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Thursday, 8 November 2018

GAD celebrates 30th anniversary

Avoid corruption to increase public trust: U Henry Van Thio



Vice President U Henry Van Thio presents honorary prizes to the One Stop Shops with outstanding performance for public services of the General Administration Department at the ceremony to celebrate the 30th anniversary re-establishment of the department in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

THE General Administration Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs celebrated their 30th anniversary at Hotel Max, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. Vice President U Henry Van Thio, as Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs, Public Affairs Management and Service Committee, delivered the opening speech at the anniversary celebrations.

The Vice President said the General Administration Department was reformed on 7 November 1988, thirty years ago, but has been handling administrative responsibilities for over 100 years.

He said the Union government is seeking to amend the Constitution to guarantee the rule of law, public socio-economic development of the people, national reconciliation and

peace within the nation.

He said the nation must first have peace, to conduct development plans and establish a democratic federal union. He said if peace cannot be built upon, then national development cannot be achieved. In establishing peace within the nation, it is important to build the people's trust on national

reconciliation, he noted.

The Vice President also said the Union government is returning released farmlands from government ministries, companies and private businesses to their rightful owners, so that the public does not suffer from losses incurred.

He further noted that the staff from the General Ad-

ministration Department needs to nurture compassion, kindness and empathy, while working in accordance with the law during their involvement in the Central Committee for Re-scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands, and Other Lands and its sub-committees.

"As an administrative organization, when you are performing administrative tasks or implementing laws, rules and regulations, you must avoid hampering the fundamental rights of the citizens of the country and, instead, ensure they are exercised properly, without damaging the interest of the nation and society," said the Vice President.

... "To emerge as a governmental machinery with high dignity, employees of GAD who are dealing with the people should avoid taking measures only when they are instructed by superiors or pointed out by the media" said U Henry Van Thio.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker attends 63rd Kayin State Day, horticultural show

A HORTICULTURAL awards ceremony, in commemoration of the 63rd Kayin State Day, was held in Hpa-an, Kayin State yesterday.

Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint delivered the opening speech at the ceremony. This was followed by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, Kayin State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin, and Chief Justice of the Kayin State High Court U Saw San Lin, who presented awards to the winners of the horticultural contest.

The horticultural contest was held to promote the agricul-

tural sector in the state, and saw the participation of 341 farmers from townships throughout the state. Officials presented over 131 prizes, worth Ks 3.5 million, to the winners.

To mark this year's Kayin State Day, arrangements have been made to have 37 games including traditional pole climbing, and traditional boxing matches for five consecutive days.

Kayin State Day falls on 7th November.

According to the historical record, 11 Kayin racial groups have been living in Kayin State together with other ethnic groups. —Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)/(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin) ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and responsible officials visit the horticultural show marking the 63rd Kayin State Day in Hpa-an, Kayin State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

High-level regional conference on precursor control held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE High-Level Regional Conference on Precursor Control was held at 9 a.m. yesterday at the M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. The conference was attended by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Police Major-General Aung Thu, a member of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. The deputy minister delivered the opening speech, and Police Brigadier-General Win Naing from the Drug Enforcement Division, who is also Joint Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control chaired the conference.

Attendees discussed matters related to drug control, the narcotic drug trade and trafficking of drug smugglers, controlling the flow of smuggling through border areas, and regional cooperation on drug policies. They also discussed investigation measures put in place by the military to tackle the narcotics drug trade.

Participants deliberated on the prevention and control of drug use with the cooperation of public and private sectors, application of regional strategies, and the review, as

well as approval, of summary results.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen. Myo Swe Win, Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu, invited guests, members of the anti-narcotic police force, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Representative for South East-East Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Jeremy Douglas, high-ranking officials from ASEAN members countries and representatives from China, India, Australia, and New Zealand.

In Myanmar, a total of 13640 drug cases have been detected by the Drug Enforcement Division of Myanmar during 2017 to May 2018, and the seized drugs and precursor chemicals, all worth about Ks 520,000 millions, have been incinerated in 2017.

In order to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals into illicit drug production, the Ministry of Home Affairs formed the Supervisory Committee for Controlled Precursor Chemical. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung) ■

Tamil Hindu Foundation celebrates Deepavali in Yangon

THE All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (Central), AMTHF, celebrated the 2018 Deepavali festival in Yangon yesterday evening.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin, AMTHF's Honorary Patron U Aung Hsan, Chairman U Thein Lwin, and general secretary U Chit Win opened the festival

with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Then the Union Minister, the Region Chief Minister, the Social Affairs Minister and AMTHF officials lit oil lamps.

This was followed by a welcoming speech by the AMTHF Chairman.

Afterwards, AMTHF officials honoured the three ministers. The Union Minister also delivered a speech at the event.

The Union Minister, the Yangon Region Chief Minis-

ter and officials also presented awards to students who passed the 2017-2018 matriculation exam with distinctions.

Thereafter, officials from the AMTHF explained about the foundation's work and deputy chairman U Henry Khin Maung expressed his thanks.

Hindu traditional dances and Indian songs and dances were also performed at the festival. —MNA(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun) ■



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials attend the celebration of the 2018 Deepavali festival in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

GAD celebrates 30th anniversary

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The Vice President mentioned that there are 316 One Stop Shops (OSS) opened in townships across the country. He said the OSS seek to administer a smoother experience, when providing basic services for the public, while simultaneously preventing bribery and corruption, and encouraging best service provider practices. He said this will increase the level of trust the public has in government departments.

Also, Vice President U Henry Van Thio encouraged employees of the General Administration Department to build themselves up to become model staff, saying that people will rely on the administrative machinery if it can guarantee community peace under the rule of law to their livelihood.

“You are obliged to fulfill the needs of the people, in accordance with the law. At the



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers a speech at the 30th anniversary celebration of the General Administration Department. PHOTO: MNA

same time, you, governmental employees, are to work hard to become good public servants, while helping the people with sympathy and empathy,” said the Vice President.

He also stressed the need for governmental employees to understand the difficulties the people are facing, as the incumbent government is making efforts for achieving distinct wins in the transition to democracy by carrying out reforms, including providing public services.

“To emerge as a governmental machinery with high dignity, employees of GAD who are dealing with the people should avoid taking measures only when they are instructed by superiors or pointed out by the media” said U Henry Van Thio.

The Vice President also urged the employees of the General Administration Department to retain the good traditions of the department, while avoiding habits and manners that can cause the disintegration of GAD. He

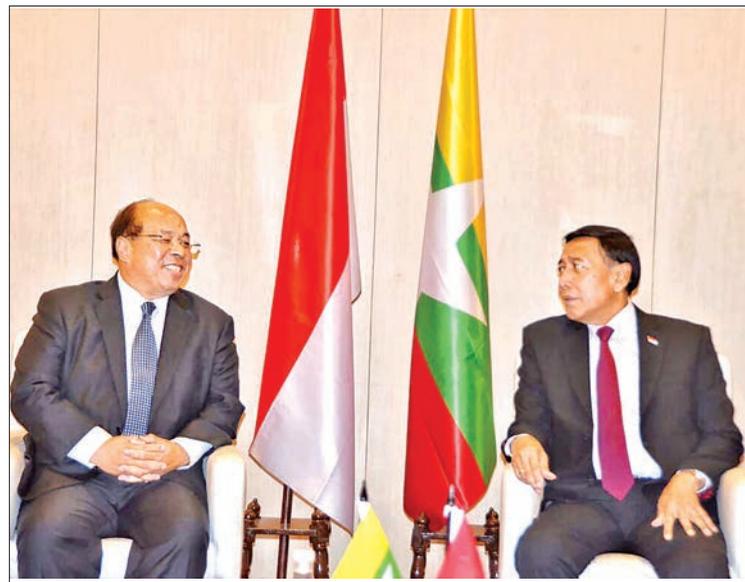
then presented awards to four One Stop Shops that have provided the best services to the public.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe presented awards to outstanding staff, while Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung recognized the Heads of Townships General Administration Department for their excellent performance in administration after the Muse Township, Mongkoe and Pansaing (Kyukok) towns were attacked by armed

groups in Muse District. Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs U Tin Myint also honoured the outstanding employees of GAD with prizes and certificates of honour. The ceremony was concluded with dinner and performances.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



NSA U Thaung Tun holds talks with Indonesia's Wiranto over counter terrorism



Union Minister U Thaung Tun holds talks with Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia, General Wiranto in Jakarta. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government and National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun attended the Sub-regional Meeting on Counter Terrorism held in Jakarta on 6 November 2018.

The Meeting co-hosted by the Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia, General Wiranto, and the Minister for Home Affairs of Australia Mr. Peter Dutton was attended by delegations from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Indone-

sia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand.

The delegates exchanged views on matters relating to the emerging threats of terrorism and radicalism in the region, ways to address returning foreign terrorist fighters and transnational terrorist groups, to further strengthen operational, legal policy and law enforcement cooperation in the region, the role of civil society organization (CSO) in partnering with governments to prevent radicalization and violent extremism and

to enhance cooperation between government and private sector to combat the use of social media platforms by terrorist networks.

In the session on “Prevention/Countering Violent Extremism including Counter-Radicalisation: Strengthening valuable engagement with civil society”, the Union Minister shared his perspectives on the impact of globalization and technology which has brought major paradigm shifts in the security sector.

The Meeting highlighted the need for strengthening valuable engagement with civil society organizations and noted the importance of inclusive and cross-sectoral partnership to develop and deliver effective Counter Violent Extremism (CVE)-based policies and programmes.

While in Jakarta, the Union Minister called on the Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia, General Wiranto and discussed matters related to bilateral cooperation on counter terrorism measures.—MNA ■

SWRR Union Minister meets Dutch Foreign Trade Minister



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets with Dutch Foreign Trade Minister Mrs. Sigrid Kaag in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, Mrs. Sigrid Kaag, at the Home for the Aged in Yangon yesterday. The Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Wouter Jurgens, was also in attendance.

During the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the repatriation process agreed upon by Myanmar and Bangladesh, and the resettlement, rehabilitation and creation of jobs for people under an arrangement between the min-

istry and the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD).

The minister also outlined the progress of the national strategic plan for closing camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), and the effectiveness of measures taken for the socio-economic development of Rakhine State.

The Dutch Minister then apprised him of the Netherlands' opinion on these issues. The ministers also discussed cooperation between the two countries at the meeting.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Win Ko Ko Aung**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Rare Ayeyawady dolphin found dead

A rare Ayeyawady dolphin was found dead in the Ayeyawady River conservation area on 6 November.

U Kyaw Hla Thein, a conservationist with the Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar), said the female dolphin was found with a stone tied to its tail.

"The dolphin may have died after getting caught in a fishing net. The string that was found tied to its tail is normally used in fishing nets. It seems someone tried to sink the dolphin's carcass after it died."

The dolphin measured 6 feet and one inch in length, and four feet in circumference.

A fisherman found the dead dolphin floating in the waters between Mandalay and Kyaukmyaung and informed the WCS.

As per the latest survey, the population of Ayeyawady



PHOTO:WCS

dolphin stands at 76. Of these, 26 dolphins have been recorded in the between Mandalay and Kyaukmyaung area, 37 dolphins between Male Village and Shwe-

ku, and 13 between Hsinkhan and Bhamao.

The dolphin conservation area was expanded in August to include the 100-km-long stretch

of water from Katha Township in Sagaing Region to Shweku Township in Kachin State.—Nyi Tu

(Translated by JT)

Over 170 human trafficking cases reported in ten months

OVER 170 human trafficking cases have been reported in the first ten months of this year, including the forced selling of children and illegal surrogacy, according to the Myanmar Anti Trafficking in Person Division, Myanmar Police Force.

Between January and October 2018, 177 cases of human trafficking were investigated, with 502 suspects arrested and 277 victims of human trafficking rescued. A 3-month-old baby boy was sold by his mother in Chin State to repay some debts, said an official from the anti trafficking division.

Additionally, 136 cases of forced marriages, 24 cases of forced prostitution, 11 cases of labour exploitation, three cases of illegal surrogacy, two case of forced domestic workers and one case of child-selling were reported. The human trafficking victims were primarily sent to China, Thailand and domestic labour markets.

China is a common destination for trafficking in persons, with 144 cases being investigated. Three cases were found in

Thailand, while 30 people were trafficked locally, according to data from the anti trafficking division.

Shan State experienced 50 cases of human trafficking, and Yangon had 44 cases, 24 in Mandalay Region, 22 in Kachin State, 11 cases in Ayeyawady Region, 7 cases in Bago Region, 5 each in Rakhine State and Nay Pyi Taw, 3 each in Mon State and Sagaing Region and 1 each in Kayin State, Taninthayi and Magway regions.

Political instability, inequality in development, and the growing gap between the rich and the poor are contributing factors to the trafficking in persons. The lack of economic opportunity in their hometowns is a fundamental cause of trafficking in persons.

Myanmar has established a liaison office for anti-human trafficking with government counterparts in Thailand and China. Myanmar is also participating in cooperative work to combat human trafficking within six countries in the Mekong region and ASE-

AN countries. According to the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, those traffickers of women and children shall be punished with a minimum term of 10 years imprisonment, and maximum term of a life sentence. If three people coordinate trafficking together, they shall receive minimum terms of 20 years in prison and a maximum life imprisonment, along with fines.

The Myanmar Anti Trafficking in Person Report 2016 states that there are seven types of human-trafficking found in Myanmar, with 69.7 per cent being forced marriages, 13.6 per cent forced prostitution, 10 per cent forced labour, 4.8 per cent forced child trafficking, 1.4 per cent forced slavery, 0.3 per cent forced

adoption and 0.2 per cent forced sexual exploitation. Transnational trafficking in persons revealed that 80 per cent of vulnerable victims are sent to China, 10 per cent to Thailand and six per cent to Malaysia. Also, 4 per cent involved domestic trafficking.

Eighty-five per cent of the victims are women, including young girls, and child trafficking accounts for 4.38 per cent, the report stated.

Public and private institutions, including the government, NGOs, civil society organizations and the public, need to cooperate with anti-trafficking officials during the ongoing efforts in the fight against human trafficking.—Nyein Nyein (Translated by Ei Myat Mon) ■

Correction

A story on Page 4 of the 3 November edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar contained errors. In the first column of the story headlined 'Labeling rules for imported medical devices discussed', the department should read 'Food and Drug Administration-FDA of the Ministry of Health and Sports', and in the first paragraph of the third column of the same story, please read, '...six months later,'.—Ed

Mandalay Business Forum to be held on 9 November

By Nyein Nyein

THE Mandalay Business Forum will be held on 9 November in Mandalay, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The Forum will be jointly organized by the Myanmar Investment Commission, the Mandalay Region Government and the Mandalay Region Investment Committee (MRIC).

The forum aims to promote trade and investment for the development of Mandalay Region, showcase business opportunities in Mandalay Region, familiarize participants with new business laws, regulations and the investment environment in Mandalay Region and, widen the network between foreign investors and the local business community.

“We will make a presentation on investment, and leading experts from their respective sectors will hold panel discussions and deliver keynote speeches. Matters regarding the Myanmar Companies Law, the Myanmar Company Online MyCO’s registry system, trade conducted by the Commerce Ministry, taxes levied by the Internal Revenue Department and customs duties levied by the Myanmar Customs Department will be discussed,” said U Aung Naing Oo, Director-General of DICA.

The forum will showcase products from Mandalay and other regions. It will be inaugurated along with the opening ceremony of the Mandalay Convention Center.

Similarly, Ayeyawady Region Investment Fair will be held at Ngwehsaung Beach on 30 November. The fair will be

jointly organized by the MIC, the Ayeyawady Region government and the Ayeyawady Region Investment Committee.

Mandalay, a trading and logistics hub in Upper Myanmar and the second largest city, with a population of over 1.7 million people, has set its sights on increasing industrialization and improving economic conditions, as the country is a Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) member country. It hopes to attract greater investment opportunities to the region, as it is centrally located and a trade hub in Myanmar.

The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration is organising investment fairs in order to spread development more evenly among all states and regions. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

MyCO to charge Ks10,000 fee to access company info

By Nyein Nyein

COMPANY extracts and details of registered companies can now be accessed on the company registration system, Myanmar Companies Online - MyCO, for a charge of Ks10,000, said U Aung Naing Oo, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

“Users can purchase company documents and extract on MyCO. The company extract is a report designed to help verify the legitimacy of an entity by providing details about the company. Users can access details of a company for a charge of Ks10,000,” said U Aung Naing Oo.

The search service has been made available beginning 5 November. The details users can access on MyCO include a company’s registration number, address, business type and size, and foreign participation. Users can also look up profiles of a company’s officials.

“We can check whether or not a company is a subsidiary

of a certain larger company. If there is a holding company, we can see details regarding that, including information on the company’s shares, shareholders, types of shares and the like,” he said.

Users can also check whether companies have a mortgage borrowing record with their assets and immovable property.

Businesses can verify details of companies they hope to partner with by looking up their details on MyCO.

At present, over 6,000 new companies have registered and 21,000 companies have re-registered on the MyCO electronic registry system.

More than 60,000 companies are registered in Myanmar, as per data provided by the DICA. They have been asked to re-register electronically on MyCO or at the offices of the DICA using the stipulated forms by 31 January 2019. Companies which fail to re-register will be struck off from the register. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Sino-Myanmar border trade worth over \$300 million last month

THE border trade between Myanmar and China, the world’s most populous country, was valued at US\$316.7 million in October, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Despite China’s ban on the importation of rice, sugar and maize, the figure is up by \$51.7 million, compared to the same period in the 2017-2018 FY.

Sino-Myanmar trade in the same period last FY was valued at \$264.9 million. Myanmar trades with China through the Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpiketee and Kentung gates.

Muse is the major border trade gate in Myanmar, conducting the largest trade volume. The Muse gate saw an increase of \$45 million last month, compared with the last FY.

Sino-Myanmar border trade was worth \$279.7 million at Muse, \$3.5 million at Lwejel, \$30.5 million at Chinshwehaw, \$2.82 million at Kanpiketee and



Vehicles run near the 105-mile Muse Border Trade Zone in northern Shan State. Muse is the major border trade gate in Myanmar, conducting the largest trade volume. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

\$0.16 million at Kentung.

Myanmar’s rice, sugar, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, dried tea leaves, fishery prod-

ucts, minerals and animal products are exported to China, while agriculture machinery, electrical appliances, iron and

steel-related materials, raw industrial goods and consumer goods flowed into the country.

Since the first week of Oc-

tober, Myanmar’s rice, sugar and corn exports have been suspended, due to China’s increased security along the Muse border area between China and Myanmar, according to the Muse trade center.

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

Therefore, China’s confiscation of rice in the border areas often occur. The local merchants want legal preferential trade at a cheap tax rate through China, and the Myanmar government is discussing this.

Despite the suspension of trade in rice, sugar and corn trade, watermelon, green grams, rubber, sesame seeds, and onions are regularly traded. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chinese Communist Party Minister

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met Mr. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China, at the Shwe San Ein Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two discussed promoting friendly ties between the two countries, Myanmar's progress on the road to democracy, and measures being taken by the government and the Tatmadaw for peace.

They also spoke about China's position on the Rakhine is-

sue and the strengthening of ties between the armed forces of the two countries.

After the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hosted a lunch for the Chinese delegation, led by Mr. Song Tao.

Also present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Lt-Gen Soe Htut, and senior military officers.

Mr. Song Tao was accompanied by the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Hong Liang, and other embassy officials. — MNA
■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Mr. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Child Protection offices provide services in Kayin State



A meeting for opening of the child protection office held in Hpa-an Township in Kayin State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

WITH the aim of reducing the percentage of orphans and protecting children, a ceremony marking the opening of the child protection office was held at 1 p.m. yesterday in Khaymar Street, 5th Ward in Hpa-an Township.

At the ceremony, Kayin State Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Tin Win Kyaw and head of Kayin State's Social Welfare Department U Zaw Min explained the purpose of founding the child protection association, its procedures and the conditions for opening temporary offices.

"With the development of social and economic standards, it has been found that some so-

cial norms have been changed in some places. Thus, the attitude of youths towards what is to be valued has fallen, and as a consequence they tend to abandon their unwanted children. Therefore, we have formed this association to reduce and safeguard these kinds of undesirable incidents," said U Zaw Min, head of State's Social Welfare Department.

Child Protection offices have been opened in the seven townships in Kayin State. With the cooperation of other associations, efforts are being made to educate, carry out the tasks and operate the offices. — Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Tharaphu Farmers Festival held in Pathein

THE Tharaphu Farmers Festival was organized recently to promote mechanization of agriculture in the Ayeyawady Region, and to educate farmers about its long-term benefits. The festival was held at the town hall of Pathein in the Ayeyawady Region last Sunday.

Speaking at the festival, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Development Affairs, U Kyaw Myint, said the country's exports are lacking in quality as there is limited use of machinery, and little land preparation and technical knowledge of machinery which can boost crop production and quality.

He said that as the country transitions from conventional farming to mechanized farming, the role of not just the government and farmers, but also private businesspersons, is gaining importance.

After the speech, the minister, along with Regional Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Kyaw Swar Hlaing,

Tharaphu U Soe Myint from the Tharaphu Farmers Festival Organizing Committee and other officials opened the festival with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The festival showcased mechanized farming machinery, agricultural equipment, fertilizers, grain dryers, and banks for agricultural loans. At the event, Tharaphu Soe Myint Company

donated money for constructing a new school building in the Ywar Haung Gyi Village-tract, Pathein Township, distributed pamphlets about agricultural technology to farmers, and conducted talks on technical know-how. It also organized games and entertainment programmes by famous artists.—Min Thit (MNA) ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



A technician demonstrates a tractor at the Tharaphu Farmers Festival held in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: AUNG AUNG (PATHEIN)

Memorial art show for master painter U Thu Kha

A total of 376 paintings will be displayed by foreign and local artists at the exhibition to mark the 100th birth anniversary of late artist Saya U Thu Kha.

"The 100th birth anniversary of artist Saya U Thu Kha, who served as the headmaster of the Yangon School of Painting and Sculpture, will be observed on 11 November. Ranked among the famous artists of Myanmar, he was born in 1918. He passed

away at the age of 89. He spent the whole of his life painting and teaching art. He mentored several professional artists. At the exhibition, 376 paintings will be showcased, some of which were made by Saya U Thu Kha," said artist Min Wai Aung in media conference.

Over 300 local artists and 53 foreign artists from Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Chinese (Taipei), Thailand, England, Ger-

many and France will display their paintings at the exhibition.

The exhibition will be held at two venues: The Strand Hotel from 13 to 15 November, and the Pansodan Lawkanat gallery from 13 to 18 November. It will be open to the public, free of charge.

Artist saya U Thu Kha was awarded an honorary certificate by the then government in 1935.—Myint Maung Soe ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

British screenwriter conducts screenplay workshop in Bahan Tsp

A WORKSHOP on writing screenplays, entitled 'TV & Film Drama Orientation Day' led by British screenwriter Rachel Mathews, was held at the Film Department Centre at No. 50, Golden Valley Street, Bahan Tsp, Yangon yesterday.

At the workshop, Country Director for the Yangon Film School - (YFS), Aleksandra Minkiewicz, delivered the opening speech.

Speaking at the ceremony, Screenwriter Rachel Mathews, who also directs and currently resides in Berlin, she said she hopes to discuss current trends in Myanmar's TV series industry and its future possibilities.

The British screenwriter then held discussions under the titles 'Present Day Myanmar Films/Film Presentation' in the morning session, followed by 'Emerging Myanmar Films/Film



British screenwriter Rachel Mathews shares international screenwriting experiences with local screenwriters and attendees at a workshop on writing screenplays in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: YE HTUT

Art Creation' in the afternoon. Ma Aye Ar Mahn, YFS Project Officer, expressed her gratitude to the collaborators for the workshop. She said the workshop is a good

example of government and INGO working together.

Ma Mel Khaing, a screenwriter, said the meeting with Rachel Mathews offers insights into how international screen-

writing works and allows local screenwriters to compare and benefit from it.

Rachel Mathews is an international screenwriter who writes for films, TV series and modern

online art performances. She was the show-runner for the second season of 'The Sun, The Moon and the Truth' which aired on MRTV, DVB, Mizzima Media and Myawaddy on 4 September, where she also collaborated with six Myanmar screenwriters.

She has taken on the role of story liner for a daily show on Hungarian television, worked as plot generator for British and German channels and for Netflix, and is currently involved in the production of two major films.

The workshop is jointly sponsored by the Film Development Centre under the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information and the Yangon Film School, with an aim to promote the role of scriptwriting to meet international standards.

—Yi Yi Myint / (Translated by ZHO) ■

Recovery of endangered whales hampered by humans long after hunting

PARIS — When an endangered female North Atlantic right whale spends months, even years, disentangling itself from cast-off fishing nets, there's not much energy left over for mating and nursing calves.

Coping with such debris, along with ship collisions and other forms of human encroachment, have severely stymied recovery of the majestic sea mammals long after explosive harpoons and factory ships nearly wiped them out, according to a study published Wednesday.

Once numbering in the tens of thousands, the northern whale's population — hovering around 450 today — climbed slowly from 1990, but began to drop again around 2010.

Had the Canadian and US waters they plied during that quarter of a century been pristine and uncluttered by human traffic, "the species' numbers would be almost double what they are now, and their current emergency wouldn't be so dire," scientists led by Peter Corkeron of the NOAA Northeastern Fisheries Science Center in Massachusetts reported.

More to the point, there



This endangered North Atlantic right whale is entangled in heavy plastic fishing link off Cape Cod, Massachusetts. PHOTO: AFP

would be twice as many female whales: "The general slope of the recovery trajectory is driven by female mortality," they added.

From 1970 to 2009, 80 percent of 122 known North Atlantic right whale deaths were caused by human objects or activity.

The species has not been hunted for more than half a century.

Sister species

But beyond the number of whales killed was the question of whether the species' pop-

ulation might have been curtailed in more subtle ways by people.

To find out, Corkeron compared birth rates with the Southern right whale, a sister species in the southern hemisphere — estimated to number about 15,000 — that is in much better shape and far less exposed to harmful human emanations.

Data gathered over the last three decades made it possible to count the number of new calves born in different sub-populations at both poles.

The Northern and Southern whales were long thought to be one species until genetic analysis showed otherwise.

As suspected, the three groups of Southern whales — off the coasts of eastern South America, southern Africa and southwest Australia — produced offspring at twice the rate as their northern kin.

Further evidence that the North Atlantic environment was taking a toll was the poor health of females and their calves, the study found.—AFP ■

University of Oxford to develop AI healthcare applications

LONDON — The University of Oxford announced on Tuesday that it will step up its efforts to develop artificial intelligence (AI) healthcare applications with funding support from public and private sectors, so as to benefit patients.

The British government is investing to establish a network of digital pathology, imaging and AI centers, in a bid to drive innovation in the use of AI for improved diagnosis and delivery of precision treatments, according to an Oxford statement.

Oxford is to be home to one of the five new technology centers in Britain, and is also a collaborator in two of the other centers.

The University of Oxford-led center is the National Consortium of Intelligent Medical Imaging (NCIMI), in which UK Research and Innovation is investing 10 million pounds (13.1 million US dollars). NCIMI will also benefit from a further five million pounds of funding provided from its commercial partners.—Xinhua ■

Marching towards our goal of peace, joining hands, working in unison

THE incumbent government is committed to internal peace and national reconciliation throughout the country. To date, 51 basic principles for the Union Accord have been agreed upon covering politics, economics, social issues, land, the environment and security, following three meetings of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, to build our future democratic federal union.

The three meetings of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong show that representatives of the group of the Union Government, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw, the armed ethnic organizations and the nation's political parties, when joining hands with each other, have placed their energy, faith and strenuous efforts into achieving peace.

It was found that there were strong points and weak points in drawing up the framework for the political dialogue. The weak points are to be reviewed.

We believe that committees of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee will find the best guidelines for work, as they prepare to take steps into the process of political dialogue.

UPDJC meetings, held in the second week of July, produced fruitful results, as guidelines were agreed upon by leaders of the ethnic armed organizations, following the meetings on 15 and 16 October.

The meeting on reviewing the framework for political dialogues and guidelines for work, held on 1 and 3 November, also discussed positive prospects for the future tasks.

The results can be seen as the fruits of unity among all stakeholders of the peace process, paving the way to further steps towards peace.

President U Win Myint said in his message to the 63rd

Anniversary celebrations of Kayin State Day, "At this time, we are working for internal Peace and National Reconciliation, to build a Union based on democracy and federalism. Therefore, now is the time for all ethnic Union nationals to take lessons from the undesirable experiences of the past and march forth in unity, with collective strength and joined hands, for the emergence of a peaceful Union."

To achieve peace, signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement sat at the negotiating table and took a step by step approach to solve the political issues through negotiations, and produced positive results.

Meanwhile, we have seen good prospects for signing the NCA by ethnic armed groups who have not yet inked the nationwide ceasefire agreement.

Hence, all the people of the country need to work strenuously, joining hands with the government to overcome all of the challenges we are facing.

IT has been a long time since I've dreamed of visiting MraukU. The famous cultural heritage in Myanmar includes Bagan-NyaungU, Sri Ksetra in Pyay, Hanlin in the upper part of Myanmar and MraukU in Rakhine State. Ceti and stupa, remains of palaces are still there as well as cultural diversity. The situation is the same in Toungoo and Bago. Actually, Myanmar has a rich history. Bamar, Rakhine and Mon ethnic groups lived under their own monarchs.

Four years ago, an arrangement was made to pay a visit to MraukU. At that time talks on economy were given in Sittway. Together with my colleagues there were many audiences in U Ottama Hall. After the talks there were many questions raised. The next day another talks took place in Sittwe University.

The next morning, on board four vehicles, we started our journey to MraukU. Although there was rain in the morning, we were forecasting that the weather will have been fine and we decided to proceed our journey. But on the way beyond Ponnagyun, we faced floods and we had to stop for a while watching the situation. Due to the rise of water level gradually we were way back to Ponnagyun and took a temporary shelter at a teashop. Finally, we got the information that the road was blocked and we turned back towards Sittway. I felt very sad because we had to abort our plan. I wished my daughter and wife being there. The next day, we took a flight to be back in Yangon. Other group members planned to back the next day, then, they were hit by a storm.

Literary Talks in Sittwe

When I met Myanmar Youth Entrepreneurial Society Chairman U Tun Tun Naing at a dinner, he requested me to hold public talks in Sittway. He suggested me to pay a visit to MraukU after the talks. As my wife was eager to visit there, we decided to do so. I used to frequent Rakhine State and most were business travel but this time it would be different things.

We took a Sunday afternoon flight and my schedule was very tight as the talks would be held at 1:30 pm. Therefore, I made an appeal in advance to the Chief Minister U Nyi Pu who delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony. We went straight from the airport to U Ottama Hall. As



PHOTO: MNA

soon as we reached the hall some arrangements for the public talks were made and I stepped up to the podium. The hall was occupied by a big crowd. My mind went back to four years ago. At that time, Minister U Kyaw Aye Thein told me to hold public talks. I promised him.

I gave talks on entrepreneurship. It is important to note that entrepreneurship encompasses economic, social and political affairs. There is only three requirements for achieving business success. The first element of success is risk and return, which are closely interrelated. Without risk there will be no return. Higher risk is associated with greater probability of higher return. The second is creativeness which is essential in today's modern business world. Finally, about leadership.

Small and Medium-sized Enterprise

When we considered it compatible with the word of entrepreneur. But I think it is not perfect meaning because entrepreneur is a person who sets up a business or businesses, taking on financial risks in the hope of profit. As I wish to improve the business of SMEs in Rakhine State I made some presentation on it. After my presentation questions and answers session followed. The questions were excellent. I had opportunity to add something into my talks by answering their questions.

After the public talks, Ko Lu Aye brought us to a hotel next to U Ottama Hall where we were going to put up. After taking a short break, we went to Mawlite Monttee (Rahine Snack) Shop to have Rakhine Monttee. The shop is famous in Sittway. Its taste is different from the taste we used to have in Yangon. After having Monttee, we proceeded to the viewpoint popularly known as Point. In my last visit to Sittway, I did not visit the place because it was then under construction. As it is located in the place where the Bay of Bengal and the mouth of the Kaladan River meet, it is very pleasant scenery. There were many people there to watch the sunset with a colourful sky in the background. Then we went back to the hotel and had a dinner at a restaurant at the viewpoint together with Rakhine State Minister U Kyaw Aye Thein and wife, U Tun Tun Naing and other executives.

The next morning we went to MraukU by car. We stopped over beyond Ponnagyun before reaching Kyauktaw. There we saw various local products. We crossed a bridge in Kyauktaw and paid homage to Buddha Image on the top of the mountain by taking steep steps. We continued our journey and paid homage to Maha Myat Muni Pagoda. There are numerous historical definition concerning the pagoda in the second chamber. After paying

to the pagoda we reached MraukU to which I longed for visiting much. Entering into the town, I saw a moat filled with lotus and a defensive wall built of sandstone. We had a lunch at a restaurant. While in Sittwe, U Tun Tun Naing suggested that having Rakhine cuisine is a must do in Rakhine State. With the compliments of Ko Lu Aye we had a chance to taste it. Their cooking style is like Dawei cuisine. As they put much fish paste in the curry, it is the likes of me. After lunch we left for MraukU hotel. The hotel is neat, tidy and comfortable. After taking a rest for an hour, we again left the hotel for paying homage to pagodas. As there is a tradition in MraukU to pay homage to five pagodas, Ko Lu Aye brought us all the pagodas without fail. We paid homage to Koethaung Pagoda and Shitthaung Pagoda. In reality we need at least three or four days to pay homage to these pagodas to which we visited just within half a day. Like Bagan, there are many pagodas in MraukU. I can see generosity in renovating these pagodas but a chill of fear cast on me when I thought of getting lose these archaeological heritages. The first thought came into my mind after seeing these pagodas is pagodas in Bagan and edifices in Egypt, Greece and Italy. In some countries, there are little cultural heritages to be displayed but they know how to attract the attention of people. In our country, there are many attractions. Two staff from the Department of

Archaeology explained us about the pagodas and we also had a chance to visit archaeology museum. They said that images and glazed earthen jars are on display at the museum and there are much more amount than that but due to space limitation, the heritages are to be kept in storerooms. I'm so sorry for knowing about the environmental circumstances. There are no guards at the ancient pagodas. It seems the invaluable treasures are ignored.

Shitthaung and Koethaung Pagodas

The sunset was viewed from a mound near Shitthaung pagoda. The scene of MraukU is the same as in Bagan. The huge impact of extreme weather is seen on these edifices but as they are built of sandstone nearby river bank and not with brick, they are strong.

The tunnels at both Shitthaung and Koethaung pagodas are very breathtaking. The high standard architectural design not only ventilates the tunnel but also helps increase the lighting.

Rakhine history is divided into four parts - Danyawady, Waythali, Laymyo and MraukU. MraukU period is late than that of Bagan but Laymyo was contemporary with Bagan. Their cultural standard is very high and Buddhism rooted there since yore.

The above-mentioned four periods thrived in inland areas. Rakhine people have had contact

with both Myanmar and Indians. They also had relations with Western countries. Sittway was founded only after 1824, under British colonial rule. It is amazing to see that the inland areas were prosperous.

It was after 6 pm when we arrived the last pagoda in our itinerary. It was locked and we requested to get the keys and we had a chance to pay homage to the pagoda. After dinner, we went round the downtown. The whole city was silent. I wish there were cultural shows, fashion shows and food stalls as in Egypt. But the situation there seems the archaeological site is not the concern of locals. Depending on the treasure trove, ways and means for economic achievements should be sought. It is my knowledge that application has been submitted to UN for MraukU to be listed in World Heritage Site. It is our pride for Sri Ksetra was listed as the site. But it needs to be prosperous.

One of the weak points for MraukU is there is no airport in that area. It is said that the plot for the airfield has been designated. But there is no progress yet. Nobody takes responsibility for it. Thus, there are many questions coming into my mind: Why they are not interested in it? Why don't they put their energies into it? What are their concerns? If the government cannot implement it why don't they put the project into the hands of private sector?

The next day, we visited ordination hall near Shitthaung Pagoda, Portuguese Warehouse which is a sample of economic prosperity and the site for building airport but there is nothing there. It is regrettable.

Tired but Worth It

On our way back to Sittway, we stopped over at Shwekyar garment shop. Owner Daw Aye told us about creating job opportunities for youths at the loom. Youths are to be encouraged for their enthusiasm for work. I asked them their situation but it was uncertain. This is why our situation in the encouragement index is bad. Laws, rules and regulations disappoint active youth who are willing to seek their development.

We arrived back in Yangon around 11 pm. We are tired but worth it.

Translated by Wallace

U Moe Kyaw Aung appointed as Non-Resident Ambassador of Myanmar to the Islamic Republic of Iran

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar concurrently accredited to the Islamic Republic of Iran.—MNA ■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Wednesday 7 November, 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kachin State and isolated in Upper Sagaing Region. Weather has been partly cloudy in Yangon and Taninthayi regions, Shan and Chin states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (3°C) below November average temperature in Yangon Region, (2°C) below November average temperatures in Shan and Kayah states and about November average temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (7°C) in Haka, (9°C) each in Pinlaung, Heho and Loilin and (10°C) in Tiddim. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao (0.12)inch and Machanbaw (0.08)inch.

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Comorin area and adjoining Sri Lanka and Equatorial Indian Ocean still persists. Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 8 November 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, isolated in Upper Sagaing Region, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region and Rakhine State and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 November 2018: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 November 2018: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 November 2018: Partly cloudy.

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Asian markets climb as US parties on course to split House, Senate

HONG KONG (China) — Asian markets rose on Wednesday as investors tracked results from the US midterm elections with pollsters tipping Congress to be split, in line with forecasts.

Republicans held their majority in the Senate but the Democrats were on course to regain control of the House, which could impact Donald Trump's legislative agenda.

But, while the vote is the first major electoral test of Trump's presidency, analysts pointed out the poll is unlikely to lead to a reversal of the White House's popular tax cuts and deregulation.

Nor will it wind in his aggressive efforts to reframe international trade, which has been a key to recent volatility in global markets.

"Equities remain supported suggesting this outcome is positive for risk since the gridlock outcome ultimately will support the president's mandate and a higher probability of more fiscal stimulus," said Stephen Innes, head of Asia-Pacific trading at OANDA.

"Realistically I can't see how the Democrats would want to be perceived as killjoys and try to stifle any policy which is supporting the economy," he added.

The vote has the added twist of a probe looking at whether Trump's campaign colluded with Russia to win the 2016 election.

If the Democrats win one house of congress, it would likely lead to extensive investigation of Trump's administration, creating new roadblocks for his agenda.

Hong Kong jumped more than one per cent going into the break while Shanghai was up 0.3 per cent and Tokyo added 0.7 per cent.

Sydney added 0.2 per cent, with Singapore and Seoul each 0.5 per cent up. There were also gains in Chinese Taipei and Wellington but Manila and Jakarta were down. On currency markets the dollar dipped against its major peers as well as higher-yielding and emerging market units, as a win for Republicans in both houses of Congress would likely have led to more tax cuts and regulatory measures.

Brexit hopes

The pound continued to rise as traders grew optimistic that officials are close to an agree-

ment for a post-Brexit deal for Britain, with the question of Northern Ireland the main sticking point.

"With the smoke surrounding a possible Brexit deal thickening, the trading market looks justified in taking the view there must be a fire somewhere," said Ray Attrill, head of forex strategy at National Australia Bank.

Energy firms dropped with oil prices on worries about an oversupply following a forecast-beating rise in US stockpiles, while the head of the International Energy Agency called on OPEC to boost output.

The comment from director Fatih Birol comes as Venezuela's production dries up and US sanctions on Iran kick in.

However, the commodity

was already depressed by news that Washington had given waivers to eight countries allowing them to continue buying crude from Tehran, tempering most of the embargo's impact.

"At least three of the top five consumers of Iranian crude have been granted waivers. Therefore the impact is likely to be substantially muted," Sukrit Vijayakar, founder of energy consultancy Trifecta Consultants, told AFP.

"Apparently, President Trump had a more important short-term goal of bringing oil prices down so as to help the re-election of Republican congressmen."

Both main contracts are down about a fifth from their four-year highs touched at the start of last month.—AFP ■



PHOTO:TASS

PM Medvedev signs decree stabilizing fuel market

BEIJING — Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed a government decree, which approved an agreement between the authorities and oil companies to stabilize the fuel market.

"I have just signed a decree on an agreement between federal executive authorities and

economic entities. Based on this decree, the Energy Ministry and the Antimonopoly service are charged with concluding an agreement on economic stabilization and development of the domestic market of oil products," Medvedev told reporters on Wednesday.—Tass ■

Ex-US Treasury chief warns of 'economic iron curtain'

SINGAPORE — Former US Treasury secretary Henry Paulson warned on Wednesday of the risk of an "economic iron curtain" unless the United States and China step up efforts to ease soaring trade tensions.

Washington and Beijing have been locked for months in a stand-off over US President Donald Trump's move to end what he describes as years of unfair trade practices by China.

He has imposed new tariffs on Chinese imports, prompting Beijing to retaliate with its own levies on US products, and continued the offensive by boosting military support for rival Taiwan and denouncing China's human rights record.

In a speech in Singapore as Americans voted in midterm elections set to deliver a stinging rebuke to Trump, Paulson warned that "economic tensions

are reaching a breaking point" between Washington and Beijing.

"Today this region must look warily at the prospect that what until now has been a healthy strategic competition could tip into a full-blown Cold War," said Paulson, who served under Republican president George W. Bush. Paulson, who backed Trump's Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election, warned that decades of US-China economic integration appeared to be going into reverse, which could have broad impact.

"I fear that big parts of the global economy will be closed off to free flow of investment and trade," he said. "I now see the prospect of an economic iron curtain — one that throws up new walls on each side and unmakes the global economy, as we have known it." The Iron Curtain was

the term used to describe the political and ideological barrier that divided western Europe from the communist Soviet Union during the Cold War. Tensions have gone beyond trade in recent weeks as the midterms approached.

Trump has cast China as a villain set on bringing him down, and in a closely-watched speech earlier this month Vice President Mike Pence vowed to challenge the Asian giant on multiple fronts and accused Beijing of seeking to interfere in the polls.

There have been signs of ties improving in some areas, with the State Department announcing this week that top-level US-China security talks will take place in Washington Friday.

Nevertheless Paulson, speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum, warned: "We are in for a long winter in US-China relations."—AFP ■

Tokyo stocks end lower on US economic policy concern after elections

TOKYO — Tokyo stocks fell on Wednesday with selling increasing toward the close, as concern grew over the Trump administration's economic policy after projections for the US midterm elections suggested a divided Congress.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended down 61.95 points, or 0.28 per cent, from Tuesday at

22,085.80. The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange finished 6.92 points, or 0.42 per cent, lower at 1,652.43.

Decliners were led by oil and coal product, mining and insurance issues. Trading was volatile throughout the day with the Nikkei index gaining more than 200 points at one time amid

expectations that the Republican Party would retain majorities in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

But stocks later lost steam and dropped into negative territory after exit polls showed that the Democratic Party was likely to secure a majority in the House.

Market participants grew cautious about US President Don-

ald Trump's economic policies in the new Congress, as it could be difficult for him to implement additional measures such as further tax cuts to boost the US economy, brokers said.

"Investors sold stocks to adjust their positions on the expected results of the US midterm elections after reacting too much to news that the Republican Party

might win in the House," said Yutaka Miura, senior technical analyst at Mizuho Securities Co. "But a cautious mood would prevail in the market if the Democratic Party strongly opposes Trump's economic policies," Miura added. On the First Section, declining issues outnumbered advancers 1,095 to 939, while 77 ended the day unchanged.—Kyodo News ■

Democrats seize US House but Trump averts 'blue wave'

WASHINGTON (United States) — Democrats seized control of the House of Representatives on Tuesday in a midterm setback for Donald Trump, but the US president managed to avoid a feared "blue wave" as his Republican Party expanded its Senate majority after a polarizing, racially charged campaign.

Heralded by Trump as a "tremendous success," the Republican Senate victories will all but end any immediate talk of impeachment, even as the Democratic-led House will enjoy investigative powers to put new checks on his roller-coaster presidency.

Just after polls closed on the West Coast, Trump took to Twitter to hail his party's performance. But network projections said that Democrats would take control of the House for the first time in eight years, upending the balance of power in Washington where Trump enjoyed an easy ride following his shock 2016 election with Republican dominance of both chambers.

Democrats were on course to flip at least 26 seats from Republican hands, with strong performances among suburban white women who had narrowly turned to Trump two years ago and in key battleground states such as Pennsylvania.

Representative Nancy Pelosi, who is likely to return as speaker of the House despite opposition from some centrist Democrats, promised that the party will serve as a counterweight — but also work with Trump.

"Today is more than about Democrats and Republicans. It's about restoring the constitution's checks and balances to the Trump administration," Pelosi told a news conference.

But she added: "A Democratic Congress will work for solutions that bring us together, because we have all had enough of division." Democrats will now be able to block legislation and light a fire under Trump's feet with investigations of his opaque finances and Russian interference in the 2016 election.

No 'Blue wave'

Tuesday's contest saw several historic firsts in the Democratic camp: in Kansas Sharice Davids — an attorney and former mixed martial arts fighter — became the first Native American woman elected to Congress.



Democrats celebrate a projected Democratic Party takeover of the House of Representatives during a midterm election night party hosted by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee on 6 November, 2018 in Washington, DC. PHOTO: AFP

And in the Midwest a one-time Somali refugee, Ilhan Omar, and Rashida Tlaib, who is the daughter of Palestinian immigrants, shared the historic distinction of becoming the first two Muslim women elected to the US Congress.

But the rosier expectations of some Democrats — that they could create a "blue wave" even when playing defense on the Senate map — proved unfounded.

Republicans were forecast to have defeated several Democratic senators in states won by Trump — Florida, Indiana, Missouri and North Dakota.

Trump boasted a growing economy but campaigned aggressively in the closing days on a hardline anti-immigration message. He seized on scenes of a caravan of Central American migrants heading through Mexico for the US, mused on ending the constitutional guarantee of citizenship to all people born in the United States and ran a television advertisement, deemed too provocative to air by mainstream networks, that linked Democrats to a criminal who was an undocumented immigrant.

Trump also has sent soldiers to the Mexican border and threatened to have illegal immigrants shot if they throw stones.

"It's a consequential election," Yorgo Koutsogiogasi, a 64-year-old immigrant from Greece and CEO of a hospitality company, said as he voted in Chicago. "Divisiveness is really tearing the country apart," Koutsogiogasi, a Democrat, said as he voted with his wife. "I'm voting for candidates that I believe have the capacity to unite people rather than divide." But Republican voter James Gerlock, 27,

said he wanted to see more of the soaring economic growth that Trump says is the fruit of his business-friendly policies. "I'm happy with the economy," Gerlock said as he cast his ballot in Chicago. "I just want to keep everything moving, because I'm loving it."

Beto falls short

Democrats claimed some high-profile victories, with former professional hockey player Colin Allred defeating Pete Sessions, the chairman of the powerful House Rules Committee and leading opponent of legalized marijuana, in suburban Dallas.

But also in Texas, Democratic Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke, a charismatic congressman and former punk rock singer who had raised an unprecedented \$60 million in his mission to win in the Republican stronghold, fell short to arch-conservative former presidential contender Ted Cruz.

O'Rourke had told voters that Trump was wrong and described Texas as built from "immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees."

Districts around the country reported unusually high turnout: according to Michael McDonald of the US Elections Project, 38.4 million Americans cast their ballots early ahead of this election, compared with 27.4 million in the 2014 midterm. Trump had noted the energy as he wrapped up a punishing schedule of rallies around the country that were intended to boost Republican candidates — and his own brand heading towards reelection in 2020. "The midterm elections used to be, like, boring," Trump told a crowd in Cleveland on Monday. "Now it's like the hottest thing." — AFP ■

Macron urges 'European army' to defend against Russia, US

PARIS (France) — French President Emmanuel Macron called on Tuesday for a "real European army" to allow the bloc to defend itself against Russia and even the United States, a hugely sensitive idea amongst EU nations which jealously guard their defence.

Macron, who has pushed for a joint European Union military force since his arrival in power, said Europe needed to be less dependent on American might, not least after US President Donald Trump announced he was pulling out of a Cold War-era nuclear treaty.

"We have to protect ourselves with respect to China, Russia and even the United States," Macron told Europe 1 in his first radio interview since becoming president in May 2017.

"We will not protect Europeans unless we decide to have a true European army."

Macron has spearheaded the creation of a nine-country European force, independent from NATO, that could rapidly mount a joint military operation, evacuate civilians from a war zone, or provide aid after a natural disaster.

The nine countries' defence ministers are set to meet for the first time on Wednesday in Paris to start thrashing out details of how the force will operate.

Finland is set to become the tenth country involved in the project, according to a source close to the talks.

Touchy subject

The wider EU is due to vastly expand its defence budget starting in 2021, allocating some 13 billion euros (\$15 billion) over seven years to research and de-

velop new equipment.

Under an initiative known as PESCO, 25 EU countries have also pledged to better coordinate their defence spending and potentially their operations.

But talk of an "EU army", an idea floated by European federalists for years, remains a deeply touchy subject amongst member states anxious to defend their sovereignty.

A French source said Macron was speaking about more closely coordinated defence rather than a truly supranational military spanning the continent.

The president "used the strong image of a 'European army' as a reminder" of the need for closer defence ties, the source said.

European Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas said that the EU backed "a more meaningful and assertive defence identity" but that this cooperation should start with joint research and procurement.

"I don't think this defence identity will start with an EU army," he said.

"We have to start with the rest and we'll see that at some point in time."

Bruno Alomar, a professor at the French War School which trains top military officers, said Macron's vision of a tight-knit European defence force was a long way off.

"The idea of creating a common strategic culture is not a bad one," he told AFP.

"But there's a massive gap between the European defence that Emmanuel Macron dreams about and the reality of very powerful disagreements between European partners." —AFP ■



French President Emmanuel Macron (r) lights the flame to pay his respect at the Douaumont Ossuary as part of ceremonies marking the centenary of the First World War, in Douaumont, eastern France on 6 November, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

No pardon for opposition leader Kem Sokha before trial: Cambodia PM

PHNOM PENH—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Wednesday that former opposition party leader Kem Sokha would not be pardoned unless he was first tried, refuting a claim made by another key opposition figure that international pressure would soon bring about his release.

Kem Sokha, 65, president of the now-dissolved main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party, was arrested last year on charges of treason and is currently under house arrest.

Sam Rainsy, a former CNRP leader who is in self-imposed exile abroad, claimed on his Facebook page this week that Kem Sokha would be released on 29 December due to international pressure.

“The release — attributable only to inter-



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen delivers a speech during a business forum in Tokyo on 9 October, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

national pressure — will take place on 29 December 2018, which marks the 20th anniversary of Hun Sen’s ‘Win-Win Policy’ in his dealing with the Khmer Rouge,” he said in the post.

Hun Sen, at a meeting with garment workers on Wednesday, said, “Kem Sokha has yet been tried or has yet been found guilty. Thus we cannot request to His Majesty the King for

his pardon.”

No date has been fixed for Kem Sokha’s trial.

Sam Rainsy, in the same Facebook post, called on the prime minister to drop “trumped-up” charges against Kem Sokha and “very similar charges against me” and immediately release him from house arrest to start the process for restoring democracy in Cambodia.

The CNRP was dissolved by court order last year ahead of the 29 July general election, in which the Hun Sen-led Cambodian People’s Party, in the absence of any credible challengers, won all 125 seats in the National Assembly.—Kyodo News ■

Delayed DPRK-US high-level talks can be seen as process of denuke, peace-building

SEOUL — The delayed high-level talks between the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States can be seen as a process of completely denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and building a peace regime, local media reports said on Wednesday citing Seoul’s foreign ministry.

An unnamed senior foreign ministry official told local reporters that it was sorry for the DPRK and the United States to delay their scheduled dialogue as South Korea anticipated a progress in the denuclearization and the permanent peace on the peninsula through the

dialogue.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a senior-level DPRK delegation, including Kim Yong Chol, vice chairman of the DPRK’s ruling Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK) Central Committee, had been due to meet in New York on Thursday. However, the US State Department announced the high-level talks would take place at a later date. The Seoul ministry official said it wasn’t necessary to read too much into the delayed talks as it can be seen as one process of achieving the goal of complete denuclearization and peace regime on the peninsula.—Xinhua ■

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C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
hh@kcyangon.com

Dated 8 November 2018

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Daw Htoo Htoo, H.G.P
For KYOSAN ELECTRIC MFG. CO., LTD.,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
hh@kcyangon.com

Dated 8 November 2018

Niger turns to drones to protect precious wildlife

NIAMEY (Niger) — Niger is turning to drone technology to help protect a Saharan antelope and other endangered species in Africa's largest terrestrial park.

The Termit and Tin Toumma reserve in the southeast of the West African desert state is at threat from poaching, deforestation, over-grazing and armed conflict.

French conservation group Noe — its name means "Noah" — will provide drone surveillance under a 20-year agreement to manage the reserve.

Noe's secretary general, Valerie Collin, signed the agreement on Monday with Environment Minis-

ter Almoustapha Garba.

Bazoum Mohamed, the former French colony's interior minister, said drones would be used to help monitor the animals, which include the critically endangered Saharan addax antelope, the dama gazelle and the Saharan sub-species of the cheetah.

"The park's fauna is still there but is badly threatened," said Collin.

The region's Dorcas gazelle and Barbary sheep are listed as vulnerable, while the Arabian bustard and fennec fox are other protected species to be found in the reserve, along with around a hundred plant species.

Created in 2012, the Termit and Tin Toumma stretches over 97,000 square kilometres (37,500 square miles) — more than three times the size of Belgium.

Part of the park is in the Lake Chad Basin, a region beset by deadly in-

cursions by the Islamist group Boko Haram based in neighbouring Nigeria.

A massive oil-extraction project has also been blamed for encroaching on the land on which the rare addax antelope forages for sparse shrubs and herbs.—AFP ■

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Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

lmm@kcyangon.com
For **KG International FZCO.**

By their Attorneys
Lall & Sethi,

Dated 8th November 2018

New Delhi – 110 049, India

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M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0109 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0109 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

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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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illumina

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For **PENTEL KABUSHIKI KAISHA**, C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC), Corner of Mahabandoola Road
and Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 8 November 2018

hh@kcyangon.com



Actor Kirk Douglas (R) attends a ceremony honoring his son actor Michael Douglas (L) with a Star on Hollywood Walk of Fame, in Hollywood, California on 6 November, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Actor Michael Douglas gets star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES (United States) — Oscar-winning actor Michael Douglas got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Tuesday in honour of his 50 years in show business. The megastar was joined at the ceremony by his 101-year-old father and Hollywood legend Kirk Douglas as well as Jane Fonda, who starred with him in the 1979 drama “The China Syndrome,” about an accident in a nuclear

power plant.

Also attending was Douglas’s wife, the actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, and other family members. “This is a great honour and I’m not getting any younger; I want to enjoy it with (my family),” the 74-year-old actor said as the star was unveiled. Douglas got emotional and teary-eyed as he addressed his father, telling him that his presence at the event meant a lot.

“I’ll say it simply and with all my heart, ‘I’m so proud to be your son,’” he said, choking up. Speaking at the ceremony, Fonda wondered why it took so long for the younger Douglas to finally get his star. “Michael Douglas and I share something far more specific and unique than acting together,” she said. “We both come from families referred to by the press as Hollywood royalty.—AFP ■

Freddy Mercury biopic ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’ soars at box office

LOS ANGELES—Freddy Mercury biopic “Bohemian Rhapsody” soared to the top spot at the North American box office over the weekend, proving again that audiences matter more than critics.

The film unexpectedly pulled in \$51 million, industry tracker Exhibitor Relations said on Monday, coming in well ahead of Disney’s new “The Nutcracker and the Four Realms,” at \$20 million, and Paramount’s “Nobody’s Fool,” with \$13.8 million. “Rhapsody,” with Egyptian-American actor Rami Malek starring as the charismatic Mercury, thus logged one of the best openings ever for a music biopic. The movie has received decidedly mixed reviews, however. Vox.com dismissed it as “a crashingly dull movie about ... one of the least drab humans who ever lived,” while *The Washington Post* called it a “bad movie that works, even when it shouldn’t.”

But Malek, a Primetime Emmy winner for his role in TV’s “Mr. Robot,” has won mostly high praise. While Fox essentially paid the \$50 million production cost of “Rhapsody” with the film’s opening-weekend take, Disney was not faring as well with “Nutcracker,” which cost \$125 million to make. The studio hopes the classic Christmas tale will hold on through the holidays, *Variety* said. But like “Rhapsody,” the Keira Knightley film got some less-than-glowing reviews. “Tchaikovsky,” said *Rolling Stone*, “is rolling in his grave.” Nor did “Nobody’s Fool,” Tyler Perry’s first R-rated comedy, do much better on the critic’s couch, with *HollywoodReporter.com* deploring its “clumsy, misshapen script.” It stars the popular Tiffany Haddish as a newly paroled woman who tries to help her sister get revenge on a man who deceived her. In fourth place, Warner Bros.’s “A Star Is Born” earned a solid \$11 million in its fifth week out. Bradley Cooper, in his directorial debut, plays a hard-drinking musician who has a star-crossed love affair with a talented young singer played by Lady Gaga. Not far behind in fifth was Universal’s “Halloween,” at \$10.8 million. The low-budget horror film has Laurie Strode (played again by Jamie Lee Curtis) in a final confrontation with a masked homicidal maniac decades after she survived his first killing spree. Rounding out the weekend’s top 10 were: “Venom” (\$7.9 million) “Smallfoot” (\$3.9 million) “Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween” (\$3.8 million) “Hunter Killer” (\$3.5 million) “The Hate U Give” (\$3.4 million).—AFP ■

North Korea puts Kim painting on show for first time

SEOUL (South Korea)—North Korea has displayed a portrait of Kim Jong Un in public for the first time, with analysts saying the move could herald the building of a personality cult around the young leader. Idealised portraits of Kim’s grandfather and father—the North’s founder Kim Il Sung and his son and successor Kim Jong Il—are ubiquitous throughout the country. They look down from the walls of every home, office and classroom, and the two men are displayed in every village, town and city—often in the form of mosaics, sometimes statues. But while the current leader’s daily activities and photographs of him are the mainstay of state media—the only media authorised in the North—in wider society he is not portrayed in the same omnipresent way, and no statue of him is so far known to exist. That could be beginning to

change, analysts said, after the visit of Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel at the weekend.

When Kim met him at Pyongyang International Airport separate giant portraits of the two men hung on the outside of the building, pictures showed.

Smiling broadly and with his face gleaming, Kim wore half-framed glasses and a black Western-style suit with a spotted tie.

“It’s the first time that such a portrait was displayed in a public place,” said Cho Han-bum, an analyst at the South’s state-run Korea Institute for National Unification. Footage on the official Korean Central Television has previously shown a painting of Kim displayed inside the Workers’ Party headquarters alongside a portrait of Chinese President Xi Jinping during a visit by a senior delegation from Beijing in April.—AFP ■

Wes Anderson presents box of ‘treasures’ from Viennese vaults

VIENNA (Austria)—The “treasure chamber” at Vienna’s Kunsthistorisches Museum takes on a new meaning on Tuesday thanks to an exhibition curated by American filmmaker Wes Anderson and his partner, illustrator and author Juman Malouf.

The pair were given free

rein to assemble pieces from the vast collections and archives of the museum, as well as some of its partner institutions, in order to put together the six-month show, entitled “Spitzmaus Mummy in a Coffin and Other Treasures”.

The opening of the exhibition on Monday evening was

attended by some of Anderson’s perennial collaborators such as actors Jason Schwartzman and Tilda Swinton. Tongue firmly in cheek, 49-year-old Anderson gave a short speech describing the process of putting the exhibition together with Malouf, 43, as “the culmination of several years of patient, frustrating negotiation, bitter, angry debate, sometimes completely irrational confrontation and often Machiavellian duplicity and deception.”

“Perhaps I am as guilty as she is—but I doubt it,” he added. Even before they started working on the project in early 2015, Anderson and Malouf had been frequent visitors to the museum, which boasts one of Europe’s most extensive collections of fine art. However, anyone expecting a traditionally didactic museum experience, centred around a historical theme for example, will be disappointed.—AFP ■



US film director Wes Anderson arrives with his girlfriend artist Juman Malouf for the opening of their joint exhibition “Spitzmaus Mummy in a Coffin and Other Treasures” at Art History Museum in Vienna, Austria on 5 November, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Scientists push back against Harvard 'alien spacecraft' theory

TAMPA (United States)—A scientific paper led by two researchers at Harvard University made a splash this week by claiming that a cigar-shaped rock zooming through our solar system may have been sent by aliens. The researchers noted in a pre-print of the article that it was an “exotic scenario,” but that “Oumuamua may be a fully operational probe sent intentionally to Earth vicinity by an alien civilization.”

Oumuamua, the first interstellar object known to enter our solar system, accelerated faster away from the Sun than expected, hence the notion that some kind of artificial sail that runs on sunlight — known as a light sail — may have helped push it through space.

“Currently there is an unexplained phenomena, namely, the excess acceleration of Oumuamua, which we show may be explained by the force of radiation pressure from the sun,” co-author and Harvard astrophysicist Shmuel Bialy told AFP via email on Tuesday. “However this requires the body to have a very large surface and be very thin, which is not encountered in nature.” Their suggestion of an alien force at work went viral. But other astronomy experts aren't buying it.

“Like most scientists, I would love there to be convincing evidence of alien life, but this isn't it,” said Alan Fitzsimmons, an astrophysicist at Queens University, Belfast. “It has already been



This photo released by the European Southern Observatory on 20 November, 2017 shows an artist's impression of the first interstellar object known to enter our solar system: Oumuamua. PHOTO:AFP

shown that its observed characteristics are consistent with a comet-like body ejected from another star system,” he told AFP. “And some of the arguments in this study are based on numbers with large uncertainties.”

'Impossible to guess'

Katie Mack, a well-known astrophysicist at North Carolina State, also took issue with the

alien hype. “The thing you have to understand is: scientists are perfectly happy to publish an outlandish idea if it has even the tiniest sliver of a chance of not being wrong,” she wrote on Twitter. “But until every other possibility has been exhausted dozen times over, even the authors probably don't believe it.” Asked if he believed the hypothesis he put forward, Bialy told AFP: “I wouldn't

say I 'believe' it is sent by aliens, as I am a scientist, and not a believer; I rely on evidence to put forward possible physical explanation for observed phenomena.”

The other co-author, Avi Loeb, chairman of Harvard's astronomy department, told NBC News humanity may never know more about the mysterious object, since it has traveled far away and isn't heading back.—AFP ■



China says its space station will be open to all countries. PHOTO: AFP

China unveils new 'Heavenly Palace' space station as ISS days numbered

ZHUHAI (China)—China unveiled on Tuesday a replica of its first permanently crewed space station, which would replace the international community's orbiting laboratory and symbolises the country's major ambitions beyond Earth.

The 17-metre (55-foot) core module was a star attraction at the biennial Airshow China in the southern coastal city of Zhuhai, the country's main aerospace industry exhibition. Outside, China's J-10 fighter jet and J-20 stealth fighter wowed spectators as they zoomed across Zhuhai's sky. Back inside, the country displayed its fleet of drones and other military hardware. Crowds gathered around the cylindrical space station module representing the living and working quarters of the Tiangong—or

“Heavenly Palace”—which will also have two other modules for scientific experiments and will be equipped with solar panels.

Three astronauts will be permanently stationed in the 60-tonne orbiting lab, which will enable the crew to conduct biological and microgravity research. Assembly is expected to be completed around 2022 and the station would have a lifespan of around 10 years. The International Space Station—a collaboration between the United States, Russia, Canada, Europe and Japan—has been in operation since 1998 but is due to be retired in 2024.

China will then have the only space station in orbit, though it will be much smaller than the ISS which weighs 400 tonnes and is as large as a football pitch.—AFP ■

Superbugs killed 33,000 Europeans in 2015: study

PARIS (France)—Drug-resistant bacteria killed more than 33,000 people in the European Union in 2015, according to new research published this week warning that superbugs were “threatening modern healthcare.”

In a study published in the journal *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, an EU-wide team of doctors examined data on more than a dozen combinations of antibiotic resistant bacteria across the continent, and developed a model for infection and death rates of five types of bug.

They found that more than

670,000 people fell ill in 2015 from these five strains, and an estimated 33,110 died as a result.

These burden of these deaths in the EU “was similar to the cumulative burden of influenza, tuberculosis, and HIV” during the same timeframe, the authors noted. The majority of deaths were thought to have occurred in infants under 12 months and the over 65s.

The mortality burden was highest in Italy and Greece, with Italy alone accounting for more than a third of all EU superbug deaths in the year studied.

As consumption of antibiot-

ics soars globally, doctors have frequently sounded the alarm over multidrug-resistant bacteria strains. A team of scientists in Australia warned in September of the spread of a bacteria immune to all known drugs. The superbug, staphylococcus epidermidis, can cause severe infections and death and is related to the better-known and more deadly MRSA.

Of the more than 670,000 superbug infections in Europe in 2015, close to two thirds occurred in hospital settings, the team behind the Lancet study said.—AFP ■

Pharmaceutical compounds finding way into city streams, aquatic animals: Aussie-led study

SYDNEY —Several streams in Australia's Victoria state capital Melbourne contain disturbing levels of pharmaceutical compounds, including antidepressants, that may put platypuses and other major aquatic animals in the waterways at risk to impact the wider ecosystem, according to the latest Australian-led research.

“The concentrations of drugs in stream invertebrates that we have found suggest that animals such as platypuses that eat these invertebrates may be exposed to antidepressants, for example, in doses that are up to half those of human therapeutic doses,” lead study author Dr Erinn Richmond

from Monash University said in a statement on Wednesday.

The study is the first of its kind to show that a diverse array of pharmaceutical compounds exists in food webs which could be transferred to spiders and other organisms that feed on aquatic invertebrates, according to the researchers. Many pharmaceuticals enter streams via wastewater treatment facilities, which are not designed to remove all the compounds people consume, or via septic tanks and leaky pipes, they said. The research team tested for 98 different pharmaceutical compounds and found that larval invertebrates living in the stream

can accumulate pharmaceuticals and that their predators, platypuses and brown trout, could be consuming the pharmaceuticals at up to half the daily dosage for humans.

“Our research is significant because we confirm that many pharmaceuticals are accumulating in aquatic invertebrates, but are also leaving the stream and moving to the surrounding landscape where they are consumed by spiders and potentially birds and bats for example,” said Richmond.

The findings were published in scientific journal *Nature Communications*.—Xinhua ■

Spurs still alive in Champions League, insists Kane

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Harry Kane believes Tottenham can still make the last 16 of the Champions League after coming to his side's rescue once more in a late turnaround to beat PSV Eindhoven 2-1 on Tuesday.

Mauricio Pochettino's side were only 12 minutes away from being eliminated as they struggled to recover from Luuk de Jong's opener for PSV after 61 seconds at Wembley.

But England captain Kane came to the rescue with a predatory equaliser before heading the crucial last-gasp winner with the aid of a deflection off PSV's Trent Sainsbury.

"We were just on the attack all the time," said Kane. "In the end we managed to take a couple but I think we deserved it."

"We had to dig deep and find another level when it mattered. The whole

season we've been grinding out results here and there.

"Obviously we'd like to be higher up the table in the league and doing better in the Champions League, but we're still fighting." Spurs still face an uphill task to reach the knockout stage as they need to beat Inter Milan at home in their next Champions League clash and most likely Barcelona away on 11 December.

"It's another game we must win, we want to have the possibility to go to the next stage," said Pochettino, who praised his players' efforts after an arduous run of four games in eight days.

"The team is growing up. In these four games, three victories, we lost to Man City and I think the draw was more the fair result. "Pleased of course, we're always trying to improve, but with all the circumstances the team is fighting."—

AFP ■

Myanmar faces China PR in Round 2 AFC Qualifiers

MYANMAR U-16 women's national team will play against China PR U-16 women's team in Round 2 of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers, according to an official draw ceremony at the AFC House on Wednesday.

The eight teams in the AFC U-16 Women's Championship 2019 Qualifiers Round 2 have identified their group opponents.

Myanmar is placed in Group B of the qualifiers together with the Philippines, Bangladesh and Asian football powerhouse China PR.

On the other side, two ASEAN teams Laos and Viet Nam were placed

in Group A together with World-class teams Australia and Islamic Republic of Iran.

Myanmar will host the Group B matches while Laos will host the Group A matches.

The qualifiers will be played on 27 February to 3 March in 2019, with the group winners and runners-up from the respective groups advancing to the finals.

The four teams will then join the three finalists of the 2017 edition, DPR Korea, Korea Republic, and Japan, along with host of the 2019 Finals, Thailand, next September according to the AFC.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

David Htan expected to become one of five impact players in AFF Suzuki Cup 2018

MYANMAR midfielder David Htan, who is playing for domestic club Shan United FC in Myanmar National League, is expected to become one of the five impact players in the Group-A of AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 as well as a collection of probable starlets across the ten AFF Suzuki Cup teams.

Four other impact players are Pham Duc Huy from Viet Nam, Norshahrul Idlan Talaha from Malaysia Soukaphone Vongchiengkham from Laos and Brak Thiva from Cambodia.

These five impact players are crucial 'building blocks' of their national teams. They can save their national teams by giving much help whenever their teams are in crisis.

David Htan will be likely to have an important role to play in controlling a back four against some dangerous Group A forwards. Even though he's not the tallest of defenders, he can correct a bad situation with a good positional sense, reading of the play and ability to cleanly win one-on-one challenges.

He is the two-time Myanmar National League winning player with Yangon United FC. He moved to Shan United for the 2018 football season. He won the best youth play of the year 2011. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

Thai-based Warrix Sports Company signs sponsorship contract with MFF

A CEREMONY to sign sports kit sponsorship contract between Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and Thai-based Warrix Sports Company took place at Novotel Yangon Max in Yangon on 6 November.

The sports kit sponsorship contract is valued at US\$ 5.67 million and it will run from 1st November of 2018 to 31st December of 2024.

The Warrix sports kit logo has been gaining a global popularity and it is blessed with good design quality and smartness as well as good looks.

At the sponsorship contract signing ceremony, U Zaw Zaw, President of the MFF, said, "Today, a big welcome to Warrix, our family sponsor of the MFF. We have been long to achieve sponsorship as well as sports gear similar to other countries. Four to five new sponsors have entered in the sponsorship contract, but the Warrix's sponsorship offer is the most superb. We would like the Warrix to succeed more than now and hope that the Warrix could extend

the sponsorship contract and work together in the future so as to develop Myanmar football arena. We wish Myanmar national selected players wearing new jerseys met with success."

Afterwards, CEO Mr Wisan of the Warrix also said, "Myanmar football with age-wise teams has made more progress than the previous years. Now is the most favourable time for the foreign investors to do business in Myanmar as the government has opened its door of economy. A major reason of giving sponsorship is that football plays a crucial role in Myanmar. We are standing by the MFF joining hands to support Myanmar football arena."

Among those present on the occasion were U Zaw Zaw, President of the MFF and officials of the MFF, CEO Mr Wisan and officials of the Warrix Sports Company, Myanmar selected footballers, coaches and managers, invited guests and journalists.—Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

Myanmar exits from Group-A of AFF MNC Futsal Championship

MYANMAR Futsal men's squad had to unfortunately exit from the Group-A of AFF MNC Futsal Championship at Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 7 November after losing to powerhouse Malaysia in the last group match with a narrow margin of 2-3. Myanmar met a series of goal chances during the match, but could not change them into real goals. Accordingly Myanmar faced a loss in the match. Pyae Phyo Maung-3 scored a goal for Myanmar and Myanmar enjoyed an own goal from the Malaysian player who was defending the penetration of Pyae Phyo Maung-3. Head coach U Htay Myint said, "All the players were showed their superb forms during the match, but their worry about the need of scoring more goals barred their goal chances from being changed into real goals. Therefore we lost several chances and faced a loss." Myanmar won Cambodia with 11-2, losing to Indonesia 1-5 and Malaysia with 2-3 throughout the group. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



Myanmar midfielder David Htan dribbles a ball in a friendly match.
PHOTO: Shan United FC