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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Vice President U Myint Swe attends third coordination meeting for 71<sup>st</sup> Independence Day



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the coordination meeting for holding 71<sup>st</sup> Independence Day ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**V**ICE President U Myint Swe attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> coordination meeting of the Central Committee responsible for organizing the country's 71<sup>st</sup> Independence Day celebrations, at the Union Government Office meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Dr. Myint Htwe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Maj-Gen Than Htut, Dr. Tun Naing and U Win Maw Tun, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, senior military officers and officials.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice President who is the chairman of the committee said that in order to hold Independence Day nationwide with the five national objectives set by the government a 37-member Central Committee for holding the Independence Day was formed on 4 October 2018.

Ten sub-committees were formed under the Central Committee to conduct the works systematically and a first coordination meeting was held on 15 October 2018 where a total of 22 decisions were made. A second coordination meeting was held on 9 November 2018 where 23 decisions were made. The relevant sub-committees were seen

The ceremony will be held in two sessions, the morning session will consist of a ceremony for hoisting the national flag and saluting the national flag followed by a reading of the Independence Day message sent by the President.

to be implementing the decisions. Sub-committees are believed to strive toward a better event based on their experiences of past year's ceremony, weakness-

es and strengths.

The ceremony will be held in two sessions, the morning session will consist of a ceremony for hoisting the national flag and saluting the national flag followed by a reading of the Independence Day message sent by the President. In the evening session, a State-level dinner party will be hosted. The ten sub-committees are expected to conduct their respective works systematically and successfully. They are to coordinate in relevant sectors so that there are no shortcomings. As the day for the event approaches it is believed that sub-committee wise works will be completed fully. As it is a State-level event all need to ensure that there are no

shortcomings and arrangement for adverse weather conditions should also be made. Sub-committees are urged to openly discuss completed and ongoing works, other requirements and difficulties. Sub-committee wise explanations were then given by each sub-committee to which Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe provided comments and suggestions. The Vice President then provided advice and comments to ensure proper coordination based on the discussions and concluded the meeting with a closing speech. — MNA ■ / (Translated by ZM)

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## 15<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session held

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE 15<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. At the meeting, asterisk-mark questions were raised and answered; Hluttaw committee reports read, discussed and confirmed, bills received and approved; and a motion discussed and decided.



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

### Question and Answers session

The day's meeting starts off with the question and answer session where U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency raised the first question on details about remittance from Myanmar citizens working abroad. Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win replied that compared to the numbers of citizens working abroad, the remittance is very low. While Myanmar was under economic sanction, it was difficult for Myanmar citizens working abroad to remit money back to Myanmar. This was taken advantage of by the informal money transfer Hundi system to remit money of Myanmar citizens working abroad to remit money back to their families.

The Hundi system prevents the government from obtaining tax while there was no proper official record of the amount be-

ing remitted. There were even instances of some Hundi operators embezzling the remitted money. Thus, after economic sanctions were lifted emphasis was placed toward remittance to be conducted through the official channels. According to 2018 Union Tax Law, salaries of Myanmar citizens working abroad were tax exempted so no tax was collected on it, explained the Deputy Minister.

Dr. U Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency next raised a question on whether there is a plan to open Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB) in Dala Township. Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win replied that Myanmar Economic Bank management had recommended the opening of a bank in Dala Township already and fund was requested in fiscal year 2018-2019. K 60 million had

been allocated for it. Fund for a bank vault to be constructed in a police station compound was also requested but this was deducted and not included in the same fiscal year. Fund for the bank vault will be requested in fiscal year 2018-2019 addition fund and once the bank and the vault is constructed, MEB bank services will be available, replied the Deputy Minister.

U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency on the other hand raised a question on status of snake bites in the nearest five year period and the arrangements and export of anti-snake venoms. Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho replied that in Myanmar 90 per cent of snake bites were caused by Russell's viper; 6 per cent by cobra and 4 per cent by other snakes. Therefore 90 per cent of anti-snake venoms produced by

Pharmaceutical factory (Insein) were for viper bites while 10 per cent is for cobra bites.

During the five year period from FY 2013-2014 to FY 2017-2018, 416,214 anti-snake venoms were produced. Bivalent anti-snake venom effective for both viper and cobra bites were also produced for snake-bite victims who were unable to identify the identity of the snake.

On export of anti-snake venoms, 500 were exported as a trial to Cambodia and Laos in FY 2017-2018 and the plan is to export 5000 in FY 2018-2019. Anti-snake venoms from neighboring countries were also imported to Myanmar but comparing the cost and effectiveness anti-snake venoms produced in Myanmar are found to be more effective and cheaper said the Union Ministers.

Although anti-snake venoms were sold to Ministry of Health and Sports, arrangements were already made for individuals or organizations/entities to purchase it easily at the factory. Starting from FY 2016-2017 100,000 anti-snake venoms was produced annually and starting from FY 2017-2018, dried anti-snake venoms that can be stored at room temperature were produced. Depending upon local and export requirement, arrangements are made to produce between 200,000 to 300,000 anti-snake venoms annually explained the Union Minister.

Questions raised by U Than Aung of Ngaputaw constituency, U Sai Tun Aye of Mongshu constituency, U Bo Bo Oo of Sangyaung constituency, U Saw Thalay Saw of Shwegyin constituency were also answered by Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho and Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing.

### Pyithu Hluttaw Committee reports read, discussed and approved

Following the question and answer session Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee report and Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Financial Development Committee report were read by committee members Daw Nan Moe and U Nay Soe Aung. After each report was read, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

Pyithu Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Implementation Committee report was then discussed by U Sai Tun Aye of Mongshu constituency, U Myat Lay Oo of Htilin constituency, U Pe Than of Myebon constituency and U Lone Jone San Mai of Sumprabum constituency and Committee Chairman U Khin Maung Thauung provided explanations to the discussions made.

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## Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds its 15<sup>th</sup>-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin,  
Lu Maw (MNA)

THE tenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 15<sup>th</sup>-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the session, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered; announcement, decision and discussion on bills made and a report read.

### Q&A session

In the Q&A session education sector questions were raised by U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency 8, U Kyaw Thauung of Sagaing Region constituency 1, Daw San San Myint of Bago Region constituency 4, U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2, U Nyi Sein of Shan State constituency 5, U Kyaw Kyaw Win of Rakhine State constituency 8 and U Hwei



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Tin of Chin State constituency 11 and answered by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.

### Announcement and decision on bills

After the Q&A session Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than informed the Hluttaw on the receipt of Trade-

mark Copyright Bill approved and sent by Amyotha Hluttaw being returned with amendments by Pyithu Hluttaw and announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Kyaw Kyaw read and explained the

committee's report on a bill to amend the Myanmar Accountancy Law returned with amendments by Pyithu Hluttaw. Later Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's agreement and approval of the bill after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

### Hluttaw discusses Cultural Heritage Conservation bill

Afterwards Cultural Heritage Conservation bill was discussed by U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5, Tatmadaw representative Maj. Kyaw Min Tun, U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State constituency 3, U Win Kyaing of Bago Region constituency 10, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago region constituency 3, U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10, Tatmadaw representatives Maj. Min Ye Tun,

Lt-Col. Nyan Shwe, Maj Zaw Win Oo and U Kyaw Toke of Mandalay Region constituency 7.

### Amyotha Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee report read

Finally Amyotha Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee Chairman U Thein Swe read the committee's report on the motions and questions raised during the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's first to ninth regular sessions. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

The Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session will hold its 16<sup>th</sup>-day meeting on 19 December it is learnt.

(Translated by ZM)

## Bogyoke Aung San's speech

THE main factor is the having to lead together one common life sharing joys and sorrows, developing common interests and one or more common things like racial or linguistic communities, fostering common traditions of having been and being one which give us a consciousness of oneness and necessity of that oneness. Race, religion, and language are thus by themselves not primary factors which go to the making of a nation but the historic necessity of having to lead common life together that is the pivotal principle of nationality and nationalism.

*(Excerpt from the speech by Bogyoke Aung San on the Congress at Shwedagon Pagoda on 20 August 1946.)*



Myanmar traditional Htamane festival in Tabodwe month. PHOTO: HTAY LWIN (AMARAPURA)

## Senior General receives outgoing Indian Ambassador



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri in Yangon. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri, who has completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, at the Zeyar Thiri Beikman in Yangon yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Soe Htut from office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and senior military officers and the military attaché of Indian Embassy in Yangon. At the meeting, the two sides discussed the status of success of the Indian President's visit, strengthening

the friendly and close cooperation between the two armed forces, India's continued support provided to Myanmar to overcome current challenges and obstacles, expanded cooperation in security, stability and development at the border, cooperation in training between the two armed forces and exchange of visits by senior military officers of the two countries as part of efforts for strengthening the friendship, according to the news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

## Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends 4<sup>th</sup> MLC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Luang Prabang, holds bilateral discussion with Chinese Foreign Minister

THE Myanmar delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, attended the Fourth Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR on 17 December 2018.

The meeting was convened under the theme of "Enhancing Partnership for Shared Prosperity" and co-chaired by Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR and Mr. Wang Yi, State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China with the participation of Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

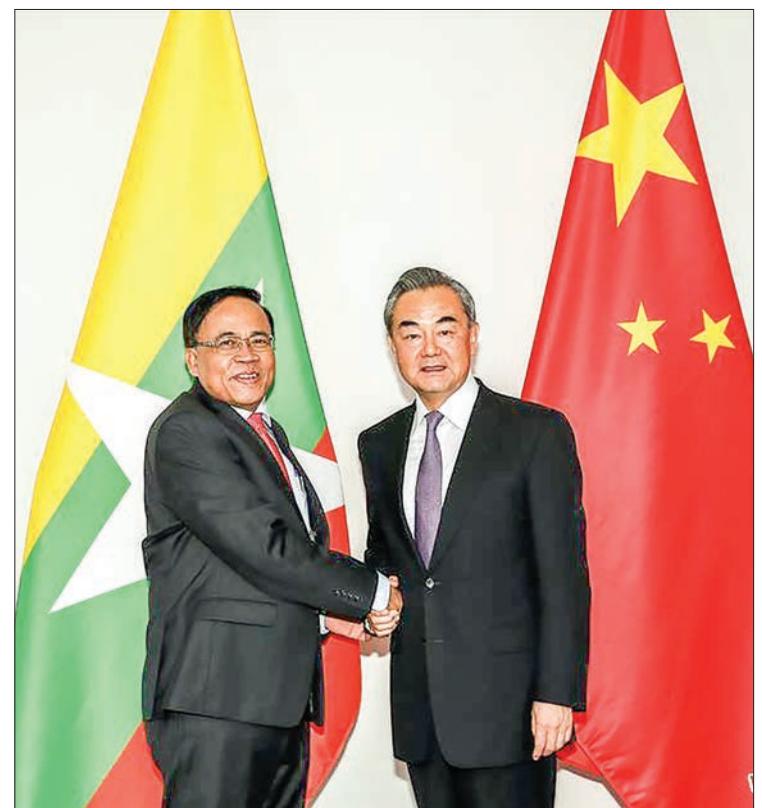
The meeting featured in-depth discussions and reviewed on progress and future direction of the MLC cooperation

including implementation of the MLC projects funded by MLC Special Fund and the outcomes of the MLC Leaders' meetings. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to moving forward the MLC cooperation in the spirit of friendship, good neighbourliness and equality to achieve national and regional prosperity. Besides, the Ministers endorsed a list of projects to be implemented by the MLC Special Fund. The list includes 19 projects proposed by Myanmar. A joint press communiqué was also issued after the meeting.

In the evening of 16 December, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin accompanied by U Ko Ko Nang, Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR, U Win Zeyar Tun, Deputy Director General from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and members of the Myanmar delegation, met Mr. Wang Yi, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China at the Pullman Hotel and Resort. The two Ministers cordially discussed matters related to strengthening bilateral rela-

tions between the two countries including China's support for Myanmar peace process, bilateral economic cooperation, infrastructure projects under the OBOR initiative, increasing the number of Myanmar project proposals under the MLC cooperation. They also exchanged views on continued cooperation at the United Nations fora, and the measures taken by Myanmar to resolve the Rakhine issue. Later, the Myanmar delegation attended a dinner hosted by the Lao Foreign Minister in honour of the visiting delegations from the Mekong-Lancang countries.

The Mekong-Lancang Cooperation was established following the initiative put forward by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the 17th ASEAN-China Summit held in Myanmar in 2014 to foster cooperation for sustainable development of the Mekong region. The MLC is a sub-regional cooperation framework officially launched in 2016 among six Mekong-Lancang countries comprising of Cambodia, China, Lao PDR,



Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, left, shakes hands with Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi, right, in Luang Prabang, Lao. PHOTO: XINHUA

Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Initially, it focused on five priority areas namely connectivity, production capacity, cross-border economic cooperation, water resources, agri-

culture and poverty reduction. It will be expanding cooperation in the areas such as education, culture and health, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA ■

## Dr. Pe Myint discusses literary, civics with Myanmar Writers Club

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint met with central committee members of the Myanmar Writers Club, Chair U Kaung Thant, Vice-Chairperson 1 Daw Sam Sam Nwae (Tharyawady), Vice-Chairperson 2 Dr. Khin

Maung Nyo, Secretary U Htin Lin Oo, and Joint-Secretary 2 Daw Hnin Wai Nyein, at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

They discussed plans to conduct literary and civics-centered public lectures

and roundtable discussions in the regions and states.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun and other officials. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint poses for a documentary photo with members of the Myanmar Writers Club in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets officials from ADPC Myanmar Office

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye, met members of Myanmar Preparedness Task Force, led by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) Myanmar Office, met at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed ongoing disaster management and reduction projects related to the MoU signed between ADPC and

the Department of Disaster Management, conducting disaster-related processes in line with the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) revised in 2017, networking governments, regional humanitarian organizations and private banks and building capacity through the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP), pre-emptive disaster prevention

projects accomplished with collaboration between the government, private and civil society organizations in accord with the Myanmar Preparedness Partnership (MPP) in 8 districts in Myanmar, and preparations for the 4<sup>th</sup> APP Regional Steering Committee Meeting to be held in Myanmar next year. —Maung Min Naing

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye holds talks with members from ADPC Myanmar Office in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Inn ethnic people build Dhammayon (religious building) in Nay Pyi Taw



Vice Senior General Soe Win at stake-driving ceremony for a religious building by ethnic people from Inle lake in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

A GROUND breaking ceremony to build a religious building by Inn ethnic people from Inle lake was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the ceremony held at the site chose for the building near the Uppatasanti Pagoda were Members of the Sangha from monasteries in Inle, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice Senior General Soe Win, senior military officers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, donors and guests.

First, Vice-Senior General Soe Win and donors presented

objects to be used at the ceremony to the Members of the Sangha.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win presented K10 million donated by families of the Tatmadaw to the chairman of the construction committee and donors also presented K98 million contributed to the construction of the building to Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

At the ceremony, Vice Senior General Soe Win and donors laid bricks specially decorated with precious stones, according to the news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

## Joint Monitoring Committee delegation departs for observation trip in China

A Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) delegation consisting of state-level JMC (JMC-S) members departed for Kunming in China yesterday as part of a Chinese embassy facilitated observation trip.

The delegation will spend five days in China until 21 December to observe development progress in Yunnan Province and regional development along the China-Myanmar border.

The delegation is led by Shan State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col. Hla Oo, who is also a member of the Shan State JMC-S, and 17 other JMC-S committee members from Shan, Kayin and Mon states and Bago and Taninthayi regions, and staff.

This is the first observation trip by the JMC-S to China.

—Nyunt Ko Ko  
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Workers loading sacks of rice on a ship at a jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

## Rice exports down \$174 mln

THE value of Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports between 1 April and 30 November has been estimated at US\$495.57 million, a decline of \$174.3 million from the same period last year, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

During the same period last year, exports of rice and broken rice stood at \$669.9 million. Over the last 8 months, the volume of exports has also plummeted to 1.45 million metric tons from 2.18 million metric tons last year.

In the last 8 months, Myanmar has shipped rice worth \$413.6 million to 46 countries,

with export volume of over 1 million metric tons. The country has exported over 272,700 metric tons of broken rice to 21 countries, earning \$81.9 million.

When it comes to rice, border trade remains relatively high compared to sea trade, accounting for 53.6 per cent of the total export. Rice exports through border checkpoints fetched an estimated \$270.5 million, a decrease of \$62.96 million from last year.

Meanwhile, maritime exports generated an income of \$225 million, plunging sharply by \$110 million compared with last year.

The fall in border trade has

been attributed to China's tight confiscation of some agro products, including rice, since the second week of October.

The weather condition in the last rainy season and falling prices in the global market have contributed to the drop in maritime trade, a trader said.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar exported 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice, worth \$1.13 billion.

The MRF did not reach its export target of 2 million tons during the last mini-budget period (April to September). —Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Sagaing gov't permits 27 local, foreign firms during its term

THE current government of Sagaing Region has permitted a total of 27 businesses, including 8 foreign business and 19 domestic businesses, to invest in the region during its term, said U Soe Oo, Sagaing Region Planning and Finance Minister.

He made the remarks during a workshop on ecotourism, foreign investment, and SMEs in Sagaing Region, held on 15 December at the Win Unity Hotel, Monywa.

"With the changing economic climate, better policies are needed and excessive exploitation of natural resources has to be restricted. Business-

es involved in these activities have not received our support," he said.

"From the 2016-2017 to 2018-2019 fiscal years, 8 foreign enterprises brought in an estimated capital of US\$27.76 million to the region. The region saw investments of around K45.96 billion from 19 domestic businesses," he said.

"Between 1988-89 and 2015-2016 fiscal years, 11 enterprises with investments of \$2.75 billion and 23 domestic businesses with investments of Ks124.5 billion were permitted in the region," he added.

"The regional government has been focusing on promot-

ing investments in agriculture. Investments are flowing into the manufacturing, hotel services, and other entertainment businesses in the region," the minister said.

The Sagaing Region DICA (branch) office was opened in 2017 to promote trade and investment in the region. The new Myanmar Investment Law authorizes region and state investment committees to approve investment proposals with capital not exceeding \$5 million (Ks6,000 million), with the aim of speeding up the verification of projects. —Win Oo (Zeyar Tine)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## EU-funded project boosts green freight, logistics in Myanmar

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR'S transport businesses have worked to improve green freight and logistics operations under an European Union-funded project—Sustainable Freight Transport and Logistics in the Mekong Region—which aims to make road transport safer and more environment friendly.

The project and its impact were discussed at the closing ceremony of an event on sustainable freight transport and logistics in the Mekong Region, held at the Hotel Novotel yesterday.

The Sustainable Freight Transport and Logistics in the Mekong Region project, slated for implementation between February 2016 and January 2019, has improved the transport of dangerous goods in Myanmar. Under the project, the EU has worked closely with local companies, freight associations, banks, and national governments to push for eco-driving, adoption of fuel-saving technologies, better access to finance for truck upgrades, and green freight labelling, with the aim of improving the ecological footprint of freight transport operations in the Mekong region.

Dr. Johann Hesse, the Head of Cooperation for the EU delegation to Myanmar, said that the importance of sustainable consumption and production has been a hard-learned lesson among European societies. "The SWITCH-Asia programme helps to equip Asian countries early on so that sustainability becomes a core principle in their economic development. The Sustainable Freight Transport and Logistics in the Mekong Region Project has greatly contributed to this goal

by making road transport safer and more environment friendly," he said.

"More than 150 small and medium enterprises participated in the project in Myanmar. The project helped participants to improve fuel consumption savings by 13.25 per cent per 100 km for heavy-duty loaded trucks and 16.95 per cent per 100 km for heavy-duty empty trucks," according to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

"Myanmar need to improve infrastructure, build capacity of drivers and strengthen policy, rules, and regulations for the transport of dangerous goods," said U Kyaw Myo, the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications.

"Fuel efficiency can help reduce fuel consumption, air pollution, and CO2 emissions. The drivers were trained on lowering fuel consumption and about safety measures while handling dangerous goods," said U Kyaw Myo.

The Road and Transportation Administration Department (RTAD) issued six notifications on transport of dangerous goods by road, based on the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR).

"We will raise awareness on saving energy consumption and building capacity of drivers," said the deputy minister.

The project aims at increasing sustainable freight transport and logistics in the Mekong Region mainly through the adoption of energy efficiency and safety measures by at least 500 SMEs in CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Viet Nam) and Thailand. (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Exports of animal products up \$104 mln in current fiscal

MYANMAR'S exports of animal products between 1 October and 7 November stood at US\$113.86 million, rising sharply from less than \$10 million for the same period last year.

With trade of livestock permitted in late 2017, cattle exports are expected to rise. Myanmar has exported 200,000 cattle, worth \$260 million, since the permission for export of live cattle was granted a year ago. The exported cattle are above 5 years and were shipped with vaccination certificates, health

certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are a total of 11.5 million cattle in the country.

The government is also exploring new markets for export of cattle. An increase in the value of exports of animal products can help reduce the trade deficit.

Myanmar primarily exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods. —Ko Htet (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## ASEAN humanitarian assistance delegation observes repatriation readiness in Maungtaw



ASEAN humanitarian assistance delegation observe the progress of the repatriation process at a repatriation camp in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

ASEAN decided to cooperate in the repatriation of displaced from Rakhine State at the 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit 17<sup>th</sup> November.

In accordance with the resolution made at the meeting, the Disaster Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement coordinated with ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management-AHA Centre for finding needs and matters to be cooperated by ASEAN.

To observe the progress of the repatriation process of Myanmar, a delegation led by

Secretary-General of ASEAN Mr. Lim Jock Hoi, Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN Social and Culture Community and the executive director of the ASEAN coordinator office for disaster management and humanitarian assistance, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, visited Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre, Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre and Shwezar Village.

They observed buildings at the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre and Nga Kyu Ya Reception Centre and preparation for

immigration works and accommodation. Afterwards, the delegation went to Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre and observed apartments and modular houses for accommodation of returnees, readiness for health care, water supply and sanitation, job opportunities, temporary class rooms, clinics, playgrounds for children and domestic jobs for women.

In the afternoon, the delegation met with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu at the Rakhine State Government Office and discussed matters to be cooperated.—MNA (*Translated by Tun Tun Naing*)

## CCDAC's Public Awareness Committee on drug control mulls digital campaign

THE Public Awareness Committee of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) held its 2<sup>nd</sup> coordination meeting at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Chairman of the Public Awareness Committee and the Deputy Minister for Information, U Aung Hla Tun, said at the first coordination meeting, the outcomes of the meeting included identifying the best ways to control drug abuse, raising awareness, providing treatment and rehabilitation, drafting policies and programmes to raise public awareness, and analyzing the long-term and short-term effects of drug abuse prevention programmes, planning awareness programmes based on the analysis and prevention programmes for the workplace.

The Deputy Minister said



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun delivers the speech at the meeting of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

since the field of public awareness programmes is diverse and dynamic, discussions for future programmes need to be more comprehensive, while building on past discussions. He emphasized using new ways to raise public awareness through the social media and online platforms.

The participants at the meeting advised on and extensively discussed new methods for

and the status of public awareness activities. The Deputy Minister also asked the committee to consider inviting relevant organizations for future meetings and to hold national-level events for raising awareness on drugs.

Officials from the ministries concerned, responsible organizations and Anti-Narcotics Task Force of the Police, attended the meeting.—MNA (*Translated by Myat Thandar Aung*)

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 46/2018

10<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nattaw, 1380 ME  
(17 December 2018)

### Shan State Ministers transferred

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262, Sub-section (f) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 8 (g) of Region or State Government Law, the following Shan State Ministers have been transferred to the Ministries shown against each of their names.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| (1) U Sai Shan Ta Lon | Ministry of Electricity, Energy and Industry |
| (2) U Soe Nyunt Lwin  | Ministry of Planning and Finance             |

Sd/-

*Win Myint*

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 47/2018

10<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nattaw, 1380 ME  
(17 December 2018)

### Appointment of Region Ethnic Affairs Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (f), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 10 (a) Sub-section (2), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, U Sai Pan Saing (a) U Sai Tun Sein (a) U Kyaw Sein, has been appointed as Mandalay Region Government, Shan Ethnic Affairs Minister.

Sd/-

*Win Myint*

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Notification No. 97/2018

10<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nattaw, 1380 ME  
(17 December 2018)

### Reorganization of State Ministry

According to the agreement of Shan State Hluttaw, the Ministry of Planning and Economy and the Ministry of Finance under the Shan State Government have been reorganized as the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

Sd/-

*Win Myint*

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

### Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear (Certiorari) civil cases

CHIEF JUSTICE of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court sits at Union Supreme Court

room number 1 yesterday morning and passed judgment on five (Certiorari) civil cases and heard eleven other (Certiorari) civil cases.—MNA

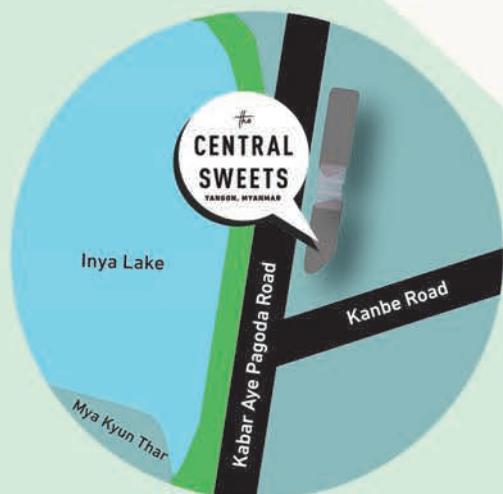
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18<sup>th</sup> December 2018



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SCAN TO FIND US



### Selecting good grains to produce high-quality crops

**T**HE draft for the Myanmar Rice Standards, being developed by the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), is 95-per-cent complete and amendments to the Myanmar Paddy Standards are 60-per-cent finished. The MRF has said the new standards are important for ensuring locally grown rice and paddy are on par with international standards and helping growers penetrate foreign markets.

To produce good quality rice, the planted paddy must first be of good grade, and for the paddy to be good, it must come from a healthy stock. This is why selecting the correct variety is important.

Farmers have been cleaning rice using traditional methods for a long time now. The most common method of cleaning rice nowadays is sifting the grains. A motor turns a steel sieve to separate the underdeveloped, small, and broken grains from the good ones.

Earlier, there were farms where people could buy good varieties of rice and paddy and learn more about them. But these 'clean-breed farms' diminished under a particular system. However, they are making a slow comeback under the current civilian government's administration. We can also see public rice breeding and production businesses are witnessing some success with encouragement. Re-

gional and state governments are partially helping interested farmers to produce good varieties of rice. The Department of Agriculture and its affiliated branches have been venturing to the fields to supply rice breeds and provide technical assistance. Additionally, starting from last year, every township has a seed-cleaning machine for use of farmers and cultivators.

Yet, with all the government support and use of traditional methods, the practice of planting crops from good varieties has

not been as widespread as hoped. Some reasons behind this could be that farmers themselves are not aware of the importance of selecting good, healthy breeds, or they are ill-equipped to produce their own healthy breeds, or they consider the price of good stock sold at centers to be expensive. It is a sure fact that if a farmer switches to maintaining good breeds then his expenditure will rise in part due to higher operation costs and throwing away of grains that fall short of the set standards. We need to properly inform farmers of these various aspects.

It is important for farmers to realize the benefits of selecting good breeds. This also depends on the millers and buyers who interact with farmers. If the price of good quality grains is the same as low-quality ones, then farmers will see no reason to work hard in planting good paddy breeds, reasoning there's no difference between an ox for a kyat and a cow for a kyat. This will result in difficulty acquiring good breeds in the long-run and will impede local produce from reaching international standards as envisioned by the Myanmar Rice Federation.

This is why millers need to be systematic in their purchasing practices. Buying good quality products at reasonable prices will encourage farmers to plant more good breeds. In fact, it will be even better if millers distribute good breeds among the farmers they work with. In time, they will be able to purchase paddy from these farmers without worry, effectively creating a win-win situation for everyone.

Farmers need to consider planting good rice breeds as it is the only way to meet set standards. Whether by conventional methods or modern ones, they need to revive the practice of selecting good grains or purchase them if they are unable to select themselves.

This being the case, it is up to the government, the millers, the farmers, and other stakeholders in the agriculture business to work together to produce high-quality rice and paddy that meet the international criteria.

# Leapfrogging and Sidestepping: Outliers Spark Municipal Reform in Myanmar

By James Owen, Heesu Chung

**“**WE don't have to employ more traffic police; the smart machine will do the job!” proclaimed U Ye Myat Thu of the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) to an audience of three dozen ministers, mayors, and officials from across Myanmar crammed into a small traffic control room in Mandalay. Myanmar's second-largest municipality has installed remote-control traffic lights, high definition video cameras, road sensors, and loudspeakers at intersections throughout the city, he explained. Software in the control room takes that data and generates dynamic traffic-flow visualizations for a handful of trained officials overseeing the system.

The new technology, the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System (SCATS), uses artificial intelligence (AI) to optimize traffic flows across the city. Learning and improving over time, it can answer questions such as, “To maximize traffic flows, how long should the green light stay on during rush hour?” The system runs daily experiments and makes continual, small adjustments without the need for a human operator. SCATS has already increased traffic flows over one of Mandalay's main bridges by a reported 50 percent.

The Mandalay traffic control demonstration was part of Myanmar's third national Horizontal Learning Workshop, a project of The Asia Foundation and the Renaissance Institute. It was a clear example of what Harvard's Matt Andrews terms “positive deviance” in public sector reforms. It's a somewhat unwieldy expression for a sharp insight, that in many contexts there are groups or organizations whose uncommon strategies enable them to find better solutions to their problems than their peers. Forget international best practice: there is much to learn from these local examples of success.

The control room is an outlier among Myanmar's municipalities, an experiment made possible by the relative autonomy of municipalities in Myanmar's otherwise highly centralized system. Such outliers contain valuable informa-



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

tion about where reforms can lead and possible paths to get there. The three-day workshop was an opportunity for mayors, ministers, and municipal bureaucrats from across the country to showcase local reforms and learn from each other's successes, missteps, and failures. The traffic control demonstrations provided a graphic example of the power of data and how experimental approaches can

they can hire and how much they can pay, due to restrictions imposed by the Union government at a time when Myanmar's cities were simpler places to manage. Deficiencies in the educational system mean that analytical skills are also in short supply. MCDC has turned to SCATS to sidestep these hurdles, obviating the need to train a cadre of traffic control analysts and hire traffic police to

This is a country where mobile-phone ownership has skyrocketed since 2014 to more than 105 phones per 100 people, and where 80 percent of those phones are smart phones, compared to just 59 percent in neighboring Thailand. For many here, Facebook is the internet.

Back in the traffic control room, SCATS is automatically tracking traffic violations and saving the videos for later review. When SCATS recently recorded a hit-and-run accident, MCDC posted details from the video on its Facebook page. The perpetrator turned himself in within days. MCDC has essentially sidestepped the stubborn problem of weak traffic enforcement by crowd-sourcing detection and introducing social sanctioning as a form of deterrence. (It's an innovation that many in the West, where privacy is a greater concern, might find uncomfortable.)

MCDC's use of Facebook reflects a broader trend among Myanmar's municipal governments. Facebook has become a place where citizens can virtually assemble to articulate their needs, and municipal officials throughout the country have begun to scan the comments on their Facebook pages to inform their decisions.

Renaissance Institute are supporting the government's use of the digital data for policymaking. A case in point: how to increase property tax revenues while making the convoluted system fairer and easier to understand.

Despite its effectiveness in sidestepping some stubborn obstacles to development, technology is no panacea. Some people may be left behind as governments shift their public engagement to digital platforms. The Foundation will be testing this hypothesis in five Myanmar cities in its upcoming City Life Survey, a multiyear perception survey of 2,400 urban residents. The survey data will reveal how different groups, such as the rich and the poor, make use of technologies related to municipal government—for instance, how often they post comments on their municipality's Facebook page.

The new technology must also plug itself into a very human system. U Aye Ko spoke to participants about struggling to make his staff comfortable with the new tools. The tax collectors were wary of Myankhon's digital oversight, and they were uncertain of how it might change their roles. Two years in, however, they have been won over. With the time savings that Myankhon provides, they can now focus on the huge task of keeping their property records up-to-date in these dynamic cities.

Which takes us back to Mandalay's traffic police. Introducing AI to traffic control doesn't mean that traffic police are no longer needed; rather, it frees them for priority tasks more suited to people. And ultimately, technology, like any development intervention, is constrained by the system it inhabits. As Myanmar's urban citizens know all too well, even the most sophisticated AI controlled traffic light is useless when the electricity goes out.

**James Owen is an economist for The Asia Foundation in Myanmar, and Heesu Chung is a master's student at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. They can be reached at james.owen@asiafoundation.org. The views and opinions expressed here are those of the authors, not those of The Asia Foundation nor those of the Global New Light of Myanmar.**

The survey data will reveal how different groups, such as the rich and the poor, make use of technologies related to municipal government—for instance, how often they post comments on their municipality's Facebook page.

advance reforms when no simple solutions are apparent.

A consistent workshop thread was how technology can sidestep some of the stubbornly persistent human-resource problems that have bedeviled local administration in Myanmar. For instance, municipalities are limited in whom

stand at intersections operating the traffic lights.

The SCATS software is sold globally—a rare success of an imported development tool—but it takes on a distinctly Myanmar flavor when combined with one of the most widely used technologies in the country, Facebook.

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

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 28/2018 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 15 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 15 December.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 19 December issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM

### Public Announcement for remonstrations

Rakhine State National United Party (RSNUP) headquartered at No.10, Room No. 104, Shwe lin Pan low-cost housing, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, has been permitted to register as a political party in accord with the Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law to Union Election Commission submitted the application for the change of the emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.

Union Election Commission

### Rakhine State National United Party (RSNUP)'s Emblem



### Public Announcement for remonstrations

Shan-ni and Northern Shan Ethnic Solidarity Party (SNSP) headquartered at No. (s-1/70-b), Gant Gaw Street between 40<sup>th</sup> x 41<sup>st</sup> Street and 67<sup>th</sup> x 68<sup>th</sup> Streets, Maha Myaing Ward (1) in Mahaangmye Township, Mandalay Region, has been permitted to register as a political party in accord with the Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law to Union Election Commission submitted the application for the change of party's name “Shan-ni Nationalities Party (SNP)” and the emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.

Union Election Commission

### Shan-ni Nationalities Party (SNP)'s Emblem



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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.

# Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet – Aunglan) project starts

AIMING for the development of transportation, regional development, and socioeconomic development within Magway Region, Construction Group No. 3 under the Department of Bridges of the Ministry of Construction held the stake driving ceremony for Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) at 9.30 am yesterday.

Officials and lawmakers from Magway Region Hluttaw drove the stakes into the ground at their designated spots and sprinkled scented water on them.

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and Chief Minister of Magway Region Dr. Aung Moe Nyo pressed a button to drive Stand Pipe No. 1 into the ground and then sprinkled scented water on it.

The Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) is an iron frame bridge linking Thayet Township and Aunglan Town-



Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and Chief Minister of Magway Region Dr. Aung Moe Nyo press a button to drive Stand Pipe No. 1 into the ground for Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan). **PHOTO: MNA**

ship. The bridge measures 7,456 ft long, 34.5 ft wide and stands 56 ft in height.

Once the bridge is completed, transportation between Aunglan Township on the east bank of the Ayeyawady River and

Thayet Township on the west will be much more convenient and economic, educational, healthcare and social development will follow. The bridge will also play an important role in the construction of the Nay Pyi

Taw – Kyaukpyu highway as it will link Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone with Maei, Mindon, Thayet, Aunglan and Nay Pyi Taw all the way to Shweli.—MNA  
(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

# Tourists visiting islands in Kawthoung via Thailand



Tourists arrive Kawthoung through Thailand. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**

WITH the development of tourism in Taninthayi Region, a large number of tourists are arriving

through Thailand to visit the islands in the Kawthoung District. In 2016, the number of tour-

ist arrivals stood at only 2.8 million compared with 4.68 million in 2015. In 2017, the number of

visitors increased to 3.2 million. The number of tourists is expected to exceed 3.2 million in 2018.

“Among the three districts of Taninthayi Region, Kawthoung received the most tourists. Last year, over 340,000 people visited Taninthayi Region during the tourist season.

But this year, Kawthoung District alone welcomed nearly 300,000 tourists,” said an official from the Taninthayi Region’s Directorate of Hotels and Tourism t.

“Tourists visited Kawthoung through arrangements with Victorial Cliff Resort Hotel and Tours Co. Ltd and other travel and tour companies. They visited several places of interest in Kawthoung,” he said. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

# Drugs seized in Maungtaw Township

AUTHORITIES stopped and searched a Nissan UD car at the 6-mile checkpoint on the Maungtaw-Buthidaung Road in Maungtaw Township on 17 December and found drugs worth over K1.9 million hidden inside a box of MaMa brand instant noodles.

The police arrested two persons, identified as Nyi Myo Than and Arzi Zaung, in the case.

In connection with the case, the authorities searched a shop rented

by Marmat Seidain on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the municipal market in Maungtaw and found 1,140,000 WY brand Yaba tablets, worth Ks 2.28 billion, hidden inside MaMa brand instant noodle boxes.

Nyi Myo Than, Arzi Zaung, and Marmat Seidain have been charged under the the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Maungtaw District IPRD

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Police seized WY yaba tablets. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**

# Qatar National Day celebrated in Yangon

QATAR National Day was celebrated at Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening, with Union Minister for Planning and Finance, U Soe Win, attending the event.

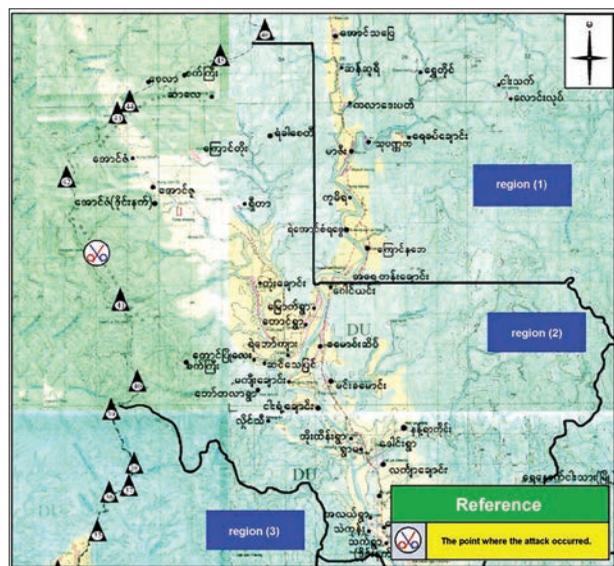
The anthem of Myanmar and Qatar were first played and the Union Minister and Qatar's Chargés d'Affaires to Myanmar, Mr. Mansoor

Mubarak AL-Khayarin, then sliced the celebratory cake, followed next by a documentary photo and dinner with invited guests. Attending the event were ambassadors and chargés d'affaires from foreign embassies stationed in Yangon, and UN department officials. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister U Soe Win is welcomed by Qatar's Chargés d'Affaires to Myanmar Mr. Mansoor Mubarak Al-Khayarin as he arrives at Qatar National Day Celebration at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

# Border guard police ambushed by unidentified attackers



Map shows the location of attack on border guard forces patrolling between border post No.42 and 42 in Maung-taw Township. PHOTO: MNA

A SECURITY troops patrolling along the border with Bangladesh was ambushed by an unidentified group positioning in other side of border at 3:15 pm yesterday.

The border guard forces were attacked between border post No. 41 and 42 in region-2, Maung-taw Township. The troops were reinforced with more troops to fight back the unidentified attackers. In the fighting, one policeman got a bullet wound and he is not in critical condition, according to the initial report of the Myanmar Police Force. — MNA (Translated by JT)

# Provisional figures for FY 2018-2019 (October to November) shows international trade up

PROVISIONAL figures for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (October to November) shows international trade volume up compared to the same period last fiscal year. International trade during this period shows export at US\$ 2,446 million and import at

US\$ 3,061 million making a total international trade volume of US\$ 5,507 million. During the same period in FY 2017-2018 export, import and total international trade volume was US\$ 2,184; 2,969 million and 5,153 million respectively.

As such, export, import and total international trade volume increases by US\$ 262 million, 92 million and 354 million respectively.

Following is the item wise export figure comparison for the last years. Values are in million US\$.

Sr.	Item	2018-2019 (October-November) Provisional figures	2017-2018 (October-November)	Comparison (+/-)
1	Agriculture products	432.908	436.788	-3.880
2	Animal products	99.598	8.227	91.371
3	Aquatic products	154.219	127.265	26.954
4	Mineral products	217.070	290.105	-73.035
5	Forest products	29.488	33.418	-3.930
6	Finished industrial products	1,357.751	1,066.790	290.953
7	Other products	154.935	221.902	-66.967
	Total	2,445.969	2,184.503	261.466

Following is the item wise import figures comparison for the last years. Values are in million US\$.

Sr.	Item	2018-2019 (October-November) Provisional figures	2017-2018 (October-November)	Comparison (+/-)
1	Investment products	1,000.138	1,010.189	-10.051
2	Raw material for production	1,120.765	1,089.318	31.447
3	Consumer products	939.975	869.153	70.822
	Total	3,060.878	2,968.660	92.218

Call Thin Thin May. Ph: 09251022355, 09974424848

# 15<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session held

## FROM PAGE-2

Committee member Dr Sai Hla Thein then table a motion to accept the report and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's agreement after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

## Receipt of a bill and approval of another bill

Next, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the receipt of 2018 Gambling Bill sent with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw and announced further for Hluttaw representatives who

want to table an amendment motion to register their names.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision and announced the Hluttaw's agreement on the Industrial Copyright Design Bill confirmed and sent with amendment by Amyotha Hluttaw.

## Motion to expand and reorganize the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division into a Department discussed

Finally a motion urging the Union Government to expand and reorganize the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division under the Forest Department into a full separate department in order to conserve world and Asia natural heritage sites as well as natural reserve areas around the country, rare wild animals and species without affecting the rights of the local people tabled by U Aye Naing of Dagon Myothit (South) constituency was

discussed by U Min Naung of Pinlebu constituency, U Win Myint Oo @ U Nay Myo of Nyaungshwe constituency, U Thet Naung of Lahe constituency, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency, U Aung Naing @ U Nain Kyaw of Mogok constituency, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency, U Yi Mon @ U Maung Tin Thit of Pobbathiri constituency, U Mahn Nyunt Thein, Pantanaw constituency, U Lar Mar Lay of Hsawlaw constituency, Daw Nan

Khin Saw of Kunhing constituency and U Win Naing of Mogaung constituency.

In his discussion on the motion Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe said the matter would require additional staff and funding as well as amending a law enacted in 21 May 2018. As time is required to do all these, the Deputy Minister explained to put the motion on record and keep the matter under observation.

U Aye Naing responded to a request for

comment from the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and said the motion should be kept on record and the matter kept under observation and will press again if no further follow up action is made. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the motion to be kept on record and keep the matter under observation after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw. The 16<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session will be held on 19 December it is learnt.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## N Korea warns US sanctions may 'block path to denuclearization'



At a historic summit in June, US President Donald Trump and Kim signed a vaguely-worded statement on denuclearisation. **PHOTO: AFP**

SEOUL (South Korea) — North Korea has condemned the United States over its latest sanctions measures, warning the policy could “block the path to denuclearization on the Korean peninsula forever”.

The warning from the North on Sunday came days after the US said it was imposing sanctions on three senior North Korean officials over human rights abuses.

The sanctioned officials include Choe Ryong Hae, who has been considered a right-hand man to leader Kim Jong Un.

In a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency, the North praised President Donald Trump for his efforts to improve relations with Pyongyang, but said the US State Department

was “bent on bringing the DPRK-US relations back to the status of last year which was marked by exchanges of fire”.

The statement by the policy research director of the Institute for American Studies of the foreign ministry accused the US of “deliberate provocation” over the sanctions on the three officials.

If Washington believes the policy of increased sanctions and pressure would force the North to give up its nuclear weapons, “it will count as greatest miscalculation, and it will block the path to denuclearization on the Korean peninsula forever”, the statement added.

At a historic summit in Singapore in June, US President Donald Trump and Kim signed

a vaguely-worded statement on denuclearisation.

But little progress has been made since then, with Washington pushing to maintain sanctions against the North until its “final, fully verified denuclearisation” and Pyongyang condemning US demands as “gangster-like”.

In actions required by Congress, the Trump administration said on Monday it would seize any US assets of the three officials over their roles in suppressing freedom of speech.

Such restrictions may have little impact on officials in one of the world’s most closed countries but will have a clear symbolic force as North Korea seeks greater acceptance by the United States.—AFP ■

## Indian politician gets life over 1984 anti-Sikh riots

NEW DELHI (India) — A veteran Indian politician was given a life sentence on Monday over anti-Sikh riots in 1984 that killed nearly 3,000 people following the assassination of then-premier Indira Gandhi.

The Delhi High Court found Sajjan Kumar, 73, guilty of instigating mobs during the mass killings triggered by the death of Gandhi at the hands of her Sikh bodyguards.

At the time Kumar was an MP with the then-ruling Congress party. He was acquitted in 2013 but the High Court reversed the judgement on appeal from federal investigators.

He was found guilty over a case involving the murder of five members of a Sikh family in New Delhi after key testimonies from eye witnesses.

A two-judge bench convicted Kumar for criminal conspiracy, promoting enmity and acting against communal harmony, the Press Trust of India and other local media reported.

“It is important to assure the victims that despite the challenges truth will prevail,” the court said, according to the NDTV news network. “The aftershock of those atrocities is still being felt.”

Kumar, who has been asked to surrender by the end of this month, will have to spend the rest of his life behind bars.

The 1984 carnage erupted just hours after Gandhi was shot dead at her residence in New Delhi. It lasted three days with Sikhs raped and murdered, their homes and businesses torched.

Gandhi was killed over her decision to use military force to expel Sikh separatists from inside the Golden Temple — Sikhism’s holiest shrine in the northern Indian city of Amritsar.

Critics accuse Congress of turning a blind eye to the killings and the role of leaders such as Kumar and Jagdish Tytler.

Last week, Congress named Kamal Nath as the chief minister of the central state of Madhya Pradesh despite allegations that he had led one of the mobs during the riots. Kumar, Tytler and others have always denied any wrongdoing. Kumar last won a parliamentary election in 2004 but was forced to withdraw from the 2009 polls over the rioting allegations. Last month, another accused, Yashpal Singh was sentenced to death for murder and rioting. Sikhs make up some two percent of Hindu-majority India’s population of 1.25 billion.—AFP ■

## Universities from China, South Asia, Southeast Asia form into alliance

KUNMING — One hundred and three universities from China, South Asia and Southeast Asia have formed into an alliance to enhance regional cooperation on higher education.

The alliance includes 45 elite Chinese universities such as Renmin University of China and Fudan University. Other members of the alliance come from 14 South and Southeast Asian countries including India, Thailand and Singapore.

The alliance will hold presidents’ forums on a regular basis to share their experience in school administration, establish a resource sharing platform, launch joint talent cultivation programs, and set up joint laboratories to promote international cooperation on scientific

research.

“We’re looking to effectively utilize the available resources to raise the quality and efficiency of higher education. One of the very important strategies for achieving this objective is greater regional cooperation among universities,” said Lakshman Dissanayake, vice-chancellor of the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka, in a keynote speech.

The secretariat will be based in Yunnan University and Lin Wenxun, president of Yunnan University, will serve as the first secretary-general of the alliance, according to a decision adopted by representatives for the 103 universities at a gathering held Monday in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province.—Xinhua ■

## Plan to make Australia global power for military exports on track: government

CANBERRA — The Australian government has declared it is on track to achieve its goal of becoming a top 10 military exporter after Western Australia’s Austal won two orders for US Navy ships.

Austal, the leading global producer of aluminum ships, on Monday announced that it would build another two combat ships for the US Navy, adding to the two ships it is currently building and eight it has already delivered.

Australia’s Minister for Defence Industry Steven Ciobo hailed the new deal and announced that the government’s new export credit agency, the

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC), would loan CEA technologies, a Canberra-based defence contractor, 90 million Australian dollars (64.5 million US dollars).

It marks the first time that the EFIC has given a loan after it was established in January with the capability to lend 3.8 billion Australian dollars (2.7 billion US dollars) to boost Australia’s defence exports.

“The Austal order shows how the Defence Export Facility is helping Australian exporters sell more of their Australian products to the world, helping drive

economic growth and create new Australian jobs,” Ciobo told reporters.

David Singleton, chief executive of Austal, said the new orders meant the company had a contract for 10 vessels to be built by 2025 and confirmed it was in negotiations with Trinidad and Tobago for two patrol boats.

“This latest order from the US Navy is a tremendous endorsement of Austal’s unique aluminum trimaran and further evidence of the important role Austal plays in building the United States Navy,” Singleton told reporters on Monday.—Xinhua ■

## Volcano in central Indonesia erupts, sending ash high into sky

JAKARTA — A volcano in central Indonesia erupted on Sunday, ejecting columns of volcanic ash as high as 7 kilometres into the sky, but the authorities have not raised its alert status from the second highest, officials said.

The Centre for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation said in a press statement that the activity of Mt Soputan in Sulawesi Island's North Sulawesi Province has continued to increase since 5:40 am with thick, grey ash heading southwestward.

"The people are recommended not to do any activities within 6.5 km in the western and southwestern parts from the vol-

cano's summit and within 4 km in other parts of the volcano as lava may flow and hot clouds may go down (along the slopes)," the statement said.

The volcanology centre also warned people living near rivers on the slopes of the 1,784-metre volcano to watch out for overflowing of rivers clogged with lahar, or cold lava, as it is now the rainy season.

"In the case of ash rain, people are recommended to wear masks to anticipate respiratory problems," the centre said.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said there were no

immediate reports of casualties.

"The people (living on the slopes) do not need to evacuate," Sutopo said, adding about 20,000 masks have been distributed to residents.

He also said that Sam Ratulangi international airport in the North Sulawesi provincial capital of Manado has not been affected by ash from the nearby volcano.

Indonesia is located in one of the most active seismic regions in the world, the Pacific Ring of Fire, in which a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. —Kyodo News ■



Mt Soputan in central Indonesia's Sulawesi Island erupts on 16 December, 2018, ejecting volcanic ash as high as 7 kilometres into the sky. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



Visitors cross a bridge on the Marker Wadden, artificial islands located in the Markermeer lake in the Netherlands. PHOTO: AFP

## Dutch build artificial islands to bring wildlife back

LELYSTAD (Netherlands) — Dutch ranger Andre Donker sighs as he looks out at the rippling grey waters of the Markermeer, one of Europe's largest freshwater lakes. "Once upon a time it was teeming with fish here," he says.

But this vast 700-square-kilometre (270-square-mile) expanse of water, which regulates the level of water in the rest of the Netherlands, had become until recently nothing more than a cloudy mass devoid of aquatic life.

Now the hope is that a new artificial archipelago of five islands will bring nature back to the area via a typically ambitious engineering project for a low-lying country that has battled the sea for centuries.

It is "one of the largest rewilding operations in Europe", says Donker. Standing on a wooden bridge over a pond in the middle of experimental plots of different kinds of reeds, he says he has been able to see the first signs of

increasing biodiversity.

### 'We had to intervene'

The lake was once part of the Zuiderzee, an engineering wonder of the world completed in 1932, which closed off a huge expanse of water to keep out the North Sea and combat flooding.

Vital in a country where 26 per cent of the land is below sea level, the scheme created an inland lake and polders, land reclaimed from the sea, but at a cost to the environment.

Over the subsequent decades, sediment used to create a dyke separating the Markermeer from a neighbouring body of water, the IJsselmeer, washed away and sunk to the bottom of the lake. That turned the water cloudy, negatively impacting fish and bird populations, plants and molluscs.

"We had to intervene," says Donker, wearing a woollen hat to brave the storms from the North Sea.

### Combating vulnerability

The solution was a bold one in keeping with a country whose people like to boast that "God created the world, but the Dutch created the Netherlands".

Eight kilometres (five miles) from the port of Lelystad, the ranger walks down the side of an artificial sand dune. Other similar dunes stretch out beyond it as far as the eye can see.

Still-sparse vegetation covers a large part of the 700 hectares that have been built anew in the lake.

The islets plan is among many being worked on by the Netherlands, which is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change.

Since October, the port city of Rotterdam has hosted the headquarters of an international climate commission led by former UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon and Microsoft founder and climate activist Bill Gates. —AFP ■

## Tokyo hotel to trial newly-developed wooden straws, ban plastic

TOKYO — A hotel operator in Tokyo said on 11 December it will trial from January wooden straws in its restaurant while banning plastic straws in dining facilities and its bar by next April amid global efforts to reduce marine plastic pollution.

The new disposable straws, developed by The Capitol Hotel Tokyu Co and wooden house builder Aqurahome Co, are made by curling thinly sliced domestic plantation timbers obtained after they had been cut down in forest thinning operations.

The straws, the brainchild of environmental journalist Yuri Takeda, will be used in the hotel's restaurant "ORIGAMI" from 16 January.

The move came as major companies including coffee

chain Starbucks Corp and Walt Disney Co are stepping up efforts to ditch plastic straws in an effort to protect the marine environment.

Other similar companies have begun distributing alternatives such as paper straws.

The hotel and the residential construction company said they hope the use of wooden straws will improve people's understanding of sustainable forestry. Practices like the thinning of plantation forests promote the growth of the remaining trees.

Although the wooden straws cost as much as several dozen yen each, as compared to plastic straws which cost just 1 yen (\$0.01), they aim to lower the cost by expanding their use. —Kyodo News ■



Disposable straws developed by The Capitol Hotel Tokyu Co and wooden house builder Aqurahome Co. PHOTO: KYODO



Catriona Gray of the Philippines reacts as she is crowned the new Miss Universe 2018 by Miss Universe 2017 Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters on 17 December, 2018 in Bangkok. PHOTO: AFP

## Miss Philippines wins 2018 Miss Universe Crown

BANGKOK (Thailand) — Miss Philippines was crowned Miss Universe on Monday in Bangkok after a trailblazing ceremony praised for featuring its first transgender candidate but marred by gaffes about the English-speaking ability of two Asian contestants.

Catriona Gray, 24, finished first ahead of the South African and Venezuelan finalists in the glittering televised event hosted by American comic turned TV host Steve Harvey and supermodel Ashley Graham.

In the final round, Gray earned applause describing her work in the slums of the Philippine capital Manila and said if she won she would try to find areas “where I could give something, where I could provide something.”

She added she would work for a world “where negativity

could not grow and foster and children would have a smile on their face”.

Gray — a student of music theory — beat more than 90 contestants from around the globe in the 67<sup>th</sup> instalment of Miss Universe, which was held in the Thai capital’s Impact Arena.

During the competition, which was broadcast live, candidates were asked questions on press freedom, legalisation of marijuana, refugees and the #MeToo movement.

This year’s event drew positive feedback for themes of inclusivity and an all-women panel of judges made up of business leaders and former Miss Universe titleholders.

Miss Spain’s Angela Ponce made history as the first transgender candidate in a competition once owned by President Donald Trump, whose adminis-

tration has attempted to block military recruitment of transgender people. “I always say: having a vagina didn’t transform me into a woman. I am a woman, already before birth, because my identity is here,” Ponce told AFP on Saturday, gesturing to her head. She added she wanted her appearance to be empowering and that she hoped for a “new generation of human beings who are raised a lot better, more tolerant and respectful.”

But issues of tolerance and respect came centre stage during the competition when Miss USA Sarah Rose Summers appeared to poke fun at Miss Vietnam and Miss Cambodia on social media for not being able to speak English. The comments went viral but Summers later posted an apology on Instagram, saying she did not “intend to hurt” her fellow competitors.—AFP ■

## Latest Spider-Man spin-off scales box office heights

LOS ANGELES (United States) — “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse” snared North American viewers in its web this weekend, earning \$35.4 million in ticket sales, industry tracker Exhibitor Relations estimated on Sunday.

Sony’s action-packed animation sees Peter Parker make way for Miles Morales as Spider-Man — a black, Latino character new to theater-goers, but not comic book enthusiasts.

The Spider-Man of his dimension, Morales, voiced by Shameik Moore, joins forces with Spideys from parallel realities to stop a threat menacing all of them.

In at second was Warner Bros’ crime film “The Mule,” which earned \$17.2 million. Clint Eastwood both directed and took the lead as a destitute 90-year-old who turns to transporting cocaine through Illinois for a Mexican drug cartel.

“Dr Seuss’ The Grinch” dropped one place to third, earning \$11.6 million over the weekend. Benedict Cumberbatch voices the grouchy title

character as he plots to steal Christmas.

Fourth place went to “Ralph Breaks the Internet,” which took in \$9.6 million after spending three weeks at the top of the box office.

The animated film, a sequel to 2012’s “Wreck It Ralph,” has sold \$154 million in domestic tickets since it opened.

In at fifth was Universal’s newly-released “Mortal Engines,” whose ticket sales stalled at \$7.5 million.

The post-apocalyptic sci-fi sees Hera Hilmar star as the only person who can stop the city of London — now a colossal wheeled predator — from chomping up all in its path.

Rounding out the weekend’s top 10 were:

- “Creed II” (\$5.4 million)
- “Bohemian Rhapsody” (\$4.1 million)
- “Instant Family” (\$3.7 million)
- “Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald” (\$3.7 million)
- “Green Book” (\$2.8 million).—AFP ■



In at No 1: Shameik Moore voices Miles Morales as the superhero in the animated Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, which snared \$35.4 million at home and \$56.4 million globally. PHOTO: AFP



Colin Kroll, right, co-founded popular gaming app HQ Trivia and the now defunct video platform Vine. PHOTO: AFP

## Vine, HQ Trivia cofounder dead at 34

NEW YORK (United States) — US tech star Colin Kroll, who co-founded Vine and popular gaming app HQ Trivia, was found dead on Sunday in New York of an apparent drug overdose.

Police found Kroll, 34, unconscious and unresponsive in a bedroom of his Manhattan apartment, a New York police spokesman told NBC television.

A drug overdose is the suspected cause of death, police said,

and an investigation is underway.

Kroll co-founded Vine, the popular short-form video service acquired in 2012 by Twitter that is now defunct.

In September, he was named the chief executive of HQ Trivia, a smartphone-based trivia platform. HQ Trivia confirmed his death in a statement.

“We learned today of the passing of our friend and founder, Colin Kroll, and it’s with deep

sadness that we say goodbye,” it said. “Our thoughts go out to his family, friends and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time.”

HQ Trivia, launched in August 2017, was a blockbuster, hitting a March milestone of two million concurrent players.

But by November, the number of users plunged from millions to hundreds of thousands, according to tech news site Re-code.—AFP ■

## Russia hands over three rocket engines to US

MOSCOW — Three Russian engines RD-181 have been handed over to the Orbital Sciences Corporation, the research and industrial association NPO Energomash said on its website on Friday.

“On 12 December, three RD-181 engines were handed over to the US customer,” the Orbital Sciences Corporation said in the news release.

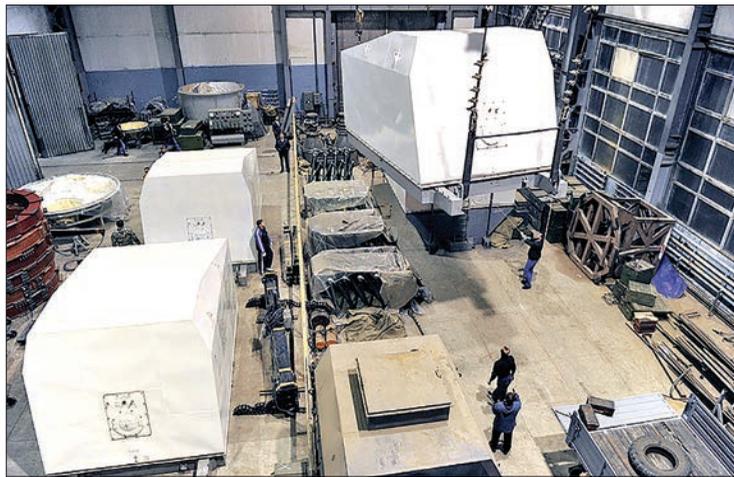
This is a second consignment of engines delivered to the US company this year. Two RD-181 engines were handed

over in June. NPO Energomash provides RD-181 engines for the United States’ space rockets Antares, designed by Orbital Science Corporation.

The main design of the launch vehicle’s first stage was developed by Ukraine’s design bureau Yuzhnoye.

The manufacture of the first stage is another Ukrainian enterprise — the AM Makarov Machine Building Plant.

The first stage is equipped with two oxygen-kerosene engines RD-181.—Tass ■



On 12 December, three RD-181 engines were handed over to the US. PHOTO: TASS

## Bees can wear “backpacks” to collect data for farms

NEW YORK — Researchers at the University of Washington have developed a wearable sensing system for bumblebees to collect data.

The data, however, are not about bees themselves. Instead, the device collects data about location, temperature and humidity which can be used to figure out the health of plant life in a certain area.

Actually, farmers can already collect these data with drones. But “these machines need so much power to fly that they can’t get very far without needing a charge,” the university said on its website.

As bees can fly on their own, the wearable device does not need a dynamical system, thus its battery could last for about seven hours while drones could only fly for 10 or 20 minutes, according to the university.

Scientists could recharge the batteries wirelessly and gather the collected data in a hive where bees return every night.

“Having insects carry these sensor systems could be beneficial for farms because bees can sense things that electronic objects, like drones, cannot,” said Shyam Gollakota, associate professor at the University of Washington.

“With a drone, you’re just flying around randomly, while a bee is going to be drawn to specific things, like the plants it prefers to pollinate.

And on top of learning about the environment, you can also learn a lot about how the bees behave,” he added.—Xinhua ■

## 5G: a revolution not without risks

PARIS (France) — The recent diplomatic dust-up over Chinese telecoms company Huawei, one of the leaders in developing equipment for fifth-generation mobile networks, has demonstrated that this technology which promises to enable an internet of things and self-driving vehicles also poses risks.

What is 5G, what will it be able to do, and what are the risks?

What is 5G?

5G stands for the fifth generation of mobile network technology, which should begin to be

rolled out in 2020 in Asia and the United States. Each generation has offered improvements in data transmission speed and capacity, and with 5G the networks are really set to make the transition from telephony to other objects.

What will it be able to do?

The much vaunted internet of things has so far been hobbled by the limitations of mobile networks, both in terms of transmission speeds of handsets and the fact the backbone of networks hadn’t been expanded sufficiently in many cases to handle huge

volumes of data. With 5G, transmission speeds should accelerate sufficiently to allow for self-driving cars to take to the roads or for doctors to conduct operations remotely. It will also cut the cord on augmented and virtual reality.

The ability to connect more sensors will help make many services “intelligent”, such as helping manage traffic flow and telling the sanitation department when garbage bins need to be emptied.

Industry is in particular looking forward to 5G to reinvent manufacturing and allow it to monitor all sorts of processes.

Why does 5G pose security risks?

The first reason is that more data and more types of data will be travelling across 5G networks. Much of the data transmitted by sensors could be sensitive, such as information about manufacturing processes that business rivals would be interested in acquiring. Or the data from our homes that could be gleaned to determine all sorts of things about us. The treasure chest of data for hackers is getting much, much bigger.

A second reason is that an increased reliance on the mobile network means its disruption

would have even more serious consequences, both in terms of safety and economic activity. A failure during a remotely guided operation could lead to the death of a patient or a crash of a self-driving car. A longer outage could disrupt an economy. This poses national security risks.

While the diplomatic spat over the arrest of Huawei’s chief financial officer was based on accusations the firm violated US sanctions on Iran, the United States has longstanding concerns about Chinese telecommunications equipment being a Trojan horse for Beijing’s intelligence and military.

Huawei is a major manufacturer of equipment used to build 5G networks, and the US defence establishment fears it could enable it to disrupt American military communications or otherwise wage asymmetrical warfare in a confrontation.

The United States has essentially barred use of Huawei equipment in domestic networks, as have Australia and New Zealand, with other countries considering following suit.

Deliverance or disappointment?—AFP ■



This photo taken on 10 December, 2018 shows people walking past a Huawei store in Beijing. China’s ambitious drive to dominate next-generation 5G technology faces a sudden reality check as fears spread that telecom companies like Huawei could be proxies for Beijing’s intrusive security apparatus. PHOTO: AFP

## Global diets lacking vitamins, minerals: Australian scientists

CANBERRA — Diets all over the world are lacking vitamins and minerals essential for healthy growth, Australia’s peak scientific body found.

An analysis of global diets, released by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) on Monday, revealed that the worldwide intake of calcium, vitamin D, vitamin E and folate is likely to re-

main inadequate through to 2050.

In poorer countries, the study projected that the intake of zinc, iron, vitamin K and vitamin A would remain inadequate.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), micronutrient deficiencies can impair intellectual development, stunt growth and weaken the immune system.

WHO estimates that more

than 2 billion people around the world suffer from micronutrient deficiency.

“Global food security is not just about providing adequate calories,” CSIRO study author Jessica Bogard said in a media release on Monday.

“A person can consume too many calories but still be malnourished.”

The study did find that near-

ly every country in the world is achieving adequate carbohydrate and protein intake.

Researchers used current diets to create a trajectory of what the average human diet would look like from now through to 2050. They found that the biggest factors affecting food and nutrition security in the near future would be climate change.

“A change in the climate com-

bined with a change in people’s diets, as they begin to earn more, will ultimately impact on our agricultural systems and what gets grown where,” Bogard said.

“Improving farm productivity and economic growth alone is not going to be enough to achieve nutritional security now and into the future. We must refocus our efforts on dietary quality rather than quantity.”—Xinhua ■

## Myanmar wins gold in 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games' karate and vovinam



Men's archers aim at shooting the target at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games. **PHOTO: MNA**

**H**OST Myanmar won gold medals in karate and vovinam competitions at the tenth day of the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games held at Wunna Theik-di Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Athletes also competed in sepak takraw, archery, pétan-



Myanmar Karatedo athlete fights against the athlete from Cambodia at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games. **PHOTO: MNA**

que, track and field, basketball, karate, table tennis, vovinam and chess contests yesterday where Myanmar secured two gold medals in the karate competition, and three gold medals in the vovinam competition.

In the women's karate single competition (50kg) Myanmar's Ma Zin Aye won gold medal and

Myanmar's Maung Aung Khin Sit also took the gold medal in the men's karate single competition (60kg).

Currently, Thailand ranks first place medal-wise, followed by Indonesia and Malaysia with host Myanmar in fourth place—Han Lin Naing (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

## Mourinho concedes Man Utd incapable of living with Liverpool

**LIVERPOOL** (United Kingdom) — Jose Mourinho hinted Manchester United's players are simply not good enough to compete with Liverpool after being brushed aside 3-1 at Anfield on Sunday by the Premier League leaders.

Mourinho claimed ahead of the game that Liverpool have had luck on their side this season, but while there was fortune in substitute Xherdan Shaqiri's two deflected strikes in the final 17 minutes, the visitors did not deserve anything more than a fifth league defeat of the season.

"The players gave everything and when they give everything I'm never upset with them. I have a good feeling towards them, they play in relation to their qualities, the same way the opponent played in relation to their qualities," said Mourinho.

"They (Liverpool) are fast, intense, aggressive, physical, they play 200 miles per hour with the ball and without the ball."

Mourinho also turned on his players' injury record after having to name a patched up defence with Eric Bailly replacing Chris Smalling at the last minute after the latter picked up an injury in the warm-up.

"We have lots of problems related to physicality," added Mourinho. "We have lots of players that

I could consider injury problems, because some of our players are always injured."

However, there will be little sympathy for the Portuguese's protests as he left £89 million signing Paul Pogba on the bench for the full 90 minutes, while £50 summer recruit Fred didn't even make the squad.

Victory took Liverpool back a point above Manchester City and a mammoth 19 clear of United, who remain in sixth and are now 11 points off the top four.

However, Mourinho insisted United can still qualify for next season's Champions League.

"I know that we lost some other matches but we played Liverpool, Chelsea and Manchester City away, probably the three best teams apart from Tottenham," he added. "I think we have more possibilities to do more points in the second half of the season than the first."

### Liverpool lay siege

The contrasting form showed by both sides this season continued as United strained to keep a rampant Liverpool at bay and were only level for so long thanks to a huge error by home goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

"You (the media) didn't say too many nice things about them and good things about us. It was made for another result. We wanted to avoid that and we fought

really hard," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp.

Liverpool laid siege to the visitors' goal early on with David de Gea stretching to keep out a low drive from Roberto Firmino, Ashley Young clearing off the line and Fabinho firing wide from the edge of the box.

"A brilliant start. One of the best performances we've had since I've been at Liverpool," added Klopp. "The first half an hour was outstanding."

Only City have kept Klopp's side from scoring in the Premier League this season and a United defence that has kept just one clean sheet in the league since September never looked capable of holding out like they had in their two previous visits to Anfield. Mourinho's men were finally breached when Mane controlled Fabinho's chipped ball into the box on his chest and volleyed past the onrushing De Gea on 24 minutes.

However, Liverpool's momentum was punctured by an Alisson gift 12 minutes before the break. The Brazilian was Liverpool's hero with an injury-time save to secure the Reds' place in the last 16 of the Champions League against Napoli on Tuesday. But he spilled Romelu Lukaku's simple cross into the path of the grateful Lingard to bundle the ball into an unguarded net.

The second half followed a similar pattern but it wasn't until Klopp turned to Shaqiri 20 minutes from time that Liverpool found a way through.

Three minutes later De Gea did well to prevent Ander Herrera turning Mane's cross into his own

net, but the ball fell for Shaqiri and his effort cannoned off Young and in off the underside of the bar.

Shaqiri got lucky again with 10 minutes to go when, this time on his favoured left foot, his shot flicked off the diving Bailly to leave De Gea helpless.—AFP ■



Manchester United's Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho gestures on the touchline during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester United at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on 16 December, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**