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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 239, 4th Waxing of Nattaw 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 11 December 2018

State Counsellor receives United States Ambassador

Discussions on peace, reconciliation, democracy



State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, (center), holds talks with the Ambassador of the United States of America to Myanmar, Mr. Scot Marciel, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr. Scot Marciel, Ambassador of the United States of America to Myanmar, at 09:30

am yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters related to the peace and national reconciliation

process, Myanmar's democratic transition, English language proficiency program for elementary school teachers conducted by volunteers from US Peace Corps and

continued provision of assistance to development programs including agriculture, rehabilitation and reintegration programs for drug users.

—MNA ■

VP U Myint Swe attends 19th ASEAN University Games Opening Ceremony

VICE President U Myint Swe in his capacity as Games Organizing Steering Committee Patron addressed the 19th ASEAN University Games Opening Ceremony held at the Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex Indoor Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The opening ceremony was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, Dr. Pe Myint, U Min Thu, Thura U Aung Ko, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Dr. Myint Htwe and Dr. Win Myat Aye, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Tin, U Win Maw Tun, Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Laos Deputy Minister of Education and Sports Prof. Dr. Khamphay Sisavanh, representatives from Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, ambassadors and diplomats from embassies in Myanmar, officials from competing countries, sport teams leaders and members, judge committee chairmen, medical experts, International Technical Officers, judges and juries who'll oversee fairness of the competition, managers and coaches from competing countries, competing sports persons, donors and sports enthusiasts.

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Eighth-day meeting of tenth regular session of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw tenth regular session held its eighth-day meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw put on record reorganizing of wards, village tracts and villages

At the meeting Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw putting on record the reorganizing of wards, village tracts and villages in Magway Region after the matter was submitted to the Hluttaw.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee read and submits reports

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee members U Thein Lwin and U Stephen read and submit the committee reports on 2017 Myanmar Gemstone Bill and Myanmar Mines Rule in which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill and rule to register their names.

Euro 70 million AFD Loan recommended to be put on hold

Afterwards, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Public Accounts Committee Vice Chairman U Aung Min read the findings and comments report of the committee on Euro 70 million loan from French Development Agency (AFD or Agence Francaise de Developpement) to conduct project works in the Yangon Region. The committee recommended the matter to be put on hold as recommended by the Hluttaw.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Accession to Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic, Signs and Signals

Following this the Hluttaw was explained by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung on accession to Vienna Convention on Road Traffic 1968 and Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals 1968. The Union Minister explained that accession to the conventions would result in mutual recognition, support and speeding up of vehicles from convention member countries crossing from one country to another, reduce road and traffic hazards and ease international travel of vehicles.

As the traffic regulations in ASEAN Framework Agreement on the facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) is based on Vienna Convention on Road Traffic 1968 and Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals 1968, accession to the conventions will

smoothen the implementation of ASEAN agreements said the Union Minister.

Furthermore, accession to the conventions will bring immediate recognition to International Driving Permit (IDP) issued by Road Transportation Administration Department that is not recognized internationally now. Due to this the Union Minister submitted to the Hluttaw to agree on accession to the conventions.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to enroll their names.

Union level respond to Report 11/2018 and comments of Hluttaw representatives

Later members of Union level organisations responded to the Joint Public Accounts Committee Report (11/2018) on the findings of Fiscal Year

2017-2018 second six month tax collection and the discussion by the Hluttaw representatives on the report.

Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho explained that the ministry is using modern methods to control tax evasion by liquor distilleries while instructions were issued to take action up to the level of closing down the distilleries if it is damaging the natural environment.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu explained that tax payers and the right of the public is protected and revenue for the government is collected through alcohol and tobacco taxes or sin taxes levied on goods deemed harmful to society and individuals. A Task Forces are set up at central, state/region, district and township levels to prevent unauthorized/unlicensed production, transports, trade and sale of tobacco/cigarette and alcohols

said the Deputy Minister. The Deputy Minister also touched on the matters of collecting farm land tax and taxing of liquor distilleries.

Ministry of Transport and Communications; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation; Ministry of Electricity and Energy; Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Planning and Finance also discussed and explained on the matter.

After the explanations and discussions, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Public Accounts Committee member U Bo Gyi tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to agree and accept the Report 11/2018.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the Hluttaw's approval and putting on record the Report 11/2018 after the Hluttaw agreed to accept the report.

Hluttaw approves bill on second amendment of farmers' rights

Finally Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member U Nay Myo Tun tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to decide on the second amendment bill of Protection of the Farmers' Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits Law. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives discussed the motion and obtained the decision of the Hluttaw to approve the bill paragraph by paragraph.

The ninth-day meeting of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 13 December it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting over the Tax Administration Bill at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were Joint Bill Committee deputy chairman U Zaw Min, Secretaries, Joint Secretary

committee members from the Bill committee, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Hluttaw representatives and officials from the Internal Revenue Department and the Union Attorney-General Office. — MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the opening ceremony of the 19th ASEAN University Games in Wunna Theikdi Sport Complex Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Myint Swe attends 19th ASEAN University Games Opening Ceremony

FROM PAGE-1

First well known singers entertained with “Journey to the end,” (Asians) “Youth & Friendship,” “Hero,” “Mingalabar,” “Name will remain” and “Youth and Friendship” (Theme Song of the Games) songs.

As per the agenda of the ceremony students from the National University of Arts and Culture conducted a human display of countdown from 10 to 1 to start the ceremony.

Next, double academy award winner Di Yar

Mo and students from the National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon sang “**Dar Myanmar**” (This is Myanmar) song in honor of the ASEAN University Games.

Afterwards, standard bearers, band and sports personnel from 11 South-east Asian countries marched into the stadium and took up their respective places on the sports ground.

After the sport teams had assembled on the sports ground, the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was raised and then the 19th ASEAN

University Games flag was raised.

After the raising of the flags, 19th ASEAN University Games Organizing Steering Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe explained about why the games are being held.

After the explanation, ASEAN University Sports Council Secretary General Mr. Muhamad-Mohd Hanif delivered a message of thanks.

Following this, 19th ASEAN University Games Organizing Steering Committee Patron

The aim of holding the 19th ASEAN University Games was to achieve friendship and unity among ASEAN youths through ASEAN University Games ...

Vice President U Myint Swe delivered an opening speech saying the ASEAN University Games

were held once every two years and was started in 1981 in Thailand. On behalf of the Government of Myanmar and its people, he would like to say that Myanmar was honored to host the 19th ASEAN University Games in Myanmar as this is the first time it is hosting these games. Everyone knew that in the present world, (sport is an effective diplomatic channel as well as a thing where a country's honor is shown clearly while increasing international friendship.)

The aim of holding

the 19th ASEAN University Games was to achieve friendship and unity among ASEAN youths through ASEAN University Games, giving birth to outstanding sports personnel in the ASEAN region by creating an opportunity to show capabilities in sports and sharing information on universities and cultures of respective universities through the competing sports personnel and that the games were hosted under the theme “Youth and Friendship.”

SEE PAGE-4



The sports team from Thailand enters Wunna Theikdi Sport Complex Indoor Stadium at the 19th ASEAN University Games. **PHOTO: MNA**



Myanmar's sports team march along Wunna Theikdi Sport Complex Indoor Stadium at the 19th ASEAN University Games. **PHOTO: MNA**



Artistes performers at the ceremony to open the 19th ASEAN University Games in Wunna Theikdi Sport Complex Indoor Stadium. **PHOTO: MNA**

President of India, wife arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

AT the invitation of President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho, the President of the Republic of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, and his wife, Smt. Savita Kovind, arrived on a friendly official visit in Nay Pyi Taw by special flight at 8:20 pm yesterday.

U Thant Sin, the Director-General of the Protocol Department, and Mr. Vikram Misri, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, boarded the Indian President's airplane to welcome him and his wife.

Afterwards, they were greeted by the Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, and his wife; the

Union Minister for International Cooperation, U Kyaw Tin, and his wife; Nay Pyi Taw Council Chariman Dr. Myo Aung and his wife; Myanmar Ambassador to India, U Moe Kyaw Aung, and his wife; officials from the Indian embassy in Myanmar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and guards of honor.

The President of India and his wife went in a motorcade to the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, where they will stay for the duration of their visit. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



President of India and wife walk past the Honour Guards as they arrive at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



The gathered athletes salute the State Flag of Myanmar and the 19th ASEAN University Games flag raised at the opening ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**



Maung Wai Lin Aung (Sepak Takraw) lights the cauldron to signify the light of spirit, knowledge and life at the 19th ASEAN University Games. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Myint Swe attends 19th ASEAN University Games Opening Ceremony

FROM PAGE-3

The 19th ASEAN University Games will see a total of 2,078 sports personnel, coaches, and managers from 11 countries including Myanmar participating in 17 sports in 201 competitions.

To successfully host the games, the Games Organizing Steering Committee, organizing committees and officials were putting in their best efforts while volunteer liaison youths will also provide close support, assistance and show Myanmar's hospitality, affability and friendliness.

In concluding his speech the Vice President thanked all for being present and announced the opening of the 19th ASEAN University Games.

Next Wushu sports player Ma Sandi Oo and Karatedo judge Daw Olivia Yin Wha Htaung Lwe stepped up onto a designated po-

dium circled by flags of ASEAN countries to take a sports oath on behalf of the sports personnel and judges.

Afterwards torch relay runners consisting of former medal winners in ASEAN University Games Ma Thi Thi Mon (track and field) and Ma Thazin Aye (Karatedo) relayed the torch into the sports ground after which the cauldron was lit by Maung Wai Lin Aung (Sepak Takraw).

The assembled sports teams from the ASEAN countries assembled on the sports ground then marched out of the sports stadium. The opening ceremony then came to a successful conclusion after students from the National University of Arts and Culture from Yangon and Mandalay provided songs and musical entertainments. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Workshop on water resource management, flood forecasting held in Yangon

WORKSHOP on water resource management and flood forecasting organized by the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management and United States Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) and Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC) was held

yesterday morning at the office of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department (head office) in Yangon.

At the conference, Director-General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing of the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Manage-

ment and Commander Jeremy D. Crestetto, US Navy representative from the US Embassy delivered the opening speeches.

The conference is being held from 10 to 14 December, and participants from the Department of Irrigation and Water Utiliza-

tion Management, the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, the Department of Hydropower Implementation Yangon Technological Universities and Mandalay Technological

University will take part in the five-day long conference.

During the conference, experts from USACE will conduct the lectures on water resource management and flood forecasting. — MNA ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Credit Bureau Service to start within a year

By Nyein Nyein

THE Credit Bureau Service will be implemented within one year, said U Zaw Lin Aung, the executive director of the Kanbawza bank and the chairman of the Myanmar Credit Bureau Limited.

“The credit bureau service will meet the international standard and help develop Myanmar’s financial sector. We will try to begin the service in 2019,” said U Zaw Lin Aung.

“Once the credit bureau service starts, businesspersons or small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which have proven their accountability, will receive loans easily, quickly and comfortably. Local loans will be easily accessible and the service will enable better access

to credit,” according to the Myanmar Credit Bureau Limited.

Moreover, the Central Bank of Myanmar and the bank’s supervision department will be able to formulate better policies for supervision by gaining knowledge of the financial sector’s activities in time.

Through implementation of the credit bureau, doing business will be easier and getting credit will be significantly easier. By building a stable financial sector, there will be an increase in investment, job opportunities

for local people, and local consumption. Then, the country’s economy will also develop, according to the Myanmar Credit

Once the credit bureau service starts, businesspersons or small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which have proven their accountability, will receive loans easily, quickly and comfortably.

Bureau Limited.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) issued a license to the Myanmar Credit Bureau Limited on 17 May 2018, allowing it to establish a credit bureau in the country.

The Myanmar Credit Bu-

reau will collect information on loan repayment histories and other information about borrowers and distribute the profiles to lenders, such as banks and other non-banking financial institutions. The move marks a step away from strict collateral requirements for loans.

“With the credit profiles, lenders will be better able to evaluate the credit worthiness of potential borrowers and improve risk assessment procedures. It will enable many entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to qualify for loans,” said U Soe Thein, the Deputy Governor of

the CBM.

To implement the first loan information department, the Myanmar Credit Bureau Limited signed agreements with U.S.-based Equifax New Zealand Services and Solutions Limited for credit bureau software license, installation, consultancy, and support at the Zaburit Shwe Sin hall at the Myanmar Banks Association building, Yangon, on 10 December.

The Myanmar Credit Bureau Limited was formed with 60 per cent funding from MB Investment Limited, formed by Myanmar Banks Association’s member banks, and 40 per cent investment from the Asia Credit Bureau Holding Company from Singapore.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar-Thailand trade dips only at Tachilek gate in current FY



Workers selecting shrimps in Kyauktan Township outside Yangon. PHOTO: POE KHWAH

OF the seven border trade points between Myanmar and Thailand, only the Tachilek gate witnessed a small decrease in trade in the current financial year 2018-2019. Trade at the Hteekhee border gate picked up dramatically, boosting the total trade figure.

Between 1 October and 30 November, border trade between Myanmar and Thailand totalled US\$621.2 million. The figure has tripled from \$206 million registered in the same

period last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Normally, the Myawady gate sees the largest trade among the Myanmar-Thailand checkpoints. This year, trade at the Hteekhee gate rose tremendously, boosting the total Myanmar-Thailand border trade value.

The value of trade stood at \$9 million at Tachilek, \$389.9 million at Hteekhee, \$137.9 million at Myawady, \$40.38 million at Myeik, \$39.36 mil-

lion at Kawthoung, \$8.4 million at Maese, and \$4.2 million at Mawtaung.

Myanmar primarily exports fishery products such as crab, fish, and shrimp, as well as onions, sesame, dry tea leaves, coconut, and turmeric to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, consumer goods such as cosmetics, and food products. — Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar Economic Bank extends online phone billing system to household fiber internet

MYANMAR Economic Bank and Myanma Posts and Telecommunications are now accepting payments for fiber to the home (FTTH) systems in addition to postpaid phone bills. MEB and MPT upload information on postpaid cord phones and mobile phone bills for Yangon and Mandalay regions via their Webportal.

Customers can now pay their FTTH bills in addition to their phone bills at 7 MEB

branches in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon (1),(2),(5) Saving (3), Mandalay (1),(2) and at licensed agents in external organizations, private banks, phone and technological service centers, shopping malls such as City Mart Holding, Victoria, Asia Light, and United Living Mall, etc., by providing their phone number and invoice number, now via online as well. —GNLM

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Aviation watchdog ICAO in Myanmar for safety audit

THE International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is conducting a safety audit in Myanmar from 10 to 21 December, under the ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP).

The audit began at the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), with the Department of Civil Aviation's Director-General U Min Lwin and the ICAO team's leader, Mr. Junjian Nie, delivering the opening speeches. Afterwards, U Kyaw Myo, the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications met the ICAO team at the Department for Civil Aviation's hall.

The USOAP is being implemented to check whether the DCA is abiding by the recommended practices and standards for airline safety. The ICAO has sent a five-member team, led by Mr. Junjian.

The ICAO's 32nd General Assembly in 1998 adopted the resolution to begin imple-



Department of Civil Aviation's Director-General U Min Lwin delivers the speech at the event of ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP). **PHOTO: MNA**

menting the USOAP from 1999. The programme was verified under the comprehensive systems approach for audit (CSA) in 2010. That same year, the ICAO conducted checks at airlines of member countries under the continuous monitoring approach (CMA) for the development of

capacity and safety of the airlines. Myanmar passed the verification of the ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme in 2010. At the time, the ICAO team had asked the DCA to take some actions. In 2013, the team visited Myanmar to follow-up on the action taken on suggestions made

by the ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM). Myanmar passed with effective implementation (EI) of 65.92 per cent.

The current visit will be the third time an ICAO team conducts a verification under the CMA in Myanmar. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 300 people undergo free eye surgery at Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital

OVER 300 people underwent free eye surgery at the Sitagu Eye Hospital (Cakkhudana) in Pakokku Township from 5 to 8 December.

A team of eye specialists, led by retired professor Dr. Mya Aung and Sagaing Township's Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital's assistant medical superintendent, Dr. Mi Mi Khin, operated on 329 patients during the program. The surgeries were conducted in cooperation with retired ophthalmology professors from Yangon and Mandalay, and local eye specialists. The team also provided free treatment to 1,608 patients at



Eye surgeon makes treatment on a patient. **PHOTO: SALAI KO KI**

the hospital. This was the third time free surgeries were organized at Pakokku Town's Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital. Doctors had provided free eye treatment

to 1,501 patients and free surgery to 306 patients in the first time, and treated 2,183 patients and operated on 405 patients in the second time.

The third time free eye-treatment program covered patients from the Pakokku, Gangaw, and Thayet districts in Magway Region, and other townships from the southern part of Chin State. Free surgeries were conducted on patients who had registered with the medical team. Some local families also donated rice and curry to patients who came for eye treatment at the hospital.

There are a total of 32 Sitagu Cakkhudana hospitals and Sitagu Arojadana hospitals in Myanmar. Free eye operations were conducted in 24 hospitals. —Salai Ko Ki ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

LNG power plant to be set up at Ahlon power station

TO meet the demand for electricity and to support Myanmar's power sector, a liquefied natural gas (LNG) power plant which can generate 388 MW of electricity will be set up at the Ahlon power station in Yangon region, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

A project to build an LNG jetty and a natural gas line will be implemented in mid 2019 to supply LNG to the new plant. The new power plant will be constructed on an 8.16-acre plot of land in the compound of the

Ahlon Township's power station, which is currently generating 120 MW of electricity. The LNG power plant will be constructed by Toyo Thai Power Myanmar Co. Ltd. (TPMC).

The LNG for the plant will be imported on special ships. It will be supplied to the Ahlon power station through an LNG jetty, which will be constructed on a 15-acre plot of land on the Yangon River in the southern part of Dala Township.

Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation's (YESC) Deputy

General Manager U Yin Tun Lwin said that the project, once it is completed, will help stabilize the supply of electric power in the Yangon Region.

"We will also be able to distribute more power to the region. The YESC is distributing 1550 MW of electric power in Yangon. In the summer, we usually distribute 1650 MW of power in the region. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has planned to construct more power plants in other states and regions. So, we are planning to

distribute 3,000 MW coming summer," he said.

The construction of the new plant will start in mid 2019, and the unit is expected to begin generating power within 28 months. Currently, the company is assessing the environmental impact and socio-economic impact of the project. Once the assessment is finished, it will submit its report to the Environmental Conservation Department to seek its permission for the project. —Pwint Thitsa ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar celebrates 70th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

THE 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was celebrated at Yangon's International Business Center in Hline Township yesterday. The celebrations were facilitated by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC).

The event was attended by the Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein, the Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker, U Tin Maung Tun, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Naing Ngan Linn, ambassadors and diplomats from foreign embassies in Myanmar, Hluttaw representatives, officials from government departments, NGOs, CSOs, and teachers and students from various institutions.

First, the MNHRC Chair, U Win Mra, read a message of greeting from President U Win Myint. Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye delivered a speech.

The Union Minister said human rights are every human being's birthright and entail the right to possession and action. He said people are defined as rational beings and thus, are entitled to certain rights and to cer-



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein attends the ceremony of 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye delivers the speech at the ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**

tain responsibilities. He said the civilian government is working for the rights and development of every individual citizen, and while upholding these rights is the duty of the government, it is also the duty of the people. "For this reason, the government and the people must cooperate to fulfil the standards of human rights implementation," the minister said.

He said human rights naturally come together with a democratic system and rule of law is needed to truly understand, respect, and exercise human rights. He said the government is setting policies, laws, and by-laws to realize individual rights to ensure rule of law. He added that every nation has laws that adhere to their set national pol-

icies, while also being in accordance with international laws.

Later, the MNHRC Chair delivered a speech, saying his commission has been responding to complaints on human rights violations in accordance with rules and regulations.

U Win Mra said the commission has undertaken inspection visits to prisons, labour camps, police lock-ups, and court lock-ups and reported their findings to the relevant departments for further action. He said they have also travelled to areas of ongoing conflicts to promote and protect human rights. He said peace and stability are key components of ensuring access to human rights. He said the people have become more aware and informed on what constitutes human rights,

and pledged that the commission will continue furthering education programmes and promoting human rights.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and UN Resident Representative and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Knut Ostby, also delivered speeches at the event.

"The Universal Declaration on Human Rights proclaimed, 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights'. It stated that human rights apply to everyone, everywhere. As the UN Secretary-General said, it brought hope to dark places. But we can't take human rights for granted. People are being denied rights in different parts of the world. We are, therefore, standing up today for human

rights for everyone in the world and for everyone in Myanmar," said Mr. Knut Ostby.

Afterwards, Ma Thida (Sangyaung) spoke on the UDHR and women's rights, the Myanmar Press Council Chairman, Hanthawaddy U Ohn Kyaing, spoke on the rights of the media, and the Myanmar Writers Association Vice-Chair U Chit Naing (Psychology), spoke on the history of human rights.

Later, a video documenting the UDHR was played, followed by officials conferring awards to students who entered in the composition and painting contests for the 70th anniversary of the UDHR. Officials then toured the photo exhibition at the event.

—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe holds talks with Independent Commission of Enquiry



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe meets with chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry Ambassador Rosario Manalo and members in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe received with Independent Commissions of Enquiry at the meeting hall of his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint

Swe hold talks with Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry Ambassador Rosario Manalo and commission members U Mya Thein, Ambassador Kenzo Oshima and Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet at the meeting.

Also present at the meet-

ing were U Chan Aye, Director-General of International Organizations and Economic Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other officials. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Independent Commission of Enquiry holds its fourth meeting

THE Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) held their fourth meeting at 10 a.m. yesterday at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the meeting were Chairperson of the Independent Commission of

Enquiry Ambassador Rosario Manalo and its members; Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, U Mya Thein and Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet. The fourth meeting of the ICOE will be held until 14 December. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry Ambassador Rosario Manalo arrives at National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Building a democratic system entails providing human rights to all

HUMAN rights, democracy, and rule of law are interrelated. When human rights are violated, democracy and rule of law are impacted. When democracy is violated, human rights and rule of law suffer. Where there is no rule of law, democracy and human rights are lost.

President U Win Myint made these observations in his message at the 70th Anniversary celebrations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The President also said, "Human rights, which are the most fundamental rights of humankind, need to be enjoyed without discrimination with respect to race, color of skin, gender, language, religion, or political belief, by all, equally."

On the same day, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission also pledged to promote and protect the human rights of the citizens in accordance with the provisions of the Commission Law. The Commission has visited Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships in Northern Rakhine State to look into the human rights situation there. It has also visited IDP camps in Putao, Myitkyina, Mohnyin, and Mogaung townships in Kachin State.

It is incumbent on us to continue the task of building a nation founded on laws and institutions that will guarantee each and everyone in our land justice, freedom, and human rights.

find hurtful". These "Golden Rules" can also be found in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration, which states, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

Democracy and human rights are inseparable because a democratic system respects the dignity and human rights of the people. That is why we are building a democratic system.

We cannot call ourselves a democracy if we do not respect human integrity.

In order to promote the dignity and human rights of the Union and the quality of each citizen's life, we need to face the challenges in our country in the right way with full confidence.

It is incumbent on us to continue the task of building a nation founded on laws and institutions that will guarantee each and everyone in our land justice, freedom, and human rights.

"As our locally produced items are on par with imported items, we can vouch for the quality of our goods,"

U Than Htike Lwin, Managing Director of Proven Group of Co.

Roundtable Discussions on ways and means for the economic development of the nation

By Zaw Gyi

PHOTO PHAY ZAW

(Continued from Yesterday)

MRTV aired a live program on talks under the theme "On ways and means for the economic development of the nation" in which officials from the Customs Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance and business people from private sector participated.

The panelists are U Kyaw Htin, Director-General of the Customs Department; U Thein Swe, Deputy Director-General of the Customs Department; Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe, Joint General Secretary of UMFCCEI; Dr. Aung Zaw, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association; U Aye Han, Managing Director of United Paints Group of Co., Ltd; and U Than Htike Lwin, Managing Director of Proven Group of Co. They touched topics such as the tasks and performances of the Customs Department for the economic development of the nation; types of taxes and revenues; income tax levied during the one year period; the involvement of the customs department in the ASEAN Economic Community; the smooth functioning of trade; the containment of illegal trade; the development plan of SMEs; difficulties in connection with import substitutes and relevant advice; and the tasks of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association.

Coordinator: U Than Htike Lwin may kindly discuss first on the quality of locally produce goods compared to foreign imported items.

U Than Htike Lwin: I would like to present on the quality of our locally produce goods. We have local products with international standards. On my part, we have quality items of batteries and related lead raw metals for vehicles and machineries which could be fully given guarantee for quality assurance. We are exporting these items to foreign countries.

The products of UPG household paints are up to the international standard and we have solid market access in the country.



Similarly, the medicine items from the pharmaceutical factories of Dr. Aung Zaw also have international quality. As our locally produced items are on par with imported items, we can vouch for the quality of our goods.

Coordinator: Dr. Aung Zaw may kindly discuss your view.

Dr. Aung Zaw: I would like to share my view on illegal trade aspect on the medicine, household good items and foodstuff items flowing in from the border areas. These situations have negative impact on the local business people as well as to the consumers for having sub-standard items affecting and upsetting the health of the people. Moreover, the State has been losing revenue due to the illegal border trade that need to take action and curb the flow.

Director-General: With regards to the illegal trade, our Customs Department is taking up action to address the matter. The Deputy Director-General would discuss in detail.

Deputy Director-General: I would like to present on the prevention and containment of illegal trade. The problems of illegal trade popped up due to many reasons, and that I would like to share some main issues in this matter.

The issues are such as that of the tax evasion of the importer and exporters; that of the declaration of value with lesser amount in the trade; that of many restrictions and limitations in export and import

matters; that of the urgent need and heavy demand of local market of certain items to be imported; that of to avoid the international norm and standard; that of the greed for personal gain; that of some items legal in the country but illegal in other country; that of some items illegal in the country but legal in other country; that of more existence of illegal routes than the legal routes in the main illegal trade area in Muse and Myawaddy entry / exit gates resulting with area control problems; that of non-compliance of trade ethics and rules by the main trade companies and service provider associations. These situations have resulted with illegal border trade.

The most rampant illegal trade has been occurring at the entry and exit gates at the border areas. It is specially the Muse-Mandalay route; and the Myawaddy-Yangon-Mandalay route. With the guidance and directives of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Customs Departments are on the move for the prevention and containment of illegal trade through strategic plan on short term and long term timeframe.

In the short term plan, the management and supervision of the regional governments and the state governments have incorporated for border station inspection at the entry and exit gates, where permanent inspection tasks and surprised inspection tasks have been applied. The modern X-Ray

devices have been installed such as (10) units in Yangon area; (3) units in Muse and Myawaddy area. Due to this effective performance and operation, (35,959) arrests have been realized with estimated value of over MMK (56) billion in 2017-2018 financial year; during 2018 mini budget financial year; (4862) arrests have been recorded with estimated value of over MMK (21) billion.

With a view to curbing and containing the illegal trade in the long term plan, we are prepared to establish the system of containerization in the country. The nature of this system is to transport the commodities in the containers, and that it would be easier to identify the legal goods and illegal goods. The system would be operated through the e-Lock (Electronic Lock) combination.

When the containerization is being used in conjunction with the e-Lock system, the goods in the container would be checked first, and then secured with e-Lock system. Then it would be delivered to the destination preventing any tamper or corruption on the way.

Another way of prevention is to conduct single stop inspection, where two custom departments jointly inspect the commodities at the same time in the same place. It is the method of joint inspection by two custom departments at the designated venue of border areas over the import and export items. By doing this, illegal import

and export would be reduced and the border trade statistics of two countries would be more accurate.

This task is to be implemented under the (6) Mekong region Cross Border Transport Agreement. In this connection, we are planning to sign bilateral agreements between Myanmar-China; and Myanmar-Thailand.

Another plan is about the Bonded Warehouse System which is the norm of international practice. The scheme of bonded warehouse means that the approved commodities are allowed to import in advance without the permits and keep them in the bonded warehouse.

When it is needed for local consumption or distribution, delivery permit is sought, and then tax is being paid. Next, the items are being taken out from the bonded warehouse. It could be done in the same way to export to other countries.

This system would help reduce the illegal trade in the country. Moreover, the custom inspection units would be equipped with staff housing, cargo/vehicle inspection platforms, and X-Ray devices systematically within the allocated budget.

With a view to deter the unlawful deal, the strategic plan for the containment of illegal trade is in the process of drafting. I am of the view that this strategic plan is to be mainly undertaken by the Customs Department, however, relevant de-

partments, regional authorities, and security teams must come together in cooperation in joining hands with the exporters and importer and the service providers in curbing and reducing the illegal trade of the country.

Coordinator: Thanks to all participants for their contributions of suggestions. We would like to hear the view of the Customs Department.

Director-General: For the economic development of the country, the mere smooth functioning of the Customs Department is not adequate. Being a country largely depending on imported items, we need to reduce the imported merchandise into the country.

At the same time, we need to export the quality good to other countries to earn foreign income. In accordance with the preferential tariff treatment, concessions are being accorded over the imported goods from ASEAN member countries and ASEAN plus (5) countries as arranged in the agreements. Similarly, the quality goods of our country should be exported to ASEAN member countries and ASEAN plus (5) countries to enable to enjoy the preferential tariff treatment.

To enjoy the concessions in this regards, we have to focus and encourage on the development of SMEs industries, expanding the banking business, and uplifting the infrastructure schemes. Moreover, the compliance and conformity of the importers and the exporters are also very much vital.

The laws, by-laws, procedures, and directives must be enacted and prescribed that advocate, support and encourage the market competition in the country.

I would like to conclude that the implementation task on each and every sector should expose and uncover the advantages and disadvantages, and then the problems are to be addressed by working out in cooperation among the government departments, the private associations with clear understanding so as to push the economic development of the nation.

Translated by UMT (Ahlone)

Leprosy is an unfinished agenda in Myanmar

By (Dr. Than Lwin Tun, Dr. Chan Tun Aung)

"Leprosy work is not merely medical relief: it is transforming frustration of life into joy of dedication, personal ambition into selfless service"

(Mahatma Gandhi)

Leprosy Problem

The earliest scientific record regarding the magnitude of the leprosy problem in Myanmar was first reported by the Leprosy commission of India (1891) that estimated the prevalence to be 8.6 per 10,000 population for the whole country. A WHO advisory team in 1963-1964 conducted a survey and revised the estimate prevalence upwards to 250 per 10,000 population for the whole country (about 590,000 cases). During 1973, the National Authorities conducted a parallel survey which was called National Leprosy Programme Prevalence and Assessment Survey and in its report the prevalence was estimated to be 242 per 10,000 population.

Leprosy Control

Myanmar Leprosy Control Programme was launched in 1952 and based on early case finding and providing domiciliary treatment with Dapsone to all patients in the country. Partial integration with People's Health Plan started in 1977. In 1988, WHO recommended Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) service was started in six hyperendemic regions (Yangon, Mandalay, Upper Sagaing, Magway, Ayeyarwaddy and Bago) and it was fully integrated into Basic Health services into 1991 and MDT services covered the whole country in 1995. Before introduction of MDT services, registered prevalence rate was 54.3 per 10,000 in 1987. Prevalence rate was obviously reduced in 2017 (0.42 per 10,000). A total of 300160 cases have been treated with MDT and cured since 1988.

Leprosy Elimination

Myanmar has achieved leprosy elimination goal at the end of January, 2003. It means that the registered prevalence rate per 10,000 population was less than one and leprosy was eliminated as a public health problem.

Confusing Issue of Leprosy

Myanmar has achieved only leprosy elimination goal but not achieved leprosy eradication yet. But, most of the people are still misunderstanding the meanings of eradication and elimination, and the National Program has also been facing the key challenge as being the victim of our own victory.

Difference between Eradication and Elimination

Eradication refers to the complete and permanent worldwide reduction to zero new cases of the disease through deliberate efforts. (if a disease has been eradicated, no further control measures are required.) Elimination refers to the reduction to zero (or a very low defined target rate of) new cases in a defined geographical area. (Elimination requires continued measures to prevent re-establishment of disease transmission.)

SEE PAGE-10

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

Deputy Minister for Information inspects Toungoo IPRD, transmission station



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun visits mini museum at the community center in Toungoo Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Deputy Minister for Information, U Aung Hla Tun, visited the transmission station in Toungoo and the district's Information and Public Relations Department yesterday.

The deputy minister met with staff at the transmission station in Toungoo yesterday. He toured the station and saw the machinery, and asked staff to maintain equipment and be vigilant about security. He also asked staff to ensure employees' health and happiness at work.

The deputy minister then proceeded to the Toungoo District's Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD). He visited the children's reading room, and presented gifts and offered encouragement to children coloring in the room. He also toured the department's public library and mini-museum and met with the district staff.

The deputy minister advised staff members to connect with local people so they can better access the community

centers. He told them to work with department officials, NGOs, local residents, and writers to create an authentic community center, and to expand networking with students and youth. He said it is important to compile authentic news that the people are interested in and to disseminate it in a timely and systematic manner. He said we need to adapt to the changes of the modern digital age and its technologies. —Zaw Htet (District IPRD) ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrols at border

MYANMAR and Bangladeshi border guard troops conducted two coordinated patrols along the border on Sunday, according to the information released

by the Myanmar Police Force yesterday.

In the first patrol, the troops of the border guard forces patrolled between the border posts

No. 44 and 45 from 8:30 am to 11:50 am. In the patrol, the Myanmar side was led by Police Major Myo Myint of No. 1 Border Guard Force in area-2, Maungtau Township, Rakhine State, while the Bangladeshi side was led by Subedar Md. Jakir Hossain of Chakdhala Outpost under the No.11 unit of Border Guard Force.

Similarly, another troops of the two countries conducted the coordinated patrol between the border post No. 38 and 39 from 8:30 to 11:50 am on the same day.

In the patrol, the Myanmar troops was led by Police Capt. Aung Myo Zaw Lwin of Taungpyo Police Station in area-3 in Maungtau Township. —GNLM ■



Border guard troops patrol along the fence bordering Bangladesh in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MPF**

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

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 27/2018 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 8 December.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 8 December.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 12 December issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM ■

Leprosy is an unfinished agenda in Myanmar

FROM PAGE-9

Leprosy New Case Detection and Disability

From 2004 to 2017, the 43,535 new leprosy cases were detected, where some new cases were found as pocket in some areas. Among new 43,535 cases, 5714 had grade-II disability and 2286 cases were under 15 year (Child Cases) indicating that transmission is still present in Myanmar.

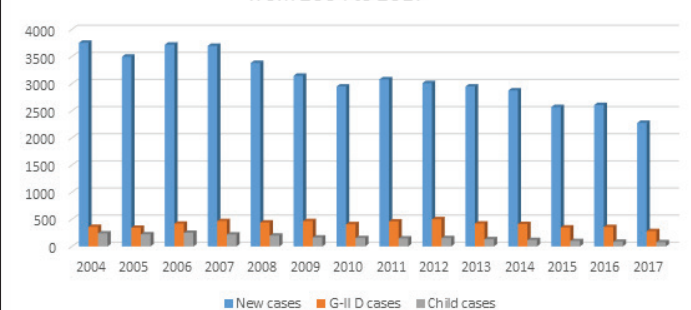
Conclusion

With appreciations to MDT, Myanmar could eliminate the public health problem of leprosy since 2003 but new cases, including child cases are still coming out along with grade-II disability cases in some areas up till now. So, we should not neglect the leprosy disease. Evidently, leprosy is remaining as an unfinished agenda in Myanmar and all the partners and every citizen need to actively participate in leprosy awareness activities for early case detection and prevention of disability as well as prevention of transmission. The beautiful finished agenda should be "Zero new cases, Zero disability among new cases and the affected persons becoming inclusive contributory members of the society.

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Leprosy New cases, Grade II Disability cases and Child cases from 2004 to 2017



Russia's advanced MiG-35 fighter jet may get active phased array radar

LUKHOVITSY (Moscow Region) — Russia's advanced MiG-35 fighter jet may be furnished with an active phased array radar in the future, MiG Aircraft Corporation CEO Ilya Tarasenko said recently.

The active phased array technologies are already widely used for creating modern fighter jets' onboard radars. Such radars allow simultaneously tracking a large number of targets through the beam's electronic steering. The radar is capable of detecting and engaging an enemy on the water, on the ground and in the air, identify its class, type and size, accomplish navigational tasks and guide precision weapons.

"We understand that this is a world trend for the use of radars

with an active phased array on this type of aircraft. Naturally, we have already made a prototype for holding trials," Tarasenko said.

The MiG Aircraft Corporation will be offering such radar as an option after its tests jointly with the aircraft, he said.

The contract for the delivery of the first batch of six MiG-35 multirole fighter jets for Russia's Aerospace Force was signed at the Army-2018 forum on August 22.

The MiG-35 is a 4++ generation multirole fighter jet developed on the basis of the serial-produced MiG-29K/KUB and MiG-29M/M2 aircraft.

The flight tests of MiG-35 fighter aircraft began on 26 Jan-



uary and the plane's international presentation was held in the Moscow Region on the following day. Russia's state armament

programme through 2020 stipulates the deliveries of MiG-35 fighter jets to Russia's Aerospace Force.—Tass ■

'I can't breathe' were Khashoggi's final words, report says

WASHINGTON (United States) —Jamal Khashoggi's final words were "I can't breathe," CNN said on Sunday, citing a source who has read the transcript of an audio tape of the final moments before the journalist's murder.

The source told the US network the transcript made clear the killing was premeditated, and suggests several phone calls were made to give briefings on the progress.

CNN said Turkish officials

believe those calls were made to top officials in Riyadh.

Khashoggi, a Saudi contributor to *The Washington Post*, was killed shortly after entering the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul on 2 October. The transcript of the gruesome recording includes descriptions of Khashoggi struggling against his murderers, CNN said, and references sounds of the dissident journalist's body "being dismembered by a saw."

The original transcript was

prepared by Turkish intelligence services, and CNN said its source read a translation version and was briefed on the probe into the journalist's death.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister on Sunday meanwhile rejected demands to extradite suspects connected to the murder of Khashoggi as sought by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Erdogan has repeatedly called on Saudi Arabia to hand over suspects in the killing. Ac-

cording to Turkey, a 15-member Saudi team was sent to Istanbul to kill Khashoggi.

Saudi Arabia, however, holds that it was a "rogue" operation gone wrong — a claim undercut by the reported transcript.

For his part US President Donald Trump has refrained from blaming Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, even though the CIA reportedly concluded that he ordered the assassination.—AFP ■

US Marine accident off Japan categorized as severest "Class A"

WASHINGTON — The US military said on Sunday it has categorized the fatal crash involving a fighter jet and a tanker plane off Japan's western coast last week as a "Class A" mishap, the severest category on its scale of four.

The accident occurred when an FA-18 fighter jet and KC-130 tanker plane based in Japan collided in midair when conducting training including refueling early Thursday. A conclusion has not been reached on the details of

the situation, according to the US Third Marine Expeditionary Force. Japan's Self-Defence Forces rescued the two crew members of the FA-18, but one of them, Captain Jahmar Resilard, 28, died. Searches for the remain-

ing five Marines, who are believed to have been on board the KC-130, are still under way in an area of the Pacific Ocean, about 100 kilometers south of Cape Muroto in Kochi Prefecture, by Japanese authorities and US forces.

The two aircraft belonged to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in Yamaguchi Prefecture. They might have been undertaking nighttime midair refueling, a highly difficult maneuver, in order to adapt themselves to tasks required for long-range flights. In December 2016, a US Marine Osprey aircraft was wrecked during a nighttime air-to-air refueling exercise in the southern Japan prefecture of Okinawa. A Class A mishap is classified as an accident resulting in loss of life or permanent total disability, destruction of an aircraft or damage worth \$2 million or more.—Kyodo News ■



Photo taken on 6 December, 2018, shows Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in western Japan. A US Marines FA-18 jet and KC-130 tanker plane collided and crashed off the western Japan coast the same day.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Violent French protests are economic 'catastrophe': finance minister

PARIS, (France) — Violence linked to the "yellow vest" protests sweeping France are a "catastrophe" for the nation's economy, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire warned on Sunday.

"It's a catastrophe for commerce, it's a catastrophe for our economy," Le Maire told reporters as he visited shops in Paris hit by looting during anti-government riots a day earlier.—AFP ■

Germany braces for train turmoil as workers strike Monday

FRANKFURT AM MAIN, (Germany) — Germany's state train operator Deutsche Bahn is bracing for severe disruptions on Monday due to a nationwide railworkers' strike over pay.

National, regional, and local train traffic will be affected even after the end of the stoppage scheduled to last from 5:00 am to 9:00 am (0400 GMT to 0800 GMT), Deutsche Bahn said on Sunday. It did not specify how many trains would be cancelled, or how many passengers are likely to be inconvenienced. Pay negotiations between Deutsche Bahn and the EVG railworkers' union, demanding a 7.5-per cent salary rise for 160,000 employees, ended without agreement on Saturday.—AFP ■

May defers planned Brexit vote

LONDON—British Prime Minister Theresa May on Monday delayed a planned parliamentary vote on her agreement to leave the European Union.

"If we went ahead and held the vote tomorrow the deal would be rejected by a significant margin," she told parliament, though she said she is confident it is the right deal.

"We will therefore defer the vote schedule for tomorrow and not proceed to divide the house at this time."—Kyodo News

Targeted poverty alleviation drives county's development in China's Yunnan



in
Picture

Kindergarten children take music lesson in Banmu Village of Wa Autonomous County of Ximeng, southwest China's Yunnan Province on 7 December, 2018. Ximeng County in southwest China's Yunnan Province used to be a national-level poor region. Inspired by the country's targeted poverty alleviation drive, the county has developed cattle farming and tourism over the past five years, bringing poverty rate drastically down. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Gamer charged by Australia police after 'livestreaming assault'

SYDNEY, (Australia) — A Sydney gamer heard on a livestream allegedly hitting a woman was charged with assault by Australian police Monday, after the incident went viral on social media.

The 26-year-old was using the Twitch video platform to broadcast himself playing the popular shoot-'em-up survival game Fortnite when the alleged assault happened on Sunday night.

Footage shared on Twitter showed the man, who was not named, shouting to someone offscreen "I said I'll be out soon" before moving away from the computer monitor.

A woman's voice is later

heard saying "woman basher" and yells "you hit me in the face, don't you dare touch my face, you hear that, all you people there?"

The argument continues, with further yelling and crying offscreen as the man moves to and from his monitor and shouts "leave me alone".

In a second video, more yelling is heard between the pair as a child nearby cries.

Both videos were retweeted thousands of times on Twitter.

New South Wales state police said someone watching the live feed called officers, who arrested the man at his home in the southwest Syd-

ney suburb of Oran Park on Sunday.

He was charged with common assault and bailed to appear in court on Thursday.

Police also served him with an order which prohibits him from harassing, threatening and intimidating behaviour.

Police added that two girls — aged three and 20 months — were in the home at the time.

The 21-year-old woman was "not seriously injured" but was "distressed and shaken by the incident", they added in a statement. Local media reported that she was either his partner or wife. —AFP ■

S Korean delegation leaves for DPRK for forestry cooperation talks

SEOUL — A South Korean delegation, composed of 10 government officials and forest experts, departed on Monday for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to hold talks on forestry cooperation.

The delegation departed for Beijing earlier in the day from an international airport in South Korea's eastern port city of Incheon.

From Beijing, the delegation was scheduled to fly to Pyongyang on Tuesday for a three-day stay.

During the stay, the South Korean delegates planned to tour a tree nursery and a factory, which produces forestry tools and materials, in Pyongyang,

while reviewing the distribution of the pesticides that South Korea sent last month to help the DPRK fight forest diseases and pests.

The delegation will also hold working-level talks with DPRK counterpart about ways to push for the inter-Korean forestry cooperation, such as fostering tree nurseries and preventing forest diseases and pests.

The Pyongyang visit by the South Korean delegation was a part of efforts to implement the agreement, reached in October after the second round of the inter-Korean working-level dialogue on forestry cooperation. —Xinhua ■

China summons US ambassador over Huawei arrest

BEIJING (China) — China summoned the US ambassador on Sunday to protest the "extremely bad" arrest of telecom giant Huawei's chief financial officer in Canada and demand that the United States drop its extradition request.

The arrest of Meng Wanzhou, who faces US fraud charges related to sanctions-breaking dealings with Iran, has infuriated Beijing, threatening to disrupt a trade war truce between China and the United States.

Meng — the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, a former engineer in China's People's Liberation Army — is in custody as she awaits a Canadian court's decision on bail on Monday. Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng summoned US ambassador Terry Branstad one

day after he called in Canadian envoy John McCallum to voice China's displeasure.

"Le Yucheng pointed out that the US side has seriously violated the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens, and the nature of the violation is extremely bad," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"The Chinese side firmly opposes this and strongly urges the United States to attach great importance to China's solemn and just position," it said.

China also urged the United States to "take immediate measures to correct wrong practices, and revoke the arrest warrant against the Chinese citizen."

The statement warned that Beijing would make an unspecified "further response" in light of the US actions. —AFP ■

Indian gov't convenes all-party meeting ahead of winter session of parliament

NEW DELHI — The Indian government convened an all-party meeting on Monday to hold discussions with leaders of various political parties, officials said.

The meeting was aimed to seek the opposition's support for the smooth conduct of pro-

ceedings in both the houses of the parliament.

The winter session of parliament will begin on Tuesday and will continue until 8 January, 2019.

Officials said Chairman of upper house of parliament (locally called Rajya Sabha)

M. Venkaiah Naidu has called an all-party meet to build consensus.

Likewise, Speaker of Lok Sabha (lower house of Indian parliament) Sumitra Mahajan will also hold discussions with the leaders of opposition parties to ensure the passing of

various pending bills.

"The session will have 20 sittings, during which eight important bills will be tabled in the Rajya Sabha and 15 in the Lok Sabha," an official said.

Meanwhile, leaders of opposition parties will also hold

meetings to formulate a joint strategy to corner the government on various issues during the upcoming session.

The previous session of the parliament in July witnessed some disruptions and adjournments over various issues. —Xinhua ■

In Mauritius, sugar cane means money, renewable energy

LA BARAQUE (Mauritius) — Far out into the Indian Ocean where it is forced to be self-reliant, the island nation of Mauritius is weaning itself off fossil fuels by turning to its main cash-crop sugar cane, for electricity.

The leftover, crushed sugar cane stalks and tips — dry fibrous material known as “bagasse” — is burned to help power Mauritius and reduce its reliance on coal and oil.

Electricity from sugar cane now accounts for 14 per cent of the island's needs and, when combined with other renewable sources such as solar, wind and hydro, provides nearly a quarter of daily consumption.

“The government's goal is to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix to 35 per cent by 2025,” said deputy prime minister Ivan Collendavelloo who is also energy minister.

“The 35 per cent is not far off; we will have 11 solar parks by next year and at least two wind farms,” he said. “Independent producers in the sugar industry will continue to provide the largest share of renewable electricity from bagasse,” he added.

In Mauritius, around 60 per cent of the island's electricity is generated by four sugar companies, each running its own thermal power station.



A photo taken on 22 November, 2018, shows a worker supervising sugarcane's milling process at Omnicane Savannah Sugar Factory in l'Escalier, Mauritius. PHOTO: AFP

The plants run on coal for part of the year then switch to sugar cane byproducts when harvest season comes.

Power 24/7

At the end of November, the harvest is in full swing in the fields surrounding the Omnicane company, in the south of the island.

Heavy trucks pulling huge trailers are lined up next to an immense warehouse to unload their cargo of fresh-cut sugarcane. During the harvest, 8,500 tonnes are sent daily to this facility — a total of around 900,000 tonnes for the year.

The cane stalks are crushed to extract juice for sugar production. They are then soaked to extract the last juice and then heated to dry. Finally, squashed and dried, the stalks are fed into a thermal power

station where they burn at 500 degrees Celsius, fueling turbines that produce electricity for the plant and the national grid. “Electricity is available 24 hours a day, on demand, without having to wait for the wind or the sun, since we can store bagasse as we would oil and coal,” said Jacques D’Unienville, Omnicane’s manager. And the carbon dioxide greenhouse gas produced by the burning? It is captured, according to D’Unienville, and used to add the fizz to soft drinks.

Cloud on horizon

However there are clouds on the horizon in the form of a drop in sugar prices since the European Union ended quotas in 2017, and increases in production in Thailand, Brazil and India, which together have put pressure on the island's farmers. Jacqueline

Sauzier, secretary general of the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture said falling sugar prices were “a fatal blow to the local sugar industry.”

“The number of small farmers has fallen from 26,000 in 2010 to 13,000 in 2018,” said Agriculture Minister Mahen Kumar Seeruttun. The question is whether Mauritius will be able to produce enough sugar cane to meet its target for renewable, bagasse-based electricity. Some sugar producers are hoping that preferential treatment might provide an answer.

“Mauritius is a small, vulnerable island. We do not have the capacity of Thailand, Brazil and India, but we are an efficient producer because we value the entire sugar production chain,” said D’Unienville. —AFP ■

Aussie bird species hit by bushfires thrives after major relocation drive

SYDNEY — A small Australian bird species hit by bush fires in South Australia has surprised ecologists by quickly breeding after an unprecedented effort to relocate the birds, local media reported on Saturday.

The Mallee emu-wren is found in only two core locations in Victoria and South Australia states, but severe bush fires four years ago destroyed their southern habitat, reported the ABC news channel.

“We could never officially say they were extinct because there's so much habitat out there,” local government ecologist Chris Hedger told the channel.

“But we were very confident that if there were any individuals left, it was functionally extinct and would not be able to survive in the long term.”

Earlier this year, wildlife groups and authorities relocated about 80 of the birds from their Victoria

habitats to a conservation park in South Australia to help boost their numbers.

A recent survey showed that the birds, known for their distinctive reddish-brown heads, sky blue chests and long tails, are thriving in their habitats with significant numbers breeding, reported the channel. “Certainly the fact they are breeding is a good indicator of what we might expect,” said Hedger.

“No one has ever moved this species, and if they have moved a similar species, it certainly wasn't in the numbers we're talking about.”

The next phase of the conservation project includes moving another 200 of the birds to the park, added Hedger. “They might move to different locations, but the idea is to get a really strong, prosperous community of emu-wren there ... they can go forth and prosper in the decades to come.”—Xinhua ■

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Myanmar opens 1st Japanese-language teacher training course

YANGON — Myanmar's first-ever training course for Japanese-language teachers is opening as part of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's plan to invite more Asian youths to work in Japan.

The initial phase of the training programme starts this month at the Yangon University of Foreign Languages for students majoring in Japanese and for teachers from private Japanese-language schools, the Japan Foundation said.

The foundation, a government-backed institution carrying out international cultural exchange programmes, picked Myanmar as the third country to offer such training courses after India and Viet Nam to follow up Abe's speech at an international conference in Tokyo in 2017 in which he said Japan would choose three locations in Asia to nurture Japanese-language teachers.

Noriyuki Matsukawa, executive director of the Japan Foundation Centre for Japanese Language Testing, said

the yearlong program aims to support Myanmar's human resources through Japanese-language learning, recruit a new breed of teacher and improve current teachers' skills.

"Myanmar has high demand for Japanese-language proficiency," he said, adding that the number of people in Myanmar taking the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test nearly tripled from 13,099 in 2016 to 37,786 in 2018.

Myanmar was ranked fifth worldwide in terms of the number of examinees this year and came second after Viet Nam in Southeast Asia. "In the past, we teachers had to go to Japan to continue further study," said Zin Mar Ohn, a former head of the Japanese Language Department at the Myanmar college, popularly known as YUFL.

The training programme opens doors to teachers from the private sector, which plays a major role for Myanmar students learning Japanese, said Zin Mar Ohn, one of three local lecturers on the training team.



Students from the Japanese Language Department at the Yangon University of Foreign Languages perform Japanese dance during an opening ceremony for a training programme for Japanese language teachers on 7 December, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The Japan Foundation also plans to conduct similar Japanese-language training at the Mandalay University of Foreign Languages, Matsukawa said.

The number of private Japanese-language schools in My-

anmar increased from 44 in 2012 to 132 in 2015, with the number of teachers rising from 194 to 524 over the same period, according to the Ministry of Education.

Myanmar's modern history of formal foreign-language ed-

ucation began in 1964 through its first Foreign Language Institute, which became YUFL in 1997. The Yangon school started offering a bachelor's degree in Japanese in 2000. —Kyodo News ■

“Ralph Breaks the Internet” tops North American box office for third weekend in a row

LOS ANGELES — With the lack of competition, Disney's blockbuster “Ralph Breaks the Internet” continued to lead North American box office with an estimated 16.14 million US dollars for a third weekend in a row.

There was new wide release this weekend in North America as Hollywood major studios are aiming at the Christmas crush.

But a series of new notable openers will join the Christmas season race in coming weekends, such as “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse,” “Aquaman,” and “Bumblebee.”

“As the Industry hits the home stretch of an amazing box office year, this weekend is a tale of the holdovers,” wrote movie analyst Paul Dergarabedian at comScore in an email to Xinhua. There was no change at the top five of the box office this weekend.

“Ralph Breaks the Internet” has earned a massive 140.9 million dollars through Sunday in North America since it opened over Thanksgiving for a global total of 258.2 million dollars, according to the studio figures collected by comScore.

The animated comedy film is

the sequel to the 2012's “Wreck-It Ralph.” Directed by Rich Moore and Phil Johnston, the film features the voice of John C Reilly as Ralph.

The plot follows video game bad guy Ralph and fellow misfit Vanellope von Schweetz who navigate the vast and dynamic world wide web in search of a replacement part to save Vanellope's game, Sugar Rush.

Universal and Illumination Entertainment's holiday tale “Dr Seuss' The Grinch” came in second again in its fifth weekend with an estimated 15.17 million dollars,

pushing its North American total to 223.46 million dollars.

Based on the 1957 Dr Seuss book with the title “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” the animated remake is the third screen adaptation of the story. Directed by Yarrow Cheney and Scott Mosier, the film features the voice of English actor Benedict Cumberbatch as the Grinch.

The plot follows the Grinch as he plans to ruin Christmas holiday in Whoville by stealing all the town's decorations and gifts.

In third place, MGM's sports drama film “Creed II” took in an estimated 10.32 million dollars in its third weekend for a North American total of 96.47 million dollars. The film is the follow up to the 2015's “Creed.”

Directed by Steven Caple Jr, “Creed II” stars Michael B. Jordan, Sylvester Stallone and Tessa Thompson among others. The plot follows a US light heavyweight contender Adonis Creed who faces off against a powerful adversary, Viktor Drago, son of Russian boxer Ivan Drago. Ivan killed Adonis' father Apollo Creed in a tragic match many years before. — Xinhua ■

Paris Hilton to showcase her artwork

LOS ANGELES — Reality TV star Paris Hilton is planning to hold an exhibition where she will be showcasing her “futuristic” artwork.

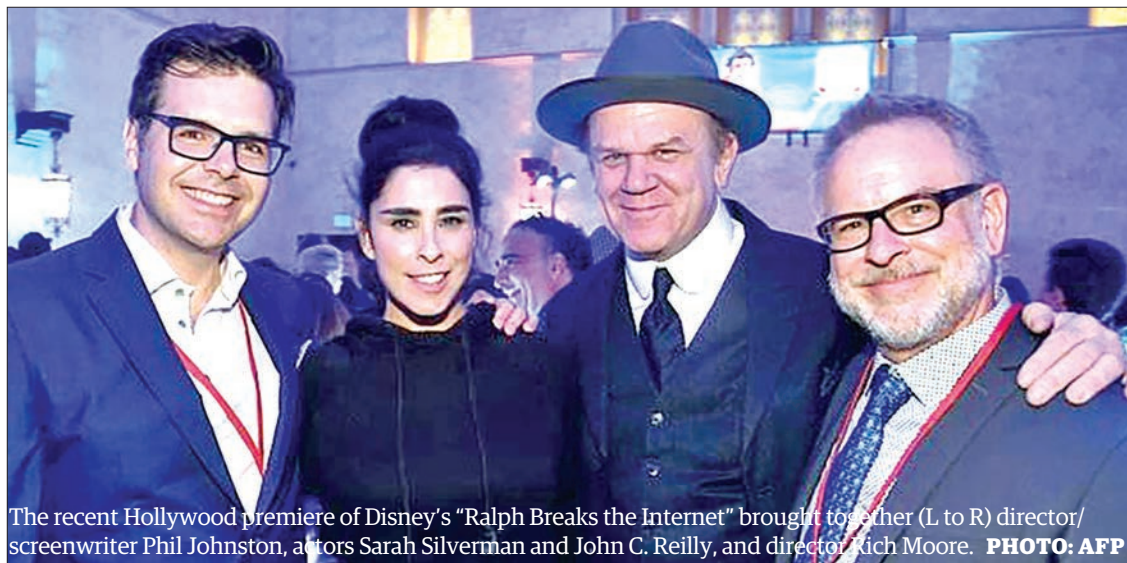
Hilton said he artwork is full of neon lights, crystals and collages. “I'm putting my art exhibit together now. My art is very futuristic and pop, with neon lights and crystals and collages and painting. I draw animals. It's really inspired by pop culture, it's really different,” Hilton told New York Post's Page Six.

The DJ and socialite, who recently ended her engagement to “Leftovers” star Chris Zylka, said she is too busy to date.

“I'm amazing. I am busy being a boss-babe, running an empire. That is all I have time for. I barely have time for myself, let alone anything else. I am not even thinking about (dating) right now.”

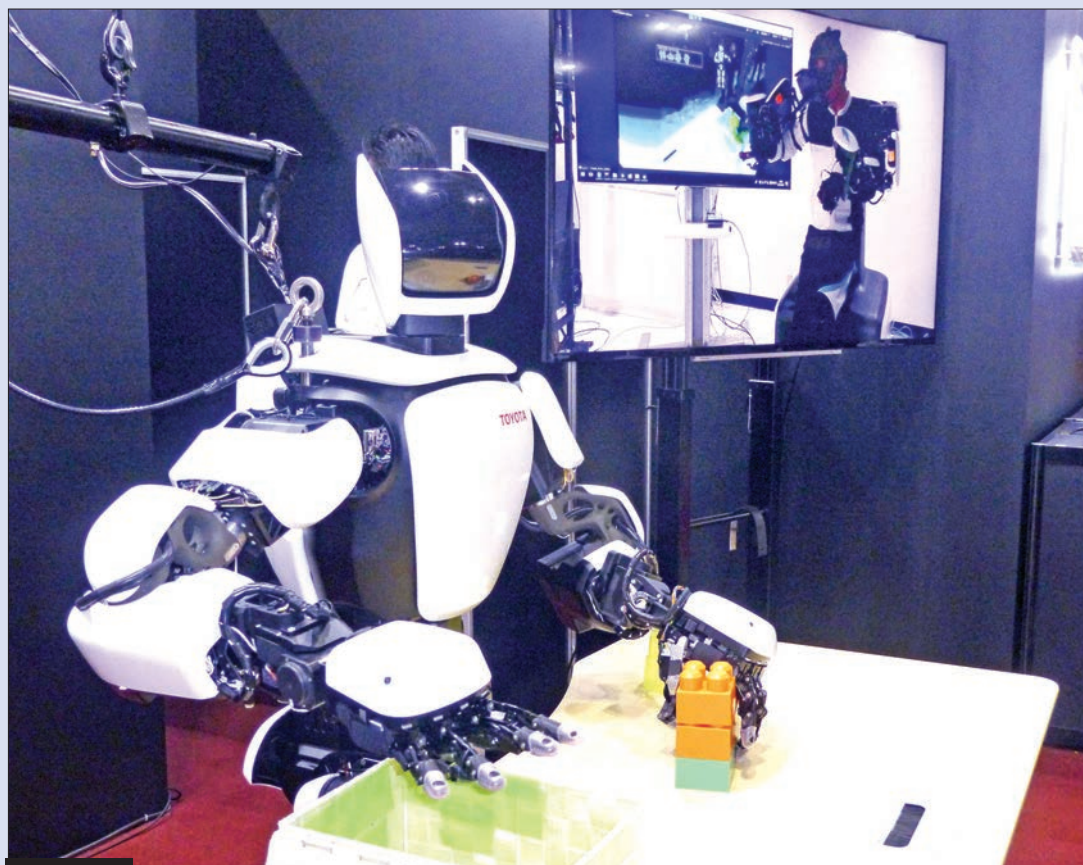
“I am literally so busy. I hardly have time to see my own family, let alone do that.”

I am so happy. I just love my life. My advice is to always be happy and feel good about yourself - because life is truly too short,” she said. —PTI ■



The recent Hollywood premiere of Disney's “Ralph Breaks the Internet” brought together (L to R) director/screenwriter Phil Johnston, actors Sarah Silverman and John C. Reilly, and director Rich Moore. PHOTO: AFP

Humanoid robot



in
Picture

TOKYO, Japan — Photo taken in Tokyo on 5 December, 2018, shows a remotely operated humanoid robot developed by Toyota Motor Corp. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Submersible Jiaolong's new mothership takes to water in central China

WUHAN — A new mothership for China's manned submersible Jiaolong successfully took to water in the central city of Wuhan on Saturday.

Shenhai Yihao (DeepSea No 1) is a comprehensive scientific expedition vessel as well as the country's first self-developed, specially designed mothership for a manned submersible.

It is expected to greatly improve the diving capacity of Jiaolong by lending support including on-site analysis of data and specimen, according to the ship's manufacturer Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group under China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation.

The vessel measures 90.2 metres long and 16.8 metres wide. With a designed displacement tonnage of 4,500 tonnes, it

has a cruising capacity of over 12,000 nautical miles, according to Chen Tao, board chairman of the ship builder.

Compared with other motherships for manned submersible in the world, Shenhai Yihao boasts larger lab space, lower underwater noise levels and new environmentally friendly designs, said experts at the launch ceremony.

The ship is expected to be put into service in the first half of 2019, setting off global voyages together with Jiaolong.

Jiaolong set a world record by diving to a depth of 7,062 metres during tests in the Mariana Trench in 2012. Its current mothership, 40-year-old Xiangyanghong 09, has carried Jiaolong for hundreds of dives since 2009.

—Xinhua ■

Australian scientists develop 10-minute cancer test

SYDNEY — Worried you may have cancer? One day you could take a 10-minute test with a 90 percent success rate, thanks to a new cancer-detection approach that can uncover traces of the disease in a patient's bloodstream developed.

The cheap and simple test uses a colour-changing fluid to reveal the presence of malignant cells anywhere in the body and provides results in less than 10 minutes, according to a new study published in the journal Nature Communications.

"This led to the creation of inexpensive and portable detection devices that could eventually be used as a diagnostic tool, possibly with a mobile phone," said Matt Trau, a co-researcher at the University of Queensland in Australia, in a statement.

The test was made possible by the Queensland team's discovery that cancer DNA and normal DNA stick to metal surfaces in markedly different ways. This allowed them to develop a test that distinguishes between healthy cells and cancerous ones, even from the tiny traces of DNA that find their way into the bloodstream.

The DNA sample is added to water containing gold nanoparticles. DNA from cancer cells sticks to the nanoparticles, making the water's color stay pink; DNA from healthy cells binds to the particles differently and turns the water blue.

The researchers have run the test on 200 human cancer samples and healthy DNA with 90 percent accuracy.

The test has only been used to detect breast, prostate, bowel and lymphoma cancers so far, but researchers are confident that the results can be replicated with other types of the disease.

"We certainly don't know yet whether it's the holy grail for all cancer diagnostics, but it looks really interesting as an incredibly simple universal marker of cancer, and as an accessible and inexpensive technology that doesn't require complicated lab-based equipment like DNA sequencing," Trau said.

The test has yet to be used on humans and large clinical trials are needed before it can be used on prospective patients. —Xinhua ■

Heavy screen time appears to impact childrens' brains: study

WASHINGTON (United States) — Researchers have found "different patterns" in brain scans among children who record heavy smart device and video game use, according to initial data from a major ongoing US study.

The first wave of information from the \$300 million National Institute of Health (NIH) study is showing that those nine and

10-year-old kids spending more than seven hours a day using such devices show signs of premature thinning of the cortex, the brain's outermost layer that processes sensory information.

"We don't know if it's being caused by the screen time. We don't know yet if it's a bad thing," said Gaya Dowling, an NIH doctor working on the project, explaining the preliminary findings

in an interview with the CBS news programme 60 Minutes.

"What we can say is that this is what the brains look like of kids who spend a lot of time on screens. And it's not just one pattern," Dowling said.

The NIH data reported on CBS also showed that kids who spend more than two hours a day on screens score worse on language and reasoning tests.

The study — which involves scanning the brains of 4,500 children — eventually aims to show whether screen time is addictive, but researchers need several years to understand such long-term outcomes.

"In many ways, the concern that investigators like I have is, that we're sort of in the midst of a natural kind of uncontrolled experiment on the next generation of children," Dimitri Christakis, a lead author of the American Academy of Pediatrics' most recent guidelines on screen time, told 60 Minutes.

Initial data from the study will begin to be released in early 2019.

The academy now recommends parents "avoid digital media use — except video chatting — in children younger than 18 to 24 months." — AFP ■



The American Academy of Pediatrics now recommends parents "avoid digital media use — except video chatting — in children younger than 18 to 24 months." **PHOTO: AFP**

ASEAN University Games: Myanmar grabs three gold, one silver, one bronze medals



Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi presents medals to winners of the competition. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR clinched three gold, one silver, and one bronze medals yesterday, taking its total tally to 8 medals at the 19th ASEAN University Games.

ASEAN University students participated in yesterday's Wushu event at the Wana Theikdi Stadium (A) in Nay Pyi Taw. In the men's Wushu Taijijian and Taijijian event of Sanso and Taolu, Myanmar's Nyein Chan Ko Ko secured the first place with 19.22 points and

Khant Min Htet came second with 19.10 points. Indonesia's Bobie Valentinus Gunawan, secured the third place with 19.09 points.

The Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, and officials awarded medals to the winners of the competition.

In the Men's Taijijian competition of Sanso (56 kg weight category), Myanmar's Nine Tan won a gold medal.

In the women's Taijijian

competition of Taolu, Myanmar's Myat Noe Eain stood first with 9.60 points, Malaysia's Chan Lu Yi came second with 9.54 points, and Singapore's Vera Tan Yan Ning took the third place with 9.53 points. Officials presented the prizes to the winners.

In the traditional cane ball (chinlone) competition, Thailand secured the first place with 305 points, Malaysia came second with 209 points, and

Myanmar beat Singapore 2-1



Myanmar's H.Y Tin Thein scores to equalize Myanmar-Singapore in the soccer match of the 19th ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 December, 2018. A late goal by Captain Nay Myo Htwe earned Myanmar 2-1 win over Singapore in the match.

PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Myanmar placed third with 204 points. Up till now, Myanmar has secured five gold medals, two silver medals, and one

bronze medal at the Games.—MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Myanmar's Nyein Chan Ko Ko and Nine Tan competing in Wushu events. **PHOTO: MNA**



Bale snaps drought as Real edge past struggling Huesca



Real Madrid's Welsh forward Gareth Bale celebrates after scoring his team's first goal during the Spanish league football match between SD Huesca and Real Madrid CF at the El Alcoraz stadium on 9 December, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

MADRID (Spain) — Gareth Bale ended a run of 802 minutes without a goal in La Liga as Real Madrid won 1-0 at bottom side Huesca on Sunday to climb back to within five points of leaders Barcelona.

The Welshman struck his first goal in the league since the start of September to lift Real to a fourth win in five matches and move the European champions up to fourth place. "He (Bale) and the rest of the team were all fantastic. He scored a great goal and it was enough to get the win," said Real coach Santiago Solari.

"His goal and the general character of the team were crucial in taking all three points."

"It wasn't a game to remember, but if you want to win La Liga, you have to win these matches," the Argentine added.

Bale put a halt to his longest

spell without scoring in the league since joining Real as he expertly cushioned in a volley from an arcing cross by Alvaro Odriozola on eight minutes. Huesca winger Ezequiel Avila forced a brilliant stop from Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, the Belgium international punching the ball to safety midway through the first half.

Bale nearly added to his haul on 25 minutes when his fierce drive from the edge of the area was tipped over by a scrambling Aleksandar Jovanovic. Gonzalo Melero should have levelled for Huesca right after the break only to nod wide of the goal despite having the whole target at which to aim.

A swerving David Ferreiro shot drew another smart save from Courtois as Real withstood a spirited fightback from the hosts, but Bale continued to threaten

and forced two further saves from Jovanovic.

Courtois turned over a late Moi Gomez free-kick and Huesca, who slumped to a 10th defeat in 15 games this season, were denied a point when Dani Carvajal headed off the line from Christian Rivera.

Elsewhere, Borja Mayoral salvaged a point for Levante with a stoppage-time equaliser in a thrilling 4-4 draw away to Eibar.

Eibar, who beat Madrid 3-0 in their last home game, led 4-2 with 15 minutes to play after a quick-fire brace by Charles added to goals from Sergi Enrich and Gonzalo Escalante. But Levante snatched a draw as Tono halved the deficit before Mayoral struck at the death. Real Valladolid won for the first time in six games as Toni Suarez and Antonito found the net in a 2-1 victory at Real Sociedad.—AFP ■