

NATIONAL

VP U Myint Swe, businesspersons hold 22nd regular meeting to promote private sector

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

President of India, First Lady conclude State Visit, departs from Yangon

PAGE-10

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We are now continuing our work to provide 24 hours electricity to Maungtaw Township and nearby villages during December 2018: President U Win Myint

Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint
on the occasion of the 44th Anniversary of Rakhine State Day.
(15 December 2018)

Dear esteemed ethnic brothers and sisters of Rakhine State,

Today 15th December marks the auspicious occasion of the 44th Anniversary of Rakhine State Day for the ethnic brothers and sisters and citizens of Rakhine State. I am very happy to have this opportunity to send this Message of Greetings on this

auspicious occasion. Furthermore, I send these good wishes for the prosperity and auspiciousness not only for the ethnic Rakhine nationals in Rakhine State but also other ethnic nationals living in other parts of the Union.

SEE PAGE-3

President U Win Myint meets administrative, legislative, judiciary sectors in Mon State



President U Win Myint greets officials and representatives at the meeting with officials from administrative, legislative and judiciary sectors in Mon State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint accompanied by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Electricity and

Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials left Yangon by Tatmadaw special flight and arrived in Mawlamyine, Mon State yesterday morning.

SEE PAGE-3

State Counsellor addresses 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit - 2018



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes ANT booth displayed at 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit - 2018 organized by Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association at the Myanmar International Conventional Centre 2 (MICC - 2) at 9 a.m. yesterday.

Chairman of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Min Thu, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Thaung Tun, U Kyaw Tin,

SEE PAGE-4

INSIDE TODAY

PARLIAMENT

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds its 14th-day meeting

PAGE-2



PARLIAMENT

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's Tenth Regular Session holds its 14th-day meeting

PAGE-2



NATIONAL

UEC Chairman receives Czech Ambassador in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-6



Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds its 14th-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE 14th-day meeting of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered; reports read, discussed and approved; a bill approved and a motion discussed.

Asterisk-marked questions

The first question of the day was raised by U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri constituency on plan to pay compensation to farmers whose land were in the basin area of Yan Aung Myin reservoir in Dekkhinathiri Township. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aye Maung Sein replied that assessment will be made on type of lands submerged by the reservoir water to calculate compensation amount and then a report will be made to Central Committee



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

for Reviewing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands to consider whether the compensation is to be paid by the ministry that constructed the reservoir or Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee that is using the reservoir water. U Myint Ngwe of Kyaukkyi constituency asked if there is a plan to construct a township hall in Kyaukkyi town, Bago Region. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun replied that the site cho-

sen for township hall was located on a bank of a lake that would require much reinforced concrete works and a site survey had estimated the cost to be about Ks 244 million. Kyaukkyi Township municipal didn't have sufficient fund it could not be conducted at the moment. A request for a separate fund will be made and construction will be done once the fund is available said U Nyi Tun.

U Shwe Hla @ U Shwe Hla Win of Thingangyun constituency also asked if there is a plan to construct a rock lined retaining wall near the vicinity of Thabye Road, Yangon Thit Ward 30, Thingangyun Township where there is a real danger of bank erosion caused by Nga Moe Yeik Creek. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo confirmed that the subject area is in real need of a retaining wall but fund was not included in this fiscal year. Therefore it will be included in the fiscal year 2019-2020 capital fund for Yangon Region Government said the Deputy Minister. Questions raised by U Khin Zaw of Kawthoung constituency, U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu constituency, U Win Min of Hlinethaya constituency and U Ne Lin Aung of Mindat constituency were also answered by Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo.

Pyithu Hluttaw Judicial

and Legal Affairs Committee report read

Following the question and answer session Pyithu Hluttaw Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee report was read by committee member Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

Electricity and Energy Development Committee Report read, discussed and approved

Next Pyithu Hluttaw Electricity and Energy Development Committee report was read and explained by Committee Secretary U Soe Myint @ U Aung Zaw Myint. The report was then discussed by U Lone Jone San Mai of Sumprabum constituency and U Myat Lay Oo of Htilin constituency and the discussions made were responded by the Committee Chairman.

SEE PAGE-12

Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's Tenth Regular Session holds its 14th-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

THE tenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 14th-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the session, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, and a report was read.

Q & A session

During the Q & A session, U Hwei Tin of Chin State constituency 11 asked the Union Government if it plans to construct a two-storey reinforced concrete school - 120 x 30 ft., in Chin Doke village, Paletwa Township, Chin State in the 2019-2020 fiscal years.

Regarding this query, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that necessary amount of construction fund would be provided based on the allotment of the fund and plans were under way to construct the extended building of the school in the 2019-2020 fiscal years.

Upgrading a middle school branch to middle school

U Zung Hlei Thang of Chin State constituency 4 asked the



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

Union Government if it plans to upgrade a middle school branch to middle school in Ti Cir village, Falam Township, Chin State.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that scrutinized procedures would be carried out to upgrade the school in the 2019-2020 fiscal years, with a view to enhancing more learning opportunities for the students.

Constructing an extended primary school building

U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency 5 asked the Union Government that if it plans to construct an extended primary school branch building - 60 X 30

ft., in Monezalae Village, Pwintbyu Township, Minbu District, Magway Region.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that the construction project would be dependent on the allotment of the fund. As such, arrangements would be made to construct a new school building in the 2019-2020 fiscal years.

Daw Htu May of Rakhine constituency 11 asked the Union Government if it plans to upgrade the Taungup Degree College to University-level in the 2018-2019 academic years.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that

there are twelve subjects that the students can pursue their learning and a total of 118 teachers together with 90 office staff had been appointed at the Taungup Degree College.

With regard to upgrading the status of university-level, many classes such as undergraduate classes, honours classes, master (qualify) courses, Diploma courses, M.Phil. and Masters Degrees would be needed to open at the university campus.

Thus the authority concerned has placed greater emphasis on fulfilling the requirements such as research works, sufficient numbers of teachers, classroom facilities, libraries, boarding schools, etc.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied the queries raised by U Hla Myint alias U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11, U Myo Htat alias Salai Myo Htike of Chin State constituency 12 and U Siang Awr of Chin State Constituency 2 respectively.

Reading a report on Labour Dispute Bill

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Hla Htay

alias Daw Ohn Kyi read out and clarified the reports of the Bill Committee concerning the Labour Dispute Bill sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decisions of the Hluttaw on the bill to be approved in accordance with the amendments of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee.

A motion on some points of disagreement

U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region constituency 8 tabled a motion to discuss some points of disagreement between the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Following this, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that some points of disagreement that contained in the second amendments of the Labour Dispute Bill should be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session will hold its fifteenth-day meeting on 17 December. (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

We are now continuing our work to provide 24 hours electricity to Maungtau Township and nearby villages during December 2018 : President U Win Myint

FROM PAGE-1

After establishing the Rakhine State in accordance with the 1974 constitution, 15th of December, the date on which the people's referendum was started to confirm the constitution, was designated as Rakhine State Day. Beginning from 1975, we have been celebrating Rakhine State Day and today we are in the 44th year.

Rakhine State is blessed with a long coastline and fertile farmlands and because of its natural geographic location is rich in natural mineral resources, rice, water, paddy, livestock and fisheries. In addition it is rich with many priceless ancient heritage sites.

During 2018, Rakhine State has been free from disastrous natural disasters and Maungtau region has witnessed good, peaceful and stable conditions. Thus we can say that 2018 has been an auspicious year. To ensure there is sustainable peace, security and development in Rakhine State, our Union Government has been working to implement the following three goals:

- (a) Rule of law and raise the socio-economic standard of the people.
- (b) National Reconciliation and internal peace.
- (c) To amend the constitution, which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Union.

For peace, stability and development in Rakhine State, the Union Government has been working

strenuously by establishing the Central Committee for Peace, and Development in Rakhine State with four working committees. Furthermore the UEHRD - Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine has been formed with 9 members with the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as Chairperson and has been carrying out its tasks accordingly.

Just as we have been working on the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone which is very important for the development of Rakhine State, we are working on the Kanyin Chaung Economic Zone and the Kaladan River Multi-modal Development Project which can bring stability to the region and also promote and develop imports and exports.

At the same time, we have been working on the Ponnagyun - Yathedaung - Butheedaung - Maungtau power line to give 24 hours electricity from the 66 KV power line to the Maungtau region. Thus we were able to give 24 hours electricity on 31 March 2018 to Rathedaung Township and to Buthidaung Township. We are now continuing our work to provide 24 hours electricity to Maungtau township and nearby villages during December 2018.

We are working in collaboration with UNESCO for Mrauk U to be designated as a world heritage site because Mrauk U Town is a place where Buddhism

has flourished and where many holy Buddha relics can be found.

Regarding those displaced persons who have gone over to the Bangladesh side, to accept those who wish to return to Myanmar voluntarily, we have made arrangements for repatriation in accordance with the agreements reached between Myanmar and Bangladesh, and as a result of agreements reached resulting from bilateral discussions between the two countries, we have been able to build 2 reception Centres and one transit Centre before 23 January 2018. We are undertaking coordination efforts beginning from 23 January 2018 after drawing up the Repatriation Programme in accordance with the agreement reached between the two countries.

As I send this Message of Greetings with respect and friendship on the auspicious occasion of Rakhine State Day, I wish to urge all Rakhine ethnic nationals and citizens to participate with united collective strength and with great vision and farsight, for the peace and stability of Rakhine State, rule of law, social cohesion among societies, transformation of Rakhine State into a beautiful and happy state and establishment of the future Democratic Federal Union.

(Sd/-)

Win Myint
President

President U Win Myint meets administrative, legislative, judiciary sectors in Mon State

FROM PAGE-1

The President and party were welcomed at Mawlamyine airport by Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, State Hluttaw Speaker Daw Tin Ei, State Chief Justice U Khin Maung Gyi, State Advocate General Daw Aye Aye Mo, State Auditor Daw Thein Thein Oo, state ministers, Hluttaw representatives and officials.

The President then met and gave guidance to officials from Mon State government; (Pyithu, Amyotha, State) Hluttaw representatives; State High Court; state, districts, townships departmental officials at the state hall in Mawlamyine, Mon State.

Speaking at the meeting President U Win Myint first explained about the aim of visiting Mon State. The essence of his inaugural speech delivered during the swearing in as the President in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was the requirement of changing the rigid mindset and habits of the people, government servants and public servants for a successful transformation process in the democracy transition period. Departmental organizations slow in reforming were to be given tighter management. The Judicial sector needed to be true and correct. Corruption needed



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho pay homage to Kyaukthanlan Pagoda in Mawlamyine, Mon State, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

to be eradicated. Human rights violations were to be prevented. Drugs were to be eliminated. Wastage and loss of public funds were to be managed. Farmlands confiscated unlawfully needed to be returned or compensation paid according to the law.

That was why explanations and briefings were made at states and regions so that our country's democracy tran-

sition would be successfully implemented. Change is the law of nature that is always correct and true. Without timely changes our country wouldn't develop. Only when we go along with change can our country develop quickly. Leading authorities of the country have already decided to reform and make a transition towards democracy. In a democracy every citizen

and everyone will be free, safe and happy.

The country will be peaceful only when democracy is established. Democratic reform is not an enemy. It is a good friend. Democratic transition is not a threat. It is an opportunity. Democratic reform and transition is not to be forced upon but all must take it up as a must-do thing. As such, all are respon-

sible for democratic reform and transition.

In administration, we would like to change and establish political, economic and social fairness. At the same time there should be equal opportunity, equality and equal in the face of the law. Administration must be such that it supports rule of law. It must not be a machine that oppresses the people. It should be a service that serves the people and do what the people asked to do. For this to happen, the state government is to implement and follow the Union Government's policies and instructions. Implementation should not be in any other way. It is the duty and responsibility of the state government to implement the policies of the Union Government. Departments and organizations in the state are to be practically managed. Departments and organizations are to be checked and monitored so that they are doing what they are assigned to do. Only when this is done can there be an increase in the momentum of the administrative machinery reform. It is to be noted that if the governments of the states and regions are bad in management and wrong in administration, democracy will fail.

SEE PAGE-6

State Counsellor delivers addresses at Third Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018

Following is an unofficial translation of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's address at the Third Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018 held at Myanmar International Conference Center II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"I would first like to say it is important for businesses to look out for the benefit of other people and for them. They need to ensure their business succeeds, is sustainable and beneficial, and benefits their community as well. You can look out just for your own profit but since our country is a developing nation, it will only develop if everyone looks out for the benefit of the majority. It's not enough for our country just to be rich with a lot of money. Why are we working for our businesses to succeed? It's for our physical security, but even that is not enough."

"Every citizen in our country needs mental security too. Mental security cannot be brought about with just economic success. Healthcare and education are equally important. A person will feel mentally secure if their health is in good condition and if they have valid reasons to face their challenges, which is related to education."

"I want the young entrepreneurs in our country to develop the nation in a way that is unique and different from other countries. I have to say I adore the dance performance from the group of youths from earlier. Basically, it is our Myanmar culture and dance but they performed it in a way that



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit - 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

is modern and relevant to the world. We need to encourage them. We have to maintain our culture and tradition and at the same time find ways to make it relevant to modern times. The world is more interconnected than before, young people in our country will have similarities with youths from other countries. It would be improper of us to dissuade them nor do we have a reason to do so. The world is always changing."

"I want to highlight two points to our young entrepreneurs. First, they need to have a creative mindset and be able to see things from a new perspective. Second, I want our country to be self-reliant. When our country was endeavoring for independence our forefathers told us to create our own destiny. We cannot achieve this with politics

alone, it depends on economic success as well. We can hold our own destiny firmly within our

Try to have a mindset that encourages attempting things no one else has before and the will to see it through.

hands if our economy is strong. I want our young entrepreneurs to make that become a reality."

"In a way, our path to inde-

pendence is in tandem with the path to democracy. We wish for democracy because we want our country to be stronger, to stand proudly and independently on the global platform, to create our own future, so I implore our young entrepreneurs to think of things we haven't thought of before. Do things that other countries haven't attempted yet. Businesspeople in other countries only focus on business endeavours because they think it is the main drive for economic development. That is why I want our young entrepreneurs to adopt a different mindset that thinks 'I am working not only for my benefit but also for the economic development of my country.' Don't think that this is not relevant to our times. Think of it as something ahead of our time. It is certainly not

old-fashioned."

"Here, I want to tell you not to think of something as impossible without attempting it. Just because someone hasn't done it doesn't mean it can't be achieved. Try to have a mindset that encourages attempting things no one else has done before and the will to see it through. On my way here I asked a question at the entrance; the number of young women entrepreneurs increases steadily year after year so how does it fare this year? At the first summit the number was 49 per cent, and it was 52 per cent last year. This year that number is at 58 per cent. I even feel a little worried for the male entrepreneurs. If the current trend continues then maybe all our entrepreneurs will be females. We honor this but we want both men and women to develop at the same pace."

"I won't go into too much detail about the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP). I believe our young entrepreneurs will work in accord with it. When we work for development along this path I want everyone to envision what sort of country they wish to live in the future. I have been to most of the wealthiest countries in the world and I always think to myself whether I want our country to be as wealthy as this, and do I want to live in a country like this for the rest of my life. I always think of these things and I want our young entrepreneurs to ponder the same thing too."

SEE PAGE-7

State Counsellor addresses 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit - 2018

FROM PAGE-1

Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe, U Khin Maung Tin, Dr. Ye Myint Swe, Dr. Tun Naing, U Sett Aung, Chairmen of Hluttaw Affairs Committees, representatives of Hluttaw, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, diplomats, development partners, US-ASEAN Business Council, Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association, invited guests and officials attended the summit.

The State Counsellor deliv-

ered the speech. Her speech is covered in page-4.

Then State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi separately met with members of the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association led by Chairman U Tun Tun Naing.

After that State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi posed for the documentary photographs together with attendees at the summit and looked round the booths that were displayed for the commemoration of the summit.

At the second session of the

summit, Chairman of Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association delivered an opening speech.

Next Senior Technology Consultant from the British Government Commerce and Investment Mr. Peter Brimble discussed about a topic entitled, "Inclusive Business and Entrepreneurship".

The discussion continued with the title on "Empowering for better growth of Myanmar" led by Max Myanmar Group CEO Ms. Chi Tun. ASEAN Economic Council Senior Vice President Ambassador Michael W. Micha-

lak, Counselor of Embassy of Japan Mr. Kazuyuki Takimi, Myanmar Development Institute Director of Research Mr. Sean Turnell and International Finance Cooperation in East Asia and Pacific region's Anar Aliyev participated in the discussion.

Alpha Info Co.Ltd Managing Director U Ye Myat Thu led the discussion entitled "How to enable Industry 4.0 in Entrepreneurship" and founder of Myanmar Information Technology CEO Dr. Tun Thura Thet, MyTel's External Relations CO U Zaw Min

Oo, Ayuroma Advisory Pte Ltd Managing Director Ms. Cherry Trivedi and Belle Maison Maple President Daw Win Ei Khaing took part in the discussions.

Following this, Yoma Group Technical CEO Ms. Rita Nguyen explained about the entrepreneur experience.

The 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit - 2018 was concluded with a closing remark by Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association Vice President Dr. Aung Thura. — MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

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)

VP U Myint Swe, businesspersons hold 22nd regular meeting to promote private sector

VICE President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee (PSDC), and businesspersons held the 22nd regular meeting in Yangon yesterday to promote the private sector.

The 22nd regular meeting between the PSDC and Myanmar businesspersons was held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) office in Yangon.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of PSDC and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Yangon Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Energy U Han Tun, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, UMFCCI President, Vice Presidents and members, officials from Myanmar Cosmetics Association (MCA), Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporter Association (MFVPA), Hotel and Travel Work Group and Trade and Investment Work Group of Myanmar Business Initiatives.

In his address to the meeting the Vice President said PSDC was formed in 24 October 2016 to effectively carry out the tasks of the private sector development framework. Regular meetings were held since 2016 December to resolve sector and group wise difficulties faced by businesspersons and overcome the challenges they faced when efforts were made toward developing the country's economy. This is the 22nd meeting and suggestions and submission on difficulties faced up to the 21st meeting had been resolved and the government's responses were sent to the relevant businesses through the



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the 22nd regular meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar businesspersons at UMFCCI in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UMFCCI.

PSDC has been responding to suggestions and resolving difficulties faced by businesspersons. For example, the matter of making two applications to obtain a Phytosanitary Certificate has been reduced to one application.

To tackle illegal imports through the border that was threatening the existence of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) the Government has formed illegal trade control and prevention special groups in nine regions and states and up to end November 2018 there were a total of 240 detentions of illegal goods worth Ks 5.13 billion were made.

As some matters need time to resolve, officials from five work committees conducted meetings between private business persons and relevant ministerial departments to resolve the matters in stages.

The Trade sector plays an important role in the development of a country's economy. Private and public sectors were cooperating hand-in-hand for the annual trade volume to in-

crease and had achieved a trade volume of US\$ 33.53 billion for fiscal year 2017-2018. During the Mini Budget period of 2018 April to September the trade volume was more than US\$ 18.3 billion. The trade volume was US\$ 5.506 billion during fiscal year 2018-2019 October to end November and this is US\$ 0.353 billion more than the same period of last year. Of this two months trade figure private sector participation was US\$ 4.720 billion or 86% which is an increase. However, import was more than export so there was a trade deficit. All need to strive towards increasing export and conduct import substitution so that there is no deficit.

Investments of foreign investors depend upon World Bank's Doing Business Report. In the Doing Business 2019 Report published by World Bank in 31 October 2018, Myanmar's ranking was unchanged but more marks were achieved. To achieve a ranking increase in Ease of Doing Business there should be reforms in each indicator and there need to be reforms

and progresses in at least three. At the 8th coordination meeting of PSDC held on 6 December 2018 a decision was made to systematically draw up Action Plans to achieve the targeted aims. Reforms and changes were being implemented and conducted as there is only five months left to increase ranking in the Dong Business 2020 Report.

To support ease and smoothness of doing business, requirement of supporting documents, time and expenses required are to be reduced. Arrangements are made to have a Single Window system in place.

Associations and entities participating in today's meeting were also urged to discuss openly the difficulties they face with relevant Union ministries, deputy ministers and officials who were present, said the Vice President.

Next, Vice Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint explained about works conducted by the Government for private sector development.

Afterwards Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win explained about businesses keeping proper records and accounts of their businesses and arrangements made to provide loan to MSMEs.

Following this, UMFCCI President U Zaw Win Min explained about public (government)-private discussions to be held for private sector development and sector wise works conducted for increasing export.

Later MCA Chairman U Kyaw Min, MFVPA Vice Chairman Dr. Myint Sein, Myanmar Business Initiatives Hotel and Travel Work Group Chairman U Kyaw Min Hlaing and Trade and Investment Work Group Chairman U Min Tun Myint explained about sector wise difficulties encountered and made some suggestions. The Vice President, the Union Minister and officials gave advice and comments to ensure proper coordination based of suggestions made.

The meeting came to a close after the closing speech of the Vice President — MNA ■

President U Win Myint meets administrative, legislative, judiciary sectors in Mon State

FROM PAGE-3

In the legislative sector, Hluttaw Speakers and representatives are to be well versed in Hluttaw law and rules. Questions and motions that benefit the people are to be raised and tabled. Questions and motions are to be raised and tabled according to set rules and procedures.

Our aim in the judiciary sector is to have an un-biased judiciary. It should be free from the influence and manipulation of those who have power and rights. The Judiciary should be free from the influence of both the administrative and legislative sectors. Apart from ensuring and overseeing that the judiciary is true and correct, there should not be any other involvement.

Public servants are to be loyal and serve the country. They are to follow the public servant law, rules, procedures and regulations. Public servants enjoy the salary and benefits provided

by the country. When conducting the democratic transition that the people desire, public servants are to face the people. They must bear in mind to perform their duties and serve the people. The right to do things is not to be taken as a power because this would veer away from the democracy path. Those in attendance today need to reform and straighten the mindsets and morals of those who are working under them. All need to be managed and administered so that all participate in the reform and transition work process.

More is being done towards eradication of drugs. Drugs are a huge menace to the future generation of the country. The country will be at peace only when drug is eradicated. Severe action will be taken against public servants who are connected in any way to drug production and trade. All need to part take in the drug eradication work.

Anti-corruption works are conducted effectively in the

center. It is also being conducted in some states and regions too. Arrangements are made to form ministry wise Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs). The

Severe action will be taken against public servants who are connected in any way to drug production and trade.

country will develop and investments will come only when corruption is eradicated. Here too, all need to take part.

The momentum to protect human rights need to be increased. Human rights is a birth right. Myanmar is one of the earliest signatories of the human

rights declaration. Democracy, human rights and judiciary are interlinked. As human rights are raised, democracy and judiciary will rise. That is why State High Court judges are to inspect detention centres in police stations and courts and prisons to ensure that there are no human rights violations.

Returning of confiscated farm lands should be in accordance with policies set by the Union Government. State government must not interpret the policies set by the Union Government in the way they wanted. Lands must be returned to the original owners as quickly as possible.

We all must not be smug and arrogant with the titles, salaries, powers granted to us to do our jobs. The future generation will assess whether we have done our duties properly so let us perform our historical duties well, said the President.

Next, Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, Mon State

Hluttaw Speaker Daw Tin Ei and State Chief Justice U Khin Maung Gyi explained about state government's regional development works, legislative works and judiciary works respectively.

Afterwards President U Win Myint explained about the strengths and weaknesses of the administrative, legislative and judicial sectors, his understanding of the difficulties public servants are facing, arrangements being made for livelihoods of the public servants when they become pensioners and works conducted toward increasing pensions.

After the meeting the President cordially met with meeting attendees.

Later in the evening the President and party paid homage to Kyaukthanlan Pagoda, donated Ks 3 million and signed the visitors' book. The President then inspected the pagoda platform maintenance work and also inspected along the Mawlamyine port area. — MNA ■

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman receives Czech Ambassador

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi and party received Ambassador of the Czech Republic Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek at Anti-Corruption Commission Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting they discussed matters related to anti-corruption works conducted in 2018 and difficulties encountered, organizing Corrup-

tion Prevention Units (CPU) in the ministries, technologies and expertise required to conduct effective anti-corruption works. Ambassador of the Czech Republic shared Czech Republic's anti-corruption experiences and the transition to democracy it is learnt. — MNA

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi holds talks with Czech Republic Ambassador Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek. **PHOTO: MNA**



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein meeting with Ambassador of the Czech Republic Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek. **PHOTO: MNA**

UEC Chairman receives Czech Ambassador in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION ELECTION Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein received Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Myanmar, Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the UEC chairman discussed the successful holding of the previous 2017 and 2018 by-election,

holding elections under the five norms of free, fair, transparent, credible and reflecting the will of the people and betterment of coming elections.

The ambassador Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek also discussed over challenges faced in the previous 2017 and 2018 by-elections followed by inquired about prepara-

tions for 2020 general election and the UEC chairman also explained back to the ambassador.

Then the two of them cordially discussed over experiences achieved in holding the general elections in both countries. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

State Counsellor delivers addresses at Third Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018

FROM PAGE-4

“Truthfully, no matter how poor our country may be, I feel the most at home in my own country. I respectfully request our business community to make every citizen feel the same way at home by providing them with mental and physical security.”

“Please, make our country more secure by making the economy stronger. If our country is secure it will be more peaceful. An insecure person will have no peace of mind. Likewise, an insecure country will have no peace and tranquillity.”

“Businesses cannot stand by themselves. They depend on government policy to succeed as well. Similarly, the success of a government administration is connected to the businesses in its country. This is why we need to work hand in hand with each other. The Union government and the business community need to work together for national development and the security and peace of mind of every citizen. This is why I want our business society to envision what form they want our country to develop into. This is especially important for the younger generation since they will be here longer than the older generation who will be leaving this world before them.”

“Most of our business people are at that age where they are just having a family. I want them to consider what kind of country they want their children to grow up in and what kind of mindsets do they want them to adopt. Young people these days know more things than their parents due in part to modern technological advances. This has both positive and

negative associations. They don't stop at the teachings of their parents as the teachings from their mobile phones have a significant effect on their lives as well. Again, this is both good and bad. What I've noticed is the children are learning English faster through the internet and by using Facebook. But they are also learning other things along with English. We have to reason if this is proper or not. Technology can be both beneficial and negative so we have to continuously gauge it. Development in itself has positive and negative connotations as

with each other. We are more focused on individual accomplishments and developments. This may be due to influence from our parents and from the past decades of education. When our system allows only those with the highest marks to pursue what they want then it will engender people to only think of their own development.”

“We need to change the perception of our people and improve their mental capacities so that they will cooperate more. This is essential in both the education sphere and the business commu-

“Truthfully, no matter how poor our country may be, I feel the most at home in my own country.”

well. It's not always positive but I want to encourage our people to try to have the capability to reason how much positivity they have on their side.”

“There have been observations that no other people in the world are as generous and giving as we Myanmar people. It's not enough to be generous. It's important to be organized in our generosity. If all our giving end up being of no use to anyone then our endeavours will be for naught. We need to be organized, disciplined and reasonable. I want you to consider if your generosity will be beneficial to the majority and to adopt a habit of collaboration.”

“This is something I repeat again and again. Our people are still inexperienced when it comes to collaborating

nity. I encourage everyone to cultivate a mindset that encourages working for the benefit of other people as it will have a reciprocal effect on your own development too. We have to think of long-term sustainability and not just the short-term. We cannot think for the benefit of one month, one year or even one election period. Most politicians think only as far as the next election but some politicians think about the next generation. I want the business community to have a similar mindset.”

“The last thing I want to mention is we are heading into the future with development and advancement in mind but I urge you not to let go of the traditions and standards of the past that are still beneficial for us. Don't think of them as

obsolete just because they are old. Like I mentioned earlier, I quite enjoyed the children's performances earlier. Their dance did not forget our old traditions and dance performances. They did more than preserve tradition, they integrated it into a modern context.”

“Some people think it's not fashionable to respect your elders anymore. I used to wonder why we need to respect our elders when I was young. I believe that no one is immune to old age and death. So, we get older and weaker despite proper healthcare to ourselves. It's a good thing to respect those who have their energy diminished. We take care of children and show them love and compassion. We treat them with care and gentleness. Shouldn't we take care of our elders in the same way? I think this is the reason children are taught to respect their elders and take care of them. Of course, the adults need to show respect to the younger generation as well.”

“What I have said today is relevant to both young and older entrepreneurs. We adults are responsible for nurturing the young generation and to pave the way to success for them. We all know the state of our country's roads. They are always deteriorating because we don't use good materials and techniques from the start. A good road will last not for our lifetime but for the next one as well. I conclude my speech by kindly requesting our young entrepreneurs to pave our country's economic highway not only for yourselves and your generation, but also for the successive generations to come, as we work to strengthen our country's security and elevate the spirit of our people.”

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Outstanding young entrepreneurs honoured at 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018

A dinner in honour of 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018 and an award presentation ceremony was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre II, Nay Pyi Taw at 6 pm yesterday.

Speaking at the event, U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, called for the collaborative efforts of private sectors to implement the aims of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP which was already drawn by the Union Government for the social improvements, environmental conservation and peace and tranquility besides business development.

“Today young entrepreneurs are future leaders of Myanmar economy. The devel-

opment of entrepreneurship is the dynamic forces of economy. Young entrepreneurs who want to grab new opportunities are workforce for the country,” said U Thaung Tun.

He also expressed hope that development of entrepreneurship will contribute towards business, society, and innovation advantages and it also will create job opportunities that can fulfill the needs of the local community.

“If entrepreneurs emerge everywhere, the new business will develop and more jobs will be created in that region,” said the Union Minister.

He also called on the award-winning youth entrepreneurs to retain their success and expressed his appreciation to them.

“I praise and honor you, youth entrepreneurs who got awards at ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Singapore. I hope as youth entrepreneurs, you can make in harmony benefits of your own interests and the country,” said Union Minister U Thaung Tun.

Next, Vice Chairman of MYEA, U Zaw Naing Thein, explained the objectives of the summit and expressed word of thanks.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Thaung Tun awarded young entrepreneurs who achieved awards in international events and took documentary photos with them.

Following this, Chairman of MYEA and Vice Chairman U Zaw



Union Minister U Thaung Tun delivers the speech at the dinner in honour 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

Naing Thein gave certificates of honour to the sponsor companies.

Chairman of Award Selection Committee U Win Htet Maung Maung then explained about award selection of entrepreneurship, terms, and types of awards.

Attendees were hosted with

an honourable dinner and artists performed with modern music and dance. Next, a video about the award winners was shown.—
MNA ■

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

People-to-people contact strengthens Indo-Myanmar relations

DURING Indian President Ram Nath Kovind's recent visit to Myanmar, the Government of Myanmar announced plans to grant visas on arrival to Indian citizens flying to the country, starting 1 December.

The move will increase tourism and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. The Government of India, on its part, is giving gratis visa to all Myanmar citizens visiting India.

The visa-on-arrival facility for Indian nationals began effectively from 13 December.

To increase and promote contact between the people of Myanmar and India, the two countries are also planning to launch bus services from Imphal to Moreh and from Mandalay to Tamu in the near future.

In yet another bilateral achievement, the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project has reached its final stages of completion. A port operator for the Sittwe Port is expected to be announced soon.

To promote people-to-people contact, the two countries also reached a landmark agreement on May 2018 on land border crossing, which has had a positive impact, promoting the smooth movement of people between the two countries.

The achievements show that consistent and joint efforts by the founding fathers and the successive leaders of both countries throughout history have helped bring the bilateral relationship to its apex.

A road project connecting Paletwa to Zorinpui along the Indian border is under way and both sides have agreed to facilitate the movement of personnel, construction material, and equipment across the border through Zorinpui and from Paletwa.

With cross-border links between North East India and Myanmar, India considers Myanmar as a land and sea link between New Delhi and ASEAN, as part of its 'Act East' Policy.

The Indian President's visit to Myanmar aims to maintain a very positive and forward-looking trajectory and build upon the strong historical and cordial ties shared by the two nations.

The growing exchanges in the bilateral sphere, including in the areas of trade, investment, culture, people-to-people contact, and security bear testimony to the synergies between Myanmar's independent and active foreign policy and India's pragmatic 'Act East' and 'Neighbourhood First' policies.

Myanmar leaders also appreciate the fact that India attaches priority to its relations with Myanmar in its foreign relations based on the 'Act East Policy' and the 'Neighbourhood First Policy'.

We would like to refer to India as a friend that takes a fair and balanced position on all issues related to Myanmar. ■

"Social security basic norms covered in the 2012 Social Security Law are mostly adequate and meet the present requirement":

ILO National Project Coordinator Dr. Thein Than Htay

Roundtable Discussions on the reform program in connection with social security benefits

By Khin Yadanar, Photo May Oo Moe

MRTV aired a live program on talks under the theme "On the Reform Program in connection with social security benefits", in which U Maung Maung Aye, Director-General of the Social Security Board; Daw Than Than Nu, Director of the SSB; U Win Naing, Representative of the Employers; Daw Phyo Sandar Soe, Representative of the Workers; and ILO National Project Coordinator Dr. Thein Than Htay have participated in the discussions.

(Continued from previous article issued on 13 December)

National Project Coordinator

Officer: We may have to review the 2012 Social Security Law, and if and when needed we would amend as may deem appropriate. Among the three social security systems, we are now implementing two systems of social security, and that the other one is still remaining to be implemented.

The ILO has suggested Myanmar government and the Social Security Board to wait for a short period on the scheme namely family social security system. It does not necessarily mean to halt and stopped the agenda, but to make a review over the Social Security Law in which what rules are actually getting the social security benefits and which rules virtually appropriate with the requirements of the workers. We asked to make a review. We need to replace some points with (15) categories of benefits under the two social security systems. When we analyzed into the (15) categories, they stand out as health care benefit and cash allowance benefits.

For an ill worker, he or she is entitled to take treatment at the clinic or at the hospital. If the worker is not capable to engage at the work, it is not necessary to go to the clinic or to the hospital. The worker may take a break and rest at home and enjoy the cash benefit.

In such situation, the family members are not included. The worker himself is getting benefits one sided. In the international security system, the one household head has the privilege in sharing health care for wife and kids when they are sick. If we consider and review such aspects, the workers in our country could have more social security.

Currently, we have (1.2) million workers under the social security coverage and network, and that they might have at least (2) family members in their



household, totaling the number of people to (2.5) million. If we could amend the social security system, a total of (2.5) million people would come under the net entitled to enjoy benefits.

This idea has been suggested by the ILO for consideration, but at the same time we have to contemplate whether we are prepared and ready to facilitate such social coverage to (2.5) million people.

We have (100) social security clinics functioning with (77) social security board branch offices in (110) townships across the country. We are facing many difficulties such as that of providing enough health care; that of insufficient doctors; that of problems on inadequate clinics; that of remote and far away location of the clinics from the factories and mills. With these in the backdrops, we need to consider and prepare in advance on the side of the social security board before we could loop them into the system. In this regards, the ILO is providing assistance as much

as possible.

Another factor is found to be satisfactory on the accident compensation cash benefits of the workers who sustained injuries at the worksite or during the travel to and from the worksites. These benefits include the accidents during the travel to and from the worksites.

In this regards, the employers are providing one per cent on behalf of the workers, and therefore, it tantamount to the fact that the travel to and from the sites is meant for the interest of the employers. Looking through the international norms, the common stipulations of the nations have many faceted such as long term benefits; physically disabled benefits; total rest for three to six months; one year rest; and lifelong benefits.

The cash benefits are given out on monthly basis; in installment basis; but not on lump sum basis. It is due to the reason; when the cash is being received in hand what would happen the next day is unpredictable. The aim and

objective of the Social Security Board is to make the worker to be secured on the income. It is with the intent to make them to live in dignity for the rest of their life, and therefore, we never provide lump sum cash to the workers.

These factors are to be considered and reviewed together among the ILO, the employers, the workers, and the government. On the part of the ILO, we need to design the management in the framework of autonomy to enable to stand on our own. It is because of the reason that the Social Security Board has the duty and responsibility in providing service and the security of income.

Despite we have desire to provide full benefits, we have many limitations. Before we spend the budget, we need in seeking authorization for the expenditure, and that we encountered difficulty when the budget is downsized. We are trying to address the issues at our best.

Moreover, the funds for the workers benefits come from the employers and the workers them-

selves. The social security system is being managed by the Social Security Board and that when the board has more authority of management, the benefits would flow in much faster speed and tempo. Moreover, the ILO would like to suggest that cost of living condition in the country should be reviewed periodically from two to three years with a view to increasing the benefits of the workers.

Director-General: With a view to apply the successful implementation of the social security project, the national level board has been formed with (20) members chaired by the Union Minister, where policy guidelines are being adopted. The implementation of work program is being carried out by the Executive Committee, which is assisted by Medical Advisory Team.

Moreover, we have office of the court of appeal for judgment on cases of settling argument or disagreement on workers affairs. Another point that I would like to take up as main issue is

about the (116) townships where (31,119) work organizations are established, with (12, 54,000) employees. Their health care and cash benefits are being taken care of. The social security benefits are not static and stagnant, as we are cooperating with the international organizations, and that we are working with the ILO very closely as we are the member of the organization.

We are working in full swing in accordance with the ILO convention, the international norms, and also the with the social security bench marks. I would like to add that Myanmar is also a member of the International Social Security Association (ISSA) in 1957, and also member of South-East Asia Social Security Association in 2015 where Myanmar linked up with them in the exchange of technical cooperation and exchange of information.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 14 December 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the deep depression over the Southeast Bay of Bengal has moved North-Northwestward and it is centred at about (465)miles East-Southeast of Chennai(India), about (550) miles Southeast of Machilipatnam and about (345) miles East of Triconmalee (Sri Lanka). Weather is partly cloudy over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 15 December 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and Chin states, scattered in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Kayah State and widespread in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)mph. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Fairly widespread to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 December 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 December 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 December 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Yangon Region and widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region.

Deep Depression

According to the observations at (18:30)hrs MST today, the deep depression over the Southeast Bay of Bengal has moved North-Northwestward and it is centred at about (465)miles East-Southeast of Chennai(India), about (550) miles Southeast of Machilipatnam and about (345) miles East of Triconmalee (Sri Lanka).

It is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, the present stage of the deep depression is coded yellow stage.

Position of deep depression, centre pressure and wind

Deep depression is located at Latitude (9.0)degree North and Longitude (87.0)degree East, Centre pressure of depression is (1002) hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is (35) miles per hour.

During next (12)hrs forecast

It is forecast to move Northwestwards and it may further intensify into a cyclonic storm during next (12) hours.

General caution

Due to the deep depression, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Chin, Kayin and Mon states, scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah states within next (72) hours commencing today evening.

Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (6 - 9) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

People should be aware trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Correction

Please read "2:30 pm" in the first paragraph of the story with the headline "State Counsellor receives Foreign Minister of Commonwealth of Australia" on Page-4 of the 14 December issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.—Ed

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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.

President of India, First Lady conclude State Visit

PRESIDENT of India Shri Ram Savita Nath Kovind, First Lady Smt. Kovind and party who were on a State Visit to Myanmar left Yangon by a special flight yesterday morning.

President of India, First Lady were seen off by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and wife, Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and wife, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and wife, Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col. Aung Soe Moe, officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Aung Kyaw and wife and Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri at the Yangon International Airport.—MNA ■ (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)



Indian President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, First Lady Smt. Savita Kovind are seen off by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myitkyina to host Children's Literature Festival in Jan. 2019

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and Chief Minister of Kachin State, Dr. Khet Aung, visited Myitkyina University yesterday in preparation for the Children's Literary Festival in Myitkyina. Later, they held a coordination meeting at the Kachin State Government Office to hold the festival in January.

Children's Literature Festival will be jointly held by the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education, and the Kachin State Government from 20 to 22 January, 2019.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint explained matters related tasks of informing, entertaining and educating the people through state-owned media such as television, radio and newspapers, opening of district and township libraries and community centres of Information and Public Relations Departments (IPRD), tasks of the Printing Publishing Department publishing Myanmar Gazette and printing works for



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the coordination meeting to hold Children's Literature Festival in Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

government.

The Union Minister explained about the objective of the Children's Literature Festival and All-Round Youth Development Festival, previous festivals, the role of the university, basic education schools and private Schools in holding the festivals and entertainments, collaboration with relevant departments for transportation and accommodation during the festival in Myitkyina, coop-

eration and supporting for the needs to hold Children's Literature Festival successfully.

Afterwards, Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung said respective sectors are needed to collaborate to hold the festival successfully, stressing the importance of reading habits of children so that they can take a right path and can become good leaders of the country in the future.

IPRD Director-General U Ye Naing explained the sectors

to be cooperated by the Ministry of Information and Ministry of Education with the administration of Kachin State Government regarding the Children's Literature Festival.

The ministers of Kachin State Government discussed their respective sectors.

In the evening, the Union Minister met with members of the Township Writers Association, Literature lovers, members of ethnic literature and culture at Myitkyina District Community Centre and discussed literary affairs.

The Children's Literature Festival (Myitkyina) will be held from 20 to 22 January 2019 and will conduct exhibitions, competitions and entertainments programs in cooperation with universities, basic education schools, private schools in Myitkyina Township and also Ethnic Literature and Culture Association.—State IPRD ■

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

U Thaung Tun receives Viet Nam-Myanmar Friendship Assoc. President

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun received President of Viet Nam - Myanmar Friendship Association Ambassador Mr. Chu Cong Phung and delegation yesterday at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Matters related to Myanmar-Vietnam bilateral investment and economic cooperation were discussed

at the meeting. The meeting was attended by officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Myanmar - Vietnam Friendship Association President U Tint Swai, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Luan Thuy Duong and representatives from Vietnam business community in Myanmar.—MNA ■



PHOTO: MNA

FDI tops \$789 mln in first two months of 2018-2019 FY

THE total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Myanmar between 1 October and 7 December reached over US\$789 million, an increase of over \$430 million from the same period last year, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

“During the same period last year, FDI totalled \$355.074 million. But this year, the FDI has almost doubled to \$789.893 million,” said U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of the MIC.

Between 1 October and 7 December, MIC permits and endorsements were approved for 38 foreign enterprises, with investments amounting to \$660.811 million.

In the current fiscal year, the value of investments has also increased, with total FDI

inflows of \$742.353 million. Additionally, a total investment of \$47.540 million flowed into the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in the 2018-2019 FY, according to the MIC.

“The service, communication, and industrial sectors have seen FDI inflows this FY. Foreign fund flows into the service sector have increased significantly to \$148 million this fiscal from \$15 million in the same period last year. FDI inflows in the communication sector have also registered an increase, with investments totalling \$415 million compared with \$208 million in the same period last year. In the industrial sector, FDI has increased to \$135 million from \$81 million in the same period last year,” said U Aung Naing Oo.

The MIC is expecting FDI inflows of \$5.8 billion in the 2018-2019 FY. The MIC and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have jointly formulated the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan 2018 (MIPP) to promote future investment.

The MIPP was an update of the long-term foreign direct investment plan formulated in 2014. The MIPP has four strategic periods with investment inflow targets of \$5.8 billion every FY in the first four-year phase starting from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021, \$8.5 every FY billion in the second phase (2021-22 to 2025-26), \$12.3 billion every FY in the third phase (2026-27 to 2030-31), and \$17.6 billion every FY in the fourth phase (2031-32 to 2035-36).—Nyein Nyein ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar's organic veggies make their way to Singapore's NTUC Fair Price

ORGANIC vegetables from Myanmar have made it to the shelves of Singapore-based supermarket chain NTUC Fair Price, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP).

Myanmar's vegetables began entering cold storages in Singapore in 2017 and now, their sale has been allowed in the NTUC supermarket chain. During the trial stage, vegetables weighing half a ton were exported twice a week. The volume of exports is expected to increase with time.

The organic vegetables that will be sold in Singapore are being produced by the Nyaunghnapin Seinlan Production and General Trading Cooperative.

The cooperative produces over 10 tons of vegetables daily.

The organic farming cooperative began with 14 growers. Although they suffered losses initially due to a pest attack, they have now been operational for five years and their sales have increased.

Myanmar exports organic vegetables to Singapore and Russia.

Growers in Myanmar have shown a great interest in organic farming in the past four



Officials from Agriculture Department visit organic vegetable plantations in Ottarathiri Township. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

years. They are supplying vegetables to fresh markets in Yangon. When they observed the market condition, they realized people prefer chemical-free vegetables.

A weekly sale of organic products kicked off on 31 October in front of the Agriculture Department's office in Gyogone, Insein Township.

The Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MOGPA) is the main organizer of the sale. The organic trade fair is held every Wednesday.

Growers and producers of organic and chemical-free products are showcasing their products at the fair. Books on organic farming and organic fertilizers are also available for sale at the event.

Around 300 growers from Yangon, Bago, Taninthayi, Magway, and Ayeyawady regions and Mon, and Shan states have shown an interest in organic farming. Over 10,000 growers are listed with the Myanmar Organic Bureau. — Htet Myat ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

UK's DFID to finance £4 mln for Myanmar capital market

By Nyein Nyein

TO support the development of capital markets in Myanmar, the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) will contribute £4 million.

“By investing in developing capital markets here in Myanmar, we are focusing on the foundation of the economy and the private sector, and investing in the future success and prosperity of individuals, companies, and the whole country. By helping businesses to increase their financing, we are giving them a chance to grow and thrive and in doing so, helping them create jobs and increase incomes. This project will support inclusive economic development and a more stable and prosperous future for all of Myanmar,” said Dan Chugg, the British Ambassador to Myanmar.

The Capital Markets Development project will be implemented by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The three-year project will focus on developing a domestic currency capital market in Myanmar and a well-functioning government bonds market.

The project will be implemented in three phases. The first

phase will be a diagnostic phase, which will include assessments of the legal framework underlying capital market development, financial infrastructure such as the clearing and settlement system, accounting standards, and the capacity of regulators and policymakers.

After the assessment phase, in close consultation with other relevant development partners, the ADB and the DFID will work with the government to form a working group of experts and officials which will draft a new capital markets development plan. In the final phase, the ADB will support the implementation of the capital market development plan, which will be structured on the legal and regulatory framework, the financial infrastructure, the operational and governance framework and capacity development.

The project will be funded through the DFID's £55 million Business for Shared Prosperity (BSP) Programme, which aims to provide a sustainable route out of poverty for people in Myanmar by supporting inclusive economic growth, improving incomes, and generating more jobs. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Bago Region attracts more foreign investments

A total of 124 companies have received permission for investing in the Bago Region and a majority of the businesses are foreign-owned, according to the Bago Region's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The Myanmar Investment Commission and the Bago Region Investment Committee have allowed 85 foreign businesses to invest an estimated US\$1.8 billion in the region. A total of 39 domestic businesses have invested about K946 billion in the region.

Companies from China, Japan, Singapore, and Thailand are investing in the region. FDI is flowing into the power, oil and natural gas, transport, manufacturing, hotels and tourism, livestock

and fisheries, agriculture, industrial estate, real estate development, and construction sectors.

Of the total foreign investment, the manufacturing sector has absorbed FDI of \$1.4 billion, onshore petroleum enterprises \$200 million, and the agriculture sector \$60 million.

The Bago Region's DICA (branch) office opened in January 2017. The new Myanmar Investment Law authorizes region and state investment committees to approve investment proposals with a capital not exceeding \$5 million (K6,000 million), with the aim of facilitating the verification process of investment projects.—Ko Htet ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds its 14th-day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

After the Committee Chairman's response Committee member Dr. Tin Htay Aung tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to accept and agree to the report. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's acceptance and approval of the report after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Amendment bill to Myanmar Engineering Council Law approved

Afterwards, an amendment motion to the amendment bill of Myanmar Engineering Council Law was explained by committee member U Zaw Win.

Pyithu Hluttaw

Speaker then announced the Hluttaw's approval of the bill after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Hluttaw discuss motion to achieve better result with NRSC

As a final agenda of the day Hluttaw representatives discussed a motion tabled by U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency urging the government to achieve better result from National Road Safety Council (NRSC) through more effective and practical works that fulfill the requirements of road safety.

U Saw Thalay Saw of Shwegyin Constituency, Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency,

Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Maj. Naing Lin, Dr. Daw Kyi Moh Moh Lwin of Singaing constituency, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency, U Htay Min Thein of Gyobingauk constituency, Dr. U San Shwe Win of Yekyi constituency, U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency, U Sit Aye of Taungtha constituency and U Kyaw Min of Kamayut constituency discussed the motion.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo confirmed that expected targets were yet to be achieved and all have the responsibility to do more. It is a matter that could not be done single-handedly or by a single entity and thus not only the

NRSC sub-committees, state/region traffic and road safety councils and related departments but also everyone must participate in order to reach the required results. NRSC on its part will increase its work to inform, educate, inspect and take action said the Deputy Minister.

As the Hluttaw representative who tabled the motion still sought the approval of the Hluttaw, the decision of the Hluttaw was obtained and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the motion.

The 15th-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session is scheduled for 17 December it is learnt. ■
(Translated by Zaw Min)

Heroin, Yaba pills, opium seized in Hopin, Kachin State

AUTHORITIES seized heroin, yaba pills and opium on Hopin-Luntung-Kungthar-Nyaung-pyinlay road near Zee-gone Village, Hopin Township, Kachin State, yesterday, according to the information released by the Myanmar Police Force.

During the inspection for a suspected car stopping near the Mile

Post No.8/2, police discovered heroin weighing 5720 g worth over K 400 million, 666,900 yaba pills worth over K 2 billion and opium weighing 14370 g worth over K 64 million hidden in 572 soap boxes. This case has been opened under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

—GNLM ■

(Translated by JT)



Heroin, yaba pills and opium confiscated by police in Hopin. **PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE**

Indawgyi Environmental Education Centre opens

THE Indawgyi Environmental Education Centre was inaugurated yesterday in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State.

Kachin State Minister for Natural Resources and Conservation delivered the opening remarks at the ceremony. Afterwards, the Director-General of the Forest Department explained the objectives for opening the centre.

Later, Dr. Katharina Spiess, the Development Counselor of the German Embassy, gave a speech, following which Mr. Frank Momberg from Fauna and Flora International (FFI) handed over the centre to the Director-General of the Forest Department.

Officials from related departments and the German Embassy then toured the center.

Kachin Government ministers, officials from the Forest Department, German Embassy and FFI, township administrators, and locals attended the ceremony yesterday. The centre aims



Indawgyi Environmental Education Centre will educate the public about the environment.

PHOTO: SALAI MANG NGAI

to improve human-biosphere interaction. It has been funded by conservation network Chances for Nature Germany, which gave 6,599 euros in funding.

The centre, which is spread over 3,240 square feet, houses an exhibition room and a meeting room.

"Educative talks will be held at the centre, in collaboration with the zoology, botany, and geography departments of the Myitkyina University and the Mohnyin Degree Col-

lege," said U Maung Win, the wildlife park's warden.

The history of the wildlife park and the Indawgyi Lake, the biosphere map, Wetland and Fly network site, forest ecosystems, the Ramsar site, the muddy delta, eco-tourism in Indawgyi Lake, the traditions and culture of locals, and fish conservation in the Indawgyi Lake will be featured at the centre. — Salai Mang Ngai ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Invitation for Bids

Loan Agreement No. MY-P14 dated 16/October/2015

IFB No. 18 (T)/DPTSC(PTP)/2018-2019

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received ODA Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The Bid is invited by Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) for Package 1: Design, Supply and Installation for 500kV Substation as follows;

Sr. No	Invitation for Bid	Descriptions	Issuing Date	Submission Deadline Date and Time	Non-refundable Document Fee
1	MY-P14, JICA, ODA Loan	Package 1: Design, Supply and Installation for 500kV Phayargyi and Hlaingthayar Substation	17/12/2018	15/03/2019 (13:00hr)	Purchase order with Myanmar Kyats which is equivalent to USD 1,000

2. The Eligible Nationality of the Bidder shall be Japan in the case of single contractor.

In case of a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partner is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount. This scheme is based on applicable guidelines of Japanese ODA loan.

3. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the website (<http://www.moe.gov.mm>) or the documents from the Material Planning Department, Department of Power Transmission and System Control, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No.27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
4. Bid Documents must be delivered to the address below mentioned on or before the deadline date and time.
5. The Bid must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than four hundred million Japanese Yen (JPY 400,000,000).
6. Technical Bid will be opened on 15/03/2019 at 13:00 hr at the Department of Power Transmission and System Control, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No.27, Nay Pyi Taw in the presence of representatives from Bidders.
7. Any Request for the extension of bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee
Department of Power Transmission and System Control
Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No.27
Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar
Telephone: 067-3410282, 3410209

UN climate talks ‘deadlocked’ on key issues: top China diplomat

KATOWICE (Poland) — UN negotiations aimed at preventing runaway global warming remain deadlocked less than 24 hours before the 12-day talks are set to end, China’s top climate diplomat said Thursday.

Ministers working overnight along parallel negotiating tracks struggled to weave dozens of strands into a “rule book” that would bring to life the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The 2015 treaty vows to cap the rise in Earth’s temperature at “well under” two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), and 1.5°C if possible.

“We are seeing deadlocks in certain areas,” China’s Xie Zhenhua told journalists in Katowice, Poland.

“We need to avoid straying from the principles and spirit of the Paris Agreement... We cannot accept any backsliding,” Xie said through a translator. The 195-nation Paris pact promises hundreds of billions of dollars in aid to poor nations already coping with extreme weather made worse by climate change, and — more broadly — to orient financial flows towards greening the global economy.

The treaty, already ratified, goes into effect in 2020. Among the more nettlesome issues is how nations report progress in



UN climate change negotiations in Poland remain deadlocked. PHOTO: AFP

implementing voluntary national plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Wealthy nations are pushing for the rapid adoption of a unified and “transparent” set of rules that apply to all nations.

Developing countries favour a generous interpretation of the “flexibility” they are assured in the treaty.

“Only the person wearing shoes knows whether they are comfortable,” Xie said, citing an “old Chinese saying”.

“It should be up to each country to decide when, how frequently, and what content to provide.”

“Developing countries are not comfortable at this stage of the negotiations,” he added. Nor are they likely to be reassured by

the most recent attempt by Poland, which is presiding over the complex talks, to strike a middle ground.

Current climate pledges, even if fulfilled, would still see Earth’s temperature rise well above 3°C, a recipe for widespread human misery, scientists say.

Loss and damage

A draft of the decisions, for example, to be adopted at the consensus talks — released late Thursday night by the host nation — gave short shrift to another red-line issue for poor countries exposed to the ravages brought on by global warming: so-called “loss and damage”.

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions and helping nations prepare for a

climate-addled future have long been the twin pillars of the UN climate forum.

But more recently, a third plank of the regime was added to help nations cope with deadly heatwaves, drought and floods — amplified by climate change — happening today. Pulling the pieces of the climate puzzle together, said China’s Xie, was harder with Donald Trump in the White House.

“Of course I’m disappointed,” he said when asked about the impending US withdrawal from the Paris pact. “How could I not be.”

“The United States has been an important player in the process,” he added. “We would welcome them back to the climate change arena.”—AFP ■

Research shows dramatic impact of Australian shark culls

SYDNEY (Australia) — Australian researchers believe they have detected a dramatic decline in shark numbers over the last half century, findings that could challenge the use of culls as a way of responding to attacks.

The number of some shark species caught in nets off the state of Queensland have fallen between 74-92 per cent in the last 55 years, according to a study published in Communications Biology on Thursday.

Researchers led by George Roff of the University of Queensland studied the catch from government-installed mesh nets and drum lines designed to prevent attacks on humans near the Great Barrier Reef.

An estimated 50,000 sharks have been caught by the programme.

The team found that in 1962, an average of 9.5 hammerheads were found per year, declining to 0.8 by 2016. Hammerheads are more likely to get caught in nets because of their shape.

Similar drops were seen in the numbers of whaler sharks. Catch rates for tiger sharks, which are involved in many more attacks on humans, were stable over the first thirty years of the study period, but have since fallen. Roff and his colleagues cautioned that the data was not standardised until 1992, and different baits and nets may have been used, making the data imperfect.

But in 1992, the report showed the catch of “hammerheads declined by 68%, whalers by 69%, tigers by 69% and white sharks by 42%”. The declines were largely due to the programme, as well as “depletion by recreational, and commercial fisheries”.

The falling numbers of apex predators like sharks could have a wide-ranging and as-yet understood impacts on marine ecosystems, the researchers warned. “The extent and magnitude of decline in apex predators in the marine environment is less well understood” than the decline of those on land, the study said.—AFP ■

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouse and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 25th DECEMBER 2018 (Christmas Day) and 31st DECEMBER 2018 to 1st JANUARY 2019 (New Year Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1095 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1095 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (023 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (023 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (187 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (187 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185



View of the fully restored building facade of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures' future home. PHOTO: AFP

Museum devoted to magic of cinema to open in LA

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Nearly a century after the idea was first floated, a museum dedicated to the magic of cinema is finally set to open in Los Angeles, with the first temporary exhibition devoted to Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki. The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, slated to open by the end of 2019, will be devoted to the past, present and future of film, offering visitors a look behind the screen and into how movies are made.

“Los Angeles was at one time and still is to some degree one of the major capitals for the production of film... so it seems the natural place to have a major museum to ensure that the legacy of film lives on,” said Kerry Brougher, director of the museum, which is the brainchild of the Academy of Picture Arts and Sciences, the institution behind the Oscars.

Dorothy’s famed ruby slippers from “The Wizard of Oz,” a copy of a script annotated by Gregory Peck for the 1962 dra-

ma “To Kill a Mockingbird,” the doors to Rick’s Cafe Americain from “Casablanca” or the type-writer used by Joseph Stefano to write the screenplay to Alfred Hitchcock’s “Psycho” are among a trove of objects that will be on display.

Animation master Miyazaki

Designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano, the near \$400 million museum will be housed in a historic building — the Saban Building formerly home to the May Company department store — and will feature six floors that include exhibition spaces, a cafe, a store, plus a 1,000-seat theatre.

“The Museum will be a gathering place for film lovers and will invite people from all over the world to re-experience and deepen our collective love of this art form, accessible to all,” said Dawn Hudson, CEO of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. “Like the experience of watching a movie, a trip to the Museum will be a kind of waking dream in which visitors feel

as if they’ve slipped through the screen to see how the magic is created,” she added.

Several Hollywood A-listers, including Tom Hanks, Annette Bening and Laura Dern, have been involved in the project, hosting fundraising events and drumming up support both at home and abroad.

“It’s going to be a combination of the Louvre, the Museum of Modern Art and the Hermitage,” Hanks told reporters on a recent tour, referring to world-class museums in Paris, New York and St. Petersburg, Russia.

“Everybody who comes to Los Angeles will want to see what’s inside and they will linger for more than just a few hours.”

The museum will open with a retrospective devoted to Miyazaki, whose animation masterpieces include “Princess Mononoke” and the Oscar-winning “Spirited Away.” Brougher said that apart from paying tribute to the genius of Miyazaki, the exhibition was also intended to reflect the global scope of the museum.—AFP ■

Young Russian fashion designers take inspiration from history

MOSCOW (Russia)—In her workshop in a Moscow attic, Maria Andrianova is using a sewing technique she learnt from elderly women in the forested Karelia region of northwestern Russia. “For me, sewing is a way to learn about my origins,” said the 31-year-old designer. She describes her “Masha Andrianova” fashion line as “for the modern world” but uses some sewing techniques dating back to the Tsarist era. Her flowing dresses, high-necked blouses and pleated skirts are made of natural materials in pale or autumnal colours.

“In Karelia, the locals showed me a way of sewing that I didn’t know about. They had learned it from their mothers, it was like a family secret,” she said, lightly braiding two threads together. More and more young Russian fashion designers like Andrianova are finding inspiration in traditional sewing methods that have fallen into disuse, seeing them as a way to stand out from the Western brands that

she said. “I’m creating modern clothes that carry Russian history in them.”

‘Natural process’

At 35, Yukhann Nikadimus decided to devote himself entirely to making kokoshniki—traditional women’s high headdresses that were particularly popular in the 19th century. Working in a factory that dates back to the 16th century but was renamed after Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin in the Soviet era, the tall bearded man carefully embroiders pearl patterns on to canvas stretched on a wooden frame.

While he gets his ideas from period photographs, he insists that his kokoshniki can work in any contemporary wardrobe.

“You could wear a kokoshniki with a modern wedding dress, for example,” he said.

“National dress shouldn’t be something that is fixed,” he insists. “It changes all the time—new techniques appear, you have to incorporate them, it’s a



In her workshop in a Moscow attic, Maria Andrianova is using a sewing technique she learnt from elderly women in the forested Karelia region of northwestern Russia. “For me, sewing is a way to learn about my origins,” said the 31-year-old designer. PHOTO: AFP

poured into the country after the fall of the USSR. “We don’t want to look any more at what the others are doing in the West,” she said. “We want to find our own methods, because we also have many traditions and a very rich culture.” Learning about such traditions could be a way for young Russians to explore further back into their country’s past than the relatively familiar Bolshevik revolution, she said.

Andrianova has taken inspiration from sketches by an ancestor who owned a weaving factory as well as from the life story of her great-grandmother, who headed a dressmaking business. She also learnt techniques from her grandmother, who was born in the Soviet era. “But I’m not restoring period clothing,”

natural process.”

‘Time of introspection’

For cultural commentator Ilya Oskolkov-Tsentsiper, founder of Moscow’s Strelka design institute, such a revival of interest in pre-revolutionary dress among young designers was “almost inevitable.” “During Perestroika (in the 1980s) and the following decades, Russians were fascinated by the West and everything that came from there,” he said. “Back then we underestimated the value of what we had (in Russia) and overestimated the beauty of everything outside.”

“Now though we are living in a time of introspection, we are trying to figure out who we are, what shapes our identity and what makes us unique.—AFP ■

China continues to promote compulsory education equality

BEIJING—The Ministry of Education (MOE) will continue to promote enrollment equality and enhance the quality of education at schools with weak resources, an official said Thursday.

Over 98 per cent of students from 24 major Chinese cities live in their respective school zones and are enrolled

in their nine-year compulsory education—which does not require an entrance exam, said the MOE.

Lyu Yugang, head of the MOE’s basic education department, said over 80 per cent of students who migrate with their parents enter public schools while the compulsory education enrollment rate for

blind, deaf and mentally-handicapped students has reached 90 per cent.

The MOE strictly bans middle and primary schools from organizing exams or competitions aiming to selectively recruit students. A total of 446 people have been punished for such violations, according to Lyu.—Xinhua ■

Virgin Galactic reaches space for first time

MOJAVE (United States)— Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, VSS Unity, flew higher than it ever has before on Thursday, surpassing what the US Air Force considers the boundary of space, and marking the first manned flight to space from US soil since 2011.

The brief, suborbital flight — with two pilots on board — was a key milestone for the company headed by British tycoon Richard Branson, who is striving to send tourists to space at a cost of \$250,000 per seat. No spacecraft with people on board has taken off from US soil since the American space shuttle program ended, as scheduled, seven years ago. Since then, the world's space agencies have relied on Russian Soyuz rockets to ferry astronauts to the International Space Station. In the meantime, a burgeoning commercial space industry is rushing to close the gap, as companies hurry to complete spacecraft that can carry astronauts and tourists into microgravity. "Today, for

the first time in history, a crewed spaceship, built to carry private passengers, reached space," Branson said in a statement afterward. "This is a momentous day and I could not be more proud of our teams who together have opened a new chapter of space exploration." Virgin Galactic's spaceship did not launch on a rocket but took off attached to an airplane from Mojave, California.

After reaching a certain altitude, higher than 43,000 feet (13,100 meters), it fired its rocket motors for 60 seconds and made it to a peak height, or apogee, of 51.4 miles (82.7 kilometers). "We made it to space," the company said on Twitter. The commonly accepted international definition of space is 62 miles high (100 kilometers), but the US Air Force considers the space boundary to be a bit lower, at 50 miles. Virgin Galactic has said it would use the US Air Force's definition of space as its standard. "What we witnessed today is more compelling evidence



Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo takes off for a suborbital test flight of the VSS Unity on 13 December 2018, in Mojave, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

that commercial space is set to become one of the 21st century's defining industries," said George Whitesides, CEO of Virgin Galactic and The Spaceship Company.

"Reusable vehicles built and operated by private companies are about to transform our business and personal lives in ways which are as yet hard to imagine."

NASA payload

The US space agency paid

Virgin Galactic to fly four space science and technology experiments on the VSS Unity, "making this Virgin Galactic's first revenue generating flight," the company added. "Congrats to @VirginGalactic on SpaceShipTwo successfully flying to suborbital space with our four @NASA_Technology payloads onboard," NASA said on Twitter. "With a good rocket motor burn, the mission went beyond the 50-mile altitude

target." In July, after burning the rocket motor for 42 seconds, the VSS Unity reached a height of 32 miles. Commercial airplanes typically fly at an altitude of about six miles, while the orbiting International Space Station is some 250 miles high.

Another US rocket company, Blue Origin, founded by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, is also working to send tourists to space, but using a small rocket to get there.—AFP ■

Wirtanen comet coming to Russia's night skies in mid-December

MOSCOW — Residents of Russia will be able to observe the Wirtanen comet expected to draw near the Earth and the Sun quite close in mid-December, the Moscow Planetarium said on its website on Thursday. The comet will be seen in the form of a green small cloud in the sky in the evenings and at nights in clear weather both using binoculars and to the naked eye, the planetarium said.

"A comet is flying towards us! This is the comet, towards which the Rosetta space probe was supposed to have flown to in 2004. The Wirtanen comet became the brightest comet of 2018. In mid-December, it will come closer to the Sun and the Earth, nearer than ever," the Moscow Planetarium said in a statement.

Astronomers say that on 16 December, the comet will be just 30 times farther from the Earth than the Moon.

The comet can be noticed moving in the starry sky when the celestial body is observed at least for 10 minutes with the naked eye and can be seen almost in real time through the telescope. On 13 December, 2018, the comet will come as close as possible

to the Sun and thus increase its brilliance, and on December 16, it will fly at a distance of 11.5 million km from the Earth. In the 21st century, only four comets have approached the Earth in closer range. The Wirtanen comet can be observed during the month immediately after sunset in the evenings and at nights over the southern horizon.

"In its maximum luster, the

Wirtanen comet is expected to reach the brightness of 3-4m, which will make it the brightest comet over the past five years," the Moscow Planetarium said.

The celestial body has turned emerald due to the evaporations of diatomic carbon whose green glow stems from the ultraviolet solar irradiation of a gas in the space vacuum. In January 2019, the Wirtanen comet will become

inaccessible for observations with the naked eye and later it won't be possible to see it through binoculars either. The comet will be seen through a telescope only in 2029 and 2035. Later, this celestial body won't be observed from the Earth.

The Wirtanen comet (46P/Wirtanen) with a 1.2-km nucleus was discovered on 17 January, 1948 by American Carl Wirtanen.—Tass ■



The comet will be seen in the form of a green small cloud, one would see it at nights over the southern horizon. **PHOTO: TASS**

Robot shown on Russian TV revealed to be man in costume

MOSCOW (Russia)—A "state-of-the-art" robot that appeared in a report on Russia's main TV news channel was revealed by internet users on Wednesday to be a man in a costume. The Rossiya 24 rolling news channel on Tuesday broadcast footage of what it presented as a dancing, singing robot at a technology forum for school pupils. "At the forum there's the opportunity to see state-of-the-art robots," the presenter said as the apparent automaton danced on stage.

But images shared online from backstage at the event clearly showed a human inside a robot outfit, through a gap between a bodysuit and a headpiece.

"I'm good at maths but now I want to study art and musical composition," the robot said in a metallic voice as lights on its face flash different colours, the report showed.

"Boris the Robot has already learned to dance, and not badly at that," the reporter said.—AFP ■

Myanmar wins gold in traditional boat race, bronze in volleyball at 19th ASEAN University Games



Thailand and Singapore compete in the final of women's volleyball competition. **PHOTO: KO HTAIN**

MYANMAR secured the gold medal in the 1000-meter women's traditional boat race and took the bronze medal in men's volleyball at the 19th ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

On the second day of the traditional boat race, Myanmar women's team grabbed the gold medal by a record of 5 minutes and 4.84 seconds. Thailand won the silver medal, finishing the race in 5 minutes and 9.50 seconds. Singapore took the bronze medal, finishing in 5 minutes and 15.92 seconds.

Initially, the Thai team led in the boat race. But near the final point, team Myanmar managed to overtake them to finish with a lead of 5 seconds.

With the win, Myanmar has secured two gold medals and two silver medals in the traditional boat race in the Games. On 15 December, one traditional boat race will be held along with five events of the international boat race.

In the match for the third place in men's volleyball yesterday, Myanmar played against Indonesia. Myanmar secured the bronze medal by beating Indonesia 3-1, scoring 25-19, 25-21, 22-25 and 25-21.

In the final match of the men's volleyball, the Philippines team won the gold medal by beating the Thailand team 3-1.

In women's volleyball, the Thailand team trounced the Singapore team by 3-0.—Nyi Myat Thawdar (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin) ■



Myanmar women's traditional boat race team seen with gold medals. **PHOTO: KO KO SOE NYUNT**

Rank	Country	SEA Nations	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	THA		32	30	19	81
2	INA		26	15	19	60
3	MAS		17	26	21	64
4	MYA		10	10	15	35
5	VIE		5	1	1	7
6	SGP		4	8	11	23
7	LAO		3	4	3	10
8	TLS		1			1
9	PHI		1			1
10	BRU					
11	CAM					
Total			99	94	89	282

'Majority' back 48-team Qatar World Cup, says Infantino

DOHA (Qatar)—A "majority" of football federations support increasing the number of teams playing at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar from 32 to 48, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in Doha on Thursday. Speaking at a press conference after a three-day FIFA summit in the Qatari capital, Infantino said the idea had widespread backing from associations across the globe. "We will see," he said. "So far, of course the majority is in favour because 16 more teams to participate, not only means 16 more countries with World Cup fever but also 50 or 60 more countries being able to dream. "Is it feasible or not, that's the question?" FIFA has said it will make its final decision in March, at its next council meeting, after the completion of a feasibility study. It

has backed a 48-team tournament to become the norm from 2026, when the World Cup will take place in the USA, Mexico and Canada. And he said that Qatar would consider the idea of a 48-team World Cup in four years' time.

"There is an openness on the part of Qatar and that is something that I really appreciate," said Infantino. About any final decision, he added: "Of course, the first partner with whom we are speaking about is the Qataris, the Qatar federation, the Qatari authorities." Any decision to extend the tournament would be faced by logistical and political problems. The 2022 World Cup, the first in the Middle East, will take place over 28 days not the usual 32, as in Russia earlier this year.—AFP ■

MFF ends contract with head coach Antoine Hey

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and head coach Antoine Hey reached a mutual agreement to terminate his contract with the national football team on Thursday, according to a source with the MFF.

Members of the MFF's Technical Committee held a special meeting on Wednesday during which they reached an agreement to end Hey's contract. Over the last seven months, Hey has helped the national team achieve some success in the group phase of the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup and international football matches. However, the national team failed to reach the semi-final stage in the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup.

"I would like to thank my team, players, officials, and members of the Myanmar Foot-



Myanmar team's head coach Antoine Hey. **PHOTO: MFF**

ball Federation. It was an honor and privilege to work with you. My best wishes for the future for you all. May all your targets be achieved one day. A special thanks to our supporters, you have been fantastic!" said Antoine Hey.

At Wednesday's meeting, an official with the MFF highlighted

the challenges to the development of the sport in the country. "For the better development of Myanmar football, we need to consider the lack of various resources such as the standards of stadium and playgrounds, players, financial assistance, and youth competitions," he said.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■