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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 189, 13<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME

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Monday, 22 October 2018

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office  
Notification 5/2018**

12<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME  
21 October 2018

**Summoning Second Pyidaungsu  
Hluttaw tenth regular session**

In accord with Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 13 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw tenth regular session is summoned at 1:30 pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tazaungmon 1380 ME (12 November 2018) (Monday).

*Sd/ T Khun Myat  
Speaker  
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw*

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Pyithu Hluttaw  
Notification 3/2018**

12<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME  
21 October 2018

**Summoning Second Pyithu Hluttaw  
tenth regular session**

In accord with Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the 2012 Pyithu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2013 Pyithu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyithu Hluttaw tenth regular session is summoned at 10 am on the 5<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tazaungmon 1380 ME (12 November 2018) (Monday).

*Sd/ T Khun Myat  
Speaker  
Pyithu Hluttaw*

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Amyotha Hluttaw  
Notification 3/2018**

12<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME  
21 October 2018

**Summoning Second Amyotha Hluttaw  
tenth regular session**

In accord with Section 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the 2012 Amyotha Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Amyotha Hluttaw tenth regular session is summoned at 10 am on the 5<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tazaungmon 1380 ME (12 November 2018) (Monday).

*Sd/ Mahn Win Khaing Than  
Speaker  
Amyotha Hluttaw*

## Centennial religious festival begins in Pyinmana

**T**HE Centenary of the conveyance of the 28 Buddha Images for public obeisance began with the illuminations for the coming light festival in Pyinmana in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area yesterday.

In the evening, visitors crowded Shankan, the venue of the Centenary Celebrations, that was decorated with multi-colour lights.

"We have over 50 booths showing the biography of the Buddha, the paintings, the photos of the prominent persons and local agricultural products apart from skill demonstrations of Myanmar traditional cane ball and Myanmar traditional martial



Shankan, the venue of the Centenary Celebrations, is decorated with multi-colour lights. PHOTO: MNA

arts that make are festivity more attractive and livelier, said secretary of the Centenary Organization Committee U Thein Than Oo.

On 25 October evening, the final day of the Centenary, the ceremonial conveyance of Buddha Images begins with the accompaniment of on-the-car entertainments provided by famous artistes of the country.

"We have a prize-presentation program for the decorated Buddha Images conveying vehicles," said U Thein Than Oo, who assured comprehensive preparations for the greater uniqueness and perfectness of the Centenary than the previous anniversaries.

SEE PAGE-2





## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission

Notification No. 14 /2018

10<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME  
19 October 2018

### Fundamental principles for businesses to develop a strong code of ethics and establish appropriate internal control measures to prevent corruption

The Anti-Corruption Commission issues the following Notification under Section 72 Sub-section (b) of the 2013 Anti-Corruption Law.

1. Section 16(q) of the 2013 Anti-Corruption Law, provides for the Anti-Corruption Commission to issue a Notification concerning the need for all business to establish a strong business code of ethics to prevent corruption.
2. The following fundamental principles have therefore been identified for private sector organisations to develop a strong business code of ethics as well as to establish appropriate internal control measures to prevent corruption:
  - (a) Strong, effective policy and support from top-level management to fight corruption;
  - (b) Risk assessment to effectively identify and evaluate exposure to corruption;
  - (c) Enhanced and detailed measures for high-risk and vulnerable areas;
  - (d) Application of anti-corruption measures to business partners;
  - (e) Accurate books and accounting records;
  - (f) Human resource management policies complementary to anti-corruption measures;
  - (g) Establish trust worthy reporting mechanisms to report suspected corrupt behaviours;
  - (h) Periodic review and evaluation of anti-corruption prevention measures.

*Sd./ Aung Kyi*  
Chairman  
Anti-Corruption Commission

## Pyithu Hluttaw representatives informed to attend parliamentary session

THE Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw has sent invitation letters to the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives to attend tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw to be held at Pyithu Hluttaw's meeting hall at 10 am on 12 November 2018 (Monday).

The Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, either they receive the invitation letters or not are urged to contact Pyithu Hluttaw Hall (I-12) not earlier than 10 November (Saturday) and not later than 11 November (Sunday) along with their identity cards. — MNA ■

## Amyotha Hluttaw representatives informed to attend parliamentary session

THE Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw has sent invitation letters to the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to attend tenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw to be held at Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall at 10 am on 12 November 2018 (Monday).

The Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, either they receive the invitation letters or not are urged to contact Amyotha Hluttaw Hall (I-19) not earlier than 10 November and not later than 11 November along with their identity cards. — MNA ■

## SMID Bank plans to provide loans for government staff in Oct

SMALL and Medium Industrial Development (SMID) Bank plans to provide loans to government officials and employees in October, according to Dr Zay Yar Nyunt, CEO of SMID Bank at its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting in Melia Hotel, Yangon yesterday.

Dr Zay Yar Nyunt said five times the salary of government officials and three times the salary of government employees will be provided if they are eligible for the loans under the rules.

During the meeting, SMID Bank's Patron Dr. Khin Shwe extended greetings, and President Daw San San Yi delivered an opening speech.

Then, SMID Bank donated Ks 3 million each to Theravada Myanmar Buddhist Federation and Buddhist Association for the Promotion of Theravada Buddhism in Border Regions, Hla Tun (U) Myitta Yeik Mon Cancer Foundation and Yangon General Hospital. Officials received the donated cash and presented certificates of honor

in return.

SMID Bank started its loan programme for the government staff with a one-year repayment term in June 2017.

The government officials and employees, who fully repaid their previous loans during term, will be provided with new loans in groups department wise.

For more information contact the Head Office of the SMID Bank, Tel: (01) 230 2339, 230 2340, 230 2385 and 230 2390. —Yi Yi Myint ■

## 9 Myanmar migrant workers killed after ferry crashes into tree, catches fire in Thailand

THREE migrant workers from Myanmar were killed and a driver and one male worker were in critical condition when the ferry they were on board struck a tree and caught fire on the Bangkok-Mae Sot Road yesterday.

The transport vehicle carrying eight male and six female migrant workers from

Myanmar crashed into a tree about 6.30 am due to drowsy driving by Thai driver.

Three men and six women died at the scene and the rest including the driver were taken to hospital.

"Labour diplomat U Aung Min is cooperating with local authorities to help Myanmar victims," said U San Maung,

who is also a labour diplomat in Mae Sot.

The deadly accident for Myanmar workers on the Bangkok-Mae Sot road is the third in 2018. Thailand's roads have been ranked as the deadliest in the world after Libya's, according to the World Health Organization's most recent study. — Nanda Kyaw Swa ■

## Centennial religious festival begins in Pyinmana



PHOTO: MNA

### FROM PAGE-1

"The special illuminations of the venue highlight the uniqueness of the Centenary," he added.

Annually we convey the Buddha Images by decorated floats around Pyinmana. This year we decorated the venue with colorful lights.

Aside from educative booths, we also stage Myanmar traditional orchestra and traditional circling dance performances in honour of our town Pyinmana," said a local.

The Centenary illustrates the value of Myanmar culture,

whereas, it serves a platform where local food products are displayed as a means for emergence of Myanmar food culture.

It is also a festival that will help enliven Myanmar crafting techniques and traditional hot-air balloons, and develop tourism.

The Centenary will also give locals of Pyinmana the habit of doing things in a collective and harmonious way, while serving as a showcase where children can gain knowledge and understand the value of Myanmar culture. — Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing ■



## Legal aid

Legal aid for people who cannot afford legal representation has been established. Legal aid is given to citizens who are poor and unable to defend for themselves, such as children, women, the elderly, disabled, and people suffering from communicable diseases.

(Excerpt from the report on the current work of the Union Government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

## Yangon expects grander lighting festival

THE area in front of City Hall will be the venue of the grand Thadingyut festival (the lighting festival) of Yangon, said Daw May May Thwe, a member of Yangon City Development Committee.

The Maha Bandoola Park will be lighted up with oil lamps and colorful lanterns during the three-day Thadingyut festival between 23 and 25 October by BMB Entertainment Group. The City Hall will be embellished fully with multi-colour light bulbs.

"This year, Yangon Thadingyut festival may be more crowd-

ed, as less Yangonites may travel under the storm warning of U Tun Lwin, prominent weather expert. Our family's holiday plan includes an evening round trip of the city, especially the places like Maha Bandoola Park, People's Square, Yekyaw lights festival and Kandawgyi will be our target, said Daw Yin Nwe who was taking a vacation at Kandawgyi.

The annual Yekyaw lights festival will be held for five days from 21 to 25 October with the involvement of traditional orchestra performances, comedy

shows, songs with the accompaniment of modern music bands, and traditional dancer and comedian shows.

There will be a tight security for the safety visitors to the festival, said a local administrative official.

During the three-day festival, roads in townships of Yangon will be illuminated with multi-colour lights, especially, the Sule Square and the area in front of Bogyole Market will be spectacularly decorated. — Zarni Maung /Aye Min Thu ■



People participate in the Yekyaw lights festival in Yangon. PHOTO: AYE MIN THU

## Pyithu Hluttaw Dy Speaker meets locals



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with departmental personnel and local people in Nawngkhio Township yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

DEPUTY Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein met departmental personnel and local people at Nawngkhio, a town in the western edge of Shan State yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Deputy Speaker and MPs recounted their experiences in the parliament and offi-

cials of Rural Development Department explained the emerald green project, and a police member, anti-drug measures.

Deputy Speaker, MPs and officials looked into the requirements put forward by the locals. About 300 villagers attended the meeting. — Nawngkhio IPRD ■

## Young entrepreneurs will bring benefits: Rakhine Chief Minister

"APPEARANCE of darling young entrepreneurs in Rakhine State will produce regional benefits including job and investment opportunities through the utilization of infrastructures and an abundant array of natural resources in the most effective way," said Chief Minister U Nyi Pu in Sittway yesterday.

At the talks on the business pioneering in Rakhine State, the Chief Minister said, "The Union government has been rendering much assistance for the emergence of a number of young Myanmar entrepreneurs," promising, "Ardent support of the local government."

The Chief Minister thanked young entrepreneurs for their involvement in the socio-economic development of the state,

expressing hope that the talks would bring future prospects.

He also explained the undertakings of the local government for social and economic progress of Rakhine State, expressing hope that the talks would help produce young entrepreneurs.

In conclusion, the Chief Minister called for all-inclusive efforts towards the progress of Rakhine State.

Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet gave talk under the theme "Promoting Entrepreneurship in Rakhine" joined in by the participants.

After the educative talks given by U Tun Tun Naing, Chair of Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association -MYEA, roundtable discus-

sions followed. Jointly held by MYEA and Rakhine State Chamber of Commerce and

Industry in Sittway the capital of Rakhine State, the talks aimed at generating oppor-

tunities for youths and businesses and developing SMEs. — Tin Tun (IPRD) ■



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu addresses the opening of the talks on the business pioneering in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA



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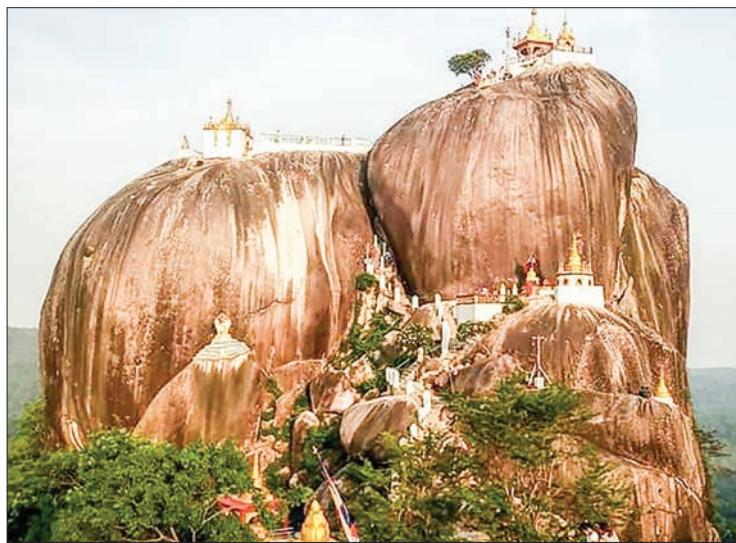
Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# Construction of Zalon Taung bus terminal begins

WITH the growing interest of the pilgrims, construction of Zalon Taung bus terminal has begun from 8 October on 31.54 acres wide land to facilitate the visitors.

The Zalon Taung Pagoda is located in Bamauk, Sagaing Region.

"The bus terminal is developed by Terrain Company under Build-Operate-Transfer model granted by the Sagaing Region government. It will include hotel building which can accommodate 500 people. Lounges, office rooms, car workshop, petrol station, clinic, terminal which can accommodate 100 Express cars and 172 mountain cars, oil tank with a storage capacity of 27,400 gallons and public toilets. The construction is expected to complete next year", said U Win

A beautiful scene of Zalon Taung in Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

Shwe, Hluttaw representative from Bamauk constituency.

Land preparation works started and it is likely to end in November, said in-charge of Zalon Taung bus association.

"Land development is expected to finish in the end of October under the current weather condition", he added.

Over 200,000 visitors visited Zalon Taung pagoda between

November and April of open season for pilgrims, said U Aung Thu Oo, head of Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

"Since August 2017, Sagaing Region government led by Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing has been implementing six tour destinations, Sagaing, Monywa, Shwebo, Katha, Kalay and Khamti. Local pilgrims mostly flock to Zalon Taung and reclining figure called Alaungdaw Kathapa. Those places are crowded with pilgrims during high season", said U Aung Thu Oo. At present, 42 sites are set as nature reserve of the country. Zalon Taung area is reported to be listed as nature reserve, according to an announcement of the Forest Department. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

## Three wild elephants successfully driven into forest reserve

A team comprising Myanmar Timber Enterprise's Elephant Emergency Response Units leader Lin Lin Tun, Vet Maung Soe, manhout and team, local authorities and some villagers managed to successfully

send three wild elephants to forest reserve after three-hour of tracing works.

They started to trace the elephants at 11 a.m. of 20 October in the forest in the north of Mayan-gon village, Chinle village-tract,

Laymyatnar Township. The combined team managed to drive them into forest reserve.

In order to find food, those wild elephants broke into paddy, corn and banana fields in Katkugyi village-tract, Yekyi

Township, Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region, in the evening of 16 October and in the morning of 18 and 19 October. No physical damage to human and houses is confirmed.—Min Zaw Oo (Yekyi) ■

## Middle-aged man arrested on drug charges in Maungtaw

A middle-aged man has been arrested on a charge of possession of stimulant tablets on Saturday night in Maungtaw, a town in Rakhine State.

Acting on a tip-off, a an-

ti-drug squad together with local authorities raided the home of Marmad Arliyam, who works at car workshop in Sitala Village, Myomakanyintan Village-tract, Maungtaw Township, at around

8 p.m. on 20 October. Police discovered eight WY brand yaba pills weighing 0.8 grams and related materials hidden in his bedroom. Action has been taken against the suspect according to the ex-

isting Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. The case is under investigation in an attempt to apprehend others connected with the case. — District IPRD ■

## 20 troupes register to take part in Kyaukse elephant dance competition

THE Kyaukse traditional elephant dance competition is due to take place on 23 October this year in a small town of Kyaukse, a short drive south of Mandalay, with the organisers planning to hold elephant donation festival on the following day.

The unique elephant dance festival is annually held in October. The festival has been celebrated since the 11th Century, the era of King Anawrahta. The dance competition is one of its attractive programmes that is popular among local visitors as well as foreigners. The roads and streets during this year's festival were crowded with pil-

grims as well as tourists, some of whom travelled great distances in order to observe this unique cultural celebration.

The contest is categorized into three groups, including traditional elephant dance competition, sequined costume elephant dance competition and children's elephant dance competition. This year, over 20 troupes have registered to take part in the contest.

This year's competition will be held at the elephant competition grounds at the foot of Shwethalyaung Hill in the town.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay) ■

Elephant dance being demonstrated to local people in Kyaukse. **PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU (MANDALAY)**



## Trade with India decreases by over \$110 million in five months

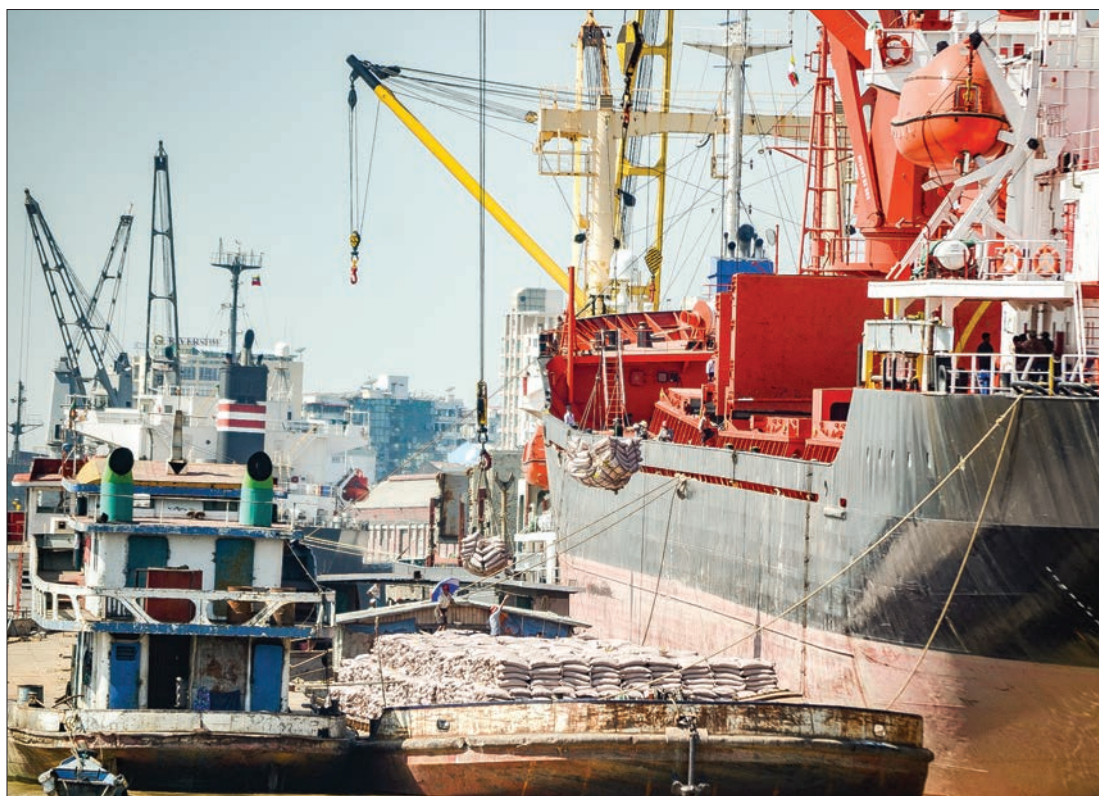
BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and India reached nearly US\$650 million within the five months between April and August this year, down by \$112 million from this time last year, according to the monthly trade report released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The total bilateral trade included \$239 million in exports and \$410 million in imports. During the period, Myanmar's imports outdid its exports in external trade with India, the world's second largest most populous country.

At the same period in the last year, the Myanmar-India topped \$762 million, with exports worth \$431 million and imports worth \$330 million.

India largely exports medicines, oil cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials to Myanmar. Its imports from Myanmar include areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other fruits and vegetables, fishery, forest products and human hair.

Myanmar's trade with the



Bulk carrier and ships seen at Bothahtaung jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Republic of India reached its peak of \$1.9 billion in the fiscal year 2016-2017. The figures decrease to \$1.47 billion in the following 2017-2018 FY.

The ministry's data showed that the bilateral was \$1.4 bil-

lion in the 2011-2012 FY, \$1.3 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, \$1.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$1.3 billion in the 2014-2015 FY and \$1.7 billion in the 2015-2016 FY. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company

Administration (DICA), India's new investment in Myanmar at the end of September this year reached \$19.9 million. Myanmar received a total of \$10.9 million in the last 2017-2018. — Swe Nyein ■

## Consumer goods import shows increase of \$75 million in past twelve days

Private sector's importation of consumer goods in past 12 days of the current fiscal year 2018-2019 was up by \$75.8 million compared to the similar period of last FY, according to data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Meanwhile, the public sector saw only a million worth of import. Consumer products such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and palm oil are imported, estimating \$177.9 million.

Import of capital goods such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel and airplane parts, amounted to \$231.38 million, which was an increase of \$83 million compared to similar period of last FY.

Intermediate goods make up most of the imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. The import value of raw materials is \$301 million, which is up by \$60 million against last FY. — GNLM ■

# Myanmar welcome FDIs from Hong Kong at Myanmar Investment Promotion Seminar

MYANMAR showed keen interest in strengthening economic ties between Myanmar and Hong Kong through its second Myanmar Investment Promotion Seminar held recently in Hong Kong.

"Given the close and friendly relations between Myanmar and Hong Kong, I am confident that the majority of the participants of this event will bring with them a deep understanding of Myanmar. I am equally certain that business executives and investors here in Hong Kong have been following with keen interest the positive changes in Myanmar" said Union Minister U Thaung Tun for the office of the Union Government," at the event on 16 October.

He also mentioned that Myanmar Investment Commission is willingly to facilitate and create a predictable and investors friendly environment. He added Myanmar youth population is larger, highly literate, and highly motivated and therefore, there

is a high human resources potential for those companies that are willing to harness it. Myanmar is ready to offer opportunities conducive to foreign investment.

"We are delighted to meet with high-ranking officials, government representatives and business community in Hong Kong. I am confident that many of you will consider investing in Myanmar" said U Thaung Tun, Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission.

MIC delegation led by Chairman U Thaung Tun of Myanmar included Daw Nilar Kyaw, Minister for Electricity, Industry, and Roads and Communications of the Yangon Regional Government, U Aung Naing Oo, Director-General of the Minister of Planning and Finance and Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission and Director U Myo Thu of Ministry of Commerce visited Hong Kong on 16 and 17 October 2018.

Hong Kong is one of the

world's leading financial centers, logistic hub, international legal and dispute services center for Asia, and has positioned to play a prominent role in facilitating trade and investment flows and closer links to the economic integration between Hong Kong and ASEAN including Myanmar.

The economic interactions between Myanmar and Hong Kong have been increasing rapidly. Hong Kong has emerged as the third largest investor in Myanmar, following the first and second largest investors—Singapore and Myanmar. Since 1988, Hong Kong has brought foreign direct investments of \$7.76 billion with 152 enterprises as of August 2018, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration's figures of the existing enterprises.

The seminar was attended by Mr. Edward Yau, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and Officials of Hong Kong SAR Government,

Members of legislative council, Members of Hong Kong Development Council and Hong Kong Productivity council and representatives of over 130 Hong Kong firms and Hong Kong based foreign businesses.

According to McKinsey and Company, Myanmar needs 320 billion US\$ investment for infrastructure by 2030. Additionally, Belt and Road Initiative has also come into importance in the current country's economic outlook.

The implementation of those projects requires large investment. Thus, it is crucial to persuade the private sector to participate in the form of public-private partnership (PPP).

A number of important reforms have been made with regard to the legal framework as well as rules and regulations for investment. The new Myanmar Investment Law (MIL) and the new Myanmar Companies Law are the regulatory foundation that engenders confidence and

transparency in Myanmar as a place in which to invest. The World Bank recognized the positive changes of Myanmar's investment environment and consequently awarded the Star Reformer Award to Myanmar last year.

Next, Myanmar has granted visa exemption to the Hong Kong and Macau SAR passport holders from October 1st of this year. Myanmar's major items exported to Hong Kong includes precious stones, agricultural products, fishery products and garments, while its import comprises mainly telecommunications equipment and optical goods.

Bilateral trades were worth \$385.63 million in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, \$234.46 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$316 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$343.8 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$502.7 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$27.28 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$51 million in the 2011-2012 FY, respectively. — GNLM ■



# Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin attends 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Brussels

THE MYANMAR Delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, arrived back this evening after attending the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 12) Summit held in Brussels from 18 to 19 October 2018, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of International Cooperation yesterday.

On 18 October, the Union Minister attended the Opening Ceremony of the ASEM 12 Summit and the Gala Dinner hosted by European Council President H.E. Mr. Donald Tusk, to the Heads of Delegation of the ASEM partners at the Europa Building in Brussels.

## Refrain from use of trade sanctions

On 19 October, the Union Minister attended the Plenary Sessions of the ASEM Summit held at the Europa Building and delivered a statement at the First Session under the theme of "Building the future together: Promoting inclusive growth and sustainable connectivity". In his statement, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin stressed that ASEM will be able to serve as a bridge in bringing Asia and Europe closer by striving to enhance connectivity between the two regions.

He also recalled that some tangible progress in connectivity has been achieved since the striking of agreement on the definition of connectivity at the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting successfully hosted by Myanmar in November 2017.

Myanmar has indicated keen interest in promoting connectivity in three focus areas between Asia and Europe, namely Telecommunication and digitalization, Tourism, Trade and investment. In talking about promoting trade connectivity, the Union Minister also stressed the importance of free trade and rules-based multilateral trading system as well as the need for the ASEM partners to refrain from use of trade sanctions and any other measures that could impede or disrupt the free flow of trade between Asia and Europe.

## Retreat Session of the ASEM 12 Summit

The Union Minister attended the Retreat Session of the



Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin holds discussions with Ms. Margot Wallstrom, Swedish Foreign Minister at the sidelines of the 12 ASEM Summit. PHOTO: MNA

ASEM 12 Summit. At the Retreat, ASEM leaders exchanged views on international and regional issues including Sustainable Development Goals, climate change, migration, cyber security, world trade and Women Rights issues.

## Terrorism reached to Myanmar's door step last year, as ARSA's terror attacks took place twice in Rakhine State

As some leaders made reference to the issue of Rakhine State in their discussions, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin responded to their remarks and briefed the meeting on the issue of Rakhine. The Union Minister voiced his agreement on the need for ASEM partners to enhance cooperation in the fight against the growing threat of terrorism. The Minister highlighted that terrorism reached to Myanmar's door step last year, as ARSA's terror attacks took place twice in Rakhine State.

The first time was one month after the establishment of the Kofi Annan Commission, and the second time within a few hours after the release of the Final Report of the Commission. He stated that the issue of Rakhine is a complicated and multi-faceted one involving migration, poverty, rule of law and national security.

Resolving the Rakhine issue was one of the priorities of the Government, as it is an important component of its democ-

ratization process. The Union Minister pointed out that there is no quick fix or solution to the long standing problem between the communities with deep mistrust, as we cannot make law or give orders to love each other.

The Union Minister stated that the attacks in 2017 was targeted not only the security forces but also the other innocent civilian communities in Rakhine State. Such attacks caused fears, insecurity and instability among the communities and triggered mass movements to the Bangladeshi side. International community didn't pay much attention on the threats of the ARSA terrorist group.

The Government of Myanmar has been making necessary preparations in accordance with the bilateral agreement reached with Bangladesh and stands ready to receive the verified returnees as and when Bangladesh starts sending them back. The Government of Myanmar has also signed a MoU with the UNDP and the UNHCR for assisting the speedy and efficient resettlement and rehabilitation of returnees, and the UN team has finished the first phase of assessments and has been accorded permission to start second phase of assessment in the potential project areas.

The Union Minister also reiterated the Government's commitment to addressing accountability based on evidence of human rights violations and

informed the meeting about the establishment of an Independent Commission of Enquiry which includes two eminent diplomats from the Philippines and Japan. He concluded by appealing the leaders to try to understand the issue based on objective, impartial and accurate information and reports before making any important policy decision.

At the conclusion of the Summit, the Chair's Statement of the 12 ASEM Summit was issued under the theme of "Global Partners for Global Challenges". In the Chair's Statement, future cooperation areas between Asia and Europe were outlined under Political and Security pillar; Economic and Financial pillar; and Social and Cultural pillar. With regard to the issue of Rakhine State, the Chair's statement mentioned that ASEM partners looked forward to the implementation of the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed among Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR and highlighted the importance of accountability, and expressed their continued support for the stability, rule of law, national reconciliation and sustainable development in Rakhine State.

While attending the ASEM Summit in Brussels, the Union Minister held separate bilateral meetings with H.E. Mr. Alain

Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation, H.E. Ms. Federica Mogherini, Vice-President of the European Commission / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, H.E. Ms. Margot Wallstrom, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden and H.E. Ms. Marise Payne, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia on the sideline of the Summit and discussed issues of mutual interests and promotion of bilateral relations and recent developments with regard to the issue of Rakhine State.

During the meeting with the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Commission, the Union Minister U Kyaw Tin exchanged views with the former on bilateral relations, the issue of access to Generalised Scheme of Preferences as well as recent developments surrounding the issue of Rakhine State.

## If EU withdraws its GSP, it would harm livelihood of 400,000 workers and their families

The Union Minister explained that the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preference (GSP) has provided benefits and job opportunities to the people of Myanmar especially to those 400,000 workers in the garment sector 90% of which are women. It would potentially harm the livelihoods of those vulnerable people, affecting estimated 2 million people including their families, if the EU decides to withdraw GSP on Myanmar. In addition, Union Minister informed her that Myanmar Government stands ready to receive the proposed visit of the EU trade delegation and is making arrangements to hold discussion about the issue.

ASEM was founded in 1996 with the objective of promoting cooperation between Asia and Europe.

Today, ASEM has 51 members, 21 countries from Asia, 30 countries from Europe and two organizations, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEM Summits were held every two years alternately in Asia and Europe. The 13th ASEM Summit will be hosted by Cambodia in 2020, according to the Ministry of International Cooperation.—MNA ■



## Public participation key to drug-free future for our communities

**D**RUG addiction is an ugly foe that ruins lives. It is not a new problem.

Sometime, people who had their lives destroyed by drug create problem for their communities. So once a person is addicted to drug, it is not only him and his family but his society is also affected.

It is our duty to help them back on their feet and provide support. It is something everyone can collaborate in. It doesn't matter what race you are, what religion you follow or what political stance you've taken; it concerns humanity and compassion and the stabilization of our community and environment.

Drug addiction is not our country's problem only. It is a problem

for the whole world. For a developing country like Myanmar, it may seem that the problem is much more intense and difficult but due to our people's enthusiastic spirit of sharing, we have some advantages.

Mental and physical trauma caused by addictions can contribute to higher drug use. Ministry of Health and Sports established 26 major drug treatment centers and 47 minor drug treatment centers throughout the country.

The challenge is how can we effectively help the users not to return to drug after they stopped usage of drug.

To overcome the challenge, we have to make them rely, trust and depend on their family and friends instead. That is why, the government has opened up drug rehabilitation centre based on the people and community. Meanwhile, we

need to make more efforts for providing them with vocational skills so that the addicts do not return to drugs.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said during her visit to the Drug Rehabilitation Centre in Myitkyina, on 19 October that "This is a rehabilitation centre that everyone can participate in. Their participation is also important. We will have to use every way to make this centre a success. For this centre to be successful, drug addicts must be free from their addictions, return to their own communities and become people that not only benefit themselves or the community but also the country."

Nothing would be successful without the enthusiastic participation of the people.

The rehabilitation of drug addicts supports the rule of law in the country and socio-economic development and thus is one of the priority works. If we take these steps together, we can save the lives of countless people in all corners of the country.

We look forward to working with parents, volunteers, philanthropic organizations, civil society organizations and the public to strengthening our communities, protect our families and deliver a drug-free future for all of our children.

# Roundtable Discussions on Financing for the Development of Agricultural Sector and SMEs Sector in Myanmar

By Shin Min and Hmwe Kyu, Photo: Aye Than



**F**INANCING Agricultural Sector and SME Sector in Myanmar was the Myanmar Radio and Television's broadcast on the Round Table Discussion in which panelists U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance; U Min Thu, Managing Director of Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank; U Win Naing Oo, General Manager of Myanmar Economic Bank; U Khun Aye Naing, Deputy Director-General of Agriculture Mechanization Department talked about the topic in some detail.

The discussions were as follows.

**Moderator:** First of all, the Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance may kindly explain on the plan and policy of Financing for the Development of Agricultural Sector and SME Sector in Myanmar.

**Deputy Minister:** The Ministry of Planning and Finance is financing through the MEB Two-Step Loan for the development of Agricultural Sector and SME Sector. The State has been encouraging the development of private sector as well as SME Sector and Agricultural Sector. In supporting these tasks, SME Development Central Committee and Working Committee are being formed and the committees are chaired by the President and the Vice President. The private sector Development Committee is headed by Vice President. Various Committees are being formed for the development of SME Sector and Agricultural Sector. Sub-committees are also being formed respectively for the smooth functioning of the loans and financing processes.

The State has laid down economic policy which stipulates the all-round development; the food security; elevating socio-economy of the people through the balanced economic development paradigm of agriculture sector; breeding sector and industrial sector. Similarly, another policy is also laid down for the sustainable development for the farmers and the economy that could maintain stability of finance and monetary system. In accordance with these policy and plans, more financing is available for the SME sector. More financing

ed to the agriculture sector.

**Moderator:** Kindly explain the aims, objectives and plans on the loans and financing to the farmers by the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank.

**U Min Thu:** Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank is generally known to the public as a bank with the capacity of facilitating cultivation loans. Our bank is serving two main functions. The first part is banking and the second part is customer service. On the part of banking, there are laws to abide, which has three main features. These three laws are namely the Law on Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank; the Law on Land Affairs; and the Law on Farmers Interest Protection and Promotion.

The main aims and objectives of the three laws are to aid and finance the farmers and the business people who are working in the agricultural sector and animal husbandry sector. Our bank is fulfilling these duties and objectives in multi-faceted ways on the part of the banking sector.

Another sector is about customer sector and has been communicating with the customers in

The first category is the traditional farmers who work on manageable scale on small land plots of under (10) acres. There are farmers who hold larger land plots with more than (10) acres and work on their own. In addition they work for other land plots with their machineries that they have invested. They are the farmers who jointly work for agriculture as well as animal breeding.

Another category is not farmers, but business people engaging in agriculture and animal breeding, and they are our customers. With regards on the loans and financing, we consider the trends of past successive distinct periods on the investment flows of the business. The number of farmers working on less than (10) acres is accounted for (17) millions in net acreage. The number of larger land plot holders accounted for (20) millions in net acreage, and our banks have no resources of cash to provide them. Our bank is using the resources of cash as cultivation loans for small farmers and the money came from the saving of the general public at the Myanmar Economic Bank.

Based on the consideration of state policies and directives and the instructions of the Ministry of Planning and Finance; we evaluated the short term, medium term and long term loan schemes for investment in their agricultural production scheme. As a result, the JICA's Two-Step Loan Program has emerged under the Myanmar-Japan government to government cooperation project.

As the cultivation loan and the JICA's Two-Step Loan Program have been facilitated to the cultivators, both the small farmers and the larger farmers could enjoy the loans. The loan has been extending to the farmers and breeders as well as the agro-related business people. Therefore, financial inputs have been directed to the agricultural sector as well as breeding

ways and means, the MEB's Two-Step Loan has appeared under the guidance of the Ministry of Planning and Finance with the cooperation of Myanmar Economic Bank. This loan scheme namely MEB's Two Step Loan covers to farmers as well as agriculture related business people.

Therefore, I would like to say that our bank is extending loans to small scale farmers, the large scale farmers, and agro-related business people with three types of loans namely the cultivation loan; the JICA Two-Step Loan; and MEB Two-Step Loan.

**Moderator:** Kindly elaborate the policies and objectives for the SME sector development.

**U Win Naing Oo:** Our Myanmar Economic Bank is shouldering the task as the State Bank on serving as commercial banking functions in addition to the tasks entrusted by the policy of the State. The tasks include the SME development plans as directed by the State. In every country, the SME stands out as important entity for the economic development as well as private sector development. In the developing countries as well as developed

countries, the SMEs are referred as the Key Driver of the economic development. Therefore, the governments in many countries are extending assistances in many ways for the development of the SMEs. There are many factors in the development of the SMEs, and that the most important requirement is to get financial investment and the access to finance. In general terms, it is found that the majority of developing countries are encountering in garnering financial investment from the conventional banks.

It is due to the reason that the SMEs are mostly new businesses and they have no adequate guarantees. As they could not put up adequate guarantees to the banks, they could not enjoy sufficient financial investments. As they could not get enough investment, they have to seek loans from outside sources with high interest rates. The SMEs are in need of loans with medium term repayment such as minimum three years or five years as they could not afford short term loan within one year.

When such loans could not be handed out by the conventional banks, the Two-Step Loan has emerged under the Myanmar-Japan Cooperation Plan. At this juncture, I would like to clarify who could enjoy this loan scheme as all SMEs could not get the Two-Step Loan.

Majority of the SMEs are formed in various structures, and the SMEs are supportive in helping and their contribution to the development of the state economy. Therefore, they deserve for being selected for access to loans. In doing this, the SMEs must be in accordance with the SME related laws. Development loans are to be extended to the sphere of SMEs such as the production business, the labor intensive business, the retail selling business, the wholesale business, and the service business.

Financing policies have been laid down and the loans would be attached with interest rate of 8 point 5 percent and loan term of one-year to five-year for the owners of SMEs who are actually in need of loans.

Translated by  
UMT (Ahlon)



## Depression expected to cross Deltaic areas in next 18 hrs

According to the observations at (15:30)hrs M.S.T yesterday, the low pressure area over the North Andaman Sea still persists. It may further intensify into a depression during next (18) hours and it is forecast to cross Deltaic areas during next (36)hrs. Weather is a partly cloudy over the West Central Bay and cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 22nd October, 2018:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Southern Shan and Rakhine States, scattered in (Northern and Eastern) Shan and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9-12)feet Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-8)feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of fairly widespread to widespread rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Rakhine State.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd October, 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd October, 2018:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd October, 2018:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

## Low Pressure Area Condition

(Issued at (14:00) hours M.S.T on (21-10-2018))

According to the observations at (13:30)hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area has formed over the North Andaman Sea.

It may further intensify into a depression during next (24) hours.

### General Caution

Due to the Low Pressure Area, rain will be fairly widespread to widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Thaintharyi Regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States with isolated heavy falls within (24) hours commencing today morning.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9-12) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

### Advisory

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

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## Israel reopens people, goods crossings to Gaza: statement

JERUSALEM — Israel ordered the country's goods and people border crossings with Gaza to be opened on Sunday, just four days after shuttering them following a Palestinian rocket attack that sparked retaliatory strikes.

"The decision comes after a decrease in the violent events in Gaza over the weekend and efforts (militant Islamist Gaza rulers) Hamas made to restrain" demonstrators, a statement from Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman office read.

erman office read.

On Wednesday, Lieberman had ordered the closure of the Kerem Shalom goods crossing and the Erez crossing for people, after a rocket from the Palestinian territory hit a home in southern Israel, prompting the Jewish state to strike 20 Hamas targets in Gaza.

Hamas disavowed the launch and said it was investigating the incident, as fears of a new war rose.



The Kerem Shalom goods crossing with Gaza (pictured) and the Erez crossing for people were closed after a rocket from the Palestinian territory hit a home in southern Israel. **PHOTO: AFP**



A truck carrying goods to Palestinians arrives at Kerem Shalom crossing in the southern Gaza Strip on 15 August, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Near daily protests along the border since 30 March against Israel's crippling 11-year blockade of the impoverished enclave have sparked repeated clashes with the army.

On Friday, thousands again gathered for protests in northern Gaza, but demonstrators largely remained at least 100 metres (yards) from the border.

Hamas officials were seen discouraging protesters from nearing the fence.

Israel had on Wednesday also suspended the delivery of fuel for the Palestinian territory's power plant that had been trucked daily into Gaza under a deal brokered by the United Nations.

"The decision on the renewal of the fuel from Qatar has been put off as for the time being, and will be examined in a number of days based on the events," the Sunday statement from Lieberman said. —AFP ■

## Saudi to host 'Davos in desert' despite outcry over slain journalist

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia will host a key investment summit on Tuesday, overshadowed by the killing of critic Jamal Khashoggi that has prompted a wave of policymakers and corporate giants to withdraw.

Just ahead of the three-day Future Investment Initiative (FII), dubbed "Davos in the desert", the kingdom sought to defuse the crisis with an about-face admission on Saturday that the journalist died in its consulate in Istanbul.

But that has failed to stem an exodus from the summit, whose organisers have taken down a list of speakers from its website.

Dozens of executives — from bankers JP Morgan to carmaker Ford and ride-hailing app Uber — scrapped plans to attend.

Media powerhouses like Bloomberg, CNN and the *Financial Times* have also pulled out and on Saturday, Australia withdrew its representatives, saying it was "no longer appropriate" to attend, due to the Khashoggi affair.

On Saturday, organisers said more than 120 speakers and moderators will participate. Last Monday, they had listed more than 150 speakers.

The event seeks to project the historically insular kingdom as a lucrative business destination, in a bid to diversify its oil-reliant economy and set the stage for new ventures and multi-billion dollar contracts.

At last year's inaugural FII — a star-studded event at Riyadh's glittering Ritz-Carlton hotel — Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was lionised as a visionary as he wowed investors with talking robots and plans for a futuristic mega-city called NEOM.

Billed last year as an economic coming-out party for the conservative petro-state, the FII has now come to symbolise global outrage over the silencing of critics.

The prince, widely known as MBS, faces what the risk consultancy Eurasia Group calls "an acute public relations crisis".

Khashoggi, who had criticised Prince Mohammed, was last seen walking into the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October. —AFP ■

## Hundreds of Afghan polling centres open for second day of voting

KABUL (Afghanistan) — Hundreds of Afghan polling centres opened on Sunday for a second day of voting in a chaotic legislative election marred by deadly violence and technical glitches that have eroded its credibility.

Around three million people defied the threat of militant attacks to cast their ballot in the long-delayed poll on Saturday, official figures showed, but many polling sites opened several hours late or not at all.

The Independent Election Commission (IEC), which has been lambasted for its chaotic organisation of the vote that is more three years late, said 401 polling centres would open on Sunday until 5:00 pm (1230 GMT).

"There was disorder, slowness, shortcomings and mismanagement by the IEC," said Ali Reza Rohani, a spokesman for the Electoral Complaints Commission. A Western official said the ballot was a "victory for the Afghan people who were not deterred" by the biometric machines, administrative incompetence and Taliban threats.

Nearly 170 people — civilians and security forces — were killed

or wounded in scores of election-related attacks across the country, official figures showed.

A suicide bomber blew himself up inside a voting centre in Kabul, killing at least 15 people and wounding 20, while more than 70 rockets rained down on election sites elsewhere.

Nearly nine million voters registered for the parliamentary election, the third since the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

But many suspect a significant number of those were based on fake identification documents that fraudsters planned to use to stuff ballot boxes. Missing or incomplete voter registration lists, problems with biometric verification devices that were being used for the first time, and absent or poorly trained election staff were among a litany of setbacks.

Turnout also was likely affected after the Taliban issued several warnings in the days leading up to the poll demanding candidates withdraw from the race and for voters to stay home.

The militant group on Saturday claimed it carried out more than 400 attacks on the "fake election". —AFP ■

## US-backed Syria offensive kills 35 IS fighters: monitor

BEIRUT — An offensive by US-backed forces against the Islamic State group's last redoubt in eastern Syria killed 35 jihadists on Saturday, a Britain-based war monitor said. Twenty-eight IS members were killed in air strikes by the US-led coalition around the town of Hajin, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Another seven jihadists were killed in ground fighting with the Syrian Democratic Forces, who launched a coalition-backed offensive against the IS-held pocket in the Euphrates Valley last month.

Fighting has killed 414 jihadists and 227 SDF fighters in total since the assault began on 10 September, the Observatory said.

Coalition air strikes on IS tar-

gets in another part of the pocket on Thursday and Friday killed at least 41 civilians, 10 of them children, the monitor said.

IS overran large swathes of Syria and neighbouring Iraq in 2014, proclaiming a "caliphate" across the land it controlled.

But the jihadist group has since lost most of its territory to various offensives in both countries. In Syria, its presence has been reduced to parts of the vast Badia desert and the Hajin pocket in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor near the Iraqi border.

Syria's war has killed more than 360,000 people since it erupted in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests. —AFP ■



US-backed members of the Syrian Democratic Forces launched an offensive against jihadist forces based in eastern Syria on 10 September. **PHOTO: AFP**



# Advanced long-range missile for S-400 system accepted for service in Russia

MOSCOW — The 40N6 long-range surface-to-air missile of the S-400 Triumf system has been accepted for service in the Russian Army, a source in the domestic defence industry told TASS on 18 October.

“The 40N6 long-range missile [the 40N6E as its export version] has been accepted for service.

All the necessary documents were signed in September, after which the Defence Ministry started the purchases of these missiles,” the source said.

“Overall, more than a thousand of 40N6 missiles are planned to be purchased under the state armament programme through 2027 to provide newly formed and rearm existing S400 regiments of the Aerospace Force with them,” the source added, noting that a total of 56 S-400 battalions were planned to be established in the Aerospace Force under this programme.

In July, another source in the Russian defence industry told TASS about the successful completion of state joint trials of the 40N6 missile.



S-400 Triumf system. PHOTO: TASS

## New missile

The 40N6 is a surface-to-air very long-range missile designed to strike early warning and electronic warfare aircraft, airborne command posts, strategic bombers and hypersonic cruise and ballistic missiles.

According to official data, the missile's destruction range is up to 380 km for aerodynamic targets and up to 15km for ballistic weapons at an altitude

ranging from 10 m to 35 km. The average flight speed is 1,190 m/s. Thanks to its new homing head, the missile can destroy aircraft beyond the boundaries of the radio visibility of ground-based radars.

The missile was developed by the Fakel machine-building design bureau and is being serial-produced by the Avangard Moscow Machine-Building Enterprise. The missile was expect-

ed to enter service in the early 2010s but its trials lingered on.

The missiles that were previously in service with the S-400 system (9M96, 48N6 and 48N6DM) were capable of striking targets at a distance of up to 250 km.

The Patriot PAC-3, the US longest-range surface-to-air system, is capable of striking targets at a distance of up to 80-100 km. — Tass ■

## Brief in News

### Withdrawal from nuclear arms deal 'dangerous step' for US: Moscow

MOSCOW (Russia) — Withdrawing from a Cold War-era nuclear weapons treaty with Russia as President Donald Trump has announced he plans to do is a dangerous step, Russia's deputy foreign minister said on Sunday.

“This would be a very dangerous step that, I'm sure, not only will not be comprehended by the international community but will provoke serious condemnation,” deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov told TASS state news agency. — AFP ■

### Icelandair jet in Canada emergency landing as window 'shattered'

MONTREAL (Canada) — An Icelandair flight made an emergency landing in Canada after a cockpit window shattered during flight, a passenger said on Twitter. On its website, the airline said only that Flight 688 was diverted to Bagotville, Quebec “due to a technical issue.”

A passenger, Harrison Hove, tweeted that the “captain says his left window shattered and had to bring us down rapidly.” Hove, a news manager at the University of Florida, said all passengers appeared to be safe.

He reported that an airline employee estimated the crack at 20 centimetres (eight inches).

The Boeing 757 aircraft was flying from Orlando, Florida to Keflavik, Iceland with 155 passengers and seven crew, the local Le Quotidien newspaper reported. — AFP ■

### Mexico opens border to women and children from migrant caravan

CIUDAD HIDALGO (Mexico) — Mexican authorities on Saturday allowed dozens of women and children from the Honduran migrant caravan to pass into its territory, the country's ambassador to Guatemala said. Luis Manuel Lopez told AFP the women and children would be processed by immigration authorities and taken to a shelter in the city of Tapachula, 40 kilometres (25 miles) away. — AFP ■

## Peru court to decide on long Keiko Fujimori detention

LIMA (Peru) — A Peruvian court will decide on Sunday whether to grant a prosecutor's request to place opposition leader Keiko Fujimori in preventive detention for 36 months, which would likely scupper her 2021 presidential hopes.

Anti-corruption prosecutor Jose Domingo Perez has asked the court to hold Fujimori and 11 others for the lengthy period as his team investigates who benefited from millions of dollars in campaign bribes from Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht.

Her lawyer Giuliana Loza described the prosecutor's request as “an outrage.” Judge Richard Concepcion Carhuanchu of the First Preliminary Investigation Court will hear the case on Sunday morning, the judiciary said.

He is the same judge that earlier this month allowed Lopez's request to hold Fujimori in preventive detention for 10 days.

Peru's constitution allows for suspects to be held without trial for up to 36 months in complex cases such as the Odebre-

cht investigation, which involves tracing millions of dollars in illicit payments. It also ensures that suspects cannot interfere with evidence or witnesses in an ongoing investigation.

Acceding to the prosecutor's request would all but end Keiko's chances of the presidency, after she lost run-offs in 2011 and 2016.

Lopez lodged his request Friday, only two days after an appeals court ordered Fujimori's release from a week-long stay in prison as part of the same investigation.

## Under scrutiny

The 43-year-old daughter and political heir to disgraced ex-president Alberto Fujimori, Keiko has increasingly come under the spotlight as prosecutors investigate millions of dollars in illicit campaign contributions to several former presidents.

They say former presidents Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, Alan Garcia and Alejandro Toledo all took undeclared campaign contributions in exchange for pledges to have the Brazilian construction

giant win local tenders.

Their key witness, former Odebrecht Peru chief Jorge Barata, said he doled out millions of dollars to Peruvian presidential candidates between 2001 and 2016.

Prosecutor Perez believes Fujimori — leader of the main opposition Popular Force party — received more than \$1.2 million from Odebrecht for her 2011 presidential campaign.

She denies all wrongdoing. Odebrecht has admitted spending hundreds of millions of dollars to buy politicians' favor in governments all across Latin America.

The appeal court's decision to release Fujimori after a week of her previous detention was a setback for both the judge and the prosecutor, who have gained notoriety by prosecuting top politicians over the Odebrecht scandal.

New Interior Minister Carlos Moran, a former police general, immediately ordered police to tighten security around Lopez.

“The Peruvian Police will step up protection for prosecu-

tor Domingo Perez as well as for his family and his home,” he said on Twitter.

## 'Remove judge'

Fujimori, who is not obliged to attend Sunday's hearing, has petitioned the court to remove Judge Concepcion Carhuanchu from the case.

“The first thing we have to resolve is the recusal,” she told reporters. The case could drag on, as her legal team can appeal.

The fortunes of the Fujimori family have dominated Peru's politics for the past year.

Though Keiko's Popular Force party is the biggest in Congress, her public feud with her younger brother Kenji — who leads a rival wing of the party — and their legal woes have chipped away at her popularity. Kenji is facing trial for bribery.

Meanwhile, the 80-year-old patriarch, former president Alberto Fujimori, had his humanitarian pardon for crimes against humanity revoked by a court last month and is once again in hospital. — AFP ■





More than a year after Islamic State-linked fighters seized the southern Philippine city of Marawi, the terrorist threat is as potent as ever, Singapore's defence minister says. **PHOTO: AFP**

## SE Asia boosts fight against 'real and present' militant threat

SINGAPORE — South-east Asian nations seeking to combat the threat of militancy have agreed to share intelligence, Singapore's defence minister said on Saturday, as he warned of a "real and present" danger to the region.

More than a year after Islamic State-linked fighters seized the southern Philippine city of Marawi, the terrorist threat is as potent as ever, said Ng Eng Hen after hosting a meeting of defence ministers.

"Unfortunately even as the situation in Iraq and Syria improves, we are expecting more foreign fighters to come this way," he added.

Ng said all 18 ministers at the gathering in Singapore, from South-east Asia and key partners outside the region, viewed "terrorism as a real and present threat".

The Southeast Asian delegates adopted an information-sharing platform called "Our Eyes" that will be used to share real-time intelligence that can immediately be acted upon, the minister added.

This came after the countries realised that they had underestimated the threat before the attack on Marawi, where

the rebuilding effort could cost around \$1 billion, he said.

Proposed by Indonesia, the platform is based on an intelligence-sharing alliance set up by the United States, Britain and three other countries after World War II to monitor the former Soviet Union.

The weekend security meeting was attended by the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis and their counterparts from countries including China, Australia, India and Russia.

In last year's assault on Marawi, hundreds of armed militants backed by foreign IS fighters attacked and took control of the largely Muslim city in a bid to establish a base in Southeast Asia.

Philippine troops, supported by sophisticated surveillance planes from the United States, dislodged the militants after five months of heavy fighting that left more than 1,000 people dead and the city in ruins.

Militants from other Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia and Malaysia, were involved in the fighting.

Those at the meeting "felt that this must never happen again to any city within ASEAN", Ng said. —AFP ■

## China reveals outstanding beauty in Montreal Int'l Tourism and Travel Show

MONTREAL — With the theme of "China beyond imagination," Chinese tourism and cultural resources are being presented in the 30<sup>th</sup> Montreal International Tourism and Travel Show starting on Saturday.

The three-day show, the largest tourism exhibition in Canada, brought together more than 400 exhibitors from nearly 100 countries and regions.

The Chinese delega-

tion, gathering members from the tourism development commission or bureaux of various local provinces, is among the largest participating teams in the show. Bright and colorful pictures depicting Chinese landscapes and local culture as well as handcrafts like paper-cutting and clay sculpture are displayed to attract Canadian tourists.

In recent years, with closer exchanges between

China and Canada in the fields of economy, trade and culture, tourism has become a new highlight of cooperation between the countries. The year of 2018 is China-Canada Year of Tourism. The two countries have carried out a series of colorful publicity activities in each other's cities to enhance the popularity of destinations and further boost two-way tourism exchanges. —Xinhua ■

## 6 killed after car plunges into canal in central Thailand

BANGKOK — A car skidded off a curving bridge and plunged into a canal in central Thailand, killing six people on board on early Sunday.

According to police, the accident occurred at about 3 am local time

when the car carrying four men and two women was crossing the bridge in Ayutthaya province.

The vehicle lost control, broke through the railing and fell into the canal. Police found three bodies lying on a road and

the other three in the canal.

Police said the car was running across the bridge at a high speed on the slippery road in heavy rain and no other vehicles were involved. —Xinhua ■

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Dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

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Dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018



## Water woes as drought leaves Germany's Rhine shallow

BERLIN (Germany) — Months of drought have left water levels on Germany's Rhine river at a record low, exposing a World War II bomb and forcing ship operators to halt services to prevent vessels from running aground.

The water level on the Rhine on Friday reached just 77 centimetres (30 inches), 4 cm below a previous record low of 81 cm recorded in 2003, Cologne's

waterworks authorities said.

Although rainfall is expected next week, forecasters said it would not suffice to bring up water levels in Germany's most important waterway and a key shipping route for the Netherlands and France.

Freight ships have had to reduce the volume of cargo carried in the shallow waters. Passenger liners plying Cologne and Mainz

have been halted since Monday because of the low water level, operator KD said.

Meanwhile the dried out riverbed has exposed all kinds of objects, including a 50-kilo (110-pound) World War II bomb that would have to be defused in the coming days.

Ahead of the operation, water traffic around the site in Cologne has been halted.

Germany, like much of Europe, has enjoyed a prolonged period of warm and sunny weather.

But farmers have long complained that the persistent drought was wreaking havoc on crops, with annual production expected to be down by a fifth.

Fourteen of Germany's 16 states have applied to benefit from a federal aid programme for farmers. —AFP ■



Lower water levels on Germany's Rhine river have caused problems from exposing an old WWII bomb to forcing ship operators to halt services. **PHOTO: AFP**

## CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to rise in 2018, says IEA chief

PARIS (France) — Energy sector carbon emissions will rise in 2018 after hitting record levels the year before, dimming prospects for meeting Paris climate treaty goals, the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Wednesday.

The energy sector accounts for 80 per cent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, with most of the rest caused by deforestation and agriculture, so its performance is key to efforts to rein in rising world temperatures.

"I'm sorry, I have very bad news for you," IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol told guests at a diplomatic function hosted by the Polish embassy in Paris.

"Emissions this year will increase once again, and we're going to have the COP meeting when global emissions reach a record high," he said, referring to the December UN climate summit in Katowice, Poland. After remaining flat for three years, total global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2017 rose by 1.4 per cent, dashing hopes that they had peaked. The meeting in Katowice is tasked with finalising the "operating manual" for the 195-nation Paris Agreement, which enters into force in 2020 and calls for capping global warming at "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit),

and at 1.5°C if possible.

"The chances of meeting such ambitious targets, in my view, are becoming weaker and weaker every year, every month," Birol told invitees, including former French prime minister Laurent Fabius, who shepherded the 2015 treaty to a successful conclusion, and Poland's junior minister Michal Kurtyka, who will preside over the December summit. —AFP ■



An albatross flying over the Indian Ocean islands of Crozet. Some will be equipped with radar beacons. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Albatrosses to spy out illegal fishing

CHIZÉ (France) — Fishermen illegally trawling the Indian Ocean might soon find they have more to worry about than the proverbial albatross around their neck — real bad luck might now lurk in the form of one of the birds spying on them from the sky.

A scientific programme, designed to study the feathered giants of the air, might also help identify poaching fishing vessels, according to the Chize Biological Study Centre, a French research body which seeks to help preserve the endangered bird species.

Between November and March, 150 albatrosses, from the remote French southern Indian Ocean islands of Crozet, Kerguelen and Amsterdam, will be equipped with tiny beacons which will automatically detect radar signals put out by ships they meet at sea.

The programme known as "Ocean sentinel" and funded by the Council of Europe was first tested in South Africa early this year,

One of the main threats to the birds comes from commercial longline fishing as albatrosses seeking fish get hooked on the lines and drown, according to Henry Weimerskirch, director of research at the French centre.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature says 18 of the 22 albatross species are threatened, some with extinction.

The beacons, weighing 70 grams (2.4 ounces) and built in cooperation with New Zealand, will be fitted to the back of the birds, thereby allowing researchers to follow them and analyse their feeding habits.

But they will also pick up radar emissions as they pass over ships.

Vessels intent on ille-

gal fishing turn off their automatic identification system (AIS) when entering off-limit fishing grounds, so cutting themselves off from automatic satellite tracking.

But they still rely on low-level radar emissions for safety reasons and it is these that the airborne equipment will be able to pick up.

"Half the boats we detected (during tests) did not have their AIS switched on," said Weimerskirch.

With an albatross picking up signals from five kilometres (3 miles) away "we can localise a boat within half an hour of contact", and if its seeking to avoid detection pass the information on to authorities "for possible interception," he added.

Ocean Sentinel is also expected to be tested next year in New Zealand and in the Hawaiian islands. —AFP ■

### Early Bird Sale: Refilling Station, Restaurant

A licensed refilling station with four 3,600-gallon tanks owned by a guarantor, with a concrete-floor structure type car parking for seven Express buses, a daily sales between K3.5 million and K4 million, and a restaurant of a two-story RC type building annex and scenic view which can attract foreigners, located at a strategic place on four-acre land on the Meikhtila-Kyaukpadaung Road. Price K400 million, payment is negotiable.

Contact: 09-49266711, 09-765031097

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO. (1817-1818)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO. (1817-1818) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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 MCC TRANSPORT  
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (1829-1830)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (1829-1830) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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.

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Prince Harry welcomed more than 500 competitors from 18 nations to the event in Sydney. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Prince Harry opens Invictus Games after storm delays

SYDNEY—Britain's Prince Harry on Saturday opened the Olympic-style Invictus Games for disabled and wounded soldiers at a moving ceremony on the forecourt of Sydney's Opera House, after an intense thunderstorm forced an hour-long delay.

The Duke of Sussex, who climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge on Friday to help raise the Games flag, welcomed more than 500 competitors from 18 nations to an event that he founded. "Over the last four years the

Invictus Games have become about so much more than the thousands of competitors who have taken part," he said on a stage shaped like a boomerang, following a belated traditional Aboriginal welcome ceremony that was held up by torrential rain and lightning.

"Invictus has become about the example of service and dedication our competitors have provided to the world. Our Invictus family has turned these Games into a symbol of strength, honour

and optimism for a new generation." The prince said the concept was particularly relevant in 2018, the centenary of the end of World War I. "It feels a fitting tribute to the legacy of that generation to continue to support those who have served their country today," he said. Earlier Saturday, Harry and his pregnant wife Meghan opened an extension to a war memorial in the city before handing out the first Invictus medals in a driving challenge, where France won gold.—AFP ■

## Chinese film, actress win awards at Chicago festival

CHICAGO—Chinese filmmaker Jia Zhangke's latest film "Ash Is Purest White" won the Silver Hugo for Best Director at the ongoing 54th Chicago International Film Festival (CIFF) at AMC River East 21 in the US state of Illinois on Friday.

The film "was shot with masterfully crafted mise-en-scene that allows us to observe the complexity of its characters and the evolution of a country," the international competition jury stated. Actress

Zhao Tao who plays the role of Qiao Qiao in the film received Silver Hugo for Best Actress. Zhao's performance covered a journey of 20 years in a fast changing era in China. "Tao burns with brilliance, wit, and ferociousness as a woman whose steps are haunted by her history and what may come next," said the jury.

Categories of awards presented Friday night include International Feature Film Competition; New Directors Competition;

International Documentary Competition; Out-Look Competition; and Short Film Competition. The Chicago Award and the Founder's Award were also presented.

Alice Rohrwacher's "Happy as Lazzaro" wins the Gold Hugo for its poetic cinematic language. Films from Vietnam, Australia, Peru, Britain, the Netherlands, Mexico and the United States are among the major winners across the festival's other competitions.—Xinhua ■

## Having children taught me what real love is: Chris Hemsworth

LONDON—Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth says he did not expect parenting to be so difficult but it has taught him the real meaning of love. The "Thor" star, who has six-year-old daughter India and four-year-old twin sons Sacha and Tristan with wife Elsa Pataky, said having kids changed his outlook towards life, reported Contactmusic. "Having children it's much more difficult than you think it's going to be. You have to change your thinking and be completely there for them. But they have also taught me what real love is and what true responsibility

means. Your life becomes more focused and you don't have time to get distracted by unimportant things any more. You become a lot less selfish.

"But I don't feel as though I'm giving up anything or making any sacrifices. I had my share of wild times when I was younger and that kind of stuff was never that interesting to me anyway. When I met Elsa, I was very comfortable with the idea that she was someone I wanted to share my life with and build something for the future," Hemsworth said.—PTI ■

## Banksy admits shredding stunt didn't go as planned

LONDON—Banksy has admitted that one of his biggest pranks yet didn't really go according to plan.

The British street artist created an art world sensation by sending one of his paintings through a shredder hidden in a frame moments after it sold at auction for £1,042,000 (\$1.4 million, 1.2 million euros).

Experts say the "Girl with Balloon" is now probably worth even more because the stunt created a media stir that made many reassess their understanding of performance art.

But there was always a nagging question: Why did only half the painting slip through the frame? Was there a deeper meaning? Did Banksy—whose identity is known only to a select group of loyal friends—try to tell us something we were still failing to grasp?

The secretive artist admitted on a video posted on his Instagram account this week that the real answer was much simpler. The painting got stuck.

"In rehearsal it worked every time," he wrote at the end of a three-minute clip showing how he practised sending an identical painting through a shredder in a frame. The entire thing sailed straight through.

### Secret auction footage

The video itself was a classic Banksy piece of political art, poking fun at all the attention he had generated.

It showed a white man dressed in a black outfit installing a shredder into a fancy frame with the red balloon painting.

The clip then switched to secretly filmed footage of the London auction itself.

Champagne-sipping men in suits and women wearing sparkling jewellery milled around the painting as a Sotheby's auctioneer extolled its virtues.

"We've had a lot of interest on it as you can imagine. It's I think by far the most asked about lot in the sale," he says.

"The artist put the frame up as well. You get that quite often with Banksy—he quite likes the romanticism of having a National Gallery-esque frame."

The auction resumes and the video's pace speeds up as it focusses on the anxious participants who watch as the bidding price shoots up.

The hammer soon falls and an extreme closeup shows an anonymous hand press a small remote control device that looks like a garage door opener.

It starts beeping and the picture starts falling through its frame. Those in the room take two or three seconds to notice—and then start whipping out their phones to capture the moment on film.

The auctioneer himself says nothing and continues mechanically turning pages laid out before him while watching the painting being turned into paper spaghetti.

The only question left unanswered is whether Sotheby's itself was in on the prank.

The auctioneer's face appears to show something verging on anxiety and surprise.

But both Sotheby's and the artist are letting that mystery hang in the air.—AFP ■



British street artist Banksy created an art world sensation by sending his painting through a shredder hidden in a frame moments after it sold at auction for £1,042,000 (\$1.4 million, 1.2 million euros) **PHOTO: AFP**



## Report on Soyuz-FG malfunction to be approved on 30 October

MOSCOW—A final report and list of recommendations will be approved on 30 October, following the probe into the incident with the Soyuz-FG launch vehicle carrying Soyuz MS-10 manned spacecraft, the Russian space agency Roscosmos said after a meeting of the emergency commission.

“Having listened to reports of the experts investigating causes of the emergency, members of the emergency commission have approved, after a detailed examination, a draft report on causes of the incident and begun drawing up recommendations to prevent similar situations in the future,” the statement says.

“The final report and list of recommendations for the space industry enterprises will be approved on 30 October, 2018 and will be submitted to chairperson of the State Commission

for Flight Tests of Manned Space Complexes,” it says.

A Soyuz-FG carrier rocket with a manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft blasted off from Kazakhstan’s Baikonur Cosmodrome to the International Space Station (ISS) on 11 October. On board the spacecraft were Russian cosmonaut Alexei Ovchinin (the commander of the Soyuz MS-10) and NASA astronaut Nick Hague.

Following a smooth liftoff, the Soyuz’s booster malfunctioned between the first and second stages of separating, whereupon the crew was forced to abort the flight and switch to ballistic descent. The manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft ended up landing in the Kazakh steppe. The Soyuz MS-10 crew were not hurt. This is the first emergency landing with this type of carrier rocket over the past 35 years.—Tass ■

## Brazil recovers ancient human fossil fragments from burnt Rio museum



Fragments of the oldest human fossil found within today’s Brazilian borders, known as “Luzia” were recovered among the rubble of Rio de Janeiro’s National Museum after a fire destroyed the building. **PHOTO: AFP**

RIO DE JANEIRO—Brazilian officials said on Friday they have recovered pieces of a 12,000-year-old fossil of a neolithic woman that was among the prized artifacts in Rio de Janeiro’s burnt down National Museum.

“We found almost all of the skull and 80 percent of its fragments have been identified,” mu-

seum director Alexander Kellner said, adding that fragments of a femur were also uncovered from the ashes.

The fossil, nicknamed “Luzia,” was discovered in 1970 in the southeastern state of Minas Gerais by a French-led expedition.

A Manchester University team later did a digital face re-

construction based on the skull, which was used to model a sculpture of the ancient woman.

That sculpture went up in flames on September 2 along with most of the museum’s 20 million artifacts. But the original skull fragments, kept in a metal urn in a closet, were found a few days ago.—AFP ■

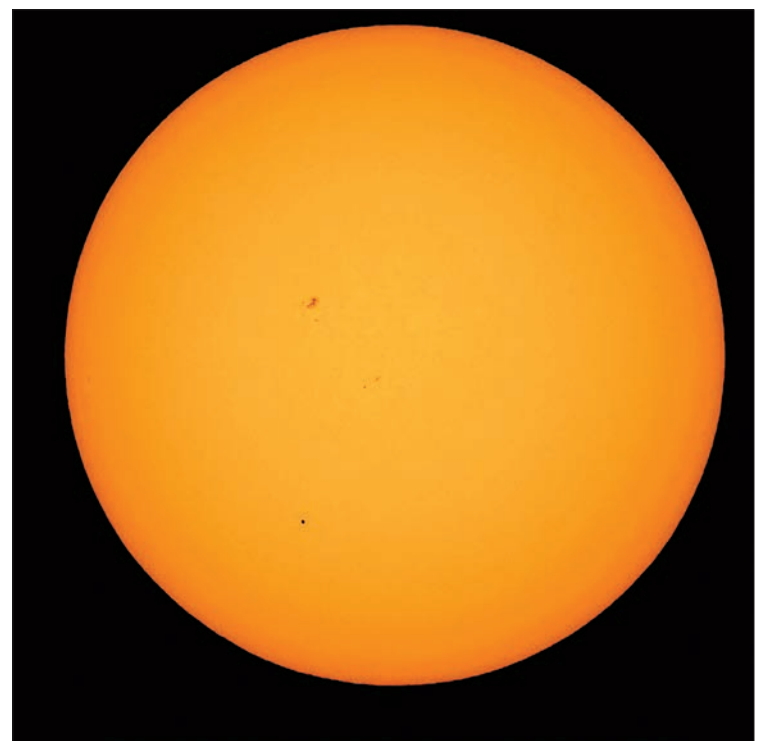
## Glitzy ‘Science Oscars’ to make stars of researchers

WASHINGTON (United States) —Nine scientists were recognized on 17 October with a “Breakthrough Prize,” a \$3 million Silicon Valley-funded award meant to confer Oscars-style glamour and prestige on the basic sciences.

The prizes in physics, life sciences and mathematics went to six men and three women, including four researchers who shared two prizes and five who get the full reward to themselves. Vincent Lafforgue, of France’s National Center of Scientific Research (CNRS), was awarded the prize in mathematics for groundbreaking work in multiple areas.

Five US-based researchers who won prizes in the life sciences included Frank Bennett and Adrian Krainer, from companies in Carlsbad, California and Long Island, New York. They were recognized for their discovery of a DNA-linked process that led to a treatment for a rare infantile disorder, spinal amyotrophy.

They were joined by Chinese-born scientists Xiaowei Zhuang (Harvard), who developed a new tool for super-resolution molecular imagery, and Zhijian “James” Chen (University of Texas), for his discovery of a DNA-sensing enzyme that could be associated with auto-immune disorders.—AFP ■



Mercury has barely been explored. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Mercury mission to explore origin of Solar System

PARIS (France)—Is Mercury’s core liquid or solid, and why—on the smallest planet in our solar system—is it so big? What can the planet closest to the Sun tell us about how our solar system came into being? An unmanned European-Japanese space mission set for launch early Saturday morning from French Guiana, dubbed BepiColombo, will probe these and other mysteries.

“BepiColombo is coming like a white knight with better and more precise data,” said Alain Doressoundiram, an astronomer at the Paris Observatory.

“To understand how Earth was formed, we need to understand how all rocky planets formed,” including Venus and Mars, he told AFP. “Mercury stands apart and we don’t know why.” First, however, the suite of instruments on board the Ariane 5 rocket will have to travel seven years and nine million kilometres (5.6 million miles) to reach their destination. According to Pierre Bousquet, an engineer at France’s National Centre for Space Research and head of the French team contributing to the mission, Mercury is “abnormally small,” leading to speculation that it survived a massive collision in its youth. “A huge crater visible on its surface could be the scar left over from that encounter,” Bousquet told AFP. Finding out if this is true is on BepiColombo’s “to do” list.

### Going hot and cold

This scenario would explain why Mercury’s core accounts for

a whopping 55 percent of its mass, compared to 30 percent for Earth.

Mercury is also the only rocky planet orbiting the Sun beside our own to have a magnetic field. Magnetic fields are generated by a liquid core but given its size, Mercury’s inner sanctum should have grown cold and solid by now, as did Mars. This anomaly might be due to some feature of the core’s composition, something BepiColombo’s instruments will measure with much greater precision than has been possible so far.

On its surface, Mercury is a planet of extremes, vacillating between hot days of about 430 degrees Celsius (more than 800 degrees Fahrenheit) to super-frosty nights of minus 180C (minus 290F). Those days and nights last nearly three Earth months each. Earlier missions have detected evidence of ice in the deepest recesses of the planet’s polar craters. Scientists speculate that this may have accumulated from comets crashing onto Mercury’s surface. “If the presence of ice is confirmed, it means that some of those water samples date back nearly to the origin of the solar system,” Doressoundiram said.

### Lashed by solar winds

Mercury is 58 million kilometres (36 million miles) from the Sun, nearly three times closer than Earth. “The planet is whipped by solar winds,” a constant torrent of ionised particles bombarding the surface at 500 kilometres per second, said Bousquet.—AFP ■



## Traditional boat race to be held in Mandalay on 27, 28 Oct

WITH the aim of emerging talented boat race athletes for 30th SEA Games in the Philippines, a traditional boat race will be held in the western moat of Mandalay on 27 and 28 October according to Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federation (MRCF).

"We will select under-23 years old boat rowers for national athletes level from this tournament," said U Thaung Htike Min, chairman of Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federation.

A total of 356 athletes from 13 male teams and 7 female teams will compete in the tournament.

The race's categories for both male and female includes: 5-person crew, 7-person crew and 10 person crew for 200/500 M long distance.

Prices are also categorized into Winner prize, first runners up and second runners up for



Rowers taking part in the Traditional Boat Race held in the moat of Mandalay. **PHOTO MIN HTET AUNG**

both genders, said an official.

Similarly, former boat rac-

es were also held at the same place in Mandalay in 1989, 1990,

2016 according to the Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federa-

tion. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House) ■

### Isotonic sport drink, official hydration partner of AFF Suzuki Cup 2018

100PLUS, one of the best isotonic sport drinks in Myanmar, has been named the Official Hydration Partner of the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 according to an announcement of the sports drink website on Thursday.

This is the first time the isotonic drink brand is partnering Southeast Asia's most watched football tournament as an official regional supporter. Under the agreement, 100 PLUS will be able to use the AFF Suzuki Cup event mark across its marketing platforms and market co-branded isotonic drinks at the tournament. Evidently, pictures of Myanmar football stars striker Aung Thu, midfielder Si Thu Aung and goalkeeper San Satt Naing will be printed on the cans of the isotonic drinks.

In addition, 100PLUS will be prominently featured on official tournament collateral as well as pitch-side advertising boards across the match venues located in ASEAN countries including Myanmar.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Ronaldo celebrates landmark goal but Juve's perfect run broken

ROME (Italy)—Cristiano Ronaldo scored but wasteful Juventus had to settle for a 1-1 stalemate at home to Genoa to end the Italian champions' perfect start to the season on Saturday.

With eight Serie A wins and two in the Champions League Juve were all set to extend that fine run when Ronaldo put Massimiliano Allegri's men into a first-half lead.

But

Juve were made to pay for failing to convert a hatful of chances when Daniel Bessa headed in a second-half equaliser.

Juventus retain control of the Serie A summit, but Napoli can reduce the gap to four points if

they beat Udinese later Saturday.

Ronaldo, despite the turmoil of explosive rape allegations that surfaced before the international break, notched up his fifth goal for his new employers since his headline move from Real Madrid in the 18th minute, ironically helped by a mistake from Genoa's top-scoring Polish striker Krzysztof Piatek.

A communications mix-up saw Piatek leave Joao Cancelo's blocked shot for his keeper, but the loose ball fell at Ronaldo's feet and he tapped in to an empty net.

This was the 33-year-old's 400th career goal in Europe's top five leagues, making him the first player to reach that tally.

Lionel Messi is next best on 389.

Ronaldo, who returns to Old Trafford on Tuesday to face his old club Manchester United, would have bagged a double shortly after but his low shot was denied by Genoa keeper Ionut Radu's diving save.

With Genoa struggling to contain the lively Cancelo down the right Juve were firmly in control, their only regret at the break being they weren't further in front.

Genoa had to wait until the 53rd minute for their first shot on target, and unsurprisingly it fell to Piatek, but his hopes of swelling his nine-goal Serie A haul were dashed when Juve keeper Wojciech Szczesny tipped his shot around the post.

Energised, the 23-year-old should have levelled seconds later, outjumping Leonardo Bonucci but his header went wide.

In an attempt to stifle Genoa as they scented an equaliser Allegri replaced Juan Cuadrado with Douglas Costa, the Brazilian winger making his first appearance since a four-game ban for spitting.—AFP ■

Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (R) celebrates with Juventus' Colombian midfielder Juan Cuadrado after opening the scoring during the Italian Serie A football match Juventus vs Genoa on 20 October, 2018 at the Juventus Allianz stadium in Turin. **PHOTO: AFP**



# UK PM reassures business leaders over Brexit

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Prime Minister Theresa May took pains on Friday to reassure more than 130 British business leaders that her government would deliver frictionless trade with the European Union after Brexit.

May's conference call with representatives of firms ranging from the accounting firm EY to the retailer Tesco came after a summit in Brussels this

week produced no tangible progress.

Her office said May acknowledged in her call that there were "a few significant issues that were still outstanding" in the Brexit talks.

London and Brussels cannot agree how to keep the border between British-ruled Northern Ireland and EU-member Ireland open after Britain leaves the bloc in March.

The Downing Street statement said May "recognised the importance of these discussions for businesses, their supply chains and clients".

May "urged businesses not to lose sight of the prize — that of a smooth trading relationship with the EU alongside the ability to seek new opportunities and open up new markets with trading partners around the world", her office said.—AFP ■



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May, pictured October 17, 2018, held a conference call to reassure representatives of more than 130 British firms after a summit in Brussels produced no tangible progress on the Brexit process. **PHOTO: AFP**



A worker checks the valve of an oil pipe. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## China crude oil production down 2.4 pct in September

BEIJING — China's crude oil production dropped slightly in September, as output in some typhoon-hit areas fell.

Total crude oil production slipped 2.4 percent year on year to 15.18 million tonnes last month, as compared with a 0.2-percent increase in August, data from

the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed.

Some oil fields in south China's Guangdong Province were affected by Typhoon Mangkhut, which hit the province on Sept. 16.

In the first nine months of this year, crude oil production

stood at 141.13 million tonnes, down 1.9 percent year on year.

Imports of crude oil increased 0.5 percent in September, decelerating by 13 percentage points from the pace recorded in August, NBS data showed.—Xinhua ■

## CBOT futures decline weekly over falling export sales

CHICAGO — Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) agricultural futures closed lower in the past trading week which ended Oct. 19, due to less-than-expected export sales.

The most active contract for December corn fell 6.75 cents weekly, or 1.8 percent, to 3.67 dollars per bushel. December wheat delivery went down 2.5 cents, or 0.48 percent weekly, to 5.1475 dollars per bushel. November soybeans suffered a 10.75-cent decline, or 1.24 percent, to 8.5675 dollars per bushel.

Long lasting rainfalls in the US Midwest had led to harvest delays, which in turn supported the prices of corn and soybeans in the past two weeks. However, as dry weather gradually came back and prevailed in the area, pressure started to build up upon their futures.

On Thursday, The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) released its weekly export sales report for the period of Oct. 5-11, 2018, showing corn and soybean exports were far less than trade estimates, with corn sales hitting an early marketing year low.

US exporters reported sales of 382,500 metric tons of corn, compared with the trade's expectations of between 800,000-1,250,000 metric tons.

Soybean sales only reached 293,600 metric tons, versus the trade's expectations of between 600,000-1,000,000 metric tons.

Oliver Sloup, with BlueLine Future, described the export sales as "absolutely pathetic"

for both corn and soybeans.

The bearish U.S. ethanol data gave additional pressure on corn, its raw material.

Official data pegged the ethanol production through the week ending Oct. 12 at 297 million gallons, down 9 million from previous week. Meanwhile, ethanol inventories totaled a near-record 1,014 million gallons, up 5 million on the prior week.

As for CBOT soybeans, the futures rallied on Monday and spent the rest of the week correcting the early gains, said analysts with AgResource, a Chicago-based agricultural research firm.

Harvest delays and even losses and crop quality concerns triggered funds short-covering for the initial rally. But disappointing export sales dragged down the prices.

Export sale cancellations to unknown destinations were noted in the USDA weekly sales report, followed by additional cancellations at the end of the week. Cancellations to China are not a surprise given the 25 percent tariff and more can be expected in the year ahead, said market watchers. CBOT wheat futures saw a dull week, while the world wheat trade simply lacked enthusiasm. USDA's weekly export sales report showed that a total of 476,000 metric tons of US wheat was exported, fulfilling the trade's expectations of between 250,000-600,000 metric tons.—Xinhua ■

## China's yuan funds outstanding for foreign exchange drop in September

BEIJING — China's yuan funds outstanding for foreign exchange saw a decline last month, official data shows.

The funds stood at 21.4084 trillion yuan (about 3.09 trillion U.S. dollars) at the end of September, down from 21.5278 trillion yuan a month earlier, according to the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank.

As the Chinese currency is

not freely convertible under the capital account, the central bank has to purchase foreign currency generated by a trade surplus and foreign investment in the country, adding funds to the money market. Such funds are an important indicator of cross-border foreign capital flows and domestic yuan liquidity. As a similar measure of capital flows, China's foreign exchange reserves stood at 3.087

trillion U.S. dollars by the end of September, down 0.7 percent from a month ago.

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange said that although the external environment still shows lots of uncertainties, the stable fundamentals of China's economy will provide a solid foundation for the steady operation of China's forex market.—Xinhua ■