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Local, foreign media collects news in Maungtaw



NATIONAL

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman arrives back Myanmar



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Monday, 29 October 2018

President inaugurates Shwethaungyan Bridge on Majee River in Ayeyawady Region

RESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho attended the opening ceremony of Shwethaungyan Bridge on the Majee River at Shwethaungyan Town in Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

The President and the First Lady were accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kvaw Swe. Dr Myint Htwe, U Han Zaw and U Ohn Maung, Chief Minister of the Ayeyawady Region U Hla Moe Aung, Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Aung Kyaw Khaing, Deputy Ministers U Hla Kyaw, U Kyaw Myo and U Kyaw Lin, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials.

Speaking at the ceremony, the President said during the 2012 by-election period I was crisscrossing this area by motor-

"I'm now here to make the dream of all the people in this region, the dream for Shwethaungyan Bridge, do come true."...

President U Win Myint

cycles, cars and boats. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you all that what is firmly etched in my mind is the memory of the trips and people's welcome, encourage and support me during that time.

Allow me to say that I'm ex-



President U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho stroll along the Shwethaungyan Bridge following the inauguration ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**

tremely happy because I'm now here to make the dream of all the people in this region, the dream for Shwethaungyan Bridge, do come true, he added.

The term of our government elected by the people had passed

beyond the two and a half year mark. During this period, we've strived towards the all round development of the State.

The Union Government is coordinating with the state/region governments for the balanced development of all the states and regions, he said.

Our country is a Union of Myanmar where ethnic nationals lived together in unity. Ever since ages ago ethnic brethrens lived hand in hand with unity. We

were striving toward raising the social, economic, education and health level of ethnic nationals in each states and regions by improving the basic infrastructure of road communications.

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FROM PAGE-1

Only when the roads and bridges are good and there is smooth transportation between the people will there be more friendly relationships that would make the region develop.

Ayeyawady Region is a delta area and is the rice bowl of Mvanmar as well as the region that supplies water related products. In the past, the region relies on its waterways for transport but nowadays, its products can be speedily delivered at ease by road. In addition to that, it had abundance natural resources as well as beautiful beaches that attracts local and foreign visitors. The Shwethaungyan Bridge opened today would greatly benefit the local population of Ayeyawady Region. With development of travel business, the region's socio-economy will be improved. Businesses and local populace are to maintain and protect the natural environment and resources from any damages because it will be beneficial for generations to come.

You all should not look at the short term benefits for yourselves only but look for the long term benefit for all. Local populace and businesses are required to follow the rules, regulations, instructions and guidelines set by the local authorities. Only then can the beach areas will exist for long. Retaining the beauty of the beaches and natural environments are to be conducted in coordination between the local populaces, businesses, departmental organisations and civil service organisations. Notices, posters, billboards and warnings are to be setup for the safety of the visitors too.

Dear ethnic brethrens,

During the more than two years when our government took over the responsibility of





President U Win Myint delivers the address at opening of Shwethaungyan Bridge over the Majee River in Shwethaungyan, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

the country, we were able to improve the road transportation by constructing many roads and bridges. During the remaining period of our term, we plan to construct more than 400 bridges. Ministry of Construction was also able to inspect, maintain and upgrade the roads and bridges for the safety of the people. Every vear there'll be construction, repair and upgrade of rural roads that by 2030, 90 percent of the people living in 80 percent of the rural area will be able to use it all around the year.

Local populace and relevant authorities need to cooperate and work together to prevent wastages of public funds in the construction of roads and bridges and project works. Projects using public funds must benefit the region. Furthermore relevant authorities and departments are cautioned to strictly adhere to tender rules and regulation issued by the President Office when assigning project works. I would like to emphasize that if there were any circumstances of public funds being divided and used up for personal gains without benefiting the people, strict action according to the law will be taken regardless of who that person may be.

Instructions were given to conduct quality control without fail for construction works and basic infrastructure works including roads and bridges. Relevant responsible person(s) will have liabilities if failures that should not happen with the exception of unforeseeable cir-

the development of agriculture sector has been provided by the State in the best possible ways while laws related to agriculture sectors are being amended and enacted to be in accord with the time and situation. To strengthen the agriculture sector, for the farmers to benefit from the work they done, for the farmers and

"The 827-foot long Shwethaungyan Bridge facilitates traffic on Shwethaungyan-Chaungtha Road. The reinforced concrete bridge will help develop the regional socio-economy through smooth transport between Ayeyawady Region and the coastal areas of Rakhine State"....

cumstances, exceeding of set load limit and set time limit occurs and affects the public. All are urged to ensure in caring for the long term sustained existence of such basic infrastructure that were established with public funds. Development of agriculture sector in which the majority of the country's population relied upon is important for the development of our country. Technology and investment required for

its future generations to use the land that they manage and work on 2012 farmland law and 2012 vacant, fallow and virgin land management law were being amended accordingly.

Our government had released a total of 63,417 acres of confiscated farmlands and 13,091 acres were returned to the farmers while 50,326 acres were returned to relevant ministries, states/regions. Assessments are being carried out to return the remaining confiscated lands back to farmers as soon as possible.

I would like to put on notice again that action will be taken against any personnel or officials who hinder and obstruct the work of the relevant committees in assessing, reviewing and returning confiscated lands back to the farmers and permitting to work on it. Compensation and reparations are to be determined fairly as well as to reflect the situation on the ground. Both sides must not stand on impossible stances and accept a win-win situation for all. Fairness is a right that all

must have. Practicing fairness is strengthening the society as well as establishing democracy.

Dear ethnic brethrens,

Now is the transition period from an old system of an old era to a new system of a new era in accordance with the democracy practice. This is only the beginning of the democracy transition period and the democracy goal is not reached yet. For this transition to be smooth and successful it is required to change and reform the mindset and habits of the people and public servants.

Actions are being taken against departmental organisations that are slow in this transition. We are strengthening the judiciary sector with the responsible persons. We are eradicating corruption with increasing momentum. Human rights violations were increasingly prevented. Actions against drugs were taken increasingly. Systematic managements are put in place to prevent losses and wastage of public funds. Returning of confiscated lands, payment of compensations and reparations were made in accordance with

In conducting the transition to democracy, officials and personnel are to follow the laws and rules while the public are to support by following the existing laws.

Those responsible for administrative sector are to strive toward establishing an administrative mechanism that ascertain a democracy system, administer fairly and in accordance to the law, establish an administrative system that protect the freedom and security of the people and ensure that the administrative system is not oppressive or a burden to the people.



Shwethaungyan Bridge over the Majee River in Shwethaungyan in Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Future infrastructure development

- * Negotiations have been made in cooperation with the IFC of the World Bank Group for the development of the Yangon elevated road project in 2019, with a view to address the traffic issues in Yangon. Such development is being pursued with the expectation of not only addressing traffic issues but also to create job opportunities.
- * During the next two and a half years, construction of over 10,000 rooms are planned, out of which over 4,000 rooms are to be constructed through different PPP models and over 6,000 rooms by private companies.
- * Urban projects in 33 cities across the country have been implemented and planning for additional urban projects are being developed in cooperation with state and regional governments.
- * Urban projects and industrial cities are being developed in some big cities like Yangon and Mandalay within three years for systematic development of urban housing.

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

President inaugurates Shwethaungyan Bridge on Majee River ...

FROM PAGE-2

The government will prioritise and obtain the force of the people in transforming the administrative mechanism to reach a status where there is rule of law, corruption is eradicated and trust of the people is obtained. The desired goal will be achieved only with an understanding that democracy transition is beneficial for all as well as their following generation's physical and mental safety and when the government, officials from departmental organisations and the public part take and work together in a balanced way. All need to note that for our country to be peaceful, modern and developed, much will depend on how much we can change our set thoughts, believes and habits.

Public servants are urged to part take with full trust by putting the people at the fore-front, respect and serve the people according to the democracy practice, to have a good and clean government in governing the people and the public servant themselves are capable to change on their own.

In conclusion, the people are requested to maintain and preserve the long term existence of infrastructures including roads and bridges for which much funds were spent by the State for the development of region and for the country to have all round development. Create a society that is free of corruption, just and fair. Protect the natural environment from damage and deterioration.

Manage and administer resources for long term sustainability. Strive toward the beaches



President U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho, Union Ministers and dignitaries have the documentary photo taken together with attendees at the opening ceremony of the Shwethaungyan Bridge in Shwethaungyan. **PHOTO: MNA**

becoming international recreation areas. Cooperate in reaching internal peace quickly. Ethnic nationals are urged to stay united with good relationship and establish a peaceful democracy federal union.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw explained the purpose of the construction of the bridges and other infrastructures by the government in office and future projects.

Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung presented a report on the improvement of the road network of the Ayeyawady Region.

A local spoke words of thanks.

Union Minister U Han Zaw, Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Aung Kyaw Khaing, Region Transport and Electricity Minister U Win Htay, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Wai Hlaing Tun, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Soe Moe, Region Hluttaw Representative Dr Soe Win, Deputy Director of Special Bridge Construction Group-15 U Kyaw Thura and a local formally commissioned the bridge.

Then the President, Union Ministers and the Chief Minister posed for commemorative photo together with the attendees.

The President sprinkled scented water on the Plaque after formally unveiling it. The President and the First Lady, Union Ministers, the Chief Minister and officials crossed the bridge.

The 827-foot long Shwethaungyan Bridge facilitates traffic on Shwethaungyan-Chaungtha Road. The reinforced concrete bridge will help develop the regional socio-economy through smooth transport between Ayeyawady Region and the coastal areas of Rakhine State.

After the ceremony, the President visited Shwetaung and Mingala Sankyaung Monasteries in Pathein and paid respects and presented offertories to the Sayadaws of the monasteries.

At the briefing hall of the nine-storey extended ward project of Pathein People's Hospital (500-bed), the President heard a report on annual budget allotment for the extension of the hospital, progress of work and contracts at different stages and requirements for the hospital presented by Medical Superintendent Dr Myo Thant.

In response, the President spoke of the need to strictly abide by the relevant laws and tender rules in building the nine-storey ward, stressing cooperation between the Ministry of Health and Sports and the regional government.

The President visited the patients in the wards and presented cash assistance for them.

The President and entourage arrived back to Nay Pyi Taw from Pathein on board a special Tatmadaw aircraft in the afternoon. — MNA



President U Win Myint presents cash assistance to a patient receiving treatment at the Pathein People's Hospital (500-bed). **PHOTO: MNA**

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Tagaung may be over 2000 years old: Expert

A PROMINENT traditional architect suggested a search for more evidences to prove Tagaung has existed since 2000 years ago.

The previous belief was that Tagaung may not be earlier than King Anawrahta who ruled Bagan in the 11th century. But the discovery of a 40-foot building with Pyu decorations dated back to the period between the 5th

and 7th centuries in the southern corner of the zone has changed the historical value of Tagaung.

"The Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library has officially announced the discovery. So, it is clear that Tagaung is much earlier than King Anawarahta, and even if Taung did not exist during the lifetime of Buddha as said in the leg-

ends, its existence might be as earlier as the 1st century or over 2000 years ago. We need financial assistance to do more research," said Tampawady U Win Maung, who is a traditional architect.

The geographical conditions show that human settlement first began in the norther part of the zone. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Battery fire occurs in Hopong; no fatalities reported

A FIRE broke out on Sunday 28 October in Hopong Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, southern Shan State, but so far there has been no fatality, according to a police report.

Investigators say that the fire occurred at 9.40 a.m. on that day in the upper floor of the two-storey house owned by U Thein Maung, 53, of area-1, South Ward, Hopong Township, due to an overheated 12-volt battery while it was charging with the use of solar power, destroying approximately Ks36,400 worth of bamboo floor and things nearby, but no death has been reported.

Led by U Saw Maung, head of Hopong Township Fire Services Department, over 30 firefighters put out the blaze with the use of two fire engines. The flame was controlled within five minutes. The case is being investigated and action has been taken against the house owner under the Section 285 of the Penal Code.

— Township IPRD

Police arrest two on drug charges in separate cases in Moekaung

TWO men were arrested on drug charges in separate cases within a day in Mokaung Township, Kachin State, on Saturday on 27 October, township police reported.

Faw Yat Aung Hsai, 43, of Kyundaw Ward, Nyaunggon Village-tract, was arrested after police found black opium weighing 102 grams and related materials used in drug manufacturing hidden in his hut during the raid at 11.30



p.m. on that day. In a separate case, police seized the 53-year-



old Naw Laung residing in the same ward during the raid

when they discovered 345 yaba tablets and 45.2 grams of black opium from his bag.

Both suspects have been charged with smuggling drugs under the existing Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Police are carrying out further investigations to apprehend others connected with the drug trafficking case.—Win Naing (Kachinmye)

Seized timber to be put up for auction in Kalay end of this month

ALMOST 850 tons of timber and wood-based products seized by Kalay District Forest Department will be put up for public auction at the end of this month.

The public auction sale of timber will include 639 logs of teak weighing 172.17 tons and over 2,500 pieces of teak timber weighing 96.4 tons, 222 logs of hardwood weighing over 100 tons and over 14,930 tons of pieces of hardwood timbers.

To fulfill local consumption, the auction will start at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 30 October morning at the district forest department in Sagaing Region. The seized timber and wood-based products will be

sold mainly to private local entrepreneurs, including saw millers, wood-based industrials, furniture manufacturers and tender winning companies to implement the government's projects to construct transport facilities, according to the auction committee.

The Forest Department

is accelerating its attempt to control illegal logging and transportation of timber across Sagaing Region in cooperation with relevant government's departments.

Action is being taken against those who break the existing laws, rules and regulations.—Chin Dwin Tha

New auto import policy for 2019 released

ONLY vehicles with lefthand drive can be imported under the 2019 vehicle import policy. Additionally, 2016 will be the oldest model to be issued an import permit for private cars with non-commercial purpose under consignment system, according to October 26 announcement of the Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicles Importation.

When vehicles with engines under 1,350 CC are individually imported, the model year must be 2017 and later. Passengers vehicles such as mini-bus, city bus, express bus and commercial trucks manufactured in 2015 and later can be imported.

The model year of the vehicles donated from abroad must be 2010 and later. Vehicles for religious use manufactured in 2015 and later can be imported. Fire trucks and ambulances manufactured in 2007 or later are allowed for import.

Heavy equipment that cannot be driven on public roads such as excavators, bulldozers, wheel loaders and tower cranes are allowed to be brought into the country as long as they are 15 years old or less.

The new vehicle import policy affects cars imported with a slip as a return of deregistration of old vehicles, cars im-

ported under consignment system, individually imported cars, black-licensed cars, vehicles for religious use, mini-buses, passenger buses, vehicles donated from abroad, fire trucks, ambulances, hearses, state-owned vehicles, machinery which cannot be driven on public road such as excavators, bulldozers, and asphalt finishers.

However, most of the local people still cannot buy brand new cars because of high price. Some choose an installment plan in the automobile market while many still buy second-hand cars, according to market watcher. — Ko Khant

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Myanmar-Bangladesh trade decreases slightly

OVERSEAS trade with Bangladesh from April through August this year totalled US\$41.8 million, which was a slight decrease in value by \$4.4 million from this time last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

During the period, Myanmar exported \$30.7 million worth of domestic products to Bangladesh and imported goods amounting to \$11.2 million from the South Asian country. When compared with the same period in the last year, this year's bilateral exports decreased by nearly \$7 million while the bilateral imports slightly increased by \$2.6 million.

At the same period in the last year, the total

trade between the two countries was valued at \$46.3 million, covering \$37.7 million in exports and \$8.5 million in imports.

The Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade continues from marine routes as well as land borders. The bilateral border trade is conducted mainly through Sittway and Maungtaw border points.

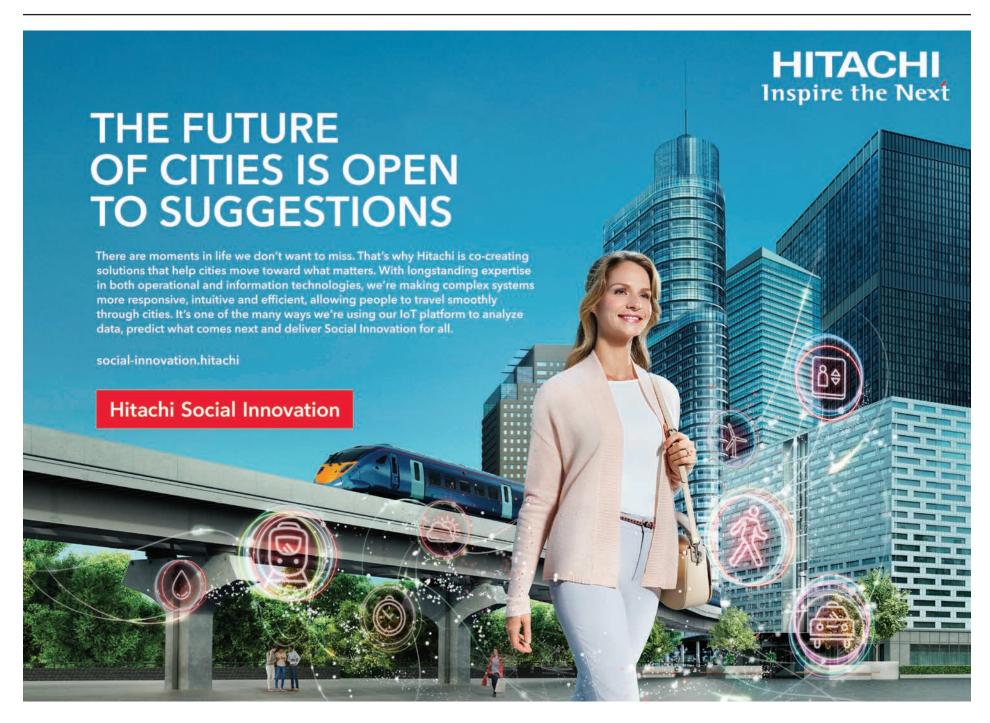
Bamboos, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear and beverages are marketable between the two countries.

The total trade with Bangladesh reached its peak of \$192 million in the last 2017-2018 FY.

According to the annual statistical report of the ministry, the bilateral borders trade was \$84 million in the FY2011-2012, \$42 million in the FY2012-2013, \$75 million in the FY2013-2014, \$39 million in the FY2014-2015, \$33 million in the FY2015-2016, nearly \$44 million in the FY2016-2017.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, this year saw no new investment from Bangladesh.

Last year, Myanmar received \$1.5 million investment from its neighbour.—Khine Khant ■



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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Thandwe gets community centre, mobile library

INFORMATION and Public Relations Department-IPRD of the Ministry of Information and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation jointly opened a community centre and a mobile library in Thandwe yesterday.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Phone Tint, Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr Chan Tha, Director-General of IPRD U Ye Naing and Dr Thant Thaw Kaung of the foundation formally opened the centre.

The Union Minister and party then sprinkled scented water on the signboard of the centre and the car to be used as the mobile library.

In his address, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint said the launching of the centres and mobile libraries is an IPRD program for the benefit of the community. Libraries at IPRD officers have been turned into the places that are actually useful and helpful for



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and officials cut ceremonial ribbons to open the community centre in Thandwe, Rakhine State, yesterday. **PHOTO: AUNG MIN HAN**

the community. Public libraries will become community libraries, and they will be supplied with all the necessary books. Mobile libraries will bring books to the communities. He said community centres invite all societies and they can be used for public, association and community meetings. Libraries host roundtable talks on literature for women. Community centres should be the places where negotiations, debates and talks on community development are held. They will also become centres to distribute facts and information in case a disaster occurs.

Minister Dr Chan Tha and Dr Thant Thaw Kaung gave speeches. A local spoke words of thanks.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and wife Daw Khaing Nwe Oo donated 200 books and one steel cupboard each for two high schools of the town.

Dr Chan Tha, on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Sports, presented sports gear for the two schools.

Then the Union Minister and party attended a roundtable discussion on literature in which writers gave talks.

They then visited the community centre. The community centre in Thandwe is the 13th such centres opened by the IPRD and the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.—Aung Min Han

Children's Literature Festival reaches final day

CHILDREN'S Literature Festival drew a much larger crowd on its final day in Thandwe in the south of Rakhine State.

Like in the previous days, visitors thronged the booths on ethnic Rakhine races, traffic rules, health and sports, education, painting, wall papers, local products, handicrafts and Asho Chin literature and culture, while the story telling contest in English, paper folding, colouring and song competitions and impromptu talks of students were also the attractive events.

A public roundtable talk on the involvement in the regional development undertakings was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and officials. Roundtable talks presented by Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr Chan Tha, Head of the state administration office U Aung Kyaw Than and Pyithu



A booth displayed by Ministry of Health and Sports crowded with people. ${\bf PHOTO: AUNG\ MIN\ HAN}$

Hluttaw Representatives U Min Kyi and U Tun Thant Kyaw captured the attention of students.

At the prize presentation ceremony, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presented awards to the teams that stood first, second and third in the football match, State Minister Dr Chan Tha winners

in sepak takraw and volleyball, Director-General U Ye Naing winners in table tennis competitions, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Min Kyi winners in a traditional sports event.

Officials also presented prizes to winners in children's competitions.—Aung Min Han ■

Correction

A story on Page 3 of the 28 October edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar contained an error. In fourth column of the story with the headline "President urges Three Pillars of Democracy in Ayeyawady Region to work together for reforms, democratic transition", the name of the government should read "Ayeyawady Region government" instead of "Shan State government."—Ed

Local, foreign media collects news in Maungtaw

A GROUP comprised of local and foreign media visited Taung Pyo Letwe reception center in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, yesterday.

First, they visited friendship bridge in Taung Pyo Letwe Town. After the visit, they interviewed with officials from Taung Pyo Letwe reception center. At the meeting, the journalists also interviewed the people living at Myanmar-Bangladesh border line. In the afternoon, the media group arrived back to Yangon by air from Sittway.

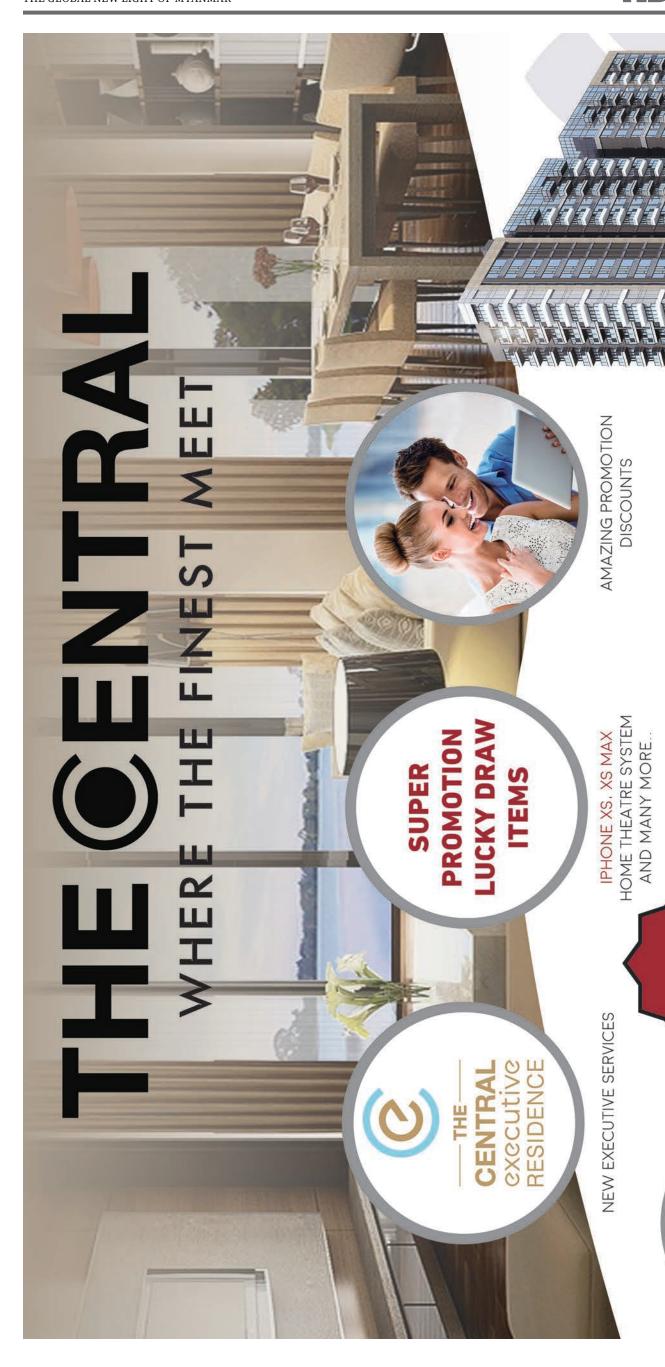
The media delegation comprised of journalists from Yomiuri Shimbun, MIR, Mizzima Media, Channel 4 News, Swiss TV, MRTV, MITV and MNA. Since the incident in October 2016, media groups have been allowed access to Rakhine State once in 2016, eight times in 2017, and seventeen times in 2018, making a total of twenty-six visits.

The Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State has planned for conducting two guided media trips per month within 2018.

— Aung Ye Thwin ■



Journalists meetingwith people living near the borderline in Maungtaw yesterday. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**



SOFT LAUNCH PROMOTION

Phase

New

GALLERY SHOWROOM

Corner of Kabar Aye Pagoda Road and Kanbe Road, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar PROJECT LOCATION

[/THECENTRALYANGON

Sedona Hotel & Extension

HOTLINE

The Central Executive Residence

No. 7-8, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Drill, a culture of preparedness

YANMAR is an earthquake-prone country due to its geographical location lying on major fault lines. If we do not ready ourselves to handle an earthquake, it may cause damage and casualties. We witnessed devastating earthquakes in the recent past, which led to loss of life, assets, livelihoods and heritage

The Myanmar Earthquake committee made studies of the interior of the Kabaw fault in concert with international experts last year.

The Chauk Earthquake in August 2016 did not ruin buildings apart from the many religious pagodas and stupas, which are buildings of great importance. There used to be strong earthquakes in Myanmar about once in a century. A Bago earthquake is expected to hit between 80-100 years, according to experts.

we must step up our efforts and plan well and invest public resources wisely with reducing disaster risk as a goal and promote a culture of safety.

To monitor earthquakes and alleviate earthquake-related danger, the Kabar-Aye Earthquake Observatory Center was set up in 1961, the Mandalay centre in 1966, the Sittwe center in 1984 and the Dawei center in 1985.

After a big earth-

quake, there can be dangerous tremors, risk of fire and damages to dams, the possibility of volcano eruptions, landslides and tsunamis. It is crucial to undertake quick and effective activities for relief and support during

In Myanmar, drills are being conducted to make

ourselves effective (in a disaster), and simulation exercise is important for ensuring an immediate emergency response, which includes creating a precise and strong system.

The move is aimed at developing a culture of safety and preparedness to help prevent natural hazards from turning into disasters.

Meanwhile, we should step up efforts for disseminating knowledge on earthquake hazards among the people.

Media play a vital role in executing this plan, such as through television series, stories and episodes.

All these processes are related to protecting human life and property, and if the country suffered a disaster, effective connections and organisation would play a vital role.

We would like to urge governmental agencies concerned, experts and people to be aware of the situation and to make arrangements for an immediate response to disasters within seven days to save lives.

It means, we must step up our efforts and plan well and invest public resources wisely with reducing disaster risk as a goal and promote a culture of safety.

Disasters as an enemy are becoming more enigmatic and formidable.

The situation calls for a multi-hazard approach for early warning system anchored on close coordination among hazard

Disaster risk reduction and preparedness should be a way of life. ■

Global Media and Information Literacy Week

12 10 10

29 OCTOBER 2018

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

By Dr. Thidar Tin

UR present time is regarded as digital age in which information has become a leading role and is quickly and widely disseminated and easily available through the use of information technology, enabling people to use mobile phones, radio and television for getting their information. Mass media acts as a bridge of understanding, as a means of transmitting to provide information with a speedy flow of communication to us in a split of seconds. Nevertheless, one of the major challenges is that the public should fully understand and be aware of the sources of media that coveys basic information. If they could not be fully understood about it there will be many consequences for all of us. When we are weak in checking the authenticity of the news, we can fall prey to the hate speech that stimulate our emotional distress.

Sometimes most of the people aren't able to accurately distinguish fake to real news and the spread of misinformation on the social media due to doubtfulness and ignorance. Similarly, we happen to present ineffective media posts mainly due to lack of computer skill and IT knowledge and journalism. In the present-day world, it is found that disseminating knowledge is being sped up and it is of great importance to the online users ensuring their media and information literacy

of parts

aim to be effective use of social media and information. Dissemination is the interactive process of communicating knowledge to target audiences so that it may be used to lead to improve the accessibility of desired knowledge products by those they are intended to reach. The Global Media and Information Literacy Week, initiated in 2012 and were led by UNESCO. It unites diverse actors committed to promoting

Novelty

Future

Wisdom

Knowledge

Information

Data

Past

POLITIKEN

SUHDTV

(MIL) as a way to foster social inclusion and intercultural dialogue which takes place from 25 to 31 October every year. The annual Global MIL Week activities and the feature conference are important opportunities for stakeholders globally to review and celebrate the progress achieved towards the process of "MIL for all". Global MIL Week also enables connections and sharing of creative projects, the

latest research, new ideas, and

information across countries and stakeholders involved in MIL, and in print, screen-based and digital media. The 2018 annual global celebration of Global Media and Information Literacy Week will take place, under the theme "Media and Information Literate Cities: Voices, Powers and Change Makers".

People across the world are witnessing a dramatic increase in access to information and communication. While some people are starved for information, others are flooded with print, broadcast and digital content.

Understanding of Media

Popular culture is generally recognized by members of a society as a set of the practices, beliefs, and objects that are dominant or ubiquitous in a society at a given point in time. Popular culture also encompasses the activities and feelings produced as a result of interaction with these dominant objects. Frank Raymond Leavis and Denys Thompson, in the introduction of their book "Culture and environment" presented mini historical analysis on the people and their surrounding environment and how it is changing constantly. They wrote this book in 1933. They identified something that

changed and they also identified the cause of that change and offered an evaluation of it. In 1950, radio and television have been becoming a popular form of entertainment and influential on people's daily lives that had penetrated vast populations of people in the world. The media has a huge impact on society in shaping the public opinion of

Moreover UNESCO has

been promoting media education since 1982, when it gathered experts from numerous countries to debate media education in Grünwald, Germany and the Grünwald Declaration encouraged promotion of media education in school systems. Grunwald Declaration on Media Education was issued unanimously by the representatives of 19 countries at UNESCO's 1982, following this, the Paris Declaration was adopted in 2007 and 12 indicators Information Literacy Week on were laid down to implement the

Understanding Media and information

With the advancement of the information technology, the key to understanding the primary and fundamental concept of data, information and knowledge plays a crucial role in the media development.

The International Confer-

ence Media and Information Literacy for Knowledge Societies was held, in Moscow, Russia Federation in 2012. Media and information literacy is directly linked to UNESCO's mandate and strategic objectives oriented to build inclusive knowledge societies. The conference objectives are to raise public awareness of significance, scale and topicality of the tasks of media and information literacy advocacy among information, media and to identify and promote best practices in the above fields and strengthen international cooperation among various stake-

In short, we all are to be aware of the fact that there are many challenges in our today's fast-changing world of communications, caused by fake news, intentionally deceptive news, sloppy news, misleading news, rumours, hate speech, propagandas news and so on. All these fake news could impact measures of economic, social, and political affairs in the daily lives. Therefore all have responsibility to make a speedy efforts in order to have focus access to the understanding and effective use of information among the people, in cooperation with media and relevant stakeholders.

Myanmar will hold its Global Media and Information Literacy Week for the first time at the National Management Collage in Bothahtaung, Yangon.

In cooperation with Ministry of Information and Ministry of Education, students and governmental employees will take part in programmes such as excursion to the MRTV, newspaper houses. In cooperation with UNESCO, Myanmar Book Aid and preservation, 7 Day News Journals and Myanmar ICT for Development Organization will hold the Global Media and 29th October.

Educative talk shows and roundable talks will also be included in the programme.

Let's strive to disseminate knowlege on media and information among the people as from the Global Media and Information Literacy Week.

> Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung



မည်သူမဆို ပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပုသိမ်တက္ကသိုလ်၊ ပုသိမ်မြို့





BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Bay of Bengal

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 29th October, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyarwady Regions Kachin and Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 6)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States.

Invitation to young writers for **Sunday Special**

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New** Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road Bahan Township Yangon in person or by email to **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/ University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

Czech National Day observed



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein and Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe and U Kyaw Tin pose for photo at the reception to mark the National Day of Czech Republic at Hilton Hotel in NayPyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A RECEPTION marking the National Day of the Czech Republic was held at Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening, attended by Chairman of Union Election Commission U Hla Thein.

The ceremony was opened with the national anthems of Myanmar and Czech.

Ambassador of Czech Republic to Myanmar Mr Jaroslav Dolecek extended greets and Union Minister for Inter-

national Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, on behalf of Myanmar, delivered address.

The Ambassador and wife took photos together with guests. Then the Ambassador hosted dinner to the guests.

Also present at the ceremony were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, permanent secretaries and invited guests.

— MNA

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman arrives back Myanmar

ANTI-CORRUPTION Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi and party arrived back Myanmar on 27th October after attending the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) in Denmark.

The Commission's Chairman and party attended the 18th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) jointly organized by the Government of Denmark and Transparency International at Bella Center in Copenhagen, Denmark from 22 to 24 October.

The Conference was held to promote the awareness that it is time for cooperation between the countries for development, peace and social security.

The 18th IACC was attended by over 1,800 representatives from 144 countries including from private sectors, civil societies and governmental organizations working on anti-corruption works.

The 18th IACC released 11 principles, saying that anti-corruption as a durable blobal foce would never tolerate any act of corruption; that the private sector was playing an active and important role in the anti-corruption drive; that business en-

trepreneurs should adopt the zero tolerance policy against corruption.

The Commission's Chairman also met with the chairpersons of Thailand's Anti-Corruption Commission and Indonesia's Corruption Eradication Commission. The Commission's Chairman and party then attended the 4th International Corruption Hunters Alliance (ICHA) meeting at Eigtveds Pakhus Building in Copenhagen on 25 and 26 October, organized by World Bank Group and International Corruption Hunters Alliance (ICHA).

The 4th ICHA meeting was

held to promote the awareness of cooperation by forming an alliance against corruption, and attended by 200 attendees who are engaged in the anti-corruption campaigns.

During the meeting on 25 October, the Commission's Chairman discussed with Mr. Erik Laursen, the Head of Department of Asia, Latin America and Oceania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark on the anti-corruption condition in Myanmar. Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi and left here for Denmark on 21 October. — MNA



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi holds talks with Mr. Erik Laursen, the Head of Department of Asia, Latin America and Oceania, at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thandwe's Children's Literature Festival concludes



Children take part in a game at the festival



Book stalls are crowded with the visitors.

THE Children's Literature Festival in Thandwe, Rakhine State, reached a final day yesterday.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr Chan Tha, Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing and officials watched the final football match between two high schools of the town.

Other sporting events

included volleyball, table tennis and sepak takraw or kick volleyball.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presented prizes and cash awards to the winners of the football match; and Rakhine State Minister Dr Chan Tha and Director-General U Ye Naing, to the winners of the other sporting events. Boys and girls' teams from schools in Thandwe Township took part in the competitions.

— Sittway District IPRD



 $Literature\ talks\ at\ the\ Children's\ Literature\ Festival\ in\ Thandwe\ attract\ people\ .$

Eleven reported dead as gunman attacks US synagogue

PITTSBURGH (United States) A gunman opened fire on Jewish worshippers at a synagogue in the US city of Pittsburgh on Saturday, leaving 11 people dead according to US media, in what appeared to be one of the worst anti-Semitic attacks in American history.

The shooter — identified by media as a 46-year-old white man — reportedly yelled anti-Jewish slurs as he launched the attack at the Tree of Life synagogue during a baby naming ceremony.

The suspect was taken into police custody and transferred to hospital. Dozens of people were gathered during Sabbath services at the time of the attack,

which federal investigators were treating as a hate crime.

President Donald Trump hit out at a climate of "hate" in America and beyond—while his daughter Ivanka, a convert to Judaism, denounced a "depraved" attack and Vice President Mike Pence called it "an assault on our freedom of religion."

"There must be no tolerance for anti-Semitism," the president told supporters at a campaign event for next month's midterm elections. "This wicked act of mass murder is pure evil, hard to believe, and, frankly, something that is unimaginable."

"Our nation and the world are shocked and stunned by the



A SWAT Team truck turns on a street near the Tree of Life Synagogue, after a gunman opened fire inside at Squirrel Hill, Pennsylvania on 27 October, 2018. A synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh is "likely the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the history of the United States," an American civil rights group. PHOTO: AFP

grief."

As police cars, ambulances and a SWAT team surrounded the synagogue in the historically Jewish neighborhood of Squirrel Hill, Wendell Hissrich, Pittsburgh's public safety director, confirmed "multiple fatalities" and at least six people injured including four police officers whose condition was not immediately clear.

The Washington Post and the local CBS affiliate said 11 people were dead.

"The scene is very bad inside," Hissrich said. "It's a very horrific crime scene, one of the worst that I've seen, I've been on plane crashes. It's very bad."

A woman on site told CNN her daughter was with others who ran down the stairs and barricaded themselves in the basement of the synagogue after hearing shots.

"They're safe, but they kept hearing them firing and everything else," she told the television network. Multiple US media identified the shooter as Pittsburgh resident Rob Bowers, whose online posts were reportedly rife with anti-Semitic comments. — AFP ■



of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. PHOTO: AFP

A police rapid response team responding to a mass shooting at the Tree

The German killer nurse who took himself for God

BERLIN — The man accused of being post-war Germany's most prolific serial killer was known to colleagues as a "nice guy" who did little to raise suspicion until well into his murder spree.

Prosecutors say Niels Hoegel, 41, a heavy-set, second-generation caregiver, was drunk on power over his ailing patients, whom he picked off at random out of "boredom".

Hoegel has admitted to injecting patients with drugs that cause heart failure or circulatory collapse so he could then try to revive them and, when successful, shine as a saviour before his medical peers and superiors.

The dangerous game left more than 100 patients dead.

The trial beginning on Tuesday is Hoegel's third since 2015 related to the deaths at clinics where he worked. He was found guilty in two earlier trials and sentenced to 15 years in prison, but investigators have pressed on with toxicology tests on dozens more exhumed bodies.

Hoegel has admitted to around another 30 murders and 60 attempts but investigators in-



Hoegel has admitted to injecting patients with drugs that cause heart failure or circulatory collapse so he could then try to revive them and, when successful, shine as a saviour before his medical peers and superiors. **PHOTO: AFP**

sist the toll is higher still. Hoegel has expressed no remorse.

'Pretty normal'

Local daily Nordwest Zeitung plunged into a character study of the defendant whose crimes stunned the country.

Talking to his former teachers and classmates, "friendly", "helpful" and "fun" were words that came up again and again to describe him.

"In no way someone from the fringes", the paper quoted another person who had known him since adolescence as saying.

A teacher called him "a pretty normal student" who was more interested in football than in his classes. Born on 30 December, 1972 in the coastal town of Wilhelmshaven, Hoegel grew up in a Catholic family he described as "warm and stable".

At 16, he began training at the main hospital in his hometown as a nurse, his father's vocation. He failed to make a strong impression, but colleagues and superiors remember him as "nice" during the few years he spent at the clinic. — AFP ■

Brief in News

Pittsburgh synagogue attack 'blind antisemitic hatred': Merkel

BERLIN (Germany) – German Chancellor Angela Merkel denounced the deadly shooting rampage at a synagogue in the US city of Pittsburgh on Saturday as "blind anti-Semitic hatred".

"We all have to stand up against anti-Semitism, everywhere," she said, in a brief statement posted on Twitter by a German government spokesman.

Eleven people were killed and six injured in the shooting, the city's public safety director Wendell Hissrich said, an attack the FBI is investigating as a federal hate crime.

Merkel, who faces a resurgence of antisemitism in her own country, said her thoughts were with the victims' families and expressed the hope that those injured would make a full recovery.

The anti-immigration Alternative for Germany party, which captured nearly 13 per cent of the vote in last year's general election, has broken a taboo by repeatedly challenging Germany's "remembrance culture" and atonement for the Nazi era. — AFP ■

Helicopter crashes near UK football stadium: police

LONDON (United Kingdom) A helicopter on Saturday crashed near the football stadium in the central UK city of Leicester, police said.

Sky Sports broadcast pictures of what it said was the helicopter in flames, reporting it belonged to Leicester City Football Club's Thai owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha.

The crash took place hours after Leicester drew 1-1 with West Ham in a Premier League match at the King Power Stadium.

Sky Sports said the helicopter took off from the pitch between 8.30pm-8.45pm local time (1930-1945 GMT) but developed problems shortly afterwards with its tail rotor and crashed in a nearby car park. Leicestershire Police tweeted: "We are dealing with an incident in the vicinity of the King Power Stadium. Emergency services are aware and dealing." The ambulance service also tweeted: "We are also in attendance and will update when possible." Meanwhile broadcaster and former Leicester footballer Gary Lineker tweeted: "Hearing that the Leicester City owners' helicopter has crashed in the club's car park." — AFP ■

REGIONAL 29 OCTOBER 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (r) chats with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in Yamanakako on 28 October, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Japan PM Abe invites Modi to resort near Mt Fuji

YAMANAKAKO (Japan) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe invited his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to a scenic resort by Mt Fuji on Sunday for a luncheon as a token of gratitude for accommodating him in the Indian leader's home state during last year's visit.

After sitting down for lunch in a hotel at the foot of the mountain, Abe and Modi, who is on a threeday visit through Monday, were scheduled to visit a factory of industrial robot manufacturer Fanuc Corp. in Yamanashi Prefecture, west of Tokyo, before moving on to the Japanese premier's vacation home nearby. It is the first time that Abe has invited a foreign political leader to his holiday home in the village of Narusawa in the prefecture.

Since 2005, Japanese and Indian prime ministers have held summit talks almost annually. Abe and Modi have held bilateral talks 11 times to date.

In September last year, Abe paid a visit to Ahmedabad in Modi's home state of Gujarat in western India and attended a ceremony to mark the beginning of construction of a new high-speed railway employing Japanese bullet train technology to link the city and Mumbai.

Modi's latest visit to Japan began a day after Abe held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang.

During the first official visit to Beijing by a Japanese political leader in nearly seven years, Abe and the Chinese leaders agreed on the principle of moving from "competition to cooperation" in a new era of relations between Asia's two biggest economies.

Abe and Modi will hold a formal summit on Monday in Tokyo, during which strengthening bilateral security and economic cooperation is expected to be high on the agenda.

China is a strategic and economic rival of India. New Delhi has been apprehensive about Beijing's "One Belt, One Road" initiative to build ports and other infrastructure around the Indian Ocean linking Asia with other parts of the world and its naval expansion in regional waters.

Abe and Modi will likely confirm their cooperation to realize a "free and open" Indo-Pacific, an Abe-led concept aimed at developing high-quality infrastructure from Asia to Africa, while promoting principles such as freedom of navigation and the rule of law.

Abe is also likely to pledge the provision of low-interest loans worth more than 300 billion yen (\$2.68 billion), including ones to help India's 500-kilometre high-speed railway project, Japanese government sources said.

In an interview with

Kyodo News on Friday in New Delhi, Modi said his two days of discussions with Abe "will be an opportunity to review our ongoing cooperation and discuss ways for expanding our relationship for promoting peace, progress and prosperity throughout the Indo-Pacific region and beyond."—Kyodo News

Senior N Korean diplomat arrives in Russia, maybe in prep for summit

MOSCOW — A North Korean delegation led by a deputy foreign minister on Saturday arrived in Russia to possibly prepare for a summit between the two countries.

Vice Foreign Minister Sin Hong Chol's departure from Pyongyang comes as speculation grows that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un may make an official trip to Russia in the not-so-distant future.

According to the Russian Embassy in North Korea, talks between Sin and Igor Morgulov, deputy minister of foreign affairs, are slated to be held on Monday.

The delegation was seen off by Russia's ambassador to North Korea, Alexander Matsegora, at Pyongyang's airport.

Upon his arrival at Beijing's international airport, Sin was tight-lipped when asked about the purpose of his trip to Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has invited



North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Sin Hong Chol is pictured at Beijing's international airport on 27 October, 2018, as he transits to visit Russia. Sin was tight-lipped when asked by reporters about the purpose of his trip. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Kim for a formal meeting, as denuclearization negotiations between North Korea and the United States have stalled. A diplomatic source in Beijing said Kim may visit Russia sometime in November.

Pyongyang and Moscow marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations on 12 October. — Kyodo News

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Dated 29 October 2018 | lmm@kcyangon.com

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Dated 29 October 2018 | Imm@kcyangon.com

Lion cub found in French garage

MARSEILLE — French customs agents have discovered a lion cub in a car garage in the southern city of Marseille, they said on Friday — days after another was found in the Paris suburbs. The tiny cub, weighing just a few kilos, was found on Wednesday inside a pet's travel cage in a garage to the city's north.

She is believed to be between one and two months old, Bruno Hamon, deputy chief of Marseille's customs office, told AFP.

A garage employee, who was temporarily detained by customs agents, said only that he had taken the cub from a Marseille building after its former owners said they were overwhelmed by the situation. The animal was handed to the SPA animal protection charity who have passed her on to a specialist NGO which works to shelter wild animals, customs officials said in a statement.

The discovery came just a day after French police seized a six-week-old lion cub from an apartment in the Paris suburb of Valenton on Tuesday, arresting its owner, a 30-year-old man known to police.

The female cub was discovered in a child's bed and was in good health.

A source close to the

investigation said the cub was likely stolen and that the suspect appeared to have intended to resell her.

Police had been alerted to the cub by videos circulating on social media, in which a man offered her for sale for about 10,000 euros (\$11,470).

There have been a string of such cases around France in recent years, including a half-starved cub rescued from an apartment in Noisy-le-Sec, east of Paris, last year.

A small abandoned cub was also found in a cage in a field outside the Dutch city of Utrecht earlier this month. —AFP



Yakutsk is located about 450 kilometers south of the Arctic Circle. PHOTO: TASS

Icy-clist: Japanese tourist gets frostbite in quest to get to Yakutia's Pole of Cold

YAKUTSK—A Japanese tourist got frostbite while trying to get to the Pole of Cold in Yakutia's Oymyakon District by bike, head of the regional External Relations Department Vladimir Vasilyev informed TASS on 24 October

"A Japanese citizen has sustained a light-degree of frostbite on his foot near the village of Tyungyulyu. He received medical care in Yakutsk's burn centre. A group of four Japanese students... did not take into account the temperatures in the region (plunging to minus 40 degrees Celsius - TASS) when planning the trip," Vasilyev said.

He noted that the tent, in which the tourists spent the night, was unsuitable for extremely low temperatures. "After a conversation with us, they gave up the idea of travelling there and agreed that it is necessary to have suitable experience for such an expedition," Vasilyev added.

He noted that the Japanese students decided to travel to the Pole of Cold on their own initiative, adding that Japan's Consulate General in Khabarovsk was informed about that. "A letter has been sent through the Russian Foreign Ministry's office in Yakutsk," he said.

An attempt to get to the Pole of Cold by bike was earlier made by 61-year-old French traveler Yves Chaloin. However, his bicycle could not withstand the 60-degree frosts in Yakutia. Nevertheless, the French traveler finally reached his destination in late January.

The Pole of Cold in the Northern Hemisphere is located, according to one version, in the Tomtor rural locality in Yakutia's Oymyakon District. A record low temperature — minus 67.7 degrees Celsius — was registered there in February 1933. The Oymyakon valley is one of the coldest permanently inhabited places on Earth. —Tass

AYAYAVAVAVAVAVAVAVAVA

Aussie cops to the roo-scue as kangaroo caught in surf

SYDNEY (Australia) A kangaroo that hopped into the sea for a dip at a Melbourne beach had to be rescued by Australian police and brought back to life with CPR, officers said on Sunday.

Officers said they were called to Safety Beach in Melbourne on Saturday afternoon amid reports the native animal was struggling in the water.

When they arrived, the roo had already made its way back onto dry land and was on the sand covered with a blanket by a beachgoer.

But as they approached, it suddenly turned around and bounded back into the wayes.

"It began to swim but got into difficulty in the swell and breaking waves and went under water a couple of times," Victoria Police said in a statement.

Two officers jumped into the water and managed to bring the marsupial, by now unconscious, back to a grassy area and resuscitate it using compressions. They did not use the "kiss of life" — mouth-to-mouth resuscitation — a Victoria Police spokeswoman told AFP.

The wild animal was then brought to a police station and after an assess-



A kangaroo runs away from an inmate at John Morony Correctional Complex Wildlife Centre in Sydney on 24 August, 2107. **PHOTO: AFP**

ment, officers said it was "in good spirits and lucky to be alive given the amount of saltwater he inhaled".

While known for their

jumping prowess, most kangaroos are also capable swimmers although they rarely take to the water.

—AFP■

Asia-Pacific Judicial Conference on Environmental and Climate Change Adjudication

29-30 October 2018 - Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

SOCIAL 29 OCTOBER 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Japan's home of Halloween looks to cultivate the creepiness



People celebrating Halloween pose for photos in Tokyo's Shibuya district on 31 October, 2017. PHOTO: Kyodo News

TOKYO—Halloween celebrations in Japan have become famous around the world for being a night of debaucherous cosplay, with young people congregating in city hot spots and theme parks to snap selfies in outrageous outfits and ghoulish get-ups.

In recent years, a giant street party has drawn people dressed in uber-graphic costumes like sexy zombies, stabbing victims or as the eccentric animal skin-clad viral star Pikotaro to Shibuya's famous scramble crossing, making movement nearly impossible as thousands of revelers mingle in a heaving mass.

"From about four years ago, people started going out on the streets rather than enjoying Halloween events in clubs or bars," Shibuya Ward Mayor Ken Hasebe said at a recent press conference ahead of the annual celebration on 31 October. But where did all the wicked wackiness get started?

According to locals, the history of Halloween in Japan can be traced back to the 1970s, when a bookstore in the nearby pop-culture hub of Harajuku began selling Halloween paraphernalia and organizing costume parades for the first time. "How we absorbed Halloween culture reflects postwar history in Japan," a spokeswoman for toy and bookstore operator KIDDY LAND Co, said.

In 1950, the store's predecessor—Hashidate Shoten—opened in Harajuku, where many facilities were built for US military personnel after World War

II. To meet demand, the store started to sell foreign books and high-quality Japanese toys. Foreign customers who lived in the area began asking about how they could get their hands on Halloween items. "The staff at the time were asked by foreign customers why we don't carry Halloween stuff," she said. Staff members from the store traveled to the United States to learn about the Halloween tradition and later started hosting children's costume parades in front of the store around 1983.

The event, which saw about 100 participants at the start and attracted more and more people each year, spread from foreign customers to Japanese.— Kyodo News ■

Russia's Yakutia kicks off two-week car tours to Arctic coast

YAKUTSK—Visit Yakutia, an East Siberian tour company, has launched two-week car tours on Arctic winter roads from Yakutsk to Tiksi, Russia's fourth northernmost township, to the Laptev Sea coast, its director Bolot Bochkarev said on Tuesday.

"The Yakutsk-Tiksi expedition that we are organizing for the first time this year will cross four Yakutian districts," Bochkarev stated.

"I think tourists will be really interested in visiting the sites of former Soviet forced labor camps (GULAG)," he added. The expedition participants will also meet with deer breeders, take a ride on the azure ice of the Adycha River, go ice fishing on Lake Emanda



Yakutsk to Tiksi, Russia's fourth northernmost township
The price tag for the will range from \$4,900 to \$7,200 depending on the
number of tourists. **PHOTO: TASS**

and visit the town of Verkhoyansk, one of the places considered the northern Pole of Cold, where temperatures plunged to a record minus 67.6 degrees Celsius in February 1892.

They will also visit Severny, an abandoned gold miners' settlement, cross the Laptev Sea bays along the ice roads and view the Northern Light in the port of Tiksi.—Tass ■

Director Mike Leigh eyes present day woes in new historical drama 'Peterloo'

LONDON (United Kingdom)— British director Mike Leigh first turned his hand to historical drama with "Mr Turner" in 2014.

Now, the 75-year-old Leigh—feted for films such as "Secrets & Lies", "Vera Drake" and "Abigail's Party"—is returning to the 19th century with a retelling of Britain's Peterloo massacre.

Leigh believes his latest film holds lessons for the present day —in everything from austerity and apathy to authoritarianism and Brexit. The Oscar-nominated film-maker said "Peterloo", depicting the deadly and tumultuous 1819 assault on pro-democracy protesters at St Peter's Field in the northern city of Manchester, remains relevant in our "worrying times".

"Given the speed with which chaos has been ensuing not only in the UK... in this period... it does resonate," Leigh told AFP on Friday ahead of the movie's release in Britain next month.

"People were protesting about the vote but also about their living conditions, and we know that's got parallels (with today)," he added.

Nonetheless Leigh is eager for audiences to make their own minds up on the lessons to be learned from "Peterloo".

"I've never made films that say 'think this', what I'm doing is inviting you to reflect" he said.

"The audience can only decode and deal with the film in terms of your 21st century life—there's no other currency you can convert it into."

The social movement centred movie, set for release outside Britain next year, hits screens as the #MeToo campaign continues to flourish—something Leigh is celebrating. "It's astonishing that these things are only just being confronted now," he said. "It's outrageous and it's great that finally people... get in there...."

Democratic landmark

"Peterloo" is the most expensive film Leigh—an Oscar contender five times, including for "Secrets & Lies", abortion drama "Vera Drake" and most recently "Another Year"—has ever made. It chronicles, over two and-a-half hours, the parliamentary reform movement that swept impoverished northern England in the early 19th century, when only two percent of the population were allowed to vote.

"It's about democracy, it's about people being heard. It's also about those in power and those who have no power, and those who have and those who haven't," Leigh explained.

Discontent was stoked by austerity measures in the aftermath of the costly Napoleonic Wars. They included the much-hated Corn Laws putting tariffs and restrictions on imported food and grain to keep prices high and favour domestic producers. The film culminates in the Peterloo massacre—named after the bloody Battle of Waterloo four years earlier—when troops on horseback charged into crowds of at least 60,000 people, killing 15 and injuring hundreds.

Although the protesters' demands took many decades to be fulfilled, Leigh said the tragedy "is generally regarded as an important landmark in the history of British democracy."

'Rambling, shambling mess'

Fast-forward two centuries, he says, and those who took to the streets then would be dismayed by the apathy of modern-day Britain, where around a third of voters typically fail to turn out at elections. "They would be horrified, shocked and frankly disgusted by the fact that people have the vote now and don't use it," Leigh said.

The film-maker added that his 19th century time travellers might also recognise aspects of their political world in today's Brexit-dominated landscape.

"It's a rambling, shambling mess, and to some degree... the situation 200 years ago was also a rambling shambling mess," Leigh said. He sees particular peril for the film industry in Britain's departure from the European Union next March—from no access to grants to fewer continental collaborations.

"European cinema has an identity which I am very passionate about being part of," he said. "It will become very difficult."

The veteran director, who recently became a grandfather for the first time, is also concerned by a host of other global issues, from the treatment of migrants to overpopulation.

The 75-year-old said that landmark, paired with making a drama set 200 years ago, had forced him to take a long view.—
AFP ■

New drugs, test offer TB hope for millions

THE HAGUE (Netherlands)— Thousands of scientists, activists and disease survivors on Saturday wrap up a global conference on lung health dominated by the announcement of several breakthroughs in the battle against tuberculosis. The following is a round-up of developments in how doctors and aid workers are tackling the world's deadliest infectious disease.

Miracle drug

Some strains of TB—a severe lung infection that can spread to the brain—are resistant to antibiotics and have been historically extremely difficult, and painful, to treat.

Several countries including South Africa, which has among the highest tuberculosis burden in the world, announced that a new drug had shown astonishing success against multidrug-re-

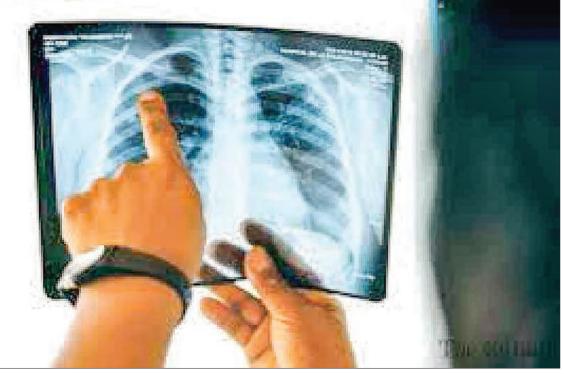
sistant TB. Bedaquiline, which in countries such as Belarus cured 80 per cent of patients, was hailed by experts as a "game changer", and can replace months of excruciating and often ineffective injections for sufferers.

First vaccine in 100 years

In terms of prevention, major headway has been made on a new vaccine against TB, the first in almost a century. GlaxoSmith-Kline showed in a trial in three African nations that its vaccine had a 54 per cent effectiveness in subjects who already have TB but are yet to become sick with it. "Such a level of efficacy could really provide an impact on global health," Marie-Ange Demoitie, who leads the vaccine development for GSK, told AFP.

New test for children

In a last minute announce-



Tuberculosis killed at least 1.7 million people in 2017, according to the World Health Organization, making the airborne infection the world's deadliest infectious disease. PHOTO: AFP

ment, scientists at the conference unveiled a revolutionary new way of screening children for tuberculosis.

They say the new technique, which involves analysing stool samples of infants, will prevent hundreds of thousands each year from contracting the disease.

The only current way of checking a child for TB involves a painful procedure and usually

a stay overnight in hospital, rendering it out of reach for many in rural areas.

650 children with TB die every day, the vast majority of which never get treatment.

Targeted treatment

An innovative approach to getting to at-risk children showed remarkable success in four African countries.

The International Union for **Tuberculosis and Lung Disease** conducted a study on children under five living in a household with at least one adult diagnosed with the disease.

Those found not to have active TB—the bacteria is latent in around a quarter of humans -were given preventative treatment for three months, half the current course length. —AFP ■

Roscosmos designers to team up developing superheavy carrier rocket



MOSCOW—All design teams of the Russian state-run space corporation Roscosmos will have a hand in developing a super-heavy launch vehicle, Roscosmos Head Dmitry Rogozin wrote on Twitter on Saturday.

"Roscosmos' all design teams will take part in developing a super-heavy class carrier rocket, which will help Russia to launch a program of exploration and colonization of the Moon," Rogozin wrote.

On Saturday, a technical design of the new booster and a schedule of organizational events were considered at the Energia Rocket and Space Corporation, he added.

According to designers' plans, the Russian super-heavy carrier rocket should be able to deliver over 70 tonnes of cargo into low near-Earth orbit at the first stage. It will be developed to provide for deep space flights, specifically, to the Moon and Mars.

The construction of the infrastructure for the new carrier rocket at the Vostochny cosmodrome is scheduled to begin in 2026 and its first launch will take place in 2028. —Tass ■

Israeli scientists develop method to produce fuel from olive waste

JERUSALEM—Israeli researchers have discovered a method to turn the waste generated by olive oil production into fuel used by vehicles, the news website Ynet published on Friday.

During the olive oil production process, of every 1,000 kg of olives squeezed in the olive press, only 200 kg of olive oil are produced. The rest becomes solid waste. About 6 million tons of olive waste are produced every year worldwide, of which about 30,000 tons are in Israel.

The new study, led by the University of Haifa in northern Israel and financed by the state's Ministry of Environmental Protection, shows a technique that will enable the transformation of solid waste into ethanol.

Several kinds of engines are fueled with ethanol. Even a regular gasoline engine can operate normally with up to 10 per cent

One of the advantages of using biofuels, such as bioethanol, is to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas, whose reserves are decreasing, use of which generates extensive emissions of greenhouse gas such as carbon dioxide.—Xinhua ■

Early fish evolve in shallow seashores before spreading to ocean

that the evolution of the major ago. groups of fish that we recognize today actually took place in shallow waters, close to the seashore, which completed a missing link in our evolutionary story.

The study published on Thursday in the journal Science revealed where those first vertebrates on Earth that appeared around 480 million years ago were hiding since

WASHINGTON—British and the fish fossils were rarely dis-American scientists identified covered until 420 million years

> "In modern conceptions, we see that coral reefs are so important for fish biodiversity, so we assume there's an ancient link between fishes and reefs going back to the beginning," said the paper's co-author Lauren Sallan, a paleobiologist at the University of Pennsylvania. "But decades of searching in places like the Cincinnati Arch have come up empty."

"Instead, our work shows that almost every major vertebrate division, from the earliest armored jawless fish all the way up through sharks and our own ancestors, all started out right near the beach, far inshore of the reef," said Sallan.

The wave action of the shallow ocean area is more likely to blast fossils into tiny fragments, so few early fish fossils have ever been found intact, according to the study.— Xinhua

SPORT



Thai football clubs eye striker Aung Thu

THAI professional football clubs are eyeing striker Aung Thu who is playing for Yadanarbon Utd FC of Myanmar and Police Tero of Thailand for signing a new contract for the upcoming football season, said a source close to Myanmar football clubs.

Striker Aung Thu played for Police Tero, the football club of Thai-

land League-1 as a loan player for 2018 football season. Thai clubs are eyeing Aung Thu as he showed his best form throughout the league season. Now Aung Thu has a desire to move to other Thai clubs.

At the moment Aung Thu has been in training together with Myanmar national men's football squad as part of preparation for taking part in

AFF Suzuki Cup 2018. It is possible for Aung Thu to decide his future only after the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018.

Aung Thu earned US\$7,000 per month as a loan player for one season to Police Tero and also enjoyed other bonuses. Some Thai football clubs are likely to offer an amount of wage larger than Police Tero to Aung Thu. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

Myanmar to host second round qualification of 2019 AFC U-16 Women's Championship

MYANMAR is going to host second round qualification of 2019 AFC U-16 Women's Championship, said a source of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will hold second round qualification of AFC U-16 Women's Championship from 23 February to 3 March in 2019.

The MFF asked for permission from the AFC to allow Myanmar to host the group of second round qualification in which Myanmar includes. The AFC allowed Myanmar to host the group of second round qualification.

In the first qualification round, Myanmar, Australia, China, Iran, Bangla-

desh, Viet Nam, Philippines and Laos qualified for the second round.

The second round qualification will be divided into two groups of four teams. Top teams from two groups will enter to join the final tournament of AFC U-16 Women's Championship to be held in Thailand. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



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

Klopp hails Liverpool's '20-point win' over Cardiff

LIVERPOOL (United Kingdom) — Jurgen Klopp claimed victory felt like it was worth "20 points" as a 4-1 win over Cardiff City at Anfield on Saturday moved his Liverpool side back to the top of the Premier League, for 48 hours at least.

The Liverpool manager insisted holding first place this early in the season mattered little but, with only two points separating the top five heading into this weekend's games, he did not underestimate the importance of this latest win.

"The number of points makes a massive difference," said Klopp, who now lead former leaders Manchester City by three points ahead of the champions' match away to Tottenham Hotspur on Monday.

"The difference between 23 and 26 feels like 20 points, but it is only three. It is really important to keep on track.

"It is unbelievable that five clubs have such a big number of points. It makes it more intense, good for the people and the supporters of the clubs. For us it is just the next step."

Liverpool dominated the first half but had only managed a goal from Mohamed Salah — his fourth in three games — by the interval.

Sadio Mane doubled the lead after 65 minutes, four minutes after Klopp had felt it necessary to bring on playmaker Xherdan Shaqiri.

But Callum Paterson pulled a goal back for Cardiff in the 77th minute.

That marked the first

league goal Liverpool had conceded at Anfield in 918 minutes, a run dating back to a 4-1 win over West Ham in mid-February.

Liverpool 'more chance' in Champions League

But six minutes from time, Shaqiri finished clinically from a dozen yards and, two minutes later, Mane completed the scoring, lifting the ball over goalkeeper Neil Etheridge after a one-two with Salah.

"He played four games nearly 90 minutes in a row now — both international games for Switzerland, then Huddersfield and Belgrade for us," said Klopp, explaining why Shaqiri started on the bench.

long enough to know how

he reacts. Sometimes you have to protect players until you know them a bit better."

Cardiff have now faced — and lost against — all five of the division's leading teams, leaving manager Neil Warnock to make an interesting title prediction.

"I think Liverpool have got more of a chance in the Champions League, if I'm honest, or the Cups," he said.

"I just think Man City have got that little bit more, week in, week out, in the league. But I think Liverpool are the most improved team with the signings he (Klopp) has made and heaven knows what happens if he makes one or two for next season.

"They (Liverpool) are "We don't know Shaq back in the real big time here. But it was eerie at

