

## NATIONAL

UEC asks 27 political parties confirmation for joint statement

PAGE-7

## NATIONAL

Senior General receives Deputy Minister of Defence of Russian Federation, Foreign Secretary of India

PAGE-2

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 23 October 2018

## State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Indian Foreign Secretary

**S**TATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Indian Foreign Secretary Mr. Vijay Gokhale at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, promoting bilateral relations, cooperation in regional and international arenas and development cooperation in all regions of Myanmar including Rakhine State were discussed.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, relevant departmental heads from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and responsible officials. — MNA ■



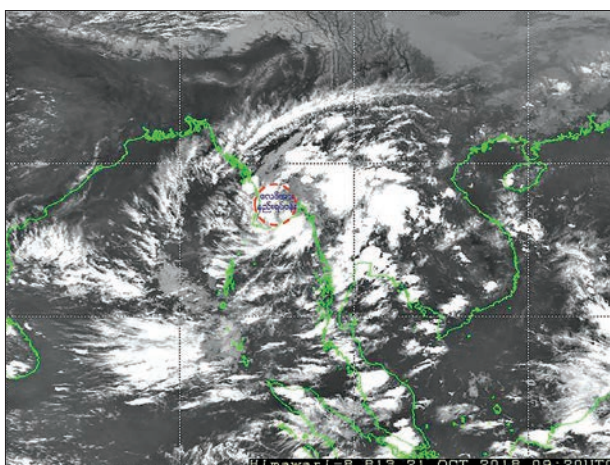
State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Foreign Secretary of India Mr. Vijay Gokhale at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Low pressure area persists over Deltaic areas: DMH

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm yesterday, the low pressure area over Deltaic areas still persists, according to Meteorology and Hydrology Department yesterday evening.

### General Caution

Due to the Low Pressure Area, rain will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw,



Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, and Mon states with isolated heavy falls.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 mph. Wave height will be about 9 to 12 feet in Myanmar Coasts.

### Advisory

Strong wind and heavy rainfalls are cautioned. People from Gulf of Mottama, Deltaic area and coastal Rakhine. Trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts are advised to avert this condition.

### Strong wind destroys houses in Maubin

A strong wind de-

stroyed 22 houses and ripped roofs off 134 houses leaving 646 people homeless in Maubin Township on 21 October night while the low pressure system crossed the Deltaic area.

Maubin District Natural Disaster Management Department is planning to send aid to the areas as soon as possible. — DMH/Aung Khaing ■

### INSIDE TODAY



### NATIONAL

Ministry of Health and Sports distributes mobile tablets to basic medical officers, township doctors in Kayah State

PAGE-2



### LOCAL NEWS

MR to run Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay special trains during Thadingyut festival

PAGE-4

### NATIONAL

Myanmar hosts 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports

PAGE-7



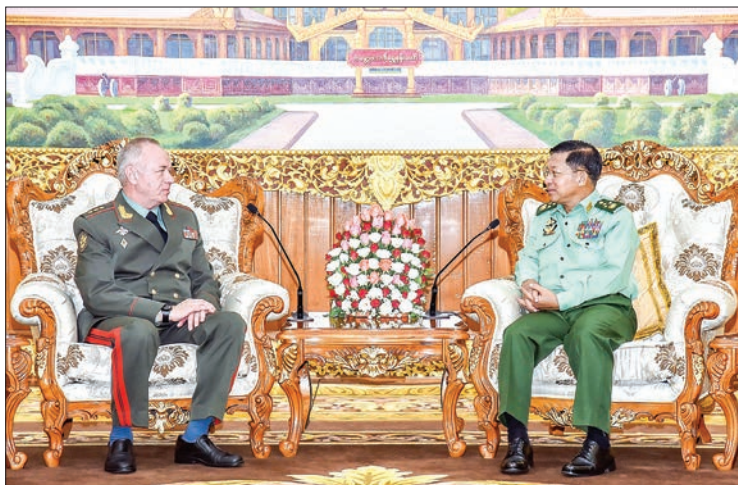


# Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Russian Deputy Minister of Defence, Indian Foreign Secretary separately

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing separately received Colonel General Alexander Vasilyevich Fomin, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation and H.E. Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Indian Foreign Secretary at Bayint Naung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting with the Deputy Minister of Defence from the Russian Federation, both sides cordially exchanged views on increasing friendship and cooperation between the two armed forces, cooperation on military technology between the two armed forces and status of Myanmar participation in the ARMY Games 2018, increasing friendship visits and cooperation between the two armed forces.

During the meeting with



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Colonel General Alexander Vasilyevich Fomin, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, left, and Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary of India, right, at Bayint Naung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OFFICE**



Indian Foreign Secretary, they cordially exchanged views and discussed matters relating to cooperation of two armed forces for the stability and development on both sides of the border,

security in the region and the Indian Ocean, exchange of information on prevention of storm risks and natural disasters, bilateral cooperation in training, status of going along

the multi-party democracy path chosen by the people, the Union government and the Tatmadaw working towards achieving eternal peace and to cooperate with India in re-

ceiving returnees who fled from Buthidaung and Maungdaw to the other country; according to a statement issued by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

## Ministry of Health and Sports distributes mobile tablets to basic medical officers, township doctors in Kayah State

DR. MYINT HTWE, the Union Minister for Health and Sports, attended a ceremony held in Loi-kaw's state hall in Kayah State on 21 October where the ministry distributed mobile tablets to the basic medical staff and township doctors in Kayah State.

Firstly, Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho delivered an address where he expressed the honor for having Kayah State chosen as the first place to receive mobile tablets for their basic medical staff and township doctors. He said the health sector in Kayah State has seen noticeable improvements which are in part due to the compassion and sense of duty the medical staff have in their work. He said the Kayah State government will continue working hand in hand with the Ministry of Health and Sports in providing further support.

Next, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe gave his speech. He said the purpose of distributing the mobile tablets is to promote the public healthcare skills of the medical staff in addition to more effective dissemination of information relating to healthcare to the public and increasing the capability for medical treatment administered by doctors stationed



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe discusses the medical mobile tablets with officials in Loi-kaw's state hall in Kayah State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

in townships and settlements on the frontlines.

The Union Minister said future sustainable medical training and development of medical ethics will be performed using mobile tablets. He said the mobile tablets given to basic medical contain over 120 soft-copies of books, guidelines, handbooks and other documents distributed by the ministry. The mobile tablets given to doctors contain more than 400 documents on modern treatment procedures, guidebooks and references, he

said. Additionally, the latest documents will be transferred or amended from the central command in real-time.

The Union Minister said the mobile tablets will be able to send guidelines and procedures in times of public health emergencies and symptoms of potential epidemics as they occur so that the disease can be treated in the shortest possible time. He said better quality of medical treatment can be administered in township and rural medical facilities, thus reducing the need for

people from those areas to travel long distances to city hospitals.

The Union Minister said the mobile tablets will allow access to online lectures by professors and professionals from the medical field. He said the mobile tablets will help medical staff in facilitating public health talks and that medical training, discussions and treatment instructions could possibly be delivered through the mobile tablets in the future.

The Union Minister said 13,477 mobile tablets have been

purchased with national funds and 650 more were donated by private organizations. He said GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance will support the purchase of an additional 14,000 mobile tablets. He concluded his speech saying that the amount of investment in the mobile tablets will bring greater benefits in healthcare.

Afterwards, the Union Minister handed over the mobile tablets to Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho and State Minister for Development Affairs and Social Affairs Dr. Aung Kyaw Htay.

The mobile tablets were then distributed to 419 basic medical staff and 17 doctors of township-level hospitals, with the rest of the tablets to be distributed to the remaining medical officials soon.

Following this was an explanation of the documents and books contained in the mobile tablets by Dr. Aye Aye Sein, the Deputy Director-General of the Public Health Department. Additionally, Sagaing Region health ambassador Ma Mary Cole introduced the mobile tablets and Yangon Region health ambassador Dr. Soe Nyi Nyi Tun also performed a demonstration with medical staff. —MNA



## Anti-narcotics

Three centres for youth rehabilitation managed by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, and nine centres for rehabilitation managed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement were opened to give assistance, education and treatment programs to people taking mind-altering drugs and other kinds of substances. Assistance and rehabilitation to people suffering both physically and mentally was also given through educational and vocational training.

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

## Coordination meeting to hold “All who can read should read” event

COORDINATION meeting to successfully conduct “All who can read should read” campaign was held yesterday afternoon at Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun and officials from Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Planning and Finance.

At the meeting Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said the ministry is performing the works of issuing news, educating and entertainment. To disseminate knowledge to the public, learned and far-sighted people established Sarpay Beikman (Palace of Literature) under the theme of “remove darkness and bring forth light” and the ministry was continuing this implementation. Ministry of Information is also conducting literature festivals as well as literature activities such as paper reading, discussion, literature circle, book selling book street programs. Children’s literature festivals were also jointly organized with Ministry of Education, related state/region governments, well-wishers and donors. In-



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivers the speech at the coordination meeting yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

teractions were made between youngsters and children with literatures and books to instill in them the habit of reading. Arrangements are made so that they can be happy when visiting the children’s literature festivals. For university students, Youth All Round Development Festivals were conducted where reading as well as innovation is encouraged.

The State Counsellor likes reading and cherishes literature and had thought up and is implementing mobile library in the works of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. Next, Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and Ministry of Information is cooperating

on providing computer training and mobile library works in Information and Public Relations Department offices, libraries and community based centers.

Personnel from IPRD will play the main role for the people all over the country to cooperate and participate in a campaign based in Nay Pyi Taw to increase reading rate through a theme “All who can read should read.” All are urged to suggest and discuss in the meeting so that the event will include paper reading and discussion in addition to exhibitions on books and literature said Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint.

Following this, Union Min-

ister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said Ministry of Education had cooperated with Ministry of Information in holding children youth festivals and youth all round development festivals. All who can read must read and the country and the people will progress only when that culture become established. Ministry of Education is opening 20 libraries in schools under a pilot programme to increase the reading rate. All need to work together toward successfully holding the “All who can read –should read” event said Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.

Afterwards IPRD Director General U Ye Naing explained

about the aim and location of “All who can read should read” event, arrangements made for conducting discussion, paper reading and prize presentation, exhibitions and book sales, status of setting up committees and sub-committees.

Sector wise discussions and explanations were then made by Ministry of Education Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training Director General Dr. Aye Myint, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture Department of Historical Research and National Library Director General U Aung Myint, National Archives Department Director Daw Saw Nan Nwe, Myanmar Library Association secretary Dr. Khin Lay Soe and Myanmar libraries foundation central executive member U Maung Maung Oo (writer Hein Latt).

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and meeting attendees joined the discussion and provided suggestion and then the meeting came to a close with concluding remarks by Dr. Pe Myint.

“All who can read should read” is planned to be held in Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar International Convention Center-II (MICC-II) from 30 November to 1 December 2018.— MNA ■

## MoI holds 2<sup>nd</sup> coord meeting for 7<sup>th</sup> Media Development Conference

THE SECOND coordination meeting to discuss preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference on Media Development in Myanmar which will be conducted under the theme of ‘Building Effective Partnerships in Myanmar’s Media Development’, was held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 10am yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun delivered the opening speech at the meeting. He said the upcoming Media Development Conference is the 7<sup>th</sup> one to be held, and the first one to take place in

Nay Pyi Taw. He said the meeting will bring together experts from home and abroad, members of the media and individuals from relevant departments to discuss and find practical solutions to all the challenges present in Myanmar’s media sector.

He urged everyone in attendance to cooperate in ensuring the conference gets held on time.

The meeting discussed choices for the backdrop to be used at the forum and the list of discussion topics that will be

brought up with the panelists and participants at the forum.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Conference on Media Development in Myanmar will be held at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 December. The forum aims to pave a path for increasing cooperation between the democratic institutions and non-government entities in Myanmar, as well as empowering media reforms and media development processes.

The coordination meeting was attended by the heads of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Informa-



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun gives the opening speech at the meeting to prepare for 7<sup>th</sup> Media Development Conference. PHOTO: MNA

tion and officials and representatives from the Myanmar Press Council (MPC), UNESCO, IMS/

Fojo, DW Akademie, JICA, Internews and Myanmar Police Project. —MNA ■



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# MR to run Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay special trains during Thadingyut festival

THE state-run Myanma Railways said it will operate special trains for Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay journey for the convenience of commuters who will return to their residences during the period of Thadingyut festival of lights.

Under the schedules, the trains left the administrative capital Nay Pyi Taw at 9 pm on 22 October and it will arrive in Yangon at 7 am on 23 October. The train from Yangon will depart at 6 pm on 23 October and arrive in Mandalay at 8:45 am on 24 October.

The train from Mandalay will depart at 6:15 pm on 25 October and arrive in Yangon at 9 am on 25 October.

The train will leave Yangon at 9:30 am and arrive in Nay Pyi Taw at 7 am on 26 October.

The special trains will stop at every railway stations in Bago, Taungoo, Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw and Thazi.

Tickets are available at railway stations in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay starting on 21 October. Tickets are sold at a regular price, according to the railway authorities.

The Myanma Railways is putting more efforts to offer better services to the commuters through several railway improvement projects, including repair of railroads, replacement of carriages and installation of modern signals



Passengers seen on the train. Myanma Railways will run train services between Yangon and Mandalay during Thadingyut Festival. **PHOTO: MAUNG PYITHU (MANDALAY)**

and communication systems. The MR has been implementing the projects in cooperation

with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).—Maung Pyithu (Mandalay) ■

## New cargo terminal at MIA nearly complete

THE construction of a new cargo terminal near Mandalay International Airport nearly completed, which will bring about trade facilitation between Mandalay and Asian countries.

The project is conducted by Mc-Jalux Airport Services

Co. Ltd and is coordinating with the Department of Civil Aviation under the Ministry of Transport and Communications. On 21 October, the new cargo terminal operation event was held at the meeting hall of Mandalay Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the

fourth floor of Yadanapon Super Center on the corner of 78<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> streets in Chanayethazan Township.

At the event, vice chair Daw Khin Lay Myint delivered an opening remark. Then, Mr. Futoshi Hiroi, vice president of Mc-Jalux Airport Services Co.

Ltd explained about the construction of the cargo terminal that can provide smooth freight shipment service to and from Mandalay International Airport with the Asian countries- Thailand, Singapore and China. The terminal is 960 square meters. —Maung Pyithu (Mandalay) ■

## Illegal timber confiscated in Katha

AUTHORITIES have confiscated illegal timber at saw mill near Manlwe Village, Katha Township, Sagaing Region on 21 October.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising of officials from the township forest department and members of the police force inspected the suspected forest area near Manlwe Village, Katha Township.

During the search, the police found a total of 30 tim-



**PHOTO: LU AUNG (KATHA)**

ber logs weighing 3.82 tons. However, no person was found near the area.

Ongoing investigating has

been made by the local police in an attempt to arrest those in connection with the case.—Lu Aung (Katha) ■

## Pedestrian killed in car accident in Yangon's Ahlon Township

A young man died on the spot after being struck by a container truck on Sunday early morning in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region, according to a police report.

The accident occurred near Summit restaurant on Strand Road in Lutlatye Ward in Ahlon Township at around 00:45 am on 21 October. The container truck being driven by 29-year-old Hein Lin Maung en route from Kyimyindine Township to Ahlon Township crashed into the victim while the latter was crossing the road. The victim died from the wounds to his head at the scene.

Police filed charges against the driver for his careless driving under Section 304 (a) of the Penal Code.

Investigations are continuing.—Tin Maung Oo (Ahlon) ■

## Yaba seized in Buthidaung

ACTING on a tip-off, authorities stopped a suspected vehicle carrying charcoal bags on the way to Ywama Village, Buthidaung Township on 21 October.

The authorities team led by the Myoma Ward administrator U Zaw Zaw Hlaing asked the vehicle driver for identification. The driver, Mohammad Haryaw was asked to drive to Buthidaung

Myoma police station in order to check the vehicle. When the police searched the vehicle they found 1,911,000 Yaba tablets weighing 191.1 kilogram worth Ks3.8 billion from 55 charcoal bags. When interrogated, the driver Mohammad Haryaw admitted that these Yaba tablets were owned by Marmat Islam who asked him to bring these

tablets. After that, the police searched the house of Marmat Islam and found 975,000 Yaba tablets weighing 97.5 kilogram worth Ks195 million and Ks30,000 from a purse. The police have filed charges against the suspects under sections 15, 19-A, 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Township IPRD ■



## Pigeon pea plantation acreage remarkably drops from uncertainty of India's market

By May Thet Hnin

FOLLOWING the Ministry of Commerce's instruction to reduce plantation acres due to low market share of mung bean and pigeon pea to India, the number of pigeon peas plantations dropped by half in the current growing season.

"About 50 per cent of pigeon peas acres have dropped, primarily in the upper Myanmar, Shan State and Sagaing Region. Those areas which other beans can be easily grown did not choose pigeon peas this season", said U Min Ko Oo, general secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Mung beans are started to be grown in October and November. Some mung bean growers reduced their acreage and conducted mixed-farming the crops with pigeon peas, cowpea (bocate), and soybean.

The prevailing price of pigeon pea remained stable at Ks480,000 per ton whereas mung bean price has increased to Ks600,000 per ton. Therefore, mung bean plantation acres are not lower than pigeon pea's, U Min Ko Oo said.

"Mung bean price has risen back when growing season is approaching. We need to observe the growers' choice. Those acreages may possibly decrease to a certain extent next year", he said.

India set import quota on pulses from the importer countries including Myanmar with an attempt to protect their

farmers' rights, resulting in the price downfall of mung bean and pigeon pea. The prices were even lower than cultivation cost.

India announced import quota of 150,000 tons of mung beans and green gram each and 200,000 tons of pigeon peas. Myanmar's mung bean export sounds secured as 70 per cent of India's mung bean impor-

Magway Region growers turned to black sesame seeds (samon variety), accounting for 75 per cent of overall growers. Some substituted mung bean with butter bean and green grams, said U Sein Lwin, executive member of Magway Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Magway Region witnesses lesser plantations of mung



Myanmar pulses are kept on display for sale in a shop at a market. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

tation is reliant on Myanmar. However, the country's pigeon peas export is in uncertain state as a commercial deal as it has only 30 per cent of market share.

In addition to India's market, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia and China purchase Myanmar's mung bean. Meanwhile, pigeon peas are in low demand by India. The demand of Bangladesh and Nepal is relatively smaller. There is no firm market for pigeon peas.

beans and pigeon peas. Most of the growers turned to black sesame seeds as they can boost export volume to China. Sesame is a profitable crop, allowing the growers to earn well", he added.

At present, other various pulses are fetching a good price when the prices of mung bean and pigeon peas are the lowest.

Myanmar is endeavouring to proceed to trading under Government to Government agreement with India. ■

## September's inflation shows slight increase

THE average rate of inflation in Myanmar based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) slightly increased to 5.94 per cent in September compared to August's rate, according to an announcement released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

In 2018, the average inflation rate in March indicated the lowest of 4.02 per cent. Last month's inflation rate is the highest level this year.

September's core CPI inflation which stripes out volatile food and energy prices was up by 0.88 per cent compared to August's.

In the past twelve months, the year-on-year inflation rate in September 2018 hit the highest rate of 8.59 per cent while the inflation rate in October 2017 indicated the lowest of 4 per cent.

In September, Mandalay City recorded the highest inflation rate at 10.82 per cent, followed by Rakhine State at 10.28 per cent and Magway Region at 7.39 per cent. The year-on-year inflation rate fluctuated with a maximum rate of 13.30 per cent in Rakhine State and a minimum rate of 3.46 per cent in Kayah State.

The torrential rain in July, August and September flooded some plantations, resulting in

low yield. Transportation difficulty by flood caused hindrance to trade flow. Food group, non-food group, tobacco and beverages group, household goods and maintenance group, transportation group, other commodities group, clothing, health, education services, recreation and culture and housing groups showed a remarkable increase in CPI. Telecommunication group indicated slight decrease. As Myanmar currency keeps depreciating against the US dollar, prices of imported goods were on the high side. Transportation costs have also risen due to the soaring fuel oil price, hiking up the commodity prices. All the states and regions including Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw cities showed a significant increase in CPI rate.

Previously, the inflation rate was evaluated based on a 2006 survey and then, the base year tuned to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November 2012. In an attempt to reduce the inflation rate, the authorities concerned made efforts on the basis of the policies of finance, currency, trade and foreign currency control, according to the second five-year National Development Plan. — Htet Myat ■

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# Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint receives Executive Director from Korea-ASEAN Friendship Association (KAFA)

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received a delegation led by Executive Director Dr. Mr. Sung Ki Baik from Korea-ASEAN Friendship Association (KAFA) at the guest hall of the Ministry of Information at 12:30 pm yesterday.

In the meeting, Dr. Mr. Sung Ki Baik discussed the coordination for engineering, management, medical science and opening art schools in Nay Pyi Taw by organizations and businesses from South Korea, while the Union Minister shared his experience of visiting Busan and Seoul, Republic of Korea last month and also discussed the development of the film industry in Myanmar, including the emergence of the Film Studio and Film Art School in Nay Pyi Taw.

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



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint meets with Executive Director Dr. Mr. Sung Ki Baik from Korea-ASEAN Friendship Association and his delegate at the Ministry of Information yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Myanmar Investment Commission’s work in August and September of 2018

MYANMAR INVESTMENT Commission is permitting local and foreign investments according to Myanmar Investment Law.

Myanmar Investment Commission had permitted in August 2018 a total foreign investment including the increasing of investment totals US\$ 436.921 million and in September 2018 a total foreign investment including the increasing of investment totals US\$ 455.429 million.

Foreign investment permitted during August and September of 2018 are as follow.

Sr.	Sector	August		September	
		No. of Investments	Capital US\$ million	No. of investments	Capital US\$ million
a	Transportation and communication sector	-	130.000*	1	44.110
b	Industrial sector	8	113.576*	13	210.034*
c	Electrical sector	-	-	1	92.680
d	Housing and building construction sector	1	170.200	1	84.800*
e	Hotel and tourism sector	1	0.271	-	-
f	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	1	7.874*	1	14.567*
g	Other service sector	1	15.000	3	9.238*
Total		12	436.921	20	455.429

\*Increase in the investment was included in the investment amount.

Myanmar Investment Commission had permitted in August 2018 a total Myanmar national investment totaling Ks 83,288.730 million and in September a total Myanmar national investment totaling Ks 98,929.457 million.

Myanmar national investment permitted during August and September 2018 are as follow.

Sr.	Sector	August		September	
		No. of investments	Capital Kyat million	No. of investments	Capital Kyat million
a	Transportation and communication sector	-	-	1	5,000.000
b	Housing and building construction sector	1	2,490.422	-	-
c	Industrial sector	3	7,641.598	5	8,226.105
d	Hotel and tourism sector	4	59,632.260	4	13,040.000

e	Electricity sector	-	-	1	9,569.310
f	Other service sector	1	13,524.450	20	63,094.042
Total		9	83,288.730	31	98,929.457

\*Increase in the investment was included in the investment amount.

Increased number of jobs created by foreign investment during August and September 2018 are as follow.

Sr.	Sector	No. of jobs created for local workers	
		August	September
a	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	176	142
b	Industrial sector	1,411	7,213
c	Electrical sector	-	36
d	Transportation and communication sector	-	148
e	Hotel and tourism sector	25	-
f	Housing and building construction sector	2,022	135
g	Other service sector	48	122
Total		3,682	7,796

Increased number of jobs created by Myanmar nationals investment during August and September 2018 are as follow.

Sr.	Sector	No. of jobs created for local workers	
		August	September
a	Electrical sector	-	20
b	Industrial sector	238	879
c	Hotel and tourism sector	371	285
d	Housing and building construction sector	18	-
e	Transportation and communication sector	-	89
f	Other service sector	167	669
Total		794	1,942

MNA

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## UEC asks 27 political parties confirmation for their joint statement

Twenty-seven political parties held a meeting on 30 September and issued a joint statement urging authorities and the incumbent government to bring about stable and economic development as the people are facing social insecurity due to economic decline, and the joint statement was sent to Union Election Commission (UEC).

The Guiding Star Party, one of the parties mentioned in the joint statement, had said that its central committee chairman and central executive committee members were not notified

for the joint statement.

The party informed the UEC that as the party was not formed for an individual, action will be taken against any party member(s) who conducted anything without the acknowledgement of the party and not following its policy.

Similarly, Confederate Farmers Party said that Party Chairman U San Lin signed the joint statement on his own accord without obtaining the decision of the party central executive committee and thus the party and the central executive committee is not

involved in the joint statement.

The party informed UEC that it does not approve of the act.

As per these two complaints, it appears that the joint statement was signed individually without the consent of the relevant party executive committee.

UEC has informed the 27 political parties to report back to UEC by 1 November on whether there was any confirmation made by CECs of parties concerned over the statement.

— MNA ■

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

CHIEF JUSTICE of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court judges U Myint Aung and U Aung Zaw Thein of Special Appellate Bench sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning and passed judgment on four (Certiorari) civil cases and heard five other (Certiorari) civil cases. —MNA ■

## Ayeyawady dolphin conservation area extended

EXTENSION area for Ayeyawady dolphin conservation has been set between Htigyaing and Shwegu areas. The opening ceremony of extension area will be conducted on 27 October at Strand Road view point in Katha Town, said U Kyaw Hla Thein, the project manager from Ayeyawady dolphin conservation project.

“According to February 2017 statistics, there were 69 Ayeyawady dolphins, up from 65 dolphins which were surveyed in February 2016. At present, there are 76 Ayeyawady dolphins around protected area, according to February 2018 statistics. We have planned to conduct survey in February 2019 and we don’t know exactly how many dolphins will be

numbered because there are new born dolphin and some are dead, said U Kyaw Hla Thein.

There are three phrases of Ayeyawady dolphin conservation area. At present, a total of 76 dolphins are naturally habitat including 26 dolphins from Mandalay to Shwebo townships along the Ayeyawady River, 37 dolphins from Malae village to Shwegu townships and 13 dolphins from Ayeyawady Hsin kan bridge to Bhamo Town. This new conservation area is one of the second designated area for Ayeyawady dolphin. The first dolphin conservation area was set from Mingun to Kyaukmyaung in Mandalay in 2005, he added.—Myo Min Tun (Monywa) ■

## Twenty huge paper boxes containing cigarettes confiscated in Maungtaw Township

TWENTY huge paper boxes containing illegal cigarettes readied for illegal export to another country was confiscated in Maungtaw Township, said local police.

While members the Myanmar Police Force from Tamantha Outpost in Maungtaw Township were conducting patrol on the evening of 20 October, they found 10 men carrying boxes along the

Pyuma Creek. As they fled when asked to stop, two warning shots were fired. They managed to escape from the scene but left the boxes. Police found 18 boxes containing Marble brand cigarette and 2 boxes to contain Man San brand cigarettes. The contraband cigarettes are estimated to be worth about Ks 2.36 million and a case had been opened in Aung Zu police station.—MNA



PHOTO: MNA

## Myanmar hosts 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports



ASEAN high level officials convene at the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports hosted by Myanmar in Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS) and other relevant meetings were held at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw at 9am yesterday. Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein, who is also the Vice-Chair of Myanmar Olympic Committee, attended the meetings.

The Deputy Minister delivered an address at the meeting, saying ASEAN leaders made a promise to support the AMMS to increase cooperation in organizing sport activities so that the citizens of ASEAN countries will become healthier. She said the Joint Statement of the Fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS-4), held in Nay Pyi Taw in 2017, contained ten points which basically outlined working towards healthier lifestyles, friendly coexistence, regional

and national sports development, and promoting good sportsmanship. She said the implementation of the ASEAN Physical Fitness Indicators (APFI) has contributed to increased sport skills.

The ministerial meeting then commenced. At the SOMS-7 meeting, Thailand discussed the proposals for Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar, among other countries, to cohost the 2034 World Cup. There were also discussions on Myanmar leading the cause to promote the traditional sports from ASEAN countries, with support from China, in compiling a sort of encyclopedia on ASEAN traditional sports; gaining approval for conducting fitness tests on children and the elderly, led by Thailand, after amassing public physical fitness indicators and information from ASEAN coun-

tries; increasing inclusion of women and youths in sports; and the topic of TV Games (E Sports).

An official from the ASEAN Secretary General’s office then led the discussion on completing the remaining 13 tasks out of 36 tasks to be performed related to sports between 2016 to 2020.

They also discussed the preparations for the ASEAN School Games to be hosted in Myanmar, ending use of banned drugs in sport competitions and raising awareness on the topic in the ASEAN Region, and the use of funds in combating international use of banned drugs.

In the evening, officials from the ASEAN Secretary General’s office read the decisions made at the SOMS-7, which were discussed by the ASEAN officials and whereby decisions were made.—MNA ■



## Withdrawal of EU's GSP could hurt 2 million vulnerable people

THE EU said on 5 October that the block is considering withdrawing Myanmar's preferential trade status (GSP – Generalized System of Preferences) accusing Myanmar of committing human rights violations in Rakhine last year.

Regarding the allegations of widespread human rights violations in Rakhine State, the leaders of Myanmar, who have been struggling so long for freedom and human rights, will never condone any action that can be construed as ethnic cleansing or genocide.

The Union Government established the Independent Commission of Enquiry which includes two eminent diplomats from the Philippines and Japan as part of its commitment to addressing the issue of accountability based evidence of human rights violations.

It has pledged repeatedly that it will take action against offenders whenever there is clear evidence.

The complexities and challenges in Rakhine cannot be seen in isolation and through a narrow lens of human rights of one particular community alone and international communities should understand the issue based on objective, impartial and accurate information and reports before making an important policy decision.

Regarding the EU thoughts on GSP withdrawal from Myanmar, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin exchanged views with the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Commission in Brussels recently and explained developments surrounding the issue of Rakhine State.

The Union Minister explained that the EU's Generalized System 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 an estimated 2 million people including their families, if the EU decides to withdraw GSP on Myanmar.

Should withdrawal of GSP take place and the garment orders shrink, workers and their families will be the victims who suffer the consequences of the EU's decision.

The workers in the private sector garment industry will migrate to either Thailand or Malaysia and in the process, disrupt the socio-economic situations of the receiving countries as well as in Myanmar.

It is regrettable to hear that EU is considering the withdrawal its GSP from our country while we were still recovering from the economic sanctions and the democratically elected government is struggling with challenges on its way to democracy.

Anyway, the Myanmar Government stands ready to receive the proposed visit of the EU trade delegation and is making arrangements to hold discussions about the issue.

“

Should withdrawal of GSP take place and the garment orders shrink, workers and their families will be the victims who suffer the consequences of the EU's decision.

By Ashin ādiccavamsa  
(Sāsana University)

THE word 'Abhidhamma' is composed of two parts – 'Abhi' and 'Dhamma'. According to the Añhasālini commentary, there are two meanings in the prefix 'Abhi' – 'Ātīreka' – exceeding and 'Visesa' – distinct. Although the word 'Dhamma' is multi-significant term, here it is used in the sense of 'Teaching' or 'Doctrine.' The word 'Abhidhamma' can, therefore, be translated into English 'Exceeding Teaching or Distinct Teaching. It is an exceeding Dhamma and distinct from Sutta Piṇaka and by the method of presentation.

In Sutta Piṇaka, the Buddha has used conventional terms such as man, animal, being and so on. In the Abhidhamma Piṇaka, on the contrary, the terms of ultimate reality such as Khanda (aggregate), āyatana (base), Dhātu (element), Saccā (truth), etc. are used. By the method of presentation, the Dhamma in Abhidhamma is minutely analyzed while the same Dhamma in Sutta Pitaka is treated as a whole. For example, the five aggregates (pañcakkhandā) in Saṃyutta Nikāya of Sutta Piṇaka are treated in one page, and 68 pages in the Vibhaṅga of Abhidhamma Pitaka. It is because, in Sutta Pitaka, they are treated as a whole. In Abhidhamma, they are treated by way of explanation of Suttanta method, by way of explanation of Abhidhamma method, and by way of questions and answers.

There are seven treatises in Abhidhamma and twelve books (4981 pages) in the version of the Sixth Buddhist Council (Chanñhasaughāyana). The first one is Dhammasaṅgaṇī, Classification of Dhamma, and Citta (Consciousness), Cetasika (Mental State), Rāpa (Matter), etc. are classified in this treatise. The second treatise is Vibhaṅga, Analysis of Dhammas, and the subjects in Dhammasaṅgaṇī are further analyzed in this treatise. The third one is called Dhātukathā, Discussion with reference to Elements (Dhātus), and in this treatise, it is discussed whether Dhammas are included or not included in, associated in or dissociated from, Khandas (aggregates), āyatanas (bases), Dhātus (elements). The forth one is Puggalapaññatti,

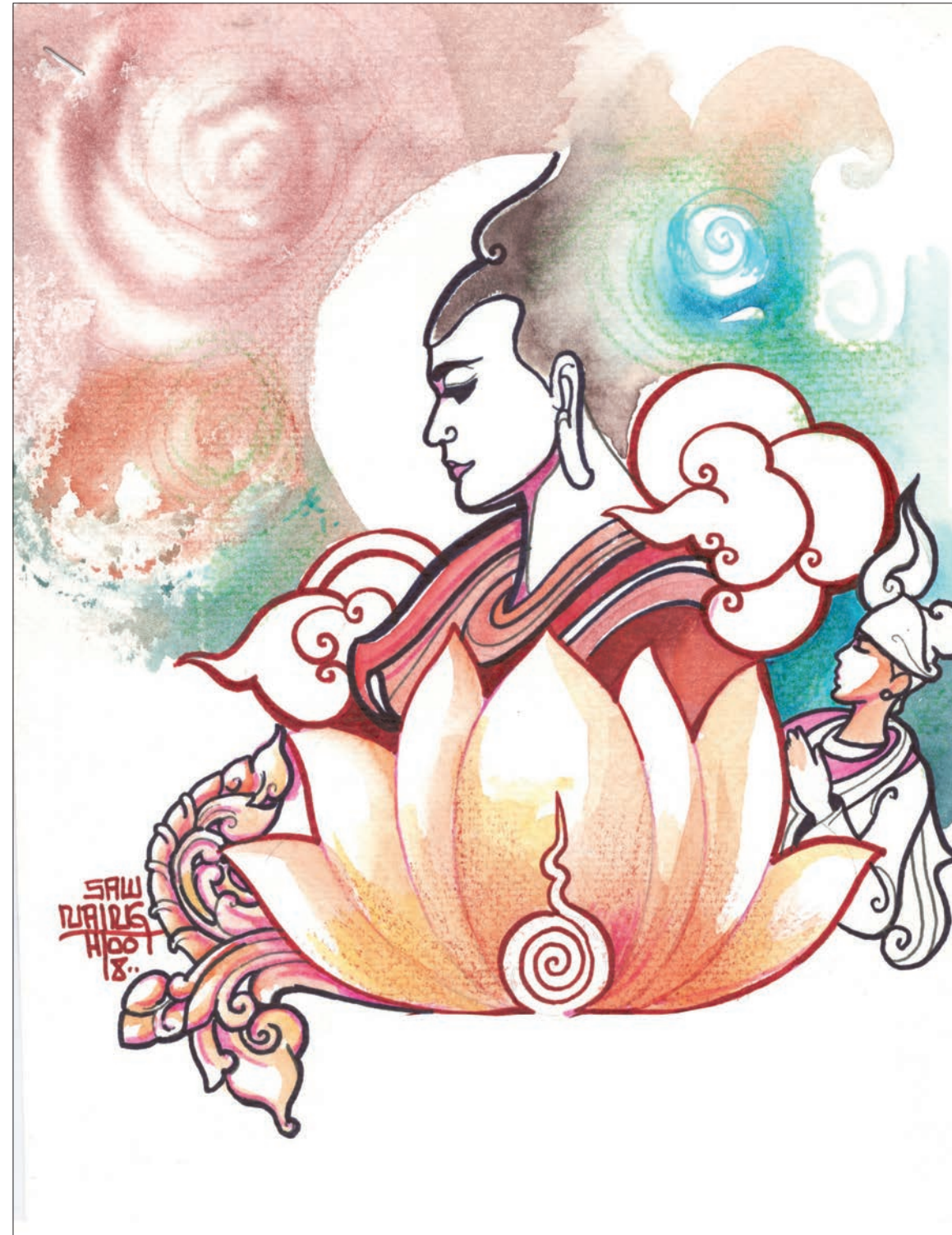
Designation of Types of Individuals, and in the method, it resembles to the Aṅuttara Nikāya of Sutta Pitaka. Different types of individuals are mentioned in this treatise instead of dealing with various Dhammas.

The fifth one is called Kathāvatthu, Points of Controversy, and the authorship of this treatise is ascribed to Venerable Moggalliputta Tissa Thera who flourished in the time of King Asoka. He was also a presiding monk of the third Buddhist Council held at Pañāliputta (Pañana of Modern India) in the 3rd century B.C. This work of his is also included in that Council. According to Athhasālini Commentary, there are one thousand Suttas: five hundred orthodox and five hundred heterodox in this treatise. However, Venerable Moggalliputta Tissa Thera, while preaching this treatise, did not use his own opinion. He preached this treatise in accord with the method given by the Buddha. As it is preached with the method given by the Buddha, it is respectfully ascribed to the treatise of Buddha.

The Sixth one is Yamaka, Book of Pairs, and the method of treatment used in this treatise is a pair of questions and answers. Therefore, question and its converse are found grouped together in this book. The seventh and the most prominent treatise in Abhidhamma is Paññhana, the Book of Causal Relations. It is also the most important, the most profound and the most voluminous book in Abhidhamma. The term Paññhana is composed of the prefix 'Pa', various, and 'ñhana', relation or condition (Paccaya). It is so called because it deals with 24 modes of causal relations.

The Buddha preached Ab-

The Buddha, while preaching Abhidhamma, preached continuously the whole three months. When it was time for alms round, He created another Buddha by His mental power.



hidhamma at Tavatiūsā celestial abode in seventh rainy season (Vassa) after His enlightenment as a mark of gratitude to His mother Deva (celestial being), named Santusita. His mother who died seventh day after His birth was born as a celestial being of Tusita celestial abode. When the Buddha preached Abhidhamma, all Bramās and celestial beings (Devas) including His mother Deva (celestial being) of the entire Universe gathered to listen it. The Buddha preached Abhidhamma at Tavatiūsā celestial abode because it is too long for human beings to listen it at a single sitting. The delivery of Abhidhamma took the whole rainy season (3 months) in human abode and it is just a moment of Tavatiūsā celestial abode.

The Buddha, while preaching

Abhidhamma, preached continuously the whole three months. When it was time for alms round, He created another Buddha by His mental power. While the created Buddha was taking over to preach, the real Buddha went down to Human abode for alms. There He met Venerable Sariputtarā (the First Disciple of Him) and also preached the table of contents in the smallest size of Abhidhamma. Venerable Sariputtarā was so endowed with analytical knowledge and he made it suitable to preach it again to 500 disciple monks of him. The Abhidhamma preached by Venerable Sariputtarā is neither too large nor too small. Therefore, there became three versions of Abhidhamma. The first one is the Abhidhamma preached by the Buddha to celestial beings and

it is too large. The second one is the Abhidhamma preached by the Buddha to Venerable Sariputtarā and it is the smallest size of Abhidhamma. The third and last one is the Abhidhamma preached by Venerable Sariputtarā 500 disciple monks of him and it is neither too large nor too small. The Abhidhamma we are learning now is the Abhidhamma preached by Venerable Sariputtarā 500 disciple monks of him.

At the end of Abhidhamma, Santusita Deva, previously the Buddha's mother, had reached to the Sotāpatti Fruition (the first stage of sainthood). Then the Buddha returned to the human abode by stepping down the stair created by Sakka (the celestial king of tavatiūsā) on full moon day of Thadingyut. Sakka (the celestial king of tavatimsa) created

three stairs leading down to the gateway of the city of Sankassa in human abode. The middle stair was built of ruby for the Buddha to step down. The right side stair was built of gold for the celestial beings and the left stair was built of silver for Bramās. The returning Buddha was honored by celestial regalia and ceremonies. Many of celestial beings accompanied the Buddha. When the Buddha set foot upon the gateway of Sankassa City, the crowd waiting there paid obeisance to the Buddha and a grand ceremony with the light was held to welcome and honor Him. To commemorate this great event in the lifetime of the Buddha, the Myanmar People held the light festival on full moon day of Thadingyut.

Actually, the full moon day of Thadingyut is also the ending day of Abhidhamma which the Buddha preached in the way of the largest size, the ending day of Abhidhamma which the Buddha preached to Venerable Sariputtarā in the way of the smallest size, and the ending day of Abhidhamma which Venerable Sariputtarā preached in the way which is neither too large nor too small. Therefore, the Abhidhamma Society of Yangon City designated that day as 'Abhidhamma Day' as directed by Dr. U Linn (Aggamahapandita) and firstly celebrated the ceremony on the full moon day of Thadingyut in 1311 M.E (1949 A.D). In the first ceremony, the questions and answers on Abhidhamma written by Yamike Sayadaw of Dhammavihara Monastery, Kyauk Myaung, and some selected texts from seven Abhidhamma treatises were recited. From that day onwards, the ceremony was held annually. In 1316 M.E (1954 A.D), the sixth ceremony was greatly held at Yangon City Hall and Dr. U Ba Oo, the then president of Myanmar, opened the ceremony. On that Abhidhamma Day Ceremony, Abhidhamma questions and answers, some poems on Abhidhamma in Pāli were written by Tipiṇakadharmabāṇāgarika Baddanta Vicittasārābhivaūsa, the Ovādacariya Sayādaw of the Society. From that day onwards, those of recitals and some selected texts from seven Abhidhamma treatises were recited in every Abhidhamma Day in all over the country.

■ ■ ■

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

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 20/2018 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 20 October.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 20 October.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 24 October issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM ■



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Monday 22 October 2018)

**SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST:** During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin states, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mandalay and Magway regions, Northern Shan and Rakhine states, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Eastern Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and isolated heavy falls in Mon State. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Maubin (7.40) inches, Khayan (6.06) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (6.02) inches, Nyaungdon (5.81) inches, Bago (5.75) inches, Central Yangon (5.51) inches, Yangon (Mingladon) (5.47) inches, Hmawbi and Yangon (North Dagon) (5.19) inches each, ZaungTu (4.41) inches, Kungyangon (3.66) inches, Hlegu (3.23) inches, Zalun (3.15) inches and Theinzayet (3.03) inches.

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Deltaic areas still persists. Weather is cloudy over the North Andaman Sea and East Central Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy elsewhere in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 23 October 2018:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin states, scattered in Taninthayi Region and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Magway regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and isolated heavy falls in Rakhine and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Wave height will be about (9-12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 October 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 October 2018:** Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 October 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).



# Israel advances bill tying cultural funding to ‘loyalty’

JERUSALEM — A ministerial committee in Israel’s parliament voted on Sunday to advance a bill that would cut subsidies to cultural organizations accused of not showing “loyalty” to the state, the culture minister said.

The proposed legislation, denounced by artists and freedom of speech activists, was proposed by Culture Minister Miri Regev.

The text of the bill must be voted on in three parliamentary readings before becoming law.

It would give the finance and culture ministries the power to slash subsidies to any institution presenting work that denies Israel’s existence as a democratic and Jewish state or that marks the state’s independence day as a national day of mourning.

For Palestinians, the anniversary marks the Nakba, or “catastrophe”, when more than 700,000 fled or were expelled during the war surrounding Israel’s

creation.

The draft law would also see funding cut over work that attacks the state flag, or incites racism or terrorism.

“I am very happy that this law has been passed by the Ministerial Committee on Legislation,” Regev wrote on Facebook.

“It will then be presented to the Knesset to be adopted, God willing, next month... Yes to freedom of culture, no to provocations!”

Regev, a member of Israel’s ruling right-wing Likud party, is no stranger to controversy and has repeatedly clashed with the country’s largely left-leaning cultural elite.

Last year she slammed the Israeli drama “Foxtrot”, which won the Venice Film Festival’s second highest prize, for spreading untruths about the Israeli army.

She was not invited to Sep-



Israeli Culture Minister Miri Regev. PHOTO: AFP

tember’s Ophir Awards — Israel’s version of the Oscars — where “Foxtrot” won the best

picture prize.

She instead appeared live on her Facebook page to crit-

icise the movie and members of Israel’s Film and Television Academy.—AFP ■

## Crowds protest latest deadly rebel raid in DR Congo

BENI (DR Congo) — Crowds protested in the streets in Beni, eastern DR Congo, after rebels killed at least 11 people and abducted 15 others, including children, in an overnight raid, local officials said.

The attack, thought to have been carried out by members of the Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), targeted Beni, the regional army spokesman Captain Mak Hazukay told AFP.

Local people, carrying the bodies of three of the civilians killed in the attack, took to the streets following the attack, said Aloys Bwarara, the mayor of the district of Ruwezori.

Other people, furious at the attack had set fire to the post office and a town hall, he added, “...which I deplore because we are doing everything to keep the population safe”.

“We went down with three bodies as far as the town hall,” said one local man, motorbike-taxi driver Paluku Thaiswi-

ka. “The police came to break it up because another group of young people had burnt down the post office and two annexes of the town hall,” he added.

Law student Guillaume Saliboko said some local people had set up road blocks in the town’s main street to make their anger known.

“We can’t understand how the ADF rebels can kill us in the middle of the town every time,” he added.

Police recovered the bodies of 11 civilians killed in the town of Matete north of Beni, Beni police chief Colonel Safari Kazungu told AFP. The missing children were from five to 10 years old, he added.

Army spokesman Hazukay said: “We repulsed the attack but unfortunately, there were deaths among the civilians and soldiers.”

He did not say how many soldiers had been killed, but one local resident told AFP he

had seen the bodies of two uniformed men at the site of the fighting.

Earlier, a spokeswoman for the UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO told AFP they had been involved in an exchange of fire lasting several hours with suspected rebels near Beni.

The ADF, which US authorities designated a terror group in 2001, is a militia created by Muslim rebels to oppose Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni but which also operates in the DRC.

They are held responsible for a string of attacks in the region and are thought to have killed at least 700 civilians — and 15 Tanzanian peacekeepers in a December assault last year — in a string of attacks carried out since 2014.

Uganda accuses the group of links to Somalia’s Al-Shabaab Islamist insurgents.

Kizito Din-Hangi, the chairman of a local community as-

sociation, said residents had taken to the streets in a spontaneous expression of anger at the repeated bloodshed in their region.

“Nobody called for a rally — (this is) a protest against repeated killings in Beni,” Din-Hangi said.

The Lucha (Struggle For Change) protest group tweeted that the protest was “not particularly the solution — but understandable for a population so shattered and scorned” by the authorities.

MONUSCO, whose mission is now 17,000 strong and is among the UN’s largest, have been in the DRC since 1999 with an annual budget of \$1.153 billion.

On Tuesday, MONUSCO head Leila Zerrougui told reporters that eventual “negotiations” were envisaged with the ADF without giving details of what they might entail.—AFP ■

## Egypt arrests economist after critical book: lawyer

CAIRO (Egypt) — Egyptian police on Sunday arrested economist Abdel Khalek Farouk after the publication of his book critically analysing the country’s economic and social crises, a lawyer said.

Farouk announced last week that the security forces had confiscated copies of his latest book entitled “Is Egypt Really a Poor Country?”.

“He was officially arrested and will be presented to the state security prosecutor tomorrow because of this book,” said Gamal Eid, a lawyer who heads the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information.

The prosecutor would specify the main charges against Farouk on Monday, Eid told AFP.

Following his detention, police had verbally informed him that the book was the reason they had taken him in, the lawyer added. Since President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi came to power in 2014, human rights groups have accused Egyptian authorities of muzzling all dissent.

The authorities say they aim to fight against terrorism and the “spreading of false information”.—AFP ■

## Saudi royals offer condolences to missing journalist’s family

RIYADH — Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz have called the son of Jamal Khashoggi to express

condolences to the family of the missing Saudi journalist over his death, state-run Saudi Press Agency reported on Sunday.

Saleh Khashoggi, the son,

thanked the royals for their condolences.

Khashoggi, a columnist for *The Washington Post*, has been missing since he entered the Saudi consulate in Turkey’s

Istanbul on 2 October.

The kingdom said early Saturday that Khashoggi had died in a “brawl” in its consulate but did not explain the cause of his death.—Xinhua ■



# Trump says 'full efforts' under way to stop migrant caravan

WASHINGTON (United States) — President Donald Trump said on Sunday that "full efforts" were under way to halt the progress of thousands of Honduran migrants toward the United States.

"Full efforts are being made to stop the onslaught of illegal aliens from crossing our Southern Border," Trump tweeted.

"People have to apply for asylum in Mexico first, and if they fail to do that, the US will turn them away. The courts are asking the US to do things that

are not doable!

"The Caravans are a disgrace to the Democrat Party. Change the immigration laws NOW!" Trump has warned that he would cut aid to the region, deploy the military and close the US-Mexican border if authorities do not stop them.

Mexico has vowed to detain any migrants who cross without visas, though it has also said it will process their asylum requests, and has asked for the UN refugee agency's help in



US President Donald Trump. PHOTO: AFP

doing so.

Trump has made curbing illegal immigration a keystone of his presidency. Barely a week

goes by without him warning about the danger posed by ultra-violent Central American gangs like MS-13, while

chants of "build the wall" are a staple of his pre-midterm elections campaign rallies. —AFP ■

## Norway mourns WWII resistance fighter who halted Nazis' nuclear drive

OSLO (Norway) — Norwegian World War II hero Joachim Ronneberg, who led a major sabotage operation against the Nazis in his occupied homeland, died on Sunday, aged 99.

Ronneberg's daring operation was given the Hollywood treatment in 1965 in the film "The Heroes of Telemark" starring Kirk Douglas.

"Ronneberg is probably the last of the best known resistance fighters to pass away," Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg told the *NTB* news

agency.

Ronneberg trained with the Norwegian resistance in Britain and in February 1943 led a six-man team on a secret mission called Operation Gunnerside.

They sabotaged a plant in southern Norway that produced heavy water, a component in early nuclear energy research, putting a halt to the Nazis' nuclear weapon ambitions.

Situated near the city of Rjukan, the Vemork plant at the time was the only one in the

world that produced significant quantities of heavy water.

After the war he turned to journalism and for a long time was reticent about his wartime experiences.

Then in the 1970s he broke his silence, and became known for his involvement with young people to make them aware of the dangers of war.

"Those growing up today need to understand that we must always be ready to fight for peace and freedom," he said. —AFP ■



Norwegian World War II hero Joachim Ronneberg, seen here in 2013 at a London ceremony in his honour for leading an operation to destroy the German occupied Heavy Water Plant in Vemork, Norway. PHOTO: AFP

## Nationalists on top in Poland's local polls, but lose in Warsaw

WARSAW (Poland) — Poland's governing nationalists came out on top in regional elections on Sunday, but were losing to opposition centrists in mayoral races in large cities including the capital Warsaw, exit polls showed.

Sunday's ballot was the first since a 2015 parliamentary election that handed the Law and Justice (PiS) party an unprecedented parliamentary majority and was seen as a key test for the nationalists as they gear up for EU and legislative elections next year.

The local elections also took place as the PiS has put Poland on a collision course with the European Union by introducing a string of controversial judicial reforms that the bloc has warned pose a threat to judicial independence, the rule of law and ultimately to democracy.

Exit polls by the IPSOS pollsters showed the PiS winning 32.3 per cent of the vote in elections to regional councils across Poland, beating a centrist-liberal coalition headed by the opposition Civic Platform (PO) with 24.7 per cent.

Powerful PiS leader Jarosław Kaczyński hailed his party's victory as a "good sign" for next year's parliamentary elections, despite the exit poll

result suggesting that the PiS is unlikely to be able to govern alone in regional councils.

The PiS currently controls only one of Poland's 16 regional councils.

Exit polls also showed the Polish Peasants' Party (PSL), traditionally strong in rural areas, winning 16.6 per cent of the vote, a result likely to turn it into a kingmaker in coalition-building.

The party has previously teamed up with the PO liberals to govern at the national level.

But the PiS nationalists have failed to top in mayoral races in any major city.

PO liberal Rafal Trzaskowski, a 46-year-old former minister and member of the European Parliament, appeared to have won in Warsaw in the first round of voting with the IPSOS exit poll showing him on 54.1 per cent against 30.9 per cent for PiS candidate Patryk Jaki.

PO candidates also dominated in the first round vote in Lodz, Poznan, Lublin and Wroclaw.

Mayoral races in Gdansk and Krakow will likely be decided in a second round of voting on 4 November.

Full official election results will be made public on Tuesday evening at the earliest. — AFP ■



# In Delhi, walk with Gandhi in the President's House

NEW DELHI (India) — With a moon rock, a chunk of Mount Everest and the chance to stroll with Gandhi, the President's House in Delhi is lifting the veil on its treasures in its new museum.

The President's House, a classical palace with an Indian twist, is one of the grandest buildings in India, built by the British as the Viceroy's House.

Storerooms not opened for decades — some because of superstition — were unlocked in a treasure hunt to put together the Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum's collection.

It recreates moments from India's independence struggle such as Mahatma Gandhi's landmark protest march against the salt tax in 1930 and the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre of civilians by troops under British command.



Museum visitors are projected with independence icon Mahatma Gandhi on a screen using a chroma key effect. **PHOTO: AFP**

Technology allows visitors to walk with Gandhi in the virtual reality room, while interactive

features include a flipbook of India's constitution.

"The museum depicts the

democratic heritage of India and gives a peek into the lives of former presidents," education

officer Pankaj Protim Bordoloi told AFP.

"We have used augmented technology to keep visitors involved and interested. The museum is always a work in progress and we will add more exhibits as we discover them," said Bordoloi.

Drawcards include a Mercedes car given to late premier Rajiv Gandhi by the king of Jordan and a horse-drawn presidential buggy complete with horses.

The collection also includes a long-lost painting of Robert Clive (1725-74), commander-in-chief of British India.

The authorities contacted the National Gallery in Britain and also Clive's family who confirmed the work was genuine.

"Their excitement too assured us that we had found the right painting," Bordoloi added. —AFP ■

## South Korea, DPRK, UN Command hold 2<sup>nd</sup> consultation on disarming JSA in border area

SEOUL — South Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United Nations Command held the second consultation on Monday on disarming the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the inter-Korean border area, Seoul's defence ministry said.

The closed-door consultation started at 10 am local time (0100 GMT) in the Freedom House, a building controlled by South Korea in the border village

of Panmunjom inside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

The first one was held on 16 October. The consultation was made to discuss the disarmament of the JSA, which was agreed upon by defence chiefs of the two Koreas during the Pyongyang summit in September between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un.

Soldiers from the two Koreas conducted a 20-day operation

to remove landmines inside the JSA from 1 October. The JSA was set up right after the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice.

The two Koreas planned to withdraw troops, firearms and guard posts from the JSA.

After the disarmament, South Korea and the DPRK would station a patrol of 35 soldiers each, including five officers, with no weapon inside the JSA.—Xinhua ■

## Japan, EU to work toward early ratification of FTA

TOKYO — Japan and the European Union agreed Monday to complete respective domestic procedures before year-end to ratify a free trade agreement by March as planned, at a time when both sides are facing tough trade talks with the administration of US President Donald Trump pushing his "America First" policy agenda.

At the inaugural meeting of a high-level dialogue on trade, investment and energy, both parties also agreed to cooperate on infrastructure building in third countries.

"The Japan-EU EPA (economic partnership agreement) is strategically important," Foreign Minister Taro Kono said at a joint press appearance after the meeting.

"We agreed to make efforts to end domestic processes before the year ends so both parties can feel the benefits as soon as possible," the minister said alongside industry minister Hiroshige Seko, who also represented Japan.

The inaugural meeting in Tokyo signaled a joint push by Japan and the European Union to counter protectionism as trade tension spikes between the United States and China, the world's two largest economies.

The two sides agreed to launch the high-level dialogue



Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

at their summit in Tokyo in July, during which they also signed a free trade accord following five years of negotiations.

The trade pact will eliminate tariffs on most products. Japan and the European Union together account for about a third of the world economy.

"This is just a beginning for closer, very tangible, concrete cooperation between Japan and the European Union," Jyrki Katainen, vice president of the European Commission in charge of jobs, growth and investment, told the press conference.

Katainen said the current challenge to multilateralism was the biggest in years, adding both parties shared the importance of "rules-based, free trade."—Kyodo News

## Indian state on high health alert for Zika outbreak

NEW DELHI — Indian authorities have put the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on high health alert in the wake of Zika virus outbreak in Rajasthan state.

A senior health official said Monday all hospitals in Uttar Pradesh have been asked to be extra vigilant on people suffering from fever as the northern state could be the next after Rajasthan where over 100 cases have been reported so far.

Meanwhile, the state's director of communicable diseases, Mithilesh Chaturvedi, has said there was a need to keep strict watch on people suffering from

fever as *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito that spreads Zika virus, is widely prevalent in the northern state.

Chaturvedi has asked airports advised to take preventive measures particularly in dealing with passengers from Rajasthan. "There should be proper examination of passengers complaining of fever, maculopapular rash or any other associated symptom," he told the media.

In Rajasthan, the number of Zika cases has crossed 100, and most are from state capital Jaipur. The Indian Ministry has already set up a control room at the National Centre for Disease

Control to undertake regular monitoring of the situation in Rajasthan.

Zika virus disease is spread by daytime-active *Aedes* mosquitoes. Its symptoms include fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, and headache.

This is the third Zika virus outbreak in India since January 2017.

The first outbreak of Zika was reported in India in January 2017 in the western state of Gujarat, while the second outbreak was reported in the southern state of Tamil Nadu in July 2017. Both these outbreaks were contained.—Xinhua ■



# Grain pain: Japan's ageing rice farmers face uncertain future

KAZO (Japan) — A crop once deemed so important it served as a form of currency, Japanese rice has fallen out of favour with younger, westernised consumers, in a shift that has left ageing farmers struggling for survival.

Rice consumption has nearly halved over the past 50 years, and as the older generation of farmers and consumers dies out, some fear the industry will be unable to hold its own in a competitive global market.

Kazuo Ogura, a 66-year-old farmer, is one of the lucky ones. His son Yuichi decided to follow him into the family business.

Ogura senior looks on proudly as his 38-year-old son uses a specially designed machine to plant this year's harvest, splashing through golden paddy fields that stretch as far

as the eye can see.

Surviving in this tough environment is all about "producing quality food at a reasonable price" and harnessing economies provided by large-scale production, Ogura told AFP.

The future of his establishment in Kazo, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Tokyo, looks assured as Yuichi follows in his muddy footsteps but farms all over Japan are dying as farmers age — the average age of a rice farmer is now 67.

"I was the only one out of 220 students at my local school who went into farming," Yuichi said. "There are not many people in their twenties who go into farming."

Even existing farms have been forced to close when their machinery breaks down because farmers cannot afford to

replace the costly equipment.

"Machines get more expensive every year. To replace them requires a certain level of profit but that's difficult when you are farming a small plot," Yuichi said.

The Oguras have managed to stay competitive so far by joining forces with two other families to farm around 100 hectares of rice fields — nearly 100 times the size of the average plot.

They sell their rice — which belongs to the leading Koshihikari variety — at 300 yen (\$2.66) per kilogram.

## 'At a turning point'

Although rice consumption in Japan has been falling for more than half a century, the crop's exalted status in Japanese culture — where it even serves a religious purpose in Shinto rituals — has ensured its survival



Japanese consumers still prefer their home-grown, short-grain rice to foreign varieties. **PHOTO: AFP**

until now.

Generous subsidies aimed at controlling supplies and prices have made rice farming one of Japan's most protected industries, but Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government scrapped the policy this year, urging farmers to become more competitive.

Japanese agriculture is "at a turning point", Ken Saito, who was farm minister until a reshuffle this month, told reporters.

"Farmers have to think

about producing food that sells. More than ever, they have to be attuned to the market," he added.

And as Abe prepares for potential trade negotiations with US President Donald Trump, analysts say he may have to concede some ground on agriculture — which could include Japan's customary high tariffs on imported rice — in order to avoid getting whacked with US duties on automobiles and other key exports.—AFP ■

# Delhi holds breath as burning farms herald pollution season

ISHARGARH — Harpal Singh struck a match and watched his fields burn, the acrid smoke drifting toward New Delhi where a lethal smog cocktail is once again intensifying over the world's most polluted megacity.

Every November, air pollution in northern India reaches levels unimaginable in most parts of the world, forcing schools shut and filling hospital wards with wheezing patients.

As winter descends, cooler air traps car fumes, factory emissions and construction dust close to the ground, fomenting a toxic brew of harmful pollutants that regularly exceed 30 times the World Health Organization safe limit. The scourge is com-

pounded as farmers like Singh — rushing to ready their fields for next season's wheat crop — use fire to quickly and cheaply clear their land.

He knows slash-and-burn farming is illegal and that doing so, year after year, helps sicken millions in the Indian capital and beyond. But local authorities appear powerless to stop it and — looming health crisis or not in Delhi — the narrow window to plant for the winter harvest is closing.

"We have no other choice but to burn the straw," Singh told AFP in Ishargarh, a village in Haryana state, about 120 kilometres (75 miles) northwest of Delhi. "We know the smoke pol-

lutes the air. But it is the cheapest and easiest way to get rid of the (crop) residue," the 65-year-old farmer told AFP, as burning straw crackled and popped behind him.

## Deaf ears

This smoke is already reaching Delhi, bringing a familiar sepia haze and a bad omen for officials wanting to avoid a third straight year of record-setting smog. Deterrents, such as fines of up to \$200 for farmers flouting the law, appear to have limited effect.

Satellite imagery shows countless spot fires already burning in Haryana and Punjab, two breadbasket states bordering Delhi.

S Narayanan, from Haryana's State Pollution Control Board, said 300,000 rupees (\$4100) in fines had been issued and fires were down 40 percent in some areas.

"But our intention is not only to take punitive action, but to educate the farmers," he told AFP.

Farmers represent powerful voting blocs in rural states like Haryana and Punjab, and local authorities are reluctant to upset them. Efforts to persuade farmers, many living below the poverty line, to adopt alternative methods of land clearance have fallen on deaf ears.—AFP ■



Efforts to persuade farmers to adopt alternative methods of land clearance have fallen on deaf ears. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Hydro dam threatens world's rarest orangutan

JAKARTA — A billion-dollar hydroelectric dam development in Indonesia that threatens the habitat of the world's rarest great ape has sparked fresh concerns about the impact of China's globe-spanning infrastructure drive.

The site of the dam in the Batang Toru rainforest on Sumatra island is the only known habitat of the Tapanuli orangutan, a newly discovered species that numbers about 800 individuals in total.

The \$1.6 billion project, which is expected to be operational by 2022, will cut through the heart of the critically endangered animal's habitat, which is also home to agile gibbons, siamangs and Sumatran tigers.

Indonesian firm PT North Sumatra Hydro Energy is building the power plant with backing from Sinosure, a Chinese state-owned enterprise (SOE) that insures overseas investment projects, and the Bank of China, company documents show.

Chinese SOE Sinohydro, which built the mammoth Three Gorges Dam, has been awarded the design and construction contract for the project.

The development is one of dozens being pushed by the government to improve electricity supply throughout the sprawling archipelago, parts of which are regularly plagued by blackouts. But the Chinese-backed project has sparked fierce resistance from conservationists, who say the potential environmental risk has already seen the World Bank Group shy away from involvement. Its Chinese backers appear undeterred, however, something critics say underscores the troubling environmental impact of Beijing's trademark "Belt and Road Initiative", which seeks to link Asia, Europe and Africa with a network of ports, highways and railways.

"This issue is becoming in some ways the face of the Belt and Road initiative," Professor Bill Laurance, director of the Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science at James Cook University in Australia, told AFP.

"I think this crystallises in a way that people can understand what a tsunami of 7,000-plus projects will mean for nature." —AFP ■





Indian Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone (l) and Ranveer Singh attend a screening of Hindi film "Madaari" in Mumbai. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Bollywood star couple announce wedding dates

NEW DELHI (India) — Bollywood superstars Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh announced Sunday that they are tying the knot, ending months of speculation about their relationship.

The pair confirmed they will be married next month in a statement posted on their official Twitter accounts in Hindi and English.

"With the blessings of our families, gives us immense joy in sharing that our wedding is set to take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2018," it stated.

Padukone, 33, and Singh 32, reportedly started dating in 2013 but had kept details of their relationship largely out of the public

eye. Padukone is one of Bollywood's highest-paid stars and one to break into Hollywood, starring in "xXx: Return of Xander Cage" opposite Vin Diesel.

The soon-to-be-weds have also shared the silver screen together, including a controversial Bollywood epic earlier this year that sparked violent protests in northern India.

Padukone played a legendary Hindu queen and Singh a medieval Muslim ruler in the flick, which angered hardliners, some of whom burned down cinemas and made threats towards the two stars. Singh debuted in 2010 and has worked in 14 films. Padukone has acted in about 40 movies since 2006. —AFP ■

## Easter Islanders hope to swap a copy for iconic statue in UK museum

SANTIAGO (Chile) — For 150 years, the British Museum has housed one of the iconic, heavy-browed stone figures that Chile's Easter Island is famous for.

Now the islanders are hoping desperately to get it back.

They plan to build a copy of the four-ton monolith and, potentially swap it for the real thing.

The statue, known as a "moai" and named the Hoa Hakananai'a, is one of hundreds originally found on the island. Carved by Polynesian colonizers somewhere between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, each of the

big-headed figures was considered to represent tribal leaders or deified ancestors.

About a dozen have been removed from the island over the years. Now Camilo Rapu, president of the island's Ma'u Henua community, said it's time Hoa Hakananai'a was returned. The Ma'u Henua community, with Chilean government support, launched a campaign in August to persuade the British Museum and Queen Elizabeth II to return the famous moai — in exchange for an exact replica to be carved on Easter Island. —AFP ■

## 'Halloween' scares up big box-office numbers in North America

HOLLYWOOD (United States) — North American moviegoers really like to be scared, and Universal gleefully accommodated them this weekend as its new release "Halloween" registered an impressive \$77.5 million in estimated ticket sales, industry tracker Exhibitor Relations reported on Sunday. That strong three-day number gave the film the second-best opening ever for an October, trailing only "Venom," which earlier this month booked an \$80-million opening, according to HollywoodReporter.com.

Universal executives could be excused for a bit of gloating — they produced "Halloween" for a microscopic \$10 million.

"Halloween" recounts the return of a homicidal masked figure (Nick Castle) 40 years after he set

off on a bloody Halloween night killing spree. Jamie Lee Curtis again stars as Laurie Strode, sole survivor of that spree.

Holding tight in second spot was Warner Bros.'s musical drama "A Star Is Born," with ticket sales of \$19.3 million.

The film, the third remake of a 1937 movie, was directed by Bradley Cooper. He plays a hard-drinking musician who falls in love with a young singer (Lady Gaga), only to see her star rise as his plunges.

Sony's "Venom" was not far behind, taking in \$18.1 million as it approaches \$500 million globally. Tom Hardy stars as a journalist who becomes the superpowerful host for an alien creature.

In fourth was another seasonal offering, Sony's "Goose-

bumps 2: Haunted Halloween," at \$9.7 million. The family-friendly sequel, based on the RL Stine children's books, stars Wendi McLendon-Covey and Madison Iseman.

Fifth spot went to Universal's astronaut drama "First Man," at \$8.6 million. The film, directed by Oscar winner Damien Chazelle and starring Ryan Gosling, recounts Neil Armstrong's historic journey to the moon in 1969.

Rounding out this weekend's top 10 were:

"The Hate U Give" (\$7.5 million)

"Smallfoot" (\$6.6 million)

"Night School" (\$5 million)

"Bad Times at the El Royale" (\$3.3 million)

"The Old Man & The Gun" (\$2.1 million). —AFP ■



Jamie Lee Curtis arrives at the premiere of Universal Pictures' "Halloween" at the TCL Chinese Theatre on 17 October, 2018 in Los Angeles, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

## I'm really excited for her: Priyanka Chopra on Meghan Markle's pregnancy



Priyanka Chopra. **PHOTO: PTI**

LOS ANGELES — Priyanka Chopra is really excited about good friend Meghan Markle's

pregnancy.

Chopra said she hopes this new phase of motherhood will

be "amazing" for the Duchess of Sussex.

"I would, as a friend, just say that I'm really excited for her. I think this is a new phase in every woman's life and I hope hers is as amazing as she wants it to be," Chopra told *People* magazine at JBL Fest in Las Vegas.

Chopra, 36, and Markle, 37, have been close friends for several years. In May, the "Quantico" star attended Markle's wedding with Prince Harry in England.

Last month, Chopra said that Markle is "doing amazing" after taking on the role as the Duchess of Sussex. —PTI ■



## AI robots may lend hand in Japan's English classes

SAITAMA (Japan) — Schools in Japan are exploring ways to take advantage of robots equipped with artificial intelligence in the teaching of English as the country plans to make the language a formal subject to be taught at elementary schools from the spring of 2020.

Inside an elementary school classroom in the city of Toda, Saitama Prefecture, a sixth-grade boy was speaking to a small white robot with cat-like ears and long arms standing on two feet on top of his desk.

"How was...," the boy attending Toda Daini Elementary School started out speaking in English, dropping off in the middle of the line not knowing what word should follow.

"Try again," the robot re-

sponded in English.

"I got it!" the boy said in Japanese and gave the correct English answer: "How was it?"

"Very good," the robot replied, making him exclaim, "Yes!"

The city, not far from Tokyo, is known for its efforts to facilitate English teaching, launching language classes in 2004 ahead of the national schedule.

The Musio X robots have been introduced at some of the city's public elementary and junior high schools on a trial basis, the first such case in the country.

Some students who interacted with the robots said it was more comfortable to talk with them than teachers, while others said it was easier to practice speech.

AKA Corp, the Japanese unit

of the robot's US developer, said Musio X robots have modes for practicing sample sentences and freeform conversation at different levels of English proficiency.

While the robots were originally developed for home use, they were first introduced at a private junior high school in Kyoto in 2016 and they have since been introduced at about 30 schools nationwide.

The company said it hopes to enhance the robots' conversational ability and improve other functions.

In 2011 Japan made English compulsory for fifth and sixth graders as part of extracurricular foreign language activities.

As the country is slated to make English a formal subject for elementary school students in their third year and over from fiscal 2020, what role AI robots will play is in focus.

Toshiyuki Kanamaru, a Kyoto University associate professor, said teachers at elementary schools in particular should be given support through seminars and training, expressing hope that robots will help their efforts.

"Robots can supplement teachers' roles as conversation partners," Kanamaru said. "The government, industry and academia must coordinate in conducting research to clear quality and cost issues." —Kyodo News ■



Children interact with an artificial intelligence technology-using teaching aid during an English class at Todadaini Elementary School in Toda, Saitama Prefecture, near Tokyo on 21 September, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## NEC, Samsung to team up on 5G mobile network systems

TOKYO — NEC Corp and Samsung Electronics Co will tie up in the development and global marketing of next-generation telecommunication base stations for mobile phone carriers, sources close to the matter said on Sunday.

The Japanese and South Korean companies are initially focusing on the US and Japanese market, with Samsung hoping to sell its products for the fifth-generation mobile network to NTT Docomo Inc. and NEC launching its base station business outside Japan for the first time, according to the sources.

They are considering supplying their products to each other, the sources said. Samsung already sells high-fre-

quency base stations in the U.S. market where 5G services started this year. NEC will likely develop low-frequency base stations, the sources said.

Their plan to expand the network equipment business globally comes after US regulators proposed a ban on network operators' purchase of equipment from companies receiving government funding, a move seen as an attempt to block Chinese manufacturers from selling 5G equipment in the country.

US lawmakers have voiced concerns about using Chinese network products which they say could open a path for espionage and intellectual property theft in the United States. —Kyodo News ■



Samsung Electronics' new Galaxy S9 smartphone, unveiled in Barcelona on 25 February, 2018, features a function to enable the user to customize his or her avatar by taking advantage of its on-board face scanning technology. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**



An Ariane 5 rocket carrying two robotic explorers is launched from the Kourou space center in French Guiana on 19 October 2018, for a seven-year journey to Mercury. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## Japan, Europe launch space probes to survey Mercury

KOUROU (French Guiana) — An Ariane 5 rocket carrying two robotic explorers, separately developed by the Japanese and European space agencies, was launched on Friday from the Kourou space centre in French Guiana on a seven-year journey to Mercury.

The explorers developed by the Japan Space Exploration Agency and the European Space Agency will travel 9 billion kilometres to the planet closest to the sun, and orbit around it for about a year collecting data.

The joint Japan-European mission, named BepiColombo after Giuseppe "Bepi" Colombo, a mathematician who played a vital role in planning the multiple fly-bys of the first-ever probe to the planet, is intended to reveal the mysterious history of Mercury's formation and its internal structure.

JAXA's Mercury Magnetosphere Orbiter Mio, a 1.8-meter wide and 2.4-meter high octagonal column-shaped probe with an antenna capable of extending 15 metres, is designed to survey the planet's magnetic field and thin atmosphere.

ESA's Mercury Planetary Orbiter, whose main body is 2.4 x 2.2 x 1.7 metres in size and equipped with cameras and an altimeter, will examine the terrain of Mercury and search for minerals.

"JAXA has high expectations that the ensuing detailed observations on the surface and interior of Mercury will help us better understand the environment of the planet, and ultimately, the origin of the Solar System including that of Earth," JAXA President Hiroshi Yamakawa said in a prepared statement.

So far, only two space probes, both from the United States, have surveyed Mercury. Mariner 10 surveyed the rocky planet between 1974 and 1975, and Messenger between 2011 and 2015.

Among other things, those probes detected evidence of frozen water on Mercury.

"Beyond completing the challenging journey, this mission will return a huge bounty of science," ESA Director General Jan Wörner said. —Kyodo News ■

## Osamu Shimomura, Nobel laureate in chemistry, dies at 90

TOKYO — Scientist Osamu Shimomura, a 2008 Nobel laureate in chemistry known for his research on the mysterious green glow of jellyfish, has died at age 90, Nagasaki University said on Sunday.

Shimomura, a graduate of

the university, died on Friday in Nagasaki, southwestern Japan. He won the Nobel Prize with Martin Chalfie and Roger Y Tsien of the United States for the discovery and development of green fluorescent protein. —Kyodo News ■



## Myanmar to host Badminton International Series in 2019

MYANMAR is going to host Badminton International Series in October in 2019, said a source of Myanmar Badminton Federation.

Myanmar Badminton Federation is participating in international tournaments later years while it is hosting tournaments at Asian level.

In partnership with the World Badminton Federation, Asia Badminton Federation and Southeast Asia Badminton Federation, Myanmar is hosting international badminton tournaments in a row.

The MBF held Asian Youth Badminton Tournament at National Indoors Stadium-1 in Yangon in 2017 and at Mandalay Thiri Sports Center in Mandalay in 2018. The badminton sports training hall was built on Anaw-

rahta Road in Yangon, but it is not wide enough for holding the international tournaments. Therefore, the badminton tournament was held at National Indoors Stadium-1 in Yangon. The MBF submitted a plan holding international badminton tournaments to be held in Yangon to the Ministry of Health and Sports with the purpose of winning the support of the fans.

The MBF scheduled to hold Badminton International Series in Yangon during October in 2019. The athletes from European countries in addition to the ones from Asia and Southeast Asia are taking part in the international tournament. The MBF has already planned to participate in other international badminton tournaments next year. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



The photo shows Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: MBF**

## Pre-press conference on Asian U-19 Women's Qualification to be held on 23 October

A pre-press conference on Group-F of the 2019 Asian U-19 Women's Qualification to be hosted by Myanmar will be held in Yangon on 23 October, said a source of Myanmar Football Federation.

The pre-press conference will take place at Inya Lake Hotel on 23 October. The captains and the chief coaches of host Myanmar, Iran and Lao will attend the pre-press conference.

The Group-F qualification matches will be held in Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon from 24 to 28 October. Host Myanmar will play against Lao on

26 October and Iran on 28 October within last two days of the qualification tournament. All qualification matches will be held only in Thuwunna Stadium at 6 pm.

Myanmar is likely to advance the next round of the qualification because the opponents' teams are weak in football tactics.

Myanmar U-19 women's football squad is comprised of 23 players. Daw Thet Thet Win will act as the head coach. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



Myanmar U-16 women's players are seen in a training session. **PHOTO: MFF**

## Myanmar U-16 women's football squad to demonstrate friendly matches early 2019

AS part of preparation for taking part in second round of the 2019 Asian U-16 Women Qualification, Myanmar U-16 women's football squad has planned to warm-up matches early 2019, said a source of Myanmar Football Federation.

Myanmar U-16 women's has begun a camp training starting from 8 October. It submitted its plan to the MFF before the

qualification. Myanmar U-16 women's will go on a foreign training tour in January. It submitted a plan to hold the invitational football tournament in Myanmar to MFF.

The first round qualification was held in September. Myanmar was in the Group-E together with Nepal, Malaysia and the Philippines. It was hosted by Nepal. Myanmar won Malaysia with 3-0,

Nepal with 11-1 and Philippines with 5-1 and advanced the second round qualification.

The second round qualification will be held from 23 February to 3 March in 2019. It will be divided into two groups. The first round qualified teams are Myanmar, Australia, China, Viet Nam, Philippines, Iran, Lao and Bangladesh. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

## Westwood cuts Garcia lead before storms return

SOTOGRADE (Spain) — Former world number one Lee Westwood cut Sergio Garcia's lead to three strokes at the Valderrama Masters on Sunday, before thunderstorms returned to push the event into a fifth day.

Already cut to 54 holes after several interruptions through the week, tournament host

Garcia started his third and final round with a four-shot lead on 10-under par.

But the 45-year-old Westwood, playing with his son Sam as caddie this week, poured in four birdies in eight holes before being forced from the course to ignite hopes of an unlikely 24<sup>th</sup> European Tour title and first since April 2014.

Garcia, though, remains in control as he looks for a third straight victory in the

tournament, after following a birdie on the par-five fourth hole with a bogey on the next to sit even-par for his round through seven holes heading into Monday's finish.

Irishman Shane Lowry and Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano both made bright starts to their front nines to sit tied-third on six-under overall. —AFP ■

Garcia leads Westwood by three shots heading into Monday's conclusion. **PHOTO: AFP**

