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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets children and encourages mothers at a child care center in Lewe Township yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

## Proper childcare reaching villages with no pre-primary schools: Dr. Win Myat Aye

**C**HILD care centres are competently covering villages which do not have pre-primary schools yet, said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye yesterday.

The Union Minister was speaking at a government-approved rural child care center in Dekkinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

“There are several techniques, divided by age, that

can ensure physical and mental growth of children under 5 years. These techniques must be disseminated among mothers and child-care providers by teachers specialized in them,” said the minister.

He then spoke about the benefits systematic childcare programs can lead to in the future.

Dr. Win Myat Aye asked staff at the child care center to share their requirements, and

presented nutritious snacks and toys to children. Later, he presented cash assistance to the center for providing wholesome food to the children. The minister was accompanied by Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and member of Nay Pyi Taw Council, U Aung Myin Tun.

The minister and his team visited two more child care centres in Lewe Township, where they met with teachers, mothers, and village women.

Nurturing children at a very early stage can help produce capable men and women for the country, the minister told them.

He urged village administrators and villagers to make collective efforts to ensure the sustainability of ‘child care center’. He handed out nutritious snacks and toys to children, and provided financial and material assistance for the centers. — MNA (Translated by TMT) ■

## Peace Commission meets EAOs in Chiang Mai

A DELEGATION from Myanmar, led by Peace Commission (PC) Secretary U Khin Zaw Oo, met informally with four ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 16 to 18 November.

The government’s negotiators met with representatives of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), led by Chairman Yawd Serk, on 16 November and with Karen National Union (KNU) representatives, led by General Secretary P’doh Saw Tah Doh Moo, on 17 November. Both RCSS and KNU are signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

The government’s negotiators also met with Vice Chairman Khu Oo Reh of the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) and his delegation, and with the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), separately, on 18 November.

Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee’s Secretariat member, U Hla Maung Shwe, said the three-day informal talks were held because several NCA signatory EAOs wanted to temporarily postpone formal discussions after the last conference. He said they agreed to holding informal talks so they can resolve issues and resume formal discussions.

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## Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe presents billiards and snooker award

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended the awards presentation ceremony for the IBSF World Billiards and World Snooker Championship 2018 in Yangon yesterday.

At the event, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein presented the second runner-up award to David Causier from England, while the Vice President of IBSF, Jim Leacy, presented the first runner-up award to Nay Thwe Oo from Myanmar. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe handed the award for the tournament championship to India's Pankaj Advani.

Advani defeated Nay Thway Oo 6-2 in the final, to win the International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) world billiards

title.

In the 150-Up World Billiards 2018, a total of 37 players, including eight from Myanmar, participated. Two Myanmar players advanced to the quarter finals, in which Nay Thwe Oo beat Chit Ko Ko and advanced to the finals.

The Union Minister and Chairman of Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation (MBSF) Dr. Min Naing each presented Ks 5 million to the first runner-up winner from Myanmar, Nay Thwe Oo.

The 2018 IBSF World Billiards and World Snooker championships run from 12th November to 27th November, 2018 at the Grand Mercure Hotel in Yangon.—MNA ■

*(Translated by  
Kyaw Zin Tun)*



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe presenting an award to India's Advani who becomes the champion of the 2018 IBSF World Billiards and World Snooker Championship. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Lanthit Housing Project for urban development in Yangon launches

A ceremony to launch Lanthit Housing Development Project by the Department of Urban and Housing Development and Say Paing Development Ltd, was held in the project area between Bogyoke Aung San Road and Anawratha Road in Yangon yesterday.

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw delivered a speech at the ceremony, where he said the project will fulfill the basic housing requirements for the public.

He noted that the ministry is cooperating with the private sector to build modern housing residences and increase home ownership in Yangon, Mandalay and throughout the entire country.

He also said this project is a practical implementation of the public-private partnership model, adding that the process for selecting the developer from the private sector was conducted



Union Minister U Han Zaw (left) and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein (Right) launch the work on construction of Lanthit Housing Project in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

with transparency and followed national policy.

Additionally, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said they have designed a master plan for the entire Yangon City urban development

projects, noting that the development project needs to preserve cultural heritages, avoid damaging the environment and achieve international recognition for its industrial zones.

The housing development



project in Yangon is being developed within the 4.7 acre plot of land located between Bogyoke Aung San Road and Anawratha Road.

The project involves 4 main phases and includes two

25-story buildings, twenty-eight 6-story shop houses, a bus interchange and taxi stand. It will also feature a roofed pavement along the Kyone Gyi canal path.

—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun holds a meeting with editorial staff of the Global New Light of Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Deputy Minister meets GNLM staff

DEPUTY Minister for Information, U Aung Hla Tun, stressed the importance of news worthiness and accuracy in news reports at a meeting with staff and editors of The Global New Light of Myanmar in Yangon yesterday.

As GNLM is an English newspaper for international readers, it needs to ensure

quality in all aspects, he said. He promised to make arrangements to set up a research and reference library, recruit skilled newsroom staff, and conduct staff capacity building courses at GNLM.

He also called for collective effort from staff, saying that mutual trust and understanding are essential for a

pleasant working environment.

Afterwards, Deputy Permanent Secretary U Myint Kyaw discussed administrative affairs at the meeting.

A general round of discussions followed and the Deputy Minister concluded the meeting.—MNA ■

*(Translated by TMT)*

# UMFCCI holds 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Plenary Meeting in Yangon

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) held its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Plenary Meeting yesterday at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Yangon.

Union Minister for Commerce, Dr. Than Myint, Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi, Yangon Region's Chief Minister, U Phyo Min Thein, Speaker of the Yangon Region's Hluttaw, U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Ministers U Aung Hla Tun, U Maung Maung Win, and U Hla Maw Oo, region ministers, department heads, ambassadors of foreign missions in Myanmar, commercial attachés, foreign businesspersons, UMFCCI's patrons, advisors, chief executives and executives, members, partner organizations, chairpersons and executives from fraternal organizations, and guests attended the meeting.

The Union Minister and other participants first toured booths set up by the UMFCCI. Then, UMFCCI President U Zaw Min gave the welcoming speech.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Than Myint



Union Minister Dr. Than Myint inspects booths at Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

said 12 business policies are being laid down by the new government to develop Myanmar's economy. Implementation of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan 2018-2030 –MSDP is also under way, he said.

“Currently, the government is not only promoting

agricultural production and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), but also trying to attract more foreign investors. The UMFCCI is lending its support in framing policies, rules, and laws to achieve these aims. The UMFCCI is also hosting business-matching events in co-

operation with companies from Japan and other countries for SME development,” said the minister.

The Union Minister then expressed his delight at the upcoming centenary of the UMFCCI.

“As for the economic growth

of the country, the UMFCCI is actively serving as a bridge between the government and businesses, helping develop Myanmar's manufacturing, commerce, and service industries so they meet global standards, enabling Myanmar's products and services to penetrate the global market, inviting foreign investments, and systematically transferring technologies and techniques,” he said.

The UMFCCI is making sector-wise analyses of the weaknesses and strengths of the economy, he added.

“May the UMFCCI live long as an institution representing the private sector, while striving with sister organizations for the emergence of a modern and developed country,” said Dr. Than Myint.

Yangon Region's Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein also delivered a speech at the meeting. Afterwards, officials from the federation read the annual report, financial statement, and auditor's report. The meeting ended after the chairman of the annual meeting delivered a speech. — MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## Peace Commission meets Ethnic Armed organizations in Chiang Mai

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He said when they met with the RCSS and KNU, they voiced their worries and reached some understanding from the two EAOs.

In the meeting with KNPP, they discussed some shortcomings at the grassroots level on trust-building, said U Hla Maung Shwe. He said they discussed everything regarding the signing of the NCA. He hoped that the non-signatories will sign the NCA as soon as possible after listening to the negotiators, as there is nothing left to do now except sign the agreement. The KIO did not discuss much but shared their thoughts and considerations.

The government's delegation comprised U Khin Zaw Oo, PC member U Aung Soe, Director-General U Zaw Htay from the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office, U Hla

Maung Shwe, and technological assistant U Kyaw Lin Oo.

U Zaw Htay said the meeting with KNU showed that both sides are committed to keeping on track with the NCA. He said they discussed any difficulties relating to the NCA. “First, both sides have no desire to do away with the NCA. Second, we will report our discussions to our respective leaders and convene again as soon as possible. And third, we will try to resume formal political dialogue as quickly as we can,” he said. He said this can happen within two to three months or earlier.

The informal meeting with RCSS focused on matters concerning the Joint Monitoring Committee and the meeting with KNU focused on resuming formal discussions.

KNU General Secretary P'doh Saw Tah Doh Moo said the KNU has always said it will resolve political issues through

political ways. He said the political discussions started by the NCA are the first steps towards a political dialogue.

The NCA stipulates there should be no hostility in discussions and no use of force to resolve disagreements or differences, so they are looking towards a future with sustainable peace, said the general secretary. He wished to tell the people that the NCA is the most suitable choice and they will proceed steadily from the foundational level. He added that they will continue to make the NCA path a true and fair direction.

The Union government will continue informal talks in order to implement the different levels of the peace process, to hold the Fourth Session of the Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, and to hold formal meetings with the KNU. — Ye Kaung Nyunt ■

(Translated by ZHO)



Informal meeting between the Peace Commission and the Restoration Council of Shan State on 16 November. **PHOTO: EPRN**



Informal meeting between the Peace Commission and the Karen National Union on 17 November. **PHOTO: EPRN**

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Kyaw Myaing

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

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

**COMPUTER TEAM**Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,  
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,  
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,  
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,  
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 974424848  
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
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**Kyaukchun Bridge in Gwa, Rakhine State, to be inaugurated on 21 Nov**

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu held a meeting with local authorities in Gwa, Rakhine State, yesterday over inaugurating the Kyaukchun Bridge in Gwa Township.

Following the meeting, the Chief Minister inspected the Kyaukchun Bridge which will link the Rakhine State with Ayayawady Region. The bridge constructed by the Bridge Construction Group-2 of the Ministry of Construction has seen cent per cent completion and targeted to be inaugurated on 21 November.

The reinforced concrete bridge is 24 ft wide and 200 ft long, can withstand 60 tons of load. It was constructed at the cost of Ks 80 billion. — Zin Oo (Myanma Alin) *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials stroll along the Kyaukchun Bridge in Gwa Township yesterday as they inspect the newly constructed bridge. **PHOTO: THIHA SITHU**

**BEHS-2 Dagon receives Commemorative Blue Plaque**

BASIC Education High School-2 Dagon, formally famed as Myoma National School, received a commemorative Yangon City Heritage Blue Plaque yesterday.

Myoma National School was founded at the boycotters' camp in Bahan as the inception of national schools was conceived during the first Rangoon University Students Boycott in 1920. With the help of Sithu U Tin, the building, including its pyatthats (Burmese-style tiered roof), was completed in 1931.

On 10<sup>th</sup> Waning Day of Tassaungmone, 1293 (4 December 1931 on international calendar), the same day as the eleventh anniversary of the National Day, the opening ceremony was held.



A ceremony to install blue plaque at the Basic Education High School-2 Dagon yesterday. **PHOTO: YHT**

From its founding days until 1965, when all the private schools were nationalised, Myoma National High School held high standards among the

other private schools run by missionaries. The school has also produced many important figures in Myanmar's modern history.—GNLM ■

**Drugs seized in Insein**

DURING a raid conducted on Saturday, police seized drugs worth Ks 3.874 billion from a warehouse on Gangaw road, Insein Township.

Police first searched a house at the Chanmyashwepyi Housing complex, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, which belongs to Sai Kyaw Hla and Daw Nam Mo Huan. They found several sale deeds for properties at the house. In



Seized Yaba tablets, money and accessories seen.

**PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE**

case of further information, police raided another house,

bought by Sai Kyaw Hla and Daw Nam Mo Huan for Ks 65 million, on Gangaw road, Myothit C ward, Insein Township, and a warehouse in the area. They found 15,49,600 Yaba tablets worth Ks 3.874 billion from a Toyota Vigo parked inside the warehouse. Sai Kyaw Hla and Daw Nam Mo Huan have been charged under Section 19(A) /21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

**Illegal goods seized at Yaypu, Mayan Chaung checkpoints**

AUTHORITIES conducted checks at the Yaypu and the Mayan Chaung checkpoints, which were reopened on 1 March, and seized 11 illegal consignments of goods worth over Ks110 million on 17 November.

A total of 571 vehicles carrying goods for export and 531 trucks carrying imported goods passed through the Mandalay-Muse Pyi Htaung Su road on Saturday. Meanwhile, 31 vehicles carrying goods for export and 117 vehicles carrying imported goods passed through the Yangon-Myawaddy road. Authorities found 11 consignments of goods worth Ks112.024 million which were being transported illegally.

Of these eight consignments of goods worth Ks95.805 million were seized at the Yaypu checkpoint, while three consignments of goods worth Ks16.219 million were seized at the Mayan Chaung checkpoint.

The consignments seized at Yaypu checkpoint include jade stones weighing 109 kilograms recovered from a Toyota Wish, timber weighing 0.1716 tons, Padauk timber weighing 0.9036 tons, and 10 boxes of cigarettes recovered from a Mitsubishi Express van.—MMAL ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## Border trade reaches US\$ 823 million

TRADE between Myanmar and four neighbouring countries - China, India, Thailand, and Bangladesh - reached US\$832 million as of 9 November this Fiscal Year 2018-2019, up by \$98 million from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of border trade includes \$550 million in exports and \$272 million in imports. During the same period last year, the total value of border trade stood at \$725 million, with exports of \$492 million and imports of \$232 million.

Myanmar's trade with China is primarily conducted through the Muse, the Lweje, the Kanpiketee, the Chinshwehaw, and the Kengtung posts. Myanmar trades with Indiath-

rough the Tamu and Reed posts, it trades with Thailand through Kawthaung and Myawady, and with Bangladesh through Sitway and Maunglaw.

The Muse border gate sees the largest volume and value of total border trade, estimated at over \$410 million, followed by HteeKhee at \$161 million, and Myawady at \$92 million.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, forest products, animal products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer products. Currently, about 80 per cent of the country's external trade is carried out via sea routes.—Zwe ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)



in  
Picture

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy, U Win Khaing, inspects Fertilizer Factory No. 5 in Kangyidauk Township, Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region, on Saturday. He stressed on making quality products and selling at reasonable prices to the people. Fertilizer Factory No. 5 has a production capacity of 350 tons per day. **PHOTO: MNA**

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## Myanmar's consumer goods imports up 14%

MYANMAR'S consumer goods imports topped US\$500 million in the current fiscal year, up by \$61.9 million, or 14 per cent, compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 9 November this year, private importers bought consumer goods worth \$497 million, an increase of \$61.3 million from the same period last year, while the public sector's imports stood at \$3.07 million, up \$0.5 million from last year. The country's imports of consumer products totalled \$438

million during the same period last year, with public sector imports standing at \$2.5 million, and private sector imports reaching \$436 million.

Over the first 40 days of this FY, the country also imported capital goods worth \$677 million and semi-finished goods worth \$826 million.

Myanmar mainly imports personal goods, construction materials, luxury products, chemicals, clothing and accessories, agricultural machinery, raw materials, household goods, food items, and electronic devices

from neighbouring countries.

According to the ministry, the country's import of consumer products totalled \$2.638 billion during the mini-budget period between April and September this year. Myanmar's consumer goods imports were valued at \$4.403 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, more than \$4 billion in the 2016-17 FY, \$3.5 billion in the 2015-16 FY, \$2.9 billion in the 2014-15 FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-14 FY, \$1.4 billion in the 2012-13 FY, and \$1.245 billion in the 2011-12 FY.—Swe Nyein ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

## Bilateral trade with Thailand increases 20%

TRADE between Myanmar and Thailand in the six-month mini-budget period exceeded US\$2.9 billion, with exports valued at about \$1.6 billion and imports worth nearly \$1.4 billion, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Compared with the same period last year, the bilateral trade has increased by over \$500 million, or 20 per cent. Trade between the two countries totalled \$2.457 billion during the same period last year, with exports touching \$1.399 billion and imports reaching \$1.058 billion.

Myanmar conducts trade with Thailand not only over sea, but through posts along the border. At present, bilateral trade is

being carried out through 7 trading posts - Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htikhee, Mawtaung, and Maese.

Thailand usually imports watermelon, pineapple, avocado and other fruits, onion, garlic and other kitchen crops, dried tea leaves, manganese dioxide, jellyfish, eel, and other miscellaneous products from Myanmar.

Myanmar's imports include cement, construction equipment, leather, iron and steel products, soaps, medicines, cosmetics, food and beverages, stationery, footwear, clothing, machinery, and other commodities.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Commerce, bi-

lateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand stood at \$5 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$4.3 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$4.8 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$5.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$5.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$4.7 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, and \$4.5 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), fresh investments from Thailand in Myanmar during the mini-budget period reached \$64.6 million, through three projects. The country's investments in Myanmar in the 2017-2018 FY stood at almost \$123.8 million.—Shwe Khine ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

# 12 dead in Viet Nam floods, landslides

HANOI — Flash floods and landslides killed at least 12 people in central Viet Nam, officials said Sunday, as hundreds of troops were dispatched to clean up destroyed villages and washed out roads.

Heavy rains pounded the central Khanh Hoa province over the past few days as tropical depression Toraji blew in from the South China Sea, triggering landslides that wiped out houses and destroyed a small reservoir.

At least a dozen people have been killed so far while a search was ongoing for several others, an official from the provincial disaster office told AFP, refusing to be named.

“We have mobilised hundreds of army troops to help people restore lives and clean up damaged roads,” he said.

The main highway linking north and south Viet Nam was temporarily blocked and some railway routes were interrupted, while images on state media showed destroyed houses buried



Damaged houses and debris were left by flash floods and landslides in the Phuoc Dong commune of central Viet Nam's Khanh Hoa province. **PHOTO: AFP**

under debris and vehicles submerged in floods.

Panicked residents told of running from their homes as landslides rumbled down nearby mountains.

“We ran away after hearing the huge sound of fallen rocks... When we returned a few hours later, all our houses were de-

stroyed,” said Nha Trang city resident Liem, quoted by Khanh Hoa province's official online news site.

Khanh Hoa — home to the popular coastal resort city of Nha Trang — was ravaged by typhoon Damrey last year, which killed 27 people.

Viet Nam is routinely hit by

heavy rains during typhoon season from May to October.

At least 185 people have been killed in natural disasters across Viet Nam since January.

Last year, 389 people were reported dead in natural disasters, causing damage worth \$2.6 billion, according to official figures.—AFP ■

## 12 killed, 13 injured as bus falls into gorge in India

NEW DELHI — At least 12 people were killed and 13 others injured on Sunday after a passenger bus skidded off the road and falls into a gorge in northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, police said.

The accident took place near Damta in Uttarkashi district, about 100 km north of the capital city of Uttar Pradesh.

“In a tragic road accident here today 12 people were killed and 13 others injured after a bus skidded off road and fell into a 150-feet gorge,” a local government official said. “The injured were immediately removed to nearest medical facility and the critically injured were airlifted to Dehradun.”

Following the accident locals and police teams rushed to the spot to carry out rescue work. Senior police officials rushed to the spot to oversee the rescue work.—Xinhua ■

# Argentine submarine wreck found one year after disappearance

MAR DEL PLATA (Argentina) — The crushed wreck of an Argentine submarine has been located one year after it vanished into the depths of the Atlantic Ocean with 44 crew members, in the country's worst naval disaster in decades.

Experts say raising the ARA San Juan submarine would be an enormous undertaking costing a billion dollars or more. Defense Minister Oscar Aguad said Argentina had “no means” to do so.

The navy located at the submarine at a depth of more than 800 meters (2,600 feet), the navy tweeted, confirming the vessel had imploded.

Relatives of the dead sailors were seen hugging each other, holding their heads in despair and crying inconsolably.

The Seabed Constructor, a ship owned by US search firm Ocean Infinity, made the discovery Friday, one day after the first anniversary of the disappearance. The ship had set out in September in the latest attempt to find the San Juan, whose disappearance cost the navy's top officer his job.

The navy lost contact with the submarine on November 15, 2017, about 450 kilometers (280 miles) from the coast while it was



Argentine navy submarine ARA San Juan docked in Buenos Aires in 2014. **PHOTO: AFP**

traveling northward from Ushuaia, at Argentina's southern tip.

Admiral Jose Villan, the navy's new top commander, said that the rough terrain on the ocean floor made it difficult for search vessels, which had already trawled the site, to find the sub.

Pieces that were 11, 13 and 30 meters long were spotted in a “moon-like zone with craters and canyons,” said Navy Captain Enrique Balbi, adding that the hull had been “crushed inwards.”

Aguad met earlier with family members to show photos taken by an underwater robot. They showed a propeller, the sub's bow with torpedo-launching tubes and

an upper section of the vessel lying on the ocean floor.

“We are all destroyed here,” said Yolanda Mendiola, the mother of crewman Leandro Cisneros, 28.

“Never forget”

“I still had hopes that they could be alive,” Luis Niz, the father of a missing sailor, told reporters, even though President Mauricio Macri's government had declared two weeks after the sub's disappearance that there could be no survivors.

A small group of family members protested outside the naval base Saturday, holding a banner emblazoned with the number

“44” — for the lost crew members. Another banner declared, “44 Hearts of Steel — Never Forget!” Lawyer Sonia Krescher questioned the timing of the sub's discovery, saying it was “weird” coming after the one-year anniversary of its loss.

“We are going to ask them to refloat it,” she said. “We need to see the bodies and know what happened.” Cecilia Kaufmann, who lost her husband Luis Leiva, added: “now that they've found it, they need to give us back our loved ones.” The discovery came the day after a somber ceremony, attended by Macri, at the San Juan's Mar del Plata base.

Macri said the “whole truth” about what happened can now be examined. But he made no reference to whether there would be an attempt to raise the wreck.

The Seabed Constructor made its discovery before leaving for maintenance in South Africa. Searchers decided to check an area that bad weather had previously prevented them from examining.

Massive search operation

Equipped with cameras that can submerge 6,000 meters below the surface, the vessel was set to receive a \$7.5 million reward for

finding the missing sub.

Ocean Infinity was also assigned the task of hunting for Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, which vanished without trace in March 2014 en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. Experts say the submarine would have been crushed by water pressure once it dropped below about 600 meters. They believe that water seeped inside through a defective snorkel valve, triggering the tragedy. The San Juan's loss was the first major tragedy to hit Argentina's navy since the Falklands War against Britain in 1982.

Argentina's navy has been criticized for its clumsy handling of the case since first reporting the San Juan — one of the country's three submarines — was overdue at Mar del Plata on November 16, 2017. It took naval officials days to acknowledge that the old, German-built submarine had reported a problem with its batteries in its final communication. And it took them 10 days to say there had been an explosion on board, which experts said was likely linked to the battery problem. An air and sea search involved 13 countries followed.

Argentina has spent more than \$25 million in its search operation.—AFP ■

## Traditional Chinese medicine promoted as efficient alternative therapy in US

SAN FRANCISCO — A group of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) practitioners in the Bay Area in US state of California are working together to promote TCM among Chinese communities and beyond.

California Assembly member Kansen Chu, who announced the appointment of Shudong Li to the state's Acupuncture Board Friday, said TCM is a familiar and well-accepted medicine for many overseas Chinese and Chinese Americans, who trusted and relied on TCM to relieve pains.

"TCM offers a good alternative medicine for the American society, and another choice for patients beside Western medicine," Chu said.

Li, who is to officially take office on the seven-member board after an inauguration ceremony next Monday, said he hoped all the TCM practitioners in the Bay Area would work together to do a good job in further promoting TCM and oriental medicine to the rest of the American society and to have more Americans and members of all communities to benefit from TCM therapy.



A pharmacist preparing medicine for patient at Tongrentang Chinese Traditional Medicine Shop which has been popular for hundreds years. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The board will partner with licensed TCM practitioners to make future plans to launch education programs aimed at training young people to carry on the heritage of TCM. Phil Yang, a veteran licensed TCM

practitioner, said the California Acupuncture Board is the first government-established body to oversee the acupuncture sector in the United States.

California is the state that has the largest number of acu-

puncturists in the United States, where nearly 18,000 out of the total of more than 30,000 acupuncturists are practicing in the state, he said, adding that acupuncture occupies a significant place in the state.

Prof. Art Johnson, who once taught physician health care at Stanford University, said TCM is part of the family medicine program of Stanford School of Medicine. "Acupuncturists are referred quite a bit by family medicine doctors," he said.

"Allopathic system more and more recognizes the value of acupuncture and we want the medical students that will become doctors to understand that there are several modalities that help with healing besides Western medicine," he noted.

Western medicine does not cure everything and it doesn't work on some things, he explained. "The side effects of Western medicine can be as detrimental as a disease," Johnson said. "I see acupuncture as a system that helps the body find balance."

He strongly supports the promotion of traditional Chinese medicine and health medicine to a larger area, which bring benefits to more people that suffer pains from disease.

TCM "opened up a new understanding about healing system," said Johnson.—Xinhua ■

## Looters plunder Albania's sunken treasures

VLORA (ALBANIA) — Albania's long underexplored coastal waters have become a hotspot for treasure hunters scooping up ancient pottery, sunken ship parts and other shell-encrusted relics that have lain on the seabed for centuries. The 450-kilometre (280-mile) coastline, which is lapped by the Adriatic and Ionian seas, was off-limits under the communist regime which ruled the Balkan state until 1990, with orders to shoot anyone caught diving without authorisation.

But today its waters are open, luring archaeologists but also looters eager to plumb the new territory and sell their finds on the art and metals markets.

"Much of this wealth resting at the depth of 20-30 metres (66-99 feet) is easily accessible without any special equipment and has almost completely disappeared without a trace," said Albanian archaeologist and art historian Neritan Ceka, among those calling for urgent measures to protect the underwater heritage.

While diving at the beginning of the 1980s -- under communism, archaeologists and soldiers were permitted -- he was one of the first to see for himself the sea-



Albania's coastline has become a magnet for treasure hunters looking for sunken relics. **PHOTO: AFP**

bed treasures, he said. "I saw extraordinary richness, amphoras (terra-cotta jugs), pottery, archaeological objects which are no longer there today," he added. Teams of European and Albanian divers "have started to loot in a barbaric way", he lamented.

### 'Big profits'

Expeditions carried out since 2006 by the US-based RPM Nautical Foundation have found some 40 shipwrecks along Albania's coastline, including vessels dating back to the 7th century BC and naval ships from World War I and II. Hundreds of Roman-era amphoras — used to store wine, olive oil and other goods on trade vessels — are also clustered on

the sea floor, covered in marine plants. Experts say that without a full inventory, it is impossible to know how many of the artifacts have been plucked from the seabed and sold on the international art trafficking market.

The market overall generates a global turnover of more than \$4 billion (3.5 billion euros) a year, according to Auron Tare, who chairs UNESCO's scientific and technical advisory body on underwater cultural heritage.

"But what is certain: a treasure hunt below the seas can bring in big profits," said Moikom Zeqo, an underwater archaeologist who helped discover a 2nd-century BC Roman ship carrying hundreds of amphoras.—AFP ■

## DR Congo Ebola response effort suspended in Beni after clashes

BENI (DR CONGO) — Efforts to fight an Ebola outbreak in DR Congo's restive eastern Beni region were suspended Saturday after clashes just a "few metres" from a local emergency centre and hotels of several response teams, the health ministry said.

Late Friday, UN peacekeepers from the MONUSCO peacekeeping force repelled an offensive by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) militia in Beni city's northern Boikene neighbourhood, a ministry statement said.

The ADF, a shadowy armed group that has killed hundreds of people since 2014 and at least seven peacekeepers in clashes just this week, wanted to "attack one of MONUSCO's bases", the statement said. "We escaped death thanks to MONUSCO, which is very close to us in Boikene," a resident told the UN's Okapi radio.

"They repelled the attackers with the FARDC," the Congolese army, the resident said.

The health ministry said Saturday that "all field activities were suspended and the emergency operations centre

remains closed," adding that Ebola health worker response teams had stayed in their hotels.

The statement said that Health Minister Dr Oly Ilunga Kalenga deplored these acts of violence and the outbreak "remains dangerous, particularly in Beni". Since August 1, the Ebola outbreak in Beni, home to up to 300,000 people, has killed 213 people.

The UN has said unrest is hampering efforts to contain the disease in a region that has been troubled for decades by inter-ethnic bloodshed and militia violence.

The ADF is an Islamist-rooted group that rose in western Uganda in 1995, led by Jamil Mukulu, a converted Muslim.

Forced out of Uganda, it operates in the border area in the DRC's North Kivu province.

A ceremony was held Saturday in Beni for six peacekeepers from Malawi and one from Tanzania who were killed in an operation against the ADF this week. Fifteen other peacekeepers were killed in an ADF attack on a MONUSCO base in Beni in December last year.—AFP ■

# In solidarity with friends

**D**URING the recent 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Singapore, national leaders discussed regional and international affairs and held prioritized discussions concerning the events in Rakhine State.

The ASEAN leaders admitted that the Rakhine State issue is complex and sensitive and voiced their support for Myanmar's efforts. They said they would actively provide constructive co-operation in creating a good environment for returnees from Bangladesh and in promoting stability, development and harmony between the communities in Rakhine State.

At a time when ASEAN leaders are providing assistance for Rakhine State in the true spirit of solidarity, it is unfortunate to hear about the draft resolution on human rights in Myanmar submitted by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the European Union (EU) at the Third Committee meeting of the 73<sup>rd</sup> United Nations General Assembly three days ago.

The resolution is one-sided, biased, devoid of any constructive intent, politicized, and does not reflect the positive political and socio-economic development in Myanmar. It is a clear manifestation of the hostility and dictatorial intent of the co-sponsors of the resolution on a soft target.

No matter the nature of the obstacle impeding upon Myanmar, we will continue forward with courage and unfaltering spirit.

This stance will be adopted not only for addressing the Rakhine issue but also for the entire country's peace and development concerns.

communities in the country.

The Myanmar Permanent Representative U Hau Do Suan delivered a statement at the 73<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly, calling for the UN to promote and advocate for peace, harmony and reconciliation, not hatred, mistrust or polarization.

The exact words of the Permanent Representative were, "The people of Myanmar are united as ever under the leadership of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar's relentless efforts to building peace, the rule of law, national reconciliation and development for all 54 million people. We shall strive with unwavering determination to achieve democracy with the support and good will of our friends near and far."

No matter the nature of the obstacle impeding upon Myanmar, we will continue forward with courage and unfaltering spirit.

This stance will be adopted not only for addressing the Rakhine issue but also for the entire country's peace and development concerns. We, the citizens of Myanmar, will join hands with each other and with our friends, associate countries and ASEAN countries, as we move forward with tireless vigour in promoting peace, human rights and development and protection of our sovereignty.

# The Auspicious Occasion of Tazaungmon: the Kathina Festival

By Tun Myint Aung

**T**AZAUNGMON, corresponding to November, is the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the Myanmar lunar calendar. It is usually an opportune time to experience that the merry-making songs and music accompanied with the Myanmar orchestra consisting of drums, gongs, oboe, clappers, etc echo in the sky throughout the country; all the people celebrate the Kathina Festivals. The nearer the Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon is getting, the louder the echo becomes because it is during only 29 days between the first waning day of Thidingyut and the full-moon day of Thazaungmon that the Kathina festivals are held in accordance with the set period and with the strict rules governed by the Vinaya of the Buddha. All the people without any distinction on the grounds of age, sex, wealth, status, etc have opportunities to take part in the celebration activities of the festival by their own bits. The essence of the Kathina festival is the offering of new sets of robes to the monks, for most of their wearing may be drenched and wear out during the monsoon as they have to go on daily alms-rounds every morning, rainy or sunny, to receive alms-food from the devout lay persons and give blessings for their donation. In fact, it is a good idea that the donors anonymously can offer the Kathina robes to all monks as Sangika or Sangha in the Buddhist Order, not to individual monk personally, in consonance with the Buddhist canonical law.

The pious groups are formed apropos, with their free consent, and set their separate optional duties according to their own desire to collect some contributions from the devout donors in town or in village or in various social communities. Such groups are mushrooming everywhere during such period; almost every junction, ward, market, school, office and so on. It is really a daunting task to collect charity money or other offerings or the requisites for the monks. They have to assist



PHOTOS: PHOE KHWAR

and urge people to contribute pocket money as much as they can, by using loud-speakers or sound-boxes. The donees may announce the names of the donors and the amount of their contribution in detail. It is funny that a boy can contribute some pocket money to the charity-box and ask for the assistants to announce the names of the donors as spouses by using the names of girls he likes. If the girls know the truth about the boy and reprove him for the matter, he can say that sometimes names are common and may be identical. Sometimes, the assistants may announce many times the name of the donor who contributes much money. Sometimes, various announcements and cacophonous blaring music amplified through loudspeakers and modern hi-tech sound-boxes may be unbearable to ear-rending decibels.

It is enjoyable for us to listen to some traditional songs rhyming choruses which can reflect the social life of the Myanmar. However, popular songs concerning the Kathina festivals are not very many. Instead, the hit nat-songs are favourable to the youths. The

most common nat-song can be 'Ko Gyi Kyaw', which can stimulate the people to be active very easily and have a potency to make them dance at once to the song and music at any time. However, it has nothing at all to do with the Kathina Festival.

In addition, various forms of dance can be seen at every contribution centre as rehearsal for going round. The special one can be the performance of pairing U Shwe Yoe and Daw Moe. Each may have been widowed at an early age. The former is an old gangling guy, a

spruce fashion. Their courtship manners to the rhythmic beats of Myanmar music can be so funny that the audience watching them can't help smiling or laughing nonstop all the way. Sometimes, huge toys caricatured in the figure of a hermit or a lay attendant to a monastery can be found among some groups collecting charity offerings. They can be used for the purpose of drawing the attention of the public, especially of the children who may insist upon watching the toys moving to the lively music. Sometimes, the collectors running recklessly along the street for the notes given away by the donors on

or a piece of offerings donated by individual person can make a series of trees of plenty. The Kathina robe offering ceremony cannot be done by individual but only the collective efforts of the public. Everyone has no set duties in the process of the ceremony but can take part in it and make contributions of his or her own as he or she desires, taking social responsibilities. This type of donation shows a symbol of unity of the social communities of the Myanmar people.

In fact, the Kathina festival is based on religious rites but largely blended with social customs and merry-making



In fact, the Kathina festival is based on religious rites but largely blended with social customs and merry-making spirit of the people.

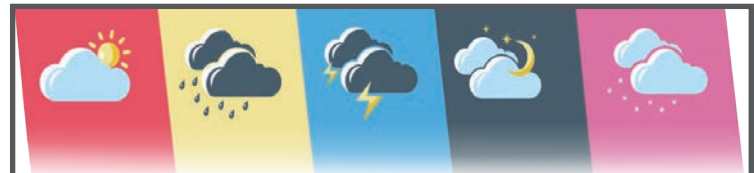
the vehicles may pose serious accidents. This type of accident is regarded as one of the most accident-prone cases.

It is also enjoyable for us to watch groups of participants in line going round in town with their padethapins or plenty trees (tree-shaped stands where various offerings are hung) full of different notes of Myanmar currency money and the requisites for the monks and other offertories needed for the monastery, accompanied by orchestral bands of Myanmar music and dance until they get to the monastery where all the offerings are to be left. Of course, a small amount of pocket money

spirit of the people. Actually, it can be easily known to all that Myanmar is a heaven of fun-seekers because they can have something enjoyable in various ways in every part of the country in any circumstance all the year round, the twelve months of the Myanmar lunar calendar. It is, therefore, taken for granted that the genuine spirit embodied in such sorts of beautiful tradition and culture will exist in the blood of the Myanmar people, marking as public memory or an aspect of making our history in perpetuity.....

## National Day Objectives for 2018

1. A strong and dynamic Union Spirit
2. Participate and cooperate for Union Peace.
3. All round development of all ethnic races.
4. Establishment of a Democratic Federal Union.



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 18th November, 2018)

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean Still persists. It is forecast to move Westwards during next (24) hours. Weather is cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the Tropical Depression (Toraji) has crossed over the Southern Vitenam Coast.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 19th November, 2018:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, Kachin, Eastern Shan, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in Upper Sagaing and Yangon Regions, Southern Shan and Kayah States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (2-5) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

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

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th November, 2018:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th November, 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th November, 2018:** Generally fair weather.

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

# Undersea gas fires Egypt's regional energy dreams

CAIRO (Egypt) — Egypt is looking to use its vast, newly tapped undersea gas reserves to establish itself as a key energy exporter and revive its flagging economy.

Encouraged by the discovery of huge natural gas fields in the Mediterranean, Cairo has in recent months signed gas deals with neighbouring Israel as well as Cyprus and Greece.

Former oil minister Osama Kamal said Egypt has a “plan to become a regional energy hub”.

In the past year, gas has started flowing from four major fields off Egypt's Mediterranean coast, including the vast Zohr field, inaugurated with great ceremony by President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi.

Discovered in 2015 by Italian energy giant Eni, Zohr is the biggest gas field so far found in Egyptian waters.

The immediate upshot has been that since September, the Arab world's most populous country has been able to halt imports of liquefied natural gas, which last year cost it some \$220 million (190 million euros) per month.

Coming after a financial crisis that pushed Cairo in 2016 to take a \$12 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund, the gas has been a lifeline.

Egypt's budget deficit, which hit 10.9 percent of GDP in the financial year 2016-17, has since fallen to 9.8 per cent.

Gas production has now hit



Egypt is looking to establish itself as a key energy exporter by using its vast undersea gas reserves. PHOTO: AFP

184 million cubic metres a day.

Having met its own needs, Cairo is looking to kickstart exports and extend its regional influence.

It has signed deals to import gas from neighbouring countries for liquefaction at installations on its Mediterranean coast, ready for re-export to Europe.

## Israel, Cyprus deals

In September, Egypt signed a deal with Cyprus to build a pipeline to pump Cypriot gas hundreds of kilometres to Egypt for processing before being exported to Europe.

That came amid tensions between Egypt and Turkey — which has supported the Muslim Brotherhood, seen by Cairo as a terror-

ist organisation, and has troops in breakaway northern Cyprus.

In February, Egypt, the only Arab state apart from Jordan to have a peace deal with Israel, inked an agreement to import gas from the Jewish state's Tamar and Leviathan reservoirs.

A US-Israeli consortium leading the development of Israel's offshore gas reserves in September announced it would buy part of a disused pipeline connecting the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon with the northern Sinai peninsula. That would bypass a land pipeline across the Sinai that was repeatedly targeted by jihadists in 2011 and 2012.

The \$15-billion deal will see some 64 billion cubic metres of gas pumped in from the Israeli

fields over 10 years.

Independent news website Mada Masr reported that Egypt's General Intelligence Service is the majority shareholder in East Gas, which will earn the largest part of the profits from the import of Israeli gas and its resale to the Egyptian state.

Kamal said he sees “no problem” in that, adding that the agency has held a majority stake in the firm since 2003.

“That guarantees the protection of Egyptian interests,” he said. Ezzat Abdel Aziz, former president of the Egyptian Atomic Energy Agency, said the projects were “of vital importance for Egypt” and would have direct returns for the Egyptian economy.

They “confirm the strategic

importance of Egypt and allow it to take advantage of its location between producing countries in the east and consuming countries of the West”, he said.

## Petro-processing dollars

The Egyptian state is also hoping to rake in billions of dollars in revenues from petro-chemicals.

Its regional energy ambitions are “not limited to the natural gas sector, but also involve major projects in the petroleum and petrochemical sectors,” said former oil minister Kamal.

Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Tarek El Molla recently announced a deal to expand the Midor refinery in the Egyptian capital to boost its output by some 60 percent.

On top of that, the new Mostorod refinery in northern Cairo is set to produce 4.4 million tonnes of petroleum products a year after it comes online by next May, according to Ahmed Heikal, president of Egyptian investment firm Citadel Capital.

That alone will save the state \$2 billion a year on petrochemical imports, which last year cost it some \$5.2 billion.

Egypt is also investing in a processing plant on the Red Sea that could produce some four million tonnes of petro-products a year — as well as creating 3,000 jobs in a country where unemployment is rife. —AFP ■

## Chicago agricultural commodities end mixed weekly

CHICAGO — Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) agricultural commodities closed mixed over the trading week which ended 16 November, with soybean futures rising on fund short covering.

The most active corn contract for December delivery went down 5 cents weekly, or 1.35 per cent, to 3.6475 dollars per bushel. December wheat delivery was up 4.75 cents, or 0.95 per cent, to 5.0675 dollars per bushel. 2019 January soybean was 5.5 cents higher, or 0.62 per cent, to 8.9225 dollars.

CBOT corn futures fell 5 cents amid limited market-specific news. In the world market, Ukraine's crop will be record large, with yield an incredible 40 percent above last year, but their export logistics will only allow for

the export of 24-25 million tonnes.

Amid record total corn trade, US exports won't be adjusted downward, but better than expected Black Sea production.

Ethanol margins are deep in the red, with temporary plant closures noted across pockets of the Central US Biofuel margins a year ago were rather profitable, which will act as a cap on rallies until crude oil recoveries.

CBOT wheat futures ended higher this week with CME gaining on short covering in Chicago and long liquidation in Kansas City. Hard red wheat export sales continue to lag the pace needed to meet the US agriculture Department's forecast.

A host of major importers are now seeking high protein

supply for early January delivery. On a FOB basis, gulf hard red wheat is offered 3-8 dollars per tonne below Russian origin.

Soybeans were on both sides of unchanged last week with January back testing the upper limit of a trading range that's developed over the last five months.

Fund short covering and hope that US-China trade relations improve offered support. Fundamentally, US December soybean stocks are expected to be record large due to a big crop and slow exports.

Outside of the United States, planting progress in Brazil has reached 80 per cent complete, while Argentine seedlings are behind normal due to excess spring rainfall. — Xinhua ■

## India's exports grow at nearly 18 per cent, but trade deficit too widens

NEW DELHI — India's overall exports, including both merchandise and services, are estimated to be 308.32 billion US dollars from April to October, thereby exhibiting a growth of 17.17 per cent over the same period last year, said the official data released by the Commerce Ministry. And, the overall imports during the seven months (April-October) are estimated to be 374.88 billion US dollars, showing a growth of 18.88 per cent over the same period last year, added the official data.

Total exports during October alone were 26.98 billion US dollars, as compared to 22.89 billion US dollars in the same month last year, thereby registering a positive growth of 17.86 per cent.

Total oil imports in October stood at 14.21 billion US dollars which was 52.64 percent higher, compared to 9.31 billion US dollars in the same month last year.

Oil imports during April-October were 83.94 billion U.S. dollars, which was 50.48 per cent higher compared to 55.78 billion US dollars over the same period last year. High growth was witnessed in plastic & linoleum, petroleum, organic & inorganic chemicals, drugs & pharmaceuticals, engineering and electronic goods and various labour-intensive sectors including gems & jewellery, leather & leather products, ceramic products & glassware, commodities and in some agri-products. — Xinhua ■

# Trump says troops to remain at border 'as long as necessary'

WASHINGTON (United States) — President Donald Trump on Saturday defended his controversial deployment of thousands of troops to the US-Mexico border, confirming they would remain in place "as long as necessary."

"We have a tremendous military force on the southern border; we have large numbers of people trying to get into our country," he told reporters at the White House ahead of a visit to California.

"They built great fencing, they built a very powerful fence," he added.

Some 5,900 active-duty troops are now stationed along the border, a contentious deployment in support of civilian forces that Trump ordered ahead of the recent midterm elections.

Opponents have criticized



US President Donald Trump arrives to board Air Force One prior to departure from Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on 17 November, 2018, as he travels to California to view wildfire damage. **PHOTO: AFP**

the cost and usefulness of the operation, dismissing it as a political stunt.

An additional 2,100 or so National Guardsmen have been deployed to support operations

at the border, bringing the total military presence to about 8,000. — AFP ■

## Macron, Merkel meet amid WWI centenary debate on European army

BERLIN (Germany) — The leaders of France and Germany meet in Berlin on Sunday to jointly remember the victims of European wars, presenting also a united front in countering global turmoil stoked by the mercurial US President Donald Trump.

President Emmanuel Macron will visit France's former enemy turned key EU partner from 1000 GMT for a wreath-laying ceremony on its Day of Mourning for victims of war and tyranny, a parliamentary address and talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Macron and Merkel are both committed pro-Europeans and internationalists who have resisted rising populist, eurosceptic and anti-immigration forces in Europe and Trump's isolationist 'America First' stance.

During their second meeting in a week, the pair will likely delve deeper into the idea of a future European army, a proposal that has raised Trump's hackles.

As the world has remembered World War I, which ended a century ago this month, Macron has repeatedly invoked its horrors to drive home his message that rising national-

ism around the globe is again destabilizing the world.

He has suggested building a future European army as a symbol of a united continent.

The proposal has been backed by Merkel although Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on Friday said France and Germany were jumping the gun, asserting that the continent's safety could be guaranteed only through NATO.

On Tuesday the US leader mocked both European powers by tweeting that "it was Germany in World Wars One & Two — How did that work out for France?" and adding that "they were starting to learn German in Paris before the US came along".

### Weakened leaders

A week after world leaders attended the Armistice centenary events in Paris, Merkel and Macron are also due to meet again one-on-one to resume their dialogue on ways to boost the EU.

Since their joint cabinet meeting on Europe in June, challenges have piled up, with Brexit nearing and a budget conflict escalating between Brussels and Italy.

The talks also come at a

time when both leaders are politically weakened, reducing the traditional driving power of the Franco-German engine at the heart of the bloc.

As Trump gleefully tweeted days ago, Macron's once stellar approval ratings have dropped off into the mid-twenties.

And Merkel, after 13 years in power, has in recent weeks announced the beginning of the end of her reign, by declining to stand again as leader of her centre-right Christian Democrats (CDU).

She has vowed to serve out her fourth term, which runs until 2021, but many observers expect Merkel could be brought down earlier by infighting within her CDU or the unhappy three-party coalition she leads.

All this has made substantial reform initiatives by the Franco-German power couple even less likely.

There is already much frustration in Paris about Merkel's perceived foot-dragging on Macron's bold reform plans, especially forging a eurozone with a major common budget and finance minister.

### Tricky questions

The joint army plan too faces tricky questions, among them

post-war Germany's traditional reluctance to send combat troops abroad, and the fact that it is the parliament that must approve military missions.

The next major political test for both Macron and Merkel will be European Parliamentary elections in May, when their centrist parties will do battle with populist and far-right forces.

Macron's trip to Berlin first sees him join President Frank-Walter Steinmeier at 11:00 am (1000 GMT) at the "Youth for Peace" event where youngsters will present "100 ideas for peace".

From 1130 GMT Macron, Steinmeier and Merkel will attend the ceremony at the Neue Wache, a neoclassical former Prussian military guardhouse that serves as Germany's Central Memorial for the Victims of War and Dictatorship.

At 1230 GMT Macron delivers a speech in the glass-domed parliamentary chamber of the Bundestag, housed in the historic Reichstag building that still bears the scars of World War II.

When Macron again meets Merkel at the chancellery at 1410 GMT, they will deliver statements to the media but not give a joint press conference. — AFP ■

## News in Brief

### WW II-era fighter plane crash kills 2 in Texas

WASHINGTON (United States) — A World War II-era fighter plane crashed on Saturday into a Texas parking lot, killing a veteran and one other person, local media and officials said.

The US National Transportation Safety Board said it was investigating the crash of "a North American P-51D" in the city of Fredericksburg.

The P-51 Mustang served in the Pacific and other theaters of World War II, as well as during the Korean War.

Fredericksburg is home to the National Museum of the Pacific War, which said on Twitter that there were two victims, one of whom was a veteran.

"At this time we have no further information," the museum tweeted. — AFP ■

### Sixteen Ebola WHO staff evacuated amid DR Congo clashes

BENI (DR Congo) — The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Saturday that 16 staff members were temporarily evacuated from DR Congo's restive eastern city of Beni after a shell hit the building they were staying in.

"It was in exchanges of fire that the house was hit by a shell" on Friday night, Michel Yao, WHO's co-ordinator for Ebola response operations in Beni, told AFP. No one was injured, he added. — AFP ■

### Trump says US to report who killed Khashoggi in 'next two days'

MALIBU (United States) — President Donald Trump said on Saturday the United States would determine the killer of Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi "within the next two days."

The killing and the international uproar it triggered have frayed ties between Washington and longtime ally Riyadh, which has sought to end discussion of the murder and rejected calls for an international investigation.

Speaking to reporters in Malibu, California after surveying damage from wildfires, Trump said a "full report" on "who did it" would be completed by Monday or Tuesday. — AFP ■

## Xi, Moon meet on bilateral ties, Korean Peninsula situation

PORT MORESBY — Chinese President Xi Jinping met with his South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in here Saturday, calling for deepening the strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries and strengthening communication on the Korean Peninsula issue.

The consensus reached between the two heads of state have been implemented effectively over the past year, and the bilateral ties have steadily improved and developed, Xi told Moon on the sidelines of the 26<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Port Moresby, the capital of the Pacific island country of Papua New Guinea.

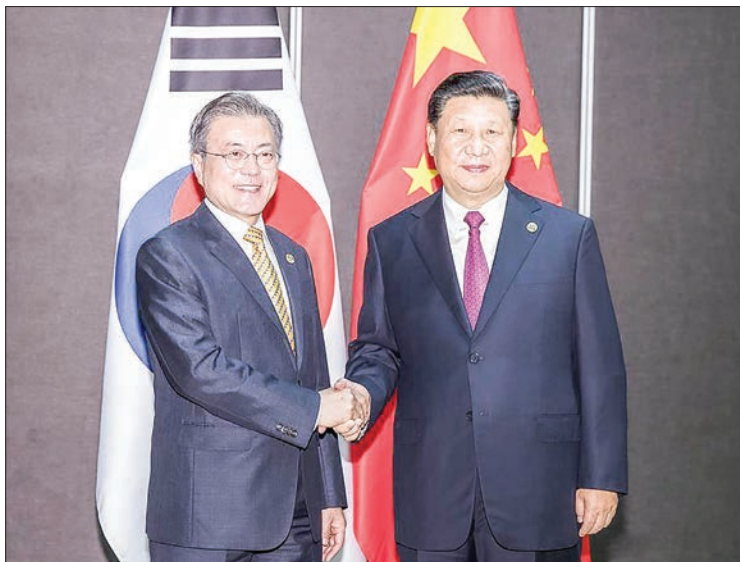
Xi urged the two countries to continuously deepen their strategic cooperative partnership and jointly make positive contributions to lasting peace and prosperity in the region.

The two sides should continue to give full play to the guiding role of high-level leaders, respect the core interests and major concerns of each other, strengthen communication, build and consolidate mutual trust, and properly handle sensitive issues, the Chinese president said.

He called for greater efforts from both sides to jointly promote the Belt and Road Initiative, accelerate the second-phase negotiations of the bilateral free trade agreement, and optimize and upgrade their mutually beneficial cooperation.

Xi also proposed that the two sides strengthen coordination and cooperation within multilateral frameworks such as APEC, G20 and the China-Japan-South Korea trilateral meetings.

For his part, Moon extended



Chinese President Xi Jinping (r) meets with his South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 17 November, 2018. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

congratulations on the success of the first China International Import Expo, which was held in Shanghai a week ago.

The bilateral relations are now showing a trend of quick recovery, with exchanges and cooperation in various areas picking up markedly, he said.

The South Korean side is willing to make joint efforts with the Chinese side to deepen cooperation, thus benefiting the two peoples, Moon said.

On the Korean Peninsula issue, Xi said that the situation on the peninsula has shown positive changes over the past year, and the peninsular issue has on the whole gone back to the right track of dialogue and consultation.

Facts have proven that our endeavors are effective, he said.

With the leadership of President Moon, South Korea has been committed to promoting the easing of tension on the peninsula, and carrying out reconciliation and interaction activities between the south and north, Xi said.

China supports efforts by the two sides to continuously improve their relations, Xi said.

Currently, the Korean Peninsula situation is at a crucial stage, he said, noting that China and South Korea should enhance communication, and coordinate with each other to advance the process of denuclearization and push for the establishment of a peace mechanism on the peninsula.

The key is that all parties concerned should meet each other halfway, show flexibility, continue their talks and make the talks yield results, Xi added.

Moon said that South Korea and China share common interest in safeguarding peace and stability in Northeast Asia.

The South Korean side thinks highly of and very much appreciates the vital role of China in promoting the easing of Korean Peninsula situation and the settlement of the peninsular issue, he said, adding that South Korea stands ready to coordinate and cooperate with China more closely in this regard. —AFP ■

## Japan to cooperate with Canada, Chile over free trade

PORT MORESBY — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed with his Canadian and Chilean counterparts on Sunday to closely cooperate in promoting free trade amid the rise of protectionism.

In a meeting in the Papua New Guinean capital Port Moresby, Abe and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau welcomed the planned enforcement on 30 December of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an 11-nation free trade agreement, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

In separate talks on the sidelines of a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, Abe asked Chilean President Sebastian Pinera that the Latin American country ratify the pact as soon as possible, the ministry said.

Of the 11 members, Mexico, Japan, Singapore, New Zealand, Canada, Australia and Vietnam have ratified the TPP, formally called the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

The other members yet to finish their domestic procedures are Brunei, Chile, Malaysia and

Peru.

Abe and Trudeau also pledged to fully implement U.N. sanctions on North Korea in partnership with the international community, the Japanese ministry said.

Abe thanked Canada for dispatching planes and vessels to monitor U.N.-prohibited ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum products to North Korea.

Abe and Pinera, meanwhile, agreed to cooperate in ensuring that Chile will successfully chair APEC meetings next year. Also on Sunday, Abe met Morris Chang, Taiwan's representative to the APEC summit, and said Japan would like to deepen ties with the self-ruled island in tourism and other areas, according to the Japanese ministry. Taiwan is an important partner of Japan that shares universal values such as freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, Abe was quoted by the ministry as saying. Chang, who represented Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen at the annual gathering, was quoted as saying Taiwan would like to step up economic ties with Japan. —Kyodo News ■



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (r) and Chilean President Sebastian Pinera shake hands in Port Moresby on 18 November, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEW**

## Thai authorities retrieve ship after fatal Phuket capsizing

BANGKOK (Thailand) — A ship that capsized in July off the coast of Thailand's tourist hotspot Phuket — leaving dozens of Chinese tourists dead — was plucked out of the sea on Saturday, immigration officials said.

In July, the Phoenix was carrying 105 people when it sank on the way back from a popular snorkelling spot.

Divers and the navy spent more than a week retrieving bodies, some from within the watery

tomb, bringing the death toll to 47 Chinese tourists. More than four months after the tragic incident, Thai authorities were able to retrieve the Phoenix using a 1,000-tonne crane ship hired from Singapore at a cost of 35 million baht, about US\$1 million, said a statement issued by the Thai immigration police department.

"The Phoenix was brought to the surface at 3:20 pm," it said.

According to photos provided by the Thai immigration police,

the once-white vessel emerged from the water covered entirely in sea silt, with people in life jackets working to hoist it to the massive crane ship.

Deputy national police chief Rungrot Saengkram said the authorities needed to salvage the Phoenix "to express sincerity to the Chinese government".

He added that they wanted to determine the "real reason" for the capsizing. The Phoenix was among three vessels which

ignored a bad weather warning against island day trips on the day of the accident.

"Investigators, experts and engineers from Germany, and forensics will examine the structure of the Phoenix to see whether the equipment was up to standard," said Rungrot.

One of the worst boating accidents in recent history in Thailand, the Phoenix capsizing and the death of dozens hit the tourism sector hard, with the

number of arrivals from China dropping off steadily since July.

The impact was immediate, with August tourism statistics showing a nearly 12 percent decline in Chinese arrivals, as they were scared and angered by the boat tragedy. "The Thai government sincerely wants to rebuild the confidence with the Chinese government and I hope the situation improves," said General Surachate Hakparn, immigration police chief. —AFP ■

# Climate change protests block London bridges

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Hundreds of climate change protesters blocked London bridges on Saturday demanding a dramatic new environmental policy. Sit-down demonstrators blocked five bridges over the River Thames in the city centre, including Westminster Bridge next to the Houses of Parliament.

“We’ve basically got three demands,” said Gail Bradbrook, one of the organisers. “One is that the government have to tell the truth. People think that cli-



The demonstrators blocked five bridges over the River Thames. PHOTO: AFP

mate change is something happening to somebody else at some other time, but it’s coming home. “We need to go to net zero carbon really quickly. And we’re also asking for a people’s

assembly so people can decide how the change happens.” Demonstrators held placards reading “Stop climate breakdown”, “Climate change equals mass murder”, “Climate crisis

is a health crisis. Act now” and “Denial is not a policy”.

The police said the demonstrations were impeding Londoners and the emergency services from using the bridges.—AFP ■

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M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (1823/1824)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (1823/1824) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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 MCC TRANSPORT  
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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

## Rare Sumatran tiger rescued from beneath shop in Indonesia

PEKANBARU (Indonesia)—A rare Sumatran tiger that was trapped beneath the floor of a shop for three days has been rescued, an Indonesian official said on Saturday.

The three-year old male was freed from the 75 centimetre (30 inch) crawl space on Burung Island in Riau province at about 1:50 am, the local conservation agency said.—AFP ■

## Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 “TAZAUNGDAING HOLIDAYS” being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

**Central Bank of Myanmar**

## Activists board ship off Spain in palm oil protest: Greenpeace

MADRID (Spain)—Greenpeace said on Saturday six of its activists boarded a tanker off Spain loaded with “dirty” palm oil to protest against a Nature-damaging commodity found in everything from soap to biscuits. The activists, from countries including Indonesia, the scene of mass deforestation for palm oil plantations, were held by the captain of the ship after they boarded at sea, the NGO said in a statement.

Prior to that, “they unfurled banners reading ‘Save our Rainforest’ and ‘Drop Dirty Palm Oil,’” it added. The ship was travelling from Indonesia, the world’s top palm oil producer, to Rotterdam in the Netherlands, the NGO said. The captain has turned the ship around and is heading to Spain, it added, where he intended to hand the activists over to authorities.

When contacted by AFP, the Guardia Civil police force said it had no knowledge of the matter.—AFP ■

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A musical instrument shop in Okayama turns into a bar during after hours. PHOTO: Kyodo News

## Western Japan music store transforms into hands-on bar at night

OKAYAMA (Japan)—A small music store in the western Japan city of Okayama turns into a unique bar at night where people can drink and play wind instruments displayed in the store.

At 8 pm Hattori Kangakki closes as a wind instrument store, the lights go out and candles are lit, signaling the opening of Gakkiya Bar, which welcomes musicians and non-musicians alike. Gold- and silver-coloured instruments shine in the dim light, while some 60 alcoholic beverages are offered at a make-shift bar counter made of a flute showcase.

"It's hard to start playing

wind instruments when you are alone. We want to help people who are unfamiliar with them but are interested in trying them out," said 22-year-old instrument repairer Shinta Sakai who serves as the bartender.

The bar, created by the music store's owner, Satoshi Hattori, 36, recently celebrated its first anniversary since opening in October last year. During its first year, bar visitors sometimes took part in improvised music sessions, according to Hattori.

"You really don't know what will happen and that's the fun part of it," he said.

A man in his 50s who fre-

quents the bar said it has not only helped him to meet other people but given him the chance to purchase an instrument he had not played regularly.

In addition to hosting the bar, the music store has been involved in repairing damaged instruments free of charge through collaboration with music stores in Kurashiki, also in Okayama Prefecture, and elsewhere, following deadly rain in July.

Kurashiki was one of the areas hardest hit by the torrential rain, that triggered massive flooding and landslides, and claimed more than 200 lives across the country.—Kyodo News ■

## Zhang Yimou's film 'Shadow' shines at Chinese 'Oscars'

TAIPEI (China)—Acclaimed Chinese director Zhang Yimou's martial arts epic "Shadow" took the most gongs at Taiwan's Golden Horse film awards on Saturday, dubbed the Chinese-language "Oscars".

Zhang, the maker of classics such as "Red Sorghum" and "Raise the Red Lantern", won best director for the film inspired by traditional ink-brush painting which also bagged three technical awards. "I've made movies for 40 years and this is my first Golden Horse (best) director nomination. I want to thank the jury for giving me the award," Zhang said at the ceremony at Taipei's Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall.

"Shadow" led the race with 12 nominations including best film but lost the coveted prize to "An Elephant Sitting Still" direct-

ed by Hu Bo, who died last year aged 29 in Beijing.

Hu also won best adapted screenplay for his first and last film — a nearly four-hour-long story about four struggling small characters based on his novel.

"I want to thank the jury and the audience again," his mother told the crowd after she accepted the best film statuette for him.

China's 29-year-old filmmaker Bi Gan lost best director to Zhang for his 3D drama "Long Day's Journey Into Night", which collected best cinematography, best sound effects and best original film score.

Taiwanese filmmaker Fu Yue's "Our Youth in Taiwan" about the island's 2014 Sunflower Movement saw off "Umbrella Diaries: The First Umbrella" on Hong Kong's pro-democracy

Umbrella Movement to win best documentary. Both mass protests were led by young activists and reflected increasing resistance to Beijing's influence.

"I hope one day our country will be recognised and treated as a truly independent entity. This is my biggest wish as a Taiwanese," Fu told the crowd.

China claims self-ruled Taiwan as part of its territory awaiting reunification, even though the two sides split in 1949 after a civil war. Taiwan's theatre veteran Hsieh Ying-xuan beat better-known Chinese rivals to claim best actress with her first movie "Dear EX".

In the film she played a woman dumped by her husband who came out of the closet and fought for his inheritance against his gay lover.—AFP ■

## Italy nationalists mull refusing Da Vincis to Louvre

ROME (Italy)—Italy wants to renegotiate a deal to loan all of its Leonardo da Vinci paintings to France's Louvre to mark 500 years since his death, Italian media reported on Saturday.

Junior culture minister Lucia Bergonzoni of the far-right League told the Corriere della Sera that the terms of an agreement signed by previous culture minister Dario Franceschini were "unbelievable".

"Leonardo is Italian, he only died in France," Bergonzoni said of the Renaissance polymath who was born in Italy in 1452 and died in France in 1519. "To give the Louvre all these paintings would put Italy on the margins of a major cultural event," Bergonzoni said of the 2017 deal for the Italian state to loan all of its Da Vinci paintings to the 2019 Louvre

exhibition.

"We need to discuss everything again. Where museums' autonomy is concerned, national interest cannot come second. The French cannot have everything," she said. The Franco-Italian accord also provides for the Louvre—home to Da Vinci's Mona Lisa—to loan works by another Renaissance master, Raphael, to Rome's Scuderi del Quirinale museum for a 2020 exhibition to mark 500 years since his death.

"Most of Raphael's works are already in Italy," said Bergonzoni. "What's more, Paris says that only 'movable' paintings can come to us, without specifying which ones."

Bergonzoni did not immediately respond to emailed questions from AFP.—AFP ■



Author JK Rowling and actor Eddie Redmayne at the world premiere of Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them at Lincoln Center in New York City last week. PHOTO: AFP

## New "Fantastic Beasts" movie scores 190 mln yuan at Chinese box office

BEIJING—The Warner Bros much-anticipated "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" has pocketed more than 190 million yuan (27.4 million US dollars) at the box office since hitting Chinese screens on Friday.

The movie took in about 80 million yuan at box office on its first day in Chinese theaters, according to latest statistics released by Maoyan, a major Chinese film database and ticketing platform.

Written by JK Rowling and starring Eddie Red-

mayne, Katherine Waterston and Johnny Depp, the film is about Albus Dumbledore working with his former student Newt Scamander to thwart the divisive wizard leader Gellert Grindelwald.

It is the second in a spinoff movie series that started with "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" in 2016, which took in 814 million US dollars at the global box office.

Rated 7.8 by viewers on Maoyan, the film's box office sales are expected to reach 564 million yuan.—Xinhua ■

## New space industry emerges: on-orbit servicing

WASHINGTON (United States)—Imagine an airport where thousands of planes, empty of fuel, are left abandoned on the tarmac. That is what has been happening for decades with satellites that circle the Earth. When satellites run out of fuel, they can no longer maintain their precise orbit, rendering them useless even if their hardware is still intact.

“It’s literally throwing away hundreds of millions of dollars,” Al Tadros, vice president of space infrastructure and civil Space at a company called SSL, said this month at a meeting in the US capital of key players in the emerging field of on-orbit servicing, or repairing satellites while they are in space. In recent years, new aerospace companies have been founded to try and extend the lifespan of satellites, on the hunch that many clients would find this more profitable than relaunching new ones. In 2021, his company will launch a vehicle—as part of its Robotic Servicing of Geosynchronous Satellites (RSGS) program—that is capable of servicing two to three dozen satellites in a distant geostationary orbit, some 22,000 miles (36,000 kilometers) from Earth where there are about 500 active satellites, most in telecommunications.

This unmanned spacecraft will be able to latch onto a satellite to inspect it, refuel it, and possibly even repair it or change components, and put it back in the correct orbit. Tadros describes it as “equivalent to a AAA servicing truck in geostationary orbit.” And “it’s financially a very, very big opportunity,” he adds.

Telecommunications giant Intelsat, which operates 50 geostationary satellites, chose a different option and signed a contract with Space Logistics, a branch of Northrop Grumman, for its MEV, a “very simple system” vice president Ken Lee told AFP is much like a “towtruck.” When it launches in 2019, the spacecraft will attach itself to a broken down satellite, and reposition it in its correct orbit. The

MEV will stay attached and use its own engine to stay in orbit.

### Too much debris

On-orbit servicing could also help cut down on the perplexing problem of mounting space debris. Of the 23,000 space objects counted by the US military, just 1,900 are active satellites.

The rest—which move at speeds of some 12-19,000 miles (20-30,000 kilometers) per hour—includes nearly 3,000 inactive satellites, 2,000 pieces of rockets (such as the second stages of rockets) and thousands of fragments produced by two key events: the deliberate missile explosion of a Chinese satellite in 2007, and the 2009 collision of an Iridium satellite with an aging Russian one. No short term solution has been identified for small-scale space junk, but some companies would like to be able to remove defunct satellites from orbit.

Since 2008, France has required satellite operators to take steps to “deorbit” their spacecrafts by programming them to re-enter Earth’s atmosphere in 25 years so that they burn up, according to Laurent Francillout, head of space security at the French National Center for Space Studies (CNES). When it comes to satellites in geostationary orbits, their end-of-life option is to go farther from Earth to a “graveyard orbit” 200 miles (300 kilometers) further away. “We are trying to promote these principles” in other countries, Francillout told AFP.

A small Japanese company founded in 2013, Astroscale, is developing a system to approach and capture space debris and broken satellites. Though it doesn’t have a clientele yet, director of operations Chris Blackerby anticipates the business would be “very viable.” A test launch is planned for 2020. Airbus’s future “Space Tug,” planned for 2023, is being built to grab old satellites and push them down to 125 miles (200 kilometers) above Earth so they burn up.—AFP ■

A handout photo released on 17 November, 2018 by NASA shows the Northrop Grumman Antares rocket, with Cygnus resupply spacecraft onboard, launched from Pad-OA at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia on 17 November. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Cygnus cargo ship launches to ISS

UNITED STATES—An unmanned Cygnus cargo ship blasted off on Saturday toward the International Space Station, marking the second supply mission in 24 hours destined to carry food and supplies to the astronauts living in space.

An Antares rocket operated by Northrop Grumman lit up the night sky at 4:01 am (0901 GMT) as it propelled the craft loaded with 7,400 pounds (3,350 kilograms) of gear into space.

On Friday, a Russian Soyuz

rocket launched its first cargo mission to the space station since a Soyuz rocket carrying astronauts failed last month. The successful liftoff of the Progress cargo craft toward the orbiting outpost was seen as a rehearsal for the next crewed mission on 3 December.

That flight will carry Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko, Canadian astronaut David Saint-Jacques, and NASA’s Anne McClain to the ISS. Since the retirement of the US space shuttle program in 2011, Russia has the

only nation capable of sending people to space.

During the aborted launch on 11 October, Russian cosmonaut Aleksey Ovchinin and US astronaut Nick Hague made an emergency landing and escaped unharmed. It was the first such incident in the history of post-Soviet space travel.

The Russian cargo ship is scheduled to dock at the space station on Sunday, followed by the Cygnus on Monday, NASA said.—AFP ■

## Japan aims to create prototype flying cars in 2019: draft road map

TOKYO—The Japanese government aims to build prototype electric flying cars and conduct test-flights next year, hoping to put the technology into practical use in the 2020s, according to a draft road map presented during a meeting on Friday.

The government expects flying vehicles to be used for leisure activities and cargo trans-

portation in the 2020s, and also for transportation in rural areas. By the 2030s, they are envisioned to be used in urban transportation.

The government also plans to decide on mechanical standards for the vehicles and technical skills required for drivers, as well as laws to ensure safety.

It will also support technological developments so flying cars

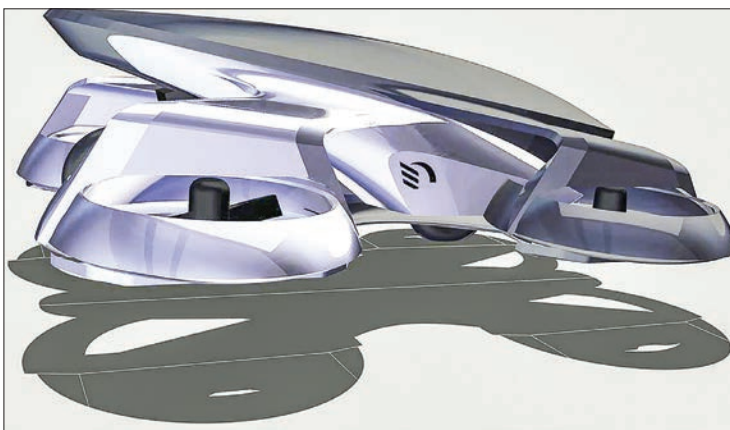
will have low noise, along with the same safety level as airplanes.

The plan was proposed at a meeting joined by officials from the industry ministry, airplane manufacturers and airline companies. The draft will be endorsed by the officials by the end of the year.

According to government officials, the Tokyo metropolitan government and some local governments have offered to have sites available for the test-flights.

Flying cars will be used initially on remote islands and in mountainous areas, and the government will coordinate landing areas and airspace.

After gaining experience with flying cars, the government also wants them to be able to fly by remote control and autonomous driving, according to the draft.—Kyodo News ■



Rendering shows a design of the SkyDrive flying car. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## Sucking baby’s pacifier may lower allergy risks: study

WASHINGTON—A study showed that parents sucking on baby’s pacifier might lower the child’s risk of developing allergies. The study, presented at the on-going American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology meeting in Seattle, found that those babies had a lower level of the antibody that was linked to the development of allergies and asthma.

The researchers suggested that parents might be passing healthy oral bacteria in their saliva that would af-

fect the early development of their child’s immune system.

“Although we can’t say there’s a cause and effect relationship, we can say the microbes a child is exposed to early on in life will affect their immune system development,” said Eliane Abou-Jaoud, a Henry Ford allergist fellow and the study’s lead author. The children whose pacifiers were cleaned by their parents sucking on the pacifier had lower IgE levels around 10 months of age

through 18 months of age, according to the study. IgE is a type of antibody that has been found in mammals and is linked to the development of allergies and asthma.

The study, funded by Henry Ford Health System, involved 128 mothers who were asked about how they cleaned their baby’s pacifier: sterilizing it in boiling water or dishwasher; cleaning it with soap and water and sucking on it.—AFP ■

# Myanmar wins gold in 2<sup>nd</sup> Taolu World Cup 2018

BY A Kay Lin

NYEIN CHAN KO KO, a Wushu athlete from Myanmar, won a gold medal in the Taijijian competition of the 2nd Taolu World Cup 2018 at the Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Nyein Chan Ko Ko struck gold with a score of 9.67. Two athletes from Hong Kong claimed the silver and bronze medals at the competition.

In the Qiangshu competition at the tournament, Myanmar's

Sandi Oo secured a silver medal with a score of 9.41. Malaysia won the gold medal with a score of 9.65.

Aye Thit Sar Myint took the bronze medal in the Nanjian competition of the tournament with a score of 9.18, while Hong Kong secured the gold medal with 9.39, and Viet Nam claimed the silver medal with a 9.38 score.

Overall, Myanmar collected one gold medal, two silver medals, and 2 bronze medals in the 2nd Taolu World Cup 2018. ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Myanmar Wushu athlete, Nyein Chan Ko Ko performing at 2nd Taolu World Cup 2018 at the Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**



Soe Lin Oo (red) lands a punch on Sam Khung (blue) at the main bout of the Lethwei Nation Fight 9 at the Thein Phyu Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

## Lethwei: Myanmar's Soe Lin Oo, Thailand's Sam Khung battle to a draw

The main bout of the Lethwei Nation Fight 9 between Myanmar's Soe Lin Oo and Thailand's Sam Khung ended in a draw yesterday. The fight took place at the Thein Phyu Indoor Stadium in Yangon.

Soe Lin Oo, who is known for his offensive style, was countered by Sam Khung in the first round. In the second round, the fighters upped the tempo, battling full strength. Soe Lin Oo continued his attack, attempting to get closer to his opponent, while Sam Khung played more defensively. Eventually, Soe Lin Oo's uppercut knocked Sam Khung back. The match finally

ended in a draw.

Lethwei or Burmese bare-knuckle boxing is a full contact combat sport from Myanmar that uses stand-up striking along with various clinching techniques. Lethwei is considered to be one of the most aggressive and brutal martial arts in the world, because the fighters fight bareknuckle with only the use of tape and gauze on their hands.

Yesterday's fights drew large crowds of locals and foreigners and were also broadcast live on MRTV-4.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn) ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

## AFC football coaching course concludes in Yangon

A football coaching course conducted by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) concluded at the headquarters of the Myanmar Football Federation yesterday.

A total of 23 people took the Coaching Certificate Course (B-level), and they were presented with certificates at a ceremony to mark the conclusion of the course. The ceremony was also

attended by MFF officials.

The AFC's 'B' certification is given to coaches who have acquired the 'C' Certificate. The B-level course is designed to educate coaches in advanced techniques and skills, and to help them develop a better understanding of players, tactics, and the mental requirements of the game, said an MFF official.

The duration of the course

is 20 days, with more than 107 hours of theoretical and practical sessions.

The examination focuses on the coaches' practical coaching abilities, knowledge, and understanding of the theoretical contents of the game. Coaches undergoing the course also have to present a brief dissertation before the class, according to the AFC.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## All fights end in draw at Lethwei Japan

A lethwei competition - Lethwei in Japan 10 - was organized under the International Lethwei Federation Japan (ILFJ) at Korakuen Hall in Tokyo, Japan on 16 November. All fights at the event ended in a draw.

Fighters from Japan, Myanmar, New Zealand, and Taiwan participated in the competition. In the 73kg weight class, Kohei Tokeshi (Japan) fought with Soe Htet Oo (Myanmar). In the 65kg weight class, Tun Lwin Moe (Myanmar) took on Kayne Conlan (New Zealand).

In the 63kg weight class, Shyuhei Higashi (Japan) fought with Kyar Ba Hein (Myanmar). In the 62kg weight class, Shyunichi Shimizu (Japan) fought with Makoto a.k.a BASTA (Japan). In the 100kg weight class,



A Myanmar lethwei fighter deflects a kick from his Japanese opponent at a lethwei event in Japan. **PHOTO: MNA**

Tenshyoyama (Japan) fought with Yuto Nakajima (Japan). In the another 100kg bout, YABU (Japan) took on Wu Dong Xing (Taiwan).

Lethwei events in Japan were started in 2016. The ILFJ also plans events in 2019.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)