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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 24 October 2018

## Message from His Excellency U Win Myint President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the United Nations Day

24 October 2018

ON THIS occasion of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, I have a great pleasure of extending, on behalf of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, our best wishes for greater successes in all UN efforts to create a peaceful, justice and prosperous

world through common actions.

The United Nations officially came into existence with the adoption of the Charter of the Organization on 24 October 1945, following the end of the Second World War. This great international organization was established

as a solemn pledge of the peace-loving nations to work together to maintain world peace and security; to develop friendly relations amongst nations and to improve the lives of their peoples; and to foster mutual respect for each other's rights and freedoms. **SEE PAGE-3**

## Golden umbrella hoisted atop Thabyay Nyinaung Aung Zeya Muni Pagoda in Nawngkhio Township

**D**EFENCE Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended the golden umbrella hoisting and consecration ceremony at Thabyay Nyinaung Aung Zeya Muni Pagoda near Ngoke Kalay Village, Nawngkhio Township, Shan State (North) yesterday morning.

Members of the Sanghas led by State Ovadacariya (Patron) Nawngkhio Township, Bant Bwe Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadaja Bhaddanta Ottara graced the event with Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw and wife, Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo and senior officers from Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), North East Command Commander Maj-Gen Aung Zaw Aye, departmental officials, invited guests and the local people in attendance.

At first, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief and at-

tendees took the five precepts from Lashio Town, A T Tat Oo Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ottama and listened to the recitation of the metta sutta paritta.

Next, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief and wife donated the diamond bud, vane and other offertories to Bant Bwe Monastery Sayadaw. They also offered Ks 5 million donated by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) families for maintenance of the Thabyay Nyinaung Aung Zeya Muni Pagoda to Ngoke Kalay Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sandima.

Afterwards Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife, high ranking Tatmadaw officers and North East Command Commander donated tiers of umbrella and other offertories to the Sanghas.

The attendees then listened to the sermon of Bant Bwe Monastery Sayadaw and shared merit for the donations made.

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla carry religious objects. **PHOTO: C-IN-C OFFICE**

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# Candlelight shines at Shwedagon

THE Buddhist devotees held a candlelight ceremony at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon on eve of the end of four-month Buddhist Rain Retreat yesterday.

The pagoda was crowded with pilgrims yesterday, the first day of the three-day holiday for Thadingyut festival to mark the end of the Rain Retreat. The devotees offered flowers, fruit, water and oil lamps before images of the Buddha.

In Yangon, Buddhist devotees packed into the Sirimangala

Kaba Aye Ceti (World Peace Pagoda) where candlelight offering ceremony was held, to observe the auspicious day by performing merit-making rituals.

At pagodas in Yangon yesterday, wellwishers donated charity food and water to the visitors. Religious associations chanted religious verses at the pagodas, and office buildings and parks were illuminated with multi-coloured lightings at night. People will hold candlelight offering ceremony at pagodas nationwide to mark the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut. — MNA ■



Buddhist devotees take part in a religious ceremony at the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## SWRR Ministry hands over aid to strong wind victims in Bago Region



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye hands over cash assistance to authorities for strong wind victims in Bago Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye encouraged and helped local people living in Kawa and Thanatpin Township, Bago Region, who had their houses damaged and roofs blown off due to strong winds on 21 October.

The Union Minister met and discussed with Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, the Deputy Speaker of the regional Hluttaw and members of the Regional Cabinet at the Bago Regional Government Office.

While meeting with the affected local people at the hall of the General Administration Department in Kawa Township, the Union Minister said they are providing assistance for any manmade or natural disasters and are collaborating with respective ministries, societies, international organizations and the local people to reduce losses, perform prompt help and to quickly implement restoration processes.

He said that he wants cooperation on reduction of disasters because side effect of disasters can be deterrent to the development of the socio-economy.

The Regional Chief Minister also encouraged the local people and the Union Minister supported Ks 3,481,800 for rice ration, Ks 72,570,000 for construction materials for 1,586 affected households in Kawa Township and Ks 165,900 for rice ration and Ks 9,690,000 for construction materials for 274 affected households in Thanatpin Township. The donations were received by relevant officials.

The Union Minister then supported Ks 500,000 to a household with triplets in Thet Ka La Village and one of the residents expressed words of thanks. The Union Minister and his entourage then met with the affected people and gave encouragement. It was reported that the Union Minister provided Ks 86,407,700 to the victims during his trip to Bago Region. — MNA ■

## ASEAN+Japan SOMS meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw

ASEAN+Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (SOMS) hosted by Myanmar was held in Kempinski Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The meeting was chaired by Myanmar Olympic Committee Vice Chairman Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein where she also delivered a welcoming speech. The meeting was attended by Myanmar Olympic Committee Secretary Department of Sports and Physical Education Director General U Myo Hlaing, Japan Sports Agency Specialist, International Affairs Division Mr. Kumekawa Hirokazu and senior officials on sports from ASEAN countries.

First, meeting attendees saluted the ASEAN flag and then posed for a commemorative group photo.

In her welcoming speech, the Deputy Minister said the current ASEAN+Japan SOMS includes many agendas. Mr.

Kumekawa Hirokazu was invited as a spokesperson of Japan for ASEAN sports matter. Through cooperation in sports matters, Japan-ASEAN friendly relationship is strengthened. If more people from ASEAN participate in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic competitions, people in the region could enjoy a healthier life. 2016-2020 work processes were set in detail with an aim toward 2025 in line with ASSC policy when implementing sports works between Japan and ASEAN.

The work processes of Physical Education Teachers and Coaches, increasing participation of women in sports sector, technical support in sports for the handicapped and restricted drug usages were being conducted. These were the partial implementation of the decisions made at the AMMS meeting last year, said the Deputy Minister.

Next, Mr. Kumekawa Hirokazu said that increasing

cooperation in the sports sector establishes a friendlier Japan-ASEAN community. Japan is ready to increase assistance for ASEAN sports sector development. Japan compliments Indonesia for successfully holding the 18<sup>th</sup> Asian Games recently. In 2019, Philippines will host the 30 SEA Games.

It is the wish of Japan that more countries from ASEAN region participate in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic, he said. Next, an official from ASEAN secretariat office proposed for all to discuss and prioritize the four work processes implemented between ASEAN and Japan during the period 2016-2020.

The participants of the meeting also discussed cooperation work process of Japan, future works and other matters.

Later in the afternoon session, meeting attendees held discussion under the title of increasing participation of women in sports sector. — MNA ■



Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein attends ASEAN+Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (SOMS) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## All members, big or small, should observe the principles of the Charter of the United Nations in the spirit in which these were laid down, to promote equality and mutual respect among nations.

### FROM PAGE-1

The world has changed significantly since the time of founding of the United Nations, but the values of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter are timeless and still stand today as a guide for healthy international relations. The Organization will be more effective, if its structure and working methods could be reformed in accordance with the changing realities of today's world.

Despite its limitations and imperfections, the United Nations has provided the best forum for addressing issues related to the forces transforming our world, and it has made commendable contributions to global efforts for making the world a better and more peaceful habitat for all of us.

The United Nations has made an outstanding contribution to the economic and social advancement of all peoples through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for UN Sustainable Development Goals. In Myanmar, the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) has already placed as a roadmap for

our path towards national reconciliation and peace, inclusive and transformational economic growth and social development.

This year's theme of the United Nations General Assembly is "Making the United Nations relevant to all people: global leadership and shared responsibilities for peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies". To make the world body relevant to all people, all members, big or small, should observe the principles of the Charter of the United Nations in the spirit in which these were laid down, to promote equality and mutual respect among nations.

The value of the United Nations is decided by how the organization and its member States, utilize the instruments at their disposal to promote peace, stability and harmony, and to mitigate harm and enmity. Objectivity, impartiality, professionalism, respect for national sovereignty are some of the keys to the success of the United Nations' mission.

In the face of today's growing trend in anti-globalization, we reaffirm our faith in multilateralism and a rule-based order. Cooperation with the United Nations

still remains one of the cornerstones of Myanmar's foreign policy. In dealing with the multi-faceted challenges facing our country as a nascent democracy, the Government of Myanmar places importance on working together with its regional and international partners, including the United Nations, adopting a fair solution-seeking approach.

Today, the world is unfortunately witnessing rising nationalism, sectarian hatred and economic inequality. In addressing these issues, it is imperative to take into account the concerns of all member States or societies, to be able to view each issue from different angles. Reconciling differences should be the main aim of those who truly want to promote peace and harmony in the world.

On this auspicious occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the birth of the United Nations, I wish to reaffirm Myanmar's commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and to work together constructively with other member States to support the efforts of the United Nations aiming with the realization of its noble goals. ■

## Golden umbrella hoisted atop Thabyay Nyinaung Aung Zeya Muni Pagoda in Nawnghkio Township

### FROM PAGE-1

Following this, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief, wife and party carried the diamond bud, vane and various levels of the pagoda golden umbrella around the pagoda in a clockwise direction three times and then hoisted it on top of the pagoda with a ceremonial flying chariot.

After this, the Members of

the Sanghas in attendance conducted the consecration process for the pagoda.

After the event, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and attendees offered "soon" (a day meal) to the Sayadaws and members of Sangha, according to a news release from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA ■



Tiers of umbrella are being carried to the pagoda. PHOTO: NAWNGHKIO IPRD

## Agricultural Master Plan to be implemented in Yangon Region



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein answering to questions from media about Agricultural Master Plan. PHOTO: MIN THIT (MNA)

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said an Agricultural Master Plan that was drawn up will soon be implemented in Yangon Region with the aim of developing the agriculture sector.

The Chief Minister made the remark during a meeting with the media while attending a Flower Festival held in Yangon yesterday morning at People's Park, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-Netherlands diplomatic relationship.

"Agriculture sector in Yan-

gon needs to be developed. Yangon is well placed with airports and ports to export its agricultural products internationally. Although agriculture and animal breeding zones were established during the past three years, technical cooperation and support is still weak. More will be done to develop this sector," said the Yangon Region Chief Minister.

He continued to say that, "In developing the agriculture sector, we need to reach a stage where our fruits and flowers reach the international level.

Raising the technology level as well as acquiring a market is important."

"That is why it is expected that there'll be more cooperation with other countries in this."

The Agriculture Master Plan to be implemented in Yangon Region was drawn up by agriculture organisations and experts and it was already discussed and approved by the Yangon Region Hluttaw. The project duration is three years said Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. — Min Thit (MNA) ■

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# Dala ferry runs regularly during Thadingyut holiday; many passengers seen

PANSODAN-DALA ferries are running regularly during Thadingyut holiday with taking safety measures as the weather bureau has alerted them to strong winds due to a depression in the Deltaic areas.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) warned the ships and fishing vessels along Myanmar coastal regions of the possible dangers from the depression. As a result of this, Yangon is experiencing continuous rainfall.

"Life-jackets are on Cherry ferries. The ships are warned not to leave the terminal during high wind conditions. Heavy rain at 11:40 am yesterday caused five-minute delay for ferry service. Usually, ferry service run 46 times a day yet it depends on weather condition. Three Cherry ferries are running in turn. Cherry ferry staff ensures passenger comfort and safety. Additionally, they manage for the passen-



Passengers disembark on the ferry to cross the Yangon River to Dala yesterday. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

gers to get on and off safely", she continued. U Kyaw Nyein, chair of Dala Township motorboats supervision committee told that motorboats are warned during

high wind conditions. With the depression warning, the number of passengers on board are seen lesser for motorboat services.

Due to unusual high-tide in

Yangon River between 10 and 16 August, floods occurred in low-lying wards and jetties in Dala Township. —Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala) ■

## Mokkha elephant camp reopened in Minhla Township

MOKKHA Waterfall Elephant Camp situated near Banbwegon Village, Minhla Township was reopened on 19 October and local and foreign visitors can visit it according to Mokkha Waterfall Elephant Camp official.

The camp was first opened on 4 January 2018 and from January to June a total of 24,874 visitors visited the camp. 7,494 visitors rode the elephants in the camp for site seeing tour of the surrounding area earn-

ing the camp revenues of Ks 35 million. The camp was temporarily closed during the raining season.

Visitors can observe 14 elephants from Myanmar Timber Enterprise kept there, watch the scenery by riding the elephants, join in the feeding and bathing of the elephants or simply relax, swim or dip into the water at the Mokkha Waterfall. Temporary shelters were built under the bamboo trees where visitors can relax and enjoy the

natural foods provided there.

The Mokkha Waterfall Elephant Camp is idle for families and friends to visit during holidays. An elephant ride is Ks 3,000 per person while the entrance fee is Ks 500 for locals. For foreign visitors an elephant ride is Ks 10,000 per person while the entrance fee is Ks 10,000. It is the same price charged since the camp was first opened in January said U Thet Swe Aung, a camp official. So far, there are 19 elephant camps across the country in operation with 3,089 Myanmar Timber Enterprise elephants. The camps were established to earn income, raise awareness for elephant conservation and to promote nature based tourism after the government halted extraction of timbers in the country.

There are over 6,578 elephants in Myanmar of which 3,078 were owned by Myanmar Timber Enterprise, more than 2,000 privately owned and over 1,500 in the wild. — Pauksa Minhla ■



Visitors ride elephants at Mokkha Waterfall Elephant Camp.

**PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

## Fire started from candlelight destroys home, motorbike in Phakant

AN unattended candle is being blamed for fire occurred in Phakant, a township in Kachin State of the northernmost part of the country, on Tuesday morning, damaging a house and a motorbike, according to the township Fire Services Department.

It happened at around 1 am on 23 October. However, no persons or animals were hurt in the fire. The loss due to the fire is estimated to reach approximately Ks4.250 million.

Investigators say that the flame was caused by an unattended candle that was used for light at the holy place in the house in Lonkhin Village in the township. On that day, the family living in the home went to a village event while the candle was being used in the home.

With the support of residents, firefighters controlled the flame within 50 minutes.

Action has been taken against the person responsible for fire-related negligence and recklessness according to the existing law.—Township IPRD■

# DICA targets \$220 billion FDI in 20 years

By Nyein Nyein

AFTER Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan was formulated, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) expects to attract foreign direct investments of US\$220 billion in 20 years, said U Than Aung Kyaw, Deputy Director-General of the DICA.

“We target to attain over \$220 billion FDIs next 20 years”, said U Than Aung Kyaw.

MIPP includes the first five-year plan, the second five-year plan, the third five-year plan and the fourth five-year plan. The MIPP is aimed at realizing the responsible and quality investments necessary for Myanmar in order to become a middle-income country by 2030 and pursuing subsequent further growth until 2035, through fundamental improvement of the business environment.

According to MIPP, the expected foreign investment per fiscal year is around \$5.8 billion from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021 fiscal years, and then increase to \$8.5 billion per FY from 2020-21 to 2025-26 FYs. The FDI is possibly to grow up to \$12.3 billion per FY in another five-year term from 2026-2027 to 2030-2031 FYs. It is expected the total foreign investment to reach \$17.6 billion per FY in the last five-year term from 2031-

2032 to 2035-36 FYs.

To implement this plan, by outlining five strategies, state-level leading committee and task forces will be formed regarding investment promotion and facilitation, institutional development for investment promotion, investment policy, infrastructure development and domestic businesses and human resource development.

MIPP was jointly formu-

lated by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to implement the objectives of MIPP by adopting strategies and setting up the Task Force.

In the incumbent government period, the MIPP was revised from the old version of Foreign Direct Investment Promotion Plan (FDIPP) formulated in the previous government's period in 2014. ■

## Myanmar's bilateral trade with Germany exceeds \$320 million from April to August

Myanmar's trade with Germany from April to August in the past interim period amounted to US\$321.7 million, comprising \$245 million worth of export and \$76.67 million valued import, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Germany was ranked first among EU countries having the largest trade value with Myanmar, followed by the UK with about \$233 million. France was listed at the third place with trade values of about \$191 million

Beyond regional trade regime, Myanmar has established trade links with EU member countries.

The country mainly exported rice, pulses, tea leaf, coffee, apparel from garment sector on Cut-Make-Pack basis and fisheries while cosmetic, food and beverages and consumer goods were imported into Myanmar.

Myanmar reinstated EU's



Workers processing fish for export at a marine product factory, Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Generalized Scheme of Preference from 19 July 2013. Myanmar can enjoy GSP for export of fisheries, rice, pulses, agro products, bamboo and rattan finished products, forestry products, apparels and finished industrial goods.

Trade values with Germany were about \$584 million in the 2017-2018 FY, \$342 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$153 mil-

lion in the 2015-16 FY, \$147 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$123 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$187 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$137 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

EU member countries put investments in petroleum and natural gas enterprises, manufacturing, transportation, hotels and tourism and livestock businesses. —Ko Htet■

## Myanmar-Thailand border trade increases by \$17 million this FY

BILATERAL border trade between Myanmar and Thailand in the current fiscal year exceeds US\$45 million which was an increase in value by \$17.3 million, matched against the same period in the last FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

At this time last year, the bilateral border trade totalled \$28.3 million.

Myanmar delivers goods to Thailand through sea routes as well as cross-border gates. Seven border trade camps are currently opened between the two nations, consisting of Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htikhee, Mawtaung and Maese. Despite a slight decrease in value of Tachilek border, the bilateral trade value from all Myanmar-Thailand border gates increased in comparison with this time last year.

During the period, Myanmar exported domestic products

worth over \$18 million to Thailand, importing a wide variety of goods valued at \$27 million.

The country exports fruits such as watermelon, pineapple and avocado, kitchen crops including onion, garlic and others, dried tea leaves, manganese dioxide, and other miscellaneous products to the neighbouring Thailand. Its import comprises cement, construction equipment, leather, iron and steel products, soaps, medicines, cosmetics, food and beverages, stationery, footwear, clothing, machinery and other commodities.

The trade value from all border crossings between 1 and 12 October this year topped \$226.5 million, up by over \$100 million over the same period in the last FY. During the period, Muse, the Myanmar-China border town, handled the largest volume and value of border trade with over \$155 million.—Swe Nyein■

## Five-day individual trade registered at \$987 million in border areas

THE value of border trade with the Individual Trading Card (ITC) was US\$987 million in the five days of the current fiscal year 2018-2019, according to data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Export of the individual traders was worth Ks277 million, whereas import value with ITC was Ks709 million.

Myawady border gate witnessed the largest trade worth \$383 million using the ITC. Five-day trade of ITC holders is worth Ks134 million at Tamu

border gate, Ks27 million at Kanpaikti, over Ks225,200 at Tachilek, Ks85 million at Kawthoung, Ks345 million at Mawtaung and Ks10.9 million at Kengtung respectively.

The Trade Department issued a total of 1,060 individual trading cards; with 292 cards from 21 Nov 2012 to 31 March 2013, 261 cards in the 2013-2014 FY, 317 cards in the 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in the 2015-2016 FY and 248 cards in the 2016-2017 FY, 168 cards in the 2017-2018 FY, 92 cards in

the past mini-budget period and six cards during the first five days of the current FY, according to an announcement released by the aforementioned ministry.

The Trade Department issues the ITC with an aim to boosting border trade. A businessman can trade Ks3 million worth of goods a day using an ITC and then, the Trade Department granted trade values of up to Ks15 million per day, which is a five-day-trade-value. —Ko Htet■

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Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 20 October 2018 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of numerous opium/illegal tablet users and sellers in Panhike Ward 8, Namtu Tsp, Shan State.	On 19-10-2018, police arrested Aung La, 53, and his son Aung Moe, 25, together with WY psychotropic tablets and heroin in their home near the old cemetery in Panhike Ward 8, Namtu Tsp. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Namtu) MaYa(Pa) 14/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of sales of illegal drugs and youths addicted to drugs in Kyatchaung Village, Kyunsu Tsp, Taninthayi Region.	On 18-10-2018, police investigating Kyatchaung Village, Kyunsu Tsp, arrested Naing Zaw, 23, and his older brother Nyi Zaw, 26, attempting to sail out to sea with opium powder. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Kanmaw) MaYa(Pa) 41/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Ko Tin Tun from Kyatchaung Village, Kyunsu Tsp, Taninthayi Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 18-10-2018, police searched Tin Tun's house in Kyatchaung Village, Kyunsu Tsp, but could not find him. Police discovered Tin Tun's wife, Daw Mya Win, 46, in the kitchen. She threw a sack containing WY psychotropic tablets through the back door and escaped on a motorboat. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Kanmaw) MaYa(Pa) 40/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Ashin Arseinna residing in Chan Mya Aungsi retreat in Chan Mya Tharyar Ward, Pyigyidagun Tsp, Mandalay Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 14-10-2018, police arrested Ashin Arseinna (a) U Aye Kyaw, 52, Vassa 13, in Chan Mya Aungsi retreat in Chan Mya Tharyar Ward, Pyigyidagun Tsp, Mandalay City, together with 88/1 psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Pyigyidagun) MaYa(Pa) 29/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Ko Nay Myo Aung from Ward 6, Setawgyi Village, Madaya Tsp, Mandalay Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 13-10-2018, police arrested Nay Myo Aung, 47, in Ward 6, Setawgyi Village, Madaya Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (KanMaw) MaYa(Pa) 5/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Ko Shine Shine Thu and Ko Shine Shine Oo from Kunbaung Village, Htigyaing Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 14-10-2018, police arrested Shine Shine Thu, 23, in Kunbaung Village, Htigyaing Tsp, together with heroin and a homemade gun. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa(Pa) 33/2018 under Section 16-c/22-B of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police arrested Shin Shine Oo, 26, from the same village with heroin and WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa(Pa) 34/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of Ko Chan Thar from Mukwa Village, Taze Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 16-10-2018, police arrested Chan Thar, 26, from Mukwa Village, Taze Tsp, together with opium. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Taze) MaYa(Pa) 17/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Ko Zaw Min from Lanphokan Village, Pyigyimandaing Tsp, Taninthayi Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 18-10-2018, police arrested Zaw Min (a) Zaw Min Lwin, 35, and Yan Naing Kyaw, 27, in Lanphokan Village, Pyigyimandaing Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Pyigyimandaing) MaYa(Pa) 20/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of U Ar Baung and his wife Ma Aye Mi from Mahnmine Village, Area 4, Ward 5, Lashio Tsp, Shan State, selling illegal drugs.	On 20-10-2018, police arrested Aik Kay, 19, after searching him as he walked along Natsin Road, Area 4, Ward 5, Lashio Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets and one knife. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa(Pa) 208/2018 under Section 19-A/22-B of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigations led to the arrest of Ar Baung (a) Aik Paung, 25, his wife Ma Aye Mi, 27, and Zaw Myo Htet (a) Min Htike, 23, together with WY psychotropic tablets in Mahnmine Village, Area 4, Ward 5, Lashio Tsp. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa(Pa) 209/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of Ko Myo Zaw living on 6 <sup>th</sup> floor-B in Building No. 37, 133 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Ponnagone Ward, Tamway Tsp, Yangon Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 16-10-2018, police arrested Myo Zaw, 36, living on 6 <sup>th</sup> floor-B in Building No. 37, 133 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Ponnagone Ward, Tamway Tsp, together with psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Tamway) MaYa (Pa) 45/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11	Information received of Maung Maung Soe (a) Ka Ne Gyi from Building No. 700, Ngu Wah Road, Ward 50, Dagon Myothit (North) Tsp, Yangon Region, selling psychotropic tablets and marijuana.	On 18-10-2018, police arrested Maung Maung Soe (a) Ka Ne Gyi, 47, in from Building No. 700, Ngu Wah Road, Ward 50, Dagon Myothit (North) Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Dagon North) MaYa (Pa) 50/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12	Information received of Naung Naung from the east ward in Insein Tsp, Yangon Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 20-10-2018, police investigating the east ward (Strand Road) in Insein Tsp arrested Naung Naung, 39, and Thae Su Mon, 39, both from the same ward, together with marijuana in their possession as they walked along Padamyar dockyard. Police discovered the two suspects had obtained the marijuana from Myo Min (a) Myint Oo, 37, who had previously been arrested under MaMaSa(Hlegu) MaYa(Pa) 26/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. A case has been opened against all three with MaMaSa (Insein) MaYa (Pa) 138/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 350 cases have been exposed as of 20-10-2018, and 467 men and 90 women have been arrested with seizures of 5,047.59 g of heroin, 22.01 g of ICE, 38,387.01 g of opium, 329 g of low-quality opium, 11802 g of powder opium, 3,973.99 g of speciosa, 166,588 stimulant tablets, 3,693.78 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 217.4 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 1.65 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 12 firearms, 194 different bullets, and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.

4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.

During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates. In Kachin State, Mansi Tsp, Monsin Village, 2 men were arrested with 46800 stimulant tablets. In Shan State, Loilem Tsp, on the Loilem-Taunggyi highway, near Hotint Village, a Scania 22-wheeled truck was stopped and 2 men were arrested with 14220 liters of sulphuric acid. In Monghsat Tsp, Hpaha Village, a man was arrested with 4000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle.

SEE PAGE-7

## Rule of Law

It is understood that for nations going through a transition, it takes an average of 10 years for the rule of law to take firm hold.

It is a long-term investment, where dynamic and unrelenting motivation is required, if the nation is to live in harmony, peace and security under a strong and firm rule of law.

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

### FROM PAGE-6

In Kehsi Tsp, on the Kehsi-Mongye-Lashio highway, a man driving a six-wheeled Nissan Fuso was arrested with 1500000 g of caffeine. In Pinlaung Tsp, Naungtaya Town, Nyanpin Village, two men were arrested with 3100 g of opium blocks and one motorcycle. In Nawngkhio Tsp oriental toll gate entrance, two men were arrested with 3800 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle and another man was arrested with a Nissan Wingroad car and 24000 stimulant tablets. In Taunggyi Town, Sakhe Village entrance, a Toyota Hilux Surf, two man and two women were arrested with 3970 stimulant tablets. In Payarpyu Ward, two men and a woman were arrested 9838 stimulant tablets. Police clearing the area in Kutkai Tsp, in a river in the forest to the southeast of Panho Village, dug up 2560 liters of acetone, 420 liters of hydrochloric acid, 1680 liters of lizol and 1216 liters of ethyl ether. On the Kutkai-Kaungkha highway, in the eucalyptus forest near Kolong Village entrance, one man was arrested with 6000 stimulant tablets, 363 g of heroin and one motorcycle. In Tachilek Tsp, Ayedin Village, a man was arrested with 13600 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Hsihseng Tsp, on the Taunggyi-Hsihseng highway, Banyinlaw Village, a man was arrested with 9500 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Rakhine State, Sittway Town, there were three cases. Four men and a woman were arrested with 454 stimulant tablets. In Kyaukpyu Town, there were two cases. Four men were arrested with 91 stimulant tablets. In Minbya Town, Okkarpyan Ward, a man was arrested with 107 stimulant tablets. In Maungtaw Tsp, Maungni (Lower) Village, a man was arrested with 129 stimulant tablets. In Myoma Kanyintan Village-tract, Sitila Village, a man was arrested with 8 stimulant tablets. On the two countries' border along the Naf River, three men were arrested attempting to sail from U Saw Hla island to the other side together with 117000 stimulant tablets. In Sagaing Region, Nanmone Village, Khamti Tsp, a man was arrested with 450 stimulant tablets and 272 g of heroin. In Bamauk Tsp, Nanzar Village, two miles north in Kanpauktar Forest, two men were arrested with 8167 g of raw opium. In Mandalay Region, Mogok Tsp, Monglone-Mogok highway, two motorcycles were flagged down but drove away from officials. Officials arrested one of the men together with two motorcycles and

10108.5 g of heroin in Nyaunggone Village. On the Monglone-Mogok highway, Legyi Village, an ownerless Alphard car was abandoned containing 300000 stimulant tablets and 2012.5 g of heroin. In Patheingyi Tsp, 16 miles checkpoint, a man driving Mitsubishi Pick Up driven from Pansan, Shan State, was arrested with 30000 g of ICE. Further investigations revealed the car was heading for Yangon. Officials cooperated with the Drug Enforcement Division and drove the car to Yangon and contacted the phone number given to the driver. The call receiver asked to meet up on Thitsar Street, South Okkalapa Tsp, Yangon Region. A man arrived in a Suzuki Ertiga Saloon car and was arrested. Further investigation led to another receiver on Waizayandar Road, Thingangyun Tsp where a man arriving in a Mini Cooper Saloon was arrested 21 ecstasy tablets and 0.2 g of ICE. A search of their house led officials to confiscate 20 ecstasy tablets and 15590 stimulant tablets. There were two cases involving foreigners. In Shan State, Muse Town, an illegal Chinese migrant man was arrested with 30 g of heroin. In Kayin State, Myawady Town, Ward 1, an illegal Thai migrant man was arrested with 57 stimulant tablets.

There have been 278 cases being opened between 14-10-2018 and 20-10-2018, and 391 men and 28 women have been arrested. Seizures of 103631.12 g of heroin, 30065.23 g of ICE, 8858.06 g of opium, 1817.66 g of powder opium, 593159 stimulant tablets, 9540.34 g of marijuana, 3104 g of opium blocks, 5.2 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 1500000 g of caffeine, 14220 liters of sulphuric acid, 420 liters of hydrochloric acid, 2560 liters of acetone, 1216 liters of ethyl ether, 1680 liters of lizol, and 41 ecstasy tablets.

5. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

#### Contacts

Auto telephone No. — 067-590200  
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233  
Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

## Kyaukse holds traditional elephant dance festival

TRADITIONAL elephant dance festival commences in Kyaukse, Mandalay Region, yesterday and 20 dance troupes are participating in the competition. The opening ceremony was held at the Central Stadium at the foot of Shwetharlyaung where Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Regional Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Oo, Regional Ministers, Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr. Tin Aung and District Administrator U Tun Min Zaw formally opened the festival.

The competition commenced with a dance by all participating dance troupes while the Sin Pwe Taw (elephant festival) song was played.

Local farmer Daw Tin Oo from Yaythayout Village said, "I come to this festival every year and I'm happy to do so because this is a traditional local festival. This year, observation stands were constructed, allow-



A troupe participates in traditional elephant dance festival in Kyaukse. PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKHTILA)

ing for the audience to watch the competition in ease and comfort without jostling for a place.

The authorities also provided parking places for cars

and motorcycles, so it is very convenient."

This year a total of 20 dance troupes took part and the first prize for Traditional Dance is

Ks 1.2 million, first prize for Bawkyel category is Ks 1 million, first prize for Baby Elephant category is Ks 0.6 million and best traditional innovation

elephant prize is Ks. 0.5 million. A brand new Kamax motorcycle was included for each prize as well. — Thet Maung, District IPRD ■

## Promoting Entrepreneurship in Rakhine

**R**AKHINE State is rich in natural resources. It has many rivers, lakes, ponds and is connected to the ocean.

The Rakhine State Government is emphasizing on investment and trade in order to increase production in agricultural products as well as manufacturing and to increase job opportunities for locals by not only increasing local trade but also external trade with foreign countries.

Today, in the state, we have witnessed trade infrastructures including Sittway Port, Kaladan Multi-Model Project, transport route from Sittway to Mizoram, India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway, Punnagyun industrial zone, salt water tiger prawn, agriculture and livestock zones, Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and Deep Sea Port Project, trade zones in towns, hotel sector, investment by foreign companies and marble extraction etc.

Meanwhile, the numbers of young adults who are becoming entrepreneurs to make their own fortune by putting up their own businesses are growing.

“

The numbers of young adults who are becoming entrepreneurs to make their own fortune by putting up their own businesses are growing.

assistance for the emergence of a number of young Myanmar entrepreneurs.

With an increasing number of young entrepreneurs nowadays, this event is timely as it aimed at generating opportunities for youths and businesses and developing SMEs and could give them the knowledge to become pioneers in the business sector in Rakhine State.

Industry updates were also great topics as these will give the young entrepreneurs a glimpse of what they are getting into.

Hopefully, our young entrepreneurs would gain knowledge on how to be an effective entrepreneur and employer in the state.

We thank young entrepreneurs for their involvement in the socio-economic development of the state and hoped that the talks would be brighter prospects for the future of Rakhine State.

Let us do right by our young entrepreneurs, and let them take the state forward.

The future of Rakhine State economy lies in their hands.

The Rakhine State Government conducted a forum last Sunday in Sittway to discuss topics on starting a business and its requirements in Rakhine.

The event is an opportunity for the various government departments to present their programs for new small and medium enterprises.

The event came after the Rakhine State Government noticed that producing young entrepreneurs in the State will bring regional benefits including job and investment opportunities through the utilization of infrastructures and an abundant array of natural resources in the most effective way.

The Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu also pledged to provide ardent support to the SMEs while the Union Government has been rendering much assistance for the emergence of a number of young Myanmar entrepreneurs.

# Thadinkyut Traditional Festival bears relevance in modern times

By Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

“TAVATIMSA PWE” or Simee. Myint-Moe Pwe is the traditional name of the Light Festival of Thadinkyut [October] the 7<sup>th</sup> month of Myanmar Lunar Calendar. Thadinkyut means Buddhist Lent. Kyut means “over”. So the meaning of the word Thitin Kyut is the Buddhist Lent is over. The above two traditional names of this festival Tavatimsa Pwe and Simee Myint Moe Pwe epitomize the great event in the life time of Lord Buddha. After delivering the essence of his dhamma teachings in the form of Abhidhamma to Santussita deva in the celestial kingdom of Tavatimsa who was Buddha’s mother Maha Maya, Chief Queen of King Suddodana of Kapilavathu kingdom. The Buddha returned to Earth. Lord Buddha did that delivery, as his noble filial duty to his mother whom he owned boundless gratitude for conceiving him in her womb and giving him birth and breast milk feed on finishing his delivery, Lord Buddha returned to Earth on full moon night of Thadinkyut. Attended and accompanied by Brahmins, Sakka and devas, Lord Buddha descended in full state and regalia to Earth where Sankassa Nagara City was awaiting to welcome Lord Buddha.

Buddhists commemorate full moon day of Thadinkyut as Abhidhamma Day. In modern parlance it should be Buddha’s Modern Day or Mother’s Day in Myanmar in our times the UNO marks World’s Mother Day, Father Day, Teachers Day, Old aged Day etc.. Buddha had already marked full moon Thadinkyut “Mother’s Day” for all human beings.

As the Buddha set his foot on earth at the city gate of Sankassa Nagara welcoming crowds carried oil lamps to provide light. In essence the oil lamps light represents the Light of Buddha’s dhamma to enlighten the humans in the darkness of ignorance with the help of his disciple Saint monk Ashin Sāri-



patra, he spread the essence of the Abhidhamma delivered to his mother in Tavatimsa.

So the traditional name of Thadinkyut Light Festival Tavatimsa Pwe and Simee Myint Moe Pwe are apt and appropriate in name as well as in essence for us today. We should celebrate not only the ceremonial aspect of “Light” festival of Thadinkyut but also its dhamma essence the light of Buddha’s Dhamma teachings to drive away the darkness of ignorance and become enlightened.

We Buddhists should never miss the Abhidhamma Day observed on full moon day of Thadinkyut. It is not easy to understand Buddha’s Abhidhamma. To see and understand reality behind illusions, you need teaching, training, understanding, realizing and yourself actually practicing. Never miss Abhidhamma classes held at Dhamma Centers across the country. A person who has attended and has done some practices is entirely a new man, regardless of his position, rank, creeds or race. He looks extraordinarily different from others in

many good ways.

Two other rites held in this month are (1). Pawarana and (2) Puja. Pawarana is performed by monks only whereas Pujas is by both monks and laity. Full moon day of Thidinkyut which is the end of Buddhist Lent is the day and date fixed for Pawarana. Pujas is performed on any day and date in the month of Thidinkyut but mostly on the first waning moon it is performed.

The origin of Pawarana dates back to the life time of Lord Buddha while he was residing at Jetavana Vihara in Savathi City, a party of monks observed their Lent at a village in Kosala Kingdom. These monks believed that unity and happiness among them could be achieved by not talking to one another because talking could cause argument and conflict and finally dispute. So they kept mum throughout the Lent period. Speech is silver but Silence is gold. When the Lent was over they visited Lord Buddha and paid him respect and homage.

Lord greeted them by asking about their health, happi-

ness and unity during the Lent. The monks explained how they kept mum so as to gain unity and happiness.

Lord Buddha objected to their way of gaining happiness and unity saying that keeping mum was like a dumb and that kind of behavior was disrespectful to the devotees, donors and supporters of Sangha. The monk who behaves like a dumb is sinful. The best way to achieve unity and happiness among monks was by means of Pawarana by inviting all monks to assemble and letting each monk by turn ask other monks to point out if he has been seen, heard or suspected committing any sin, and if so, letting other monks reprimand the sinful monk. By so doing the sin monk will be repented by promising not to repeat that sin and all monks pardoned him. So all monks will live in harmony, unity and happiness.

In our attempts to build a peaceful prosperous and progressive state in our country Myanmar we are applying democratic methods and procedure. Democracy is “the government

of the people, by the people and for the people.” To achieve that kind of government we need unity, harmony and happiness of each and all. Responsibility, accountability, dutifulness and transparency are the fundamentals of “Paranawa of our time.”

Both the government and the people together need unity, harmony and happiness. So the government and people both must be “responsible” “accountable” “dutiful” to each other and transparent to each other day being able to do everything public, not to hide any public welfare work and being able to face censure. The three pillars of Democracy, the Legislature [Parliaments] the Executives [The Government and all administration bodies] and the Judiciary [all Law courts] should be independent though with the inherent duty of check and balance among them.

Pujas to the Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha, Parents, Teachers and Superiors and Friends which we Buddhists perform in Thidinkyut Festival also have relevance in our time. In pujas, the givers of pujas are

not Buddhists only. They include followers of other Faiths [Religious] so also the recipients of pujas are not Myanmar Buddhists only. They include those of other Faiths. In Myanmar, members of the Government and members of the people profess different Faiths. But they are the recipients of Thidinkyut Pujas and performers of Thidinkyut Pujas.

At schools, colleges, universities, across the country and offices of the Government, NGOs and INGOs in Myanmar Thidinkyut pujas are held in the spirit of Pawarana Pujas performers humbly beg pardon for sins (wrong doing) physically, or verbally or mentally committed against the pujas recipients and promise not to repeat them. The pujas recipients reply that they pardon them and exclaim their relations by uttering Sadu, Sadu, Sadu (well done, well done, well done).

We should observe and practice the good traditions of our Thidinkyut Festival as well as their good relevancies in modern times.

■ ■ ■

### MESSAGE

## The Secretary-General Message on the United Nations Day 24 October 2018

UNITED NATIONS DAY marks the birthday of our founding Charter – the landmark document that embodies the hopes, dreams and aspirations of “we the peoples”.

Every day, the women and men of the United Nations work to give practical meaning to that Charter.

Despite the odds and the obstacles, we never give up.

Extreme poverty is being reduced but we see inequality growing.

Yet we don’t give up because we know by reducing inequality we increase hope and opportunity and peace around the world.

Climate change is moving faster than we are, but we don’t give up because we know that climate action is the only path.

Human rights are being violated in so many places. But we don’t give up because we know respect for human rights and human dignity is a basic condition for peace.

Conflicts are multiplying - people are suffering. But we don’t give up because we know every man, woman and child deserves a life of peace.

On United Nations Day, let us reaffirm our commitment.

To repair broken trust.

To heal our planet.

To leave no one behind.

To uphold dignity for one and all, as united nations.

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2018)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is a few clouds over the North Bay and West central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 24 October 2018:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin states, scattered in Magway and Tanintharyi regions and Rakhine State, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region, Kayah and Mon states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Wave height will be about (7-10) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi regions, Shan, Kayah, Kayah and Mon states.

**FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 October 2018:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 October 2018:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 October 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

## Low Pressure Area Condition (Issued at (14:00) hours MST on (23- 10 -2018)

“According to the observations at (13:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Deltaic area and adjoining East Central Bay of Bengal has become unimportant.”

## Israel says Hezbollah set up Lebanon post under NGO guise

JERUSALEM — The Israeli army on Monday accused the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah of setting up a new observation point in south Lebanon near the border under the guise of an environmental NGO.

A senior military officer charged that the position, near the Shiite village of Aadaysit and the Israeli kibbutz of Misgav Am, was a violation of UN Resolution 1701 prohibiting Hezbollah military activity in the area.

The observation post joins five other exposed last year by Israel, the officer said, all allegedly under the cover of “Green Without Borders”.

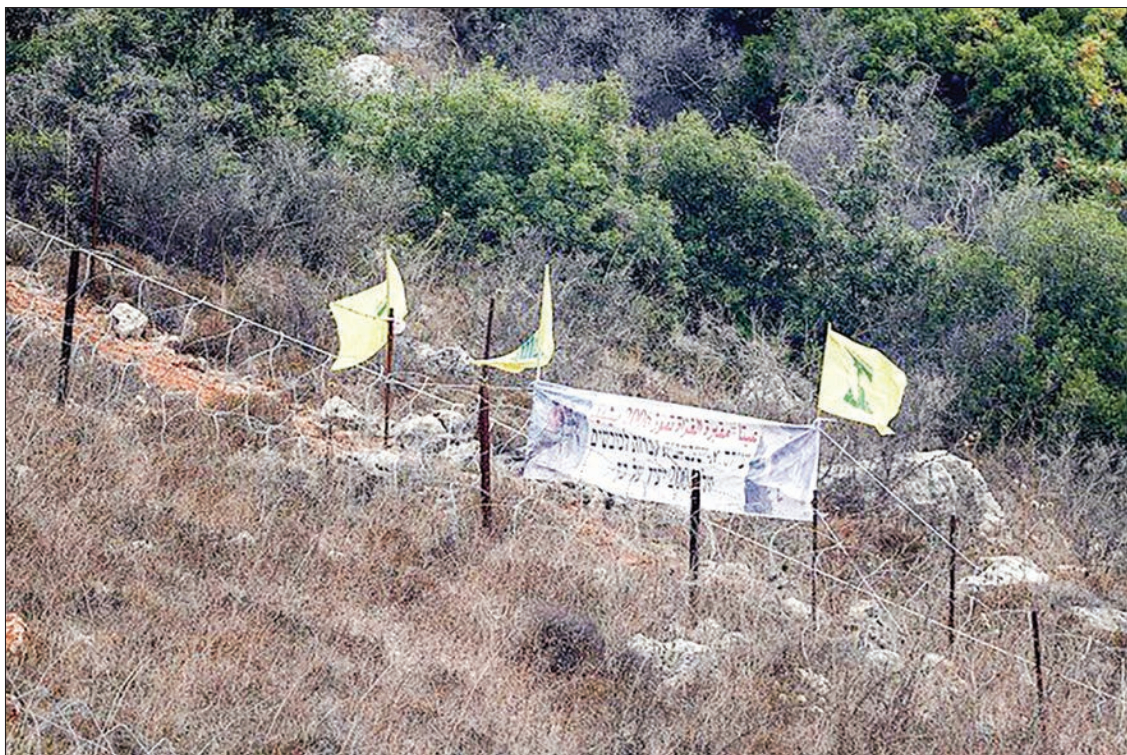
“This NGO isn’t concerned with planting trees, it’s a front” for Hezbollah to monitor the Israeli army and civilians nearby, the officer told reporters in a briefing. Israel has relayed its con-

cerns to UNIFIL, the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, and asked them to visit the positions, but according to the officer, “they haven’t done so”.

The position contains “military equipment and infrastructure, binoculars, high end cameras”, the officer said. “This is a breach of 1701.”

A month-long war in 2006 between Israel and the Shiite movement killed more than 1,200 Lebanese, mostly civilians, and more than 160 Israelis, mostly soldiers. Resolution 1701 was adopted to end the war, calling for full respect of the “Blue Line”, the UN-demarcated frontier between Lebanon and the Jewish state.

Israel has vowed to prevent what it says are efforts by its archfoe Iran to transfer advanced arms to Hezbollah in Lebanon. —AFP ■



UN Resolution 1701 prohibits Hezbollah to conduct military activity in south Lebanon near the Israel border. **PHOTO: AFP**

## NATO says foreign soldier killed in Afghan insider attack

KABUL (Afghanistan) — A foreign soldier was killed and two others wounded in an insider attack in Afghanistan on Monday, NATO said, days after a gunman wounded a US general at a high-level security meeting.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in

the western province of Herat, which it said killed or wounded “a large number of American soldiers”.

NATO’s Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan did not immediately release the nationalities of the three soldiers, but it is understood they are not

American.

“Initial reports indicate the attack was committed by a member of the Afghan security forces,” Resolute Support said in a statement.

The so-called “green-on-blue” attack was the latest in a series of such incidents in which

Afghan forces have turned their weapons on international troops with whom they are working.

It comes four days after a gunman wearing an Afghan security forces uniform opened fire on a gathering of security chiefs, including General Scott Miller, the top US and NATO

commander in Afghanistan.

Miller was not hurt in the shooting in the southern city of Kandahar that killed three people, including a powerful Afghan police chief.

US Brigadier General Jeffrey Smiley was among 13 wounded. —AFP ■

## Jihadists claim responsibility for Iran troops abduction

TEHRAN (Iran) — A jihadist group has claimed responsibility for the abduction of 12 Iranian security personnel near the border with Pakistan, Iran’s semi-official news agency ISNA reported on Monday.

“The terrorist group Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice in Arabic) has posted two photos... claiming that those in it are the forces abducted” on 16 October, ISNA said.

Jaish al-Adl, formed in 2012, is a successor to the Sunni extremist group Jundallah (Soldiers of God) which has carried out a spate of attacks on Iranian security forces in recent years in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan.

The photos show seven members of the elite Revolutionary Guards force and five

police commandos, all in combat gear, according to state news agency IRNA.

The Iranians, including intelligence offices, were abducted near Lulakdan, a village 150 kilometres (90 miles) southeast of Zahedan, capital of Sistan-Baluchistan.

They were “made unconscious” by a “single infiltrator” and then kidnapped and taken to bases inside Pakistan, said Guards commander Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, quoted by IRNA.

The photos also show a haul of automatic weapons and sniper rifles, rocket launchers, machine-guns, grenades and ammunition, apparently seized from the Iranian forces.

Sistan-Baluchistan has long been a flashpoint, with Pakistan-based Baluchi sepa-

ratists and jihadists carrying out regular cross-border raids against Iran.

The province has a large, mainly Sunni Muslim ethnic Baluchi community which straddles the border.

A delegation led by the Guards’ ground forces commander Mohammad Pakpour visited Pakistan on Monday to follow up on efforts to free the Iranians, the force said on its website.

Pakistan said last Wednesday that it has launched “active” efforts to locate the missing men.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has blamed the kidnapping on “our common enemies unhappy with the existing close, friendly relations between Pakistan and Iran”. —AFP ■

## Ethiopia inks peace deal with separatist group

ADDIS ABABA (Ethiopia) — Ethiopia said on Monday it had signed a peace deal with the separatist Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), formally ending more than three decades of insurgency in the eastern Somali regional state.

Formed in 1984, ONLF had been fighting for the rights of ethnic Somalis living in eastern Ethiopia to self-determination, including the option of secession.

Ethiopia’s Foreign Minister Workneh Gebeyehu and the vice-president of the Somali regional state Mustafa Omer travelled to the Eritrean capital Asmara to hammer out the peace deal with the ONLF. “The Ethiopian government and ONLF delegations held productive discussions and reached a historic deal that allows the ONLF to undertake a peaceful political struggle in Ethiopia,” the foreign ministry said. Since taking office in April, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has

released imprisoned dissidents and prioritised reconciling with the country’s various opposition groups. The peace talks took place after the Ethiopian parliament in July removed the ONLF from a terror list, which prompted the group to declare an indefinite unilateral ceasefire in August.

Ethiopia’s breakneck diplomatic thaw with former rival Eritrea since July, also helped turn Asmara from a chief sponsor of ONLF to one that is mediating between the two sides.

The ONLF made international headlines on 24 April, 2007, when it launched a deadly raid on a Chinese run oil field in Somali regional state. The attack left 65 Ethiopians and nine Chinese dead. After the attack, the Ethiopian government undertook a large scale counterinsurgency campaign, with rights groups accusing Addis Ababa of widespread abuses including torture, rape and murder. —AFP ■

# Trump says US to start cutting aid as migrant caravan rolls on

TAPACHULA (Mexico) — President Donald Trump said on Monday the US will start cutting aid to Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador as a caravan of thousands of mostly Honduran migrants rolled on regardless toward the US border.

Trump kept up his almost-daily Twitter attacks on the approaching caravan, calling it a national emergency and said he had alerted the US border patrol and military.

“We will now begin cutting off, or substantially reducing, the massive foreign aid” that the United States provides to the three Central American countries, he said.

Mexican authorities had managed to block the “caravan” of migrants on a border bridge between Mexico and Guatemala, but many later crossed the river below in makeshift rafts before marching north.

The caravan of around 3,000 migrants was heading on Monday to the town of Huixtla, around 40 kilometres further on from Tapachula in Chiapas State where they slept Sunday night.

“Sadly, it looks like Mexico’s Police and Military are unable to stop the Caravan heading to the Southern Border of the United States. Criminals and unknown Middle Easterners are mixed



Honduran migrants cross the border river between Guatemala and Mexico as they head to the US in a caravan at Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico on 22 October, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

in,” Trump said in one tweet.

“I have alerted Border Patrol and Military that this is a National Emergency (sic). Must change laws!”

Activists say the journey through of at least 3,000 kilometres (1,800 miles) through Mexico to the US border could take a month.

“We are well aware that this country (Mexico) didn’t receive us as we expected, and they can return us to Honduras, and we also know there are drug traffickers who kidnap and kill migrants,” Juan Flores, one of

those migrants, told AFP.

“But we live with more fear in our country, so we carry on forward,” he added.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also warned that the migrants “may be victimized by human smugglers or others who would exploit them.”

“We also are deeply concerned by the violence provoked by some members of the group, as well as the apparent political motivation of some organizers of the caravan,” Pompeo said in a statement.

About a thousand migrants,

including women and children, were still stranded on a border bridge hoping to enter Mexico legally via Guatemala.

Mexican authorities insisted those on the bridge would have to file asylum claims one at a time in order to enter the country.

And another separate group of about 1,000 Hondurans started their own march across Guatemala, headed for Mexico and then the United States. The group of men, women and children gathered in Esquipulas before setting out on foot. — AFP ■

## China, other countries should join INF Treaty, Russian senator says

MOSCOW — The Russian-US Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty should become universal and involve China and also other countries, including the United Kingdom and France, Chairman of the Russian Federation Council’s (upper house of parliament) Foreign Affairs Committee Konstantin Kosachev said on Tuesday.

“The criticism of the INF Treaty that it imposes restrictions only on the United States and Russia is justified in general and our country has also voiced a similar position many times in the past. The treaty should become universal and the Russian initiative put forward back in 2007 is on the table,” Kosachev wrote on his Facebook page.

The Russian senator has rejected the call by US President Donald Trump on China to join the treaty as “political cynicism

of the highest degree.” Kosachev noted that the UK and France, as well as India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel possess short- and intermediate-range missiles.

The suggestion that the problem will be solved by eliminating missiles of this type belonging only to Washington’s hypothetical enemies means an attempt to reshape the world and “create privileged security conditions for the West,” the senator said. Meanwhile, others will depend on the West: “the security umbrella” will be given only to those who will behave in “a right way,” he noted, voicing hope that this won’t happen under any circumstances.

“If the US withdraws from it unilaterally, there still won’t be any guarantees that a new multilateral document will be drawn up, while the US (and certainly, Russia) will have a free hand with all that it implies,” he stressed.

INF Treaty and Trump’s announcement

On 20 October, US President Donald Trump said that Washington would withdraw from the INF Treaty because Russia was allegedly violating the terms of the agreement. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov branded this as a dangerous move, while Berlin and Beijing also criticized the US plans.

Meanwhile, London voiced support for the US, while NATO held Russia responsible for Trump’s decision saying that “allies believe that the most plausible assessment would be that Russia is in violation of the INF Treaty.”

The INF Treaty was signed between the Soviet Union and the United States on 8 December, 1987 in Washington, DC and took effect on 1 June, 1988. The INF

Treaty eliminated operational and non-operational medium range (1,000-5,500 kilometres) and shorter range (500-1,000 kilometres) ground-launched missiles.

In 2014, the United States accused Russia of developing a missile with an operational range of 500 to 5,500 km. US media outlets reported that the missile was codenamed 9M729 (NATO reporting name: SSC-8). Since then, the US has repeated this claim more than once. Russia strongly dismissed it and struck back at the US with counterclaims that America had violated the deal. Moscow accused Washington of developing missiles, which are tested at a range prohibited by the treaty and deploying missile defence elements, which may be used for launching short- and intermediate-range missiles. —Tass ■

### Brief in News

Cristiano Ronaldo says he is an ‘example’ amid rape allegations

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom) — Cristiano Ronaldo stated Monday he is an “example” in his behaviour on and off the field amid allegations of rape made against the five-time Ballon d’Or winner in the United States.

“I know I am an example, 100 percent, in the pitch and outside the pitch,” Ronaldo told a press conference ahead of his return to Manchester United, where he spent six years as a player, with Juventus in the Champions League.—AFP ■

British PM May calls for ‘truth’ over Khashoggi murder

LONDON (United Kingdom) — British Prime Minister Theresa May on Monday called for the “truth” over the murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul earlier this month.

“I am sure the whole House will join me in condemning the killing of Jamal Khashoggi in the strongest possible terms. We must get to the truth of what happened,” May told parliament.

May was the first European leader to address the issue after Saudi Arabia on Saturday admitted that Khashoggi was killed inside the consulate in what it said was a “brawl”. She was speaking the day before Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is due to address ruling party lawmakers in an address he has vowed will reveal the “naked truth” about the case.—AFP ■

Trump ‘not satisfied’ with Saudi explanations of Khashoggi death

WASHINGTON (United States) — US President Donald Trump said Monday he was “not satisfied” with Riyadh’s explanation of how journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor, died inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

“I am not satisfied with what I have heard,” Trump told reporters at the White House, adding that he thought more would be known about the controversial case “very soon.”—AFP ■

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## Giant mice threaten rare seabirds on remote British island

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Mice brought to a remote South Atlantic island by sailors in the 19<sup>th</sup> century are threatening seabirds including the critically endangered Tristan albatross, a British charity said on Monday.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said the rodents have proliferated on uninhabited Gough Island, part of a British overseas territory, and are killing two million birds every year.

“We knew there were large numbers of chicks and eggs being beaten each year but the actual number being taken by the mice is just staggering,” Alex Bond, a researcher from the Natural History Museum in London, said in a statement released by the RSPB.

The predatory mice have evolved to become “two or three times larger” than the average house mouse and they attack in groups, eating away at the flesh of chicks which can suffer for days before the open wounds lead to their deaths, the RSPB said.

Other threatened species endangered by the

mice include the Gough bunting and Atlantic petrel, the RSPB said.

Gough Island is part of the same territory as Tristan da Cunha and Saint Helena, the island where Napoleon was exiled and died in 1821.

The RSPB and Tristan da Cunha government are teaming up with international partners to eradicate mice from Gough Island in 2020, using two helicopters laden with poisonous pellets.

“Restoring the island to a more natural state will prevent the deaths of millions of seabirds,” said John Kelly, RSPB manager for the Gough Island mouse eradication programme.

The RSPB said the operation would be “logistically complex” because staff and equipment would have to be shipped to the island, located 1,550 miles (2,800 kilometres) from South Africa.

The project is inspired by a successful eradication programme on the British overseas territory of South Georgia, where rats were introduced by sealing and whaling ships in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.—AFP ■

## 6.0-magnitude quake hits Hualien, Taiwan: CENC

BEIJING — A 6.0-magnitude earthquake jolted the waters off Taiwan’s Hualien County at 12:34 pm Tuesday (Beijing Time), according to the China Earthquake Networks Center.

The epicenter was monitored at about 24.01 degrees north latitude and 122.65 degrees east longitude. The quake struck at a depth of 30 km, the center said in a statement. — Xinhua ■

## Hurricane Willa upgraded to Category 5 storm off Mexico

MEXICO CITY (Mexico) — Hurricane Willa was upgraded to a “potentially catastrophic” Category 5 storm on Monday off Mexico’s Pacific coast, where it was expected to produce life-threatening wind and flooding, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

The powerful hurricane was on course to slam into Mexico somewhere around the resort town of Mazatlan on Tuesday afternoon or evening, the NHC said in its 1500 GMT advisory.

It now has maximum sustained winds of 260 kilometres (160 miles) per hour, making it a maximum Category 5 hurricane, it said. “Slight weakening is forecast to begin on Tuesday, but Willa is expected to be an extremely dangerous major hurricane when it reaches the coast of Mexico,” it said.

Willa is expected to



View of waves in Mazatlan, Sinaloa state, Mexico on 22 October, 2018, before the arrival of Hurricane Willa. Hurricane Willa upgraded to maximum Category 5 storm, US forecasters informed. **PHOTO: AFP**

dump 15 to 30 centimetres (six to 12 inches) of rain on parts of Jalisco, Nayarit and Sinaloa states, with some areas getting up to 45 centimetres (18 inches), it said.

“This rainfall will cause life-threatening flash flooding and landslides,” it warned. Large storm swells off the coast are also “likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current

conditions,” it said.

The storm was located about 215 kilometres (135 miles) southwest of Cabo Corrientes, churning north at 11 kilometres (seven miles) per hour.

Mexico’s government has put various parts of the coast on alert. Elsewhere, Tropical Storm Vicente — with maximum sustained winds of 75 kilometres per hour — was expected to

bring “heavy rainfall and flooding” over Mexico’s south and southwest. Mexico’s Pacific coast has already been hit by deadly storms and rains this hurricane season.

In September, at least 15 people were killed when flash floods hit the states of Sinaloa and Michoacan, and last week 11 more died in Oaxaca, including seven children.—AFP ■

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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.

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# Prince Harry goes solo on royal tour as pregnant Meghan rests



Prince Harry was greeted with a traditional Aboriginal ceremony from the local Butchulla people on the peaceful shores of Lake McKenzie. **PHOTO: AFP**

FRASER ISLAND (Australia) — Prince Harry greeted an Aboriginal community on the stunning World Heritage-listed Fraser

Island on Monday as his pregnant wife Meghan took a break from official duties during the royal couple's Australian tour.

The pair have already travelled to Sydney, Melbourne and the regional town of Dubbo since touching down in Australia last

Monday, drawing thousands of screaming fans to their events.

The visit to Fraser Island off the coast of Queensland state took on a different tone, as the Duke of Sussex was greeted with a traditional Aboriginal ceremony from the local Butchulla people on the peaceful shores of Lake McKenzie.

Harry later walked barefoot on the soft white sands of the lake, a source of drinking water for the Butchulla people, and splashed water on his face.

Fraser is the world's largest sand island and the prince was due to unveil a plaque to dedicate the holiday site's acres of rainforests to the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy project.

His visit will also touch on other environmental issues, a cause close to his father Prince Charles' heart, when he meets with park rangers to learn more about the island's plants and animals.

Later, he will meet with two Hervey Bay paramedics, who are being recognised for granting a dying woman's final wish by taking her to the beach.

A photo of a paramedic beside a stretcher facing the ocean was posted on Facebook last year and went viral around the world.

The royal couple had earlier arrived in Queensland by plane before travelling to the island separately.

Harry boarded a barge, a route used by tourists to travel to the island, while the Duchess of Sussex took a different vessel and then retreated to a private residence.

Her choice of dress, a maroon number with white polka dots, sparked excitement in Queensland, as the deep brownish-red happens to also been the official colour of the state.

The pair are due to visit Fiji and Tonga after Fraser Island. —AFP ■

## Inaugural China Now Music Festival under way in New York

NEW YORK — The inaugural season of the China Now Music Festival is under way in New York, presenting seven world premieres by some of the well-known Chinese composers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The 2018 China Now Music Festival is presented by the US-China Music Institute of Bard College Conservatory of Music in collaboration with Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM) in Beijing, and it is dedicated to promoting an understanding and appreciation of music from contemporary China through an annual series of concerts and academic activities, according to the institute director Jindong Cai.

The festival for its debut run has as its theme "Facing the Past, Looking to the Future: Chinese Composers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." All concerts feature the Bard college's renowned The Orchestra Now conducted by Jindong Cai, also artistic director of the festival, and Chen Lin, a professor in CCOM's Music Conducting Department.

"Western classical music is developing in China at phenomenal speed, but just as exciting is the freshness that Chinese composers bring to the Western world," said Cai. "With

the China Now Music Festival as our looking glass, we hope to bring people and cultures from East and West together through music."

The opening concert, at 8:00 pm on Friday at the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York State, includes world premiere of one work by a composer from CCOM. The concert also premieres Chen Yi and Zhou Long's *Humen 1839* and Ye Xiaogang's *My Faraway Nanjing* for cello and orchestra in the United States.

The second concert, which will be held at 3:00 pm on Sunday in the Lincoln Centre, focuses on how Chinese composers have looked into the past. The programme confronts three significant events in Chinese history: the first Opium War of 1839-42, the Nanjing Massacre of 1937, and what is now known as the "sent-down youth" movement during the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76.

The Carnegie Hall concert, at 7:30 pm on Monday, will look to the future, with a program consisting entirely of world-premiere compositions by CCOM's composition faculty. —Xinhua ■



Swedish House Mafia DJs Axwell, Steve Angello (c) and Sebastian Ingrosso have announced they are getting the band back together. **PHOTO: AFP**

## DJ super group Swedish House Mafia reunite

STOCKHOLM (Sweden) — Electronic DJ supergroup Swedish House Mafia on Monday announced they will reunite for a concert in Stockholm next year, hinting a tour with new music would follow.

The trio of Axwell, Steve Angello and Sebastian Ingrosso had a string of international hits in the early 2010s before splitting up more than five years ago.

After making a surprise appearance at a US festival in March, rumours of the EDM group getting back together grew until a clock appeared on their website last week counting down to a live-streamed press conference on Monday.

"We are coming home," Angello said in the announcement, which was entirely in Swedish.

"We start in Stockholm

and are going to play the Tele2 Arena on 4 May, 2019."

The group also indicated that more touring would follow and hinted that they have recorded new music.

Swedish House Mafia began performing in 2008 and saw international success with a number of hits, including "One (Your Name)", "Save the World" and "Don't You Worry Child". —AFP ■

## Mars likely to have enough oxygen to support life: study

PARIS (France) — Salty water just below the surface of Mars could hold enough oxygen to support the kind of microbial life that emerged and flourished on Earth billions of years ago, researchers reported on Monday.

In some locations, the amount of oxygen available could even keep alive a primitive, multicellular animal such as a sponge, they reported in the journal *Nature Geosciences*.

“We discovered that brines” — water with high concentrations of salt — “on Mars can contain enough oxygen for microbes to breathe,” said lead author Vlada Stamenkovic, a theoretical physicist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California.

“This fully revolutionises our understanding of the potential for life on Mars, today and in the past,” he told AFP.

Up to now, it had been assumed that the trace amounts

we thought of life on Mars — we studied the potential for anaerobic life,” Stamenkovic.

### Life on Mars?

The new study began with the discovery by NASA’s Curiosity Mars rover of manganese oxides, which are chemical compounds that can only be produced with a lot of oxygen.

Curiosity, along with Mars orbiters, also established the presence of brine deposits, with notable variations in the elements they contained.

A high salt content allows for water to remain liquid — a necessary condition for oxygen to be dissolved — at much lower temperatures, making brines a happy place for microbes.

Depending on the region, season and time of day, temperatures on the Red Planet can vary between minus 195 and 20 degrees Celsius (minus 319 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit).



The new research was made possible by the discovery by NASA’s Curiosity Mars rover of manganese oxides. **PHOTO: AFP**

of oxygen on Mars were insufficient to sustain even microbial life.

“We never thought that oxygen could play a role for life on Mars due to its rarity in the atmosphere, about 0.14 per cent,” Stamenkovic said.

By comparison, the life-giving gas makes up 21 per cent of the air we breathe.

On Earth, aerobic — that is, oxygen breathing — life forms evolved together with photosynthesis, which converts CO<sub>2</sub> into O<sub>2</sub>. The gas played a critical role in the emergence of complex life, notable after the so-called Great Oxygenation Event some 2.35 billion years ago.

But our planet also harbours microbes — at the bottom of the ocean, in boiling hot springs — that subsist in environments deprived of oxygen.

“That’s why — whenever

The researchers devised a first model to describe how oxygen dissolves in salty water at temperatures below freezing.

A second model estimated climate changes on Mars over the last 20 million years, and over the next 10 million years.

Taken together, the calculations showed which regions on the Red Planet are most likely to produce brine-based oxygen, data that could help determine the placement of future probes.

“Oxygen concentrations [on Mars] are orders of magnitude” — several hundred times — “greater than needed by aerobic, or oxygen-breathing — microbes,” the study concluded.

“Our results do not imply that there is life on Mars,” Stamenkovic cautioned. “But they show that the Martian habitability is affected by the potential of dissolved oxygen.” —AFP ■



Elon Musk said his Boring Company will hold an event to open its first test tunnel 10 December that will travel 155 miles per hour. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Musk says LA Hyperloop tunnel to be unveiled 10 December

NEW YORK (United States) — Elon Musk’s Hyperloop ultra high-speed transport system will be unveiled in Los Angeles in early December with free test rides to the public, the entrepreneur announced.

“The first tunnel is almost done,” Musk said on Twitter late on Sunday night. “Opens 10 December.”

Responding to comments on Twitter, Musk said there would be an opening event that night and “free rides for the public next day.”

Musk’s venture, “The Boring Company,” has been pushing the underground system as a futuristic concept that could radically speed transport within and between cities.

In another tweeted response,

Musk said the test tunnel has a top speed of 155 miles per hour (250 kilometers).

Supporters of the technology have discussed a vision where a trip between Los Angeles might take 30 minutes instead of five or six hours.

A hyperloop is a shuttle that travels on magnetic rails, somewhat like a train, but which runs in a tube with little or no air. In theory, hyperloops could allow travel faster than the speed of sound.

In a presentation in Los Angeles in May, Musk said vehicles could reach downtown LA from its international airport in under 10 minutes, with a long-term objective of reaching over 300 miles an hour.

Hyperloop is one of Musk’s

envelope-pushing ventures, along with SpaceX and Tesla Motors. Shares of Tesla have fallen more than 30 per cent since 7 August, when he famously tweeted that he had funding lined up to take Tesla private.

He subsequently paid a \$20 million fine to settle after the US Securities and Exchange Commission accused the entrepreneur of fraud.

Another visionary entrepreneur, Richard Branson, who like Musk also is involved in space travel, is backing a Virgin Hyperloop One which has been testing in Nevada and opened a research center in southern Spain.

And Canadian company Transpod is working to begin testing the system in France. —AFP ■

## Eye disorder may have helped Da Vinci’s art: journal

LONDON (United Kingdom) — A common eye disorder may help explain Leonardo Da Vinci’s talent for three-dimensional representation and the sense of perspective in his mountain landscapes, according to research published in an academic journal.

The study looked at two sculptures, two oil paintings and two drawings by the Renaissance master which it said showed “a consistent exotropic strabismus angle of -10.3 degrees”.

Exotropic strabismus is a form of eye misalignment and is the opposite of crossed eyes, or esotropia. A misalignment of 10.3 degrees would be considered a medium level.

People with strabismus often have monocular instead of binocular vision, meaning that



A study in the *JAMA Ophthalmology* journal suggests a common eye disorder may have helped Leonardo Da Vinci’s art. **PHOTO: AFP**

both eyes are used separately thereby increasing the field of view and depth perception.

“The presence of exotropia, particularly if it was intermittent, may have contributed to da Vinci’s exceptional ability to capture space on the flat canvas,” according to the research

published in the *JAMA Ophthalmology* journal this month.

The journal said da Vinci’s condition would be particularly helpful “for depicting the 3-dimensional solidity of faces and objects in the world and the distant depth-recession of mountain scenes”. —AFP ■



Myanmar Mandalay U-14 Academy (orange) vies Japan Fukushima U-14 Academy for the ball. **PHOTO: MFF**

## Japan wins Myanmar 2-1 in MFF U-14 Youth Football Tournament

JAPAN Fukushima U-14 Academy won Myanmar Mandalay U-14 Academy with a narrow margin of 2-1. Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) held MFF U-14 Youth Football Tournament inviting Thailand U-14 and Japan U-14.

The tournament is a round-robin format.

Pathein U-14 Academy, Mandalay U-14 Academy, Thailand U-14 and Japan Fukushima U-14 Academy are participating in the invitational football tournament.

U Zaw Zaw, the President of MFF, enjoyed the match and then he met and comforted Wai Yan Lin Thu from Pathein Academy, who sustained an injury during the match. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

## Myanmar to host 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games from 8 to 19 December

THE 2018 ASEAN University Games, also known as the 19th ASEAN University Games, a Southeast Asian university multi-sports event, will be held in Myanmar from 8 to 19 December in 2018.

The Ministry of Health and Sports organized the 19<sup>th</sup> AUG Organization Committee, which was led by Chairperson Vice-President U Myint Swe and other ten working committees. They selected the athletes from all of the universities and trained them. This is the first time Myanmar will host the ASEAN University Games.

The showcase of the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games will feature 17 sports. There will be 13 venues for the games. The athlete's village is in Zabuthiri Township with two Cluster, Myitkyina Cluster and Monywa Cluster.

Myanmar will take part in all sporting games as it has to host the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games for the first time. There will be 215 sporting events and a total of 215 gold medals will be awarded. Myanmar secured only a silver medal in 2016 and a gold medal, for silver medals and 14 bronze medals in 2004. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

## Garcia delights in 'dream' Valderrama treble

SOTOGRADE (Spain) — Sergio Garcia said it was a "dream come true" to win a third Valderrama Masters title on Monday, as the Spaniard continued his strong end to an otherwise difficult year.

The 38-year-old has been revitalised since being named as a wildcard pick for Europe's triumphant Ryder Cup team, posting his first top-10 finish since July in Portugal before winning three matches against the United States in Paris.

He was at his very best during the weather-hit tournament in Andalusia, holding off a Shane Lowry charge with a two-under 69 in the third and final round to win by four shots on 12-under-par overall.

"To be able to win three times here in Valderrama is a

dream come true," said Garcia, who has won the event the last three times it has been played, after victories in 2011 and 2017.

"It's so difficult, this golf course is so challenging. For me to be able to shoot three rounds under par with the positions we played all week, all the rain we had...

I'm very proud of that."

The former Masters champion went into Monday's re-

with a three-shot lead over Lee Westwood after seven holes of his round. But while former world number one Westwood fell away, Irishman Lowry stormed out of the pack with three birdies in a row to get to nine-under for the tournament and only one stroke off the lead. A double-bogey on the par-three 15th ended his challenge, though, and Garcia made two birdies in the final five holes to secure a 15th European Tour title and seventh on home soil in Spain.

"I knew the guys would attack, they would be going after me," Garcia said. "Obviously Shane was playing well, he got close to me, then unfortunately he doubled 15."

Finland's Mikko Korhonen finished third on six-under, one stroke ahead of Englishman Ashley Chesters.

Home player Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano finished in a tie for fifth with Westwood and Maximilian Kieffer to keep his European Tour card for next season. —AFP ■



Sergio Garcia won his third Valderrama Masters title. **PHOTO: AFP**

## AFC 'C' coaching certificate course concludes

A ceremony to close AFC 'C' coaching certificate course was held at Tatmadaw Self-Defence and Sports Institute in Yemon on 21 October.

The course was opened with the aim of improving Myanmar football sport and enhancing capacity of Tatmadaw football coaches from 9 to 21 October and AFC Instructor U Tin Myint Aung gave lecture to the trainee officers.

Present on the occasion were Colonel Than Hlaing, Principal of Tatmadaw Self-Defence and Sports Institute, Chairman

of Tatmadaw Football Committee, Lt-Col Thet Zaw, Deputy Principal of Tatmadaw Self-Defence and Sports Institute, U Ko Ko Thein, General Secretary of Myanmar Football Federation, U Soe Moe Kyaw, CEO of Myanmar National League, U Tin Myint Aung, Joint General Secretary of MFF and AFC Instructor, officials and trainee officers.

A total of 24 military officers attended the course and it was the third time to open the AFC-recognized course for Tatmadaw football coaches. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



AFC Instructor U Tin Myint Aung presents an AFC 'C' coaching certificate to a trainee. **PHOTO: MFF**