

## NATIONAL

VP U Myint Swe attends 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting

PAGE-2

## NATIONAL

Over 4,580 acres released by MoHA, MoALI returned to 805 farmers in PyinOoLwin

PAGE-4

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President U Win Myint accepts the credentials of incoming Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the Presidential Palace. **PHOTO: MNA**

## President accepts credentials of Ambassador of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

H.E. Mr. Jorge Rondon Uzcategui, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to H.E. U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Credential

Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:45 am yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Director-General of the Protocol Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Thant Sin.—MNA

### Neos Airline launches direct charter flight from Milan to Yangon

MILAN-BASED NEOS Airline officially launched its Yangon-Milan direct charter flight yesterday, with a chartered Boeing 767-300 ERW on Mondays and Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner every Wednesday.

SEE PAGE-11



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the meeting on the Yangon General Hospital Reinvigoration at University of Medicine-1 in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: BO BO**

## More work needed to raise standard of care at Yangon General Hospital: State Counsellor

YANGON General Hospital has become a reliable provider of medical care for the people in past years, but much work still needs to be accomplished to reach the required medical standards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday.

She made her remarks at the meeting on the Yangon General Hospital Reinvigoration, held at the University of Medicine-1 (Yangon) yesterday.

“Thanks to the efforts of responsible personnel and experts, we can say that Yangon General Hospital has returned to becoming the most reliable hospital

for the people in the past years, but it has not reached the standards that we targeted,” said the State Counsellor.

Speaking at the meeting, the State Counsellor also stressed the need to take the long-term development model of the hospital into consideration when the reinvigoration measures are carried out for the entire hospital, and not just for each building.

The Hluttaw approved the Yangon General Hospital reinvigoration and upgrading project in December 2012, and the project began in 2013.

SEE PAGE-2

## INSIDE TODAY

## NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives New Zealand Ambassador

PAGE-6



## NATIONAL

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives New Zealand Ambassador

PAGE-6



## NATIONAL

UEC Chairman receives US Ambassador to Myanmar

PAGE-12



## More work needed to raise standard of care at Yangon General Hospital...

FROM PAGE-1

At the beginning of her remarks, the State Counsellor expressed her pleasure for having the opportunity to participate in improving the hospital since the project began.

She said the incumbent government has made strenuous efforts to ensure the delivery of public health care, because if public health activities provide good care, then people will need treatment at the hospital less frequently.

Also, the fewer the number of patients at the hospital, the greater the quality and higher standard of medical care can be given to each patient in the hospital, she noted.

"The incumbent government is carrying out public health works from a basic level, highlighting the importance of public health as part of efforts to decrease the risks when receiving care at the hospital, and to



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the meeting on the Yangon General Hospital Reinvigoration in Yangon. **PHOTO: BOBO**

increase the level of health care for patients needing to receive treatment at the hospital," said the State Counsellor.

The number of patients who received medical treatment at Yangon General Hospital increased from 245,790 in 2013 to 440,231 in 2017, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

There were 89,872 in-patients and 23,745 patients who underwent operations in 2017.

"To be able to provide quality medical treatment to such high numbers of patients, and to

establish departments systematically, the reinvigoration and upgrading of Yangon General Hospital is being carried out," said Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

Measures were taken to ensure successes, and steps were put in place to carry out long-term plans, he added.

Renovation of the main building of the hospital, teaching by foreign professors, and creating digital health records are being carried out at the hospital by the Rangoon General

Hospital Reinvigoration Charity Trust-RGHR.

Mr. Robin Cross, Consultant for the Rangoon General Hospital Reinvigoration Charitable Trust-RGHR, suggested that a committee be formed on implementing long-term plans and a national-level management committee for carrying out plans for the hospital, to be able to effectively complete the project.

Also, Dr. Tin Myo Win, member of the supporting group for Yangon General Hospital, expressed his thanks to the Yangon

Region Government for settling the issue of squatters and taxis being parked in the compound of the hospital.

Dr. Kyaw Myint, member of the committee, suggested there needs to be harmony between the old buildings and planned new buildings for the hospital.

Finally, Daw Nilar Kyaw, of Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation, suggested the Ministry of Health and Sports assign more engineers to assist with the project. —MNA

## VP U Myint Swe attends 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting

THE 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ASEAN Education Ministers (ASEM) was held at Hotel Kempinski in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, in which Vice President U Myint Swe delivered an address at the opening ceremony.

The meeting was opened with the ASEAN Anthem.

The Vice President began his address by saying it was an honor for Myanmar to be hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Meeting, and he welcomed all attendees.

He also noted the benefits the meeting will generate, in exchanging views with ministers from ASEAN countries and the ASEAN Secretary-General, as well as discussing the various levels of formal education, vocational training and the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016-2020.

The Vice President mentioned that the National Education Law, enacted in 2014, calls for every child to receive primary education and to develop methods for children without easy access to education. He said the law requires every citizen to receive a minimum of



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the opening speech at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ASEAN Education Ministers (ASEM) in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

a primary education and have opportunities to continue further education at a later time. He added that the law also works to develop the language, history and culture of ethnic nationals, while ensuring the capacity of educators is qualified in their respective fields.

The Vice President said the Ministry of Education is collaborating with relevant organizations to accomplish the objectives laid down in the National Education Strategic Plan 2016-2021, which consists

of improving the quality of education, vocational training and practice, research and innovation in every school and educational institution in the country. He said the Union government has increased the budget of the MoE (Ministry of Education) every year to reach these goals.

The Vice President concluded his speech by expressing his hope that the results of discussions for the ASEAN education work plan will benefit all countries in the region.

Next, artists from the De-

partment of Fine Arts, under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, performed 'Mingalarbar ASEAN' and 'Forever Myanmar'. The Vice President then took a documentary photo with the attendees.

Attending the opening ceremony were Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Ministers U Win Maw Tun and Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Tin Tun, the ASEAN Secretary-General, education ministers and deputy ministers

from Southeast Asia and other associate countries, high-level officials from East Asian countries, directors-general, deputy directors-general professors, deputy professors from various countries, the Executive Director of ASEAN University Network, the SEAMEO Director, and invited guests from ASEAN associate countries.

Other meetings to be held today include the ASEAN Plus Three Meeting and East Asia Associate Countries Meeting. —MNA ■



# President U Win Myint accepts credentials of Ambassador of Federal Republic of Nigeria

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to H.E. U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 am yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Director-General of the Protocol Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Thant Sin.—MNA ■

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Director-General of the Protocol Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Thant Sin.—MNA ■



President U Win Myint receives incoming Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Mr. Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli at the Presidential Palace yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

# VP U Myint Swe says Myanmar always prepared to eliminate crime: 12<sup>th</sup> AMMTC

Myanmar is a member of ASEAN and has performed its responsibilities in forming the ASEAN community. Myanmar will cooperate in the establishment of peace, stability, security, and prosperity, for itself and every other associate countries, and is always ready to collaborate with fellow ASEAN countries under the ASEAN framework to eliminate transnational crime and develop the region, said Vice President U Myint Swe.

He made his remarks during his speech at the opening ceremony of the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and its Related Meetings (12<sup>th</sup> AMMTC), held at the Myanmar International Convention Center II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Vice President also highlighted the importance of gaining public trust by implementing modern preventive measures against crimes and violence. He said that with the development of urban infrastructures, transparent trade, modern communication methods and natural disasters can result in becoming endangered by crime, both individually and globally. He said the root causes of criminal activities must be handled in advance, while adhering to the UN Crime Prevention Guidelines.

The Vice President noted that the effective handling, prevention and solving of transnational crimes, and unconven-



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the opening ceremony of the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and its Related Meetings in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

tional security concerns, must be emphasized, as they can hinder the forming of a free and developed society in the ASEAN region. He called for uniting the skills and strength within ASEAN to take a firm stance against poverty, inequality, religion-based terrorism and the destruction of natural resources in the ASEAN region.

The Vice President said implementing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 requires an emphasis on improving public livelihoods, justice, basic rights and security, sustainability of the environment, a better understanding of ASEAN and

gaps in developmental stages. He mentioned that the increasing transnational crimes in the

... multiple 5-year strategic plans and yearly schemes have been drawn up to combat the five criminal areas.

region will need ASEAN to effectively repress it.

Myanmar signed the Unit-

ed Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its ensuing protocols on 30 March 2004, when it became a member country, said the Vice President. He noted that Myanmar and Thailand are the leading countries in the push against drug trafficking in the ASEAN region, adding that the fight against drugs and human trafficking, money laundering, cybercrimes and terrorism are being upheld as national duties.

Laws and bylaws for eradicating these five areas have been enacted and four executive committees have been formed with Union-level ministers at

the helm to lead these endeavors. He said a transnational crime department was formed under the Myanmar Police Force in 2005 and was elevated to a higher department status in 2014. He mentioned that multiple 5-year strategic plans and yearly schemes have been drawn up to combat the five criminal areas.

He noted that the experiences and successes of ASEAN over its 51-year course can be attributed to its unity and unanimous agreement, based on which, discussions and coordination need to be made. He concluded by saying the outcome of the day's meeting will produce good results not only for ASEAN, but the entire world, as well.

Next, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe confirmed the drafting of an ASEAN action plan for the prevention and eradication of terrorism and emergence of extremism. He was also able to confirm the four interconnected action points for countering transnational crimes through regional socio-economic development will be continued.

Afterwards, the Vice President watched performances from the Department of Fine Arts and then took a documentary photo with the attendees.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe chaired the second half of the ceremony and later continued with the 12<sup>th</sup> AMMTC meeting.—MNA ■



# Over 4,580 acres released by MoHA, MoALI returned to 805 farmers in PyinOoLwin

OUT of 4790 farmland released by Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of Agriculture, Live-stock and Irrigation in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region, over 4,580 acres were returned to 805 farmers yesterday in the presence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

At the ceremony in PinOoLwin, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, said in his capacity as the Chairman of the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands, expressed thanks to the two ministries and authorities concerned for releasing the farmland, and urged the farmers to work hard to produce agricultural outputs which can support the economy of the country.

Yesterday's ceremony to return the confiscated farmland to farmers became the eight event in Mandalay Region reaching the highest number of farmland returned to farmers in states and regions.

The Vice President said the national-level land use council is making efforts for systematic share of the country's land resource as part of efforts for promoting the socio-economy of the people.

The central committee formed in May 2016 established region and state-level sub-committees for scrutinizing land confiscation issues and laid down 52-point work process to solve the issues.

"To increase the number of arable land, farmers are allowed to apply for utilizing reclaimed land in accordance with the rules and regulations at respective region and state land management work committees and when the production from the land is stable, these land are changed as farmland under the Farmland Law," said the Vice President.

He urged the farmers nationwide to work on the farmland with accountability and responsibility for sustainable development without damaging the environment.

The Vice President called for the farmers to conserve the environment for the ecology system of the country while keeping on alert to environmental damages including depletion of forests and rivers.

"Only when we minimize such losses as much as we can,



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the ceremony in PyinOoLwin where 4,580 acres of farmland out of 4,790 acres released by two union-level ministries were returned to farmers. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects coffee plants and products at the Central Department on Coffee Research and Technology in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNA**

will we see the fruits of our efforts," said the Vice President.

At the ceremony, the Central Fire Services Training School of the Ministry of Home Affairs returned 271.78 acres, out of released 290 acres to 61 farmers and Mandalay Region Cooperatives Syndicate returned 4,308.72 acres, out of 4,500 acres, to 744 farmers.

Deputy Minister of Defence Rear Admiral Myint Nwe, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Live-stock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, Mandalay Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Dr. Khin Maung Htay and members of the Mandalay Region Cabinet handed land use form-3 to the farmers.

**VP U Henry Van Thio inspects coffee, silkworm**

## farms

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and his entourage travelled to PyinOoLwin to inspect the Central Department on Coffee Research and Spreading Technology, under the Coffee-Seasonal Crops Sub-department of the Department of Agriculture, yesterday.

## Coffee production in Myanmar

Deputy Director-General U Zaw Tun Myint and Director U Myint Swe from the Department of Agriculture explained to the Vice President about Myanmar's coffee plantations and production, dispersing of good-quality seeds, conducting trainings for cultivators and workshops on coffee planting, plans for opening

laboratories, signing the GAP to acquire 16 plant breeds, cooperating with private and international organizations to elevate the quality of coffee and in turn raise prices, and the successful holding of coffee forums.

The Vice President responded that new ways must be found to increase coffee production in areas with low rates and highlighted the importance of each matter explained to him. He said coffee is a major global market and can heavily influence the increase of exported goods. He said Viet Nam generates about US\$ 3 billion in coffee exports annually and Myanmar, in contrast, imports US\$ 100 million worth of coffee annually. He said Myanmar's natural environment is suitable for growing internation-

ally qualified coffee and urged for expansion of plantations to simultaneously increase foreign revenue and decrease trade deficit by gradually replacing imported coffee.

The Vice President then inspected the regional coffee products, research gardens, the coffee cup test room, a grinding factory, natural fertilizers, laboratories, and Doekwin farm.

## Silkworm and mulberry

Afterwards, the Vice President and entourage travelled to the Agriculture Research Centre in PyinOoLwin where Deputy Director-General U Zaw Tun Myint and Director U Aung Moe from the Department of Agriculture explained about the planting and harvesting of mulberry trees, rearing of silkworms, reeling of silk from the cocoons, the state of department-owned agriculture farms and factories, and future projects going forward. The Vice President responded to the explanations and gave necessary instructions before touring the facilities.

## National Kandawgyi Botanical Garden

The Vice President and entourage then travelled to the National Kandawgyi Botanical Garden and viewed the shady trees, rare flora, the orchid garden and the butterfly museum. The botanical garden was established to provide a recreational area for locals and tourists and to preserve plant species.

## New Mandalay Resort City

In the afternoon, the Vice President and entourage arrived at the construction for New Mandalay Resort City where Director-General U Min Htein of the Department of Urban and Housing Development explained about the project, completion of invitation for expression of interests and future processes. The Vice President gave instructions as necessary and then observed the resort city project area by car and inspected Burst Transmission Co. Ltd built in the area, which produces cameras, printers and their related accessories, fiber parts and sensors for CCTV and scanning machines.

The Vice President and entourage arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw by nightfall. —MNA ■



# MRF personnel meet with ITC delegation

OFFICIALS from the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) held discussions with a delegation from the International Trade Center, led by Mr. Charles Roberge, adviser for the ITC concerning development of the rice sector, yesterday at the office of the MRF.

At the discussion, the MRF gathered all stakeholders from various sectors, including farming and production, milling and trading. All involved in supply chain needs and the National Export Strategy described their requests. Additionally, 64 suggestions came from the Myanmar Rice Federation Stakeholder Forum 2018. MRF called for ITC cooperation in implementing the plan for development of the rice sector.

The National Export Strategy Myanmar is a de-

tailed framework and decision-making instrument to guide the country's trade development and boost its competitiveness in exports.

It also outlines concrete, market-based solutions to address constraints affecting Myanmar's competitiveness in global markets. It is the NES's vision to create "sustainable export-led growth and prosperity for an emerging Myanmar." The NES provides a targeted plan for Myanmar to effectively allocate resources, including financial, technical and institutional, for specific trade development priorities. In doing so, the NES aims to stimulate the country's trade and export sector, creating jobs and contributing to the overall socio-economic development of the country.

NES program was launched in 2015.

The goals of the NES to increase competitiveness and diversification are guided by the following strategic objectives – fostering sustainable, inclusive and equitable export-led growth; ensuring a consistent, predictable and transparent policy to develop a legal and regulatory framework; developing competitive, diversified and branded exports; building modern, enabled and supportive institutions to respond to the diverse needs of exporters; and the building of physical trade infrastructures.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, export products under NES, such as rice, fishery products and garments, earned record revenues.

NES was drawn up through 2019, and the proposed new sectors will be included in the NES in about 2020. —GNLM ■

# Over 900 tons of rubber exported to neighbouring countries in one week

A total of 929 tons of rubber, valued at US\$1.14 million, were exported to neighbouring countries China and Thailand through border checkpoints between 6 and 12 October, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's rubber exports to China, however, declined that week, though Myanmar-Thailand border gates witnessed an increase in rubber exports, with 60 per cent of the latex passing through Tachilek gate.

The second week of October's rubber exports were down by 1,652 tons, compared to the previous week. One ton of ribbed smoke sheet rubber

RSS3 cost Ks1.75 million, which was an increase of over Ks7,500 against the previous week.

Also, during the second-week of October, 783 tons of rubber, with an estimated value of nearly \$1 million, were shipped through sea routes to Pakistan, Japan, China and South Korea.

Rubber varieties include ribbed smoked sheet RSS 1,3,5, Myanmar Standard Rubber MSR-20, and Crepe Rubber.

During that week, rubber prices remained unchanged, while global rubber prices fluctuated a bit, according to the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association. —GNLM ■

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## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives New Zealand Ambassador



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Steve Marshall in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Steve Marshall at the Pyithu Hluttaw's guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the role of the Myanmar parliaments

(Hluttaws) in the democratic transformation process and peace in the union, as well as the Hluttaws' legislative procedures. Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA ■

## Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives New Zealand Ambassador



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets with New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Steve Marshall in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Steve Marshall, at the Amyotha Hluttaw's guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed promoting bilateral relations and friendship between the two countries, parlia-

mentary procedures along with legislation, promoting the capacities of Hluttaw representatives and staff, along with matters relating to the peace process.

Also present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA ■

## 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE first day of the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and its Related Meeting (12<sup>th</sup> AMMTC) were held at Myanmar International Convention Center II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The 12<sup>th</sup> AMMTC and its Related Meeting were attended by ministerial level delegates from 10 ASEAN countries, as well as from China, Japan and South Korea, along with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting (DGICM), as well as high-ranking leaders and representatives from the respective countries.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe chaired the 12<sup>th</sup> AMMTC.

During the meeting, ministers from 10 ASEAN countries discussed their views on the prevention and combating of regional transnational crime, and the implementing works of the respective countries.

The matters related to 22<sup>nd</sup> DGICM's consular guide and 2018-2025 Plan of Action to prevent and combat breeding extremists and extremism were discussed at the meeting, and the country to host the 13<sup>th</sup> AMMTC was also agreed upon.

The second day of the 12<sup>th</sup> AMMTC and its Related Meeting will continue at MICC-II today.—MNA ■



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe attends the 12<sup>th</sup> AMMTC in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Final Workshop on Myanmar Climate Change Alliance Programme held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE MoU on the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance Programme (MCCA), signed in 2014 between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and UNEP and UN-Habitat, officially ended yesterday on 31 October. A final workshop was held at 9am yesterday, and Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, who is also the Chairman of the National-Level Environmental Conversation and Climate Change Central Committee, delivered an address.

The Union Minister said the implementation of the strategic policy to effectively solve disasters caused by climate change, promotion of the performance of coordinating organizations, development

of human resources, and successful implementation of the alliance programme, according to the permit of the Union government for the preparedness, with the aim to widely coordinate and effectively implement the work program for transformation of the country. He also mentioned the alliance programme relating to climate change, which was implemented over 4 years.

He said climate change is a global problem that threatens the socio-economic development of each country, and is also a priority to be considered and put in place for the planning of future socio-economic development work programmes.

He said that developing countries, including Myanmar, are facing problems,

such as damaged homes, due to extreme weather changes. The consequences of climate change are food shortages and outbreaks of diseases, with poor people especially suffering from the effects.

The Union Minister said there is a need to plan strong programmes to accommodate, resist and reduce climate change, in the long run.

Accommodating and resisting climate change are priority processes, while on the other hand, priority must be given to investment and development processes for lessening carbon production, in addition to a balanced combination with development and environmental maintenance.

For the development of the country, if the green investment processes are un-

able to attract investment in the industry and energy sector, and the transportation and urban development sector, it can lead to increased carbon production and consequences that will contribute to negative climate change. The national-level policy of climate change and main programme work (2018-2030) are already drawn, with the support of EU, UNEP and UN Habitat.

Next, Head of Cooperation of EU Johann Hess and Country Programme Manager from UN-Habitat Bijay Karmacharya delivered opening speeches and then displayed documentary photos of the "Myanmar Climate Change Alliance Programme" and "Warmer Days: Myanmar in the Age of Climate Change".—MNA ■



## Depreciation of Myanmar Kyat

Analyzing the depreciation of Myanmar Kyat, although it started with the external impacts, the domestic factors that include, but are not limited to, weak economic fundamentals and structural issues have significant impacts on the exchange rate. Looking at trade, the trade deficit was US\$3.8 billion in 2017-18 and it is actually lower than previous years.

In 2016-2017, trade deficit was US\$5.2 billion and it was US\$5.4 billion in 2015-2016. It is evident that these deficits have had a lot of pressure on the domestic currency.

Second, changes in seasonal foreign currency demands have also had impacts on the exchange rate. Especially during the period from July to December, demands for foreign currency had been usually high.

In order to reduce the trade deficit, to strengthen the domestic economy and to be resilient, and to withstand various impacts, the Union government has been going through various reform processes in cooperation with the private sector stakeholders.

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

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives British Supreme Court delegation

PYIDAUNGSSU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Tun Hein received a delegation led by British Supreme Court Judge Rt. Hon Lord Carnwath, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they exchanged views regarding the friendship and cooperation between Britain and Myanmar, and discussed the legislative processes of the Myanmar Hluttaws, as well as environmental conservation laws. —MNA ■



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein holds talk with British Supreme Court Judge Rt. Hon Lord Carnwath in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## MDY department deputy director, staff charged with corruption

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has received a report from the Mandalay Region government on their Rural Road Development Department for taking bribes from

companies competing in a tender in 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The commission acted on the report and examined the lawsuit by forming an inves-

tigation team and found that the Head of Mandalay Region's Rural Road Development Department, Deputy Director U Aung Myint Kyaw, and Branch Clerk Daw Thuzar took bribes

from six companies when the department was calling a tender for rural roads using the union budget and the Mandalay Region Government funds for 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The two of them will be charged with anti-corruption laws at Myitnge police station, according to the Anti-Corruption Commission. —MNA ■

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# Number of local visitors increases at Nat Pauk elephant camp

THE number of local visitors has significantly increased at Nat Pauk elephant camp, which was opened in 2008 in Indaw Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region. Since 2016, Nat Pauk camp has been entertaining visitors with elephant shows, said Dr. Htoo Htoo Aung, the doctor in charge of Nat Pauk elephant camp.

"The number of visitors started to increase in October. If there are only a few visitors, we operate elephant shows with only nine elephants. We also reserve some elephants for those visitors who want to ride them. We have some other costs for the elephants, so we just run elephant shows with nine elephants. The remaining 13 elephants are kept at another elephant camp, which is one mile from Nat Pauk elephant camp. Initially, the camp operated the elephant shows for only foreign visitors, but since November 2016 we have been holding elephant shows for local visitors, as



Visitor feeding elephant at Nat Pauk elephant camp in Indaw Township Sagaing Region.

**PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

well," said Dr. Htoo Htoo Aung.

Also, the camp has planted Navier grass on 1.5 acres of land, in a bid to become self-sufficient in feeding their 22 elephants, he added. Nat Pauk elephant camp is a natural habitat in

Phat Sout forest reserve 33 in Indaw Township, which is drawing the attention of tourists.

Nat Pauk elephant camp was opened for visitors to watch elephants in their natural surroundings, as well as

for local residents to earn an income from visitor arrivals. Recently, the camp was unable to provide accommodations for overnight tourists, Dr. Htoo Htoo Aung said. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

# Solar power systems to be supplied for five villages in Palaw Tsp

THE Palaw Township Rural Area Development Department is making arrangements to supply household solar power systems and public solar power systems in November in five villages in Palaw Township during 2018-2019 fiscal year under the National Electrification Project (NEP), according

to Palaw Township Rural Area Development Department head U Hlaing Min Tun.

The household solar power systems will be installed in five villages, in Palaw Township. The household solar power systems include two-unit types— 60 Watts and 100 Watts.

The solar power will also be

supplied for public buildings, — schools, health centre, religious buildings, as well as on lamp posts.

The solar power system will be installed in 363 houses and on 52 lamp posts in Leik Thauang, That Kyat Kan, Kaw Dway, Hta Minmasar and Nam Payout villages.

The department will collect Ks 50,000 for 60 Watts and Ks 150,000 for 100 Watt systems from villagers. But the department will provide free public solar system installations in schools, religious buildings, rural clinics and lamp posts, said U Hlaing Min Tun.—Myint Oo (Myeik) ■

# Three-wheel motorbike licenses to be issued in Mohnyin

THREE-WHEEL motorbikes will be issued licenses in Mohnyin in November 2018 under the direction of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, said U Khin Maung Lay, the Administrator of Mohnyin District, during a

press conference held on 31 October.

"The license registration process will be conducted for three-wheel motorbikes and electric powered three-wheel motorbikes, which are made in China, Thailand and India during 2008 and 2018, from

1 to 23 November. But the registration process will be provided for three-wheel vehicles, four-wheel motorbikes and locally made three-wheel motorbikes," he added.

Head of Mohnyin District Road Transport Administration Department Daw Khin

Hnin Wai also outlined information regarding license procedures and charges.

Three-wheel motorbike owners can register for a license at Shwe Thar Hlyauang theatre in Mohnyin from 1 to 23 November.—Ni Toe (Mohnyin) ■



# Neos Airline launches direct charter flight from Milan to Yangon



Union Ministers U Ohn Maung and U Thant Sin Maung and the Italian Ambassador slice the celebratory cake. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Ohn Maung gifts a flower necklace to passengers of the direct chartered flight at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**



Ambassador of Italy Ms. Alessandra Schiavo delivers a speech at the launching ceremony of NEOS Airline yesterday. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

MILAN-based NEOS Airline officially launched its Yangon-Milan direct charter flight yesterday, with a chartered Boeing 767-300 ERW on Mondays and Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner every Wednesday.

The Boeing flight arrived at the Yangon International Airport yesterday at 3 pm, after departing from Phu Quoc, Viet Nam, as part of its Viet Nam-Yangon-Milan route.

A welcoming ceremony was held for the flight, in which Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung and U Ohn Maung and officials welcomed 35 passengers at the airport.

At the ceremony, the union ministers, Ambassador of Italy to

Myanmar Ms. Alessandra Schiavo, Managing Director of the Yangon Aerodrone Co Ltd U Tun Myint Naing and officials of the Neos Airline delivered speeches.

Also present at the ceremony were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and officials.

Through the arrangement of Orchestra Travel and Tours Co Ltd, the 35 passengers arriving on this flight were from Milan, and the flight stopped over in Phu Quoc, Viet Nam before landing at Yangon International Airport, said Dr. Aung Myat Kyaw, Managing-Director of Orchestra Travel Co.

The direct maiden flight carries

250 passengers, and the plan to carry over 300 passengers will be used for the flight at the end of December, said Dr. Aung Myat Kyaw.

An Italian couple, who were among the 35 passengers, expressed their delight at their first visit to Myanmar, saying that they will visit Mandalay, Bagan, Inlay and Kyeikhtiyoe during this trip.

Myanmar has relaxed restrictions on visas and granting visa exemptions to travelers from Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Macao, as well as travelers from neighbouring China, who come to Myanmar by air.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of

Hotels and Tourism and related ministries, partner organizations and travel companies are also making efforts for attracting tourists from Europe.

"Thanks to direct flights, European countries can understand the true situation in Myanmar. We need to do strong advertising to attract flights," said U Thet Lwin Toe, Chairman of the Myanmar Travellers' Association.

He also suggested making arrangement for flights to land in the regions which possessed unspoiled beaches to attract foreign travelers.

U Myint Htay, Chairman of the Airport Management Committee, added, "Now, with the launch of the direct flight, we

can travel to Europe by direct flight and it takes 12 hours. We no longer need to transit at airports in other countries."

There were direct flights between Myanmar and Europe beginning in about 1950, though the flights stopped after 1962.

About ten years ago, there was a flight on the Viet Nam-Australia-Yangon-Thailand, said U Thet Lwin Toe.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the number of travellers from Italy to Myanmar for the period of up to September last year reached 11,976, though the number declined by 14.6 per cent to 10,221 visitors.—Thi Thi Min, Zaw Gyi ■



The first Yangon-Milan direct chartered Boeing flight lands at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung and U Ohn Maung, Italian Ambassador Ms. Schiavo and officials pose for documentary photo. **PHOTO: MNA**



Passengers of Yangon-Milan direct charter flight welcomed at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Union Election Commission  
Notification No. (153/2018)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Waxing of Thadingyut (11 October 2018)

### Notification on election campaign and assembly

1. Union Election Commission has already announced on 24.8.2018 with Notification No (121/2018) that Hluttaw candidates involved in the by-election, which will be held on 3 November 2018, can campaign for votes from 3.9.2018, 6:00am until 1.11.2018, 12 midnight.

2. Electoral assembly and speeches must be stopped from 1.11.2018 12 midnight to 3.11.2018 until the by-election is held, to ensure stability, successful holding of the elections and for voters to vote freely for a candidate.

3. Campaign posters must be removed before the last day allowed for campaigning, 1.11.2018 12 midnight. If the campaign posters are not removed on the specified date and time, Township Sub-Commissions will arrange with respective city development committees to remove the campaign posters. It is notified that the respective Hluttaw candidates must pay for the cost of removing the posters.

Hla Thein  
Chairman  
Union Election Commission

# UEC Chairman receives US Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein received US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Marciel and his delegation in the guest hall of the Union Election Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the UEC's preparedness to conduct the upcoming by-election on 3 November 2018, along with cooperation between the UEC and political parties, international organizations and civil society organizations.

The US Ambassador acknowledged that the elections, successfully held by the UEC, were transparent and said they will continue providing support for the 2020 Gen-



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein meets with US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

eral Elections.

UEC members U Soe

Yal, U Htun Khin, U Hla other officials also attend-  
Tint, U Than Htay and ed the meeting. —MNA ■

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

**M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1829/1830)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1829/1830) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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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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.

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## MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 (Deepavali Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

**M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHS 0094 N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHS 0094 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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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# Latest stormwater treatment technology points to jump in water quality

SYDNEY — A new filtration technology has been shown to improve the quality of treated stormwater by up to 80 per cent, according to a latest Australian research.

It is a development that could better prevent harmful pollutants from entering waterways as well as cut recycling and infrastructure costs significantly.

The technology uses a special filtration material as part of a catch basin insert to capture 95 per cent of waste entering stormwater drains, Curtin University researcher Dr Zahangir Alam said in a statement about its research on Wednesday.

The inserts can “help arrest the declining health of waterways”, said Alam.

“Excessive nutrients in our rivers create a lack of oxygen in the water that can kill fish and also leads to algal blooms that block the sun and prevent photosynthesis by plants — all of which harms entire river and marine ecosystems.”

The new filtration design offered economic as well as environmental benefits, and could “potentially revolutionize the way stormwater is treated,” said research principal supervisor Associate Professor Faisal Anwar from the university.

—Xinhua ■

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# 10th ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (10th ASED), associated meetings convene in Nay Pyi Taw

The 10th ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (10th ASED) and its associated meetings were held yesterday morning at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. At the meeting, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said, "The discussion will focus on quality education and producing qualified students who can meet the labour market demand and to enable them to become qualified and lifelong students of ASEAN countries through quality education and training."

"This point aims at improving vocational development, life-long learning and empowerment skills by striving together with all the stakeholders in the ASEAN community. We take great pride in being a member of ASEAN countries to implement the action agenda for the SEAMEO 7 Priority areas, 8 objectives of the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016-2020 and 70 processes and 19 priority fields as well. Myanmar is making an effort to reach the goal of democracy through the proper channel and education plays a pivotal role in shaping the path of democracy."

"I would like to present the measures of Myanmar's education reforms briefly. In order to implement a quality education system, the Ministry of Education launched National Education



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi attends 10th ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (10th ASED) and its associated meetings held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Strategic Plan (NESP) for the period 2016-2021, with the cooperation of relevant organizations," said the Union Minister.

"The Ministry of Education of Myanmar set up policies that all school-age children have the right to receive education, with a policy of no discrimination at all education level and at all school attending ages, no one is to be left out and there shall be no drop-outs from schools."

"Moreover the ministry has carried out free education system for primary and middle schools, and efforts have been made to enhance the literacy programme of 3Rs (Reading, Writing and Arith-

metic) so that the students can continue pursuing their middle school education. As a result, the enrollment of kindergarten classes has amounted to 98.1 per cent in the 2017-2018 academic years."

"As part of educational transformation, the Ministry of Education has implemented a new KG+12 System starting from academic year 2016-2017."

"From academic year 2016-2017, a new curriculum for primary education is being drawn up, with the assistance of JICA, a new curriculum for middle education is being drawn up, with the sponsorship of AGD Bank and EU. These new curriculums

put emphasis on critical thinking skills and deep learning rather than rote learning for the 21st century students."

"As for the Ministry of Education, plans are underway to open another new department where the students can pursue lifelong learning and informal education. The Ministry is also striving to attain sustainable economic development and to improve technology and vocational training with the cooperation of GIZ, Swiss Contact and other partnerships."

"Singapore - Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI) is a joint governments' project

between Singapore and Myanmar, and arrangement is being made to open the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) where students can study technology and vocational training courses."

"The Ministry of Education has acknowledged the important role of teachers and has tried to promote teaching quality by increasing teacher qualifications. Therefore plans are under way to upgrade the current two-year educational colleges to a four-year full degree programme. With the aim of empowering English language proficiency and ICT skills, the ministry has strived to improve research and innovation."

"Moreover the Ministry has carried out to improve the quality of Distance Learning Education and management, with the cooperation of British Council, DFID and SPHEIR. The Ministry has signed MoU with other international universities for exchange of teachers and students among the ASEAN member countries."

Myanmar acted as chair and the Philippines as co-chair at the 10th ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (10th ASED).

Following the meeting, all attendees were given a grand gala dinner at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA ■

## Sacked workers from Fu Yuen Garment Factory to be reinstated on 6<sup>th</sup> November as labour dispute settled

STRIKING workers from Fu Yuen Garment Factory will be reinstated on 6<sup>th</sup> November as a labour dispute with their employer has been settled yesterday by the Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, according to the factory's labour union.

The over 70-day strike ended at 6 pm yesterday following the negotiation by the Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at the General Administration Office in Dagon Seikkan Township, said Ma Thet Htar Swe, chair of the union at Fu Yuen Garment factory. The negotiation between employer and employees was attended by officials from Department of Labour Relations, Labour Inspection Department, Department of Labour and Township Labour Arbitration Coun-



Representatives of the strike workers sign negotiation documents. **PHOTO: NAY LIN**

cil. Fu Yuen Garment factory's employers and sacked workers signed the arbitration agreement at the meeting.

"To settle the dispute and to help workers to return their

workplace peacefully, respective township arbitration councils negotiated. Both employer and employees agreed to get all rights guaranteed by the labour law" said U Ko Ko Naing from

Department of Labour Relations.

The two sides will sign the Employment Contract-EC again when the workers returned to workplace on 6<sup>th</sup> November, according to U Ko Ko Naing.

"Workers will get their rights in accord with the law. Minimum wage is set at Ks 4,800 per day. Wages under Ks4, 800 per day isn't allowed to pay. The law do not allow to force employer to pay the amount demanded by workers," said Yangon Region Labour Minister U Zaw Aye Maung

On 29 October, sacked workers of Fu Yuen Garment factory, along with supporters marched at Maha Bandula Park and called on Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein to help settle the labour dispute.

"On Monday, Yangon Region

Chief Minister was called on to help settle the dispute. He met with us at 9pm this day. Next day, employer and employees met and negotiated together with the Chief Minister. The dispute got ease," said Ma Thet Htar Swe.

Yangon Region Chief Minister, along with cabinet ministers and departmental officials negotiated the dispute between employer and employees at the hall of Yangon Region Government on 30 October, and also went to the Fu Yuen Garment factory and coordinated.

During the meeting, Yangon Region Chief Minister said the stability of the factory will be supervised by Yangon Region government so that the factory can operate peacefully.—Min Thit (MNA) ■



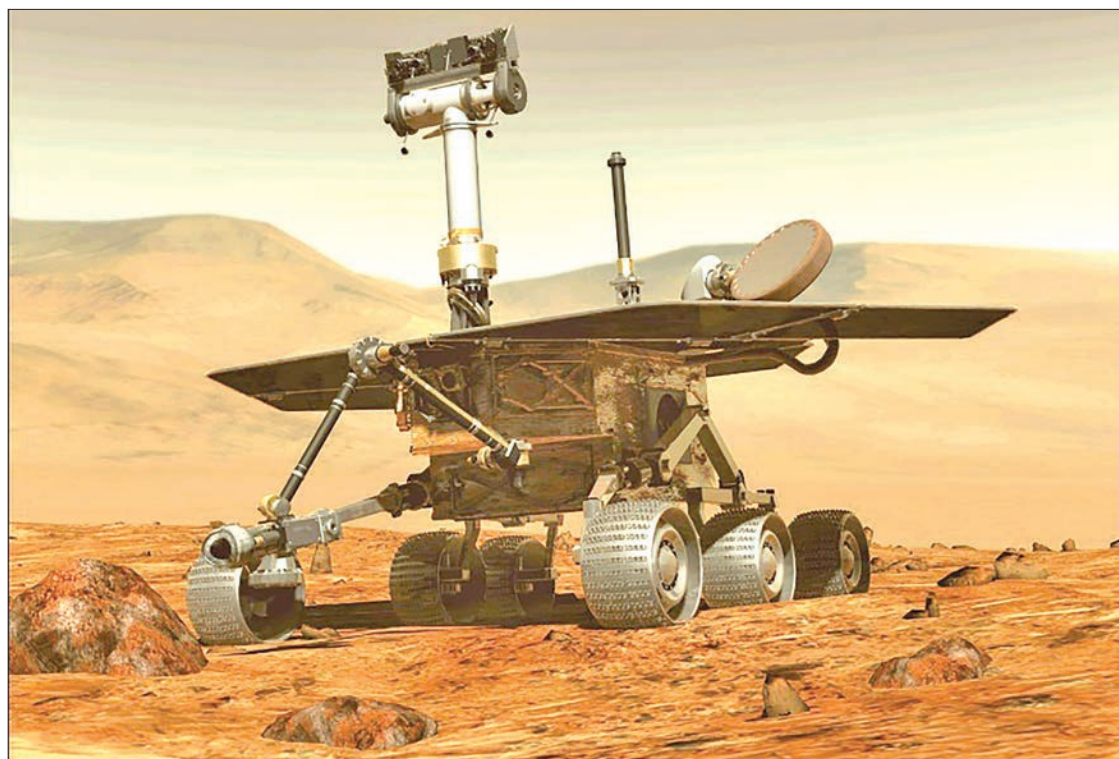
## NASA will keep trying to contact stalled Mars rover Opportunity

WASHINGTON (United States)—NASA has changed its mind about how long it will continue to seek contact with an aging robotic vehicle that was blanketed in a dust storm on Mars back in June and has been stalled ever since.

Now, the space agency plans to keep trying, rather than abandon efforts some time this month, as officials had said in late August.

“After a review of the progress of the listening campaign, NASA will continue its current strategy for attempting to make contact with the Opportunity rover for the foreseeable future,” said a statement posted on NASA’s website late Monday.

“Winds could increase in the next few months at Opportunity’s location on Mars, resulting in dust being blown off the rover’s solar panels. The agency will reassess the



Le rover Opportunity, qui se trouve sur Mars depuis 2004. PHOTO: AFP

situation in the January 2019 time frame.”

Engineers hope the so-

lar-powered rover will someday get enough sunlight to automatically kickstart its own

recovery procedures.

Its last contact with Earth was on 10 June.

Opportunity and its twin rover, Spirit, are a pair of unmanned robotic vehicles designed by NASA to move short distances on the Martian surface and transmit data about conditions there back to Earth.

They landed on Mars in 2003 on a mission meant to last 90 days and span 1,000 yards (meters). Spirit lasted 20 times longer than that. It became stuck in soft soil in 2009, and its mission was formally declared over in 2011.

Opportunity is going on 60 times its planned mission life, has traveled 28 miles (45 kilometers) and found evidence of water on Mars and conditions that may have been suitable for sustaining microbial life.

Fans of the rover mounted a Twitter campaign under the hash tag #SaveOppy, calling for NASA to keep trying to reach it.—AFP ■

## Hawking’s signed thesis, wheelchair auctioned in London

LONDON (United Kingdom)—A copy of Stephen Hawking’s doctorate thesis signed in a shaky hand was unveiled on Tuesday as the highlight of a new auction of the British physicist’s personal items in London.

One of Hawking’s wheelchairs, an early edition of his bestselling book “A Brief History of Time” marked with a thumbprint, and a script from one of his appearances on the television series “The Simpsons” are also among the 22 lots on sale at Christie’s auction house.

The collection highlights the brilliance, determination and sense of humour of Hawking, who died in March aged 76 after a lifetime spent trying to unlock

the secrets of the universe.

Hawking published his thesis in 1965, two years after being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a form of motor-neurone disease that would eventually leave him paralysed.

His first wife Jane typed out the 117 pages but he added two hand-written signatures and the words “This dissertation is my original work” at the front, as well as several mathematical equations inside.

The copy, one of only five originals of the thesis entitled “Properties of expanding universes”, is the top priced item in the auction valued at £100,000-£150,000 (\$128,000-\$191,000, 112,000-168,000 euros).

When the document was made available online last year by Cambridge University, where Hawking spent his career, it was so popular that it crashed the website. Another auction highlight is a red leather wheelchair which Hawking used from the late 1980s to the mid 1990s, driving himself using a joystick, priced at £10,000-£15,000. “Famously he was quite a dangerous driver. He ran over Prince Charles’ feet when they met,” Thomas Venning, Christie’s head of books and manuscripts, told AFP.

### Time traveller party

He noted that the items put on sale by the family revealed “the

progression of his illness but also the way that he overcame it”.

“They range from some of his really important science to some fun stuff that reflects his quirky personality,” he said.

There are Hawking’s own copies of some of his most important scientific articles, including his seminal 1974 work that predicted black holes would release radiation, estimated at £3,000-£5,000.

But there is also an invitation he sent out to a party held several years previously, a light-hearted experiment to see if any time travellers would turn up. It is priced at £100-£150. As Hawking’s health deteriorated, he could no longer write, and a 1988 copy of “A Brief History of Time”, priced at £2,000-£3,000, is marked with a thumbprint on the inside page.

The auction also contains a 2009 production script for “The Simpsons”, the hit US show in which Hawking appeared several times, estimated at £2,000-£3,000.

His lines, which he programmed into the computer he used to speak after losing his voice, are highlighted in yellow.

Venning said there had already been huge interest from around the world for the auction, which will take place online from 31 October to 8 November.

“He was someone who people connected with across the world,” he said.—AFP ■

## Russia accepts China’s invitation to pool efforts in finding cure for cancer and AIDS

BEIJING—Russia is set to accept an invitation by Peking University’s Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Centre to team up to develop new cancer and AIDS drugs, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova said on Tuesday. “We will accept your invitation,” she said in a conversation with the Centre’s staff member. According to the Chinese scientist, the university’s research laboratory does not yet have experience in cooperating with Russia but it already works together with research centres in Canada, the United States and Europe. “We will take this into consideration,” the Russian deputy prime minister noted. Golikova arrived in the Chinese capital of Beijing in the run-up to Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev’s visit, scheduled to take place on 5-7 November. While in Beijing, she will hold talks with her Chinese counterpart Sun Chunlan, attend the 19th meeting of the Russian-Chinese Commission on Humanitarian Cooperation, and visit the inauguration ceremony for the Russian-Chinese Association on Television Cooperation. In addition, she is also going to take part in a ceremony to launch an online section dedicated to humanitarian ties and interaction between both countries within the mobile app called “Russia and China: the Basics”.—Tass ■



A gallery assistant poses with a bomber jacket that belonged to late British theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking with an estimated price of £100-£150 GBP during a photocall for the sale of personal items from Hawking’s estate at Christie’s auction house in London on 30 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP



## Myanmar to play against Bangladesh in Women's Olympic Football Tournament Asian Qualifier



Head coach U Win Thu Moe gives instructions to Myanmar national women's players in a training session. PHOTO: MFF

MYANMAR national women's football squad is going to play its debut against Bangladesh in the Asian first round qualification of Women's Olympic Football Tournament Tokyo 2020 at Thuwunna Stadium on 8 November.

As part of preparations for taking part in the Asian first round qualification of Women's Olympic Football Tournament Tokyo 2020, Myanmar women's squad went on a friendly tour to Mandalay from 18 to 27 October.

During the friendly tour, Myanmar women's demonstrated five test matches against Aungmyaythasan team, Mandalay regional coaches team, Marn youth team (A), Marn youth team (B) and Lucky Home team. Myanmar women's saw four wins in the first four matches and a loss to the last one.

Myanmar women's squad played a total of 9 test matches with seven wins, one draw and one loss. Now Myanmar women's

squad is in the training in Yangon. Myanmar will have to host the Asian first round qualification of Women's Olympic Football Tournament Tokyo 2020 at Thuwunna Stadium from 8 to 13 November.

Myanmar women's squad is in the same group together with Bangladesh, Nepal and India. Myanmar will play against Bangladesh on 8 November, Nepal on 11 November and India on 13 November. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

## MFF President U Zaw Zaw discusses Myanmar football arena development with FIFA President

U ZAW ZAW, President of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), who is currently visiting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, held a cordial meeting with Mr Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA and focused on development of Myanmar football arena after attending the opening ceremony of AFC's new office in Kuala Lumpur on 30 October.

U Zaw Zaw presented reports to Mr. Infantino on technical assistance and other necessary helps in an effort to develop football standard in Myanmar. After hearing the reports, Mr Infantino agreed to provide necessary assistance as to Myanmar football arena.

U Zaw Zaw and Mr Infantino mainly highlighted matters relating to youth development administration, national league and competition development, sports medicine, media and marketing development and technical assistance from FIFA.

The president of the MFF and the FIFA's president usually hold cordial meetings in times of FIFA congress meetings and AFC ones. Present on the opening ceremony of AFC's new office in Kuala Lumpur were Mr Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA, Mr Sheikh Salman, President of AFC, the officials of AFC, presidents and officials of AFC member countries and special guests. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

## Chelsea's Ianni fined after Mourinho clash

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Chelsea assistant coach Marco Ianni was fined £6,000 (\$7,600) by the Football Association on Tuesday after his wild celebrations in front of Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho.

Ianni, who serves as one of Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri's assistants, sparked a touchline row after celebrating Ross Barkley's late equaliser in Chelsea's 2-2 draw against United at Stamford Bridge on 20 October.

"Chelsea coach Marco Ianni has been fined £6,000 after he admitted an FA improper conduct charge. It concerned his behaviour in the 96th

minute of the game against Manchester United on October 20, 2018," an FA statement read.

The FA also reminded Mourinho, Chelsea and United of their responsibilities in the aftermath of the explosive incident.

Mourinho was incensed by the way Ianni celebrated Barkley's goal in front of the United bench, leading the former Chelsea boss to dart off his seat as he chased the Italian towards the tunnel.

The United manager received an apology from both Ianni and Sarri and said he considered the matter closed. But the FA opened disciplinary proceedings and Ianni has now been fined. —AFP ■

## AFC 'B' coaching certificate course opens

THE opening ceremony of AFC 'B' coaching certificate course organized took place at the meeting hall of the MFF on 30 October.

U Phone Naing Zaw, CEO of the MFF, delivered an opening speech, saying "Our investments are coaching courses. We are not to keep abreast of other nations, but to overtake them. Keeping abreast means we are behind others. Other countries are also trying and they are not making a stop. Therefore we need to try to the best of our ability for development of Myanmar football. The role of coaches is of great importance."

Next, Mr Eric Abrams, the technical director of MFF and Mr Prak Sovsnnara, Cambodian coaching course instructor, made speeches respectively.

Present on the opening ceremony were U Phone Naing Zaw, CEO of the MFF, U Tin Myint Aung, Joint General Secretary of the MFF, Mr Eric Abrams, the technical director of MFF, Mr Prak Sovsnnara, Cambodian coaching course instructor, and the officials of the MFF and the trainees.

A total of 23 trainees are attending the coaching course which will run from 30 October to 18 November. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

## Rooney urges Man United flops to show respect

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Wayne Rooney has urged Manchester United's under-achieving stars to show more respect for their troubled club.

United are languishing in eighth place in the Premier League and have made a slow start to their Champions League campaign.

Sunday's 2-1 win over Everton did little to lift the gloom around Old Trafford, with United manager Jose Mourinho under scrutiny following a spluttering run which has seen key players fail to produce consistent performances.

Mourinho has clashed with United stars including Paul Pogba, Luke Shaw, Alexis Sanchez and Anthony Martial.

And Rooney, who became United's record goalscorer before leaving in 2017, believes it is down to the team's highly-paid stars to play with more pride and passion regardless of their issues with Mourinho.

In an interview with Football Focus, published on the BBC Sport website, DC United striker

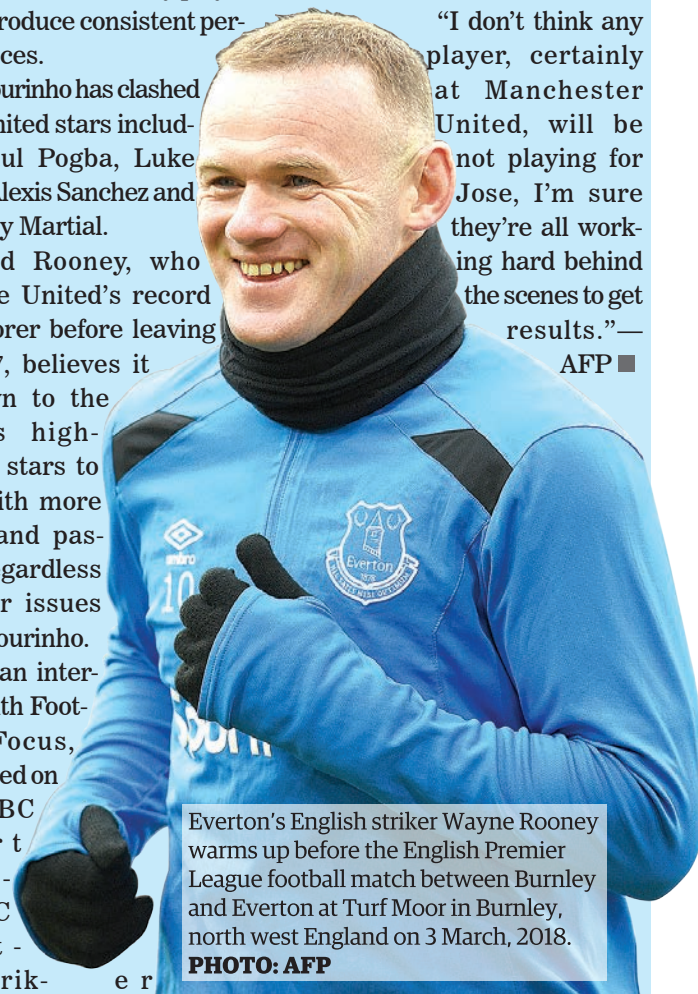
Rooney said: "Obviously they are going through a difficult period at the minute, but Jose Mourinho is very experienced and I think some players have to do a little bit better.

"In my experience, I have never seen or heard of a player not wanting to play in the game because they have had a falling out with the manager.

"I don't think as a player you could do that, you've got to respect the club and the fans and also respect your teammates.

"I don't think any player, certainly at Manchester United, will be not playing for Jose, I'm sure they're all working hard behind the scenes to get results." —

AFP ■



Everton's English striker Wayne Rooney warms up before the English Premier League football match between Burnley and Everton at Turf Moor in Burnley, north west England on 3 March, 2018. PHOTO: AFP