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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the address at the Advisory Forum on National Reconciliation and Peace in Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor delivers speech at Religions for Peace Advisory Forum

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered the inaugural speech at the Advisory Forum on National Reconciliation and Peace in Myanmar, jointly organized by Religions for Peace and the Union government, and held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre

II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Greetings and preface

In her speech, the State Counsellor first extended a warm welcome to everyone present, saying they are here to support the endeavours for peace and national reconciliation, which are the themes of this

forum along with "Our Common Future".

"This high-level meeting is timely. Placing emphasis on interfaith dialogue as a path to peace underscores the vital and indispensable role that religious leaders play in shaping a peaceful world," she said.

"Peace and national reconciliation are essential if we are to have a future where we can be assured of a worthwhile existence and a world which we can leave to coming generations with confidence and honour."

"The right to live in safety and in peace is fundamental. So is the right to freedom of belief

and worship. But we live in times when these fundamental rights are increasingly challenged in ways we have never seen before. Around the world, we see how religion is being misused by extremists to justify incitement to violence, and acts of terrorism."

"We must collectively reaffirm our common resolve to overcome the scourge of violent extremism and terrorism."

Addressing measures for peace and harmony

The State Counsellor underlined certain measures in her speech, saying, "The first is we need to promote interfaith

dialogue. Respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity would contribute to lasting peace and security."

"For Interfaith dialogue to be truly effective, it should not be limited to religious leaders. It must extend to all so that it results in the meeting of minds and hearts."

"The second issue we need to address is education. Education is essential for overcoming prejudices and stereotyping, mistrust and discrimination. It is only through education that we can promote a culture of peace that ensures mutual respect."

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State Counsellor: Peace, reconciliation rooted in positive values

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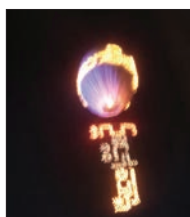
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Advisory Forum on National Reconciliation and Peace held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Religions for Peace Advisory Forum on National Reconciliation and Peace in Myanmar was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The forum was opened with separate speeches from the Patron of Religions for Peace-Myanmar (RfP-M) and Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Yangon, Cardinal Charles Bo, RfP-M Chairperson U Myint Swe, Honorary President for the international Religions for Peace Bishop Gunnar J. Stålsett, and Karen National Union (KNU) Chairperson Saw Mutu Say Poe.

RfP-M Patron, Cardinal Charles Bo

In his speech, Cardinal Charles Bo said they are all here to support the efforts of the Union government and Tatmadaw in the peace process. He said more organizations have joined the peace process since the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference began. In the eyes of the international community, Myanmar is facing a lot of hardships, he added. He said he believes the various individuals from countries abroad, who are present at this forum, will help in communicating the Union government's efforts for peace and reconciliation known to the world.

The cardinal said it is important to work for peace that will bring development and prosperity to all the people. He said the Religions for Peace fully supported the Union government's effort in achieving peace even though there are differing opinions from countries around the world. He



RfP Hon. President Bishop Gunnar Stålsett. **PHOTO: MNA**

said the Union government and those involved with the nation understand that Myanmar's difficulties need to be solved within the country first. He added that incidents that have occurred for a long time cannot be resolved immediately.

RfP-M Chairperson U Myint Swe

U Myint Swe first expressed his gratitude to the attendees and then said it is the first sign of success to see everyone they have invited attending the forum. He said dialogue was important as it could bridge the gap caused by wrong assumptions and that this forum was here to bridge any misunderstandings as well.

He said this forum was not the final answer to resolving those gaps, stating that they have drawn a two-year plan which involves holding three more peace advisory forums, once every six months. He said the advisory forum would be centered on compassion, which is the basis of the world's various religions.

He said, if religious leaders



RfP-M Chairperson U Myint Swe. **PHOTO: MNA**

and those in faith firmly believed in their religion, then they would know how to give compassion, loving kindness and support to people who were facing hardships in the country, such as those in displaced person camps and in Rakhine State, and would bring their beliefs closer. He said he did not think the issues accumulated over many years would be solved in one forum but it would at least lessen the distance between people's differences.

RfP Hon. Pres Bishop Gunnar Stålsett

Bishop Gunnar Stålsett said it was the wish of all the religions to see Myanmar flourish with democracy based on human dignity, human rights and international law. He said the aim of this forum was for all the multi-ethnic people of different religions in Myanmar to have the same citizenship rights.

This first out of four planned forums has the theme 'Our Common Future', said the bishop. He said the theme highlights the concepts of solidarity and



RfP-M Patron, Cardinal Charles Bo. **PHOTO: MNA**

democracy in society and also reflects the motto of Myanmar's Religions for Peace, 'Different Faiths, Common Action'.

He said this forum was unique in that it included religion as a sector for establishing peace and national reconciliation. This shows that religion was devoid of pride and can make realistic changes.

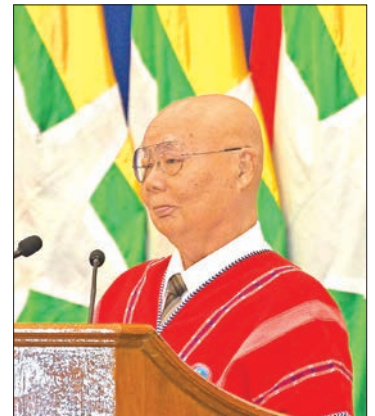
KNU Chairperson Saw Mutu Say Poe

The KNU Chairperson said now was the time to stop the armed conflicts for democracy, national equality, autonomy and opportunities that have been going on for over 60 years and bring them from the blood-soaked battlefields to continue on the violence-free political battles and roundtables.

He said this was heading towards national reconciliation and peace. He said they would hold political dialogues to discuss the underlying causes for the armed conflicts and negotiate to establish a political culture that would find practical political answers that everyone agrees on.

He said there were difficulties reaching a common political agreement due to the different backgrounds, environments, and history that all relevant groups have passed through. He said in his personal experience there needed to be compromises, humility and compassion when conducting political talks.

The KNU Chairperson said only compassion and the truth could establish lasting peace. He said if all relevant sides of the country's armed conflicts could end terrorism and aggression and uphold humanistic values then they would be first to feel the effects of peace. He said



KNU Chairperson Saw Mutu Say Poe. **PHOTO: MNA**

this would enable all the people facing years of hardships due to armed conflicts to find happiness in peace. He said this peaceful coexistence is what constituted a democratic federal union.

The forum then commenced with a discussion under the title 'Building Peace with Religion' and participated by Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Saykanda from the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, AggaMahaGandawa Saga Panita Prof. Ashin Dr. Dhammisami from the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies at the University of Oxford, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of the Province of Myanmar Stephen Than Myint Oo, chief convener for the Islamic Center of Myanmar Al Haj U Aye Lwin, executive member of Hindu religious group Dr. Hla Tun, and Secretary-General of RfP Dr. William F. Vendley.

Afterwards, participants divided into groups to discuss topics on education, equal rights and responsibility for ethnic nationals and minorities, promoting the capacity of women, interacting with youths and protection of children, and the various issues of Rakhine State.

In the evening, participants were treated to dinner by Religions for Peace.

Religions for Peace is the world's largest and most representative multi-religious coalition. RfP is both an organization and a movement and is headquartered in New York City in the US. RfP has representatives in over 90 countries, including Myanmar and operates under the motto 'Different Faiths, Common Action'. —MNA ■

(Translated by
Zaw Htet Oo)



Religious leaders and attendees of the Religions for Peace Advisory Forum on National Reconciliation and Peace in Myanmar engage in roundtable discussion in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor delivers speech at Religions for Peace Advisory Forum

FROM PAGE-1

“Third, we need to address the root causes of violent extremism. Youth are attracted to extremist ideologies because they feel socially alienated and excluded, or because of poverty and chronic unemployment.”

“The people of Myanmar yearn for peace and for a chance to secure a better future for their children. Fully aware of the aspirations of our people, our new administration has been taking steps to implement plans to build upon the peace process that was initiated by the previous government.”

Panglong: successes and challenges

“The Twenty-first Century Panglong Conference seeks to put an end to the armed strife that has ravaged Myanmar since its birth as an independent nation, and to construct a strong democratic federal union founded on a lasting unity created out of diversity.”

“In each of the three Panglong meetings held over the past two years, we made valuable progress,” said the State Counsellor.

She went on to explain, “In the First Union Peace Conference, a seven-step roadmap for peace and national reconciliation was achieved. In the Second Conference, 37 principles were adopted.”

“Before the Third Conference, two more ethnic armed groups signed the ceasefire agreement and during the Conference itself, 14 more principles were agreed upon and adopted.”

“Serious challenges remain and clashes continue to break out between the Tatmadaw and the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), as well as between the EAOs themselves. We are constantly alert to the challenges and we aim to resolve them through dialogue and negotiation, by preserving



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for the documentary photo together with attendees at the Advisory Forum on National Reconciliation and Peace in Myanmar held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

in the endeavor to build mutual trust and understanding. We believe that building relationships through dialogue is the best way to build peace.”

Rakhine, an uppermost priority

“Another area where we are in dire need of peace and reconciliation is, as you all know well, Rakhine. In full awareness of the need to disentangle the knot of fear and anger, frustration and poverty that had resulted from long years of neglect to address fundamental issues, as soon as our Government took over the administration, we made rule of law and development in Rakhine one of our uppermost priorities. I will not now go into the details of the round of troubles that began with the terrorist attacks on police outposts in Rakhine in October 2016 as these have been well recounted many times. I believe that you are here to find constructive, sustainable ways of building harmony and trust between all communities in Rakhine.”

“I thank you for the goodwill and the desire to make understanding and loving kind-

ness triumph over prejudice and hate, that has brought you together here today. I look forward to the ideas that will emerge from the meeting of minds that are committed to the promotion of peace and reconciliation.”

Closing remarks: strong positives values to make a better world

“I would like to conclude by saying that peace and reconciliation are positive values, and they have to be rooted in positive values. They are not simply an absence of disagreement and conflict. They have to do

... peace and reconciliation are positive values, and they have to be rooted in positive values. They are not simply an absence of disagreement and conflict.

...this dialogue will contribute to fostering of closer cooperation between different faiths not just in this country but throughout the world.

with the strong presence of positive values that believe that we are all here, today, together, to make our world a better place. I am not an expert on religions but I believe religions are there to make us understand why we are here now in this existence, and how we can go forward into the future. So, I look to all these religious leaders present here today to find answers to these questions that will bring us to all together; why are we here in this world today? And what

efforts of those here today to build the relationships that are necessary to avoid and end conflict. But that's not where the endeavor for peace and reconciliation end. It's not simply the absence of conflict, it's the presence of values and beliefs that will strengthen peace and reconciliation.”

“I am confident that this dialogue will contribute to fostering of closer cooperation between different faiths not just in this country but throughout

the world, because I know that Religions for Peace operate throughout the world and I would thank you especially for focusing your attention now on our country and your determination and your charity, in the old-fashioned sense of the word, charity as loving kindness which has brought you here to be with us.”

Afterwards, the State Counsellor took a documentary photo with the attendees.

Attending the Peace Advisory Forum were Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, deputy ministers, Karen National Union Chairperson Saw Mutu Say Poe and representatives of ethnic armed organizations peace groups, ambassadors, representatives from UN agencies, members from Religions for Peace, and other invited guests. —MNA

... we need to address the root causes of violent extremism. Youth are attracted to extremist ideologies because they feel socially alienated and excluded, or because of poverty and chronic unemployment.”

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China-Myanmar art show held in Yangon

By May Thet Hnin

AS part of a cultural exchange program between China and Myanmar, an art show titled 'Myanmar: Through the Dragon's Brush' is being held at Junction City, Yangon. The show opened on 21 November and will end 22 November.

The art show is being jointly organized by the China Daily Asia Pacific Limited, the Chinese Culture and Arts Promotion Association, and RVi Publication Services (RVIPS). The Shwe Taung business group, the Myanmar Painting and Sculpture Association (Central), and the Myanmar Tourism Federation are also supporting the event.

About 100 paintings made by nine famous Chinese artists have been put up for display at the art show. The artists visited Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan, and Inle regions between 16 and 20 November to paint scenes from the regions. Of the paintings on display, 60 depict scenic views from Myanmar while the rest focus on China's natural beauty.

"We have met with artists from Myanmar and learnt about art in the country through the cultural exchange program. We've discovered some amazing

Artists create water colour painting at the Art Show in Yangon. **PHOTO: MAY THET HNIN**

painting techniques employed by Myanmar artists. We hope the art exchange program will be held from time to time. I am so proud to be associated with this kind of art show," said Shi Jiangcheng, a national first-class artist from China and the executive director of the Chinese Painting Institute under the Ministry of Culture.

"At present, art shows on Chinese paintings are also being held at the Chinese Cultural Center. I am really pleased to see scenic paintings on Myanmar drawn by Chinese artists

as part of the Myanmar-China cultural exchange program. They are totally different from the Myanmar artists' point of view. Also, I am very impressed that the art show is being held at a place where everyone can observe. We will consider sending Myanmar artists to China later on," said Professor U Myat Tun Aung, the head of the Painting Department at the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon).

"Art is one way of communication between people. This art show can help build relations,"

said Mr. Hong Liang, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar.

The opening of the art show was attended by Yangon Region government officials, Hluttaw representatives, embassy officials, and other invited guests. Artists from both countries shared their knowledge and discussed exchange programs for the future. After the art show ends, the China Daily Asia Pacific Limited is planning to publish a book featuring the paintings showcased in the show. ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

2nd Mandalay International Machinery and Industrial Show to be held

THE 2nd Mandalay International Machinery and Industrial Show will be held at Kanaung hall in the Mandalay industrial zone's Pyigyidagun Township from 27 to 29 November, according to the Mandalay Industrial Zone's Management Committee.

The event is being jointly organized by the Mandalay Industrial Zone Management Committee and Ngwe Pinle media. The show is being organized to familiarize entrepreneurs with modern machines and technol-

ogies that can help them manufacture products that meet international standards.

The event will include an exhibition and a robot show. The exhibition will showcase machines made by foreign companies that are keen to distribute their technology, local products and machines, and electric cars. The robot show is being organized by students from the Yangon and Mandalay Technological Universities and the Yatanarpon cyber city. At the show, there will

be over 80 stalls exhibiting machines and technologies, locally manufactured products and truck accessories, said Ko Zarni, the project director from Ngwe Pinle media.

The organizers are also planning to host panel discussions with industrial and business entrepreneurs on 'foreign exchange and local products condition' and 'local agricultural products and challenges'. —Than Zaw Min (IPRD) ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Man caught smuggling drugs in Mongphyat

ACTING on a tip, police stopped a motorcyclist on the Mongphyat-Mongyawng road in Mongphyat Township, eastern Shan State, early on Tuesday morning and found drugs worth Ks510,000.

The motorcyclist, identified as Da Wee, 37, was arrested and has been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

The Tachilek Township police stopped and searched his bike around 1:45 am on 20 November, between the Nos 1 and 2 mile posts on Mongphyat-Mongyawng road, and found 510 yaba tablets.

The police are continuing their investigations to find others connected with the drug trafficking case. —Sai Aung Zaw Lynn ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

Artist Moe Kyaw Thu to hold 5th solo show at Yangon Gallery

ARTIST Moe Kyaw Thu will hold a solo exhibition, titled 'Collision in My Dream, Vol.2', at the Yangon Gallery from 22 to 25 November.

The event will be open to the public from 10 am to 6 pm everyday.

This will be Moe Kyaw Thu's fifth solo event. He held

his first solo show in 2002 at Yangon's Larkanat Gallery. His second and third solo exhibitions were held at the same gallery in 2005 and 2011, respectively. He held his fourth solo event in July this year at the OK gallery.

Moe Kyaw Thu studied under well-known artists Dr. Lun Gywe and the late Bagyi

Aung Soe. He has participated in 40 collective art exhibitions so far.

The Yangon Gallery is a contemporary art gallery located near the Planetarium Museum on Ahlon Road in Dagon Township, Yangon. —Shwe Khine ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

Write for us

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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.

Chin State research report on business development released

By Nyein Nyein

IN a bid to encourage business development in Chin State, a research report on Opportunities and Challenges for local Business Development in Chin State was released yesterday at the Taw Win Garden Hotel in Yangon.

The report was developed by the Aye Chan Myanmar Institute (Gender and Development Institute-Myanmar) and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). The report was analyzed by more than 60 people, including high-ranking officials from townships in the Chin State, representatives from civil society organizations, local businesspersons, and women and young leaders.

"These people understand the Chin State government's

two-year performance," said a researcher with the Aye Chan Myanmar Institute.

"The findings show many business opportunities for Chin State, along with a slew of possible challenges," said Lohpai Ja Ra, the executive director of the Aye Chan Myanmar Institute. The research

report was developed to promote business in Chin State, discuss the opportunities and challenges of local entrepreneurs and local people, help good business manage-

ments encourage a democratic transition, enlist participation of women and men to help businesses in Chin State thrive, and suggest points for better policies

local and foreign investments in the state," said Salia Aike Zat Khin, a former Chin State minister for development affairs and industry. He was speaking on behalf

of the Chin State's Minister for Planning and Finance. He is also a policy consultant with the Aye Chan Myanmar Institute.

Investors in Chin State are facing difficulties in terms of land, electric supply, and transport facilities, said Dr.

Min Zaw Oo, the director of the Chin State's Office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. "Investors face risk regarding return of capital.

They are facing many barriers to investment. Tourism will flourish only if there is fundamental infrastructure such as electricity, accommodation, and transportation. The lack of basic infrastructure is a big challenge for them for now," he said.

The research report on Chin State outlines 19 points on which better practices are expected to emerge. Of these, three points deal with regional project implementation, three points on employment opportunities and the problem of unemployment, five points on the private sector, six points on investments and the progress of business in the state, and two points on the role of non-governmental and civil society organizations. ■

(Translated by Ei Mon)

Investors in Chin State are facing difficulties in terms of land, electric supply, and transport facilities: Dr. Min Zaw Oo, Director of Chin State Office of DICA

October inflation rate at 6.34%, highest this year

THE annual rate of inflation in Myanmar, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), increased to 6.34 per cent in October from 5.94 per cent the previous month, according to a recent report by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

In 2018, the average inflation rate was the lowest in the month of March, at 4.03 per cent. The inflation rate recorded in October is the highest this year.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, rose by 0.75 per cent in October from September. The 8.85-per-cent year-on-year inflation rate recorded in October this year is the highest in the past twelve months.

In October, Mandalay City recorded the highest inflation rate at 11.33 per cent, followed by

Rakhine State at 10.76 per cent, and Magway Region at 8.37 per cent. The year-on-year inflation rate fluctuated, reaching a maximum of 13.35 per cent in Rakhine and a minimum of 4.76 per cent in Kayah State.

Barring the telecommunication group, there was a significant increase in CPI in October for food group, non-food group, tobacco and beverages group, household goods and maintenance group, transportation group, other commodities group, clothing, health, education services, recreation and culture and housing groups. China's restriction on importation of some agro products last month led to the suspension of some freight transport services. Additionally, with Myanmar's currency depreciating against the US dollar, the prices of imported goods also

registered a rise. Transportation costs also rose due to soaring fuel oil prices and the hike in commodity prices.

With people from Myanmar conducting charitable and donation events during the Thadingyut and Tazaungdine festivals, demand for goods rises, pushing up commodity prices every year.

Earlier, the inflation rate was evaluated based on a 2006 survey. Later, the base year was changed to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November 2012. To bring down the inflation rate, the authorities formulated policies on finance, currency, trade, and foreign currency control, according to the second five-year National Development plan. — Htet Myat ■

(Translated by Ei Mon)

Border imports using ITCs top Ks6 billion in current FY

BORDER imports through the use of individual trading cards (ITCs) have exceeded Ks6 billion in the current fiscal year, while exports have touched nearly Ks1.3 billion, according to a report issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 9 November this year, Myanmar imported a wide variety of commodities through nine border posts, including Tamu, Muse, Myawady, Tachilek, Kanpaiktee, Kawthoung, Reed, Mawtaung, and Kengtung.

Among the border trade

stations, the Myawady gate ranked first with individual imports valued at over Ks3.5 billion, followed by Mawtaung at Ks1.9 billion, Kawthoung at Ks450 million, Kanpaiktee at Ks226 million, and Reed at Ks674 million. The ministry's statistical report indicated that the value of trade from the remaining border points was lower than Ks8 million.

During the period, the total individual export/import trade from the border trade posts exceeded Ks7 billion.

Since the 2012-2013 FY, the

Ministry of Commerce has been issuing ITCs to border merchants to boost cross-border trade. Till date, there are 1,560 ITC holders. Trade authorities have issued 36 cards to individual traders this FY.

The government is now working to expand trade by means of advanced ITCs, promote measures to increase exports, formulate trade policies in accord with the market, and improve trade environment.— Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Myanmar-ROK trade exceeds \$420 million in mini-budget period

THE value of bilateral trade between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea in the mini-budget period (from April to September this year) reached US\$424.7 million, with exports valued at \$230.8 million and imports totalling \$193.9 million, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's exports to South Korea include rice and broken rice, coffee, mangoes, pulses, apparel produced by domestic companies on a cut-make-pack basis, and shrimp and sesame oil. It imports capital goods such as machinery and equipment, raw industrial goods such as fertilizers and garment materials, and consumer goods such as cosmetics from South Korea.

The value of bilateral trade between the two countries was \$798.4 million in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, \$866 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$657 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$862 million in the

2014-2015 FY, \$1.57 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$623 million in the 2012-2013 FY, and \$667 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

During the mini-budget period, 12 South Korea-listed enterprises were permitted to bring in a capital of \$77 million by the Myanmar Investment Commission and other investment committees. South Korea is the sixth largest foreign investor in Myanmar. Several multinational corporations from South Korea, such as Posco, Daewoo, Samsung, and Hyundai have already grabbed a share of the Myanmar market.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has also provided a grant for sustainable rural development and capacity building in public service, technology, education, and building of fundamental infrastructure in Myanmar. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Mon)

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Kyauk Chun Bridge linking Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine State inaugurated

THE Kyauk Chun Bridge in Gwa Township, Rakhine State, was commissioned into service yesterday. The bridge will serve as a direct road link between Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State.

The bridge was officially opened in the presence of Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Chief Minister of Rakhine State, U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Hla Moe Aung, and ministers from regions/states and other officials.

“At present, Gwa Township enjoys 24-hour access to electricity. In terms of transport, the Thandwe-Gwa road has been improved. The opening of the Kyauk Chun Bridge will help develop the economy, society, and trade in the Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State. It will also support the development of Gwa Township,” said U Aye Tha Aung at the ceremony.

“Local people must grab this opportunity and work for their family, township, and country. Next, the Ministry of Construction will propose construction of a new bridge over the Gwa Creek to the Union Government. I hope that will work out soon,” he added.

“The Kyauk Chun Bridge is located on the Ma Kyay Ngu-Kyauk Chun road in Gwa



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, and Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung walk along the new Kyauk Chun Bridge. **PHOTO: THIHA SITHU**

Township and links the coastal regions of Nga Yoke Kaung, Ngwehsaung, Chaung Tha, Shwethaungyan, Wet Thay, and Ma Gyee Sin Village. So, it is an important bridge for the Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State,” said the Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw.

“In order to develop, a country or region needs to develop infrastructure first. From Rakhine State, we can now travel from Bandula, Maungtaung Township to Kyauk Chun, Gwa Township. Within this year, we will try to bring electricity to all

townships. Manaung Township will get electricity soon with the help of the Posco Daewoo Company. We have tried to quickly develop our education, health, and society sectors, too,” said the Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu.

Afterwards, local people expressed thanks for the bridge.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Hluttaw representatives, and departmental officials opened the bridge with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Department of Bridges began the construction of the

bridge on 19 December 2017, with fund from the Department of Rural Road Development. The bridge is 200 ft in length, a width of the bridge is 24 ft and 22 ft for the road vehicle. Load capacity of the bridge is 60 tons. It has been built at a cost of 800 million kyats, including the construction of approach road and frames.

The Ministry of Construction is setting goals for proportional development of the whole country, including the border areas. During the two years of the present Union Government,

the Department of Road has constructed over 26,000 miles of roads. A total of 1,159 miles of roads in Rakhine State and 1,752 miles of roads in Ayeyawady Region have been constructed, and the Gwa-Ngathaingchaung and the Gwa-Thandwe roads that link Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State are being upgraded.

Moreover, the Department of Bridges has constructed 550 bridges which measure more than 180 ft in length. A total of 97 bridges which measure more than 180 ft in length have been built in Ayeyawady Region, and 57 bridges measuring over 180 ft in length have been built in Rakhine State. A total of 17 bridges are presently undergoing construction.

Under the Department of Rural Road Development, 1,766 miles of rural roads were built in Rakhine State and work is on to lengthen Buthidaung-Thabataung-Nyaung Chaung-Aung Zaya-Angumaw road to 46 miles 5 furlongs, while 2,916 miles of rural roads and 1,940 bridges have been upgraded.

The Ministry of Construction aims to construct and upgrade annually rural roads for 80 per cent of the rural area so 90 per cent of people in the rural area can travel during any season by 2030.—Zin Oo (Myanma Alinn) ■ (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker meets departmental officials in Gwa Township

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and state ministers met with Hluttaw Representatives and departmental officials at the meeting hall of the General Administration Department in Gwa Township, Rakhine State yesterday. During the meeting, the Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and party focused on the regional development affairs.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Han Zaw explained about the regional developmental processes, agendas and planning being performed by the Union Government. Next, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu also explained about the construction of the Gwa-Kyauk Chun Road, rural roads development of Gwa-



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung addresses departmental officials of Gwa Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

Danhi-Thit Kout region, upgrading the transportation sector in Thandwe-Gwa beach route, plans to upgrade Gwa Airport for reuse, and working to attract investments into the region.

Following this, Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr. Chan Tha explained about regional developmental processes to be

carried out in Southern Rakhine State and prioritized agendas, while departmental officials explained about the beaches in Thandwe District to be polished plus requirements in society, economic and education sectors in the region.—Zin Oo (Myanma Alinn) ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Yangon hosts 2018 Zhejiang Export Fair at Myanmar Event Park

THE 2018 Zhejiang Export Fair (Myanmar) will be held at Myanmar Event Park in Yangon from 7 to 9 December, according to the press conference for the export fair held at Central Hotel, Yangon yesterday.

The 2018 Zhejiang Export Fair (Myanmar) aims to improve the bilateral trade between China and Myanmar and attract more investments.

Regarding the Zhejiang Export Fair (Myanmar), Managing Director of Creation Strength Co. Ltd, U Soe Hlaing said that hosting the export fair will bring improvement on bilateral trade between Myanmar and China. He said investors are already invited to Myanmar to attend this event.

He said it will take more time and money to purchase the products in China, so it is convenient for the products to be displayed in one place where customers can buy and observe them. There is also the opportunity for retailers to network with agents, he added.

Over 150 businesspersons from China will showcase over 80,000 products, including luxury personal items, electronic and home products and daily use products. Over 50 businesspersons from Myanmar will also exhibit their products at the event.

This is the first time the Zhejiang Export Fair is held in Myanmar.—Min Thit (MNA) ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Matho robe weaving contests held at famous pagodas

THE Matho Robe-Weaving Contest, a centuries-old tradition, is a competition held at prominent pagodas to see who can weave the most beautiful decorative robes for the Buddha statues in the temples. Tradition dictates that the weaving of the robe must be completed in one evening and must be offered to the Buddha before dawn.

If the weaving of the robes is delayed and cannot be completed, it is considered an unsuccessful attempt.

The significant Matho

Robe-Weaving Contests were held at the pagodas in Yangon yesterday.

Usually, nine teams of weavers took part last night on the eve of the Full Moon of Tazaungmon.

Each team has six members, one of them a team leader, who weave their offerings until dawn, at which time the judges choose a winner and award prizes. This ceremony not only allows for good deeds to be made, but also preserves the weaving tradition of Myanmar.—MNA

(Translated by JT)



A contestant weaves a Matho robe at the Matho Robe-Weaving Contest at the Botahtaung Pagoda in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Lashio launches 2nd hot air balloon festival

2ND Lashio hot air balloon festival began at 5 pm on 20 November in the area of Cherry Myaing housing Project in Lashio, Shan State(North).

The festival kicked off with releasing three white dove hot air balloons marking the symbol of peace to the sky, and the ethnic groups performed traditional dances and songs.

Over 15 hot air balloons

will be released by people from Lashio District, Lashio township and relevant groups, businessmen, Hsenwi, Tanyan, Kuamlung in the third Lashio Tazaungdaing festival which will be held on 22 November. All ethnic groups in Northern Shan State are participating this year Lashio Tazaungdaing festival.—Hsipaw Ko Latt ■

(Translated by JT)



A crowd holds the hot air balloon in place as it slowly gains air for lift off in Lashio, Shan State yesterday. PHOTO: THIPAW KO LATT

Visitors flock to Bagan on Tazaungdaing holidays

BAGAN'S ancient cultural zone saw an increase in the number of visitors from home and abroad on the Tazaungdaing public holidays, said U Win Myint Maung, the deputy chair of the Shwezigon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Situated in the NyaungU District of Mandalay Region, Bagan's ancient cultural zone has several Buddhist temples. Its Shwezigon, Dhammarazaka, Manuha, Myazeti, Lawkananda, Tuywintaung, Dhammayangyi, Thetbinnyu, Ananda, and Sulamani pagodas are well-known.

U Win Myint Maung said that a 39-member group of Chinese visitors paid a visit to the Shwezigon Pagoda on the morning of 21 November. Ms. Aana, one of the Chinese visitors, said that this was her first visit to Bagan. She liked meditating at the pagodas in Bagan and found the experience invaluable. "Normally, I meditate for 10-minutes



A tour guide explains about the Buddha Relics Museum to tourists in Bagan, Mandalay Region. PHOTO: KO HTAIN

back home. But I managed to meditate for about half an hour in Bagan," she said.

At present, more than 70 employees are carrying out conservation work at the Shwezigon pagoda, said U Win Myint Maung.

Bagan boasts some magnificent artefacts, ancient religious structures, and natural landscapes. Authorities are making efforts to put it on the UNESCO's world heritage list.—Ko Htain (Ngathayauk) ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Man arrested for illegal recruitment in Yangon

ACTING on a tip, police on Monday searched an apartment in Mayangone Township and arrested a man for illegally operating an overseas recruitment agency out of it, according to the information unit of the Myanmar Police Force.

The man has been identified as Aung San Kyaw. Along with him, police found 38 women at Apartment No. 31 on Thamine

Butaryone Street, Ward No. (2), Mayangone Township.

The women told police they had been recruited by the General International employment company a month ago. They were staying at the apartment and receiving training in English and Chinese languages for securing jobs in Singapore, Malaysia, and Japan, said police. The women told police they were

waiting for the company to arrange their passports. Police said the General International company had been dissolved on 30 January for breaking recruitment rules. The Department of Labour has filed a case at the Bayintnaung Police Station in Mayangone Township against Aung San Kyaw and the General International company for illegal recruitment.—GNLM ■

Redouble efforts to create better future for children

CHILDHOOD is an important period in life because childhood experiences play a significant role in adult life. Therefore, it is important that children grow up in the right environment and have access to their rights, in order to become healthy individuals.

To promote the basic principles of the agreement on promoting the rights of children, Myanmar's legislative sector has cooperated with the UNICEF in several areas over the last two years, especially in terms of legislation, budget scrutiny, and making checks and balances on the executive sector.

In the constituencies, the population of children aged 14 years or below has reached 14.4 million and population in the 15 to 24 age group has touched 9 million.

Let's take into consideration the issues related to children and their challenges as part of efforts towards building a brighter future for them and a nation where they can achieve their ambitions.

Now is the time to make a special effort to inform children of their rights according to the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We appreciate efforts made by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement to implement the four protocols of the UN-CRC, which call for a child's right to life, right to development, right to protection, and right to inclusion.

Parents, on their part, must realize the importance of childhood and give enough love and care to their family. They must try not to put children in day care centres at a very early age.

Not being given enough kindness and care in the family can have a negative impact on children.

Children should be provided with the right environment such as love and care from family, opportunities to explore their talents and capabilities, friends to interact with, and a positive atmosphere where they are encouraged and motivated.

"Teenagers today have high expectations of themselves and the society they live in and are constantly thinking of new ways to make the world a better place. Young people are vigorous and brave and possess a strong sense of curiosity. They constantly challenge outdated standards of society," said Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat at the ceremony to mark the World Children's Day in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

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

We need to redouble, not reduce, this commitment.

Sāmaññphaladesanā (A Desanā on The Fruits of the Life of Samana)

By Ashin Ādiccavaṃsa
(Sāsana University)

OF the twelve seasonal festivals of Myanma Tradition, the festivals usually celebrated in the month of Tazaungmone are:

1. Tazaungtime Lighting Festival,
2. Offering Kathina Robes Festival,
3. Robe-Weaving Festival,
4. Sharing Mezali-Bud(Siamese cassia buds) Salad Festival,
5. Kyimanoe(A customary frank) Festival, and
6. Sāmaññphala Day Festival.

Among them, Tazaungtime Lighting Festival and Sāmaññphala Day Festival are the festivals celebrated due to Sāmaññphaladesanā.

Sāmaññphaladesanā is the second Sutta in Dhghanikāya of Suttapiṭaka. It is preached by the Buddha while residing at Mango Grove of Jivaka in Rājagaha City on a full-moon day of Tazaungmone due to the King Ajātasattu. Ajātasattu, in his youth, was a follower of Devadatta and he com-



PHOTO: GNLM

After the Buddha entered into Nibbāna, collecting the Buddha's relic, he could also build a great relic museum. He became a great king of Sāsana who was Sāsana dayaka (The Doner of Sāsana) in the First Great Council.

mitted misdeed of putting his father Bimbisāra to death as instructed by Devadatta. It is one of the five bad great Kammas (Pañcānantariya) which can directly fall into Mahāavijī Niraya. After putting his father Bimbisāra to death, Ajātasattu felt as if his eyes were thrown by thousands of spears and could not sleep well in the night. Therefore, he used to make royal conference late in the night. To recover from sleepless disease, he had visited to six religious leaders such as Puraṇakassapa before and had posed the questions too. However, he was not satisfied with their answers. They just say their creed instead of answer-

ing his question. The sleepless disease was not recovered too.

Therefore, King Ajātasattu made utterance in royal command of a certain full-moon day of Tazaungmone to visit a certain Samana or Bramana and the physician Jivaka suggested that the king should attend on the Buddha. Thus, with the security arrangement of physician Jivaka, King Ajātasattu set forth to Jivaka's Mango Grove where the Buddha was. Physician Jivaka had the five hundred female attendants in male's costume mounted each on one of five hundred she-elephants and accompanied King Ajātasattu. The road to Jivaka's Mango Grove which was situat-

ed in the east of the palace was covered with the shade of trees and mountains. The darkness fell on the road though it was the full-moon day. Therefore, each of the attendants held the torch and accompanied the King. The torch in archaic word of Myanmar is 'Tazaung' meaning 'Leading Light'. The Buddhist in Myanmar celebrated 'Tazaungtime Lighting Festival' based on that event.

King Ajātasattu, while seeing the Buddha, put the question on Sāmaññaphala (The Fruits of the Life of Samana) and the Buddha answered the following Sāmaññaphala (The Fruits of the Life of Samana):

1. Being free from the life in the service of king or state,
2. Being free from tax paying, (These two are the fruits of Samana personally experienced in this very life.)
3. Being free from Apāya (woeful state) as Patimokkhasamvarasīla (practicing self-restraint in accordant with the fundamental precepts) is completed,
4. Being endowed with Cula Sila (Minor Morality) as evil actions are abstained,
5. Being endowed with Majjhi-

ma Sila (Middle Morality) as all kinds of festivals, sports and bad speeches are abstained,

6. Being endowed with Maha Sila (Major Morality) as Ajivaparisoddhisīla (Purification of Livelihood) is completed,
7. Guarding the six sense-faculties (Indariyasamvara), (These are the basic Moralities.)
8. Being endowed with Sati (Mindfulness),
9. Being endowed with Sampajañña (Awareness),
10. Being endowed with Santosa (Contentment), (If a Samana endowed with the basic Moralities, Sati (Mindfulness), Sampajañña (Awareness), Santosa (Contentment) continue to contemplate Samatha (Tranquility) and Vipassanā (Insight Knowledge), the following fruits can be gained.)
11. Dissociation from the Five Hindrances (Nivaranappahāna),
12. Achieving Jhānas (Absorptions),
13. Being endowed with eight kinds of Vijjā (Knowledge) and realized Magga (Path) and Phala (Fruition).

King Ajātasattu was very satisfied after hearing these Sāmaññaphala (The Fruits of the Life of Samana) from the Buddha. He could also overcome sleepless night and sleep well. He became a devotee who kept profound faith in Triple Gems (The Buddha, The Dham-

ma and The Samgha) by giving up life. Unless King Ajātasattu committed one of the five bad great Kammas (Pañcānantariya) which can directly fall into Mahāavijī Niraya, he could be Sotāpanna (the Stream-Winner, the First Stage of Ariya) at the end of Sāmaññphaladesana. He lost a chance to be Sotāpanna as he associated with Devadatta, called Pāpamitta (Bad Friend). Due to a great bad Kamma, killing father, King Ajātasattu could fall into Mahāavijī Niraya (the Eighth Great Hell), but he would fall into Lohakumbhī Niraya (One of the Minor Hell surrounded the Great Hell) because of getting a chance to listen to Sāmaññphaladesana.

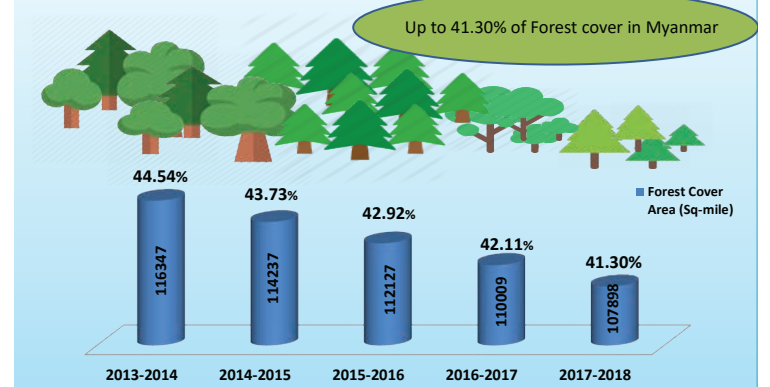
In fact, King Ajātasattu is the one who can be an Individual Buddha in the name of Vijitavi in the future. But he wrongly associated with Devadatta in his early life and committed one of the five great kammas, killing father. After hearing Sāmaññphaladesanā from the Buddha, he lived well in the late life. He could also support the Sāsana (The teaching of the Buddha) well. After the Buddha entered into Nibbāna, collecting the Buddha's relic, he could also build a great relic museum. He became a great king of Sāsana who was Sāsana dayaka (The Doner of Sāsana) in the First Great Council. After finishing the First Great Council, he could also designate the exact era of Sāsana.

Therefore, it can be said that observing Pitaka until today by holding the six great councils and having a chance to meet with Sāsana are the fruits of Ajātasattu's hearing Sāmaññphaladesanā. It can also be said that building eight hundred and four thousand Cetiya of King Asoka, paying respect to those Cetiya by the people of today and using the exact era of Sāsana is the fruits of Ajātasattu's hearing Sāmaññphaladesana.

Ref:

1. Silakkhandavagga Pali and Athakatha
2. Division Concerning Morality by U Htin Fatt
3. The Long Discourses of the Buddha by Maurice Walshe

Forest Cover Status in Myanmar



Source: Forest Department
Information Unit : Central Statistical Organization



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 21st November, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Tamilnadu coast (India) still persists. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and Southwest and West central Bay and a few cloud elsewhere over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the Low Pressure Area over Malay Peninsula still persists. It is forecast to move South Andaman Sea during next (12)hrs.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 22nd November, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, isolated in Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyarwady Regions and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanintayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)mph. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (2-5) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Slight decrease of night temperature in Upper Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd November, 2018: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd November, 2018: Partly Cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd November, 2018: Generally fair weather.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (11) miles southwest of Mawlaik), latitude 23.53°N, longitude 94.28°E, focal depth (20) kilometers about (47) miles south of Tamu seismological observatory was recorded at (09)hr (18)min (45)sec M.S.T on 21th November, 2018.

Energy firms track plunge in oil as Asian markets retreat

HONG KONG (China) — Asian markets sank again Wednesday, tracking a Wall Street rout, with energy companies suffering further losses following a collapse in oil prices.

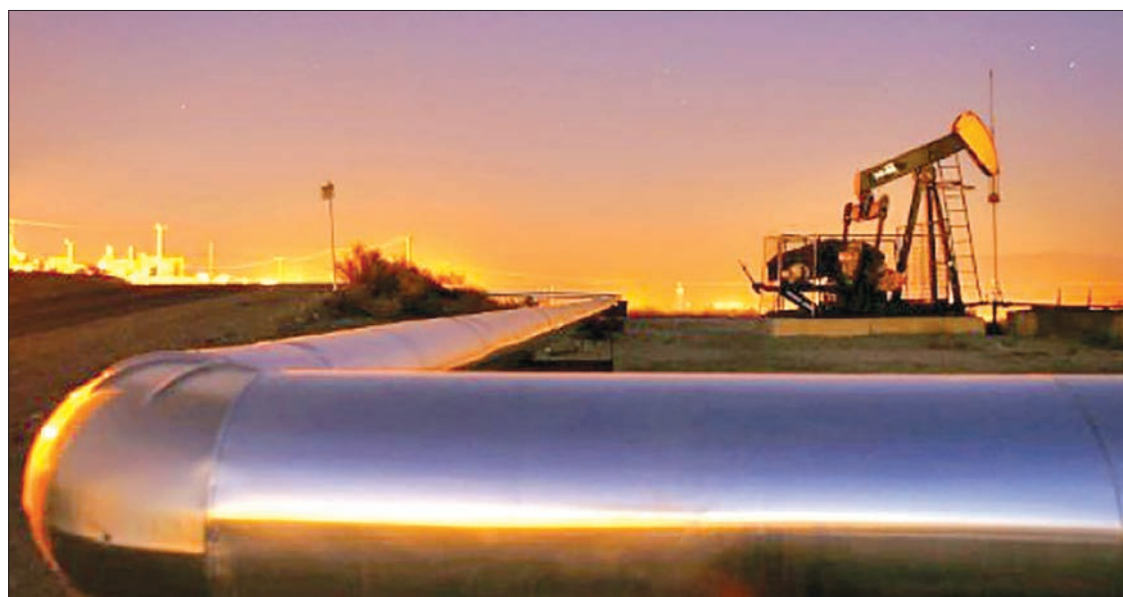
However, Nissan and Mitsubishi recovered slightly after France and Japan sought to reassure on the future of their tie-up with Renault following the arrest of head Carlos Ghosn on Monday.

While investors in all sectors are essentially in selling mode, firms linked to the oil industry are among the worst hit as the price of crude continues to plunge on concerns about demand and high production.

The commodity took another battering on Tuesday, with both main contracts down more than six per cent following another Wall Street sell-off and as traders fret that Saudi Arabia might not deliver on planned production cuts.

Donald Trump's support for Riyadh in the case of murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi has been taken by some observers as a move to prevent them from lowering output at the December meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC members.

"At the heart of the matter



Oil prices have plunged since hitting four-year highs in early October. PHOTO:AFP

is the lack of market respect for OPEC rhetoric regarding deep production cuts, (which) have been ignored as the market now questions if the projected reduction would be entirely sufficient to rebalance markets given the expected glut in the first quarter," said Stephen Innes, head of Asia-Pacific trade at OANDA.

Adding to the dour mood is the China-US trade war — which shows no signs of easing just a week before Trump and China's Xi Jinping are due to meet — US waivers on buying Iranian oil and

a slowing global economy.

And Cailin Birch, a global economist at The Economist Intelligence Unit, told Bloomberg News: "We expect the pace of growth in both the US and China to slow heading into 2019, which will maintain downward pressure."

Crude prices have plunged almost 30 per cent from their four-year highs touched at the start of October, when analysts had been speaking of them even heading towards \$100 a barrel.

While Brent and WTI rose

more than one percent in Asia, regional energy shares were deep in the red with Hong Kong-listed CNOOC and Sinopec each down more than three percent, while Inpex dived nearly four percent in Tokyo and Woodside Petroleum lost 2.3 per cent in Sydney.

Nissan bounces

Broader markets were also lower though they pared earlier sharp losses. Tokyo fell 0.6 per cent by lunch, Hong Kong dropped 0.5 per cent and Shanghai eased 0.1 per cent.

Sydney dropped 0.6 per cent, Singapore 0.1 per cent and Seoul 0.8 per cent with Wellington, Taipei, Manila and Jakarta also in the red. Investor unease was also stirred by more comments from Trump knocking the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes, saying the central bank was "a problem".

In Tokyo, car giant Nissan rose 1.1 per cent and Mitsubishi added 0.3 per cent, clawing back some of the massive losses suffered on Tuesday in response to news of Ghosn's arrest over alleged financial misconduct, including under-reporting his income. There is speculation the once-revered auto svengali's downfall could lead to the break-up of their alliance with French giant Renault.

But French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire and his Japanese counterpart Hiroshige Seko reaffirmed "the strong support" of their governments to the alliance. The gains come despite a report in Japan's Asahi Shimbun daily saying prosecutors believe Nissan also has a case to answer.

Nissan will decide on Thursday whether to remove Ghosn as chairman, with Renault already saying it will stick with him as CEO.—AFP ■

Sensex drops over 100 points on global selloff, profit-booking

MUMBAI — The benchmark BSE Sensex fell over 100 points in early session on Tuesday, breaking its three-day winning run as metal, IT, realty and banking stocks retreated, tracking sell-off in the global market.

The 30-share index dropped 104.41 points, or 0.29 per cent, to 35,670.47 points in opening trade. The gauge had rallied about 633 points in the previous three sessions.

The NSE Nifty too fell

36.80 points, or 0.33 per cent, to 10,726.60. Brokers said besides a weak trend at other Asian markets amid sharp losses at the Wall Street, profit-booking by investors in recent gainers also dampened the sentiment here.

Meanwhile, signalling a temporary truce, the Reserve Bank and the government on Monday agreed to refer to an expert committee for the contentious issue of appropriate size of reserves that the RBI must hold, while restructuring

of stressed loans of small businesses would be considered by the central bank.

Yes Bank emerged as the worst performer in the Sensex pack, falling 4.95 per cent after independent director Rental Chandrashekhar resigned from the board on Monday.

Other laggards include Tata Steel, SBI, Vedanta, Maruti Suzuki, TCS, HDFC, Wipro, Sun Pharma, Kotak Bank, NTPC, Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Auto, L&T, Infosys, PowerGrid, Axis Bank and ITC, falling up to 1.80 per cent.

However, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, Adani Ports, Asian Paint, M&M, ONGC, Coal India and RIL were trading up to 1.55 per cent higher.

According to provisional data, domestic institutional investors sold shares worth a net of Rs 310.26 crore, as foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought shares to the tune of Rs 1,103.36 crore on Monday.—PTI

Tokyo stocks open lower after Wall Street rout

TOKYO (Japan) — ADDS analyst comments, share prices, forex rates.

Tokyo stocks opened lower on Wednesday, weighed down by a sharp fall in US stocks as fears over weakness in the technology sector spread throughout the wider market.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 1.49 per cent or 321.46 points at 21,261.66 in early trade, while the broader Topix index was down 1.58 per cent or 25.67 points at 1,600.06.

"Global equity futures were flashing red on tech sector concerns," Stephen Innes, head of trading for Asia Pacific at Oanda, said in a note.

He cited fears over trade tensions following an acrimonious exchange between China and the US at a recent summit of Asia-Pacific leaders and comments from the Federal Reserve that Trump administration fiscal stimulus will fade in 2019. "There was no place to go but down for equities," said Innes.

"Also, investors are deeply concerned that technology could be the US administration's new battleground," with officials reportedly laying the groundwork for technology sector trade controls, noted the analyst.

The dollar fetched 112.75 yen in early Asian trade, barely changed compared to its level in New York late Tuesday.

In Tokyo, blue-chip exporters were broadly down, with Sony trading down 2.31 per cent at 5,577 yen and Panasonic off 1.80 per cent at 1,089 yen.

Automakers were also among the losers, with Toyota losing 1.19 per cent to 6,637 yen and Honda down 0.85 per cent at 3,139 yen.

Crisis-hit Nissan bucked the trend, up 0.38 per cent at 954.4 yen after plunging 5.45 per cent the previous session following chairman Carlos Ghosn's arrest.

Fellow auto alliance firm Mitsubishi Motors was down 1.32 per cent at 671 yen after a 6.84-per cent dive the previous day.—AFP ■



PHOTO:PTI



Chinese police officers take part in the launching ceremony of the joint patrol of police force from China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand along the Mekong River in Guanlei Port in Dai Autonomous Prefecture of Xishuangbanna, southwest China's Yunnan Province, Dec. 10, 2011. PHOTO: XINHUA

76th Mekong River joint patrol begins in SW China

KUNMING — The 76th Mekong River joint patrol led by China, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand started on Tuesday morning from Guanlei Port, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture in southwest China's Yunnan Province.

According to Yunnan border police bureau, the joint patrol will last five days and cover a range of over 500 kilometers to enhance anti-terrorism capability, safeguard the security and crack down on cross-border crimes.

The patrol will include anti-terrorism drills, police skill practices and an anti-drug campaign.

Since December 2011, the joint patrols have covered more than 39,500 kilometers, with 122 merchant ships rescued and

582.28 kilograms of drugs seized.

The Mekong River, also known as the Lancang River in China, is a vital waterway for cross-border shipping among China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Viet Nam. —Xinhua ■

DPRK destroys 10 guard posts in border area with S. Korea as agreed upon

SEOUL — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) destroyed 10 guard posts inside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), as agreed upon, Seoul's defense ministry said Tuesday.

The DPRK notified South Korea Sunday of its plan to explode 10 guard posts along the inter-Korean border as the two Koreas agreed to completely de-

stroy 11 guard posts inside the DMZ on a trial basis. The DMZ has left the Korean Peninsula divided since the 1950-53 Korean War ended with armistice. It was reached under the Sept. 19 military agreement, which was signed by defense chiefs of the two Koreas during the Pyongyang summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in

and top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un. The two sides agreed later to reserve one guard post, respectively, among the 11. The explosions to demolish 10 guard posts in the DPRK side of the DMZ occurred at around 3 p.m. local time (0600 GMT) almost simultaneously, and the complete destructions were confirmed, the Seoul ministry said. South Korea

and the DPRK agreed to complete the demolition works by the end of this month, and to conduct a verification in December. The two sides have agreed to eliminate all guard posts inside the DMZ after the pilot demolition works. Inside the DMZ, South Korea and the DPRK reportedly have about 60 and 160 guard posts each. —Xinhua ■

Facebook's Zuckerberg says he is not considering resigning

WASHINGTON (United States) — Embattled Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said on Tuesday he has no plans to resign, sounding defiant after a rough year for the social platform.

"That's not the plan," Zuckerberg told CNN Business when asked if he would consider stepping down as chairman.

He also defended Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg, who has drawn criticism over her handling of the social media giant's recent crises.

"Sheryl is a really important part of this company and is leading a lot of the efforts for a lot

of the biggest issues we have," said Zuckerberg. "She's been an important partner to me for 10 years. I'm really proud of the work we've done together and I hope that we work together for decades more to come."

Facebook has stumbled from one mess to another this year as it grappled with continuing fallout from Russia's use of the platform to interfere in the 2016 US presidential election, the Cambridge Analytica scandal in which user data was harnessed in a bid to help candidate Donald Trump, and a huge security breach involving millions of accounts.

Most recently, an investigative piece published last week by *The New York Times* said Facebook misled the public about what it knew about Russia's election meddling and used a PR firm to spread negative stories about other Silicon Valley companies and thus deflect anger away from itself. "It is not clear to me at all that the report is right," Zuckerberg said of the *Times* article.

"A lot of the things that were in that report, we talked to the reporters ahead of time and told them that from everything that we'd seen, that wasn't true and they chose to print it anyway."

Zuckerberg also defended his company against the broader wave of flak it has taken this year.

"A lot of the criticism around the biggest issues has been fair, but I do think that if we are going to be real, there is this bigger picture as well, which is that we have a different world view than some of the folks who are covering us," he said.

"There are big issues, and I'm not trying to say that there aren't... But I do think that sometimes, you can get the flavor from some of the coverage that that's all there is, and I don't think that that's right either." — AFP ■

News in Brief

Boeing insists will share info with clients after Indonesia crash

WASHINGTON (United States) — Boeing on Tuesday insisted it would share any information to emerge from an investigation into the crash of one of its newest planes in Indonesia last month, amid reports a telephone conference with its customers had been canceled.

US media reported that the canceled conference between Boeing and client companies was meant to address questions surrounding control systems on the Lion Air 737-MAX. —AFP ■

Turkey calls for prosecuting whoever ordered Khashoggi murder

WASHINGTON, (United States) — Turkey's foreign minister called on Tuesday for holding accountable whoever ordered the murder of dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi — with powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman accused of being behind the crime.

"Whoever gave the instruction should be held accountable... Whoever committed this crime should be brought to justice," Mevlut Cavusoglu said after meeting with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Washington. —AFP ■

Austrian Airlines jet turns back due to smoke in cockpit

VIENNA (Austria) — An Austrian Airlines plane flying from Vienna to Frankfurt had to turn back shortly after take-off due to smoke in the cockpit, the carrier said on Tuesday.

Confirming a report on the specialist website, Aviation Portal, Austrian Airlines said that an Airbus A321 jet with 161 passengers on board was forced to turn back on Sunday when the crew noticed a strong smell and smoke. While crew members put on oxygen masks, no passengers were injured and the jet landed safely back in Vienna. The crew members were taken to hospital for routine health checks, the airline added. The incident was caused by residue from detergents used to clean the engines, it said in a statement. —AFP

China, Philippines agree to upgrade ties, jointly build Belt and Road

MANILA — China and the Philippines agreed on Tuesday to upgrade their ties to comprehensive strategic cooperation and jointly advance the Belt and Road construction.

The decision was made at a meeting between visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Philippine counterpart Rodrigo Duterte.

The two leaders reached important consensus on building bilateral relations on the basis of mutual respect, sincerity, equality and mutual benefit, and win-win cooperation.

Xi told Duterte that he is delighted to visit the Philippines and is touched by the Philippine people's warm welcome, especially the kids' cheerful smiles.

Calling China and the Philippines "close neighbors with exchanges going back a thousand years," Xi said good-neighborliness, friendship and win-win cooperation are the only correct choice for the two countries.

The Chinese president said he has had in-depth exchanges of views on bilateral relations and issues of common concern with Duterte in their six meetings over the past two years and consolidated consensus and friendship.

With joint efforts, the two sides have had fruitful cooperation in various fields and ushered in a new chapter in China-Philippines relations, benefiting both peoples and contributing to regional peace and stability, Xi said.

China is willing to carry forward its traditional friendship with the Philippines and deepen the cooperation, so that the two countries can forever make good neighbors, good friends and good partners and share the prosperity, he said.

The upgrade of bilateral relations meets the need of their development and the expectation of both peoples, Xi said, calling on the two sides to enhance strategic guidance on bilateral relations by the two heads of state, promote exchange-



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with his Philippine counterpart Rodrigo Duterte in Manila, the Philippines on 22 November, 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

es on all levels and consolidate strategic mutual trust.

China supports the Philippines in choosing a development path that suits its own national conditions, he said, adding that the two countries should deepen their cooperation on three pillar fields, namely security, development and culture.

China also firmly supports the Philippines' fight against drugs and terrorism, will continue to provide assistance within its capacity to the Philippines to implement more public livelihood projects including poverty reduction, and expand exchanges and cooperation on education, culture and tourism, Xi said.

The Chinese president said the Philippines is an important partner in jointly building the Belt and Road and urged both sides to deepen the synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and the Philippines' development plans, and boost cooperation in fields such as infrastructural construction, telecommunications and agriculture.

Noting that China and the Philippines share extensive common interests on the South China Sea, Xi said the two countries can continue to manage differences through friendly consultations, promote practical cooperation on the sea and make due contribution to regional peace and stability and the welfare of the peoples. Xi said China sup-

ports the Philippines' role as the country coordinator for the China-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) dialogue relations and the China-Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-the Philippine East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) cooperation.

China is willing to work together with the Philippines to upgrade China-ASEAN relations and the East Asia cooperation, he said, adding that China and the Philippines, both emerging economies in Asia, should increase coordination and cooperation in regional and international affairs.

Extending a warm welcome to Xi, Duterte noted it was the first state visit to his country by a Chinese head of state in 13 years.

The visit, a milestone of historic significance in the Philippines-China relations, will open a new chapter in their cooperation, he said. He said the Philippine side congratulates the Chinese side on the achievements it has made in its 40 years' reform and development, adding that he believes the Chinese people are sure to realize their Two Centenary Goals.

The Philippine side is ready to deepen the relations of comprehensive strategic cooperation with China on the basis of mutual respect, mutual understanding and sovereign equality, strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, de-

fense, health, drug control, improvement of livelihood, infrastructure construction and energy, as well as expand cultural and people-to-people exchanges in education and human resources.

The Philippine side agrees that countries in the region should jointly safeguard peace and stability of the South China Sea, and stands ready to actively promote the development of relations between ASEAN and China, he said.

China has stood on the right side of history in dealing with international affairs, Duterte said, add-

ing that the Philippine side is ready to carry out closer communication and coordination with China within multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations.

Prior to their talks, Duterte held a welcome ceremony in Xi's honor at the presidential palace featuring a 21-gun salute and traditional dances.

The Philippines is the last stop of Xi's three-country Asia-Pacific tour. He has visited Papua New Guinea, where he also attended the 26th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting, and Brunei. —Xinhua ■

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Yangon, 13 November 2018

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Online climate meet offers talkfest without the gas

MAJURO (Marshall Islands)—World leaders will participate in an innovative climate change summit on Thursday that will take place entirely online so it is carbon neutral.

The eco-friendly event stands in stark contrast to many other international political summits, which involve thousands of delegates jetting across the world to a venue where they stay in air-conditioned comfort. The Virtual Climate Summit is the brainchild of Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine, whose low-lying Pacific island nation will drown beneath rising seas if global warming continues unabated. Heine said the event—with participants including French President Emmanuel Macron, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau—will be the first global political meeting to be held online.

It will consist of a rolling, 24-hour livestream that will begin in the Marshalls' capital Majuro, then include addresses from leaders and panel discussions before delivering a declaration. Heine said the cutting-edge setup was designed to show that even small nations such as the Marshalls could make a big difference on the world stage using creative, climate-friendly solutions.

"If we can act, so can

any nation," she said in a statement ahead of the summit, which is being held by the 48-nation Climate Vulnerable Forum, headed by Heine. The virtual summit's main aim is to encourage the international community to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

A UN report warned last month that threshold could be reached as early as 2030 unless there was unprecedented global action to rein in emissions.

The latest round of UN climate talks, COP24, will open in the southern Polish city of Katowice on 2 December with the aim of reinvigorating the Paris agreement reached three years ago. Heine said the virtual summit was a chance for those on the front line of climate change to make their voices heard.

"We don't stand alone, people everywhere have awoken to climate perils," she said. "Everyone's way of life is under threat." By contrast, organizers of the UN's COP21 climate talks in Paris in 2015 estimated it generated 43,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, although much of this was later offset through carbon-credit schemes. The summit can be viewed at www.virtualclimatesummit.org from 8:00 am on Thursday Marshall Islands time (2000 GMT Wednesday).—AFP ■

In Quebec, Canada's newest hydroelectric dams nearly ready



Aerial view of Hydro-Quebec's Romaine 1 hydroelectric dam in Havre St Pierre, Quebec on 3 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

HAVRE-SAINT-PIERRE (Canada)—On a frigid night, the roar of heavy machinery chipping away at rock echoes through Canada's boreal forest: in the far north of Quebec province, four massive hydroelectric dams that will produce "clean energy" for the northeastern United States are nearing completion. Flowing more than 500 kilometres (300 miles) through the wilderness, the Romaine River in the

Cote-Nord region of Quebec is about to hit a literal wall at 51 degrees north latitude with the erection of the fourth and last power station. Once completed, the construction project—which started in 2009—will see the cold, clear waters of one of Canada's longest untamed rivers flood surrounding lands claimed by indigenous tribes.

From a distance, the bright lights at the site where more than 800 heavy

dump trucks, drills and giant backhoe loaders are in use look like reflections of stars in the night sky. The teams from Hydro-Quebec are working on two fronts.

They are razing a mountain to make room for the power station. They are also erecting a dike 500 meters (1,640 feet) long and 90

metres high that will hold back the water to be used to generate electricity. Quebec has a power surplus, so the government is hoping to sell the power produced here to its American neighbors to the south—and in turn do its bit to help alleviate global warming.

Dangers of dam building

The construction site extends over several kilometres: there is a full cement factory, an infirmary for workers, offices, a quarry and a dynamite depot.

"This is a major project—there are many different stakeholders, many simultaneous activities, and many dangers to manage daily," including inquisitive wolves and bears, says Christian Guimond, who is in charge of the dam's construction.—AFP ■

Myanma Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.15 feet to 20.20 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of November 24th to November 25th, 2018. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1044)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1044) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (002N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (002N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. (1833-1834)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. (1833-1834) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0110 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0110 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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
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Phone No: 2301185



A woman admires creations by British artist Banksy during a press preview of the "A Visual Protest. The Art of Banksy" exhibition, in Milan, Italy, on Tuesday, on 20 November, 2018. The exhibition will open to visitors on 21 November. 2018 through to 14 April, 2019. **PHOTO: AP**

Banksy the rebel on show in Milan

ROME (Italy)—His identity is a mystery that adds to his allure, but a new exhibition in Italy dedicated to street artist Banksy looks beyond the feverish headlines to explore his works as vehicles for protest.

The solo show, organised by the Museum of Cultures in Milan, is "the first on Banksy organized by a public museum — apart from the one in Bristol put on by the artist, but that was a one-off performance," curator Gianni Mercurio said on Tuesday.

The Italian show was organised without Banksy's say-so and was "very difficult, it was like working with a ghost," he told AFP.

Banksy's true identity has

been a closely-guarded secret since the start of the 1990s. He is known to be British and comes from Bristol. He uploads photographs of his works onto his website, but never comments.

"Banksy owes a lot of his success, or rather to his popularity, to the fact that he is an anonymous artist. It's a contradiction: his notoriety comes from his anonymity," he said.

Mercurio said he opted for "a slightly academic approach" in putting together the exhibition, entitled "A Visual Protest", which opens on Wednesday and runs until April.

"I want the public to understand who Banksy is as an artist and not just as a media phenom-

enon. He has become a myth and that means his art has become secondary," he said.

'Storyteller and realist'

The show starts by looking at the artist's influences, from the Situationism movement to the May 1968 uprising in Paris.

It explores key works such as "Love is in the Air", a stencilled graffiti which captures a man in the act of throwing flowers instead of a Molotov cocktail in a peaceful but hard-hitting protest.

The show for the first time unites under one roof around 80 works, including paintings, sculptures and prints by the artist, as well as 60 record and CD covers he has designed.—AFP ■



Actress Nelly Karim attends the opening ceremony of the 40th Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF) in Cairo, Egypt, on 20 November, 2018. The 40th Cairo International Film Festival opened on Tuesday in the Egyptian capital amid high expectations of the oldest film festival in the Middle East region. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Cairo Int'l Film Festival kicks off amid high expectations

CAIRO—The 40th Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF) opened on Tuesday in the Egyptian capital amid high expectations of the oldest film festival in the Middle East region.

The event, which is held at the Cairo Opera House, will feature more than 160 films from 60 countries, including 16 world premieres. The festival's Main Competition jury committee will be headed by prominent Danish film director Bille August who is among the very few directors who have received the Palme d'Or award twice at the Cannes Film Festival. The committee will choose the film that will receive the highest award in the festival, the Golden Pyramid. Other competitions include Arab Horizons, Critics' Week and Tomorrow's Cinema, with the first focusing on films from the Arab world and the other three looking at international cinema.

This jubilee edition of the festival promises numerous new features and developments, with president Mohamed Hefzy putting a lot of hope on the festival's development, according to official Ahram Online news website. Numerous films will be screened, with a focus on Arab cinema created through the competitive Arab Horizons section showcasing a large assortment of films from Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, giving the viewers an opportunity to see the developments of the region's cinematic practices, its trends, interests and talents. The section will include a total of eight new films, seven feature films and a documentary.—Xinhua ■

The modern artists for whom the ancient Dutch bells toll

UTRECHT (Netherlands)—When a musical legend dies, a tribute can often be heard ringing out from the most unexpected of places: the tallest church tower in the Netherlands.

Days after French crooner Charles Aznavour's death last month, the strains of his 1963 hit "For me, formidable" could be heard from the Domtoren (Dom Tower) in the central student city of Utrecht.

An alert passer-by recorded the unusual ringing of the bells and posted the clip on Twitter. It soon went viral, shared by countless Aznavour fans around the world.

Behind the unique musical send-off was Malgosia Fiebig, who, high up in the centuries-old tower, perched between the bells of an organ-like instrument called

me, but also for people walking in the street. I hope that they will hear the music and they will make a connection: 'Oh yes, yeah that's that song'," she said.

"A carillon is of course the number one instrument to play during actual events," said Christiaan Winter, chairman of the Dutch national carillonneur centre in central Alkmaar.

"It's an instrument that can inform an entire city centre—through the language of music—of something that's going on," he told AFP.

Fiebig however is the first to admit that it's not always easy playing modern pop music on an instrument that dates back to 1664 and consists of 50 bells of various sizes.

Carillons are often hundreds of years old and originally evolved



Polish carillon player Malgosia Fiebig poses next to a bell at the Dom Tower in Utrecht on 8 November, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

a carillon, was doing what she has done for other popular artists on their death. Whitney Houston, Prince, David Bowie and even Swedish superstar DJ Avicii all received similar musical nods from 43-year-old Fiebig, the Domtoren's first woman carillonneur in more than three centuries.

"When a musician dies, I play a sort of tribute," Fiebig told AFP, before demonstrating how she knocks out tunes on the carillon's wooden keyboard, tucked in a room between the bells, some 80 metres (262 feet) above the ground. "On the radio we also hear more songs of the artist that died. I can react very fast... and am able to play these songs within a few days. I do it often," Polish-born Fiebig said.

'Language of music'

Appointed in 2011 as Utrecht's 17th city carillonneur since 1623, Fiebig shot to national fame when she played tribute songs to Dick Bruna, the Utrecht-born creator of Miffy the cartoon rabbit, after Bruna died early last year. The tributes "are a little for

from the lowlands of Belgium, France and the Netherlands, where the first instrument was installed in 1652.

'Very physical activity'

Today, there are more than 600 carillons around the world—including in countries ranging from Brazil to Japan, the United States, New Zealand and South Africa. The instrument has a number of bronze bells—some weighing as much as two tonnes—bolted to wooden beams and does not move like normal church bells during a performance.

Instead, a small iron ball called a "clapper" is connected via a steel cable to a wooden keyboard played by the carillonneur, who strikes the keys with a closed fist, a "very physical activity", said Fiebig. As the keys are played, the clapper hits the inside of the bell and a sound is produced.

There are also pedal keys for the heavier bells and a carillonneur can "hit" up to six bells at once to create a unique sound.—AFP ■

SpaceX's Elon Musk renames his big rocket "Starship"

WASHINGTON (United States)—SpaceX chief executive Elon Musk has announced he is changing the name of his monster rocket BFR, aimed at carrying people to the Moon and possibly one day to Mars, to "Starship." BFR has long been the unofficial name of the rocket, which is still under development. The letters were initially presumed to stand for "Big Fucking Rocket," before company executives began formally referring to it as "Big Falcon Rocket."

"Renaming BFR to Starship," Musk wrote on Twitter late Monday. In September, when Musk revealed that a Japanese billionaire would be among SpaceX's first tourists to circle the Moon by 2023 at the earliest, he said the trip would be launched aboard the

BFR.

The 387-foot (118-metre) tall rocket will consist of a first stage with engines and fuel systems, which Musk said on Monday would be called the "Super Heavy." The second stage "Starship" is the part with the spacecraft where the passengers will ride. Musk has estimated the rocket system will cost \$5 billion to build. The spacecraft's shape is reminiscent of the space shuttle, the bus-like US spaceships that carried astronauts to space 135 times from 1981 to 2011. Musk has said he wants the Starship vessel to be able to hold around 100 people, and that the launch system could one day be used to colonize the Moon and Mars in order to make humans a "multi-planetary" species. SpaceX currently operates two rock-



This artist's illustration courtesy of SpaceX obtained on 20 November, 2018, shows the SpaceX BFR (Big Falcon Rocket) rocket passenger spacecraft at stage separation. SpaceX boss Elon Musk has decided that his next rocket, which will go around the moon and eventually reach Mars someday, will be called "Starship". "Renames BFR Starship," tweeted Elon Musk the night of 19 November, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

ets: the Falcon 9 and the Falcon Heavy. The Falcon 9 launches satellites as well as cargo missions to the International Space Station, and has completed 18 missions so far this year and more than 60 since 2012.

The Falcon Heavy is capable of launching larger payloads and made its first test flight in February, sending Musk's own red Tesla car into space with a mannequin at the wheel. On Saturday, Musk announced that

the company would abandon plans to upgrade the Falcon 9 for even more reusability of its second stage. "Accelerating BFR instead," he wrote on Twitter. "New design very exciting!"—AFP ■

The science of how cats' tongues keep them clean

WASHINGTON (United States)—US researchers, armed with high-speed video cameras, have revealed the secret to cat grooming. It's all in the tongue. Just not the way they thought.

A cat's tongue contains 300 little scoop-shaped spines called filiform papillae which they moisten with saliva to clean their fur, said the report on Monday in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, a peer-reviewed journal. Until now, the scientific consensus on the matter was that these papillae were cone-shaped,

almost like little claws. But in reality, these structures, made of keratin, end in U-shaped hollows at the tips, wicking saliva from the mouth and transferring it to the fur and skin. "It looks just like a half pipe," said co-author Alexis Noel, a researcher at the Georgia Tech Research Institute.

"It's very much like a coffee straw when we stick a straw into fluid, the water actually wicks up into this little cavity surface. So when the cat goes to groom, it's able to take these fluids into the spines and penetrate them

deep into the hairs and be able to distribute their cleaning saliva throughout all of the hairs," Noel, whose background is in mechanical engineering, told AFP.

Cats spend about one quarter of their lives cleaning themselves. They spend about 14 hours a day sleeping. Maintaining their fur helps remove fleas, debris and excess heat. Cat fur consists of an exterior layer for protection and an interior one for warmth.

Six different types of felines were studied, including domestic cats, tigers and lions.—AFP ■

Low-protein high-carbohydrate diet best for longevity, healthy brain ageing: Aussie study

SYDNEY—A low-protein high-carbohydrate diet like those practiced in parts of the Mediterranean and Japan may be the best for longevity and healthy brain ageing, according to a study on mice conducted by the University of Sydney released on Wednesday.

The study showed that mice fed an unrestricted low-protein high-carbohydrate diet displayed improvements in overall health and brain health, as well as learning and memory. "There are currently no effective pharmaceutical treatments for dementia. We can slow these diseases, but we can't stop them. So it's exciting that we are starting to identify diets that are impacting how the brain ages," lead author Devin Wahl said.

According to the latest results, similar benefits to that of a low-calorie diet, which is widely known for its longevity benefits, are largely unsustainable in most cases. "We have close to 100 years of quality research extolling the benefits of calorie restriction as the most powerful diet to improve brain health and delay the onset of neurodegenerative disease in rodents," the lead author said.

"However, the majority of people have a hard time restricting calories, especially in Western societies where food is so freely available," Devin said.

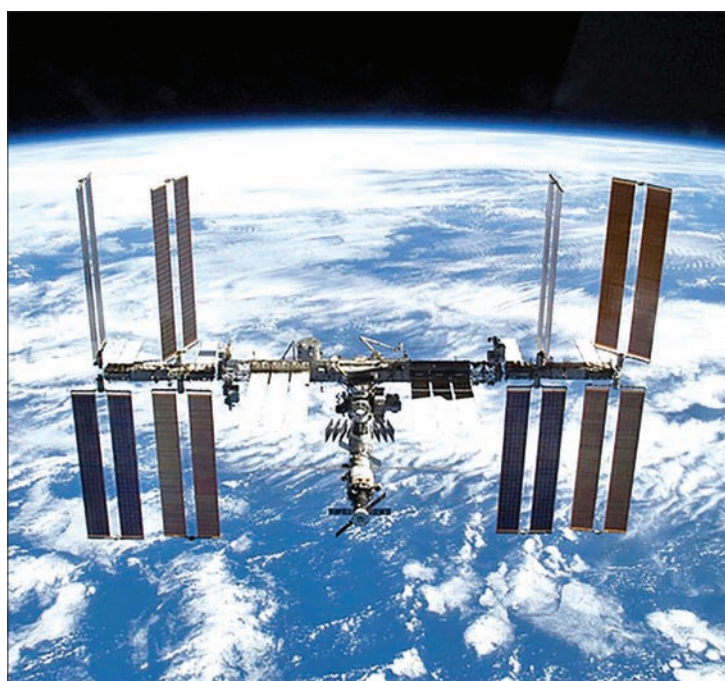
"It shows a lot of promise that we have been able to replicate the same kind of gene changes in the part of the brain responsible for memory that we also see when we severely restrict calories," he added. Meanwhile, some parts of the world have already been enjoying the benefits of a low-protein high-carbohydrate diet as a function in their daily life.

Many cultures around the world, including parts of the Mediterranean and Japan have been consuming a diet similar to that of the study for centuries, senior author Professor David Le Couteur said. On average, Japanese people have the second-highest life expectancy in the world, a statistic which has been directly attributed to their diet.

"The traditional diet of Japan's Okinawa is around nine percent protein, which is similar to our study, with sources including lean fish, soy and plants, with very little beef," David said.—Xinhua ■

International Space Station: the innovative lab in Earth's orbit

On 20 November, 1998, the first module of the International Space Station, Zarya, was launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome. The ISS is the largest human-made body in low Earth orbit. The ISS programme is a joint project among five participating space agencies: NASA, Roscosmos, JAXA, ESA, and CSA. The ownership and use of the space station is established by intergovernmental treaties and agreements. The station has been continuously occupied for more than 14 years since the arrival of Expedition 1 on 2 November 2000. **PHOTO: TASS**



In Picture

Myanmar National League clubs prepare for new season

FOOTBALL clubs are preparing for the 2019 Myanmar National League season which is slated to begin from the second week of January. There will be 12 teams participating in the tourney.

The National League clubs mostly comprise local players. Yangon United, the defending champion of the 2018 MNL, and second runner up, Shan United, are trying to recruit new players. Yangon United will be headed by its former head coach U Myo Min Tun.

Yangon United has signed with talented local footballers - defender Min Ko Thu from Hanthawady United and midfielder Thet Paing Soe from Southern Myanmar FC, respectively.

Shan United, also known as Shan Warriors, is also busy preparing for the upcoming season. U Min Thu will serve as the head coach of the team.



Defending Champion of the Myanmar National League, Yangon United FC. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Shan United is likely to recruit expatriates and local players from other Myanmar National

League Clubs.

Other MNL teams are also searching for new players and

are likely to start recruiting next month.—Nyi Myat Thawdar ■
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Myanmar Futsal League 2018 begins today

THE first round of Week-7 of the Myanmar Futsal League 2018, the top league for futsal clubs in Myanmar, begins 8 a.m. today with participation from local clubs at the National Indoor Stadium (1) in Yangon.

The Futsal League is kick-starting today after the Myanmar National Futsal Team's return from the AFF Futsal Championship 2018 at Yogyakarta in Indonesia. The AFF Futsal Championship was held from 5 to 11 November. A total of 12 Myanmar futsal clubs are participating in the first round. The matches will kick off with Pyay United playing White Colour FC at 8 a.m., Myanmar Imperial College (MIC) FC coming up against UPT FC at 9.30 a.m., VUC FC playing Titan XII FC at 11 a.m., Comrade FC playing Myoma YTD FC at 12:30 p.m., AMM FC playing Myanmar Football Federation's (MFF) U-19 team at 2 p.m., and GV Athletic FC competing against Shwe Myawady FC at 3:30 p.m.

An entrance fee of Ks500 per person will be charged from spectators, said a source from the Myanmar Futsal League.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Philippe Coutinho set for Barcelona return

PARIS (France) — Barcelona forward Philippe Coutinho has returned to training ahead of this weekend's La Liga match against Atletico Madrid after missing two weeks with a thigh problem, the club announced on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old former Liverpool player has not featured for the side at the top of the table since the 1-1 Champions League draw at Inter Milan on 6 November. Barca's last game was a 4-3 home defeat to Real Betis on 11

November, their first league loss at the Camp Nou in more than two years. Reports in the Spanish press say the world's third most expensive player could be given the green light on Friday to feature in Saturday's first against

third clash against Atletico at the Wanda Metropolitano.

It would be a boost for coach Ernesto Valverde who is already without the injured and suspended Croatia midfielder Ivan Rakitic.—AFP ■

Neymar injured as Brazil beat Cameroon

MILTON KEYNES (United Kingdom) — Neymar could be an injury doubt for Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League clash



Brazil's striker Neymar runs with the ball during the international friendly football match between Brazil and Cameroon at Stadium MK in Milton Keynes, central England on 20 November, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

with Liverpool next week after limping off during Brazil's 1-0 friendly win over Cameroon in Milton Keynes on Tuesday.

The forward suffered an apparent groin problem and was replaced after eight minutes, to boos from a record Stadium MK crowd. Everton's Richarlison, Neymar's replacement, headed in on the stroke of half-time for his third Brazil goal on his sixth appearance to secure victory for the Selecao.

A mixture of cheers and jeers welcomed Neymar to the ground in central England, his World Cup theatrics in Russia providing ammunition for his detractors. And there was little sympathy when the star attraction went off after making little impact.

He sought treatment after five minutes and returned to send a curling right-footed shot high and wide within a minute. He immediately collapsed before being replaced.

Richarlison appeared dangerous from the moment he was introduced and Roberto Firmino went close three times.

The Liverpool striker almost turned in Willian's cross but Andre Onana made a fine instinctive save. Firmino next sent a free header wide from Richarlison's cross and was then denied by the goalkeeper from point-blank range. Richarlison scored from the resulting corner, powerfully heading in Willian's set-piece.

Cameroon might have levelled after 52 minutes, but Stephane Bahoken could not get a touch on Karl Toko Ekambi's cross. bFabrice Ondoa almost gifted Brazil a second when Ederson cleared downfield and the Cameroon substitute goalkeeper came 30 metres out of goal and collided with Yaya Banana.

Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus, on for Firmino, was through, but could only hit the post from a tight angle.—AFP ■

Man United to play Leeds in pre-season Australia match

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Manchester United announced on Tuesday they will take on English rivals Leeds in Australia next year as part of their preparations for the 2019-20 season.

The two clubs have only met twice in the past decade, with Leeds clinching a famous win in the 2009-10 FA Cup before United triumphed in the League Cup in September 2011.

United confirmed their first two fixtures of their 2019 tour schedule will be against A-League team Perth Glory on 13 July before they take on Leeds in the city four days later.

"Our pre-season tour is an integral part of the squad's preparation for the forthcoming

season," said United's executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward.

"After what will be a 44-year absence since we last played in Perth we are delighted to be returning to Western Australia to play not just one, but two games — against Perth Glory and Leeds United.

"As well as preparing for the season ahead, the club will also have the opportunity to engage with our loyal fans in Australia, who last got the chance to see us play in Sydney in 2013."

Marcelo Bielsa's Leeds are currently third in the second-tier Championship while Jose Mourinho's Manchester United are struggling in eighth place in the Premier League.—AFP ■