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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 218, 13th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 20 November 2018

World Children's Day observed at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw



Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat addresses the ceremony to mark World Children's Day at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw theatre in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

WORLD Children's Day was observed at the theatre building of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Speaking at the ceremony to mark the day, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaws, U T Khun Myat, expressed hope that the government and other agencies will find ways to cooperate with each other to ensure a better life for children in Myanmar.

As part of Children's Day celebrations last year, a discussion was held for children and youths at the Mandalay Region's Hluttaw, where they were asked to voice their concerns. The Speaker called on the members

of parliament, the UNICEF, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement to take note of the concerns raised at the meeting and collaborate to find solutions.

"To promote the basic principles of the agreement on promoting the rights of children, the Hluttaws and the UNICEF have cooperated in several areas over the last two years. These include legislation, budget scrutiny, ensuring checks and balances on the executive sector, and representing the people," he said.

"In all constituencies, the population of children aged 14 years or below has reached 14.4 million and population in the

We are obliged to consider issues related to children and their challenges as part of efforts towards building a brighter future for children and a nation where they can achieve their ambitions.

Speaker U T Khun Myat

15 to 24 age group has touched 9 million. We are obliged to consider issues related to children and their challenges as part of efforts towards building a brighter future for children and a nation where they can achieve their ambitions," said U T Khun Myat.

"Teenagers today have high expectations of themselves and the society they live in and are constantly thinking of new ways to make the world a better place. Young people are vigorous and brave and possess a strong sense of curiosity. They constantly challenge outdated

standards of society," he said. "The current age is unlike any other as it incorporates modern media mechanisms and internationally linked incidents. Young people are pushing for greater social development and are handling issues of sustainability and hardships of society in this modern age," he added.

"We should always take time to listen to the voices of the children and youths, who are also citizens of the country. We must endeavor to create a future where healthy, well-educated, and successful young people populate the nation," he said.

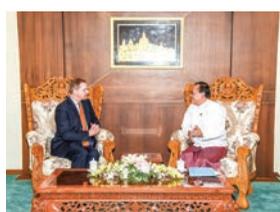
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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Notification No 87/2018
12th Waxing of Tazaungmone, 1380 ME
(19 November 2018)

Establishment of a Union Ministry

With the approval given by the 10th regular meeting of the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has been established and added to the cabinet of the Union Government.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 40/2018
12th Waxing of Tazaungmone, 1380 ME
19 November, 2018

Union Minister transferred

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 12 of the Union Government Law, U Thaug Tun, Union Minister, Ministry of Office of the Union Government has been transferred as Union Minister for Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Ministry approved

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw tenth regular session held its third day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday where the establishment of the new Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations proposed by the President was approved.

Prior to the Hluttaw approving the establishment of the new ministry, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo explained about it and said the Union Government consider this matter from all angles and proposed it for the benefit of the people.

The new ministry will be formed with Foreign Economic Relations Department (FERD) and Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) of Ministry of Planning and Finance and at the moment will not require additional staff, building, cars, budget etc.

Without creating additional burden for the State, this newly formed ministry will effectively coordinate between related ministries and organisations on local and international investments, development works implemented for various sectors with international development loans and aids.

Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations is formed to fulfill the requirement of the State and the people according to international, regional and the country's geo-economic situation, increasing local and foreign businesses and investments, improving the investment image of the country, quickly creating opportunities for entrepreneurs, all round regional economic cooperation in ASEAN, Greater Mekong Sub-region and BIMSTEC etc. and cooperating in socio-economic development programs with



U Myo Win takes the oath at tenth regular session of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. PHOTO: MNA

United Nations and international organisations, explained the Union Attorney-General.

As there was no one disagreeing to the forming of the new ministry when the opinion of the Hluttaw was obtained, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's agreement on expanding and establishing Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Win swear-in

Next, Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Win who was already assigned the duty swear-in in the presence of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

Suggestion, discussion and support of Euro 70 million AFD Loan

Afterwards U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Thein Tan of Hlegu constituency and U Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho of

Dawbon constituency suggested and discussed the matter of Euro 70 million loan from the French Development Agency (AFD or Agence Francaise de Developpement) to conduct project works in Yangon Region while U Nay Kyaw of Dagon Myothit (East) constituency, Dr. Saw Naing of South Okkalapa constituency, Dr. Khin Maung Maung of Dagon Myothit (North) constituency, Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency, U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency and U Ye Lwin of Ahlon constituency discussed and suggested in support of the matter.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced that in response to the discussions and suggestions made by the Hluttaw representatives, members of the union level organisations will discuss and explain.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced that members of the union level organisations will respond to the discussions and sugges-

tions made by the Hluttaw representatives and the Hluttaw will decide on the matter in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting scheduled for 26 November 2018.

Discussion on Tax Management Bill

Following this Tax Management Bill sent by a Union Government organisation was discussed by Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Win Htut of Pyapon constituency, Dr. Pyae Phyo of Ayeyawady Region constituency 7, Daw Cho Cho Win of Mawlaik constituency, U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8 and Daw Wint War Tun of Shadaw constituency.

With regards to this matter Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker said the bill is scheduled to be discussed in the last week of the month's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting and in some discussions made by the Hluttaw representatives, suggestions and discussions on amendment motion were mixed. Hluttaw represent-

atives who discussed amendment motion when their names were registered for discussion are required to resend their names again. This bill is important for the State and if required the bill committee will discuss with relevant committees, union level departments and organisations and Hluttaw representatives who had discussed need to discuss again announced the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw put on record reforming of districts, wards, village tracts

Finally Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker submitted to the Hluttaw the matters of extending and reforming Sagaing Region Katha District into Katha District and Kawlin District, extending a ward in Kalay Township, reforming a village tract, abolishing a village tract and two villages, abolishing of a village in Sagaing Region Taze Township, extending a village in Kalay Township, reforming and merging three villages in Phaungpyin Township into Sanda Village, reforming and extending the area of a village in Tamu Township, extending and forming of Thein Khun Village tract in Taninthayi Region, Myeik District, Taninthayi Township with ten villages, abolishing nine villages, expanding two village tract, reforming and expanding a village tract in Rakhine State, Thandwe District, Taungup Township and reforming the area of a village tract, reforming and expanding Shan Paing Ward, Bawlake Town, Bawlake Township, Bawlake District, Kayah State and an announcement was made of Hluttaw putting it on record.— Hmwe Kyu Zin (MNA) ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

World Children's Day observed at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw

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The Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye also gave a speech at the event. He said World Children's Day is celebrated on 20 November in honor of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which was adopted at the 44th UN General Assembly on the same date in 1989.

He said his ministry has been cooperating with other ministries, UN and civil society organizations, INGOs, and NGOs to ensure the rights of children, including celebrations of Children's Day.

He said the ministry has been implementing the four

protocols of the UNCRC, which calls for a child's right to life, right to development, right to protection, and right to inclusion.

Afterwards, Ms. June Kunugi, the UNICEF's representative to Myanmar, delivered a speech.

Later, youth invited to the event shared their opinions on education, violence against children, and peace with the other participants.

The Season 3 winners of Myanmar's Got Talent, Junior Creative, gave a performance on violence against young girls.

Youth members of U-Report, a digital platform for youth, shared their views on violence against children and women. They also presented

a report on out-of-school children.

Young people from Kachin and Shan states also expressed their opinions and experiences on peace. Myanmar Idol singers Saw Lar Htaw Wah and May Kyi also performed at the event.

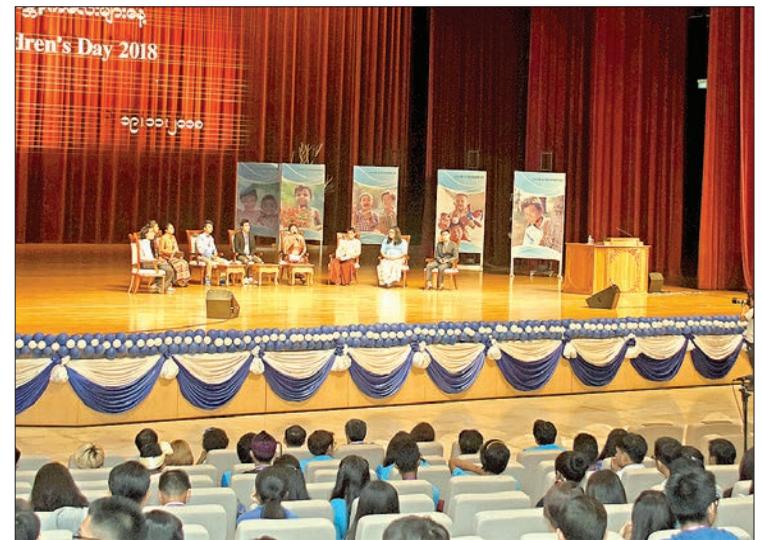
Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives and members of U-Report held roundtable discussions on education, violence against children, and peace.

Dr. Tin Tin Win, the Chairperson of the Committee for Women's and Children's Rights and Amyotha Hluttaw MP, delivered a speech. The attendees then posted promises to uphold rights of children on the celebratory tree in the

hall and sang 'The World We Love'.

Celebrations for the World Children's Day 2018 were held

to promote children's right to education, protection, and peaceful existence. — MNA / (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Roundtable discussions on education, violence against children, and peace held by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives and members of U-Report at the World Children's Day ceremony. PHOTO: MNA

World Toilet Day-2018 ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw

WORLD Toilet Day-2018 ceremony jointly organized by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Sports and Thant Sin Myitta Foundation was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Vice President U Henry Van Thio's wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat's wife Daw Yin May, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Dr. Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, Amyotha Hluttaw Local and International Non-Governmental Organizations Committee Chairman, Amyotha Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee Chairman, wives of Union Ministers, directors-gen-

eral, deputy directors-general, diplomats, UN organizations, teachers, Thant Sin Myitta Foundation members, students, donors, invited guests, news media and officials.

First the World Toilet Day-2018 event was opened with basic education high school students singing a song in honor of the World Toilet Day.

Next, a music video in honor of World Toilet Day-2018 was shown.

After this, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe delivered speeches in honor of World Toilet Day-2018.

Afterwards, Thant Sin Myitta Foundation honorable patron Vice President U Henry Van Thio's wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan delivered a message of

thanks for holding the World Toilet Day-2018 event followed by screening of a short movie on World Toilet Day-2018 jointly produced by Director Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Phyt) and Sky Net Media.

Following this, Thant Sin Myitta Foundation honorable patron Vice President U Henry Van Thio's wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Thant Sin Myitta Foundation Chairman U Nay Oat, Thant Sin Myitta Foundation Patron Mrs. Hisayo Yoshida Chua presented prizes to students who won prizes in various levels of World Toilet Day-2018 poster competitions and all round best effort prizes.

The attendees then posed for a commemorative group photo and Cele Toilet Games

program was shown.

Later Vice President U Henry Van Thio's wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat's wife Daw Yin May, Union Ministers and wives observed the World Toilet Day-2018 exhibitions.

World Toilet Day was established by the World Toilet Organization on 19 November 2001 and the UN General Assembly declared November 19 as World Toilet Day in 2013. World Toilet Day is an official United Nations international observance day to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.

World Toilet Day has been observed every year and is aimed to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals-6 Clean Water and Sanitation to "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water

and sanitation for all."

At the basic education schools, a toilet is provided for every 50 students. According to 2018-19 education figures, 65.4 percentage of basic education school had toilet, 83.22 percentages of the schools had sufficient drinking water supply and 85.21 percentages of the schools had sufficient water for use.

Thant Sin Myitta Foundation provides health education on water, sanitation and hygiene and School WASH (School Water and Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Sports.

The theme for World Toilet Day-2018 was "When nature calls, take action" it is learnt. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Students perform with music at the ceremony to mark World Toilet Day 2018 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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New glass melting furnace opens in Kyaukse, authorities eye ASEAN market

A NEW glass melting furnace at No.36 Heavy Industry (Kyaukse) was inaugurated on 19 November. With the factory beginning operations, the authorities expect to amp up production of glass soon with a view to export it to Viet Nam and other ASEAN countries.

Within 20 days of operation of the furnace, the factory manufactured 2,000 tons of 12-inch-wide glass and distributed it in the local market. The authorities have entered into discussions to export glass from the factory to Viet Nam soon. They are also planning to export the glass to ASEAN countries.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Union Minister for Industry, U Khin Maung Cho, the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Dr. Ye Myint Swe, Mandalay Region's Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, Dr. Soe Than, International Glass



Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho inspects No.36 Heavy Industry (Kyaukse) yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Co. Ltd.'s Managing Director U Zaw Win, and officials from the Industry Ministry.

At the function on Monday, officials detailed the factory's background, the objective for building the furnace, and future plans. No.36 Heavy Industry (Kyaukse) opened in 2013 and manufactures glasses used in buildings and for security. With

construction of the new glass melting furnace now complete, the factory's output is expected to increase from 100 tons of glass per day to 250 tons. The factory is now equipped to produce 12-inch-wide glass instead of 8-inch-wide glass. It will also manufacture tempered glass, windscreens, and building glasses.

After the opening ceremony,

the Union Minister and officials inspected construction work on waste heat recovery and cement plants from the control room at No.33 Heavy Industry. While speaking to officials, the Union Minister laid stress on environmental conservation and corporate social responsibility (CSR).—MNA ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Agencies, breeders gear up to prevent African Swine Fever outbreak

By Nyein Nyein

WITH the African Swine Fever spreading to bordering Yunnan, government agencies and breeders are gearing up to prevent an outbreak in Myanmar. While ASF poses no threat to humans, it can disrupt the swine industry, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

The current ASF outbreak has been seen in China's north east provinces, central provinces and eastern provinces, including the Yunnan Province, which borders Myanmar.

"Outbreaks of swine flu (blue-ear pig disease) in Myanmar in the last eight years harmed pig breeders. The swine disease spread from Mandalay to Mawlamyine. It was highly contagious within three months. The present ASF outbreak has spread to the Yunnan Province. People from Myanmar are trading with the Yunnan Province and so, this flu may spread to the country," said U Hlaing Myint Oo, a pig breeder. The ASF is a highly contagious viral disease which affects domestic and wild pigs. The virus spreads among

pigs easily through direct contact or through contact with contaminated objects. According to the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, there is no treatment or vaccine to combat the virus, "We are taking precautionary measures as currently there are no vaccines to combat the virus. The ASF spreads slowly just like the blue-ear disease. As an ASF outbreak can lead to production and economic losses, we do not want the virus to spread here. It will be hard to prevent any viral infection due to lack of vaccines. If there is an outbreak, we will have to follow the government's guidelines," said U Hlaing Myint Oo.

The government is conducting a crackdown on illegal importation of pig and pork products at the Sino-Myanmar checkpoints, said the LBVD. Agencies are also working on raising awareness about ASF, by distributing pamphlets and putting up notices about illegal trade, it said.

"While ASF does not spread to humans, an outbreak can harm pig production and the

swine industry. Therefore, biosecurity of pig farms is essential to prevent the spread of infections within the farms. People need to avoid buying infected pig meat, frozen meat, and products.

If they notice any suspicious activity, people must immediately inform their nearest LBVD and the Myanmar Livestock Federation. They must also cooperate with the related departments and organizations carrying out preventive measures and conducting research on the disease," said the LBVD.

An educative talk on 'African Swine Fever: How to Stay One Step Ahead' was held last Thursday inside the hall of the Myanmar Livestock Federation. The lecture was organized in collaboration with the Myanmar Pig Farmers and Processors Association, and AG Today.

At the event, the LBVD detailed its preventive measures to battle any incidence of ASF. The department is also drafting an emergency response management project to control any possible outbreak. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Tractor-trailer catches fire on Hpa-an-Myawady road

A tractor-trailer, carrying granite, caught fire while travelling on the Hpa-an-Myawady road in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, on 17 November.

According to the police, the Myint Shwe, 47, from Yedashe Township, Bago, was driving the 22-wheel tractor-trailer when the brake overheated, resulting in fire.

The accident occurred between mileposts 24 and 25 on the Hpa-an-Myawady road. Mint Shwe was accompanied by track conductor Thaw Ko Ko, 23, from Gyobingauk Town, Bago Region.

While neither of them was injured, property worth Ks1,200,000 was damaged in the blaze.

The fire was put out by a fire engine and firemen. The police have charged the driver under Section 285 of the Penal Code.—Min Thu (Hpa-an) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

SME Dept to team up with MWEA to empower rural women

By May Thet Hnin

THE SME Development Department will soon be working with the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association to help rural women turn into entrepreneurs and raise their standard of living.

“Women who are illiterate or semi-literate believe they cannot become successful entrepreneurs. We will work to change that mindset. We plan to empower women living in rural areas by giving them entrepreneurial training. We want to encourage them to participate in politics and business,” said Daw Aye Aye Win, the director-general of the SME Development Department. She was speaking at the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Conference which was held at the Inya Lake Hotel yesterday.

“The SME Development Department will be joining hands with the MWEA to conduct programs to empower women in the long run,” she said. The two agencies will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding and work out a cooperation mechanism.

“Under the ASEAN strategic action plan for SME de-



Employees work at the small garment factory in South Dagon Township, Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

velopment, Myanmar has been tasked to promote entrepreneurship and develop human capital. The government is working to develop entrepreneurship through capacity-building programs across the country. These programs include activities to empower women socially and economically, and promote women's education,” said Daw Aye Aye Win.

The SME Development Department is sending women entrepreneurs to Malaysia, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. It will arrange to send more women entrepreneurs to European countries over time, she said.

The MWEA has been providing loans to women for home or agricultural businesses in rural areas. So far, it has covered over 3,200 rural women in 36 vil-

lages in the Ayeyawady Region and Thanlyin and Mingaladon townships in Yangon Region, lending over Ks150 million.

The agency lends support to women, and educates them about financial management and marketing. The MWEA's education programs have covered 10,000 girls, said Daw Hnin Wai, secretary general of the MWEA.

“Both men and women en-

trepreneurs experience similar challenges in terms of capital, technology, and market share. However, women opt to run businesses while continuing to perform household chores and other domestic responsibilities. Therefore, support from their partners is critical to the success of women entrepreneurs,” said Daw Sandar Tun, the joint secretary of the MWEA.

The MWEA has branches in Mandalay, Taunggyi, Bago, Pyay, Patheingyi, and Kyaiklat. There are plans to set up more branches affiliated with the MWEA and organize more programs to empower women.

The Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED) is observed on 19 November every year. It is celebrated by 144 countries and around 100 colleges. The Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Conference was inaugurated to mark the WED this year. At the conference, leading businesspersons and staff from the SME Development Department held panel discussions on 'women and SMEs', 'women and branding', and 'women's entrepreneurship movement'.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Exports to the Netherlands top US\$200 million in mini-budget period

MYANMAR'S exports to the Netherlands reached US\$212.98 million in the last mini-budget period (from April to September), surpassing imports, which were valued at \$16.9 million, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of trade between Myanmar and the Netherlands reached \$229.9 million in the last mini-budget period prior to the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year.

Myanmar exports agro products such as oilseeds and vege-

table oil, and apparel, parasols (traditional Patheingyi umbrellas), and fishery products to the Netherlands. It imports dairy products, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

Bilateral trade between the countries stood at \$211.57 million in the 2017-2018 FY, \$141 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$61 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$42 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$26 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$9 million in the 2012-2013 FY, and \$23 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

The Netherlands is listed among Myanmar's top ten investor countries. At present, there are 18 enterprises from the Netherlands operating in the country with an approved capital of \$1.2 billion, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. Multinational corporations headquartered in the Netherlands—Shell, Unilever, and Phillips—are also doing business in Myanmar.—GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar's maritime trade increases by \$283 million

MYANMAR'S maritime trade has topped nearly US\$2.7 billion in the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, an increase of \$283 million compared with the same period last year, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce on Friday.

Exports accounted for \$940.6 million of the country's total trade via shipping between 1 October and 9 November this year, while imports reached over \$1.7 billion.

During the same period in the last 2017-2018 FY, the total value of maritime trade was almost \$2.4 billion, with exports totalling \$775 million and imports reaching \$1.6 billion.

The country's maritime trade exceeded \$11.7 billion during the mini-budget period between April and September this year, an increase of over \$2 billion compared with the same period last year.

Over the first 40 days of

this FY, the value of total external trade has reached about \$3.5 billion, with border trade amounting to \$823 million.

Around 80 per cent of the country's total trade is conducted by sea. Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, livestock, fishery products, forest products, minerals, and manufactured goods. The country usually imports capital goods, consumer goods, and intermediate products.

According to the Commerce Ministry's yearly statistical report, the country's maritime trade totalled \$25.019 billion in the last 2017-2018 FY. External trade by sea stood at \$21.43 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$20.56 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$22.37 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$20.37 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, and \$14.67 billion in the 2012-2013 FY.—Swe Nyein (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Trade at Hteekhee border gate registers a rise, up \$161mn

THE value of trade through the Myanmar-Thailand border gate, Hteekhee, rose by US\$161 million in the first month of the current 2018-2019 Fiscal Year from the same period last year, according to data released by the Commerce Ministry.

Between 1 October and 9 No-

vember, Myanmar's exports to Thailand through the Hteekhee gate totalled \$160 million, while imports exceeded \$1 million. Hteekhee gate saw less than one million worth of trade in the similar period of last FY. Myanmar exports coal, tin, fish and squid, coconut, and bamboo shoots to

Thailand and imports diesel oil, mixed liquefied petroleum gas, machines, and spare parts. The gate opened in 2013 to allow trade between Myanmar and Thailand. Trade at the gate is conducted in US dollars, Thailand Baht and Myanmar Kyat.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung inspects Falam Airport construction project



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and officials inspect the construction site of the Falam Airport in Falam Township, Chin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung accompanied by Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai arrived at Falam Airport construction project office on 17 November where Department of Civil Aviation Director U Kyaw Soe explained about the project in detail covering the aim of the project; site selection; restrictions related to air traffic; design based on International Air Transport Association terms and condition on safe landings of aircrafts; construction works including retaining walls, apron, runway, terminal, control tower; connecting electrical cables for lighting; water drains; project cost and project processes.

In response to the expla-

nation, the Union Minister and the Chief Minister remarked on completing the construction on schedule and up to set standards; to conduct works without worksite incidents and accidents; resubmit a more modern design for the terminal building among others and resubmit the budget requirement.

Next the Union Minister and the Chief Minister inspected the airport construction project works.

Falam Airport is situated in the middle of Chin State and towns such as Falam, Haka, Thantlang and Tiddim can reach all airports in states and regions via this airport named Surbung. Once this airport is completed it will become the air Gateway of

Chin State and will enable visitors to reach Chin State in a short travel time.

The project was started in 2013 and construction began in 2015. Falam Airport is situated on Surbung mountain range 8.5 miles northwest of Falam Town and is at an altitude of 6,000 ft. above sea level. The airport runway is 6,000 ft long and 100 ft wide and is a Flexible Pavement type runway.

The permitted load of the runway is 50,000 pounds and the airport is constructed with a budget of Ks 28 billion. It is now over 40 percent completed and the first phase will be completed in 2021 when planes can start landing it is learnt. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presents letters of Credence to the Director-General of the OPCW in The Hague

PERMANENT Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and other international Organizations in Geneva U Kyaw Moe Tun presented his Letters of Credence, as Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), to H.E. Mr. Fernando

Arias, Director-General of the OPCW, on 16 November 2018 at the Credentials Room of the OPCW in The Hague, Netherlands.

While residing in Geneva, U Kyaw Moe Tun is concurrently accredited as Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the OPCW in The Hague. He is also accredited to

the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

Myanmar was among the first countries to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in 1993 and deposited its instrument of ratification to the CWC on 8 July 2015. Myanmar became the 191st State Party of the CWC on 7 August 2015.— Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

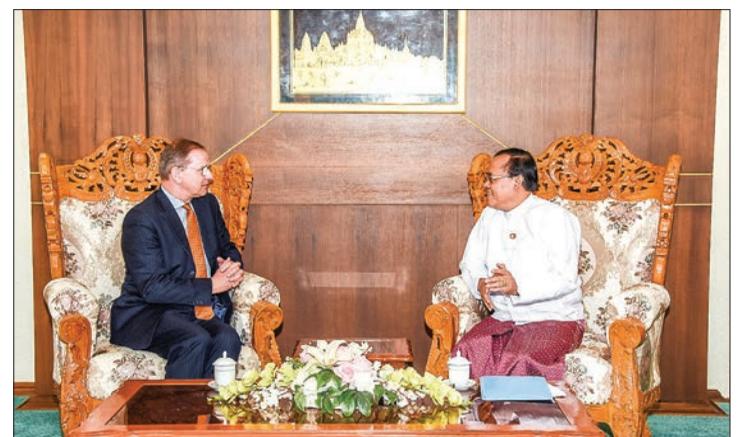
President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 24/2018 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 19 November.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 19 November.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 21 November issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. —GNLM ■

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin accepts credentials from UNHCR Representative



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets with the newly-appointed UNHCR Representative Mr. Johan Cels in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin received Mr. Johan Cels, the newly-appointed UNHCR Representative in Myanmar and accepted his credentials at 10:00 am on 19 November 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting after the presentation of his credentials, they exchanged views on ways to strengthen cooperation between Myanmar and UNHCR, speeding up the implementation of the MoU signed between the Government of Myanmar, UNDP

and UNHCR on 6-6-2018, implementation of Quick Impact Projects which will be beneficial to all communities in Rakhine State in parallel to the field assessments as part of the implementation of the MoU, the upcoming visit of UNHCR High Commissioner Mr. Filippo Grandi to Myanmar, the supportive measures that can be undertaken by UNHCR in assisting the ongoing efforts of the Government of Myanmar for the success of the voluntary, safe and dignified repatriation of the displaced persons. — MNA ■



PHOTO: POLICE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Myanmar - Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrols

THE Myanmar Border Police Force and the Bangladesh Border Police Force conducted a coordinated patrol, from border post 38 to 39, on the morning of 18 November according to Myanmar Police Force.

Myanmar's patrol team was led by Police Inspector Thein Tun

Myint, from the No.1 Border Police Force, Area 3, Maungtau Township, Rakhine State. The Bangladeshi patrol was led by Naib Subedar Md. Sultal Ahmed of No.34 Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB).

Meanwhile, another team led by Police Captain Myint Maung,

from the No.1 Border Police Force conducted a coordinated patrol from border post 49 to 50 with a Bangladeshi patrol team led by Subedar Md. Habibur Rahman of No.11 BGB. They conducted the patrol between 11.10 am and 11.30 am on 18 November. —GNLM ■ (Translated by Thanda Aung)



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Building a nation free of corruption

PARTIALITY, prejudice, and bias are some elements of corruption. Making unreasonable decisions in favour of someone leads to partiality, while opposing someone because you are intimidated or lack a full understanding, or the desire to understand, leads to prejudice.

In time, you will hunger for bribes, oppress people who differ slightly from you, become afraid of pressures and threats from authority, and make judgements while being unable to see the truth.

The people of Myanmar have seen a wide range of injustice and unfairness due to corruption in many sectors, including politics, business, and judicial administration. To put it a bit more accurately, the people have experienced the corrupt actions of successive authorities and faced the consequences of those actions for more than half a century.

The dictators of the past talked ceaselessly of benefiting the country and the people, but only they and their families, relatives, and associates grew rich while the rest of the nation sank incessantly deeper into poverty.

We may not be able to cleanse the country of deep-rooted influences of corruption immediately, but we can proceed with adherence to the law and a clear conviction to check major cases of corruption and bribery, and succeed.

place it was assumed in everything people did, akin to a legal requirement.

This holds true even today as ordinary officials own wealth unimaginable to the general public. It's an open secret that while these corrupt individual's wealth may not be exactly measurable, it exceeds the public's expectations.

The dichotomy lies in Myanmar being ranked among the least developed countries with high levels of poverty, yet hosting people who could enter the list of the richest people in the world. We need not conduct a survey on whether the people who achieved such wealth free from corruption are the majority or minority. Nor do we need to specially investigate how they attained this level of prosperity.

Now is the time to eradicate corruption from society. We may not be able to cleanse the country of deep-rooted influences of corruption immediately, but we can proceed with adherence to the law and a clear conviction to check major cases of corruption and bribery, and succeed.

By Dr. Thein Tun
(PEOPLE'S HEALTH FOUNDATION)

Do you know? Which is the most tobacco consuming region in the world?

Although every country has tobacco chewers, 89 percent of them live in Southeast Asia.

Which countries consume betel quid most?

Betel quid chewing is an age-old tradition in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Chinese Taiwan, southern China, Indonesia, Philippines and Pacific Island countries. Some countries are seeing drop in the number of betel quid chewers among youths, especially in the cities, while others facing an increase in their population. The biggest betel quid chewers are in Palau (a Pacific Island country), Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Do you know the Myanmar's betel consumption rate?

According to 2009 national statistics, 29.7 percent of adults chew betel quid in Myanmar where 51.4 percent of men are betel quid chewers. As for women, the percentage is 16.1. Sadly, the consumption rate increased to 43.2 percent of all adults in 2014. In gender-wise, 62.2 percent of men is betel quid chewers while the percentage of their female counterparts is 24.1.

What are Health hazards of tobacco an ingredient of betel quid

Normally, a roll of cigarette has 0.5 gram to 1.0 gram of tobacco or 10 milligrams of nicotine. The amount of tobacco contained in a betel quid depends on the varied choice of taste of the chewer. It is



possible that more nicotine enters into the blood of a betel quid chewer than a smoker. It is believed that a small amount of nicotine can make a person fresh and alert, while larger amount may stabilize the mind and reduce anxiety. Moreover this chemical agent can give a pleasant feeling. So, some people are addicted to nicotine. Addiction to nicotine is the same as the cocaine or heroin addiction. Nicotine can increase the pulse rate from 10 to 20 in a minute and increase blood pressure from 6 mmHg to 10 mmHg.

It also increases cholesterol in the blood, and worsens the heart problem. Nicotine is related to abortion, and other adverse effects such as pre- and postna-

tal growth and increases the risk of fetal mortality, morbidity, cognitive development, and behavior of children and adolescents. Tobacco-specific Nitrosamines, a chemical agent contained in tobacco can cause several types of

amount of Nitrosamines is from 170 to 500 times higher than Sweden in Sudan, an African country, where tobacco is treated under Compost Pile Fermentation method. More Nitrosamines volume means greater cancer risk.

If the betel quid chewing rate increase continues at the current rate, health problem will be a big burden for the country in the future.

cancers including mouth and oral cancers. Cancer risk due to tobacco use depends on the amount of Nitrosamines it contains. But no tobacco is risk free. Even in a country like Sweden where tobacco is processed to make it germ free, the containment of Nitrosamines in one gram of tobacco is from 601 to 585 nano-grams. The amount of Nitrosamines is three times higher than Sweden in the US where tobacco is processed under Factory Fermentation System, and the

Many studies have shown a convincing link between betel nut use and cancer of the mouth and esophagus. Another study reports that betel nut users are at a higher risk for oral sub-mucous fibrosis. This incurable condition can cause stiffness in the mouth and eventually the loss of jaw movement.

Regular chewing of betel nut can also cause gum irritation and tooth decay. Teeth may become permanently stained deep red or even black.

ard betel quid consumption can cause?

According to the statistics collected in 2014, out of 100 male adults 43.2 in Myanmar chew betel quid. Latest census indicates that the country's adult population is 33.7 million. So the country has 14.5 million betel quid chewer adults.

Actual number can be higher. According to a research, 85 percent of chewers prefer tobacco-added quid. Moreover, signs of oral cancer development can be found in 8.5 percent of the chewers. Similarly, a research jointly conducted by Japanese experts and Myanmar Dental Association in Mawlamyine and Hpa-an in 2015-2016 showed that 7.6 percent of chewers has signs of oral cancer development. If not properly treated in the early stage they can be turned into dreadful cancer disease.

These figures show the extent of cancer problem in Myanmar.



Do you think betel quid without tobacco is safe?

Arecoline that contains in betel nut or areca nut is a chemical agent like the Nitrosamines that can be addicted. A wrong belief is that Arecoline can give greater concentration, activeness and pleasure. In fact, betel nut worsens bronchitis and heart problems, accelerates pulse, and causes diabetes and low birth weight. Moreover, Areca Nut-Specific Nitrosamine is related to various types of cancers including the development of mouth cancer (oral squamous cell carcinoma) and its precursors such as leukoplakia and submucous fibrosis. Papua New Guinea where the young and old have the habit of chewing betel nut without tobacco has a high oral cancer rate.

To what degree of health haz-

Cancer development rate of tobacco-added betel quid chewers is 29 times higher than the non-chewers and the tobacco-free chewers six times higher. Over 250,000 people die of tobacco consumption in the world annually before suffering from chronic illness. As chewers are likely to die early or suffering from chronic disease without earning money, they will become an economic burden for the family.

The nation has more cancer patients than the numbers that treatment centres and hospital wards can accommodate and cure for them. If the betel quid chewing rate increase continues at the current rate, health problem will be a big burden for the country in the future. So we all should make collective efforts to discourage and reduce the betel quid chewing habit.

(Translated by TMT)

Production of Natural Gas



Source : Planning and Statistics Branch, Ministry of Electricity and Energy (Minister's Office)
Information Unit : Central Statistical Organization

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Monday 19 November 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, isolated in Yangon Region, Kachin, Eastern Shan and Kayin states. Weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady regions, Southern Shan and Kayah states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (4°C) below November average temperature in Northern Shan State, (2°C) below November average temperatures in Lower Sagaing and Yangon regions, Rakhine State, (2°C) above November average temperature in Mon State, (3°C) above November average temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (2°C) in Haka, (8°C) each in Hsipaw, Heho, Tiddim and Ramthlo and (9°C) each in Nawngkhio, Loilin, Matupi and Mogok. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyeilmayaw (1.69) inches, Yay (0.75) inch, Dawei (0.27) inch and Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (0.16) inch.

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over South Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean still persists. It may further intensify into a depression during next (24) hours. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 20 November 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states and isolated in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon regions and Shan (Southern and Eastern) and Kayah states and generally fair 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 in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (2-5) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 November 2018: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 November 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 November 2018: Generally fair weather.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A moderate earthquake of magnitude (5.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (4) miles southeast of Kyauktu), latitude 21.37°N, longitude 94.18°E, depth (38) kilometers, about (49) miles northwest of NyaungU seismological observatory was recorded at (10) hr (37) min (53) sec MST on 19 November 2018.

UCSB Chairman attends opening ceremony of civil services course

DR. Win Thein, the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB), attended the inauguration ceremony of the 5th batch of the Post Graduate Diploma on Civil Service Management (PG-DCSM) at the Yadana Theinga Hall of the Central Institute of Civil Service Academy (Lower Myanmar) yesterday at 9 a.m.

UCSB member Dr. U Pwar, Permanent Secretary U Khin Maung Win, the rector of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar), U Aung Tin Soe, the principal of the Civil Service Academy, faculty members from the UCSB, officials, and students also attended the ceremony.

The Civil Service Academy was set up to enhance the capacity of all levels of service personnel to help them become good employees, support the economic policies and goals of the State, and to enhance cooperation between the private and public sectors, said Dr. Win Thein.

The PGDCSM is a six-



Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board Dr. Win Thein delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of civil services course yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

teen-week course meant for civil servants. The course's curriculum has been drawn under the supervision of the Civil Service Academy's faculty, academicians, and education experts. It aims to improve employee performance and encourage them to use a practical approach in the workplace. Teachers from the seven faculties under the Civil Service Academy and local academicians will conduct lectures. Arrangements also have been made to facilitate trainees from

the accommodation and management sectors. While meeting officials from the administrative, legislative, and judiciary sectors in the Ayeyawady Region, President U Win Myint had said that government employees enjoy salaries, fringe benefits, and other allowances from the State budget. "Therefore, they must be responsible, while enjoying their privileges and carrying out tasks dutifully," he said.

At the 2018 Conference on Implementing Education Devel-

opment, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had said: "Public servants passed through our old education system, and then they reached the level of being public servants; they need to review whether they've reached the level required to be good public servants. I hope there are many public servants who are doing this, and it is important that they do so." "Trainees must follow the guidance of the President and the State Counsellor. Government employees must possess

a spirit of leadership. They will have to take responsibility and ensure accountability for the improvement of the country and the people. Cooperation among the government, the civil servants, and the people is needed and we all must work together to get better results in the interests of the country and its people," the UCSB chairman said.

"Civil servants are the backbone of the country and can bring about the development of the state. They must endeavor to upgrade their skills in the workplace and keep track of current political affairs so they can serve the interests of the country and fulfill their roles as good civil servants. All civil servants are urged to perform their duties towards fostering the development of the state to the best of their knowledge and skills," he added.

A total of 117 trainees, comprising 72 men and 45 women, are attending the 16-week course which ends 8 March. — MNA ■

(Translated by WKKA)

Joint Committee on Myanmar-China Economic Corridor holds meeting

A CHINESE delegation led by Mr. Ning Jizhe, the Vice Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission, will visit Myanmar to discuss the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor from 24 to 27 November. The Joint China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Joint Committee held a meeting at the Ministry of Planning and Finance yesterday in preparation for the visit.

During the meeting, the joint committee's members exchanged views on future processes and implementation of projects related to the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

The Chief Minister of Magway Region, joint committee members from the Nay Pyi Taw



The joint committee meeting of China-Myanmar Economic Corridor held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Council, regional ministers for planning and finance, deputy ministers from respective ministries, the Deputy Attorney-General, Deputy Governors from the Central Bank of Myanmar, permanent secretaries, deputy

permanent secretaries, directors-general, and the Chairman of the Myanmar Development Organization attended the meeting. —MNA ■

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

MS Azamara Quest docks in Yangon with 600 passengers

BETWEEN January and April 2018, seven cruise ships from the US, two from Germany, one from Britain, and two from Japan laid anchor in Yangon Port.

This season's second luxury cruise ship, MS Azamara Quest, from Azamara Club Cruises operated by US-based Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., arrived in Yangon on 18 November.

The ship arrived in the night under the supervision of the Myanmar Port Authority, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and with the support of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. The ship arrived under an ar-

angement with the Myanmar Voyages Company.

The ship has 608 passengers and 391 crew members onboard. It started from Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka and will continue to Phuket Beach in Thailand on 21 November.

While the ship is docked in Yangon, its passengers will visit Bagan and Inle regions, Thanlyin-Kyauk Tan, Bago Township, and tour Yangon City. The MS Azamara Quest is the 125th ship handled by the Myanmar Voyages Company. —MNA ■

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)



Luxury cruise ship MS Azamara Quest docks in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Drugs seized in Sittway Township, Rakhine

AUTHORITIES on Monday seized drugs worth Ks1,860 million during a search operation at Yaychanpyin Village, Sittway Township. Acting on a tip, authorities stopped and searched a vehicle on board a Z craft en route to Ah Ngu Maw from Sittway. They found 620,000 Yaba tablets from the vehicle

and arrested the driver, identified as Kyaw Naing from ward 3, Maungtau Town. Police have filed a case against Kyaw Naing under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, said officials with Sittway Town's Myoma police station. —Kan Tun (Han Tar Myay) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



PHOTO: MPF

Model Union Peace Conference organized by university students to be held for three days

THE opening ceremony of the model Union Peace Conference organized by university students was held at the Best Western Green Hill Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

The aims of holding the model Union Peace Conference are to implement the peace process through the involvement of the youths with the innovative mind, to realize the peace process by working together with one mind, to promote harmony among the young ethnic people while enhancing knowledge and skills regarding the peace process among the youths.

In his opening speech, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said, "One of the critical stages that our country is facing is all about peace process. It is impossible to build a developed and democratic nation that can enjoy human rights to the fullest without peace. We all believe that it is needed to make preparations for the future of our country after making a careful

analysis. In doing so, it will take time to have an understanding. I suppose that we need to know about it. I believe that it is the best preparation for the next generation by holding such this kind of model union peace conference with a good motive."

Next, Vice-Chair of the ABSDF, Yebaw Myo Win, Vice-Chairman of UPDJC and Democratic Party (Myanmar) chairman U Thu Wai, delivered separate opening speeches at the conference.

Ye Baw Myo Win said, "The country's future is in the hands of our youths, who can perform the duty of the country while shaping the future of the country. I would like you to disseminate opportunities and knowledge gained from this conference to your surroundings. Let's strive to work together to shape the country's destiny."

U Thu Wai added that youths must stand on their own feet. If you need peace, just say and do which can bring about peace. By doing so, peace can be gotten

with ease. All those who aspire for peace will have to concentrate on peace.

A total of 197 student representatives aged 17-24, from the states and regions, participated in the model conference.

A member of the Model Union Peace Conference committee Ko Saung Wunna said that they took into consideration of the interests, needs and fear of the people involved in the peace process. All the organizers are students who endeavored to organize the peace conference.

The committee of the Model Union Peace Conference is comprised of 25 members who are students from the Yangon University, the Dagon University, the East Yangon University, the Yangon Western University, the Mandalay University, the Taunggyi University and the Taunggyi University.

Member of the committee Mary Moon Khun said, "We can to learn about the peace process through the simulations, and hop-



U Thu Wai, UPDJC Vice-Chairman and Democratic Party Chairman, delivers a speech at the Model Union Peace Conference held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG**

ing that youths can take an active part in carrying out the peace process."

The Model Union Peace Conference was held under the aegis of Myanmar Institute for peace and security, and PLAN International of Myanmar.

Myanmar Institute for Peace and Security Executive Director Dr. Min Zaw Oo said, "As 60 per cent of the population in Myanmar is youths, and some of them are engaged in the armed conflicts. We have to make an effort to join them in the peace

process. What I want to say is that we need to know what we really need. It is needed to ask what we want. At the same time, we must be aware that it is not enough to ask what we only want if we want to take part in the peace process while finding a common solution. I believe that we can hold the Model UPC successfully."

A total of 80 university students are participating in the Model Union Peace Conference, and will be held from 19-23 November. — Ye Khaung Nyunt (Translated by WKKA)

Taunggyi hot air balloon festival crowded with people

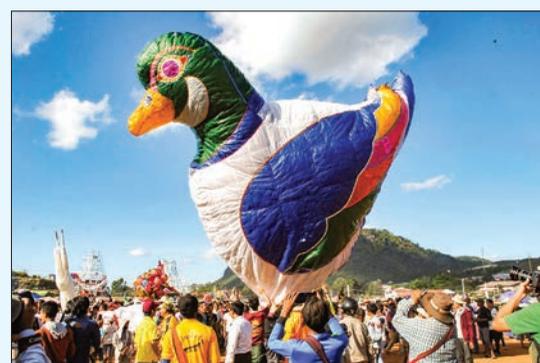
TAUNGGYI hot air balloon festival in Taunggyi, Shan State, which launched on 14 November, continued yesterday with releasing about 34

decorative hot air balloons in day time and 5 hot-air balloons attached with fireworks at night.

The festival attracted

thousands of festival goers.

The largest hot air balloons festival in Myanmar will continue until 22 November. —Myint Than Oo (IPRD)



Homemade hot air balloons in the shapes of animals and traditional cylindrical designs are released into the sky at the festival in Taunggyi, Shan State. **PHOTO: MYINT THAN OO (IPRD)**



Kayin State authorities welcome the 73 Myanmar nationals trafficked to Thailand back in Myawady, Kayin State. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

Thai authorities send back 73 trafficked people to Myanmar

THAI authorities handed over 73 Myanmar nationals, who were trafficked to Thailand, to Myanmar authorities in Myawady, Kayin State, yesterday.

The ceremony to receive the trafficked persons was held at the Thaungyin Hall in Myawady.

At the ceremony, the delegation of Thai authorities led by Inspector General, Ms. Saranpat Anumatrajakit from Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and Commissioner transferred the trafficked people to Kayin State Government's Bamar Affairs Minister U Teza

Htut Hlaing Htwe and Director-General of the Rehabilitation Department U Win Naing Tun.

Financial aid for Myanmar illegal workers under a humanitarian aid scheme, Thai authorities presented 675,500 baht from the fund of anti-Trafficking in Persons to Myanmar officials.

They are currently sheltering at the training schools of the Social Welfare Department in Myawady and Mawlamyine.

Authorities are preparing to send them back home.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by JT)

Cambodian PM says no China naval base being built

PHNOM PENH (Cambodia) — Cambodia will not allow foreign military bases on its soil, strongman premier Hun Sen said on Monday, swatting away US concerns about a possible Chinese naval site near hotly contested seas. China has lavished billions of dollars in soft loans, infrastructure and investment on the poor Southeast Asian kingdom, gifting Prime Minister Hun Sen a fast growing economy that he wields as justification for his 33-year authoritarian rule.

In exchange Cambodia has been staunch China ally.

It has seeded disunity among the 10-member ASEAN bloc of Southeast Asian nations over a diplomatic pushback to Beijing's aggression in the strategically pivotal South China Sea.

Rumours a Chinese naval base is under construction off Cambodia's southwest coast have been swirling. The area under scrutiny is in the Gulf of Thailand but gives ready access to the South China Sea.

But in comments during a cabinet meeting, broadcast on Facebook live, Hun Sen denied military bases of any kind have - or will be - built on Cambodian territory.

"I have received a letter from Mike Pence, US Vice President, regarding



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen waves as he arrives for a Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) at the European Council in Brussels on 18 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

concerns that there will be a China naval base in Cambodia," he said.

"The Constitution of Cambodia bans the presence of foreign troops or military bases in its territory... whether naval forces, infantry forces or air forces."

The US, once the region's undisputed military power, is acutely aware of the strategic and trading importance of the South China Sea and insists it remains international waters.

US, Australian and British warships have increasingly conducted "freedom of navigation" operations through the sea to press that point,

infuriating Beijing. Hun Sen dismissed reports of a Chinese base as "information that only tries to manipulate the truth."

"I will reply to the letter from US Vice-president Mike Pence to make him understand clearly about the issue."

Chinese bankrolled casinos, developments and dams have mushroomed in recent years, fanning growth but incubating resentment among some Cambodians who fear the country is increasingly in the pocket of the regional superpower.

Several joint military exercises have also taken place while in June Beijing promised \$100 million

to modernise Cambodia's military.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang last week sought to soothe anxieties, backing a rule book on behaviour in contested waters to be finished in three years. "We are not and we will not seek hegemony or expansion. That is something that we will never do," he added, ahead of a summit of Southeast Asian leaders in Singapore.

Critics have countered that China has deliberately spent years negotiating the rulebook with Southeast Asian neighbours to buy time to build up its military bases.

—AFP ■

Former provincial legislator expelled from CPC, office

BEIJING — Wang Tie, a former senior legislator in central China's Henan Province, has been expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC) and dismissed from public office over serious violations of discipline and law, according to a statement by the top anti-graft body on Monday.

The CPC Central

Commission for Discipline Inspection and the National Supervisory Commission conducted an investigation into Wang, former deputy Party secretary of the Standing Committee of Henan Provincial People's Congress and vice head of the Standing Committee of Henan Provincial People's Congress.

The probe found that

Wang conducted vote buying and canvassing in elections, a serious violation of the Party's political code of conduct and rules.

Other offenses included refusing to report personal matters to authorities, taking advantage of his posts to assist relatives in business, and accepting money and gifts.

"As a senior official

of the CPC, Wang lost his commitment to Party principles and sought personal benefits through his positions. The case should be dealt with seriously," the statement said. Since that Wang turned himself in, gave back his illicit gains and showed sincere remorse, the CCDI proposed a lenient punishment.

—Xinhua ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date : 20th November, 2018

Invitation for Bids

IDA, Credit No : 5727-MM

Contract Title : Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Mandalay and Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Magway, Rakhine, Shan (North), Shan (South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Naypyitaw, Mon, Kayin, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon for National Electrification Project

Reference No: MOEE-NEP/C1-W9/18 & MOEE-NEP/C1-W12/18

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W9/18 for Mandalay and MOEE-NEP/C1-W12/18 for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Magway, Rakhine, Shan (North), Shan (South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Naypyitaw, Mon, Kayin, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W9/18 for Mandalay and MOEE-NEP/C1-W12/18 for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Magway, Rakhine, Shan (North), Shan (South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Naypyitaw, Mon, Kayin, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon in the following locations.

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding MOEE-NEP/C1-W9/18 process for Mandalay is:

Lot 1: Mandalay/Kyaukse/Pyin Oo Lwin District—57 villages

Lot 2: Kyaukse/Myingyan/Nyaung-U District- 51 villages

Lot 3: Meikhtila/Yamethin District - 40 villages

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding MOEE-NEP/C1-W12/18 process for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Magway, Rakhine, Shan (North), Shan (South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Naypyitaw, Mon, Kayin, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon is:

Lot 1: Sagaing & Monywa District (Sagaing Region) - 61 villages

Lot 2: Yinmabin & Shwebo District (Sagaing Region) - 49 villages

Lot 3: Kanbalu/Katha & Kalay District (Sagaing Region) - 29 villages

Lot 4: Magway/Minbu/Pakokku/Thayet District (Magway Region) & Kyaukse/Pyin Oo Lwin District (Rakhine Region) - 64 villages

Lot 5: Lashio/Kyaukse & Muse District (Shan (North) Region) - 21 villages

Lot 6: Taunggyi/Loilen/Langkho District (Shan (South) Region) & Loikaw District (Kayah Region) - 37 villages

Lot 7: Bago & Taungoo District (Bago (East) Region) / Dakkhi Na & Oke Tha Ra District (Naypyitaw Region) - 80 villages

Lot 8: Mawlamyine & Thaton District (Mon Region) / Hpa An / Kawkaik & Myawaddy District (Kayin Region) - 61 villages

Lot 9: Pyay & Tharyarwaddy District (Bago (West) Region) - 129 villages

Lot 10: Patheingyi/Hinthada/Myaung Mya & Maubin District (Ayeyarwaddy Region) - 41 villages

Lot 11: Eastern/Southern & Northern District (Yangon Region) - 33 villages

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and nep.pmo@ep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [09:30 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **20th December, 2018, (10:00 A.M.)** Myanmar Time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below.

7. All bids must be accompanied by "Bid-Security"

8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: Project Manager

Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)

Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy

City: Nay Pyi Taw

Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telephone: +95 67 3431175

Facsimile number: +95 67 3431176

Electronic mail address: nep.pmo@ep@gmail.com



in
Picture

Photo taken on 17 November, 2018 shows bar-headed geese overwintering in the Caohai national nature reserve in Weining County, southwest China's Guizhou Province. The reserve has recently seen an increasing number of migratory birds overwintering in it. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Dutch government to challenge court's greenhouse gas ruling

THE HAGUE, (Netherlands) — The Dutch government on Friday said it would go to the Supreme Court over an appeals court ruling that it must slash greenhouse gases by at least 25 per cent by 2020.

The government had appealed a landmark 2015 ruling that it should make the national reductions. But the Hague appeals court last month ruled against the government, upholding the earlier court victory by environmental

rights group Urgenda.

“Up until now the state has done too little to prevent dangerous climate change, and is not doing enough to make up lost ground,” head judge Marie-Anne Tan-de-Sonnville had said last month.

“There is a real threat of danger against which measures must be taken.”

The economic affairs and climate ministry said on Friday that it would now ask the Supreme Court to

rule on a question of principle, namely whether the courts could make rulings on “the political choices of the government”.

It added, however, that the legal proceedings would have no effect on its commitment to reduce emissions and that it would continue to work towards the target.

Urgenda brought the case against the government in April 2015 on behalf of some 900 Dutch citizens.—AFP ■

Diesel driving bans ‘self-destructive’, says German minister

BERLIN (Germany) — Efforts by courts to impose diesel driving bans are “self-destructive” and put German prosperity at risk, the transport minister warned on Friday, as tempers flared in the battle against urban air pollution.

Speaking a day after a court in Essen became the first to order that sections of a major western highway be closed to older diesel vehicles, Andreas Scheuer lashed out at the “disproportionate” ruling. “Judgements like these endanger the mobility of hundreds of thousands of citizens. Nobody understands this self-destructive debate,” Scheuer told Bild daily, adding that such bans “were unheard of in the rest of the world”.

The latest ruling follows a string of similar de-

isions ordering cities like Berlin, Cologne, Frankfurt and Stuttgart to bar the most polluting diesels from certain areas, alarming drivers nationwide.

A transport ministry spokesman said the debate had become “highly emotional” in the car-loving nation where the auto industry is a pillar of economic growth and employs some 800,000 people.

“Closing motorways deprives our country of mobility,” the spokesman told reporters.

“Mobility is the foundation of our prosperity, of our growth, of employment. That’s what we mean by self-destructive.”

The government in Berlin has found itself under mounting pressure to take action against the looming bans, which have

been spurred by the car industry’s “dieselgate” emissions cheating scandal.

The scam, first exposed at Volkswagen in 2015, for years allowed cars to spew far more harmful nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) than legally allowed, significantly contributing to German cities’ chronic air pollution. Scrambling to ward off the bans, the government has sought to get German carmakers Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW to pay for hardware retrofits to clean up engines but the powerful car titans have only made limited concessions so far.

On Thursday, the cabinet moved to change legislation to prevent driving bans in some cities.

In measures still to be approved by parliament,



In this file photo taken on 8 October, 2018 cars are slow down due to traffic on the ring road in Berlin. The German government will ease air pollution law so as to spare cities that only slightly exceed limits on harmful nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from diesel vehicle bans, ministers agreed on 15 November, 2018, sparking sharp criticism by environmentalists. **PHOTO: AFP**

Berlin wants to soften the threshold for implementing a driving ban, currently set at the EU-agreed limit of 40 micrograms of NO₂

per cubic metre.

Berlin says cities where pollution levels are between 40 and 50 micrograms should be exempt

from any bans, sparking outrage from environmentalists who accuse the government of circumventing EU law.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V IBI

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IBI are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIPS
SERVICES PTE., LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1831/1832)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1831/1832) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SERENE JESSICA

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SERENE JESSICA are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR 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 HELLO INTERNATIONAL
SERVICES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

New 'Fantastic Beasts' film casts a winning box-office spell

LOS ANGELES (United States) — Again confirming the magic touch of JK Rowling, "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" took in an estimated \$62.2 million this weekend to lead North American box offices, industry tracker Exhibitor Relations reported on Sunday.

This second Harry Potter prequel came in slightly behind the first "Fantastic Beasts" movie, which earned \$74.4 million in its opening three-day weekend, but it has already scored an impressive \$253.2 million overseas. Warner Bros plans three more "Beasts" movies.

Written by Rowling and directed by David Yates, "Grindelwald" stars Eddie Redmayne as Newt Scamander as he works with Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law) to take down the evil Gellert Grindelwald, played with typical panache by Johnny Depp.

In a rare weekend when neither horror nor superhero

movies dominated, second place went to family-friendly "The Grinch" from Universal, which tallied \$38.2 million.

The ever-popular Dr Seuss tale has Benedict Cumberbatch voicing the ill-tempered green title character, with support from Rashida Jones, Kenan Thompson and Angela Lansbury.

In third spot, with \$15.7 million in ticket sales, was Fox's "Bohemian Rhapsody," the foot-stomping biopic about Freddie Mercury and rock group Queen. Rami Malek has drawn strong reviews for his portrayal of the British singer/songwriter.

Fourth went to new Paramount release "Instant Family," starring Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne as a married couple who take in three foster

kids over the holidays. It earned \$14.7 million and has drawn an "A" rating from audiences polled by CinemaScore.

In fifth was Fox's "Widows," at \$12.3 million. Directed by Steve McQueen of "12 Years a Slave" fame, it stars Viola Davis, Michelle Rodriguez and Elizabeth Debicki as a group of women who try to pull off a heist after their husbands are killed in a botched robbery.

Rounding out the weekend's top 10 were:

"The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" (\$4.7 million)

"A Star Is Born" (\$4.4 million)

"Overlord" (\$3.9 million)

"The Girl in the Spider's Web" (\$2.5 million)

"Nobody's Fool" (\$2.3 million). —AFP ■

British actor Eddie Redmayne and his wife Hannah Bagshawe poses upon arrival to attend the UK premiere of the film 'Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald' in London on 13 November, 2018. PHOTO: AFP



China's youth embrace street dance amid hip-hop crackdown



Some children practise in earnest while others treat the class more like play. PHOTO: AFP

BEIJING (China) — In China, where children are often saddled with a packed schedule of extracurricular activities before they even enter grade school, some parents are making room for a surprising pursuit: hip-hop dance classes.

Inside a dance studio in central Beijing, a group of kids bopped up and down to an American hip-hop beat as they mimicked their teacher, a young woman in a dark blue beret and loose clothing.

Some practised in earnest — bending their arms just so — while others giggled, treating the class more like play.

"I want my son to be more extroverted. Kids these days lack spunk," explained Liu Li, whose son, a shy four-year-old with a large dimpled smile, just started taking dance classes at the studio, FunkAsista, this year.

It is not uncommon for children as young as three to take English lessons, piano classes and other more traditional af-

ter-school activities in China, where the pressure to compete with other students can be all-consuming.

But Liu wanted something different for her son, who often struggles to feel comfortable in group settings.

"I want to encourage him to be more lively and carefree," the 36-year-old told AFP.

Though China's nascent street dance scene took root as early as the 2000s — thanks in part to Korean boy band H O

T- it wasn't until recently that the style exploded into mainstream culture.

Underground street dancers were thrust into the limelight after a few TV competitions featuring celebrity judges, such as "Street Dance of China", blew up.

Young parents like Liu view the contemporary dance style as a cure for introversion while others see it as a hip form of exercise or even an alternative way of living that embraces self-expression at the expense of traditional social norms.

"All parents want their daughters to be well-behaved and find a stable job, then find a good husband, get married, and have kids," said Ya Xin, a 25-year-old dancer.

Ya moved to Beijing in May to pursue dance full-time, renouncing her 9-to-5 gig at a government bureau in Hebei province. Her parents were not pleased.

"They didn't agree, but I am willing to push back," she said. "They are not paying for my living expenses, so doing what I want isn't their burden." —AFP ■

Lancang-Mekong tourist cities forum to be held in Sanya

SANYA — A tourism cooperation forum featuring tourist cities in countries along the Lancang-Mekong River will be held in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, local authorities announced on Saturday.

Delegations from 26 tourist cities in China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam will participate in the forum, scheduled for Nov. 22-25, according to the city's government.

Li Wujun, vice secretary-general of the Sanya city government, said the forum will promote cooperation on investment, trade, finance and education, and improve the capabilities of high-end tourism services among these cities.

The forum will also focus on discussing the opening of new air routes, cruise routes and creating more tourism products, said Ye Kaizhong, deputy head of the city commission of tourism development. — Xinhua ■

From compass to BeiDou: Chinese wisdom helps navigate Belt & Road

XICHANG — When the Chinese invented the compass, humanity steered into uncharted waters. Now China is navigating the world in the new era of global exchange with a new option — its fledgling BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).

With the launch of two new BDS-3 satellites on Monday, China will complete the basic navigation system and start to provide services for countries participating in the Belt and Road initiative by the end of this year.

“This is a key step for BDS developing from a domestic Chinese system to a regional and then a global navigation system,” said Yang Changfeng, chief designer of the BeiDou system.

China plans to launch another 11 BDS-3 satellites in the coming two years. By the end of 2020, the BeiDou system, named after the Chinese term for the Big Dipper constellation, will become global, and provide high-precision, reliable positioning, navigation and timing services anywhere in the world.

“China develops BDS through a unique technological approach, contributing Chinese

wisdom to the theory and construction of international satellite navigation systems,” said Xie Jun, deputy chief designer of the BeiDou system.

In 2018, altogether 18 BDS satellites were sent into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China’s Sichuan Province.

“This year has seen the most intensive launch of the BDS satellites. We improved our work efficiency by reforming the management process. The number of satellite staff at the launch center has been reduced by nearly half, and the testing time before launch has been shortened by nearly a third,” said Chi Jun, head of the BDS-3 satellite team from the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).

Chi has been in the valley of the launch center for more than six months. But he has never seen a BDS satellite launch, as he has to monitor data on a computer each time. In the CAST production base in Beijing, several BDS satellites are being manufactured at the same time.

“We try to improve intelligent manufacturing capability,

and cut down production times. Construction of the BDS-3 system has accelerated,” Chi said.

Wang Jingang, deputy chief designer of the BDS-3 satellites, has participated in the development of BDS-1, BDS-2 and BDS-3 systems. “It’s a rare chance to devote my intelligence to a symbolic national project.”

Experience of failure has left a deep impression on him. A BDS-2 satellite failed in orbit in 2009. To identify the fault, the whole team of the satellite developers stayed in their office building for more than a month, working till midnight every day.

“It was an unforgettable experience, and if the fault were not found, we would be punished by failure again,” Wang said.

Eventually, they found the cause of the breakdown and the solution. Since then, all Chinese satellites have avoided similar problems.

“When friends or relatives learn that I am working on the development of the BDS satellites, they often show me the BDS signals on their mobile phones. People still mainly depend on navigation by GPS, supplemented by



China sends two new satellites of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) into space on a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province at 2:07 am on 19 November, 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

BDS. I hope that in a few years, people can be navigated mainly by BDS,” Wang said.

China decided to build its own satellite navigation system in 1994, and the BDS-1 system was completed in 2000. Although its service area was limited and its accuracy was not high, China had created its own navigation system with only two satellites.

Then it took China eight years to construct the BDS-2 system with over a dozen satellites, which began to service the Asia-Pacific region in 2012.

China started to build the BDS-3 system in 2009 with greatly improved technologies. Communication, data transmission and

ranging among satellites can be achieved through inter-satellite links. The design life of the BDS-3 satellites has been extended from BDS-2’s eight years to more than 10 years.

The system’s signals and positioning accuracy have improved significantly. The BDS-3 satellites are equipped with high-precision rubidium and hydrogen atomic clocks independently developed by China. These are only a second off time every 3 million years.

The positioning accuracy of the BDS-3 system has been improved to 2.5 metres to 5 metres, up to twice as high as the BDS-2 system, according to Yang Changfeng.—Xinhua ■

SoftBank unveils cleaning robot for offices, restaurants

TOKYO — SoftBank Group Corp’s robotics arm unveiled on Monday a cleaning robot equipped with artificial intelligence, planning to start a rental service for offices

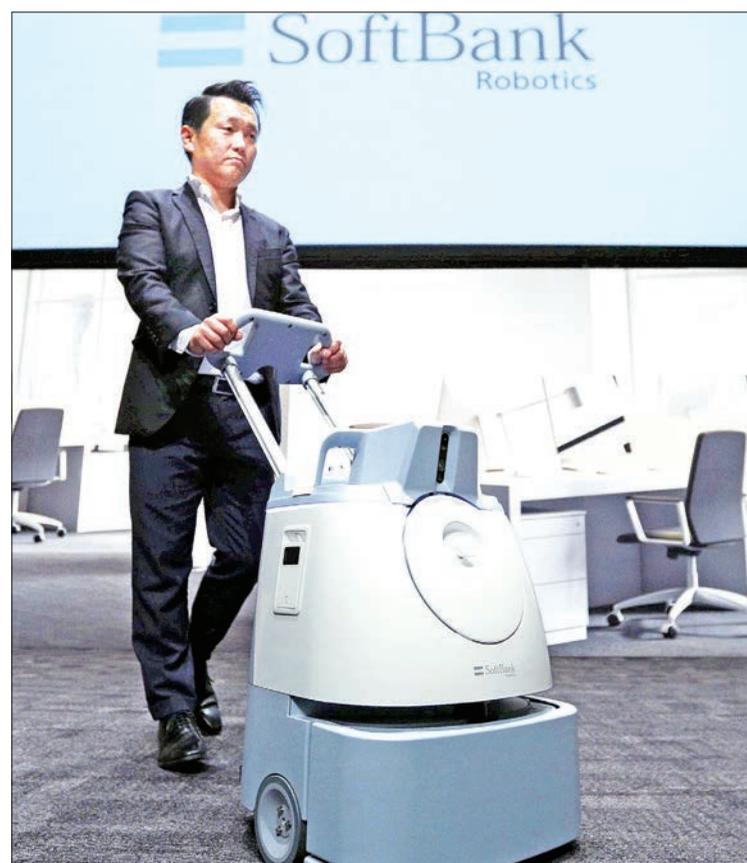
and restaurants possibly next March.

The robotic vacuum cleaner named Whiz, weighing around 32 kilograms and 65 centimeters tall,

can memorize a cleaning route and can automatically clean five times the area than that of home-use disk-shaped vacuum robots, according to SoftBank Robotics Corp. The robot can run continuously for three hours per charge and clean about 1,500 square meters. It will be available for rent for 25,000 yen (\$220) a month and the company will start accepting applications for contracts in February.

Kenichi Yoshida of the company said the robot was developed partly due to an increased labor shortage in the cleaning industry as Japan struggles with a rapidly aging population and low birth rate. The AI technology has been provided by US-based Brain Corp., a startup under SoftBank’s Vision Fund, with other parts made by a Chinese company.

The robot creates and memorizes the map data of the cleaning area after a human teaches the course by pushing the handle of the machine, enabling it to automatically clean the route from the next time. It also has sensors to detect and avoid obstacles.—Kyodo News ■



SoftBank’s robotics arm unveils a cleaning robot equipped with artificial intelligence in Tokyo on 19 November, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Blind Australians get bionic vision to partially restore sight

SYDNEY — Four blind Australians have had their vision partially restored through the implantation of bionic eyes, the company responsible for the technology announced on Monday.

Bionic Vision Technologies ran a trial for patients who had lost vision due to Retinitis Pigmentosa, making them able to sense light and dark but unable to see a hand waving in front of them.

Now the company said patients can perceive the world around them in “pixelated grayscale”, meaning they are able to navigate without the need for a guide dog, cane or other assistance.

Lead researcher Associate Professor Penny Allen told local media that the technology could have a dramatic effect on the lives of the one-in-4000 Australians who suffer from the currently incurable genetic condition.

“We’ve been very happy with

how they’re progressing and they’re really happy; and that is the best thing of all,” Allen said.

The system works by capturing images through a camera attached to a pair of glasses, and then feeding the information via an external processing unit, to the patient’s scalp, and then to the implanted device in the patient’s eyes.

Following the success of initial tests in a laboratory setting, researchers hoped that subjects would be able to take the devices home and start applying them to their everyday lives.

“We are working with them to identify things they want to do at home, normal tasks we all do,” Allen said.

“One patient is sorting washing, colours from whites, and one patient wishes to be able to navigate independently to some things in the backyard, like the lemon tree.”—AFP ■



Vice Chair of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Dr. Daw Mya Lay Sein presents the world champion award to Pankaj Advani from India.

PHOTO: MNA

India's Pankaj Advani wins grand double in billiards championship

India's Pankaj Advani outclassed his Bengaluru-mate and sparring partner B Bhaskar 1500-299, clinching victories in the long and short formats to win a record fourth grand double at the recent IBSF World Billiards Championships in Yangon.

A total of 35 players from Myanmar participated in the event, with Nay Thway Oo and Chit Ko Ko entering the 16-player round. Pankaj Advani defeat-

ed Chit Ko Ko 1000-588 in the quarter finals. He won one gold medal in the Long Up and another in the 150 Up format.

U Thein Han, the Vice President of the Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation, presented an award to bronze medal winner David Causier from England. Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Sports, U Kyaw Oo, gave an award to Sourav Kothan from

India, who tied for the bronze medal.

Mr. Jim Leacy, the Vice President of the IBSF, awarded the silver medal to Baskar Balachandra from India. Dr. Daw Mya Lay Sein, the Deputy Minister for Health and the Vice Chair of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, presented the world champion award to Pankaj Advani.—MNA ■

(Translated by JT)

AFF Championship 2018 begins, Myanmar faces Viet Nam

Myanmar will play against Viet Nam in the third group stage match of the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 at Thuwunna YTC Stadium in Yangon at 6 pm today. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV and MRTV Sports Channel beginning a 5:15 p.m. today.—MNA ■ (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Russian Klimov claims first ever World Cup win in season opener

WISLA (Poland) — Russian Evgeniy Klimov claimed his maiden World Cup victory on the opening day of the ski jumping campaign in Wisla on Sunday as home favourite Kamil Stoch could only manage fourth.

The 24-year-old Klimov, who finished 65th in last season's standings, soared out to 131.5 metres on his second jump to beat German Stephan Leyhe by 6.7 points.

Japan's Ryoyu Kobayashi completed a surprise podium, backing up the form he showed in taking two top-10

finishes from the Pyeongchang Olympics earlier this year.

Reigning World Cup and Four Hills champion Stoch was 8.1 points behind Klimov, missing out on the podium by just 0.3 points as he made a solid start to his title defence.

1. Evgeniy Klimov (RUS) 263.4 points
2. Stephan Leyhe (GER) 256.7,
3. Ryoyu Kobayashi (JPN) 255.6,
4. Kamil Stoch (POL) 255.3, Timi Zajc (SLO) 253.4.

—AFP ■

Southgate hails 'resilient' England's win over Croatia

LONDON (United Kingdom) — England manager Gareth Southgate praised his side's resilience after they scored two goals in the final 12 minutes to beat World Cup semi-final conquerors Croatia 2-1 at Wembley on Sunday and book their place in the last four of the Nations League.

England were facing the prospect of relegation to the second-tier of European football when Andrej Kramaric gave Croatia the lead against the run of play near the hour mark.

But in a mirror image of their World Cup defeat in Moscow in July, substitute Jesse Lingard equalised before England captain Harry Kane poked home the winner with just five minutes left to give Southgate's young team the perfect end to an encouraging year.

"I'm very proud first and foremost," Southgate told Sky

Sports. "I thought we dictated a lot of the game and had good chances in the first half.

"Then we let quite a soft goal in and it's a real test of resilience and patience. We rode our luck with their counter-attacks with one cleared off the line.

"I'm proud of how we've done all year. I've not heard Wembley like that for a long time."

'Game-changers'

England also impressed with the way they went at their opponents in front of the passionate Wembley crowd, creating a host of opportunities against a team that came close to winning the World Cup in Russia.

"It felt as if we could open them up and make good chances," Southgate explained. "The players are starting to believe in the system. We have some players so comfortable building

from the back.

"The depth in the squad since the summer has grown with the young players.

Whoever comes in during this competition have all delivered.

"We knew if we had to accelerate, we had game-changers on the bench. In the last five minutes we were mature enough to see things through."

Kane's late winner, a fine finish from Ben Chilwell's teasing low free-kick with five minutes left, was his first since winning the Golden Boot in the summer's World Cup.

England's manager Gareth Southgate gestures on the touchline during the international UEFA Nations League football match between England and Croatia at Wembley Stadium in London on 18 November, 2018. England beat Croatia 2-1 to qualify for the Nations League semi-finals. PHOTO: AFP

"We were disappointed not to take our chances but against big sides you have to stay

calm," said the Tottenham forward.

"We said after the World Cup we want to keep progressing and get better — and the way to do that is by beating top teams. We finished the year strong. We'll enjoy this one." —AFP ■

