion of FDIs for next fiscal year 2018-2019, said U Than Aung Kyaw, Deputy Director General of the DICA. The northern Rakhine State issue and instability of the dollar exchange rate, resulting from escalating trade war between the US and China, affected the foreign investment. However, it didn't make any difference with investors from Asian countries, he added.

Singapore-listed companies are riding a huge wave of investment in the country, followed by China and the UK. FDI registered at \$5.7 billion in FY 2017-2018, \$6.6 billion in FY 2016-2017 and \$9.4 billion in FY 2015-2016 respectively. — GNLM ■

Sino-Myanmar trade reaches \$5 billion during first five months of interim period

THE value of Myanmar's trade with China from April to August of the past mini-budget period totaled US\$5 billion, including \$2.4 billion in exports and \$2.66 billion in imports, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries showed the highest growth, closely followed by its bilateral trade with China.

The border trade with China performed better than trade through sea. Myanmar conducted \$3.7 billion worth of sea trade with China, while the value of border trade reached \$4.7 billion.

The value of bilateral trade with China was \$11.78 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$10.8 billion in

the 2016-2017 FY, \$10.9 billion in the 2015-16 FY, \$9.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$7 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$4.95 billion in the 2012-2013 FY and \$5 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

Rice, various types of peas, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar market.

In those five months, China's enterprises brought in a capital of \$154.7 billion investing in 24 projects, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. —Ko Htet ■

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Union Minister U Win Khaing to attend Belt & Road Energy Conference in China

TO attend the Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference in Suzhou, China on 18 October, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing departed for China from Yangon International Airport, together with Managing Director U Khin Maung Win from the Electric Power Generation Enterprise, yesterday morning.

The Union Minister and the Managing Director were seen off by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang, Chairman of the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation U Maung Maung Latt and responsible officials at the airport.—MNA ■



Union Minister U Win Khaing seen at Yangon International Airport as he departs for the Belt and Road conference in China. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNSG Special Envoy, Kachin State Cabinet discuss peace process, IDP camps issues

MS. Christine Schraner Burgener, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General, held talks with members of the Kachin State Cabinet yesterday over issues related with peace making and internally displaced persons camps in the state, according to the Kachin State Information and Public Relations Department.

The meeting held at the office of Kachin State Government in Myitkyina was attended by Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Thura Myo Tin, the Social Affairs Minister and the secretary of the Kachin State Government and Kachin State Advocate.

The Kachin State IPRD



Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, right, and UNSG Special Envoy Ms. Christine Burgener, left. **PHOTO: MNA**

said in its report that the UN delegation led by Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener, also met with Commander of the Northern Command Maj-Gen Tay Zar Aung and senior military officers

at the command. The delegation arrived at Myitkyina yesterday morning by air accompanied by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung.—GNLM ■

International Tourism Expo Myanmar 2018 to be held in Yangon

INTERNATIONAL Tourism Expo Myanmar 2018 will be held in Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon from 2 to 4 November.

The International Tourism Expo Myanmar 2018 will be organized by Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) and Myanmar China Friendship Association (MCFA) and it is a business platform to promote international tourism services and Myanmar tourism sectors.

Hotels, traveling agencies, airlines, insurance companies

as well as other tourism related organizations will display at the expo which will be of advantage to the visitors, said U Ngwe Moe Aung, director of Travel Support Company Ltd. At the exhibition, local and foreign airlines, banks and insurance businesses, hotels, cruise companies, local and foreign tourism services, tourism related companies, car services companies and telecommunications companies will display to provide information for the visitors. By launching the Tour-

ism Expo in Myanmar, the expo will enable the full potential for growth international tourism market of Myanmar, generate foreign income, promote travel related services to Myanmar and create job opportunities for local people. Also, it can give tourists greater exposure to Myanmar's unique nature, culture and history. There will be over 100 pavilions, which were related to the tourism at the International Tourism Expo Myanmar 2018.—MNA ■

Diplomats pay tribute to POWs died for Death Railway linking Myanmar, Thailand 75 years ago

MON State Government and diplomats held a ceremony yesterday to mark the 75th anniversary of the completion of the railway built by prisoners of war linking Myanmar and Thailand.

The ceremony was held at the Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery in Thanbyuzayat, Mon State, yesterday morning.

Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan and diplomats from 11 countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Britain, Canada, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand and the US laid wreaths and paid tribute to POWs died during the construction of the railway.

The work on construction of the railway by Japanese army started in 1941 and completed on 17 October, 1942.

The number of the sleepers of the railway could represent the number of deaths to build the railway.

“The ceremony is aimed at remembering ill consequences of war and the Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery would alert the visits to contribute to peace of the world without war,” said Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan.

“The Japanese built the railway to connect Thailand and Myanmar to open the Asain theatre. They forced POWs from defeated countries and people from Southeast Asian countries to be labourers. The Thanbyuzayat Township graveyard, where several thousand victims of the Death Railway are buried, has also attracted tourists.—Thanbyuzayat Township IPRD ■



Foreign diplomats listen to Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan's address at the 75th anniversary for POWs who died in the Myanmar-Thailand railway construction. **PHOTO: THANBYUZAYAT TOWNSHIP IPRD**

Drugs seized in Taunggyi, Kutkai Townships

A COMBINED police force consisting of officers from the Taunggyi Township police station searched a TOYOTA HILUX SURF car driven by Han Zaw Oo, and carrying three women, at Sa Khe Village entry gate, Lwe Taw village-tract, Taunggyi Township on October 16 and discovered 3,970 Yaba pills.

Similarly, a combined team consisting of officers from Muse Drug Enforcement Division No. 22 searched a motorbike driven by Ai Kyun at the Kholong vil-

lage entrance near a eucalyptus forest along the Kutkai-Kaung Kha Road, Kutkai Township, and seized 6,000 Yaba pills and 0.363 kg of heroin. On 15 October, during a Tatmadaw area surveillance operation, officials seized 2,560 liters of acetone, 420 liters of hydrochloric acid, 1,680 liters of loizaw, 1,216 liters of ethyl/ether, 128 liters of sulfuric acid. Subsequent cases have been open under the Anti-narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Law.—MNA ■

Merkel says 'still a chance' for deal on Brexit

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Wednesday that while there was “still a chance” for an accord with Britain to leave the EU, Berlin was preparing for the possibility of a no-deal Brexit.

“There is still a chance to achieve a good and sustainable exit accord,” Merkel told parliament ahead of a crunch EU summit in Brussels that will focus on Brexit.

“At the same time it is of course part of responsible and forward-looking governance that we prepare for all scenarios. That includes the possibility that Britain will leave the EU without a deal.” She stressed that “the devil is in the details” in the complex negotiations still ahead on Britain extracting itself from the club of 27 nations.

Merkel said that for this rea-

son, Germany as Europe’s top economy, had “begun to prepare appropriately” for Britain to simply crash out of the bloc without an agreement on future ties.

She said this included examining issues including policy for the around 100,000 British citizens living in Germany — “many of them for several years” — as well as how to help German citizens and firms working in Britain.

Merkel said she saw the integrity of the European Union at stake over the Brexit issue and warned against excessive concessions to London.

“We must always be clear that while we want to avoid harshness, in the end the difference between a membership of the EU and a partnership with the EU as a third country must be made clear and will be made clear,” she said.—AFP ■



Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel (R) answers to journalists upon her arrival at the European Council in Brussels on 17 October 2018. British Prime Minister Theresa May is due to address a summit of European Union leaders in which Brexit negotiations are expected to be top of the agenda. **PHOTO: AFP**

Norway apologises to mistreated war-time 'German girls'

OSLO (Norway)—Norway’s government on Wednesday officially apologised to Norwegian women targeted for reprisals by authorities for having intimate relations with German soldiers during the country’s war-time occupation.

Between 30,000 to 50,000 Norwegians, labelled “German girls”, had intimate relations with occupying troops during World War II, according to conservative estimates from Norway’s Centre for Holocaust and Minorities Studies.

Many of these woman were subject to reprisals by officials after the 1945 liberation from Nazi occupation, including illegal arrests and detentions, job dismissals and even being stripped of their nationality.

“Young Norwegian girls

and woman who had relations with German soldiers or were suspected of having them, were victims of undignified treatment,” Norway’s Prime Minister Erna Solberg said.

“Today, in the name of the government, I want to offer my apologies,” the premier said at an event to mark the 70th anniversary of the UN’s universal declaration of human rights.

More than 70 years after the end of WWII, very few of the women remain alive and the official apology is unlikely to open the way for financial reparations for their families.

During the war, more than 300,000 German soldiers occupied Norway, a neutral country the Nazis invaded on April 9, 1940.

“We cannot say women who

had personal relations with German soldiers were helping the German war effort,” said historian Guri Hjeltnes, the director of the Holocaust and Minorities Studies centre.

“Their crime was breaking unwritten rules and moral standards,” Hjeltnes said.

“They were punished even more harshly than the war profiteers.”

None of the estimated 28 Norwegian men married to German women during the war were expelled or had their nationality taken away from them, the historian said.

In 2000, Oslo formally apologised to the 10,000 to 12,000 children born to Norwegian mothers and German soldiers, who also suffered reprisals.—AFP ■

Ford launches new SUV tailored for Chinese market

CHICAGO — The Ford Territory, an all-new SUV exclusive to the Chinese market, debuted Tuesday as part of the U.S. auto maker’s “in-China, for-China” strategy.

The mid-size SUV, a product of Ford’s partnership with local auto maker Jiangling Motors, was introduced in Qingdao, a city on China’s east coast.

“It’s a great proof-point for our in-China, for-China strategy,” said Peter Fleet, president of Ford’s Asia Pacific operations, in a statement.

The Territory is the first new vehicle launched by Ford

in China in years, after the automaker realized that an aging vehicle lineup led to its declining share in China’s fast growing market.

Ford’s sales in China reportedly dropped 43 per cent in September from the same month last year, a new sign that its sales are slowing in the world’s largest car market.

Ford’s hometown competitor, General Motors, however, has displayed a relatively better performance in China, which has replaced the United States as GM’s largest market.—Xinhua ■



Ford launches new SUV tailored for Chinese market. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

World Bank official calls for more investment in climate resilience in Africa

LUSAKA — The World Bank on Wednesday called for increased investment in climate resilience technologies especially in African countries.

World Bank Vice President for Africa Hafez Ghanem, who is in Zambia on a three-day state visit, said it was imperative to increase investment in climate resilience technologies as Africa was bearing the brunt of the

effects of climate change.

Speaking when he met Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe, the visiting World Bank official said investment in climate resilience was vital because climate change was a threat to the agricultural sector and food security in Africa.

The bank, he said, was supporting Zambia in implementation of various projects through a

1.2 billion US dollars concessional loan under the International Development Assistance (IDA) portfolio.

He said the IDA 18 portfolio, which has been running for the past one-and-a-half years now has mainly focused on women and girl empowerment, improvement of the health sector as well as supporting increased access to electricity.—Xinhua ■

No matter what challenges we may have to encounter, not lose sight of our Federal goal

THE special meeting between the Union Government and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement signatory ethnic armed organizations has successfully ended, producing a good outcome where the ethnic armed organizations totally agreed to the establishment of a single federal army in line with international practices.

We welcome the outcome although both sides need to discuss how to establish it.

Leaders at the meeting also adopted a policy which can pave ways for overcoming the bottlenecks of the issue of non-secession from the Union and self-determination. It means both sides agreed to practice a type of choosing meaningful wording which can cover non-secession and self-determination.

The signatories of NCA proposed a plan to the Union Government to hold a summit between the signatories and non-signatories

“ of NCA in November as part of efforts of inclusiveness for peace making process which is essential for establishing a democratic federal union.

The Union Government has repeatedly told that they will firmly establish the democratic federal Union consistently demanded by the ethnic nationals of the country.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said in her address at the opening of the special meeting that non-secession is important. But also added that the will not to secede and to establish together a

Union that need not be seceded from is also important. We need to recognize the historical facts on the causes of the worries.

Today is the time to get out of being stuck in the past and to keep moving on towards a future that is good for all. In balancing the past worries of history of both sides, we need to truthfully view the situation of the 21st century.

When we face towards the future, we need to think about international geopolitics as well as the state-wise geopolitics. Democracy is government of, by, and for the people. As such, all need to note that actually implementing the democracy and federal rights lays in the people, too.

Today, there are many things we need to fulfill and work for people and our country. The time has come for us to be united to solve the problems of the people, to remove instabilities that arise from anxieties due to unrest, and to give them a safe and secure future. Our joint action will surely go a long way to eliminate the mistrusts and hatred that originated in the past.

We wish to say with great seriousness that we need to bring forth National Unity which has been lost in our country for many years. If we can achieve National Unity, there is nothing we cannot accomplish together.

The power to choose how many children to have must rest with women and couples



Janet Jackson,
UNFPA Representative
for Myanmar

UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, ensuring rights and choices for all. This opinion piece marks the global launch of UNFPA's State of World Population report.

CAN women and couples in Myanmar choose the number of children to have and when to have them?

By their very nature, rights apply to everyone, everywhere, regardless of whether they are rich or poor, urban or rural, educated or not. However, reproductive rights, which are about the most fundamental and intimate aspects of life, are not available to all. Family planning information and choices are limited for far too many women.

This means that there are still millions of women in Myanmar who are having more—or fewer—children than they would like, with implications not only for individuals and families, but also for communities, institutions, the

labour market, the economy, and the entire country.

Some of the reasons people cannot have the number of children they want relate to the health system and a lack of access to contraceptive choices. Others stem from economic sources, including low incomes and an absence of childcare. Gender inequalities too deprives many women of the power of choice, causing them to have more or fewer children than they might choose themselves.

The extent to which couples and women have the power to make their own decisions about whether and when to have children, and how many children to have, has a direct impact on fertility levels, maternal deaths and women's empowerment. Global-

ly, fertility ranges from less than 2 births per woman in developed countries to about 4 in the least developed countries.

In Myanmar, the total fertility rate in Myanmar is 2.5 children per woman, and on par with ASEAN averages. However, data from the 2014 census tell a very different story: Married women in Myanmar give birth to 5 children on average. And again, that average obscures great differences between states and regions, and between urban and rural areas. These differences are partly there because contraceptives are not readily accessible, and they go hand in hand with social and economic inequities.

When individuals start to see that planning their families can mean greater well-being for themselves and their children, and when they have the genuine option to choose, the result tends to be that fertility levels decline. This, in turn, means that fewer women die in childbirth, the number of unsafe abortions drop, and gender equality rises. In this sense, fertility levels are an important indicator of a country's progress towards the full realization of reproductive rights, for every individual and couple, no matter who they are, where they live, or how much they earn. This progress includes dis-



mantling all the barriers and inequalities that inhibit free and informed choice, whether they be economic, political, socio-cultural or institutional.

In 1994 the Government of Myanmar signed the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. With this signature, the Government committed to enabling the country's people to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health as a fundamental human

right. This includes the means to decide responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reinforces these principles by making reproductive rights a specific target. Today, already three years into the 2030 Agenda, Governments everywhere, including in Myanmar, must do more. More to ensure that individuals and couples have full access to family planning information and op-

tions. More to ensure that every woman can be in control of her own body and life.

In the end, progress is not to reach what we imagine is ideal fertility. Nor is this for policy to stipulate. The real measure of progress lies in the health and happiness of women and men who are free to exercise their rights and choices. Given the choice, women and couples throughout the world choose smaller families. ■

English, why should we learn it? English, a living language in a living world

By U Khin Maung
(A Retired Diplomat)

Introduction

1. In the Global New Light of Myanmar, there was a piece of news item on 9 September 2018, mentioning that the Ministry of Education would conduct English Language Proficiency Upgrading Course for its staff. Offering my strong and sincere congratulations to the esteemed Ministry of Education, may I, a retiree and nonentity, submit my article, as afore-mentioned.

2. Now the world is rapidly changing. In the new millennium, information technology (IT) or digital revolution is gaining momentum and growing stronger with everyday. And IT tools, such as computer, internet, electronic

mail or e-mail are very much in use in every part of the world. As regards the internet, Mr. Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General and who has already passed away, has said "the internet is the fastest growing instrument of communication in the history of civilization and it may be the most disseminating tool of any kind ever."

3. To the credit of the internet, the world seems to be getting smaller and smaller. What happens in one part of the world is known to the other part within seconds or minutes. What a wonderful IT tools! Let me say it again, the world seems to be getting smaller and smaller, so

much so that we do fondly call our world "the global village". And in this global village of ours, we make more and more contacts and communications with each other, states with states and peoples with peoples.

4. You may like it or not, the digital revolution is real and irreversible. With it, the world is changing and living. And in this living world, the English language has also become increasingly popular. Why? Simply because it has become a must-have tool. On the internet, the 80 percent of the web —pages are in English. So, to keep ourselves abreast with the changing world, we must have global literacy.

5. I hope, you may wish to ask me; what do you mean by global literacy? Well, let me put it this way, "global literacy means the ability to access and converse with the rest of the world with IT tools, such as computer, internet and the mastery of English language as the international lingua franca".

With regard to the growing popularity of English, I would like to mention a news report as follows:

"English is already the second language in about 75 countries, the first language in more than 30 territories, and has far more speakers outside of British than in it."

6. So, I would like to advise you sincerely and yet strongly;

please learn English if you wish to expand your horizons, if you wish to gain competitive edge over others, if you wish to achieve global literacy. In support of my advice, I would like to present to you the following excerpts I have collected from various news reports.

(A) There is no denying the fact that English today has become a living language with more and more words and their applications added to it. For example, e-education, e-commerce, cyberspace, etc. (B) Now, we will have to recognize that there is an urgent need for the younger generation to learn English in earnest and then achieve proficiency in English in view of IT onslaught.

(C) Today you need to communicate with people of different cultures because IT projects are becoming international and collaborative. That means you must have the ability to speak English. Please bear in mind that "the best way to learn a language is to speak it."

(D) English is and will remain our common working language. It's the language of global business, commerce and technology. But the mother tongue gives a crucial part of our values, roots and identity.

Sources

- (1) *The Global New Light of Myanmar*
- (2) *The Straight Times*
- (3) *Asia week*



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Wednesday 17 October 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Yangon and Taninthayi regions, isolated in Mandalay and Bago regions, Eastern Shan, Kayin and Mon states and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and states. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Kyeikdon (1.52) inches, Kawthoung (1.02) inches, Bago (0.91) inch, Kya-in-Seikkyyi (0.58) inch and Kyeikkhame (0.55) inch.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 18 October 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi regions, Kayin and Mon states, isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, Kachin, (Southern and Eastern) Shan and Kayah States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of continuations of rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 October 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 October 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

UAE charges British student with spying

ABU DHABI—The United Arab Emirates has charged a British PhD student with spying in the Gulf country, as his wife Tuesday called on Britain to defend his innocence.

Matthew Hedges stands accused of “spying for a foreign country, jeopardising the military, political and economic security of the state”, UAE attorney general Hamad al-Shamsi said late Monday.

The 31-year-old, who was researching the UAE’s foreign and internal security policies after the 2011 Arab Spring revolutions, was detained at Dubai airport on 5 May.

Hedges’ wife Daniela Tejada said on Tuesday he been “held in an undisclosed location in the UAE in solitary confinement” with limited access to the consulate and his family as well as no access to a lawyer until last week.

She said Hedges had been told last week he “was being charged with gathering information and sharing it with a foreign agency — the UK Government”.

Tejada called on the British government to “clarify publicly that Matt is innocent of the charges and that there have been many falsehoods said about him”.

“This horrifying situation has been going on for far too long,” she said.

Britain’s foreign office said it was supporting Hedges and his family and had been “in close contact with the local authorities”, a spokesperson said.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told AFP last week he was “very worried” about Hedges’ fate.

“I’ve spoken to the Emirati foreign minister twice now on this matter face to face so they



A handout picture shows British student Matthew Hedges, who has been accused of spying by the UAE, and his wife Daniela Tejada. **PHOTO: AFP**

are very aware of our concerns and we are monitoring it very closely,” he said.

The charges against Hedges are based on evidence from investigations carried out by the public prosecution, according to the attorney general.

Hedges had been posing as a researcher to cover his

activities, he said, adding that the accusations were backed by “information taken from his electronic devices”.

Tejada, who has visited her husband once and spoken to him on the phone several times, told AFP last week her husband “simply isn’t guilty of anything”.

“He was just doing academic research,” she said, adding that his research involved only open source material.

“He’s not disclosed anything... classified or confidential,” she said, adding that Hedges had lived in the UAE for “several years” before he returned to Britain in 2015.—AFP ■

Turkey may interrogate Saudi officials over missing journalist if needed: Turkish FM

ANKARA—Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on Tuesday said Turkey may interrogate officials at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul if needed.

“It is the responsibility of the Chief Prosecutors’ Office to decide whom to interrogate or the questions to be asked ... The prosecutors may ask for the testimony of [any Saudi officials at the consulate] if needed,” he said at a news conference in

Ankara. Cavusoglu underlined the importance of a transparent investigation into the case of Khashoggi. Khashoggi, journalist and columnist for The Washington Post, has been missing since he entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October.

Cavusoglu also said US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will bring more information on the issue when he pays a visit to Turkey on Wednesday.

On the same day, the ruling Justice and Development (AKP) Party spokesman Omer Celik said Turkey will do everything to solve the missing Saudi journalist’s case.

On Monday, Turkish investigation team conducted a nine-hour search in the Saudi consulate building in Istanbul, after Turkey and Saudi agreed to work together on the probe.—Xinhua ■

Bomb kills Afghan election candidate, wounds seven: officials

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan)—A bomb placed under a sofa killed an Afghan election candidate on Wednesday, officials said, as deadly violence escalates ahead of the 20 October parliamentary ballot.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on Jabar Qahraman, who was running for the southern province of Helmand, a stronghold for the militant group.

Another seven were wounded in the blast, provincial governor spokesman Omar Zhwak told AFP.

Qahraman “was meeting

his supporters in his election campaign office” when a bomb under his sofa detonated, Zhwak said.

“We have arrested several people in connection with the blast,” he added.

The latest attack takes the number of election candidates killed to at least 10, the majority of them murdered in targeted killings.

Poll-related violence has increased ahead of the long-delayed vote, with hundreds of people killed or wounded in attacks across the country.—AFP ■

Libyan water supply department warns against repeated attacks on wells

TRIPOLI—Libya’s government water supply department on Tuesday warned against repeated attacks on water wells by armed groups, according to the official Libyan news agency.

The spokesman of the man-made river department said “repeated armed attacks on water plants reduced water supply to many cities.”

The spokesman confirmed

that “more than 73 wells are out of service, causing a loss of more than 400,000 cubic meters of water daily and around 35-per cent of water production sources.”

On Monday, unknown gunmen forced workers of a water supply plant in the city of Tarhuna, some 80 km southeast the capital Tripoli, to shut down the plant, without specifying

any reasons, the department said.

Gunmen repeatedly shut down water supply plants to pressure authorities to meet their demands.

The water pipeline system, which was made during former Libyan leader Gaddafi’s rule in 1984, supplies western and eastern Libya with fresh water from the south.—Xinhua ■

Mark Trade

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Britain's May confronts EU leaders amid Brexit crisis

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May faces a Brexit showdown with frustrated EU leaders on Wednesday with talks on agreeing an orderly break-up at an impasse.

This week's summit in Brussels was billed as a "moment of truth" for negotiations on Britain's exit from the bloc — but it seems the truth is that the two sides just cannot agree.

"Tomorrow I am going to ask Prime Minister May whether she has concrete proposals on how to break the impasse," EU president Donald Tusk declared.

But May, hemmed in by opponents in her own party and even in her own cabinet, has no such proposals.

"The prime minister set out her position and where she thinks the negotiations are yesterday," a Number 10 spokesman said.

Even the choreography of Wednesday's summit opening emphasises British isolation. May will brief her 27 colleagues, then they will leave to discuss Brexit over dinner without her.

Tusk has made it clear that if May and EU negotiator Michel Barnier do not offer signs of concrete progress towards a draft deal he will not call a November summit to sign it.

Instead, the whole circus could either be pushed back to December or — formerly seen as taboo — the EU could use the November weekend to meet on preparations for a "no-deal" Brexit.

Previously, both sides had agreed that Britain crashing out of the Union on March 29 next year with neither a divorce agreement nor a road-map to future ties would be an economic and diplomatic disaster.

But, after Britain's refusal to accept an indefinite legal "backstop" to prevent the return of a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, doubts are mounting.

'No optimism'

"I think we are quite close to a no-deal," warned Konrad Szymanski, the Polish minister for European Affairs after a pre-summit meeting with his European counterparts in Luxembourg.

Back in Brussels, a stern



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May will brief her 27 EU colleagues, then they will leave to discuss Brexit over dinner without her.

PHOTO: AFP

Tusk said: "We need something really creative to protect our values, to protect our single market. For this we need a new method of thinking."

But Tusk conceded he had "no grounds for optimism" based on a report on Tuesday from Barnier and May's appearance in parliament on Monday.

The main disagreement between London and Brussels is on how to keep the Irish border open after Brexit, but May is also fighting with her own MPs, who must ultimately approve the final divorce deal.

At a three-hour cabinet meeting on Tuesday morning, which included ministers with reservations about her strategy, May said a deal was possible if they all stood together.

"I'm convinced that if we as a government stand together and stand firm, we can achieve this," she said, according to her spokesman.

Arriving in Luxembourg to brief EU ministers, Barnier said: "We're not there yet".

"We need more time to find a comprehensive agreement," he said. "We are going to take this time calmly, seriously to reach this comprehensive agreement in the coming weeks."

No deal plans

Addressing MPs in the

House of Commons on Monday, May had said a deal was "achievable" while sticking to her principles on the Irish border issue.

But a senior European official said the speech had only underscored for Barnier the uphill struggle he faces to get an agreement.

To solve the Irish question, Britain has proposed staying aligned to the EU's customs rules until a wider trade deal can be signed that avoids the need for any frontier checks.

But her own eurosceptic Conservative MPs are demanding this "backstop" arrangement be time-limited, something the EU will not accept.

May said the EU was also insisting on its own "backstop" in case the London proposal did not work, which would see Northern Ireland alone stay aligned to the customs union and single market.

She says this would threaten the integrity of the United Kingdom — and it is strongly opposed by her Northern Irish allies from the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

Leo Varadkar, prime minister of Ireland, said a no deal scenario was "unlikely", but added his cabinet had discussed preparations such as hiring customs officials for ports.— AFP ■

US to start trade talks with Japan in mid-January: USTR

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump's administration plans to start negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement with Japan in mid-January, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer notified Congress on Tuesday.

In a letter to congressional leaders, Lighthizer suggested the administration will push Japan to "address both tariff and nontariff barriers" in sectors such as automobiles and agriculture, and to "achieve fairer, more balanced trade."

"We intend to initiate negotiations with Japan as soon as practicable, but no earlier than 90 days from the date of this notice," he wrote. Citing the \$68.9 billion US trade deficit in goods with Japan in 2017, Lighthizer said, "US exporters in key sectors such as automobiles, agriculture and services have been challenged by multiple tariff and nontariff barriers for decades, leading to chronic US trade imbalances with Japan."

In a meeting last month in New York, Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed to start negotiations for a trade agreement on goods, or TAG, between the two countries.

The move is a concession by Tokyo, which dropped its earlier insistence on a multilateral approach to trade issues.

In Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Wednesday that the envisioned negotiations would be "by no means easy." "Japan will proceed with the negotiations with the stance that we should aggressively push for what we want and protect what we need to, from the perspective of our national inter-

est," the top government spokesman told a press conference.

Senior US officials have thrown hardballs even before the start of the trade talks, with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue indicating the United States will push Japan to reduce tariffs on farm products beyond levels agreed to under a free trade agreement between Japan and the European Union.

Perdue's call for better terms in a trade deal with Japan than the Japan-EU FTA came despite the understanding between Trump and Abe that Washington would not demand deeper farm tariff cuts than levels Japan has agreed in other trade pacts, also including the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an 11-member regional FTA. Vice President Mike Pence has described the prospective deal with Japan as a "free trade agreement," contradicting Japan's assertion that the bilateral accord sought by the two governments will not be as comprehensive as an FTA. The two governments are arranging a meeting between Pence and Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso in mid-November in Japan to pave the way for the upcoming trade negotiations involving Lighthizer and Toshimitsu Motegi, Japan's economic revitalization minister.

Also on Tuesday, Lighthizer notified Congress that the administration intends to initiate negotiations for a trade agreement with the European Union in mid-January, and for a separate pact with Britain "as soon as it is ready after it exits from the European Union on 29 March, 2019."—Kyodo News ■

Brazil federal police ask for president to be indicted for

BRASÍLIA (Brazil) — Brazil's Federal Police on Tuesday asked the Prosecutor General's office to charge President Michel Temer and ten others, including his daughter, with corruption, money laundering and racketeering.

The federal police investigated for more than a year whether Temer, who has been in power since May 2016, took bribes to issue a decree in May 2017 to benefit companies in the port sector. The Prosecutor's Office must now decide whether to file a criminal complaint against

the president, if it requests further investigation, or to order the case closed. For the Supreme Court to investigate and possibly prosecute the president, according to the Constitution, it must get Congress' green light.

In the report delivered Tuesday to the Supreme Court, federal police also requested that all those under investigation have their assets frozen. The presidential palace of Planalto, consulted by AFP, said that the president would not speak about the police report. — AFP ■

Mattis tours contaminated Viet Nam War-era Agent Orange site

BIEN HOA (Viet Nam) — US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis toured a former Agent Orange storage site in southern Viet Nam on Wednesday, revisiting one of the war's darkest chapters that lives on among a million Vietnamese with severe birth defects, cancers and disabilities linked to the toxic defoliant.

Standing near a weedy field contaminated with dioxin, Mattis surveyed a map of the Bien Hoa airport outside Ho Chi Minh City, one of the main staging grounds for Agent Orange that was hastily cleared by soldiers near the war's end more than four decades ago.

US forces sprayed 80 million litres (21 million gallons) of Agent Orange over South Viet Nam between 1962 and 1971 in a desperate bid to flush out Viet Cong communist guerrillas by depriving them of tree cover and food. At Bien Hoa the spillover from the clearing operation is believed to have seeped beyond the base and into the ground water, rivers and the local food chain and is linked to severe mental and physical disabilities across generations of Vietnamese — from enlarged heads to deformed limbs.

Under a 10-year remediation effort led by development agency USAID, work is set to start next



US Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis was greeted by Vietnamese officials at the contaminated Bien Hoa airbase. **PHOTO: AFP**

year on cleaning up Bien Hoa, one of the largest dioxin “hot-spots” remaining in Viet Nam.

“We hope to have shovels in the ground next year sometime,” said a USAID official who was not authorised to be quoted by name.

Vast amounts of Agent Orange had been stored at Bien Hoa in large fuel containers during the war, and under a 1972 operation called Pacer Ivy the US military began pulling the chemical from Vietnam for storage and disposal outside the country.

“In that operation of repackaging, there was a lot of spillage obviously and so that is what we are faced with,” the official said.

‘Keeping our promise’

The pledge to clean up the site came under the administration of Barack Obama, and will cost some \$390 million, officials said. Hanoi says up to three million Vietnamese people were exposed to Agent Orange, and that one million suffer grave health repercussions today, in-

cluding at least 150,000 children with birth defects. An attempt by Vietnamese victims to obtain compensation from the United States had little success, and the US Supreme Court in 2009 declined to take up the case while neither the US government nor the chemical manufacturers have ever admitted liability.

Mattis said visiting the site was part of a US commitment to make amends for parts of the bloody and bitter war that killed an estimated three million Vietnamese. “We had promised to help... so this is America keeping her promise to remediate some of the past,” Mattis, whose older brother served in Viet Nam during the war, told reporters this week. “I just want to get eyes on (the site) so when I go back and I talk to Congress, I can tell them my impression with actually having seen the site,” Mattis said ahead of the trip. He spent only a few minutes at the site meeting with Viet Nam military officials near a “hazardous material” warning sign.

Bury the hatchet

Ties between the former foes have warmed considerably since the end of the war and today Washington is one of Hanoi's closest political and military allies

and trading partners.

This is Mattis's second trip to Viet Nam this year after a January trip to Hanoi, which was followed by a historic visit by a US aircraft carrier in March, the first to Vietnam's shores since the war in a symbolic burying of the hatchet for both sides.

In addition to Bien Hoa, the US and Vietnamese have identified two other “dioxin hotspots” — Danang and Phu Cat airbases.

A project to clean up Danang has just been completed at a cost of \$110 million. The Bien Hoa clean up operation is four times the size of the one in Danang, the USAID official said.

Chuck Searcy, a US veteran who served in Viet Nam 1967-68 and now lives in Hanoi, said he was happy Mattis's trip included a stop at Bien Hoa and hoped it would lead to more funding for the dioxin clean up.

“His visit is important because it reflects a commitment on the part of the Department of Defence to be involved with this issue in a positive way,” said Searcy, who works with Project RENEW which clears unexploded ordnance in Viet Nam.

“A lot of us have been waiting for that to happen for quite a long time, so this is encouraging,” he told AFP.—AFP ■

S Korea refuses refugee status for nearly 400 Yemenis

SEOUL (South Korea) — Nearly 400 Yemenis were denied refugee status by South Korea on Wednesday, months after their arrival on the resort island of Jeju triggered a populist outcry.

Ethnically-homogenous South Korea grants refugee status to only a tiny fraction of those who apply, despite having been ravaged by war itself within living memory.

About 500 people from the conflict-plagued Middle Eastern state arrived on Jeju earlier this year, taking advantage of the visa-free access the southern island offers to encourage tourism.

Their arrivals triggered a wave of anti-immigrant sentiment in the South, where only around four percent of the population are foreigners, mostly from China and Southeast Asia, and discrimination against migrant workers is widespread.

Many opponents cited the Yemenis' Muslim religion and

nearly 700,000 people — a record — signed a petition on the presidential website urging tightening of what are already some of the world's toughest refugee laws.

The Jeju visa exemption rules were rapidly changed to exclude Yemenis.

A total of 481 Yemenis formally applied for asylum. Of those, 34 were rejected outright on Wednesday, the justice ministry said, and 339 were given humanitarian stay permits, allowing them to remain in the country for a year.

Those whose claims were rejected outright may appeal. Decisions were deferred on 85 others.

Last month an initial 23, mostly families with children or pregnant women, were given the stay permits, which need to be renewed every 12 months and can be refused if the security situation in Yemen is deemed to have improved. —AFP ■

Japan gov't takes steps against Okinawa blocking US base work

TOKYO — The Japanese government on Wednesday took countermeasures against Okinawa over its recent move to block landfill work for a key US military base transfer within the small southern island prefecture.

The central government requested the land ministry to review and invalidate the Okinawa government's decision that has suspended work for the controversial relocation of US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

“We still hope to realize an early (base) relocation to the Henoko area and the return of Futenma Air Station,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press conference.

The central government has been seeking to relocate the US base from a crowded residential area of Ginowan to the less populated coastal Henoko area of Nago, based on the Japan-US agreement in 1996.

Okinawa, which was under

US control between 1945 and 1972 following Japan's defeat in World War II, hosts the bulk of US military facilities in Japan and many local residents want the Futenma base moved outside the prefecture. The central and local governments have long been at odds over the base's transfer project.

The landfill work was approved in 2013 by then Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima, but his successor Takeshi Onaga revoked the approval in 2015. In an ensuing court battle, the revocation was found illegal and Onaga rescinded it in late 2016. —Kyodo News ■



Photo taken on 27 July, 2018, from a drone shows an aerial view of the Henoko coastal area of Nago city in Okinawa Prefecture where seawall construction work for relocating a US military base from a crowded residential district in Ginowan city, also in Okinawa, has been suspended. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Climate summit host Poland says smart forest management key

ROME (Italy) — Poland's President Andrzej Duda on Tuesday said smart forest management is key to fighting climate change and to help farming, weeks before he leads a major UN climate summit.

Duda in December will host the COP24 UN climate summit in Katowice, Poland, where world leaders will be under pressure to ramp up national carbon-cutting pledges.

"Forests have a significant and positive impact on drought-prevention and soil degradation, at the same time, improving



Poland's president, who will host a major UN climate summit in December, advocates protecting forests as one of the ways to combat the problem. **PHOTO: AFP**

and, in many cases, creating favourable conditions

for cultivation," Duda said. Speaking at the UN's

Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome, Duda

said: "To achieve climate neutrality we have to increase the capacity of terrestrial ecosystems to absorb CO₂ and decrease the level of greenhouse gases."

Forests are known for their role in carbon capture and storage, Duda said, but also in regulating water and soil conditions, reducing wind erosion, limiting the flow of fertile soil to the seas and diminishing the effects of natural disasters.

"Reasonable forest management allows us to counter the negative effects of climate change,

including drought and soil degradation," he said.

More than two decades of UN-led efforts to curb deforestation have largely failed, with the planet still losing a wooded area the size of Greece every year.

Deforestation — responsible for about a fifth of greenhouse gas emissions — intensifies global warming in several ways, including by reducing Earth's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide and releasing huge amounts of the planet-warming gas into the air.—AFP ■

World Heritage sites threatened by sea level rise

PARIS (France) — From Venice and the tower of Pisa to the medieval city of Rhodes, dozens of UNESCO World Heritage sites in the Mediterranean basin are deeply threatened by rising sea levels, researchers warned on Tuesday.

All but two of 49 UN-recognised icons of human civilisation rimming the Mediterranean Sea risk being damaged by the rising watermark, soil erosion, or both, with few options for protecting most of them, they reported in the scientific journal Nature Communications.

Venice and its lagoon, the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia, and Ferrera, City of the Renaissance, and its Po Delta, all hit the top of a risk scale devised for the

study. "These World Heritage Sites are located along the northern Adriatic Sea, where extreme sea levels are highest as high storm surges coincide with high sea level rise," the authors explained.

In 2013, the UN's climate science panel estimated that global oceans could go up by as much as 76 centimetres by century's end.

But recent studies — taking into account shrinking ice sheets, now the top contributor to sea level rise — suggest those earlier projections were far too conservative.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will publish new estimates in September 2019.

Even under the most optimistic scenarios for reducing greenhouse gases, sea levels will continue to rise well into or across the 22nd century.

The sites most at risk from coastal erosion include Tyre in Lebanon, the Archaeological Ensemble of Tarraco in Spain, and Ephesus in Turkey.

"Heritage sites face many challenges to adapt to the effects of sea level rise, as it changes the value and 'spirit of place' for each site," said co-author Sally Brown, a senior researcher at the University of Southampton.

Only a couple of the sites — including the Early Christian Monuments of Ravenna and the Cathedral of St James in Sibenik —

could be relocated, but doing so would compromise what the UNESCO calls their "outstanding universal value," the study found. Researchers led by Lena Reimann of Kiel University looked at four climate

change scenarios based on how quickly and deeply humanity reduces carbon pollution.

They ranged from one that would see global warming capped at two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees

Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels, to a "business-as-usual" trajectory in which greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated, resulting in a temperature increase of 3C to 4C by 2100. —AFP ■

NOTICE

No. DUBA/Cons/434/MR/18-(155)

DATED: 11/10/2018

MR. **CHETAN VITHAL SALIAN**

S/o **SALIAN VITTAL**

RESIDENT OF **R NO 4 GULAB SHETH COMPOUND, KALYAN SHIL RD, GOLAVALI,**

DOMBIVLIE 421203, INDIA

PRESENT ADDRESS **POST BOX NO 115443 DUBAI UAE**

AND MISS **EI EI HMOUNE**

DAUGHTER OF **U ZAW MIN**

RESIDENT OF **MYANMAR, NO (12) MA HLWA GONE STREET, YANGON, MYANMAR**

PRESENT ADDRESS **POST BOX NO 11417 DUBAI UAE**

CHETAN VITHAL SALIAN, INDIAN NATIONAL AND EI EI HMOUNE, MYANMAR NATIONAL PRESENTLY RESIDING IN UAE HAVE GIVEN NOTICE OF INTENDED MARRIAGE BETWEEN THEM UNDER THE FOREIGN MARRIAGES ACT, 1969. IF ANY ONE HAS ANY OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED MARRIAGE HE/SHE SHOULD FILE THE SAME WITH THE UNDERSIGNED ACCORDING TO THE PROCEDURE LAID DOWN UNDER THE ACT/RULES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

(Sumathi Vasudev)

Marriage Officer & Consul

(Consular & Labour)

Consulate General of India P.O BOX: 737, DUBAI (UAE)

FAX NO. 0097143970453, Email: cons1.dubai@mea.gov.in

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHS 0093 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHS 0093 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (228 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (228 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANDAMAN STAR VOY. NO. (011N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANDAMAN STAR VOY. NO. (011N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185



Actor Richard Gere poses during a photocall for a TV series "MotherfatherSon" as part of the MIPCOM. PHOTO: AFP

Richard Gere trolls Trump as he makes his TV debut

CANNES(France)—Hollywood star Richard Gere took at pop at US President Donald Trump as he unveiled his television debut at Cannes playing a billionaire tycoon not dissimilar to Rupert Murdoch.

The "Pretty Woman" actor is shooting a new BBC series "MotherFatherSon", which he said is a bid "to tell a story that relates to this crazy moment on the planet."

"The reality-show president we have highlights the real stuff even more," Gere told reporters at MIPCOM, the world's top entertainment showcase on Monday in the French Riviera resort.

Gere, 69, plays the media mogul patriarch of a dysfunctional dynasty who has built up a worldwide empire on the back of his trashy British tabloids.

Although the story includes many parallels with the rise of Australian-born tycoon Rupert Murdoch, the programme-makers deny there is any direct link.

Murdoch's Fox News channel has been a cheerleader for Trump, who is a vocal fan of the network.

Gere said he decided to take the dive into TV only because of the strength of the script by English writer Tom Rob Smith, who was nominated for an Emmy

for "The Assassination of Gianni Versace". "I don't need to work. But I want to take on challenges like this," he told the *Hollywood Reporter*. "We have now become accustomed to seeing something that is false and lies and all artifice," he said.

Gere called the eight-hour series—which will be broadcast next year—"neo-Shakespearean" in the way it deals with abuse of a power and how the dynasty is threatened by the self-destructive actions of an heir played by Billy Howl.

Helen McCrory, of "Peaky Blinders" fame, is playing Gere's estranged British wife.—AFP ■

'Money Heist' makers give sneak peak of new thriller

CANNES(France)—The makers of "Money Heist", the most-watched non-English language series in Netflix history, premiered their new show "The Pier" on Tuesday, a romantic thriller also set in Spain.

Its creators Alex Pina and Esther Martinez Lobato told reporters that the new series was equally gripping—but in a "much more emotional way"—as they gave a sneak preview of the first episode at MIPCOM, the world's top entertainment market in Cannes.

But while "Money Heist" (called "La Casa de Papel" in Spanish) takes place over 11 nail-biting days inside the Spanish Royal Mint as a crack team of crooks try to pull off the biggest robbery in history, "The Pier" is mostly shot outside in one of Spain's most beautiful national parks.

Pina, who is now working on a third series of "Money Heist", described it as an "emotional

thriller and a big jump outside our comfort zone—because it's a story with no guns".

Instead, "the guns and bombs" of the new show are its love triangle and the high-wire relationship between the two main female characters, said Martinez Lobato.

The eight-hour drama, which screens in Spain in January, turns on a high-flying Valencian architect who has to identify her husband's body after he is found dead on a pier in nearby rural Albufera after an apparent suicide.

Loving the other woman

But she discovers that he had been leading a double life and goes undercover to investigate, befriending and even moving in with his lover.

"After 'Money Heist' which was very complex, shot inside and quite claustrophobic, I wanted to do something very different with lots of emotion and big wide open spaces," said Pina.—AFP ■



Spanish stars Veronica Sanchez (r) and Irene Arcos (l) are at the heart of the new series "The Pier", with actor Alvaro Morte (c) from "Money Heist" playing the errant husband. PHOTO: AFP

'The Night Watch': Rembrandt masterpiece will be restored in public

AMSTERDAM — The Rijksmuseum has announced the unusual step of having a world-famous painting restored in the gallery where it hangs. "The Night Watch" is the Netherlands' most valuable painting.

The Night Watch by Rembrandt

Art lovers will be given a rare treat when the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam restores Rembrandt van Rijn's "The Night Watch," the museum's director announced on Tuesday. Rather than take the museum's crown jewel away from its gallery for the years-long restoration, the project will be carried out in public and also be streamed online.

"The Night Watch... is one of the most famous paintings in the world and we feel we have to pre-

serve it for future generations," Rijksmuseum General Director Taco Dibbitts told French news agency AFP.

"Over two million people a year come to see The Night Watch, it's a painting that everybody loves, and we feel that the

world has the right to see what we will do with it."

Art restoration specialists will work behind a glass case in

the museum's "Gallery of Honor" so that visitors can appreciate their painstaking task.

Storied history

The enormous oil painting, which is technically called "Militia Company of District II under the Command of Captain Frans Banninck Cocq," was commissioned by Cocq, then the mayor of Amsterdam, and completed in 1642. The painting is particularly notable for the Dutch master's dramatic use of shadow and light and is considered Rembrandt's most ambitious work.

Over the years it was covered with a series of heavy varnishes that led viewers to think it depicted a nighttime scene, hence its colloquial name, "The Night Watch."—AFP ■



The restoration will be open to the two million people a year who come to the gallery in Amsterdam. PHOTO: AFP

NASA astronaut Hague notes his Russian partner's experience

NEW YORK—In a NASA interview on Tuesday, astronaut Nick Hague shared his memories of last week's failed launch of the Soyuz spacecraft and noted the experience of his Russian crewmate Alexei Ovchinin.

On 11 October, Hague and Ovchinin were scheduled to join the International Space Station's crew, but their mission was aborted due to a malfunction in the booster of the Soyuz MS-10 rocket.

"Everything was new for me, it was my first time, so I have to give kudos to my commander Alexey Ovchinin. He is a seasoned, veteran cosmonaut. As we were going through all of this, he was able to tell me what's normal, what's not normal," Hague said. Commenting on the launch incident, the NASA astronaut said the situation "went from 'normal' to 'something went

wrong' pretty quick."

"The automated system pulled us away from the rocket so fast, and so the first thing I've really noticed was being shaken fairly violently side to side," he continued. "And then there was an alarm inside the capsule, and the light that was up there... I knew, once I saw that light, that we have an emergency with the booster and we are not going to make it to orbit that day."

"Luckily, we did not have the six to seven g's for very long, only a handful of seconds, and then things went back to normal," the astronaut said. "I was looking outside and trying to give it my best estimate of where we were going to come down. And, luckily for us, it was smooth, flat terrain and it ended up as a pretty smooth landing." He said that despite the difficult



A Soyuz-FG launch. PHOTO: TASS

circumstances, he and his Russian counterpart did not lose the sense of humor after the landing.

"We looked at each other, we had grins from ears to ears. You can imagine the scene: we're in the capsule, we are kind of hanging upside down from our straps because of the orientation of the capsule, and we look at each other. Big grins, he holds out a hand, I shake his hand and then we start cracking out a few jokes between us about how short our

flight was," Hague said.

A Soyuz-FG carrier rocket with a manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft blasted off from Kazakhstan's Baikonur space center to the International Space Station (ISS) last Thursday, at 11:40 am Moscow time. Following a smooth liftoff, the Soyuz's booster malfunctioned between the first and second stages of separating, whereupon the crew was forced to abort the flight and switch to ballistic descent. The manned

Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft ended up landing in the Kazakh steppe.

Shortly after, rescuers recovered the crew from the descent capsule. Later, the crewmembers were examined and found to be in good condition. After their medical check-up in the town of Baikonur, the astronauts were transported to Moscow. Hague returned to Moscow from Baikonur on October 12 and flew to the United States on the following day.—Tass ■

Scientists map out pangolin genome

NANJING—An international research team has completed genome sequencing of the pangolin, uncovering the possibility of another function of the animal's scales—improving its skin immunity. "The pangolin genome had not been sequenced until now, in part due to the difficulty in obtaining DNA samples," said Siew Woh Choo, a researcher with Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU) who led the team.

Due to a selective diet and poor immunity, it is difficult to keep pangolin in captivity.

Scientists obtained DNA samples from two critically endangered species of pangolin

—the Chinese pangolin and Malayan pangolin—and mapped out genome sequencing.

The data were analyzed by an international team of scientists, who were needed due to the large size of the pangolin genome, which is nearly equal in size to the human genome.

Choo said that some genes may have lost their functions due to mutations during evolution. The research team found that this was the case with certain genes related to pangolin immunity, such as the IFNE gene.

"But this gene is functional in humans," Choo said, adding that it works as the first line of defence

against pathogens attempting to enter human bodies.

Researchers believe that the pangolin's scales not only can protect it from predators but also from injuries as well as subsequent microbial infections. The impact of evolution on scales, to some extent, may have caused skin immunity loss, due to a loss in function of the IFNE gene.

According to an article released on the XJTLU website, the investigation of pangolin genetics is continuing, while Choo's team is exploring the possibility of making the pangolin a comparative model for understanding human immunity and diseases.—Xinhua ■

Cybersecurity in digital era requires technological innovation: experts

CHENGDU (China)—Maintaining cybersecurity in the era of the digital economy requires more technological innovation, according to experts at a summit on cybersecurity technologies in southwest China's city of Chengdu. The summit was part of the 2018 China Cybersecurity Week, which runs from Monday to Sunday.

Old measures like antivirus software, firewalls, and intrusion detection systems are no longer equal to handling targeted attacks, and can easily be manipulated by attackers, said Shen Changxiang, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE).

"We should proactively stay immune and resort to trusted computing, using codes as the genes to timely identify the elements in the network," he said. "It's like raising the immunity of the network information system, which is our only way out."

According to Zheng Junfang, chief risk officer of China's online retail giant Alibaba, new

approaches and technologies should be applied to "defend by attacking," as Alibaba is exploring cutting-edge security technologies such as algorithmic defense and artificial intelligence.

"Only by innovating our thinking methods and patterns can we accomplish the leaping innovation of cybersecurity technologies," she said.

Ni Guangnan, another researcher of the CAE, said that new cybersecurity technologies and products need to be "capable enough of replacing those that have monopolized the market" in order to stand firm in the market, using China's Beidou navigation system as an example, which is making a name for itself on the international stage.

The theme of this year's cybersecurity publicity week centers on "cybersecurity for the people and cybersecurity through the people," with a series of events held nationwide.

The first China Cybersecurity Week was initiated in 2014.—Xinhua ■

Biomarker reveals oldest clue for animals: study

WASHINGTON—American researchers have found the oldest evidence for animal life, dating back at least 100 million years before the famous Cambrian explosion of animal fossils.

The study published on Monday in the journal *Nature Ecology & Evolution* described a steroid compound produced only by sponges that are among the earliest forms of animal

life. Researchers at the University of California, Riverside, tracked molecular signs of animal life, called biomarkers, as far back as 660 to 635 million years ago, and they found the compound in ancient rocks and oils from Oman, Siberia, and India.

"Molecular fossils are important for tracking early animals since the first sponges were probably very small, did

not contain a skeleton, and did not leave a well-preserved or easily recognizable body fossil record," said the first author Alex Zumberge.

"We have been looking for distinctive and stable biomarkers that indicate the existence of sponges and other early animals," said Zumberge, a doctoral student working at the lab of Gordon Love who led the study.—Xinhua ■



Myanmar (white) vies for the ball against China (yellow) in the Futsal match in China. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar manages 1-1 draw with Shen Zhen in Jimo International Friendly Futsal Cup

MYANMAR Futsal squad going on a friendly tour to China made its debut against Shen Zhen in Jimo International Friendly Futsal Cup in Zhonglain Lohas Park Sport Center in Qingdao on 16 October.

Myanmar and Shen Zhen ended the game with a 1-1 draw.

Although Myanmar brought 20 players to the Chinese friendly tour, the players

were retired in the friendly matches on a rotation basis. Six players were given retirement for today's game.

The opponents' team of Shen Zhen inserted selected players from Iran and Brazil into the its lineup.

The first half game ended a goalless draw.

At the 23rd minute to second half period, Myanmar

gave an opener that was an own goal from the clearance of the opponents' player to prevent the attacking launched by Pyae Phy Maung and Ko Ko Lwin.

Shen Zhen managed to level the match near the stoppage time at the 38th minute. Both teams failed to create the goal chances and ended a 1-1 draw. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

Myanmar faces a loss to Bahrain in friendly match

AS part of preparation for taking part in the 2018 Suzuki Cup, Myanmar has kept on going a friendly tour to Bahrain after losing to Bolivia on home soil.

Myanmar demonstrated a friendly match against Bahrain at Bahrain National Stadium in Rifa, Bahrain at 10.45 pm of Myanmar local time on 16 October. In spite of putting more efforts in winning the friendly match, Myanmar lost to the away friendly match against Bahrain 0-4.

Myanmar played three warm-up matches within a week and faced losses in all friendly matches, but secured the first goal in the time of head coach Antoine Hey. The friendly match was the fourth one handled by Antoine Hey. Myanmar saw a goal drought in three consecutive matches, but this match managed to end the goal drought.

Myanmar changed a little in the lineup arranged for Bolivia. Myanmar set up its starting lineup by substituting Soe Moe Kyaw with Win Moe Kyaw in the defence zone. Midfielder Maung Maung Lwin was assigned the captain duty for this friendly match.

Bahrain made a bright start to the game, putting one-sided

pressure on visiting Myanmar midway through the first half. Myanmar goalie Kyaw Zin Htet made some great saves. Myanmar restored its good form thirty minutes later. Myanmar defender David Dan committed a foul on the Bahrain player in the penalty box at the stoppage time of the first half. Bahrain secured the first goal from the penalty kick by J Rashid.

In the second half to the game, Bahrain changed its play pattern in use of high balls and long passes taking advantage of the weak defence of Myanmar. Mohamed's header added one goal for Bahrain at the 48 minutes to continue leading the tournament. At the 51st minute, substitute Myat Kaung Khant scored an equalizer for Myanmar. Myanmar could make some goal threats against Bahrain during the second half.

Mohamed headed home to extend the lead at the 67th minute. Two minutes later Bahrain extended the lead 4-1 against Myanmar with a goal from Sayed Ali Issa. The friendly match ended with 4-1 as both teams failed to add goals in the remaining last minutes to the second half. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

Myanmar to try their best in Girls'AFF U-15 2019 Group A

MYANMAR women's national football team has fallen into the Group (A) of the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) U-15 Girls Championship 2019 together with Viet Nam, Indonesia, Philippines and Timor Leste, according to AFF.

On the other side, an ASEAN football giant Thailand has fallen into the Group (B) together with Laos, Malaysia, Singapore and Cambodia. The Championship will be held in Thailand from 20 March to 2 April 2019 and Myanmar U-15 team has enough time

to prepare the best for the Championship. Myanmar's star Myat Noe Khin, who scored 9 goals in 2018 AFF U-16 Girls' Championship in Indonesia, will likely play in the upcoming tourney.

Looking back at the first women's ASEAN championship, 2009 AFF U-16 Women's Championship, Myanmar acted as a host country for the Championship from 9 October to 18 October 2009. The competition was held at the Thuwunna Stadium and Aung San Stadium. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

AFC 'C' coaching certificate course opens

THE AFC 'C' coaching certificate course has been kept opening at Tatmadaw Self-Defence and Sports Institute in Yemon, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region. The course is aimed at improving Myanmar football sport and enhancing capacity of Tatmadaw football

coaches. The course is running from 9 to 21 October and AFC instructor U Tin Myint Aung is giving lecture the trainees. A total of 24 military officers are attending the course and the closing ceremony will be held on 21 October. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

'Piggy-back' Keita third Liverpool star hurt in Africa

LIVERPOOL—midfielder Naby Keita had to be piggy-backed off the field by a Guinean team-mate on Tuesday after hurting a hamstring because no stretcher was available in a Rwandan stadium.

He was the third Anfield star to be injured on Africa Cup of Nations duty after attackers Mohamed Salah (strained thigh muscle) and Sadio Mane (broken thumb) since last Friday.

A Guinean official confirmed to AFP that Keita, who joined Liverpool during the close season from RB Leipzig, had injured a hamstring but gave no further details. The 2019 Cup of Nations qualifier at the Stade Nyamirambo in Rwandan capital Kigali finished 1-1, depriving leaders Guinea of qualification with two matchdays to spare.

Salah scored direct from a corner last Friday, but had to be substituted just before full-time as Egypt defeated eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) 4-1 in Cairo.

Mane suffered his injury while helping Senegal outclass Sudan 3-0 in Dakar 24 hours later.

Liverpool, third in the English Premier League behind Manchester City and Chelsea on goal difference, are away to third-from-bottom Huddersfield Town this Saturday. —AFP ■



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola (R) shakes hands with Liverpool's Guinean midfielder Naby Keita following the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on 7 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP