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State Counsellor attends opening ceremony of 33rd ASEAN Summit and related summits



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a group photo together with other ASEAN leaders during the opening ceremony of the 33rd ASEAN Summit and related summits in Singapore on 13 November 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who was in Singapore attended the opening ceremony of the 33rd ASEAN Summit and related summits, an event where the ASEAN Business Advisory Council presented the ASEAN economy and investment status and opportunities to leaders of ASEAN countries.

This was followed by a working dinner hosted by Singapore Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong and the summit meeting.

The State Counsellor attended the opening ceremony of the 33rd ASEAN Summit and related summits held at the Suntec Expo Convention Center, Singapore at local standard time 5:30 p.m. yesterday.

Before the start of the opening ceremony ASEAN alternating chair Singapore Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong and wife greeted the State Counsellor, heads of state and heads of government of ASEAN countries at the entrance of the Suntec Expo Convention Center and posed for a commemorative group photo.

Next, the opening ceremony was held with a song commemorating ASEAN and a speech by the ASEAN alternating chair the Singapore Prime Minister.

The State Counsellor, the heads of states and heads of governments then posed for commemorative group photo.

The events were attended by heads of states, heads of

governments, ministers, deputy ministers from ASEAN member countries of Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, the ASEAN Secretary-General, ASEAN permanent representatives, high ranking officials and responsible persons. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds second-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session met for the second day at the Pyithu Hluttaw's meeting hall yesterday. During the session, asterisk-marked questions were answered, a motion was tabled, a Bill was approved and a motion on the Bill was tabled.

Asterisk-marked questions

U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Pe Than of Myebon constituency, U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency, Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency, U Ar Moe Si of Khaunglanphu constituency, U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency, and Dr. U Soe Moe Thu of Myaungmya constituency raised asterisk-marked questions at the meeting. They were answered by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) member and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung and Deputy Minister for

Construction U Kyaw Lin.

U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency asked the government to clarify permitted foreign investments as of 31 March 2016, the increase in foreign investments in terms of sectors, number of investments, and amounts invested (in US dollars) between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2018. He asked if there were any instances where companies or projects were suspended or **terminated** for breaking laws, failing to follow agreements, and tax avoidance. He also asked about arrangements made to create opportunities for increasing investment in the agriculture and animal breeding sector.

To these queries, Deputy Minister U Set Aung replied that from 1988 to 31 March 2016 a total of 1,100 foreign investments were permitted and the total investments stood at US\$ 63.72 billion.

During the two-year period from 2016 to 2018, with the exception of the oil and gas sector



Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

and the construction sector, a total of 360 investments worth \$ 12.37 billion were made in the ten sectors, including agriculture, animal breeding and fishery, industries, hotel, and travel sectors, the deputy minister said.

The total foreign investment permitted by the incumbent government during the two-year period is 16.25 per cent of the total foreign fund inflows in the country in the 30-year period from 1988 to March 2018, so progress can be



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung.

seen in the investment sector, he added. There were no instances of any action taken against any company or project involving foreign investors permitted by the MIC for not following the laws, agreements, or for tax evasion, the deputy minister said.

The agriculture and animal breeding sector, together with forest development and other forest works, aqua products production and aqua culture or aqua farming, have been designated

as promoted sectors, and those investing in these sectors can apply for a tax exemption of 3 to 7 years, depending on the region where the investment is made, the deputy minister said.

The MIC has also announced that the commission, along with state and region governments, will provide necessary support and assistance to any foreign investors proposing to invest in **agri-based value-adding production works**, animal breeding, **aqua products production**, and aquaculture, the Deputy Minister said.

Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency asked a question about the arrangements made by Myanmar to obtain benefits under the Eco Green City project, which is to be implemented in a joint venture with a private company, and asked the government to show how the project would benefit the country and people.

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Amyotha Hluttaw's 10th regular session holds second-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

THE Second Amyotha Hluttaw held tenth regular session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, and the Myanmar Gemstone bill, 2017—sent with an amendment by the Pyithu Hluttaw—was discussed.

Rakhine State's 16-bed Traditional Medicine Hospital

During the session, U Myint Naing of Rakhine State's Constituency 5 asked the government about plans to post medical staff and provide medical aids, facilities, and furniture to the 16-bed traditional medicine hospital at the Kyauktaw Township in Rakhine State.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Mya Lay Sein, replied that the ministry has provided 16 beds, 16 lockers, two patient trolleys, four patient examination beds, besides two kinds of other medical equipments and seven types of furniture to the hospital. The medical superintendent of the hospital has informed the Director General of the Department of Traditional Medicine about this, the deputy minister said.

The ministry is also supplying medicines to the traditional medicine clinics thrice a year

across the country, she said.

For the traditional medicine hospital in Kyauktaw Township, the Ministry has provided 12 types of medicines at the amount of 14 viss and 50 ticals together with 21 types of medicine weighing 36 viss and 4 tins of medicinal plasters, she said adding that the medical superintendent of the hospital has posted an acceptance letter to the Ministry.

"The hospital currently has deputy medical superintendent U Aung Kyaw Soe, Assistant medical officer Daw Nilar Aye on its staff, and plans are under way to appoint assistant medical officer U Chit Ko Ko. In addition, the Ministry will appoint one sanitation worker and one security worker to the hospital in December," the deputy minister said.

"A total of 2,154 patients received medical treatment at the hospital, in February and October 2018. The Ministry will fulfill the requirements of the hospital, in collaboration with the Rakhine State Department of Traditional Medicine and the Traditional Medicine Plant in Yangon," she said.

Next, Daw Ma Ma Lay of Shan State constituency 8 asked if the government plans to build stadiums in Pindaya and Ywangan townships in the Danu Self-Administered Zone of



Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein

the Southern Shan State. The Deputy Minister for Health and Sports said the ministry plans to build a stadium on a plot of land measuring 204 x 145 feet in Pindaya Township and a stadium on the plot of land measuring 340 x 180 feet, in Ywangan Township. Depending on the availability of funds with the Shan State government, the ministry will carry out the construction of stadiums in these areas, she said.

Vacant seats for doctors at hospitals Myitthar Tsp

Daw Hla Htay alias Daw Ohn Kyi of Mandalay Region constituency 4 asked if the Ministry has plans to fill the vacant doctor posts at the hospital in Myitthar Township, Mandalay Region, and at the 25-bed hospital in Kume, respectively. The deputy minister said the ministry had given per-



U Bawi Khin of Chin State constituency 3

mission for the appointment of 4 doctors. At present, Dr. Myo Htet and Dr. Cho Cho Thin Yi have been assigned to the Myitthar hospital with two other doctors.

The Ministry of Health and Sports has made arrangements to recruit new doctors and assign them to post in the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, and plans are under way to fill the vacant posts at the hospital in Myitthar Township, the deputy minister said. Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein also replied to questions raised by U Bawi Khin of Chin State constituency 3 and U Cin Khan Paung of Chin State constituency 6 at the session yesterday.

Myanmar Gemstone Bill 2017

Later, Hluttaw Representatives held a discussion on the

Myanmar Gems and Jeweller Bill 2017, which was sent with an amendment by the Pyithu Hluttaw. Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11 proposed that Clause 1 of Chapter 1 should be retained, the proposal made by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

"Clause 15 of Chapter 5 must be amended so the State enjoys no less than 40 per cent, and Clause 17 of Chapter 5 must be amended to state that there must be no less than 3 town dignitaries to represent the people," he said.

He said he supported the abrogation made by the Pyithu Hluttaw according to Clause 23 (c) of Chapter 6 that could prevent gem smuggling and buying of gems at cheap prices.

He added that an amendment must be made to assign people chosen by regional and state governments, besides selecting local people and other suitable persons.

"According to Clause 57 (c) of Chapter 14, it is more suitable for persons who get permission to contribute no less than 2 per cent of the investment value to their respective states and regions, to carry out regional development work such as healthcare, education, and transportation," he said.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Singapore Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong addresses the opening ceremony of 33rd ASEAN Summit and related summits in Singapore on 13 November 2018. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Singapore PM Mr. Lee Hsien Loong and wife pose for the photo at the 33rd ASEAN Summit and related summits in Singapore yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

Workshop on capacity building for NRPC staff concludes in Nay Pyi Taw

The workshop on capacity building for staff of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) continued yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. The workshop included sessions on Myanmar's peace process, provision of support to enhance awareness over the peace process, federalism, and peace supportive structures.

First, all the attendees reviewed the results of the discussion from the first day of the workshop. Deputy Minister for

Information U Aung Hla Tun gave talks on "Communications", while U Kyaw Myaing of UEHRD talked about the role of the media and experiences in disseminating information to the people in a timely manner. Then, participants raised questions and explanations were made at the workshop.

Later, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Department of Social Welfare Director-General Dr. San San

Aye joined the discussion the title "The role of women in the peace process in Myanmar", while Nye-in Foundation Director (Policy & Strategy) Daw Z Nang Raw and Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Zin Mar Aung joined the discussion.

Advisor of the Myanmar President Office U Maung Wai and Director-General, Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Daw Kay Thi Soe gave talks on "Foreign Relations and Diplomatic Affairs", Daw Su Mon Nyein and U Kam Sian Thang discussed "The Peace and Funding", ISEAS Myanmar Studies Programme Coordinator Daw Moe Thuzar and MYPOL Myanmar Senior Advisor Daw Khaing Myat Chit talked about "Tips for Minutes of meetings". The workshop was successfully concluded. — MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun attends the workshop on capacity building for NRPC staff in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar, Germany discuss cooperation in development

Myanmar and Germany held talks over bilateral cooperation for development in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the intergovernmental meeting on bilateral cooperation for development between the two countries, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung extended greetings and Ambassador of Germany to Myanmar Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel spoke about the situation of

bilateral cooperation.

Following the meeting, the Foreign Economic Relations Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance explained matters relating to cooperation in development between Myanmar and Germany, while the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) explained the new Country Strategy for Myanmar.

At the meeting, Germany pledged to provide 34.5 million euros to Myanmar from 2018 to 2022. Later, representatives from the Myanmar government and the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and German Development Bank (KfW) exchanged views on the progress of the projects supported by Germany, and implementation and challenges. — MNA ■

(Translated by JT)

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein meets Norwegian Ambassador



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein holds talks with Norway's Ambassador Mrs. Tone Tinnes in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein met Norway's Ambassador to Myanmar, Mrs. Tone Tinnes, in the guest room of the Union Election Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the UEC Chairman said the present commission was established in 2016, and conducted by-elections in 2017 and 2018 successfully.

He spoke about cooperation from the government's departments, international support organisations, and civil societies in making the election work programs a success, and invited domestic and foreign election observer groups to ensure poll transparency. He spoke on improving the participation of women in the Hluttaw and at all levels of the election commission. He said the commission is working to ensure the general election in 2020 is free,

fair, transparent, and credible, so that the election results are in keeping with the people's wishes. The commission will work in the pre-election, election, and post-election periods to ensure this, he said.

There is a requirement to increase voter education and civic education, he said. There is also a need to raise awareness among young voters who will turn 18 in 2020, he added. The Norwegian Ambassador spoke about Norway's help to Myanmar for carrying out democratic reforms, and the 2015 General Election and the 2017 by-election. She also talked about sending election observer groups for the 2018 by-election and help for the 2020 General Election. The ambassador and UEC chairman also discussed other poll-related matters at the meeting. — MNA (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

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Plans to put Kyaukka Village on tourism map



Kyaukka village in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, will become a new tourist destination. **PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

TOURISM authorities are working on a plan to add Kyaukka Village to the list of tourist destinations in the Myeik archipelago, according to the Myeik Tourism Entrepreneurs' Association.

Located in Palaw Township of Myeik District in Taninthayi Region, Kyaukka Village is situated on an island in the shape of a crab's pincers. The village has over 1,000 house-

holds and a population of 4,470 people. The villagers have built houses on stilts over the water, and rely mainly on fishing.

Tourism authorities are making arrangements to develop the village into a tourist spot, as it has great potential to attract both local and international visitors, the association said.

Currently, operators are offering two main tour pack-

ages in the Myeik archipelago, which include trips to the Donnyaunmine Village and Samat island.

Operators are now planning to start new tour packages, which will allow tourists to visit Pala Settawya Pagoda and three other islands, said U Myint Than, the manager of Mergui Dolphin Tour Company. Demand for the new tour packages is expected to

be high this season, he added.

The people in the Milethway, the Kyatchaung, and the Thechaung villages follow a lifestyle similar to the Kyaukka villagers, he said. They also conduct fishing as a major business, producing aquaculture products such as dried fish and fish paste.—Myint Oo (Myeik)

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

\$1.9 million investment for project to transform lending to MSMEs

THURA Swiss, Seedstars, and the DaNa Facility, a program funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID), yesterday announced their plan to invest over US\$1.9 million in Shwe Lan, an innovative project which plans to transform lending to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Myanmar.

The Shwe Lan project seeks to address the lack of financing for MSMEs in Myanmar. With banks typically lending only against real estate as collateral, MSMEs are virtually excluded from the credit market.

Shwe Lan will focus on providing supply-chain financing to MSMEs with two main areas of business. First, it will provide MSMEs with access to funds by introduc-

ing a 'merchant financing' product. This part of the project will target MSMEs that act as distributors to some of the largest companies operating in Myanmar. Second, it will provide an 'invoice discounting' product which will allow MSMEs to use confirmed orders as collateral for loans. Particular attention will be given to MSMEs owned by women.

The ultimate goal of the project is to develop a supply-chain financing market as an open e-platform for companies in Myanmar.

Shwe Lan aims to initially provide access to working capital to 300 MSMEs employing poor people and women to help the enterprises to grow and employ more people.

The aim is that at least 30 per cent of the enterpris-

es served must be women-owned.

The introduction of 'merchant financing' and 'invoicing factoring' will allow MSMEs to access credit for the first time, thus bringing innovative practices into the market which can benefit the financial sector as a whole. Once they see the benefits of these products, Myanmar's financial institutions are expected to use them to disburse their own capital and increase the availability of funding sources overall.

Over the medium to long term, the project aims to promote equitable development and reduce inequalities between MSMEs and larger companies, and in doing so, increase the availability and quality of jobs for the poor and disadvantaged people.—GNLM

Drugs worth Ks47.7 million seized in Myeik

POLICE on Monday seized drugs worth about Ks47.7 million and arrested a 33-year-old man for drug-dealing in Myeik District in Taninthayi Region.

Acting on a tip, police stopped a motorbike being driven by Moe Zaw Oo on Tayoketan Street in Myeiktaung Village around 9 pm on 12 November. They found 2,950 WY brand yaba tablets from the bike. The police also seized 6,600 yaba pills, other drugs, and Ks195,000 from the suspect's home on Khwan-yo Street, Alegyun Area, Myeik Town. Police have lodged a case and are continuing their investigation to find others connected with drug trafficking.

Moe Zaw Oo has been charged with dealing drugs under Sections 19 (a) and 20 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myint Oo (Myeik) *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

Shortage of freshwater prawn larvae resolved

By May Thet Hnin

THE Myanmar Shrimp Association has managed to plug the shortage in the supply of freshwater prawn post larvae, which had seen a decline over the last five years, said U Tin Tun Oo, joint secretary 1 of the association.

"At present, there are six hatcheries that can harvest about 6 million freshwater prawn larvae every month. Therefore, cultivation of profitable prawns needs to increase for both domestic and export markets," he said.

"Earlier, we faced difficulties in prawn farming owing to inadequate supply of prawn larvae. Some enthusiastic breeders imported post larvae from Thailand, but only half of them survived well. Now, local hatcheries can fulfill the supply requirements and allow local breeders to maximize farming operations," he added.

Freshwater prawn post larvae were imported from Thailand and post larvae production started in 2017, leading to self-suf-

ficiency in supply for local breeders, he said.

Freshwater prawns have a huge demand from domestic seafood restaurants as well as in the export market, so, they were farmed on a large scale in the 2000s. There were over 20 prawn hatcheries in 2012, with a production capacity of about 300 million prawn larvae per year. Unfortunately, there was an outbreak of disease in 2013 and 2015. Only 3 million larvae were produced then. Thereafter, larvae producers and suppliers suffered losses, with some even losing their capital. During this difficult period, some breeders harvested larvae brought in from Thailand.

The production of freshwater prawn larvae is now expected to increase up to 20 million per month, and prices of post larvae may see a decline, said U Tin Tun Oo.

"Breeders currently purchase only half of what they produce. The greater the demand for larvae, the higher will be



PHOTO: MAY THET HNIN

the production. The freshwater prawn farming industry will see progress. But, we need to change rearing techniques. Earlier, freshwater prawn production lasted eight months. But post larvae from Thailand can be harvested twice a year," he said.

The price of a single freshwater prawn post larva of Myanmar

origin has declined from Ks30 to Ks29, while the price of larva of Thailand origin has dipped from Ks15 to Ks13, he said.

Local production of freshwater prawns can fulfill 70 per cent of the market's demand, while the remaining 30 per cent depends on imports from Thailand. Eighty per cent of tiger prawn and white

leg shrimps, which are in high demand locally, are imported from Thailand.

It is a good sign for the prawn farming industry that freshwater prawn larvae production businesses are operational again, he said. Freshwater prawn suppliers and businesses need to build a close network to ensure self-sufficiency and to penetrate export markets, he added.

Myanmar has around 200,000 acres of saltwater prawn farms, but only 20,000 acres of freshwater prawn farms. The freshwater prawn farms are located in Twantay, Nyaungton, Kayan, Htantabin, and Maubin townships. The Bago Region also has small-acre freshwater prawn farms.

The global demand for freshwater prawns stands at 500,000 tons, yet supply meets only 400,000 tons. This being so, there is potential for export of freshwater prawns, U Tin Tun Oo said. For prawn farming businesses to raise their heads again, funds pose a challenge, he added.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 10 November 2018 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of sales of illegal drugs by Daw Sin May from Ward 5 and Kyaw Myint from Ward 7, Nyaung Pin Village, Indaw Gyi Area, Mohnyin Tsp, Kachin State.	On 4-11-2018, police searched Daw Sin May's house in Ward 5, Nyaung Pin Village, Indaw Gyi Area, Mohnyin Tsp but police didn't find suspect. But, police discovered her daughter, Ma Pan Pan Swe, 18, and her nephew, Shan Po, 20, together with heroin. A case has been opened against two suspects with NaMaSa (Lonetone) MaYa(Pa) 76/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched Kyaw Myint's house in Ward 7. Police discovered Kyaw Myint, 48, together with heroin. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Lonetone) MaYa(Pa) 77/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of sales of illegal drugs by Pho Ni from Ward 5, Nyaung Pin Village, Indaw Gyi Area, Mohnyin Tsp, Kachin State.	On 7-11-2018, police searched Pho Ni's house in Ward 5, Nyaung Pin Village, Indaw Gyi Area, Mohnyin Tsp. Police arrested Pho Ni, 41, together with heroin. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Lonetone) MaYa(Pa) 80/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Aung Kyaw living Pauk Pin Gway Village (West), Htigyaing Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 5-11-2018, police searched Aung Kyaw's house in Pauk Pin Gway Village (West), Htigyaing Tsp and arrested Aung Kyaw, 41, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa(Pa) 43/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Daw Tin Nwe Oo from Kinpong Chone Village, Kalay Tsp, Sagaing Region selling illegal drugs.	On 6-11-2018, police searched Daw Tin Nwe Oo's farm in Kinpong Chone Village, Kalay Tsp then police arrested Daw Tin Nwe Oo, 38, together with opium. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Kalay) MaYa(Pa) 160/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Zaw Oo from Owl Kone Village, Indaw Tsp, Sagaing Region selling illegal drugs.	On 9-11-2018, police searched Zaw Oo's house in Owl Kone Village, Indaw Tsp. Police discovered Zaw Oo, 35, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Indaw) MaYa(Pa) 124/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Maung Soe from Nhint Kayin Village, Ye Tsp, Mon State, selling illegal drugs.	On 4-11-2018, while police were patrolling on the road to A Nin-Nhint Kayin Village, near Nhint Kayin Village, Ye Tsp, a motorcycle Honda Wave-125 driven by Maung Soe (a) Naing Soe, 29, resident of Nhint Kayin Village was stopped for investigation. Police arrested him together with WY psychotropic tablets and ICE. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Lamaing) MaYa (Pa) 13/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to search of Maung A Lin (a) Khaing Khaing Lin's house in A Nin Village, Thanbyuzayat Tsp. Police arrested Maung A Lin (a) Khaing Khaing Lin, 27, and A Pate (a) Khin Maung Win, 28, from the same village, together with WY psychotropic tablets, ICE and speciosa. A case has been opened against two suspects with MaMaSa (Thanbyuzayat) MaYa (Pa) 27/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 377 cases have been opened as of 10-11-2018, and 496 men and 94 women have been arrested with seizures of 5,372.68 g of heroin, 24.91 g of ICE, 38,394.41 g of opium, 329 g of low-quality opium, 11,850.99 g of opium powder, 7,273.99 g of speciosa, 169,667 stimulant tablets, 3,696.03 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 217.4 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 1.65 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 12 firearms, 194 different bullets, and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.
4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.
- During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates. In Han Htet Village, Mansi Tsp, Kachin State, on the road to Han Htet-Mansi, one man was arrested with 1,900 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. At 21 Mile Checkpoint, Myitkyina Tsp, one Crown car was stopped for investigation then four men and one woman were arrested with 29,700 stimulant tablets and 1627.5 g of heroin and one car. Further investigation led to the confiscate of 4.9 g of heroin, 30 g of opium from convict's house in Tat Kone Ward, Myitkyina Tsp. In Pan Hote Village, Kengtung Tsp, Shan State, one man was arrested with 3,420 stimulant tablets. Near Mankat Village, Tangyan Tsp, on the road of Mankat- Tangyan, a Hilux car was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 484 g of heroin and one car. Near Wonkat Village, Mongpyin Tsp, on the road of Mongpyin-Monghsat, two men were arrested with 6,100 stimulant tablets and one car. Near Kyaukku Pyin Village, Ywangan Tsp, on the road of Ywangan-Kyaukse, a motorcycle was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 225 stimulant tablets, 11,000 g of opium and one motorcycle. At Man Cherry Car Gate, Man Sue Highway Bus Terminal in Ward 8, Lashio Tsp, 5,400 stimulant tablets from a Sound Box carton, which will send to Mandalay without passenger was confiscated. In Area 8, Mant Wein Ward, Muse Tsp, one woman was arrested with 18,000 stimulant tablets. Near Oriental Toll Gate, Hsenwi Tsp, a motorcycle was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 32,000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Kwanhine Village, Hsipaw Tsp, one man and one woman were arrested with 58,235 stimulant tablets, 60.2 g of heroin and two different types of goldware (weight-15.43g). Further investigation led to the arrest of another one man and one woman from that village, were arrested with 8,305 stimulant tablets and four different types of goldware (weight-35.66g). In Lwelsitone Village, Tachilek Tsp, a motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man and one woman were arrested with 4,000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Kholone Village, Kutkai Tsp, a motorcycle was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 6,650 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Koe Mile Village, Ye Tsp, Mon State, two men and one woman were arrested with 3,798 stimulant tablets. In lower part of Doe Tan Village (Ywar Thit), Ponnagyun Tsp, Rakhine State, 975,000 stimulant tablets was confiscated from a boat stopped, without owner beside of the creek. In Lanmadaw Ward (North), Sittway Tsp, one man was arrested with 21 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Phayzi Village, Maungtaw Tsp, one man was arrested with 95 stimulant tablets. In Shwezar Village, one man was arrested with 227 stimulant tablets. Near Mauk Kalouk Village, Khamti Tsp, Sagaing Region, on the road of Khamti-Homalin, motorcycles were stopped for investigation then two women were arrested with 540 g of heroin and two motorcycles. In Indaw Tsp, at the junction of Shwebo-Myitkyina road and Katha-Nabar Buda road, a motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one woman was arrested with 1,100 g of heroin and one motorcycle. In Thiri Mandala Highway Bus Terminal, Thirimarlal East Ward, Aungmyethazan Tsp, a parcel was found without owner then 14,500 stimulant tablets and 78 g of stimulant tablet powder were confiscated from that parcel. In Hta Ward, North Okkalapa Tsp, Yangon Region, two men were arrested with 5,081 stimulant tablets, 9.5 g of ICE and one Honda Fit car. In Chitteegon Ward, Mingalardon Tsp, one man and two women

were arrested with 5,189 stimulant tablets. There has a case that police fired the accused when he attempted to defend the police. Near Kholone Village, Kutkai Tsp, Shan State, on the road of Kutkai-Kaungkhar, while a Hilux car was being stopped for investigation then suspect returned and drove away. When police fired warning shot and tried to arrest, the suspected man was arrested with 484 g of heroin and one car. There have been two arrests involving foreigners.

At Myanmar-India Checkpoint, Tamu Tsp, Sagaing Region, one Indian man and one Indian woman who illegally entered Myanmar and one Myanmar man were arrested with 3.5 g of heroin and one motorcycle. At Mawtaung Border Checkpoint, Taninthayi Tsp, Taninthayi Region, a Hilux car was stopped for investigation then three Thai Men were arrested with 266,000 g of opium powder and one car.

There have been 233 cases being opened between 4-11-2018 and 10-11-2018, and 289 men and 37 women have been arrested. Seizures were made of 4,689.44 g

of heroin, 11.5 g of ICE, 13,427 g of opium, 171.5 g of low-grade opium, 266,208.99 g of opium powder, 266,149.25 g of speciosa, 1,208,764.5 stimulant tablets, 78 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 34.5 g of marijuana, 74 g of opium blocks, 4 liters of opium tincture, six different type of goldware (weight-52.09g).

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

Contacts

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

Deputy Minister for Information meets US Embassy's Public Affairs Officer



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun receives Public Affairs Officer from the US Embassy. **PHOTO: MNA**

U AUNG HLA TUN, the Deputy Minister for Information, met with Mr. John Groch, the Public Affairs Officer from the US Embassy, at his office in the

Ministry of Information at 2 pm yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to professional and ethical courses

for media personnel and Media Information Literacy-MIL. — MNA ■

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Women in Business and Leadership Development Conference to be held on 17 November

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR'S top women leaders from various sectors will come together to share their inspirational stories, experiences, challenges, and business expertise at the 2018 Women in Business and Leadership Development Conference, which will be held on 17 November at the Pan Pacific Hotel. The conference also aims to create awareness about opportunities for women, said Jodi Weedon, the Chief Executive Officer of AustCham Myanmar.

"The event will feature a panel discussion on women from this generation in leadership positions in Myanmar's community in various sectors. We hope to nurture young women to become leaders and empower them," said Jodi Weedon.

Daw Yu Wai Maung, the head

of Internal Communications and Public Affairs at the KBZ Bank, Daw Khin Thida Maw, the country officer of IFC Myanmar, Daw Phyu Hnin, the general manager of Proximity Design, Daw Phyu Phyu Tin, Master Chef judge and co-Founder of Yangon Bakehouse, Monsoon Restaurant and Bar, and Monument Books and Toys, Daw Sandi Aung, the founder of Forte Global, Daw Eaimt Phoo Phoo, a counsellor at the Flanders Belgium Investment and Trade Office, Daw Thu Zar, journalist and co-founder of the Myanmar Women Journalists Society, Daw May Thet Htwe, eco-warrior and advocacy communicator, award-winning filmmaker Daw Lay Thida, and, lifestyle and motivational blogger Daw Phyo Phyo Aung are slated to speak at the conference.

The conference also plans breakout sessions which will focus on innovation and best practices in non-traditional careers for women, and best practices on fostering a respectful workplace for women. "We have a window of opportunity to build a nation that affirms the equality of men and women in all areas of life. Promoting women's empowerment is the right thing to do, and it makes economic sense," said Jodi Weedon. The conference is being organized by AustCham Myanmar (Australian-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce), which was established to promote responsible bilateral trade and investments between Australia and Myanmar, and foster closer economic ties between the two countries. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Appointment of Ambassador agreed

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Agis Loizou as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cyprus to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in New Delhi.

Mr. Agis Loizou joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus in 1990. In 2009, he became the Head of the Overseas Cypriots Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2010-2013, he served as High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus to the Republic of Kenya, with concurrent accreditation to Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda, Burundi and the Seychelles and as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Programme for Human Settlements. From 2013-2014, he served as the Head of the Sub-Saharan Africa Political Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2014-2018, he served as an Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the People's Republic of China with concurrent accreditation to Japan, Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Cambodia and Laos. He was appointed as the High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus to the Republic of India with concurrent accreditation to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam in 2018. He can speak Greek, English, German, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese. —MNA ■

Dy Attorney-General attends Belt and Road International Legal Cooperation meeting

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint attended the Belt and Road International Legal Cooperation meeting jointly organised by the China Law Society and Southwest University of Political Science & Law (SWUPL) at Chongqing, the People's Republic of China, from 6 to 8 November. At the meeting, matters relating to international legal cooperation, investment law and arbitration were discussed and views were exchanged.

Later, the continuing cooperation between the Union Attorney-General Office and SWUPL on legal subjects and law research and scholarship

students was discussed and coordinated. The Myanmar delegation visited the Kunming Intermediate People's Court in Yunnan Province on 9 November, and met and discussed legal matters with the Kunming Bar Association chairman and officials from Kunming Arbitration Centre at Kunming Economic and Technology Development Zone on 10 November and arrived at the Mandalay International Airport on the afternoon of 11 November. U Win Myint was accompanied by Union Attorney General Office Deputy Director U San Lin. —MNA ■

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Time is ripe for foreign businesses to invest in Myanmar

THE incumbent government has carried out a number of important reforms with regard to the legal framework, and rules and regulations, making the process of starting a business much simpler and quicker, to create a more attractive and investor-friendly environment in Myanmar.

An important reform introduced recently, and which can be considered “revolutionary”, is the modernization of the more than one hundred years’ old Companies Act to reflect the current business and regulatory environment.

The new Myanmar Investment Law (MIL) and the new Myanmar Companies Law form the regulatory foundation to generate confidence in Myanmar as an investment destination.

The World Bank recognized the positive changes in Myanmar’s investment environment and awarded the Star Reformer Award to the country last year.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi invited foreign businesses at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Singapore on Monday to invest in Myanmar.

“We have land, we have a good young working population,

we have many explored resources,” said the State Counsellor, in a bid to promote opportunities for investment in sectors including agriculture and related businesses, livestock and fishery products, education, and healthcare.

The Myanmar Investment Commission is willing to facilitate and create a predictable and investor-friendly environment. The country’s youth population is large, highly literate, and highly motivated, and therefore, there is a high human resource potential for companies willing to harness it.

We would like to welcome our ASEAN friends to invest in Myanmar in priority sectors.

For Myanmar, ASEAN plays an important role when it comes to economic cooperation. As of September 2018, investments from ASEAN account for about 45 percent (US\$35,507.349 million) of total investments

in Myanmar, demonstrating the strong economic ties between Myanmar and other ASEAN member nations.

Myanmar always welcomes responsible foreign investment. We do not want to be a resource-exporting country.

The only resource that we want to truly develop is human resources.

We must join hands with the private sector, an important partner and the most reliable engine for growth.

It is in this way that we have created a business environment conducive to mutually beneficial investments by simplifying business rules and regulations, and welcoming all forms of responsible investment: public and private, national and global, in the form of both capital and capacity.

Hence, we are confident that investments in our country will bring good returns to investors and to us.

■ by Dr. Maung Aung

(Continued from previous day)

Visible progress

During the two year operational period, the YBS has witnessed visible progress as well as many challenges. The number of buses in service stands out at (4000), and the half of which are under the company ownership that deployed new vehicles brining customer satisfaction of the passengers. It is reported that the new system is far better than the old system, citing in a survey of JICA as well as social media reports.

All the YBS buses do not employ the cash collecting conductor on the car, but put up a cash box to drop in the bus fare from the passengers. The passengers have to step onto the bus from the front entrance and stepped out of the car from rear exit.

As there are no more Dyna, BM and old dilapidated vehicles, the roads and streets of Yangon have been turned into a dignified status with new buses. There are no more untoward arguments and fighting incidents with small weapons among the competing and rival drivers, conductors for the reckless driving and forcefully pulling up of passengers. Therefore, in the new system, the passengers could travel to their desired destination with comfort and human dignity.

All the YBS buses on the move are attached with GPS system and the Yangon Bus Operator (YBO) is monitoring the movement and offering management. Each and every movement of the bus could be watched and directed as necessary, and even caution could be given to the drivers who drives beyond (50) kilometers limit. The proper functioning of the buses could now be managed and controlled through modern technology.

Moreover, the comprehensive insurance guarantee for all accidents have been covered on YBS buses, bringing compensation to injured passengers as well as other car accidents on the roads. With this backdrop, all the drivers of YBS are required to have professional red driving license to get the job. The new recruits of drivers are being trained and nurtured in providing better services to the passengers and trainings are organized by the Road Transport



PHOTO: PHOE KHVAR

Department and YRTA. The special driving short course has been conducted up to (12) times and that over (1000) new drivers have been imparted with driving skills.

In the company owned new buses, seats are reserved for members of Sangha, senior citizens, and disabled persons, and also equipped with other public address system. Soon, there would be (500) ultra-modern bus shelter using modern technology for the convenience of the public.

To be on a par with other countries in bus transport, card payment system would be introduced within six months in making the passenger payment system more transparent. It could avoid and solve the current problems such as that of scarcity of small currency notes for bus fare, that of to shun away the use of torn and smeared notes, and that of other misdemeanor. Such card system would be introduced in all public transport sectors. Moreover, the YRTA is arranging for more bus parking terminals.

The most important point is that the passengers are now enjoying the comfort of the ride on YBS buses, which could never be termed and equated on cash value. All the weal and woe of riding buses in the past were gone, and now the passengers are in human dignity and comfort on the YBS buses. This could elevated the moral and mental strength of the people and builds trust among the people towards the YBS.

YBS is to serve public

The responsible persons are trying their best to serve the public through the YBS system as well as

to charge the most reasonable bus fare to the passengers, and therefore, it could be termed as YBS is out there to serve the public.

Some comments and criticisms happened to be the talk of the town and spread in the social media that the shareholders and the companies are experiencing loss. The YBS is the public service industry that is unlike merchandise business, and therefore, profit and heavy earning could never be reaped in a short term. Since the business involved machinery and engines, wear and tear are normally occurred that needs to repair and fix to enable the bus functioning. Of course, it incurred expenses, and therefore, appropriate and expected profit is currently not on the agenda.

If the old and outdated buses are used, then the profit comes easily as the investment was rather less. If and when we used the cheaper buses, then it would never provide comfort to the passengers. During the Ma Hta Tha era, old buses are being used that reaped heavy and profuse profits by the individual owners, and drivers and bus conductors; leaving the passengers in tight and difficult situation to suffer all the tale of woe with great unhappiness.

The YBS system has change into providing better service to the passengers as well as charging minimum fare of MMK 200, which is the kind and sincere offer to the Yangon public. As we all are aware that these days, the charge of man paddling trishaw stands out at MMK 500 for a short journey and a cup of roadside tea will cost the consumer MMK 500. Therefore, the bus fare of YBS is rather

cheap. With the alarming hikes of the fuel cost, the operational price tag of the private cars and the taxi are running high. Therefore, most people rely on YBS buses. We all need to cooperate for the development of YBS system.

Challenges

The transform from Ma Hta Tha system to new YBS system is complete and total change, and therefore, it is not an easy task. There are visible developments as well as challenges. At this juncture, the most important point is to change the individual ownership into company ownership. Among the (4000) buses in deployment, the two third of the buses are under the company ownership, and the remaining buses are owned by individuals. The remaining busses under referral are the stumbling blocks that hinder the good discipline and better services. There are complaint letters coming in by telling the ill intent of some individuals that would like to cling to old system and delay the new YBS system.



PHOTO: PHOE KHVAR

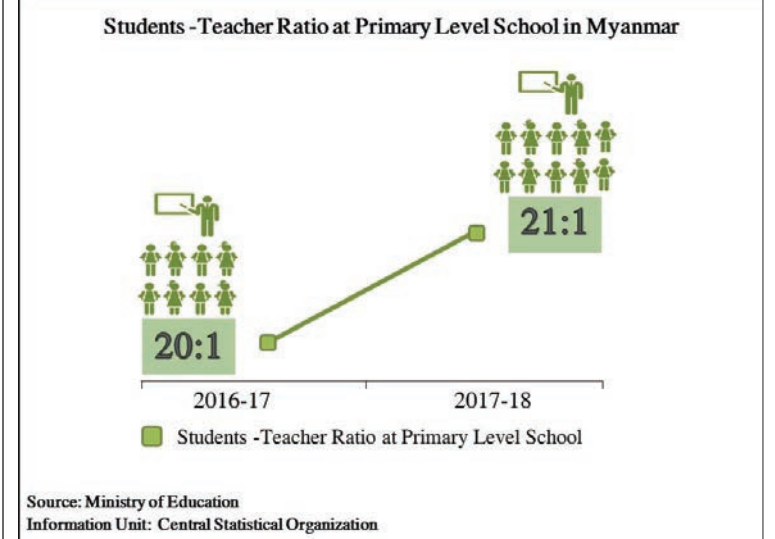
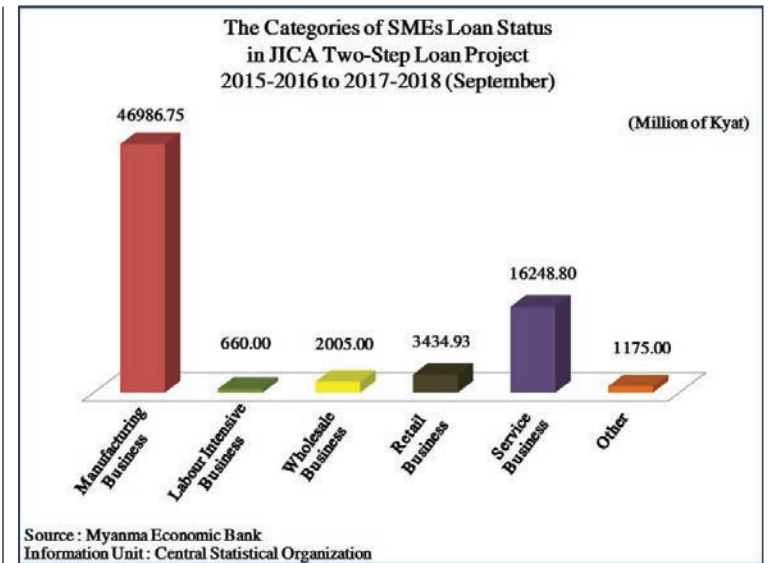
lots, and etc.

Work together for the development of YBS

The comprehensive changes of the YBS system are not an easy task. When studying the changes of other countries, they endured many bitter difficulties before achieving success in their endeavors. The functioning of the YBS is taking up momentum and its success is in the horizon. At this juncture, we must be careful of ill intent people to destroy the success of YBS. Along with the accomplishment of YBS, the improvement could be seen such as that of lesser use of private cars in the city; that of easing the traffic jam on the roads; that of the convenient of the passengers on the buses; that of generating more working hours; that of providing helping hands towards nations’ Gross Domestic Product (Per Capita Income); that of good and commodity flows in the city; that of stabilizing the price hikes; that of elevating the nations’ economy in one way or another.

In the final analysis, the writer of this article would like to draw the conclusion that exclusive transformation of YBS system would be successful in the shortest possible time with the encouragement of the government, the constructive participation of Yangon public, the continuous financial aids and subsidy, the formation of transport think tank, the involvement of political parties, other organizations, the social media, and the stakeholders are the most vital components to work together in cooperation for the success of the transport scheme.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)



Cyclonic Storm New

13 November 2018

Cyclonic Storm

According to the observations at (18:30)hrs MST today, the Cyclonic Storm (Gaja) over West Central Bay and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal has moved Westwards and it is centered at about (360)miles East of Chennai (India) and about (415)miles East-Northeast of Nagapattinam (India).

It is not moving towards Myanmar Coasts, the present stage of the Cyclonic Storm is coded yellow stage.

Position of Cyclonic Storm, center pressure and wind

Cyclonic Storm is located at Latitude (13.4) degree North and Longitude (86.4) degree East, centre pressure of Cyclonic Storm is (998)hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is (45-50) miles per hour at (18:30)hrs MST today.

During next (24)hrs forecast

It is forecast to further intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm (Gaja) during next (24)hours and move West-South-westwards.

General caution

Due to the Cyclonic Storm, rain or thundershowers will be scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states within next (24) hours commencing tonight.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Wave height will be about (8 - 10) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

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

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds second meeting

FROM PAGE-2

The Deputy Minister for Construction said the Eco Green City project supports the economic development of Myanmar and supports inflows of foreign investment as it is situated on the Yangon-Mandalay highway, which is connected to central Myanmar and stands at the junction of the Yangon-Bago-Ayeyawady regions. Also, the Yangon outer ring road passes through it, and it is connected to the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex project and the Hlegu-Hmawby area development, he added.

During the project's implementation phase, 50,000 temporary job opportunities will be cre-

ated, and once the project starts, it will create 15,000 permanent job opportunities, the deputy minister said.

"The details of the project have been put up on the Ministry of Construction's website. Its benefits were explained to the media at the project briefing hall on 23 January 2018," he added.

The project was announced on Myanmar Radio and Television, and published in newspapers and journals, he said. Information on the project will be given to the people in a transparent manner, the Deputy Minister said.

The minister also answered questions raised by other Hluttaw representatives.

Motion to systematically develop urban (town) and rural (village) land project for human settlement

A motion urging the government to review and develop pasture land, vacant land, fallow land, and virgin land, and to implement town and village land projects to resolve the problem of lack of living spaces caused by the increasing population was tabled by Daw Mar Mar Khine of Thaton constituency.

She said that an increasing population has put a strain on the availability of living spaces, resulting in the rise of illegal squatting, which is a major challenge to the incumbent government. In the past, when the need

for pasture land was felt, the government established such lands and this needs to be replicated to settle those who don't have a place to live, she added.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hluttaw's decision to debate the motion after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw. He asked Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

Decision and motion on Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Bill

Later, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the Theravada Buddhist Missionary University

Bill, returned with amendments by the Amyotha Hluttaw.

This was followed by Bill committee member U Nay Myo Tun tabling a motion to submit and discuss the Bill at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as two Hluttaws were in disagreement over the Bill, as approval was on amendment of the Bill committee and not the ten amendments of the Amyotha Hluttaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then announced that the disagreement on the Bill will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for discussion and decision. The third-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session will be held today. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Gems, jades sales attracts 1180 traders



Merchants checking quality of jade stones at the jade emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

A special sale of 96 gem lots and 3,339 jade lots in local currency Kyat is being conducted through an open tender bidding system in Nay Pyi Taw, with the aim of providing raw gems and jades to local merchants.

Raw gems and jade stones were displayed inside and outside the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from yesterday morning. Local merchants inspected the lots on display. Mainly jade lots are being put up for sale at the exhibition,

which began on 12 November.

On 12 and 13 November, 96 gems lots were put on display. They will be sold through an open tender bidding system.

The jade lots will be displayed up to 14 November. Lot numbers 1 to 1,150 (totaling 1150 jade lots) will be sold on 15 November; lots 1,151 to 2,300 (totaling 1150 jade lots) will be put up for sale on 16 November; and lots 2,301 to 3,339 (totaling 1039 jade lots) will be sold on

17 November through open tender bids.

The gems and jade lots will be displayed until the evening prior to the day of the sale. The names of successful buyers, lot numbers, and values will be shown on Kiosk machines and display boards.

A total of 1,186 gems merchants and businesses have registered for the sale, which ends on 17 November. —Mawsi (MNA)

(Translated by Thandar Aung)

Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade reaches US\$6 billion in mini-budget period

THE value of Myanmar's trade with China in the last mini-budget period (from April to September) totalled US\$6 billion, with exports pegged at \$2.89 billion and imports valued at \$3.1 billion, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The bilateral trade with China closely follows Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries, which registered the highest growth in the same period.

The trade with China was higher on the border than over the sea. The Sino-Myanmar trade at the Muse, the Lwejel, the Chinshwehau, the Kanpikete, and the Kengtung checkpoints totalled over \$3.3 billion, with exports worth \$2.42 billion and imports valued at \$876 million.

The value of the country's bilateral trade with China was \$11.78 billion in the 2017-2018

Fiscal Year, \$10.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$10.9 billion in the 2015-16 FY, \$9.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$7 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$4.95 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, and \$5 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

Myanmar exports rice, several varieties of peas, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals, and animal products to China. Machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products, and electronic tools flow into Myanmar from China every year.

In the last interim period prior to Fiscal Year 2018-2019, China's capital inflows into the country amounted to \$302.3 million, with investments in 28 projects, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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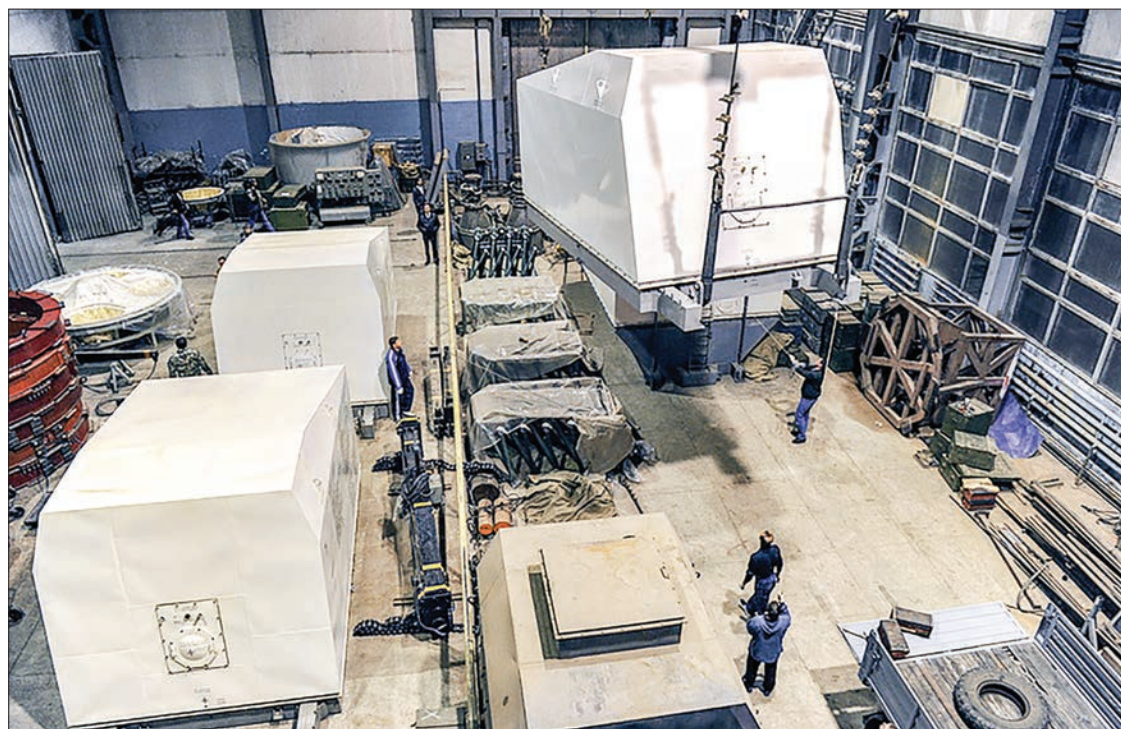
Russian hi-tech firm to team up with China to develop liquid rocket propellants

ZHUHAI — Russia's rocket engine producer Energomash and the Sixth Academy of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation have signed a protocol of cooperation in the development and manufacture of liquid rocket propellants, the Energomash press office reported on 8 November.

The document was signed at the Airshow China 2018 aerospace exhibition, Energomash said.

Under the protocol, both sides can cooperate in the field of rocket engines by developing liquid rocket propellants using the oxygen-kerosene, oxygen-hydrogen and oxygen-methane propellant components," the Energomash said in a statement.

Until the end of 2018, the Chinese side will send technical work requirements to Energomash and in January 2019 both sides will hold consultations to formulate their final version. After that, Energomash will draft and submit a package of documents to Russia's State Space Corporation Roscosmos for a government resolution on the possibility of cooperation in this area, the statement says.



Russian liquid-fuel rocket engines produced by Energomash. PHOTO: TASS

"The negotiations with the Chinese side lasted several years. But we were restrained in our negotiating process until the end of 2017 as the agreement between the governments of Russia and China, 'On Measures for Technology Protection in View of Cooperation in the Exploration and the Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes, the Development and the Oper-

ation of Launch Vehicles and the Ground-Based Space Infrastructure,' was not ratified," Energomash CEO Igor Arbuzov said.

"Beginning from 2018, our discussions became substantive and today's protocol is a switch-over of our relations to the practical realm," he added.

The areas of cooperation in the sphere of rocket engines were defined by the protocols of

sessions of the Russian-Chinese commission for cooperation in carrier rockets and rocket engines held in 2018 and were approved on 28 September, 2018 in Beijing by a protocol of the 19th session of the sub-commission for interaction in outer space of the Russian-Chinese commission for preparing regular meetings of the heads of governments. —Tass ■

Field of WWII mines discovered near St Petersburg

SAINT PETERSBURG (Russia) — Russian emergency services are defusing a field of WWII anti-tank mines that were discovered off a motorway leading to Saint Petersburg, police and a military-historical group said on Monday.

The wartime devices were found some 50 km (30 miles) out of Russia's second city.

"It's extremely dangerous. These old mines are aggressive, if one of them explodes, the others will go straight away and the blast will be serious," said Andrei Sizov, head of a local historical society.

Police confirmed they had been informed over the weekend that mines were discovered in the area but declined to give any further details.

Sizov said a local inhabitant had made the discovery and informed his group. — AFP ■

Ex-SS guard, 94, to testify at trial in Germany

MÜNSTER (Germany) — A former guard charged with complicity in mass murder at a Nazi concentration camp will testify at his trial in Germany on Tuesday, making a rare statement in one of the last cases of its kind.

The 94-year-old German from the western district of Borken, North Rhine-Westphalia state, served as a watchman from June 1942 to September 1944 at the Stutthof camp near what was then Danzig, now Gdansk in Poland. He was not publicly named but German media identified him as Johann R, a retired landscape architect and divorced father of three.

His statement would mark a rare occasion for victims and their relatives to hear directly from the accused on the alleged crimes committed seven decades ago. At the opening of his trial last week, the defendant shed tears as he heard written testimony from Holocaust survivors who now live in the United States or Israel.

The nonagenarian is charged with being an accessory to the

murders of several hundred camp prisoners.

These included more than 100 Polish prisoners gassed in June 1944 and "probably several hundred" Jews killed from August to December 1944 as part of the Nazis' so-called "Final Solution".

Aged 18 to 20 at the time, and therefore now being tried under juvenile law, the defendant is "accused in his capacity as a guard of participating in the killing operations," Dortmund prosecutor Andreas Brendel told AFP.

If found guilty, he faces a sentence of up to 15 years in prison — even though, given his age and the possibility of an appeal, he is considered unlikely to serve any time behind bars.

Shame

Germany has been racing to put on trial surviving SS personnel, after the legal basis for prosecuting former Nazis changed in 2011 with the landmark conviction of former death camp guard John Demjanjuk.

He was sentenced not for any atrocities he committed, but on the basis that he served as a cog in the Nazi killing machine at the Sobibor camp in occupied Poland.

German courts subsequently convicted Oskar Groening, an accountant at Auschwitz, and Reinhold Hanning, a former SS guard at the same camp, for mass murder. However both men, convicted at age 94, died before they could be imprisoned.

At his trial in 2015, Groening apologised and sought forgiveness. He also admitted "moral guilt" although he denied any legal culpability.

Like Groening, Hanning told his victims he was sorry. He admitted to being "silent all my life" about the atrocities because he felt deep shame, not having spoken about it even to his wife, children or grandchildren.

Another trial against a 96-year-old former medical orderly at the Auschwitz death camp collapsed in 2017 because he suffers from dementia. — AFP ■

News in Brief

Three killed in explosion at Spain fireworks factory

MADRID (Spain) — Three people died and another three were injured on Monday in an explosion at a fireworks factory in southern Spain, regional authorities said.

The "strong explosion" at the factory in Guadix was felt across the city of around 20,000 resident near Granada, Guadix city hall said in a statement on its Facebook page.

Three people were killed and another three people were taken to hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation, local emergency services said.

There were just six people in the century-old factory at the time of the blast, according to Guadix city hall. — AFP ■

Wildfire deadliest in California history, 42 killed: sheriff

PARADISE (United States) — A devastating blaze in northern California has become the deadliest wildfire in the history of the state, with 42 people killed, a sheriff said on Monday.

"As of today, an additional 13 human remains have been recovered, which brings the total number to 42," Sheriff Kory Honea told a news conference.

After originally saying it was the deadliest wildland fire in US history, Honea clarified that it was the deadliest ever in California. — AFP ■

Rockets fired from Gaza Strip toward Israel: AFP

GAZA CITY — A number of rockets were launched from the Gaza Strip toward Israel on Monday, AFP journalists said, while Israel's army said an Israeli bus was hit by fire from the Palestinian enclave.

It was not clear if there were any injuries. Palestinian security sources also reported that a Hamas observation point was hit by tank fire in the Gaza Strip.

The flare-up follows a clash that erupted during an Israeli special forces operation in the Gaza Strip late Sunday that killed eight people. Hamas had vowed revenge. — AFP ■

Abe, Pence reaffirm cooperation toward nuclear-free N Korea

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US Vice President Mike Pence agreed on Tuesday to work together toward the denuclearization of North Korea and trade expansion beneficial to both countries.

While Abe stressed the strength of Japan-US ties in a press conference after their meeting in Tokyo, Pence expressed hope for concluding a bilateral agreement on trade in goods and services which will be an exemplary deal for the Indo-Pacific region.

Pence arrived in Tokyo on Monday evening as part of his Asian and Oceanian tour to attend annual regional summits later this week on behalf of President Donald Trump.

Abe said he and Pence confirmed the need to “completely” implement UN resolutions on North Korea to abandon its nuclear and missile programmes.

The prime minister also



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US Vice President Mike Pence hold talks in Tokyo on 13 November, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

said they agreed to cooperate in settling the issue of Japanese nationals abducted by the North in the 1970s and 1980s,

with Trump planning to have a second meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un following their first one in Sin-

gapore in June.

The meeting between Abe and Pence comes at a time when speculation is growing in Japan

that Trump will adopt a tougher stance on the Asian country over trade following the midterm elections last week.

At a press conference a day after the elections, Trump said Japan is not treating the United States fairly on trade.

Negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement on goods, or TAG, are scheduled to start in mid-January.

Abe and Pence reaffirmed their cooperation toward realizing a “free and open” Indo-Pacific region, a vision advocated by the Japanese leader and then backed by the United States.

In the press conference, Pence described the US commitment to the Indo-Pacific region as “steadfast and enduring.”

Abe and Pence are scheduled to attend annual meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Papua New Guinea.—Kyodo News ■

Laos, Russia cooperate in clearing unexploded ordnance in central Laos

VIENTIANE — Joint cooperation between Laos and Russia to combat the unexploded ordnance (UXO) threat in central Laos’ Borikhamxay province has seen progress after the project began a month ago, local daily *Vientiane Times* reported on Tuesday.

An official in charge of the Ministry of National Defence’s Humanitarian UXO Demining Army Unit 58 (U58) gave an update on the progress made so far on Monday.

Head of U58 Lt Col Phonkeo Orladom said military personnel from the two countries had teamed up to clear about 10 hectares of the site by using equipment supplied by Russia.

“We found 44 bombies

(BLU26) buried about 25-40 centimetres below the surface, which we detonated in situ after informing the district authorities,” the official said.

“We still haven’t found any large bombs yet,” he added.

To achieve their objective of clearing all the UXO on the other 90 hectares, 130 km east of the Lao capital Vientiane, before the project ends next year, Laos and Russia will continue to work together in the field, the official said.

“Both sides are satisfied with their good cooperation and highly appreciate the results.

The Russian military also provided a training course on the use of the equipment they

supplied,” he added.

The mission of Lao military and Russian military engineers to assist in demining activities in Laos will continue until the plan is completed.

The project is part of the framework of cooperation between the governments and armed forces of Laos and Russia.

Unexploded American-made bombs still lie buried in large tracts of Lao land after being dropped during the Viet Nam War from 1965 to 1973.

Most of them are cluster and anti-personnel bombs, of which one-third have not been defused, leaving more than half of Lao provinces at risk of tragic accidents.—Xinhua ■

North Korea hiding missile bases, US researchers say

WASHINGTON (United States) —North Korea is operating at least 13 undeclared bases to hide mobile, nuclear-capable missiles, a new study released on Monday has found, raising fresh doubts over US President Donald Trump’s signature foreign policy initiative.

Trump has hailed his June summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as having opened the way to denuclearization of the divided peninsula, defusing tensions that less than a year ago brought the two countries to the brink of conflict. Since the summit in Singapore, North Korea has forgone nuclear and missile tests, dismantled a missile test site and promised to also break up the

country’s main nuclear complex

But researchers at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington said they have located 13 missile operating bases that have not been declared by the government, and that there may be as many as 20.

“It’s not like these bases have been frozen,” Victor Cha, who leads CSIS’s North Korea programme, told *The New York Times*, which first reported on the study. “Work is continuing.

What everybody is worried about is that Trump is going to accept a bad deal — they give us a single test site and dismantle a few other things, and in return they get a peace agreement.” —AFP ■

Convicted Khmer Rouge prison chief discharged from hospital

PHNOM PENH (Cambodia) — The former chief interrogator and torturer for Cambodia’s Khmer Rouge has been discharged from hospital after a health scare that lasted weeks, an official told AFP on Tuesday.

Kaing Guek Eav, better known as Duch, is serving a life sentence for managing the Phnom Penh detention centre

S-21 where some 15,000 people were confined and sent to their deaths in nearby “Killing Fields” in the late 1970s.

The former mathematics teacher-turned-diehard revolutionary was the first member of the Khmer Rouge to face judgement before a war crimes tribunal in Cambodia and was sent to live out his remaining days in

Kandal prison after an appeal extended his original sentence to life in 2012.

Duch fell ill with respiratory problems in late October and was rushed to hospital in the capital Phnom Penh where his condition was deemed serious at the time, but the head of the prison said he pulled through.

“I did not hope he would sur-

vive,” Chat Sineang, director of the Kandal prison, told AFP.

“But he has recovered from the illness and he arrived back at the prison on Monday evening.”

He said, however, that Duch — who turns 76 in a few days — was still weak and needed help from guards when he wanted to use the bathroom.

Duch was arrested in 1999

after being discovered working for a Christian aid agency under a false name.

His trial was a landmark for victims seeking justice for crimes under the Khmer Rouge regime, whose dreams of an communist agrarian paradise led to the deaths of up to two million Cambodians from 1975 to 1979. —AFP ■

Modest warming risks ‘irreversible’ ice sheet loss, study warns

PARIS (France) — Even modest temperature rises agreed under an international plan to limit climate disaster could see the ice caps melt enough this century for their loss to be “irreversible”, experts warned on Monday.

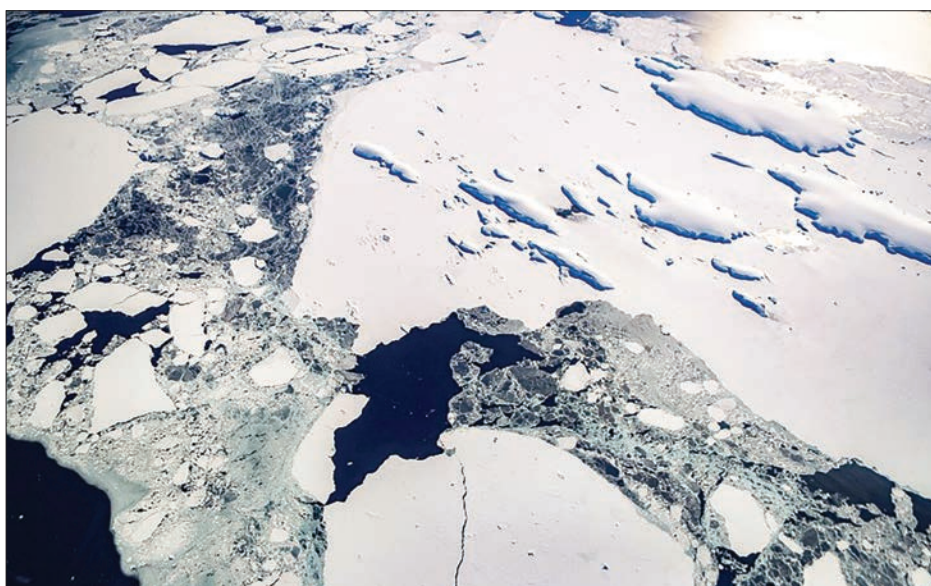
The 2015 Paris Agreement limits nations to temperature rises “well below” two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels and to less than 1.5°C if at all possible.

That ballpark of getting 1.5-2°C hotter by 2100 is scientists’ best-case-scenario based on our consumption of natural resources and burning of fossil fuels, and will require radical, global lifestyle changes to achieve.

For comparison, humans’ business-as-usual approach — if we continue to emit greenhouse gases at the current rate — will see Earth heat by as much as 4°C.

Scientists have known for decades that the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica are shrinking, but it had been assumed that they would survive a 1.5-2°C temperature rise relatively intact.

However, according to a new analysis published in the journal Nature Climate Change, even modest global warming could cause irreversible damage to the polar ice, contributing to cata-



The ice contained in Greenland and Antarctica contain enough frozen water to lift global sea levels several metres. PHOTO: AFP

strophic sea level rises.

“We say that 1.5-2°C is close to the limit for which more dramatic effects may be expected from the ice sheets,” Frank Pattyn, head of the department of geosciences, Free University of Brussels and lead study author, told AFP.

His team crunched data on annual temperature rises, ice sheet coverage and known melt levels and found that both Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets would reach a “tipping point” at around 2°C.

“The existence of a tipping point implies that ice-sheet changes are potentially irreversible — returning to a pre-industrial climate may not stabilise the ice sheet once the tipping point has been crossed,” said Pattyn.

‘Tipping point this century’

The ice contained in Greenland and Antarctica contain enough frozen water to lift global sea levels several metres. The Greenland ice sheet alone has contributed 0.7 millimetres to global sea level rises every year since the mid-1990s. And the poles are warming faster than anywhere else on Earth, with Greenland alone 5°C warmer in winter and 2°C in summer since then.

Although scientists predict it would take hundreds of years for them to melt even with huge global temperature increases, Monday’s study provides further cause for concern with mankind’s only realistic plan to avert runaway warming. Many models of the 1.5-2°C scenario al-

low for the threshold to be breached in the short term, potentially heating the planet several degrees higher, before using carbon capture and other technologies to bring temperatures back into line by 2100.

The study warned against this approach, however, saying that a feedback loop set off by higher temperatures would “lead to self-sustained melting of the entire ice sheet” even if those rises were later offset. For Greenland, the team said with 95 per cent certainty that major ice sheet decline would occur at 1.8°C worth of warming.

“For both Greenland and Antarctica, tipping points are known to exist for warming levels that could be reached before the end of this century,” said Pattyn.—AFP ■

Japanese ships leave for “research whaling” in Antarctic Ocean

SHIMONOSEKI, (Japan) — Japanese vessels left a western Japan port on Monday to conduct what the government calls “research whaling” in the Antarctic Ocean through March.

The ships plan to catch 333 minke whales in the country’s fourth such whaling expedition since their resumption in 2015, according to the government. Japan temporarily suspended research whaling after the International Court of Justice ruled in 2014 that the whaling programme was “not for purposes of scientific research” and ordered its suspension. The Japanese government in response submitted a revamped plan to the International Whaling Commission, capping the catch to a third of what it was. Japan has been catching whales in the region for “scientific research” since 1987. But the programme has drawn criticism that it is a cover for commercial whaling.

The latest expedition comes after Japan’s proposal to resume commercial whaling of relatively

abundant species such as minke whales was voted down by the International Whaling Commission in September. The rejection prompted Japan to hint that it may withdraw from the organization.

After leaving the port of Shimonoseki in Yamaguchi Prefecture, the 724-ton Yushin Maru and the 742-ton Yushin Maru No. 3 whalers will join three vessels including the 8,145-ton mother ship Nisshin Maru before heading for the far south.

“By incorporating the techniques and abilities we have fostered, we want to successfully conduct the research and return safely,” Nobuo Abe, the captain of the Yushin Maru No 3, said at a ceremony held before the vessels’ departure and attended by some 50 people. According to the Fisheries Agency, anti-whaling group Sea Shepherd has conducted no major activities so far to block Japan’s whaling this year after saying in a statement last year that the group would not try to stop Japan’s whaling activities.—Kyodo News ■

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EF ELENA VOY. NO. (013 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (1827-1828) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S’PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (020 N/S)

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Sichuan Airlines' Inaugural Flight at Yangon International Airport (YIA)



Commemorating the inaugural flight at Yangon International Airport Terminal 1 on 13 November 2018. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

YANGON — Sichuan Airlines' inaugural flight arrives at Yangon International Airport (YIA) as the 31st international airline flying into YIA on 13 November 2018.

Sichuan Airlines now connects Yangon, the commercial capital city of Myanmar, with Xi'an three times a week utilizing Airbus A320 with the capacity of 163 passengers.

With the addition of Sichuan Airlines, 31 international airlines and 29 international destinations are currently operating at YIA.

The celebration event was held at Terminal 1 and Mr. Hu Wei, Sichuan Airlines' Chief representative in Myanmar, Mandalay Station Manager Mr.

Wang Futian and YIA officials were present at the event.

Mr. Jose Angeja, Chief Operating Officer of YACL said "Today Sichuan Air connects Yangon, the commercial capital of Myanmar to Xi'an, the biggest city in the northwest of China and the famous ancient capital in Chinese history. With this connection, it is also a good opportunity to travel more and develop our businesses, share our cultures, and it can also bring a great impact on many industries in Myanmar, particularly to the tourism industry. We hope to receive more tourists to Myanmar to enjoy the beauty of Myanmar and enjoy the improved facilities at Yangon International Airport." — GNLM ■

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Blood-stained shirt of assassinated Czar Alexander II returned to Russia

PARIS — Relics from the Russian Imperial Romanov family, illegally seized by a religious organization in Nice, were returned to Russia on Friday. Among them is the blood-stained shirt of Czar Alexander II of Russia (Alexander the Liberator) which he wore in the last hours of his life before his assassination on 13 March 1881. The ceremony of returning the relics to Russia was held at the session of the "French-Russian Alliance" public association in Paris, a TASS correspondent reported from the scene.

Ambassador to France Alexey Meshkov received the relics on behalf of Russia. The diplomat thanked the French side for assistance with returning the private belongings of Czar Alexander II. "We have long tried to return the seized valuables. Now we got them back, with the help of the French authorities," he said.

Bishop Nestor of the Diocese of Korsun of the Russian Orthodox Church said this event brought a lot of joy to parishioners. "A time to gather stones together," Bishop Nestor quoted Ecclesiastes 3:5. "These relics are part of our history, it is important to preserve them," he added.

Imperial relics

The blood-stained shirt of Czar Alexander II was brought to France after his death by hismorganatic wife Princess Yurievskaya Catherine Dolgorukov. She settled in Nice and carefully preserved the late Czar's shirt and other belongings. After her death, the Imperial relics were handed over to the St Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral in Nice.



Portrait of Emperor Alexander II by photographer Sergei Levitsky (1860s). **PHOTO: TASS**

After the Russian Revolution, the Russian Cultural Orthodox Association in Nice (Association Culturelle Orthodoxe Russe Nice - ACOR) seized the cathedral and all Imperial relics stored there. After a long legal process, the Russian side confirmed its property rights for the St Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral in Nice, but ACOR refused to give up the relics. However, with the help of the French government, Russia was able to return them.

Among the relics are the blood-stained shirt of Czar Alexander II, three handkerchiefs with the imperial monogram, his vest and uniform, and his lifetime portrait. Bishop Nestor said that the Emperor's shirt and other belongings will be displayed at the St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral in Nice, where they were stored before being seized by ACOR.

Great-grandson's gratitude

Great-grandson of Czar Alexander II Duke Georgy Yurievich told TASS that this year marks the 200th anniversary of Alexander II's birth. "This is a special year, and my great-grandfather's

belongings were returned [to Russia] today. I am very glad and grateful," he said.

Head of the House of Orleans Count of Paris Henri underscored the important mission of the "French-Russian Alliance" in strengthening the bond between the two countries. "We carry friendship in our hearts. As a descendant of Anne of Kiev [Queen Consort of Henry I of France in 1051-1060, daughter of Grand Prince Yaroslav the Wise of Kiev], I especially value our warm relations. We need to build our European home together with Russia," he said.

The participants in the ceremony of handing the relics to the Russian side were welcomed by former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, whose address was read by the head of the "French-Russian Alliance" Prince Alexander Trubetskoy. "This year you are celebrating the 200th anniversary of Alexander II's birth. He was a great reformer. Let the memory of him serve the strengthening of the relations between France and Russia," d'Estaing said. — Tass ■

French yachtsman, 62, wins transatlantic race in record time

POINTE-À-PITRE (France) — French yachtsman Francis Joyon, 62, won the Route du Rhum transatlantic race in record time on Sunday, outpacing young competitor Francois Gabart in a nail-biting final lap around Guadeloupe's main island.

Joyon sailed into Point-a-Pitre just before midnight to take victory in the single-handed race after seven days, 14 hours, 21 minutes and 47 seconds at sea.

The 35-year-old Gabart arrived seven minutes after Joyon,

finishing second in the 11th edition of the daunting race dubbed "Formula One on water" due to the six next-generation, high-speed boats taking part.

"It was really an extraordinary race," said Joyon, praising Gabart, whose boat was badly damaged by storms, as "highly brave and committed".

Joyon beat the previous record set by Frenchman Loick Peyron (Banque Populaire VII) in 2014 of seven days and 15 hours. It was his first victory in seven

attempts.

All 123 challengers, half of them in small Class 40 boats, left Saint Malo in northwest France on November 4 for Guadeloupe, a French-governed archipelago in the Caribbean.

When Canadian Mike Birch won the inaugural Route du Rhum in Olympus in 1978, he completed the 3,542-mile (5,700 kilometres) course in 23 days and six hours. Forty years on, Joyon's Idec Sport and Gabart's Macif were two of the vessels called



French skipper Francois Gabart sails his Ultim multihull MACIF off the French west indies island of Guadeloupe before to cross the finish line of the Route du Rhum solo sailing race, on 11 November, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ultim —maxi-trimarans which can speed across the waves at 85km/h (45 knots).

The other Ultim skippers included Armel Le Cleac'h, winner of the most recent solo

round-the-world Vendee Globe, whose dreams of victory were scuppered when his vessel, Banque Populaire IX, capsized and had to be rescued by a fishing boat. —AFP ■

WHO maps dangerous misuse of antibiotics

GENEVA (Switzerland) — The World Health Organization warned on Monday that antibiotics consumption is dangerously high in some countries while a shortage in others is spurring risky misuse, driving the emergence of deadly superbug infections.

In a first, the United Nations health agency said it had collated data on antibiotic use across large parts of the world and had found huge differences in consumption.

The report, based on 2015 data from 65 countries and regions, showed a significant difference in consumption rates from as low as around four so-called defined daily doses (DDD) per 1,000 inhabitants per day in Burundi to more than 64 in Mongolia.

“The large difference in antibiotic use worldwide indicates that some countries are probably overusing antibiotics while other countries may not have sufficient access to these life-saving medicines,” WHO warned in a statement.

Discovered in the 1920s, antibiotics have saved tens of millions of lives by defeating bacterial diseases such as pneumonia, tuberculosis and meningitis.

But over the decades, bacteria have learned to fight back, building resistance to the same drugs that once reliably vanquished them.

The WHO has repeatedly warned the world is running out of effective antibiotics, and last year urged governments and big pharma to create a new generation of drugs to fight ultra-resistant supergerms.

“Overuse and misuse of antibiotics are the leading causes of antimicrobial resistance,” Suzanne Hill, head of WHO’s essential medicines unit, said in a statement.

“Without effective antibiotics and other antimicrobials, we will lose our ability to treat common infections like pneumonia,” she warned.

‘Urgent action’

Bacteria can become resistant when patients use antibiotics they do not need, or do not finish a course of treatment, giving the half-defeated bug a chance to recover and build immunity.

Hill insisted that the findings “confirm the need to take urgent action, such as enforcing prescription-only policies, to reduce unnecessary use of antibiotics.”

While overuse of antibiotics is worrying, WHO said low numbers were also of concern.

“Resistance can occur when people cannot afford a full course of treatment or only have access to substandard or falsified medicines,” it said. WHO’s report showed large differences in antibiotic consumption even within regions.

In Europe, which provided the most complete data for the report, the average antibiotic consumption was nearly 18 DDD per 1,000 inhabitants per day.

But within the region, Turkey, which ranked the highest at over 38 DDD, showed nearly five times higher consumption than the lowest consumer-country Azerbaijan, which counted fewer than eight DDD. WHO acknowledged the picture of how antibiotics are used around the world remains far from complete. Monday’s overview, for instance, includes only four countries in Africa, three in the Middle East and six in the Asia-Pacific region. Notably missing from the chart are the United States, China and India.

WHO stressed that many countries face major challenges in collecting reliable data, including lack of funds and trained staff. Since 2016, the UN agency has been supporting data collection in 57 low- and middle-income countries in a bid to set up a standardised system for monitoring antibiotic use. “Reliable data on antibiotic consumption is essential to help countries to raise awareness of appropriate antimicrobial use,” WHO said. —AFP ■

Quantum leap for mass as science redefines the kilogramme

SEVRES (France) — Sealed in a vault beneath a duke’s former pleasure palace among the sycamore-streaked forests west of Paris sits an object the size of an apple that determines the weight of the world.

Forged against a backdrop of scientific and political upheaval following the French Revolution, a single, small cylinder of platinum-iridium alloy has laid largely undisturbed for nearly 130 years as the world’s benchmark for what, precisely, is a kilogramme.

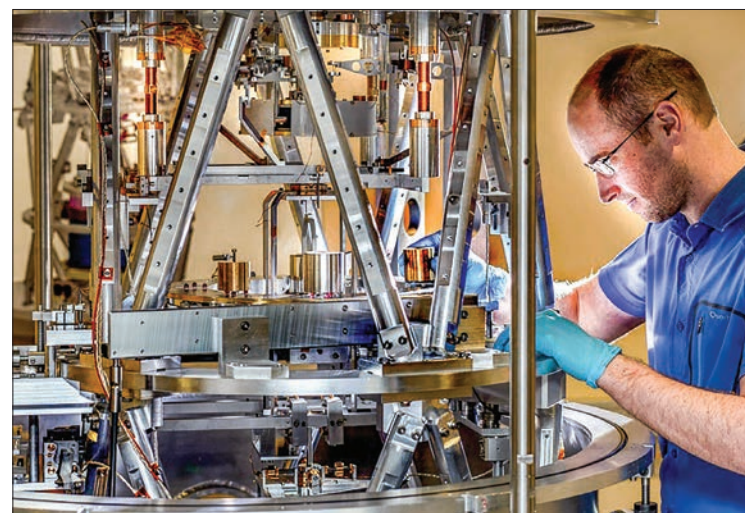
The international prototype of the kilogramme, or “Le Grand K” as it is tenderly known, is one of science’s most hallowed relics, an analogue against which all other weights are compared and a totem of the metric system that accompanied the epoch of liberty, equality and fraternity.

It’s so revered, in fact, that it’s only been weighed four times since 1889 and the room housing it in the Pavillon de Breteuil may only be opened when the three living key holders — who for security reasons must be of different nationalities — turn the lock simultaneously.

And yet it’s soon to be out of a job. Hundreds of scientists from around the world will gather this week in the opulence of Versailles Palace for the 26th General Conference on Weights and Measures. There, in an act belatedly fulfilling the metric system’s founding promise of “For all ages, for all people”, they will replace the Grand K with a universal formula that defines the kilogramme using the quantum laws of Nature. “The kilogramme is the last unit of measurement based on a physical object,” said Thomas Grenon, director of France’s National Laboratory of Metrology and Testing. “The problem is that it’s had a life, it could fluctuate. That’s not good enough, given the level of precision we need today.”

What’s in a second?

With the adoption of the met-



Scientists can now measure how much quantum energy is needed to displace mass, making their calculations for a kilogramme immensely more precise. **PHOTO: AFP**

ric system, scientists in the late 18th century needed to codify a single structure that expressed distance, time, electrical processes and mass in similar, transferrable, units of measurement.

They defined a metre as one ten millionth of the Earth’s quadrant — running through Paris, naturally. “We now look back and say actually the process they went through was pretty good, we wouldn’t do it very differently today,” said Martin Milton, director of the BIPM, the international custodian of our measurement systems. The metre was used in turn to define mass: however much a cubed decimetre (10cm x 10cm x 10cm) of water weighed would henceforth be termed a kilogramme. But science has moved on since the days of the revolution. A metre is now defined by how far light travels in a vacuum during a fraction of a second.

The second itself used to be expressed relative to the rotation of the Earth. But since the 1960s, it has officially been the time it takes a caesium-133 atom to wobble 9,192,631,770 times — not a revolution less. Instead of relating to the mass of a singular physical object, the kilogramme will in future be defined in terms of the Planck constant — the ratio of quantum energy a frequency

of light can carry to that same frequency, or 6.626×10^{-34} joule seconds.

Energy is intrinsically linked to mass, as Einstein demonstrated with his equation $E = mc^2$.

The Planck constant, combined with two quantum phenomena that allow for the creation of electrical power, can be used to calculate mass based on the equivalent mechanical power needed to displace it. “If you push a mass, the power you need is dependent on that mass. And you can completely base that power on electrical power provided by our quantum constants,” Milton told AFP. Proponents of this approach say it will be at least one million times more stable than physical artefacts and will have a range of practical applications in future. “For a lot of applications, one kilogramme is a very big mass,” said Milton. Advances in pharmaceutical and chemical production mean ingredients in medicines are increasingly measured to the microgramme, and are getting ever more precise. “One kilo’s good for potatoes where you don’t need very much accuracy, but it’s not the right weight for many applications in demanding science and industry. The new system is infinitely scalable.” —AFP ■

Chinese, American scientists develop single device to collect heat, coldness

WASHINGTON — American and Chinese scientists developed a single device that can collect heat from the sun and coldness from the outer space simultaneously. The study published on Thursday 8 November in the journal *Joule* described the device for harvesting solar and space energy that

did not compete for land space but help each other more efficiently.

“It is widely recognized that the sun is a perfect heat source nature offers human beings on Earth,” said the first author of the study Chen Zhen, a professor at the Southeast University of China. “It is less widely recognized

that nature also offers human beings outer space as a perfect heat sink.” Objects give off heat as infrared radiation and most of this radiation is reflected back to Earth, but some of it escapes into space. It allows surfaces that emit enough radiation within the infrared range to drop below the

temperature of their surroundings, providing an air conditioning alternative that doesn’t emit greenhouse gases. If you have only one rooftop, to install on it a solar panel or a radiative cooler came into a question. Now, Chen and his colleagues from Stanford University developed a device

combining radiative cooling with solar absorption technology.

The device consists of a germanium solar absorber on top of a radiative cooler with silicon nitride, silicon, and aluminum layers enclosed in a vacuum to minimize unwanted heat loss, according to the study.—Xinhua ■



Myanmar players celebrate after scoring a goal in the debut against Cambodia in Mandalay Thiri Stadium on 12 November. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar gets off bright start whitewashing Honda-coached Cambodia 4-1

MYANMAR got off a bright start whitewashing Cambodia managed by Honda with a larger margin of 4-1 in its debut home match of AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 in Mandalay Thiri Stadium on 12 November.

Myanmar head coach Mr Antoine Hey set up its starting lineup fielding major players—Thein Than Win, David Htan, Zaw Min Tun, Pyae Phyo Zaw, Hlaing Bo Bo, Zin Min Tun, Maung Maung Lwin, Yan Naing Oo, Sithu Aung and Lwin Moe Aung. Star player Aung Thu was kept on the bench in the first half.

Cambodia was coached by

Honda, a former Japanese selection and showed better form than the first match played against Malaysia.

Myanmar made a dynamic attacking start against opponents Cambodia. Aung Thu, a major striker was set aside in the first half and the attacking tactic was ineffective. The Cambodian defenders were well enough to control Myanmar attacking players. Myanmar lost its best form until the midway through of the first half. Cambodia saw a leading goal at the 21st minute mark.

Myanmar inserted striker Aung Thu in the second half

lineup and then got along well in its play pattern. Hlaing Bo Bo leveled the match taking an advantage of a cross ball by defender Thein Than Win at the 59th minute mark. The Cambodian goalie managed to save a penalty shoot by striker Aung Thu at the 67th minute mark. Substitute Than Htet Aung scored the goal by kicking a bounce ball from a corner one minute after the penalty shoot. At the 83rd minute mark, Sithu Aung added the third goal for Myanmar and Hlaing Bo Bo scored the fourth goal near the stoppage time. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

Hlaing Bo Bo wins Honor Man of the Match

MYANMAR'S midfielder Hlaing Bo Bo won the Man of the Match from Myanmar's debut home match against Cambodia in AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 in Mandalay Thiri Stadium on 12 November.

Myanmar's head coach Mr Antoine Hey set up the starting line to Myanmar national men's football squad for the match against Cambodia fielding Kyaw Zin Htet (goalie), Zaw Min Tun (defender), Thein Than Win (defender), David Htan (defender), Pyae Phyo Zaw (defender), Hlaing Bo Bo (midfielder), Lwin Moe Aung (midfielder), Yan Naing Oo (midfielder), Sithu Aung (midfielder), Maung Maung

Lwin (midfielder) and Zin Min Tun (forward).

Hlaing Bo Bo gave an equalizer for Myanmar at the 59th minute mark in the second half and scored the fourth goal near the stoppage time. Therefore, Honor Man of the Match went to Hlaing Bo Bo.

"I feel very glad to win Honor Man of the Match. I have never won this kind of prize throughout my career. I have to play for midfield defence, but my team wants goals and so I have to play for the front line area as well. I am satisfied with the winning result. I will try my best to reach semifinals," said Hlaing Bo Bo. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



Midfielder Hlaing Bo Bo winning Honor Man of the Match and the official of AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 pose for a documentary photo. **PHOTO: MFF**

Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship begins on Ngwehsaung beach

THE first day of the U-15 Optimist Asian and Oceanian Championship was held on Monday morning in Ngwehsaung, Ayeyawady Region.

There was no competition on Monday because of bad weather and on Tuesday, it started two hours ahead of schedule. A total of 129 young sailors from 16 countries participated.

Divided into the yellow fleet and blue fleet, the competition kicked off on Monday and the Myanmar teams participated in both categories.

"At present, the Myanmar team is in good shape, but we



PHOTO: WIN HTOO AUNG

are not sure about the next match because this is a qualifying series," said U Sai Pyae Son Hein, manager of Myanmar

Yachting Federation.

Maung Htet Lin Zaw, 12, who stood in sixth place after the individual yachting com-

petition, said, "This is the first competition and I participated in the individual competition. Tomorrow, we will have a

group competition. I practiced very hard. I am confident that I will do well in the next competitions. Today, the weather is so nice."

A total of 129 young athletes from 16 countries participated in the first day of the individual competition, which started at 8am and ended at 2pm.

The U-15 Optimist Asian and Oceanian Championship will end on 16 November at Ngwehsaung beach. There are two types of competitions—individual and group competitions. —Min Thit (MNA)

(Translated by Hay Mar)