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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the 3rd ASEAN-Russia Summit in Singapore on 14 November 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor attends ASEAN-related summits in Singapore

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is attending the 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore, attended nine related summits and gatherings yesterday.

The State Counsellor first attended an informal breakfast for ASEAN-Australian leaders, followed by the 21st ASEAN-Chi-

na Summit, the 20th ASEAN-Korea Summit, a working lunch hosted by the Singapore Prime Minister and the current Chair of ASEAN, the 3rd ASEAN-Russia Summit, the MoU signing ceremony for economic cooperation between ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Commission, the 21st ASEAN-Japan Summit,

the 2nd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Summit, and a dinner hosted by the Singaporean Prime Minister at the end of the day.

In the morning, the State Counsellor attended an informal breakfast for ASEAN-Australian leaders at the Suntec Expo Convention Center.

She then attended the 21st ASEAN-China Summit and the 20th ASEAN-Korea Summit and participated in discussions.

At noon, the State Counsellor was joined by leaders of ASEAN member countries in a working lunch hosted by the Singapore Prime Minister and the current Chair of ASEAN.

Next, the State Counsellor attended the 3rd ASEAN-Russia Summit, the MoU signing ceremony for economic cooperation between ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Commission, the 21st ASEAN-Japan Summit, and the 2nd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Summit.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Third-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session held

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses civil service enhancement, reducing red tape, differs on bill

The third meeting of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Civil servants and red tape reduction

During the meeting, U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency raised a question on the status of reducing red tape in civil service mechanisms.

Dr. Win Thein, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, gave a two-part reply. "The first part is that the civil service is implementing decentralization under four processes," he said. He said the civil service is setting down the responsibility and authority for each civil servant level. He said it is providing proper training for each rank and is handling any cases of corruption according to the law.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

In the second part of his reply, the UCSB Chairman said the Civil Services Personnel Law was enacted on 8 March 2013 and its related bylaw on 26 March 2014. He said these laws help with appointing staff, giving promotions, managing leave, setting rules, taking disciplinary actions, and pension plans.

The Chairman said the UCSB provides training courses for different ranks of civil servants at the two central institutes of civil services. Subjects taught

at the courses include staff rules and regulations, staff ethics, staff management, responsibility and accountability, the Civil Services Personnel Law, and its bylaws.

Myanmar Law Information System

Dr. Than Aung Soe of Minhla constituency raised a question about the Myanmar Law Information System. He asked what font the website uses, whether future support for Zaw Gyi Font will be provided on mobile

phones and whether the Union Attorney-General's Office or relevant ministry are uploading new information to the website.

Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint replied to the question. He said the website began supporting Zaw Gyi Font on 10 September with the help of Korean IT technicians. He said currently, new information is being uploaded to the MLIS website by the Data Input and Construction team from the UAG's Office. The team comprises 12 legal officers and staff from relevant departments.

Ensuring workers receive full payment in Minbu Tsp

U Win Win from Minbu constituency asked what plans are being considered for ensuring manual laborers in Mahn Yen-an Myay, Minbu Tsp receive full payment.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, Dr. Tun Naing, explained that manual laborers in Mahn Yen-an Myay

area, under the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, are paid under a piece rate system. Their payment depends on the weight of the cargo they are handling, he said.

The Deputy Minister explained that the Head Officer of the Township Freight Handling Association gives out the workers' payments with a signed cheque every 15 days. He said they are comparing the fixed equipment costs and cargo handling rates with local prices in each township that oversees oil and gas operations so that an appropriate rate can be set for each ton of cargo handled. He added they are planning to set new rates by 1 January 2019.

Monywa general hospital set for a later date

U Nyunt Aung from Monywa constituency raised a question asking when the unfinished 5-storey general hospital in Monywa is scheduled to be completed.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

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

THE Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session held its third meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, and the Myanmar Gemstone Bill 2017, sent with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw, was discussed.

During the session, U Myint Naing of Rakhine State's Constituency 5 asked the government how it plans to mitigate road accidents and make arrangements for people injured in road traffic accidents occurring within 202.3 miles from An to Sittway townships.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Major-General Aung Thu, replied that arrangements were being made, with the cooperation of the traffic police force and other relevant departments under the supervision of the Road Safety Council in Rakhine State, to reduce road accidents. The government also plans to educate people on road safety and share pamphlets about it extensively. The Ministry has also sped up the implementation of the statements outlined by the Road Safety Council.

U Kyaw Htway of Yangon



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Region's Constituency 8 asked if the ministry plans to scrutinize the certificates of diploma, degrees, masters, and PhD of academicians and take legal action against those who give false and misleading advertising to students. Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said private schools, education services, and foreign educational institutions in Myanmar are currently operating in accordance with the Myanmar Companies Law under the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The Ministry of Education has been striving to enact the Private School Law, he said. But it cannot scrutinize the schools at present, he added. In the education sector, the Ministry is collaborating with the National Education Policy Commission, the National Curriculum Committee, the National Academic and Quality Assurance assessment committee and the Rectors committees, to offer remarks, suggestions, and scrutinize the process.

U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region's Constituency 5 asked whether the

government plans to open the Government Technology Institute in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region. Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said that, at the moment, there were no plans to open a new technology institute in the township. Following this, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi answered the questions raised by Daw Sha Mu of Kayah State's Constituency 5, Dr. Sai Hsai Kyauk Sam of Shan State's Constituency 6, and U Htay Oo of Yangon Region's Constituency 2, respectively.

Next, Hluttaw Representatives held a discussion on the Myanmar Gemstone Bill 2017, which was sent with an amendment by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Joining the discussion, U Kyaw Thiha of Mandalay Region's Constituency 12 said the Hluttaw has made new amendments to carry out the interests of the State and the people, in cooperation with the relevant regions / states approved by the Union Government. According to Clause eight, Chapter four of the Bill, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation had permitted plots for exploring minerals,

for mining jades and gems in gem-producing areas for medium-scale exploitation. "The main reason for the amendment was to avoid centralization and to create employment opportunities for the nation's people. That's why I would like to propose annulling the newly-added Clause ten of Chapter five" he said.

Speaking about the Bill, U Khin Maung Win of Sagaing Region's Constituency 7 said, "Myanmar is marching towards a market-oriented system to invite foreign investments, while promoting the role of local businessmen in all sectors. Thus, efforts should be made to boost the mining sector in the country. That's why approval of Clauses four and five should be made in accordance with the approval of Amyotha Hluttaw."

U Khin Maung Myint of Kachin State's Constituency 9 also took part in the discussion on the Bill.

The fourth meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session will continue on 16 November. ■ Aung Ye Thwin/MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

State Counsellor holds talks with New Zealand PM, US Vice President separately in Singapore



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Prime Minister of New Zealand Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern in Singapore. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Vice-President of the United States of America Mr. Michael Pence in Singapore on 14 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who has been in Singapore to attend the 33rd ASEAN Summit and related Summits, held bilateral talks with the Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, at the Suntec Expo Convention Centre at 10:40 am local time and Mr. Michael Pence, Vice-President of the United States of America, at the Ritz Carlton Hotel at 1:45 pm,

in Singapore, separately on 14 November 2018.

During the meeting with the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the leaders exchanged views relating to promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, recent developments in Rakhine State including the preparatory works for the repatriation process for the displaced persons and New Zealand's assistance for the

building of a harmonious society between the two communities in the Rakhine State.

During the meeting with the Vice-President of the United States of America, the leaders exchanged views on matters pertaining to Myanmar's democratic transition and the latest developments in Rakhine State, media freedom and the United States' Indo-Pacific Strategy.

The State Counsellor ex-

plained about the recent developments in Rakhine State including the measures taken by the Government of Myanmar for the repatriation of verified displaced persons in Mid-November 2018 as agreed at the recent meeting of Joint Working Groups between Myanmar and Bangladesh. They also exchanged views on continued provision of the United States' assistance for the success of

the Myanmar's democratic transition and the repatriation process.

The Vice-President discussed about the matters pertaining to continued assistance from the United States for the success of Myanmar's democratic transition and they also exchanged views on the ways the United States could assist Myanmar in the repatriation process.—MNA

State Counsellor attends ASEAN-related summits in Singapore

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In the evening, the State Counsellor attended a dinner hosted by the ASEAN Chair and Singaporean Prime Minister in honour of ASEAN leaders and leaders from countries outside of ASEAN participating in the ASEAN events.

Attending the various summits and dinner event were heads of state, senior government officials and ministers from

ASEAN member countries of Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, top ASEAN leaders, heads of state and government, ministers and high-ranking officials from associate countries with ASEAN, the ASEAN Secretary-General, permanent representatives of ASEAN and other officials. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the 2nd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit in Singapore on 14 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

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FDA to inspect drinking water plants in Yangon

By Nyein Nyein

THE Department of Food and Drug Administration will start inspecting plants manufacturing drinking water in Yangon from December to check whether they are following good manufacturing practices, said Dr. Min Wun, the head of FDA, Yangon.

"The inspections will be carried out in December. Factories which fail the inspections will be given time to comply with the standard guidelines on manufacturing practices. But, they will be asked to stop production, temporarily. Once they pass an assessment and their production processes are found to be in line with the purification procedures, they will be permitted to resume business," he said.

FDA Yangon conducted courses for manufacturers on good manufacturing practices last August, he added.

"We have been offering

ing covered the drinking water production industry to a certain extent, we are now resuming inspections," he said.

The FDA Yangon had ear-

Factories which fail the inspections will be given time to comply with the standard guidelines on manufacturing practices. But, they will be asked to stop production, temporarily.

educational programmes to manufacturers so that they can adhere to good manufacturing practices. We've taken in 50 participants per batch. During the courses, we showed participants how to adopt good manufacturing practices and maintain quality control. Hav-

lier conducted inspections in the market and now, they plan to inspect factories producing drinking water.

Some licensed manufacturers are following procedures, as the FDA has provided training courses. However, unlicensed manufacturers have been found

distributing products in the market and licensed entrepreneurs are suffering because of this.

"Providing training courses is a good move. However, only staff of those factories which have FDA approval can join the courses. Most factories try to adhere to rules and regulations. There are many illegal distributors in the market, giving unfair competition to licensed factories," said Daw Yee Mon, an official with Shwethanlyin water factory.

There are about 400 drinking water enterprises in Yangon. The FDA Yangon temporarily shut down ten of them, and they are now trying to get their production processes in line with good manufacturing practices. *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

34 illegal Myanmar migrant workers rescued

THE Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN) recently rescued 34 workers who were smuggled into Thailand illegally.

The workers arrived back in Myawady yesterday, through an arrangement worked out by diplomats and the MWRN.

On 1 November, 68 workers crossed Myanmar's border illegally to enter Thailand with the help of a broker who reportedly promised them jobs under the MoU system.

"I don't understand the MoU. But, I believe what the



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

broker told us. He said I will get a job in Thailand. I paid Ks750,000 and two thousand baht to him," said Aye Thandar

Htay from Thaegon Village, Paung Township, Mon State.

The workers were rescued after the Myanmar Labour At-

taché Office got the information that 68 workers were trafficked into Thailand through an illegal route and sent to a plastic factory in Maha Chaing Township.

A day after they arrived at the plastic factory, it was inspected by Thai authorities. Thirty-four workers managed to evade arrest. The remaining workers are believed to have been arrested in the operation.

The escaped workers managed to contact a Myanmar labor diplomat and were rescued by the MWRN in Maha Chaing.—Pwint Thitsa

(Translated by JT)

Restoration work in Shwenandaw monastery

CONSERVATION work on Mandalay's famed Shwenandaw monastery is being conducted by the World Monuments Fund (WMF) with the support of the Department of Archaeology and the National Museum, under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Restorers plan to replace some of the damaged pieces of wood at the site. The WMF plans to restore the ruined parts of a veranda, which is a Konbaung-era design.

A lecture on Shwenandaw monastery renovation was held at the Jefferson library of the American Embassy's information centre, located at the corner of 26th and 71st

streets, Chanayethazan Town, Mandalay, on 14 November.

At the lecture, Dr Francois Tainturier, an architect with the WMF, spoke on the renovation of the ruined parts of the veranda with wooden building conservation technology, while Sculpture Master U Kan Chun talked about the restoration of sculptures at the site.

The lecture was attended by experts from the Archaeology Department (Mandalay branch), faculty members from Mandalay University's History Department and the Yadana-bon University's Archaeology Department and the media.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



World Monuments Fund renovating Shwenandaw Monastery in Mandalay. The monastery is one of major tourist attractions in old Mandalay. **PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU (MANDALAY)**

YGN Elevated Expressway project phase-1 tender submissions closed

THE submission of tenders for the Yangon Elevated Expressway Public Private Partnership Project Phase-1 was closed at a ceremony in the hall of the Ministry of Construction in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday. The program was jointly conducted by the Construction Ministry and the International Finance Cooperation (IFC).

Union Minister U Han Zaw, Deputy Minister for Construction, U Kyaw Lin, department heads, officials, IFC representatives, and officials from companies which have submitted tenders for the project attended the event.

Speaking at the event, U Han Zaw thanked the companies submitting prequalification applications for the elevated expressway project.

"The applications will be checked and accepted before the companies," he said.

Afterwards, Director-General U Kyi Zaw Myint, secretary of the Construction Ministry's tender committee, explained the tender rules and procedures to be followed.

Later, officials from the tender committee and the IFC checked the prequalification applications submitted by the companies and announced the tender submission list.

The event concluded after Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin delivered a speech.

The Ministry of Construction will implement the Elevated Expressway construction project at the Inner Ring Road of Yangon City. The project's first phase will be undertaken



Union Minister U Han Zaw attends the closing ceremony of submitted tenders for the Yangon Elevated Expressway project in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

through a Public-Private partnership (PPP) in the East Wing of Yangon City.

Prequalification applica-

tions for the elevated expressway project's Phase-1 were invited in September. The list of selected companies will be

released November-end.

Requests for proposals will also be invited then.—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun) ■

Foreign banks to now lend to local businesses in Kyat, US dollars

Branches of foreign banks in Myanmar have been given permission to provide all services for financing in the local Kyat currency, and US dollars, to local corporates and other banking services, said U Soe Thein, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar yesterday.

He announced the new procedures at a meeting with the press yesterday in Yangon, to explain the directive dated 8 November by the CBM.

The CBM took the step to provide access to increased financing for local businesses.

Following the move, local companies registered at the Director of the Investment and Companies Administration will now qualify for assistance from local banks, as well as foreign banks, he added.

At present, there are four state-owned banks, 27 private banks and 13 branches of foreign banks in Myanmar.

While encouraging local banks by adopting suitable policies, the CBM would pave the way for foreign banks to provide loans and other services, while assisting in developing the economy of Myanmar, said U Bo Bo Nge, Deputy Governor of the CBM.

Based upon these new regulations, local banks will have access to technology and management systems from foreign banks, along with new areas of cooperation, he added.

To date, the 13 foreign banks with branches in Myanmar have only been allowed to lend to foreign entities in the country, and only in foreign currencies.

Myanmar's central bank announced the new rules allowing foreign banks to lend to local businesses on Thursday, bringing additional reforms to the country's stunted banking sector.—Myat Nandar Phyto ■

50 jade lots sold so far at gems, jade sales in Nay Pyi Taw

THE sale of gems and jade stones at the Gems Emporium continued on 14 November, with a total of 50 gems lots sold, fetching a total of Ks 794.89 million.

The gems and jade stones auction was held for merchants who have started their businesses with a small amount of

capital.

Local merchants inspected raw gems and jade stones, which were displayed the inside and outside the exhibition at the Gems hall, and then submitted their bids.

At the exhibition, a total of 1,150 lots from lots numbers 1

to 1,150 will be put on sale on 15 November, 1,151 lots from lots 1,151 to 2,300 will be auctioned on 16 November, and 1,039 lots from lots 2,301 to 3,339 will be put up for sale on 17 November through an open tender system.—Than Aye ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Merchant appraises a gem stone at the Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Over 15,000 workers moved from Myanmar to Thailand last month

A total of 15,172 workers migrated from Myanmar to Thailand last month, according to figures released by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population.

A total of 19,123 workers from

Myanmar took jobs overseas last month. A majority of them went to Thailand, followed by Malaysia, with 2,927 workers migrating to the country. The remaining headed to the Republic of Korea, Sin-

gapore, Japan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan, and Qatar. On the domestic front, 21,590 local job-seekers found work in the country last month. Yangon received 14,963 new employees,

followed by Bago Region with 2,923, and Mandalay Region with 914. The remaining regions and states saw an influx of less than 500 new employees. The ministry is making efforts to create more

employment opportunities for both domestic and overseas job hunters through the electronic labour exchange management system.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

ASEAN-COCI begins 53rd meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony for the 53rd Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI) was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting opened with the ASEAN commemorative song. Next, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, Thura U Aung Ko, delivered a speech.

In his speech, the minister recognized the efforts made by senior officers of the COCI towards implementing the ASEAN Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts and the blueprint for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC).

He said the ASEAN-COCI was established on 4 October 1978 and the first ASEAN-COCI meeting was held from 4 to 6 October in 1978 in Manila, the Philippines. The ASEAN Culture Fund (ACF) was established on 2 December 1978. In 1985, COCI was operated through four working groups, Literary and ASEAN Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, Radio/TV, and Films/Video Print and Interpersonal Media.

The Union Minister said in 1999, the ASEAN-COCI changed its mode of operation. It now op-



Participants pose for the commemorative photo at the opening ceremony of 53rd meeting of ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

erates through two subcommittees: the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Culture and the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Information.

The sub-committees plan, implement and monitor projects which are approved and funded by the ASEAN-COCI and the ACF. Similarly, the ASEAN National COCIs in the ASEAN Member States oversee the co-ordination and implementation of ASEAN-COCI projects and activities. The ASEAN National COCIs comprise representatives from the ministries of

Culture, Information, State-run Radio and Television Networks, Heritage Boards, Museums, Archives, and Libraries of ASEAN member states.

The minister said the ASEAN Vision 2020 is also providing COCI with an aim for ASEAN: "A community conscious of its ties of history, aware of its cultural heritage, and bound by a common regional identity".

The COCI is cooperating with dialogue partner countries and partner organisations in accordance with ASEAN rules

and regulations. The cooperation which has seen prominent results, based on the unique regional signatures and the reality of ASEAN during the 50 years of ASEAN's formation.

He said the COCI will support cultivating people's awareness of ASEAN, exchanges, and cooperation of culture and art, upgrading of the culture and art industry, the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage, and human resource development in the culture sector to reach ASEAN Community

Vision 2025.

He expressed his appreciation of the culture and arts exchange, and cooperation between ASEAN countries and thanked officials from the ASEAN Secretary-General's Office for ensuring smooth operations. He said he believes the meeting will help improve the culture and art sector and expressed hopes of speeding up cooperation between ASEAN countries.

Afterwards, local and ASEAN traditional dances were performed at the ceremony.

Also present at the ceremony were Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers U Aung Hla Tun and U Kyi Min, permanent secretaries, departmental officials, officials of ASEAN-COCI from respective ASEAN countries and representatives from the ASEAN Secretary-General's Office. In the evening, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko hosted a dinner for ASEAN-COCI officials at the Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel.—MNA ■

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Meeting on ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information underway in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 53rd meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI) was held at the Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel yesterday.

During the meeting, the Rector of the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay), Daw Khin Kyi Pyar, said management systems to implement a culture of prevention intended for culture and arts and appropriate technologies are needed to promote cultural habits that are in accord with the ASEAN's Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts 2016-2025.

The meeting will review the outcomes from previous meetings and set processes for the future.

Participants at the meeting then discussed cooperation with dialogue partner countries and analyzed the state of implementation of the previous meeting's decision, strategic plans, and reviews on funding for 2019 finance.



The 53rd ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information in process in Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

The meeting of ASEAN's Sub-committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI) was held at the Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel on 13 November. Rector Daw Khin Kyi Pyar chaired the meeting of the ASEAN Sub-committee on Culture, while MRTV Director Daw Moe Thuzar Aung chaired the meet-

ing of the ASEAN Sub-committee on Information.

Present at the meeting were departmental officials, officials from COCI from representative ASEAN countries, and representatives from the ASEAN Secretary-General's Office. —MNA ■ *(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)*

Third meeting of Second ...

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Deputy Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Mya Lay Sein, replied that the ministry is aiming to complete the construction of the hospital in 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.

MPurges Union government to set rural electrification policy

U Thaung Aye from Pyaw-bwe constituency submitted a motion urging the Union government to scrutinize and set a rural electrification policy as part of the National Electrification Project-(NEP).

He said it is every government's duty to ensure there is national development, and every citizen's dream to see it come true. He said it is important for every citizen to have access to electrical energy. He pointed out that 70 per cent of Myanmar is made of rural districts that require access to electrical energy to promote their social economy and support national development. He said the rural electrification processes in motion need a unifying element to achieve a

cohesive and peaceful development. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat gathered the deliberation of the assembly regarding the motion and then approved for it to be discussed.

Pyithu, Amyotha Hluttaws differ on Bill

Next, the Speaker announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw has sent back the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill with amendments.

Dr. Wai Phyo Aung of the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee tabled a motion to discuss the Bill at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. He said they disagreed with the amendments from the Amyotha Hluttaw and said they will only accept the five-prior approved points from the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee. The Speaker then announced that the Bill will be sent to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw assembly for deliberation.

The fourth meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session will continue tomorrow.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Health Minister addresses World Diabetes Day commemoration

WORLD Diabetes Day was commemorated at Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe addressed the ceremony.

In his speech, the Union Minister said a statistic released by the World Health Organization states 382 million people around the world have diabetes and the annual global cost for treatment is approximately US\$830 billion. He said there are estimates that if the trend continues, then there will be 550 million people who have diabetes by 2030.

The Stepwise Approach to Surveillance (STEPS) conducted in Myanmar in 2014 revealed there is a 10.5 per cent chance to develop diabetes and a 26.4 per



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the ceremony to mark World Diabetes Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

cent chance to develop hypertension (high blood pressure) while 19.5 per cent of people are likely to develop diabetes.

The Union Minister said the causes of diabetes are proliferated in Myanmar, especially cigarette smoking, obesity and the

presence of fatty acids in blood vessels. He said if proper preventive measures are not put in place now, then the situation may develop into a public health crisis in the next five years.

The Union Minister said rural and township health depart-

ments across Myanmar open a diabetes-hypertension treatment clinic every Wednesday. He said they provide medical examinations, treatment, and health awareness programs.

The Union Minister said a healthy lifestyle and physi-

cal exercise for the 9.5 million students across Myanmar will effectively prevent developing diseases in old age and called for physical exercises to be included in the school curriculum.

—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■

International yacht races help draw tourists to Ngwehsaung Beach

WITH the U-15 Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship (OAOC), an international junior sailing competition, kicking off from 12 November at the Ngwehsaung Beach, officials hope the event will develop the sport and help showcase the beach's tourism potential.

The Myanmar Yachting Federation has been working towards hosting the OAOC, an international junior sailing competition, since 2016. Local and foreign coaches with a background in international sailing races have been hired to train competitors from Myanmar.

"We started our preparations for hosting the race in 2016. We trained throughout 2017 to train sailors and get them ready for participating in international sailing races. I am satisfied with the training and guidance provided by the coaches, and support from the Myanmar Yachting Federation," said Myanmar Yachting Federation Manager Sai Pyae Son Hein.

"I undertook my first yacht ride in the summer of 2013. I have trained for this race for a year. I have also participated in international yachting races in Viet Nam, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Singapore, and finished third in the races in Viet Nam. I have had great experiences in these daunting races with talented competitors," said Ma Thandar Aung, 11. He is attending Grade-7 at the Practising



Competitors preparing boats to compete during U-15 Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship (OAOC) at the Ngwehsaung Beach. **PHOTO: NAY LIN**

High School at the Yangon Institute of Education (now, Yangon University of Education).

The objectives behind holding international races is attracting the attention of the public to yachting, upgrading the basic infrastructure for yachting, and improving the support system for the sport, besides promoting tourism and youth development activities.

U Phone Kyaw Moe Myint, the vice president of the Myanmar Yachting Federation, said that a sailing club has been opened in Yangon. "There are plans to extend the sailing club

to Ngwehsaung to nurture fresh talent. Coaches will be assigned in Ngwehsaung and similar programmes will be offered, with systematic training for the young," he said.

At the ongoing U-15 OAOC, Myanmar's yachting team comprises 10 male and eight female athletes. Over 130 athletes from 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and North America are participating in the competition.

Myanmar Yachting Federation Manager Sai Pyaw Sone Hein said three local athletes have joined this race, along with Sailing Club members and

students from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education. Most of them have taken part in sailing races and some have international sailing experience. "The youngest athlete, Maung Htet Lin, achieved second place, and a local, Lwin Ko Ko Htet, won at the race held in Viet Nam. We hope their sailing experience in international races will help them win the current race," he said.

As the OAOC is seeing participation from local sailors, the Myanmar Yachting Federation invited students from areas close to Ngwehsaung Beach to

cheer and motivate them.

"The Ngwehsaung Beach is still poorly developed due to lack of sports activities. Yachting races have drawn the attention of young locals. I am glad to see some local talent in the races," said U Myint Lwin, a local from the area.

Myanmar hosted the 27th Southeast Asian Games in 2013 and sailing races have been held in Ngwehsaung in the past. The country also hosted the Myanmar Wave Rider Club and KTA Race Open 2015, which saw participation from international sailors.

Additionally, the country holds national sailing races yearly.

"This is my 10th IODA event. I enjoyed the event. Ngwehsaung Beach has the best facilities in terms of accommodation, food, events. The people of Myanmar are very hospitable," said Lior J Lavie, the Israeli coach for the US Yachting crew.

U Soe Win, assistant director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Ngwehsaung branch), pointed out that the event can help introduce international travellers to the natural beauty of Ngwehsaung Beach, and put it on their destination list.

Ngwehsaung is famous for its beautiful beach and untouched islands. It has several high-end hotels.—Min Thit (MNA) ■

Food safety is a priority

INVESTMENT in food safety management systems is a prerequisite for the growth of the country's agribusiness, a key sector of Myanmar's economy. This is because the problem of food safety has an impact on the health and lives of the people, and it is also related to economic development and social stability.

To ensure food safety, all stakeholders in the food supply chain need to come together to implement food safety practices and safety management systems to create a quality life.

Manufacturers play a vital role in food safety. Both responsibility and accountability are crucial when it comes to production.

We also need to step up efforts to enforce food safety rules to prevent entry of goods imported illegally, which can harm public health.

Manufacturers need to adopt good manufacturing practices as well as good storage practices. The Ministry of Health and Sports is conducting campaigns for raising consumer awareness on food safety, promoting health literacy, and enforcing food safety measures in accordance with rules, regulations, and guidelines.

All stakeholders in the food supply chain, including manufacturers, consumers, and authorities, need to cooperate in this. The ministry has been assessing the market to set food safety standards and norms in order to ensure quality products in the market.

With food safety in mind, Myanmar enacted the Consumer Protection Law in 2014. The National Food Law, enacted in 1997, needs to be amended. Prior to the institution of the labeling law, local products and imported goods will require labeling in Myanmar, according to a notification issued by the government in June.

The ministry alone cannot implement this. Concerted efforts need to be made by all stakeholders

in the food industry, including consumer associations, NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.

Unsafe food accounts for an estimated annual productivity loss of around US\$500-750 million every year in Myanmar.

Further, inadequate food safety standards and practices can inhibit growth of agribusinesses and shut out domestic companies from global value chains, according to the IFC, a member of the World Bank Group.

From the government to enterprises to consumers, each group must pitch in and understand how adopting a world-class food safety management system will help Myanmar increase exports and create jobs, and thereby, fuel economic growth.

We need a regulatory framework and measures to address food safety in a systematic and sustainable way.

At the same time, enterprises and individuals must take care to abide by laws and regulations and follow the principles of social responsibility.

Make Sure that Human Rights Comes No Harm

By Yu Lwin Aung

FOREIGN businessmen who place orders are taking the following factors into consideration in addition to low labour cost, according to www.emergingtextiles.com.

(a) **Productivity:** Businessmen used to focus on labour productivity. A factory with high performance employees can attract more orders. China tops the list of output per worker among regional countries. There are two methods in calculating labour productivity.

- The first method is based on output per worker which is the amount of goods that a worker produces in a given amount of time such as a year or a month. To calculate a factory's labour productivity, the total output of the factory is to be divided by the total number of labour force.

- The cost per unit is the second method. The cost per unit calculation is to divide wages to be paid to workers per month plus total variable cost by total units produced per month at a factory.

- Without trying to improve labour productivity in Myanmar's garment industries, but just focusing on increasing in wage will corner the employer at last. Therefore, it is very important for all responsible persons to put their minds to the fact that mindset, knowledge, proficiency, behaviour, concept, attitude and obedience of each and every employee will have a great effect on productivity, and thus their cooperation is needed.

(b) **Quality:** Although there is a high productivity, if the quality is not up to the mark, the product return process may occur. Therefore quality is enormously important in manufacturing finished goods at CMP factories. Quality means precision, correctness, cleanliness, and neat and tidy. All of them are based on mindset, knowledge, proficiency, behaviour, concept, attitude and obedience of each and every employee. Therefore on-the-job trainings have been conducted for employees. Hence, such restrictions as "Applying Thanatka is prohibited" "Do Not Apply Lipstick" "Wear Cap" "No Cell Phone Use" "Quiet Zone" "No Food or Beverage Allowed" are made. Making demands for remov-

ing these restrictions under the guise of human rights will harm the productivity and quality of a factory thereby leading to closure of it.

(c) **Cost of Available Textile Materials:** In countries like China and Thailand, such materials as cloth, button, linen and thread are available in their countries so that they can contribute to reduction in cost, and moreover they can buy the items needed in a short time and can choose what they like. These are the strong points for them. Those who place orders are unwilling to place their orders in a country where related materials cannot

be produced. Therefore, SMEs at home should manufacture such related items and at the same time the State should encourage them to do so.

(d) **Energy Prices:** It is normal that a person who will place order would only be interested in a country which enjoys full electricity supply. Frequent power outage, voltage drop and unstable power supply are the big issues threatening to the success of CMP industries. By fulfilling the electricity needs of the industries, foreign investments can be invited and it will attract persons who place orders in CMP industries.

(e) **Lead Times:** Importing and exporting process will take time based on the distance. If the logistics take too much time, it will be a few time left for manufacturing process. This issue is difficult to be tackled as it

is relating with geographical condition. So, it is time to put our heads together to reduce the time limit.

(f) **Services Offered to Apparel Importers or Brands:** Persons who place orders and retailers prefer CMP and Freight-on-Board (FOB) systems in most countries. Under FOB system, factories are basically responsible for producing the garments in their entirety and arranging for shipment after which they have no responsibility. To practice this system, approval of banks in the recipient countries is needed and these banks are to issue back-to-back L/C (Letter of Credit) for the cash

anmar in 2003 but granted back in 2016 step by step. But, Ready Made Garment (RMG) industries have not received such a grant. Now, EU is considering to revoke the GSP granted to Myanmar. If it happens, its negative effect on Myanmar's CMP will bring about contradictory developments leading to strikes and demonstrations due to wage cut. This should be taken into consideration.

(h) **Cost of Freight:** To export raw materials and import finished goods, retailers prefer the countries with low cost in freight handling.

Current Problems



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Some CMP industries struggling with day to day life to be able to stay in the business have been facing the following demonstrations:

(a) **New Twinkle Light Fashion Garment Factory:** Located in Hlaingtharyar Industrial Zone-5, the factory is owned by a Chinese citizen. Altogether 779 employees have been employed under 100 % FDI. Stirring by five mechanics who want more wages and beneficiaries, about 100 workers started their demonstration on 8-10-2018. They blocked other workers who came to work, and all the functions stopped. On 13-10-2018 they did not allow to carry finished goods. Foreigner technicians also were not allowed to exit or enter the factory. The problem was settled on 15-10-2018.

(b) **Trinity Apparel Garment Factory:** A Bangladesh cit-

izen owns the factory by 100 % FDI. The factory employs over 500 workers in Hlaingtharyar Industrial Zone-4. Making demand beyond their legal rights for increasing bonus for punctuality about 200 workers staged demonstrations on 4-10-2018. They barred other workers who came to work and threatened them. On 16-10-2018, they blocked the entrance by building a shed. Other workers who wish to work had no chance to work and all functions stopped. On the same day, negotiation between the employer and employee met a success and made and agreement.

(c) **Fu Yuen Garment Factory:** The factory with over 1000 workers is located in Dagon Seikkan Township. It is owned by a Chinese citizen by 100 % FDI. The cause of staging demonstration was due to firing of 30 workers who were accused of causing low productivity. Starting from 21-8-2018, about 100 workers staged the protest blocking the entrance gate. According to the request made by some workers who wished to work, a temporary gate was built at the back of the factory. Thanks to that effort, about 800 workers could continue their works. On 15-10-2018, the protesters barred the workers who wished to work from entering the factory. A clash broke out between them and 32 left injured and seven were admitted to hospital. Now, the problem solved through nego-

tiation between the employer and the employee.

In expressing desires, workers should choose the peaceful means. It is important not to create unrest through mobocracy. Threatening other workers who hold different views, blocking entrances with the intention of barring other workers and import and export goods to enter into the factory are acts of breaching law. Especially, barring foreigner technicians from entering the factory tarnished the image of the country. If the information spread, the potential investors may be reluctant and the existing investors leave the country.

Nowadays, not only the CMP industries but also the hotels are suffering the same fate. It is due to low salary, damaged relations between employer and employee. Some employer are not abiding by labour law, stirring of some people who want situation getting complicated, instigation of some trade unions, making unreasonable demands, cooperation of trade union members of other factories with the workers of factory at which strike is breaking out and employment cut. If the situation is not reviewed and is neglected, the employer will be in a dilemma leading to more factory closure. This will cause increase in unemployment resulting in the struggle for livelihood of working class will be hard. Consequently, it will harm national economy and peace and stability. Overseas investors will also be reluctant to do their businesses if they assume there is no protection of law.

Due to the above-mentioned reasons, Myanmar's CMP industries suffer less orders received and price degradation, and face other barriers. Moreover they need to enjoy GSP more than ever. So, special attention should be paid on this and the State should apply carrot and stick approach.

Recommendation

Ministry concerned should take such measures as making sure that employers are taking care of the welfare of their employee, explaining employer about the current situation and making them amending pay system to increase wages, and taking punitive actions against those who breach the law - whoever employer or employee.

The difficulties encountered by both sides should be overcome in time to protect their basic rights. This will help human rights comes no harm. ■

(Translated by Wallace)



Cyclonic Storm

14 November 2018, 14:00 MST Today

Cyclonic Storm

According to the observations at (13:30)hrs MST today, the Cyclonic Storm (Gaja) over West Central Bay and adjoining Southwest Bay of Bengal has moved West-Southwestwards. It is centered at about (280)miles East of Chennai (India) and about (335)miles 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 (13.0) degree North and Longitude (85.1) degree East, centre pressure of Cyclonic Storm is (998)hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is (45-50) miles per hour at (13:30)hrs MST today.

During next (12)hrs Forecast

It is forecast to further intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm (Gaja) during next (12)hours and move West-Southwestwards.

General caution

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

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.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 05:30 hour MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (37) miles northeast of Phakan), latitude 26.09°N, longitude 96.57°E, depth (10)kilometers about (69) miles northwest of Myitkyina seismological observatory was recorded at (04)hr (55)min (16)sec MST on 14 November 2018.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 14 November 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30)hrs MST today, the Cyclonic Storm (Gaja) over Southwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay of Bengal has moved West-Southwestwards. It is centered at about (260)miles East-Southeast of Chennai(India) and about (300)miles Northeast of Nagapattinam (India). Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 15 November 2018: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, Kayin and Mon states, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi regions, Northern Shan and Rakhine states and fairly widespread in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough sea 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.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of continuation of scattered rain or thundershowers in Shan State. **FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 November 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 November 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay and NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 November 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

“Embassy of Musical Mastery” classical music concert takes place in Yangon

ST. PETERSBURG Music House performed “Embassy of Musical Mastery”, under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cultural cooperation with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, and the Government of the Russian Federation, at the National Theatre in Yangon, yesterday evening.

Also present at the music concert were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and wife Daw Khin Mi Mi Kywe, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General Daw Kay Thi Soe, Rector of University of Culture (Yangon) U Aung Naing Myint, the Russian Federation Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Nikolay Listopadov, officials from Myanmar Music Association, students and invited guests.

First, the Russian Federation Ambassador to Myanmar



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and attendees enjoy musical performances at the National Theatre in Yangon.

PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT



mar Dr. Nikolay Listopadov, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Rector of University of Culture (Yangon) U Aung Naing Myint delivered opening speeches. Followed this, Russian musicians Roman Markkelov and Alexel Kuznetsov (pianist) conducted their musical performances to the audience.

Assistant Director U Kyaw

Min Tun said, “This musical concert was staged for the second time in Myanmar and which aims at strengthening bilateral relations, and people can know more about their culture. Embassy of Musical Mastery is the unique project of St. Petersburg Music which has been held since 2012 and includes visiting meet-the-artist events of leading Russian musicians, as well as tours

of young soloists at Russian Centers of Science and Culture in foreign countries.”

Pianist Alex Kuznetsov shared his impression on Myanmar in his first musical performance in the country.

Artist Roman Markelov said he believed that they can strengthen the perpetuation and strengthening the relations through music.

Today’s performance is

the second concert in Myanmar by the St. Petersburg Music House as part of the two countries’ 70th anniversary commemoration in 2018.

St. Petersburg Music House has performed over 1,000 musical concerts and played over 3,000 songs during the period of ten years.—ZawGyi

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung) ■

CCDAC’s Public Awareness Committee holds coord meeting

The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control’s the Public Awareness Committee held a coordination meeting at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chairman of the awareness committee, Deputy Information Minister U Aung Hla Tun, said the meeting will look for ways to carry out the awareness team’s programme in the current situation. Nineteen tasks were set for the awareness team, he said.

The meeting will also discuss inviting foreign media and local and international partner organizations to help raise



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun addresses the coordination meeting of Public Awareness Committee of the CCDAC in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

awareness against drugs, he said.

On behalf of the secretary of

the awareness committee, Deputy Director-General Dr. Daw Thida Tin of the Information and

Public Relations Department, spoke about ongoing works to prevent drug use and future projects to be undertaken by the state-owned media.

Representatives from Myanma Radio and Television, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, the Department of Human Resource and Education Planning, the Public Health Department, the Rehabilitation Department, the General Administration Department, the Eradication session of the Drug Enforcement Division, the Printing and Publishing Department, the Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association

(MANA), the Forever Group Co. Ltd, the Shwe Than Lwin Media Co. Ltd., and the Myanmar Journalists Association (MJA) then discussed the works being conducted for drug prevention, education, medical treatment, and rehabilitation.

The tasks set before the awareness team include planning policies and projects to carry out awareness raising works, conducting research on the short-term and long-term effects of drugs, and drawing up education programmes based on their findings.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

WFD donates technical books to Hluttaw

THE Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) donated 158 books of ‘A Very Short Introduction’ series to the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development at the JCC’s office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The books are meant for Hluttaw representatives and staff.

The books were donated at a ceremony attended by the Chairman of the JCC on Hluttaw Development, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun



Tun Hein, Hluttaw representative, and officials from Hluttaw

offices.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

One million stimulant tablets seized in Padaung Township

A joint monitoring task force seized 1.8 million stimulant tablets worth Ks 6.3 billion at Nyaung Kyoe inspection gate at milepost 37/3-4 in Padaung Township, Pyay District, Bago Region on 13 November, police reported.

Acting on a tip-off, the task force inspected a vehicle driven by Win Maung (a) Ashay Gyi, 33, and Win Myint, 40, from Myawaddy and found

the WY/R labeled stimulant tablets hidden in a makeshift chamber under the backside of the vehicle.

The two suspects have been charged with drug trafficking at the Oshitpin police station, according to the police information department.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Norway frigate sinks after tanker collision

OSLO (Norway)—A Norwegian frigate that collided with a Maltese tanker in a fjord in western Norway last week was almost entirely submerged on Tuesday after cables holding it in place broke. “The vessel is now lying immobile in deeper water,” the head of the Navy’s rescue operation, Havard Mathiesen, told reporters.

A modern ship weighing around 5,000 tonnes, the KNM Helge Ingstad took on water after colliding with the Maltese oil tanker early Thursday in the Hjeltefjord near Bergen.

The accident, the cause of which has yet to be determined, injured eight of the 137 people on board the frigate, which was returning from NATO’s Trident Juncture 18 exercises.

The tanker, the Sola TS, suffered only minor damage.

The KNM Helge Ingstad had until Tuesday been partially submerged as it rested on underwater rocks, which its crew had driven it up on in order to try to prevent the ship from sinking. But the cables holding it in place broke overnight Monday to Tuesday, and the ship

sank further under the water.

Only the top of its mast and a small part of its stern were visible above water on Tuesday, television footage showed.

The Norwegian Navy said it was now considering ways to raise the vessel, the military’s chief of staff, Admiral Nils Andreas Stensones, said.

“It’s very hard for a navy to lose a vessel,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Norwegian Coastal Administration said it had cleaned up some 13 cubic meters of diesel that spilled in the accident.— AFP ■

NATO chief voices concern about Chinese missiles

BERLIN (Germany)—NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday voiced concern about Chinese as well as Russian medium-range missiles and urged Beijing to join an international nuclear arms control treaty. “We see that China is investing heavily in new, modern weapons, including new missiles,” Stoltenberg said on German ZDF public television, according to the German translation. “And half of their missiles would violate the INF treaty if China were a signatory,” he said, referring to the 1987 nuclear weapons control accord that US President Donald Trump last month threatened to quit. Stoltenberg added: “We support expanding this treaty so that China is also bound by it.” Trump warned last month the US could pull out of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces accord, a pillar of Cold War disarmament, in response to Russia’s deployment of a missile system Washington says breaches the accord. Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that abandoning the treaty could lead to a new arms race, and vowed to respond in kind if the US deployed any new missiles on European soil.

Stoltenberg said on Tuesday that “NATO does not want a new arms race, but we are very worried about the new Russian missiles... they are mobile, they are nuclear-capable and they can reach cities in Europe like Berlin”. — AFP ■

Russia blocks return of IS militants’ families: activist

MOSCOW (Russia)—A Chechen activist on Tuesday accused Russia’s FSB security service of blocking attempts to bring back widows and children of Russian Islamic State group fighters from Syria and Iraq.

Since last year, around 100 women and children—mostly from Russia’s majority-Muslim Caucasus—have returned under a programme championed by Chechnya’s powerful leader Ramzan Kadyrov.

But Kheda Saratova, a Chechen activist who is on Kadyrov’s human rights council, said Russia’s federal authorities were no longer willing to bring back the remaining women and children.

“According to our organisation, there are over 2,000 of them left in Syria and Iraq,” she told a news conference in Moscow where two women who were brought back from Syria under the program also spoke.

“The process of bringing them back has been stalled and nobody has told us why,” Saratova said. She blamed Russia’s FSB security service and its chief Alexander Bortnikov. He recently criticised the repatriation programme, saying terrorist groups were using the women and children as “recruiters.”

Saratova said the drive to bring back the women—who she said were mostly forced to go to Syria by their partners—was supported by Russian President Vladimir Putin. “I ask Bortnikov to change his attitude to this subject,” she said.

“Whatever information they

(the FSB) need, we will give them. These women are not hiding anything.”

The FSB did not immediately release a statement on Tuesday or respond to a call seeking comment.

‘Do not abandon women’

Two women brought back from Syria called on Moscow to help the “hundreds” of other women from Russia who are being held in refugee camps in Syria and Iraqi prisons.

“I want to thank the Russian government for saving my children. I ask you not to abandon the women who are still there,” said Dagestani Zagidat Abakarova, whose husband forced her and her child to go to Syria.

She managed to flee then IS-controlled Raqqa in Syria last year after her husband was killed by a US drone and made contact with Russian authorities at a Kurdish refugee camp.

“We are very thankful to our country. Only Russia was bringing back women and children,” said Zalina Gabibullaeva, a Chechen woman who was brought back from Syria with her children last year.

Several thousand Russians travelled to join jihadists in Syria and Iraq in recent years, according to estimates from the Russian security services. Some took their families with them.

Many Russian militants and other foreigners joined the so-called Islamic State militant organisation that controlled large parts of Syria and Iraq until its defeat in 2017.— AFP ■

CNN sues White House over barring of reporter



US President Donald Trump gets into a heated exchange with CNN chief White House correspondent Jim Acosta (R) during a post-election press conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington, DC on 7 November, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

WASHINGTON (United States)—CNN sued Donald Trump’s administration on Tuesday, alleging the White House violated journalist Jim Acosta’s constitutional rights by revoking his press credentials following a heated exchange with the US president. The row on live national television and Acosta’s resulting banishment triggered a wave of accusations that Trump is stifling the free press, and marked a sharp escalation in tensions between the president and CNN, a frequent target of his ire.

“The wrongful revocation of these credentials violates CNN and Acosta’s First Amendment rights of freedom of the press, and their Fifth Amendment rights to due process,” the news network said

in a statement that announced the lawsuit filed in a Washington federal court. “We have asked this court for an immediate restraining order requiring the pass be returned to Jim, and will seek permanent relief as part of this process,” CNN said, warning that Acosta’s credential suspension could set precedent for future attacks on other outlets. “If left unchallenged, the actions of the White House would create a dangerous chilling effect for any journalist who covers our elected officials.”

The White House had suspended Acosta’s hard pass after he sparred at a news conference with the president, who demanded that the reporter yield the microphone and called him a “rude, terrible person” when he did not

immediately comply. Acosta persisted with questions and a White House intern tried to take the microphone from the CNN journalist—an incident the Trump administration characterized as misconduct against the woman.

Hours later White House press secretary Sarah Sanders announced Acosta’s hard pass had been suspended, a rare if not unprecedented move that she justified by claiming the reporter was inappropriately “placing his hands” on the intern.

Sanders then tweeted a video that she said backed up her characterization of the incident—but analysts said the footage was sped up to make it appear that Acosta struck the intern.— AFP ■

16 Asia-Pacific nations to continue trade talks next year

SINGAPORE—Leaders from 16 Asia-Pacific nations will confirm during their summit in Singapore on Wednesday their intention to continue talks next year on creating the world's largest free trade zone, with some members hoping for a deal by the end of 2019.

During a preceding meeting on Monday, trade ministers failed to agree on key elements of the envisaged Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership due to India's resistance to tariff cuts and demand from Japan and Australia for high-standard electronic commerce rules, negotiation sources said. Chaired by Singapore, the summit also involving China, South Korea, New Zealand and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, will likely acknowledge that the countries will miss the earlier set year-end deadline for reaching an agreement amid sharp differences over the tariffs and other politically sensitive issues.

The participating countries



(L to R) Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, Myanmar State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Viet Nam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Christine Lagarde, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Chilean President Sebastian Pinera, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and Indonesia's President Joko Widodo pose for a group photo before the start a working lunch on the sidelines of the 33rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Singapore on 14 November, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

had been stepping up talks this year as the rise of protectionism and a tariff war between the United States and China gave them fresh

momentum. But disagreements on how deep tariff cuts should be were evident. India, bracing for general elections next year, was reluctant

to lower tariffs drastically for fears of cheaper imports flooding in, according to the sources.

RCEP, covering a third of the

global economy, has a history of missed deadlines due to the diversity of the participating nations with varying degrees of ambition. The initial goal was to conclude negotiations in 2015. So far, five out of 18 chapters for the trade pact have been effectively concluded, underscoring the difficulty in reaching a final conclusion of the negotiations that began in 2013.

While US President Donald Trump favours bilateral deals to fix imbalanced trade, Japan has been seeking unity among countries promoting free trade through multiparty frameworks. RCEP does not include the United States. The Asia-Pacific region will see a revised Trans-Pacific Partnership trade accord by the end of 2018 following an abrupt US withdrawal from the original agreement in 2017.

The 10 ASEAN countries are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.—Kyodo News ■

Sri Lanka parliament votes out Rajapakse's government



Members of the Sri Lankan parliament gather in the assembly hall in Colombo on 14 November, 2018, as a majority voted to pass a motion of no-confidence in the controversially appointed government of Mahinda Rajapakse. **PHOTO: AFP**

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka)—Sri Lanka's parliament passed a motion of no-confidence in the controversially appointed government of Mahinda Rajapakse on Wednesday, a day after the Supreme Court overturned a presidential decree dissolving the legislature. Speaker Karu Jayasuriya ruled that a majority of the 225-member assembly supported the motion against Rajapakse who was made prime minister on 26 October in place of Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The result does not automatically mean that Wickremesing-

he, who had refused to leave the prime minister's residence, has won the constitutional showdown. Though his party is the biggest in parliament, President Maithripala Sirisena, who had backed Rajapakse, retains the power to choose the next prime minister. Amid chaotic scenes, Rajapakse, 72, and his legislator son Namal walked out of the red-carpeted chamber just before the speaker called for a vote.

MPs loyal to Rajapakse attempted to grab the mace, the symbol of authority of the legislature, to disrupt the vote, but Jayasuriya went ahead.—AFP ■

S Korea, DPRK to hold working-level talks on aviation cooperation

SEOUL—South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have agreed to hold working-level talks on aviation cooperation later this week, Seoul's unification ministry said on Wednesday. The aviation dialogue will be held Friday at the joint liaison office of the two Koreas at the DPRK's border town of Kaesong.

The five-member South Korean delegation will be led by Son Myung-soo, a senior official of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The DPRK delegation will be repre-

sented by Ri Yong Son, deputy director-general of the General Administration of Civil Aviation. The Seoul ministry said the two sides would discuss the issues of mutual concern about aviation cooperation during the upcoming talks as well as what cooperation could be made possible in the aviation field at the current stage. Possibly on the dialogue agenda would be the opening of a direct air route between the two Koreas, according to local media reports.

After the second inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang in

October, 2007, the two Koreas agreed to push for the direct air route across the border and the decrepit airport repair, but it was halted under the conservative South Korean governments.

Another possible agenda item could be the DPRK airplanes to be allowed to fly through South Korea's airspace to third countries. The DPRK already submitted a request for it to the International Civil Aviation Organization earlier this year, according to local media reports.—Xinhua ■

Thais outraged by child boxer's death in ring

BANGKOK (Thailand)—Thais have reacted with shock and anger after a 13-year-old boxer died during a charity bout, reviving calls for a ban on fights between children in the brutal Muay Thai martial art.

Thai boxing is hugely popular in the country and many fighters enter the sport at a young age in search of fame and fortune.

But the involvement of kids who sometimes start under 10 years of age in bouts that use kicks and elbows to the head—often without headguards—has

stirred frequent criticism.

More so as the young fighters are often family breadwinners from poor families and bouts are subject to frenzied ringside gambling.

Anucha Tasako collapsed after his opponent delivered several blows to his head at a bout in Samut Prakan province, near Bangkok, on 10 November.

Smartphone footage shown by local media captured the grim moment he hit the canvas as assistants quickly rushed into the ring to help the motionless Anu-

cha, who fought under the alias Phetmongkol Sor Wilaitong.

He later died from a brain haemorrhage, according to police. Domestic media said he had been fighting since he was eight and had competed in more than 150 bouts. His opponent, Nitikron Sonde, is around the same age, police said. He took to Facebook to express his sorrow at the death. "I regret it," he posted on Tuesday, "but I have to do my duty to win so I can make enough money to sponsor myself through education."—AFP ■

French firm refurbishes earnings via old iPhones

POILLEY (France)—One company in northern France is doing its profitable best to give an environmental makeover to smartphones, whose circuitry, batteries and plastics have become a polluting blight over the past decade.

With their rapid life cycles and—for the cheaper brands—falling prices, many mobiles have become disposable items for consumers keen to move on to the latest model. But out of a large warehouse staffed by white-coated workers in Normandy, the Remade company is embracing a different approach, reconditioning thousands of Apple iPhones every day under the entrepreneurial eye of its

39-year-old boss, Matthieu Millet. He is “Matthieu” to his staff, wears jeans and sneakers, and has installed a piano in the company lobby, bringing a touch of Silicon Valley start-up culture to this windswept pocket of France facing England.

Aged just 23, he bought out the TV repair business he worked for at the time and, in 2014, spotted the potential for refurbishing iPhones to tap into a market where even second hand, Apple products command a premium price. Remade—its avowedly English name another nod to US tech—reported turnover of 23 million euros (\$26 million) in the first year it began overhauling iPhones.

Last year that had

swelled to 130 million euros and Millet is adding 200 jobs to the workforce of 850, banking on “very strong growth” this year. “We know how to disassemble everything, reassemble everything. The product must not only work, it must work perfectly as intended,” he said. The old phones are shipped in from telecom operators not just in Europe but the United States, whose customers have upgraded to newer models.

Environmentalists complain that the spent phones all too often get dumped in landfills in the West, or farmed out to regulation-light parts of Africa and Asia where workers are forced to breathe in toxic fumes as they extract and recycle the raw mate-



Boxes for refurbished iPhones at the “Remade” plant, where high-end mobiles are reconditioned, in Poilley, northwestern France. **PHOTO: AFP**

rials built into the devices.

Since the first iPhone's debut in 2007, 7.1 billion smartphones have been produced worldwide but less than 20 per cent of all “e-waste” including phones is recycled, according to Greenpeace. That represents a business opportunity for the likes of Millet, who is cashing in as a new top-of-

the-range iPhone XS series tops 1,000 dollars/euros.

“Three lives”

This year, Remade intends to put 800,000 overhauled iPhones back on the market, at a discount of at least 25 per cent off the as-new price. “An iPhone can have three lives, it can be refurbished twice, it's the

strongest product with the longest life,” says Millet.

Cheaper Chinese smartphone brands have a stronghold in the developing world, and are seen as especially disposable. Apple and Samsung have been touting their environmental credentials, but the production process inevitably carries a cost.—AFP ■

Spain wants to ban sale of petrol and diesel cars from 2040

MADRID — Spain said on Tuesday it wants to outlaw the sale of new diesel and petrol cars from 2040, the latest European country to target polluting vehicles to try to cut emissions.

Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's government included the proposal in a draft document for an energy transition law which also calls for Spain to completely decarbonise its economy by 2050.

The announcement comes a year after Britain and France both pledged to ban new diesel and petrol cars by 2040, while Norway is aiming to end the use of all cars running on fossil

fuels by 2025.

Sanchez's government lacks a majority in parliament and it will need to gain the support of other parties to approve the law. —AFP ■

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Sincere Thanks

A grand event in commemoration of 16th Anniversary **Deepawali Function** and also to honour the outstanding Tamil / Hindu students who had passed the 2017-2018 Matriculation Examination with high score marks (3D & above), organized by **All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)**, held on **7th November, 2018 (Wednesday)** at Strand Hotel, Yangon.

On behalf All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ), we would like to express our post-event sincere thanks to, Honorable Union Minister of Religious Affairs and Culture, **H.E. Thura U Aung Ko**, Honorable Chief Minister of Yangon Region Government, **H.E. U Phyo Min Thein**, Honorable Ambassador for Myanmar, Embassy of Singapore, **H.E. Ms. Vanessa Chan**, Honorable Deputy Chief Mission, Embassy of Singapore, **Mr. Koh Chee Chian**, Honorable Social Affairs Minister of Yangon Region Government, **U Naing Ngan Lin**, Director General **U Myint Oo**, Permanent Secretary and Directors of Department of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Yangon Region Religious Affairs Officer **U Sein Maw**, Honorable special invited Government Departmental Guests Chairman of Shwe Thanlwin Co., Ltd **U Kyaw Win** and members, Honorable leaders from multi religions, Honorable President of All Myanmar Hindu Central Council **U Nanda** and members Honorable Patrons and Advisors of All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ), President and members from All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (**All Branches**), Singers and Dancers from Malaysia and Myanmar, Photographers and Video Recorders, Manager and Staffs of **Strand Hotel**, those who donated for the grand event, special invited guests, and whoever for thanks-worthy, attended the event.

Eru.Cha. Chandira Sekaran@U Thein Lwin
President

A. Krishnan@U Chit Win
General Secretary

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (592 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (592 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHSA 0095 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHSA 0095 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (230 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (230 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Photo contest to be held at Pyin Oo Lwin Tazaungdaing Festival

A PHOTO contest will be conducted jointly by the pagoda festival's organizing committee and the Mandalay Photographic Society at the Pyin Oo Lwin Tazaungdaing festival this year.

The theme of the photo contest is "holding hands together and participating in Pyin Oo Lwin". Photo competitions will be held day and night during the festival.

The winner of the night contest will be presented with a trophy and Ks 1.2 million, the first runner up will get a trophy and Ks 0.8 million, the second runner up will be given a trophy and Ks 0.5 million, the third runner up will

get a trophy and Ks 0.2 million, the fourth runner up will be handed a trophy and Ks 0.1 million, and the fifth and sixth runners up will receive Ks 0.08 million.

The winner of the day contest will get a trophy and Ks 0.5 million, the first runner up will be awarded a trophy and Ks 0.3 million, the second runner up will get a trophy and Ks 0.2 million, the third runner up will receive a trophy and Ks 0.1 million, the fourth runner up will be given a trophy and Ks 0.08 million, the fifth runner up will be handed a trophy and Ks 0.07 million, the sixth runner up will get a trophy and Ks 0.06 million, and the seventh

runner up will be presented a trophy and Ks 0.05 million. Those interested in competing have to register their names by 18 November with the District IPRD office in Pyin Oo Lwin, Muang Maung Oo (Mandalay University) on 81 street between 38 and 39 streets, and U Thiha Win on 81 street between 29 and 30 streets. Competitors have to submit 10x15 inch photos of the Pyin Oo Lwin Tazaungdaing festival between 19 and 23 November. Those interested in taking part must send their photos to the event's organizing committee by 28 November. — Maung Pyithu (Mandalay) ■ (translated by Hay Mar)

Magritte painting fetches \$26.8 million in NY

NEW YORK (United States) — A painting by Rene Magritte sold for \$26.8 million Monday at a Sotheby's auction in New York, setting a record for a work by the Belgian surrealist.

The painting entitled "Le principe du plaisir" topped the price fetched by "La corde sensible", which was sold in February 2017 in London for \$17.9 million.

Sotheby's had estimated the painting sold Monday as being worth 15 to 20 million dollars. It said seven collectors — an unusually high number — bid for it.

Other paintings on offer on the second night of the autumn art auctions in New York also surpassed their estimated value.

"Improvisation on Mahogany" by Russian-born Wassily Kandinsky, fetched \$24.2 million, compared to its pre-sale estimate of 15-20 million dollars.

A painting that was sup-



Belgian on 17 May launched a "Magritte Year" marking the 50 years since Magritte's death, a year-long celebration of his life and work with a series of special exhibitions and cultural programs. PHOTO: AFP

posed to be one of the main attractions of the auction failed to lure a buyer. It was Marsden Hartley's "Pre-War Pageant", considered to be one of the first totally abstract works in the history of American art.

It was estimated at \$30 million, nearly five times the record

for that US painter.

On Sunday, the Vincent Van Gogh Painting "Coin de jardin avec papillons", estimated at \$40 million, went begging at a Christie's auction of Impressionist and Modern art. The fall art auctions continue through Thursday evening. —AFP ■

Sam Worthington to star in untitled action thriller from Netflix

LOS ANGELES — Actor Sam Worthington is all set to play the lead in an untitled Netflix action thriller. The film will be directed by Brad Anderson, best known for helming the Christian Bale-starrer "The Machinist", a press release by the streaming giant stated.

The story follows a man who must find his courage and hold onto his sanity when his wife and daughter disappear in the middle of an ER visit, the official logline of the film read. Alan B McElroy, who is known for his work in the horror genre on movies

like "Spawn" and "Wrong Turn", has penned the screenplay. The project will be produced by Paul Schiff, Neal Edelstein and Mike Macari. Filming is expected to start later this year and Netflix is planning a 2019 release for the feature. —PTI ■

Marvel Comics legend Stan Lee dead at 95: US media

Remembering Stan Lee: tributes to the late Marvel legend

LOS ANGELES — Tributes poured in Sunday to Stan Lee—the co-creator of iconic superheroes including Spider-Man, The Hulk and the X-Men—following his death at age 95. These are some of the ways in which the Marvel Comics legend is being remembered:

Wolverine

"We've lost a creative genius. Stan Lee was a pioneering force in the superhero universe. I'm proud to have been a small part of his legacy and... to have helped bring one of his characters to life. #StanLee #Wolverine" — Hugh Jackman, actor who played Wolverine

Iron Man

"I owe it all to you,,, Rest In Peace Stan..." — Robert Downey Jr, actor who played Iron Man

Captain America

"There will never be another Stan Lee. For decades he provided both young and old with adventure, escape, comfort, confidence, inspiration, strength, friendship and joy. He exuded love and kindness and will leave an indelible mark on so, so, so many lives. Excelsior!!" — Chris Evans, actor who played Captain America



Stan Lee—shown here in 2012 at the premiere of Marvel Studios' 'The Avengers' in Hollywood—revolutionized pop culture with his universe of superheroes. PHOTO: AFP

Spider-Man

"How many millions of us are indebted to this guy, none more so than me. The father of Marvel has made so many people so incredibly happy. What a life and what a thing to have achieved. Rest in peace Stan." — Tom Holland, actor who played Spider-Man

The Jedi

"His contribution to Pop Culture was revolutionary & cannot be overstated. He was everything you hoped he would be & MORE. I loved this man & will never stop missing him. They say you should never meet a childhood idol. They are wrong. #RIPStanTheMan." — Mark Hamill, actor who played Luke Skywalker

Fellow cartoonist

"Devastated by my pal Stan's passing. He was a childhood inspiration, an instructor to me when I was just getting started and a genuinely sweet man. Will miss him terribly." — Frank Miller, cartoonist

The Hulk

"You let us be extra human... superhuman even. I am deeply honored to have been a small part in the Stan Lee constellation." — Mark Ruffalo, actor who played The Hulk

The Wasp

"I believe with all my heart that #StanLee would want to be celebrated today. Even through your tears, let's flood the internet with all the artwork, good, great or awful, that's ever been created in Stan's name." — Evangeline Lilly, actress who played The Wasp

Marvel Studios

"No one has had more of an impact on my career and everything we do at Marvel Studios than Stan Lee. Stan leaves an extraordinary legacy that will outlive us all. Our thoughts are with his daughter, his family, and his millions of fans. #ThankYouStan #Excelsior!" — Kevin Feige, head of Marvel Studios

The Academy

"Today, we lost a real-life superhero. Stan Lee, thank you for everything." — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — AFP ■

First supply trip to space since Soyuz failure poised to launch

WASHINGTON — A US spaceship loaded with supplies for the International Space Station is poised to launch Thursday, marking the first such trip since a Soyuz rocket carrying three people failed last month.

At the last moment, NASA added some extra supplies for the three orbiting scientists, just in case. The next Soyuz launch, with three more astronauts on board — one Russian, one Canadian and one American — is planned for 3 December.

The extra gear includes additional spares for the station's water recovery system and urine processor; a NASA spokesman told AFP.

Several such systems are already in place on the ISS, but the extras are meant to serve as backup in case the station goes through a period where no one is on board. The current crew of three is only slated to remain until January.

Astronauts have continually lived at the orbiting outpost since 2000, arriving and departing in crews of two to seven at a time.

The cargo will be transported to space on a Cygnus cargo ship, launched by an Antares rocket from Wallops Island, Virginia, at 4:49 am (09H49 GMT) Thursday. That is, if the weather cooperates. As of late Tuesday, the forecast was just 30 per cent

favorable, with thick clouds and rain likely to interfere with the launch plans, NASA said.

After the Soyuz rocket failed on 11 October just minutes after blast-off — the first such incident in the history of post-Soviet space travel — Russia suspended all space flights. The astronauts on board were not hurt. Russia has since blamed the problem on a sensor that was damaged during assembly at the Baikonur cosmodrome.

Russia is currently the only nation in the world capable of launching humans to space. The US capability ended in 2011 when the space shuttle program was retired after 30 years. —AFP ■



PHOTO: AFP

Major genes-focused testing for Aussies points to better treatment of rare cancers: study

SYDNEY — Many Australians with rare cancers stand to benefit from genomic profiling, with the focus on their individual genes pointing to major ways the diseases are diagnosed and treated, according to a latest research.

The study involved tests to identify molecular features of the cancers or genetic mutations that could be targeted with existing treatments used in other cancer types with the same characteristics, the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia healthcare professionals group said in a statement on Wednesday.

The approach, touted as one of the first of its kind, showed that genomic profiling provided important information that influenced diagnosis and treatment in about half of patients with rare cancers, it said.

“The treatment options for Australians with rare cancers are currently extremely limited and this ultimately leads to poor survival rates. Research has also typically been restricted because of the challenges of finding enough of each type of cancer patient to design appropriate clinical trials,” said the Walter and Eliza Hall In-

stitute of Medical Research facility's researcher Professor Clare Scott, who presented the study.

About 52,000 Australians are diagnosed with rare or less common cancers each year, according to the researchers.

Australians in the study had exhausted their other options, said Scott. “The cancers they had are extremely rare — the chances of being diagnosed with these cancer types are often around one in a million.”

In one case, the researchers were able to identify that a rare heart tumor actually had a genetic profile most closely resembling a melanoma skin condition, she said. The information allowed them to access the latest treatments for melanoma patients to hopefully provide better outcomes. The latest findings are set to lay the groundwork for other national initiatives looking into genomic profiling across a range of cancer types.

“Using genomic profiling we were able to uncover new information that gave many patients new treatment options - and ultimately, new hope,” said Scott. — Xinhua ■

Senior designer outlines future of Russia's space industry

MOSCOW — Vladimir Koshlakov, who heads the Russian Keldysh Research Centre, commented on the current state of affairs and perspectives of some of Russia's innovative space projects, including a nuclear propulsion spacecraft and a reusable rocket. **Flight to Mars on nuclear-powered spacecraft**

According to the head of the heads the Keldysh Research Centre, which now runs the project to build Russia's first nuclear propulsion engine, current rocket engines, powered either by various types of chemical propellants or by low-power electric engines fed by solar batteries, are not suitable for long space flights.

“A person should not spend more than a year or two in space. Nuclear-powered spacecraft will allow a relatively fast journey, and, most importantly, a return flight. This technology has spe-

cial significance for interplanetary flights and research of far planets,” Koshlakov said.

Speaking about a flight to Mars with the use of a nuclear propulsion engine, the official said the project is technically feasible in the near future.

According to him, a journey to Mars on board such a spacecraft will take about seven months.

“[The journey] to the Moon will last several days, yes, while a flight to Mars will last about seven or eight months,” he said in an interview with Russia's government daily, Rossiiskaya Gazeta.

Koshlakov said the first ground trials of the engine's cooling system were successful.

Earlier, Russian space agency Roscosmos unveiled plans for making a test sample of a megawatt class nuclear engine meant for flights into deep space.

On Tuesday, Roscosmos has uploaded to its Facebook page a video showing the image of a nuclear-powered spacecraft of the future. At present, the Keldysh Centre is conducting research into spacecraft boasting more powerful engines - nuclear power plants of a new class, which do not need solar light or solar cell panels.

In 1970-1988 the Soviet Union launched into space 32 spacecraft with thermoelectric nuclear power reactors. In 1960-1980 a nuclear rocket engine was developed and tested at the Semipalatinsk test site.

Reusable rocket

Commenting on the project between Russia's rocket engine producer Energomash and S7 Space to build a reusable rocket, the Russian space official named a number of requirements for such a launch vehicle.



PHOTO: TASS

“Recently, we had a conference on present-day problems of rocket engine-building. [S7 Space head Sergei] Sopov delivered a speech. He said: we need engines that can be switched on about 100 times,” Koshlakov said, adding that the question of how many launches will be optimal remains open.

According to the official, the rocket's “cooldown” period

should not exceed 48 hours.

“In other words, a rocket blasts off, then returns and is ready for the next launch with the same engine within 48 hours,” he said. “Here are the requirements set by the market.”

According to the head of the Keldysh Research Centre, engines of a reusable rocket should be reliable and relatively easy to fix. —TASS ■



Myanmar national women's footballers have a group photo taken together with the officials. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar advances second round of Women's Olympic Football Tournament 2020

MYANMAR national women's football squad advanced the second round of Women's Olympic Football Tournament 2020 triumphing over India with 2-1 on 13 November.

The matches of the Group-C of the first round qualification of Asian zone of Women's Olympic Football Tournament 2020 are being held in Thuwunna Stadium.

Both teams tried for the first place of the group due to the result of Nepal.

Myanmar women's squad set up its starting lineup inserting the major players. Myanmar

led the tournament with the two-minute goal of striker Win Theingi Tun.

The performance of India has developed better than the previous plays. India managed to put one-sided pressure on Myanmar.

Ratanbala leveled the match taking a free kick from a foul given by the referee at the 24th minute. The first half ended with a 1-1 draw.

In the second half game, Myanmar focused on winning more goals, but India tried to live up to maintain the draw result.

The clear-cut goal chances of Win Theingi Tun and Yi Yi Oo missed the goal targets. India came under attack from all sides minutes after the 70th minute.

Ngae Ngae Htwe scored the decisive goal for Myanmar at the 83rd minute mark.

Myanmar women's stands first in the group with seven points, followed by India second and Nepal third.

The first-placed Myanmar was awarded K 10 million by Director U Hsan Lin Win of Max High Way Co Ltd. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

Sven-Goran Eriksson off to winning start as Philippines boss

BACOLOD (Philippines)—Sven-Goran Eriksson began his Philippines reign with a win as his Azkals beat Singapore 1-0 in a Suzuki Cup group match at home on Tuesday. Winger Patrick Reichelt scored the only goal in the 78th minute. He beat three defenders after captain Phil Younghusband, playing in his 100th cap, instinctively flicked on a header from his centre-forward brother James Younghusband, a second-half substitute. Until then the Singaporeans played a compact, counter-attacking game that frustrated the hosts, who had the majority of the ball but failed to make a single shot on target in the first half on their first game of the tournament.

"The feeling is amazing, opening game, to be a winner," Eriksson, the ex-England manager, said after the Group B match at the Panaad stadium in the cen-

tral city of Bacolod.

"We had problems in the beginning and it's just unbelievable, at home in Panaad to win it and to be at 1-0, it's a crazy feeling. Good start to the Suzuki Cup," he added. "I think James (Younghusband) in the centre helped us a lot with his physical presence, and then we changed and just made everything a little bit quicker and it worked out." The much-travelled Swede had been hired last month tasked with stabilising the Philippines after the confused reign of Terry Butcher, who quit as head coach before taking charge of a single game. Butcher, the ex-England captain, was named head coach in June but lasted less than 50 days, saying he was not "able to make this work".

Eriksson became in 2001 the first foreigner to head England's football team, taking them to two World Cup quarter-finals.

He has since also coached Mexico and the Ivory Coast as well as league clubs in Sweden, Portugal, Italy and China.

The Swede has set a short-term goal of getting the Philippines, ranked 116th by FIFA, to the Suzuki Cup final.

The Azkals have never won the Suzuki Cup, Southeast Asia's biennial tournament, but were semi-finalists for three straight tournaments between 2010 and 2014.

Eriksson will also helm the Philippines in the Asian Cup in January.

"We knew it was gonna be difficult for us," Singapore keeper Hassan Sunny said after Tuesday's match.

"The playing conditions were not good for us, but then having said that, I think the Philippines have a strong team and they're deserving winners." —AFP

Advance tickets to be sold for Myanmar vs Viet Nam match

TICKETS for the upcoming Group (A) match between Myanmar and Viet Nam for the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 will be sold in advance in Yangon from today. The match will take place at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon next Tuesday, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

"Tickets for the match will be available in Yangon from today," said a source at the football federation. Football fans can buy tickets at the Hledan Center on 15 and 16 November; at Thuwun-

na, Padonmar; and Aung San Stadiums on 17 and 18 November; and at the Thuwunna Stadium on 19 November.

The tickets are priced at Ks 3,000 for the ordinary stand and Ks 5,000 for the grandstand. Two tickets will be sold for each National Identification Card or Driving License, said a source at the federation.

The match between Myanmar and Viet Nam is slated to start at 6 pm on 20 November.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Real confirm Solari as coach until 2021



Real Madrid's Argentinian coach Santiago Solari gestures during the Spanish league football match between RC Celta de Vigo and Real Madrid CF at the Balaidos stadium in Vigo on 11 November, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

MADRID (Spain)—Santiago Solari on Tuesday was confirmed as Real Madrid coach until 2021 following his successful spell in charge as caretaker boss of the European champions.

"Real Madrid's board of directors met today and decided to name Santiago Solari as first team coach until June 30, 2021," the club announced in a statement. Solari's anointment as sacked Julen Lopetegui's permanent successor comes after wins in his first four matches.

And with 15 goals scored and only two conceded the 42-year-old Argentinian has established the best ever start for a Real manager. After thrashing Melilla in the Copa del Rey, they won 5-0 away to Viktoria Plzen in the Champions League, between victories over Real Valladolid and Celta Vigo in La Liga. The upturn has left Madrid only four points adrift of league leaders Barcelona and on the brink of qualification for the last 16 in Europe. Solari was handed the reins on a temporary

two-week basis on 29 October after Lopetegui had overseen a miserable run that included just one victory in seven games. The last of those, a 5-1 thumping at the hands of Barcelona, proved the final straw for club president Florentino Perez but the team have rebounded under their new coach. News that he had been rewarded with a permanent contract surfaced on Monday when the Spanish federation announced: "Everything is in order. Real Madrid have worked out his contract and there are no problems."

The Spanish press had urged Real to appoint the former Castilla 'B' team coach.

Solari's maiden match as long-term boss is the trip to Eibar in La Liga on November 25, following the international break.

Zinedine Zidane also stepped up mid-season from coaching Castilla in 2016 and led the team to the first of three consecutive Champions League trophies five months later.—AFP ■