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Peace Process

With the peace process at the centre, national reconciliation can be also achieved, and this, shall lead to a democratic transition and the establishment of the Union.

The main goal of the current peace process is to reach political agreements, to sign the Union Accord, and to implement steps for establishing a Union based on democracy and federalism.

In doing so, common approaches will be agreed through the process of holding political dialogue. The role of the military in the peace process is also very crucial. We need to overcome many challenges harmoniously during the peace process.

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

Ministry torches ivory, seized illegal wildlife parts

AN ESTIMATED US\$1.3 million worth of confiscated ivory and other parts of endangered wildlife were incinerated in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the first ever public event of this kind against the illicit trade, authorities set fire to pyres stacked with 277 ivory, 227 bones of elephant and other wildlife, 45 pieces of different wildlife skins, 1,544 different horns, 45.5 kilogram of pangolin scales, and 128 varieties of other wildlife parts, with a total weight of approximately 849.26 kilogram.

“Poaching and the illegal trade of wild animals in Myanmar have been increasing year by year,” said Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win.

He also noted that Myanmar is losing its iconic national treasures — elephants, tigers, bears, pangolins and birds, in the name of profit and greed.

The objective of the country’s first ever public event is to send the message that trade in illegal wildlife parts, including illegal bush meat, is not acceptable.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation stated that the confiscated items of wildlife were destroyed to raise public awareness for law enforcement on illegal trade of wild fauna and flora, for legal actions taken against illegal wildlife trading and poaching and for promoting international cooperation with Myanmar in fighting the illegal trade in wildlife.

Globally, the illegal wildlife trade is estimated to be worth over US\$40 billion a year, run by crime syndicates involved in other organized crimes, including drugs, human and arms trafficking.

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Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Ohn Win and Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Commission U Aung Kyi stoke the fire to incinerate the pile of confiscated ivory and other parts of endangered wildlife in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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School textbook quality requisites discussed

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended and addressed an event held at the Ministry of Information yesterday morning, where the quality of the school textbooks was discussed.

At the event, the Union Minister said the Ministry of Information is working together with the Ministry of Education to print and distribute school textbooks for academic year 2019-2020. The textbooks will be jointly printed by Ministry of Information's Printing and Publishing Department (PPD), private businesses and companies, and the two ministries were working together, starting from tender works to purchase and import raw materials. JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and CREATE (Curriculum Reform at Primary Level of Basic Education)



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the meeting for printing and distributing school textbooks at the Ministry of Information yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

are much appreciated for coming to explain about the quality required in school textbooks said the Union Minister.

Next JICA CREATE Project Coordinator Ms. Hikari Miyahara explained about JICA work pro-

cess and CREATE project matters. This was followed by CREATE Project printing technician Mr. Fumitaka Sato explaining in detail about the printing quality and sturdiness in publishing school textbooks, findings from

surveying schools, paper and ink quality and quality control.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said the quality of printing press is important in school textbook quality and this need to be dis-

cussed and officials from CREATE discussed and explained about this matter. Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun then explained about calling tenders to purchase and import raw materials and discussed on explaining and sharing printing technology with printers participating in the printing works.

Following this, Myanmar Printers & Publishers Association members, PPD Director General U Aung Myo Myint and Ministry of Education Director General U Ko Lay Win discussed on general matters and Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivered a closing speech. CREATE project is jointly implemented by Ministry of Education and JICA, starting from May 2014 and the project duration is up to 2021 March, it is learnt.—MNA ■

Union Minister meets UN High Commissioner for Refugees

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, who is also Vice-Chairman of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD), is in Geneva, Switzerland, to attend the 69th session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. The Union Minister met with Mr. Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, at the UN office at 6:30pm local standard time yesterday. During the meeting, the Union Minister explained about the assistance given to the displaced people in sheltered camps in Kachin and Shan states, assistance provided to the IDP camps in Rakhine State, and the drafting of a master strategic plan to close down the various displaced people camps, set up for people fleeing from armed conflicts or battles all across Myanmar, that are no longer needed.

The Union Minister said Myanmar is endeavoring for rule of law, development, peace and reconciliation, and establishing a federal democratic union. Although we are facing negative consequences of the long-term internal conflicts, we are working with an authentic outlook for peace, development and reconciliation, he said.

He highlighted the imple-



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye shakes hands with Mr. Filippo Grandi. **PHOTO: MNA**

mentation of the recommendations from Advisory Commission of Rakhine State to work with the existing laws and bylaws in repatriating the displaced people who fled from Rakhine State.

The Union Minister also discussed Myanmar's readiness to follow the agreements signed with the neighboring country, and how assistance is necessary from the associated countries and international organizations for long-term rehabilitation.

He said it is important for assistance for the displaced people to be distributed proportionately to the country that has accepted them and of the country of origin, in line with international agreements. He said the discussions for repatriation conducted between Bangladesh and Myanmar is of vital importance and that all corresponding matters need to be honest and transparent.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, in turn, said they

understand that the nature of reunification is diverse and carries multiple challenges. He said they will continue providing support concerning Myanmar and acknowledged Myanmar's step-by-step adherence to the repatriation process in Rakhine State, as well as its support and collaborations.

He said the UNHCR understands the importance of inclusive development and that the 'Solidarity Approach for the people of Rakhine State' has been compiled to strengthen the support form donor countries and international organizations for the displaced people between Myanmar and Bangladesh. It will be implemented after discussions with Myanmar and other relevant entities, he said. He urged representatives from Myanmar to attend a meeting on 22 October for the aforementioned approach, which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand.—MNA ■

Myanmar Gazette

Permanent Secretary appointed

THE Union Government has appointed Director-General U Kyaw Min Oo from the Union Minister's Office, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, to assume the duties of Permanent Secretary. ■

Independent Commission of Enquiry chairperson, member arrive

CHAIRPERSON of the Independent Commission of Enquiry, former Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines, former Chair and current Representative of the Philippines to CEDAW, Ambassador Rosario Manalo and member of the commission, former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, former Permanent Representative of

Japan to the United Nations Ambassador Kenzo Oshima arrived in Myanmar by air for the third time yesterday afternoon.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department, Daw Kay Thi Soe, Deputy director-general of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Zaw Tun Oo and responsible officials. —MNA ■



Independent Commission of Enquiry chairperson Ambassador Rosario Manalo and member Kenzo Oshima welcomed by officials at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ROK National, Armed Forces Day celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Election Commission Chairperson U Hla Thein, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Deputy Ministers and foreign Ambassadors, together with ROK Ambassador Mr. Lee Sang-hwa and wife, pose for a documentary photo at the reception to mark the ROK National Day and Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

A CEREMONY to commemorate the National Day and Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Korea (ROK) was held at Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Union Election Commission Chairperson U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida attended the ceremony.

The ceremony commenced with the playing of the national anthems of Myanmar and South Korea.

Afterwards, ROK Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang-hwa and Union Minister for the Office of the Union

Government U Thaung Tun delivered messages of greetings and honors.

Next, Union Minister U Thaung Tun, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein from the Commander-in-Chief (Army) office, Ambassador Lee Sang-hwa and Colonel Hwang Sandeok cut a cake commemorating the National and Armed Forces Day of ROK.

The attendees then watched cultural dances performed by Myanmar and Korean artistes.

Afterwards, ROK Ambassador and wife hosted dinner

for the attendees.

Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, U Ohn Win, Dr. Than Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, U Han Zaw, Nai Thet Lwin, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw and their wives, Deputy Ministers, high ranking Tatmadaw officers, departmental officials, foreign Ambassadors to Myanmar and diplomats, representatives from United Nations and other invited guests also attended the ceremony.—MNA ■

Union Minister attends ISA renewable energy exhibition

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing attended the 2nd Global Renewable Energy (RE) – INVEST 2018 conducted by International Solar Alliance (ISA) at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, New Delhi, India, on the morning of 3 October.

The event was opened by Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy H.E. Mr. Raj Kumar Singh and the First General Assembly of International Solar Alliance commenced at 10 am local standard time, where sectors

such as Political Initiatives, RE Powering Small Hydro, Offshore Wind, Clean Energy, Financing through Demand Aggregation and The New Green Revolution (Bioenergy/Biofuels) were discussed.

Later in the evening, the Union Minister and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship H.E. Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan discussed about Myanmar-India bilateral cooperation, it is learnt. —MNA ■



Union Minister U Win Khaing meets with Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy Mr. Raj Kumar Singh in New Delhi, India. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministry torches ivory, seized illegal wildlife parts

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At the ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, except for a few items to be displayed at the elephant museum, to serve as a constant reminder of the need to be vigilant against the illegal wildlife trade, all confiscated wildlife parts were set on fire.

Union Minister U Ohn Win said the ceremony is the beginning of the end for the illegal wildlife trade in Myanmar, pledging that Myanmar would end poaching, illegal hunting, collection and trading of wildlife.

Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Director-General of Forest Department, and Myanmar CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Fau-

na and Flora) Management Authority said in a statement that rare wildlife, including Myanmar's elephants, tigers, bears and pangolins are natural heritage of Myanmar, saying that the wildlife are included and protected in the list of totally protected species.

Myanmar developed policies, laws, rules and regulations to ensure the protection and sustainability of the country's rich biodiversity, wildlife, habitats and ecosystems.

In order to monitor and effectively combat poaching and illegal trade of wildlife plants and animals, the National Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force was established in 2016 by the Union Government.—MNA ■



Confiscated elephant ivory burning during a ceremony incinerating wildlife parts in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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

Disciplinary committee formed to regulate vehicles, drivers

By Nyein Nyein

A Disciplinary Maintaining Committee will be formed to regulate not only trucks but all vehicles and drivers, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport, in response to a question raised by U Wai Phyto Han of Insein Township constituency 2 at the 16th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of Second Yangon Region Hluttaw, held on 4 October.

U Wai Phyto Han asked whether the earlier announcement of designating an operation time for trucks, trailers and containers is still in place; and if so, why no action is being

taken for operating outside the designated hours, and to state the reason why if the announcement is revoked and operation time is no longer designated.

Yangon Region minister said arrangements are made to form a Disciplinary Maintaining Committee township wise not only to regulate trucks and drivers but all vehicles and drivers. To reduce traffic congestion in Yangon Region, containers and cargo trucks were permitted on the roads from 9 pm to 6 am starting from 7 December 2016. To increase the flow of export/import cargoes, containers and cargo trucks were permitted on certain roads between 1 pm and 3 pm

starting from 15 March 2017.

Since there were difficulties in flow of traded goods, a convoy system of container and cargo trucks were used at designated times on designated routes, as per the report submitted by Myanmar Container Trucks Association. This was conducted in coordination among officials of the association and traffic police while actions were taken against any container and cargo trucks operating outside of the designated times and routes.

Restricting the operating hours of containers and cargo trucks to night time only creates a lot of problems for import/export, and thus a new schedule

and a convoy system was implemented, said Daw Nilar Kyaw.

Adding further to his question, U Wai Phyto Han said a stricter enforcement is needed to ensure that the container and cargo trucks are operating properly at designated times and routes. He also added that careless driving and parking by containers and cargo trucks are also increasing the traffic congestion and dangerous conditions on the road.

Daw Nilar Kyaw said Myanmar Container Trucks Association is planning to construct a car park for containers and cargo trucks near Thilawa Port, in cooperation with Yangon Region government.

Strict regulations enforced for rooftop internet tower installations

By Nyein Nyein

ROOFTOP internet towers are installed only under the permission of Directorate of Telecommunications, said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

He was responding to a question raised by Mayangon Township Hluttaw representative U Yan Shin at the 15th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of Second Yangon Region Hluttaw on 3 October. The question asked which department permits the installation of telephone lines, internet lines and internet towers of MPT, Ooredoo, Telenor and Mytel, the average weights and which organisation inspects the buildings and the towers.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe said the Directorate of Telecommunications grants permission to construct the antenna tower. When installing internet towers to improve the communications network, applications must first be submitted to the Directorate of Telecommunications. The directorate then coordinates with Yangon Region government for the relevant companies to install the internet towers. Systematic assessment of

Mobile telecom tower is seen in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

notification letters sent to relevant districts and townships are coordinated by communications network extension coordination committee under the instruction of the regional government.

Only after assessments were made that there are no objections from the administrative viewpoint, will the Directorate of Telecommunications issue the work permit for internet tower installation.

Buildings on which the internet tower will be installed

are also checked by the Myanmar Engineering Council certified engineer on whether it could withstand the weight of the tower. Application then had to be submitted to the Directorate of Telecommunications with supporting documents endorsed by the certified engineer. The Directorate of Telecommunications also checks whether the proposed internet tower meets the 15-point requirement for internet tower, published by the directorate, said the Yangon mayor.

Hluttaw representative U Yan Shin also pointed out that even though the 15-point requirement said that the consent of all occupants of the top floor of the building is required for the tower to be installed, there had been complaints of this being done with one or two occupants' consent only, and thus assessments need to be made.

The average weight of an internet tower on rooftops ranges from 352 kg to 945 kg, depending on the installed accessories, it is learnt. ■

DWIR, JICA sign grant agreement for Mandalay port development project

THE Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed an agreement to provide grant aid of up to 6.034 billion yen for Mandalay port development project.

Signing ceremony of Grant Agreement for Japan-funded Mandalay Port Development Project was held at DWIR office in Yangon yesterday.

Officials from the DWIR and JICA Myanmar office were present at the signing event and officials concerned signed the grant agreement.

“We will implement this project in line with JICA’s guidelines and the procedures of the Environmental Conservation Department. This port

plays a vital role in development of Mandalay Region. I would like to express appreciation towards the development donor JICA”, said U Tun Lwin Oo, director-general of the DWIR. Feasibility studies were carried out between August 2013 and February 2014 near Mandalay Gawain jetty and Shwehlanbo monastery. The port location was confirmed near Shwehlanbo monastery.

To implement this project, compensation for land owners in the project area will be paid out within two weeks.

The project includes facilities for equipment procurement pier, such as container yard, cargo handling equipment and recreation area.—Myint Maung Soe ■



DWIR and JICA Myanmar representatives signing an agreement for Mandalay port development project yesterday. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**



Officials in Dawei and Myeik townships destroy untaxed bottles of liquor yesterday. **PHOTO: U KYAW KYAW LAT (IPRD)**

Untaxed bottles of alcohol destroyed in Dawei

UNTAXED special goods, locally produced bottles of alcohol were seized in Dawei and Myeik townships in Taninthayi Region and destroyed at regional Internal Revenue Department at 8 am yesterday. At the event U Phyo Win Tun, regional minister for planning and finance, delivered opening remarks. Various alcohol products are included on special goods list. Those liquor bottles are locally produced, but the tax duty labels on them are fraud. A total of 792 bottles were

found affixed with fake excise stamp. When calculating the payable tax under the Special Goods Tax Law, owners of special goods should pay according to the sales price. Sellers should affix tax seal issued by the Internal Revenue Department.

At the event, U Kyaw Ye Tun, director of regional Internal Revenue Department, explained how to differentiate between the real and fraud stamp.—U Kyaw Kyaw Lat (IPRD) ■

Corn export to China up last month

THE volume of corn export to China through the Muse gate was registered at over 74,530 tons in September, which is a significant rise compared to August, according to Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (Myantrade).

In August, around 42,137 tons of corn were sent to China through the Muse border gate.

At present, corn export

has been increasing, as both old stock and newly-produced fresh maize entered the market.

Excess supply of maize during its season brought down the market in September.

Additionally, confiscation by China in recent days is also a contributing factor for decrease in price, as corn trade is illegitimate after exceeding

import quota set by China.

On 3 October, Muse gate witnessed flow of 191 trucks with an estimated volume of 5,153 tons of corn.

The minimum price was 1,800 Yuan per ton, while the highest was 1,940 Yuan.

China is the main market for Myanmar’s corn. It is also exported to Viet Nam, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand.—GNLM ■

Rice export to China through Muse gate drops last month

RICE and broken rice exports to China through the Muse border gate in September drastically plunged from August’s export volume, according to Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (Myantrade). Last month saw exports of over 69,400 tons of rice and over 3,440 tons of broken rice at the Muse gate. In August, over 87,640 tons of rice and over 3,510 tons of broken rice were exported to China through Muse gate.

Local rice price this year hit the highest record, compared to the past four years. Therefore, the export rice price also went up.

Additionally, Chinese mer-

chants are observing the market to purchase the rice at the right time. On 3 October, about 45 trucks loaded with over 850 tons of rice entered the Muse market. It fetched 2,420 Yuan per ton minimum and 2,740 Yuan maximum, according to news released by Myantrade.

Some 75 per cent of the trade between China and Myanmar is carried out through Muse which performed the largest trade among border checkpoints. It also witnessed the majority of the country’s rice exports.

The volumes of rice exports through the Muse gate were registered at over 1.2 million tons in the 2014-2015

FY, over 1.03 million tons in the 2015-2016 FY, over 627,400 tons in the 2016-2017 FY and over 1 million tons in the 2017-2018 FY. China has set import quotas on some agro products, including rice. Tax is exorbitantly high for merchants when the import volume exceeds the quota limit, resulting in illegal rice flow to China.

Therefore, China’s confiscation rice in the border areas often occurs.

Border trade surpassed sea trade in rice export, accounting for 56.7 per cent of the total export. Myanmar’s rice is shipped to 40 countries while broken rice is exported to 15 countries.—GNLM ■

Deputy Minister attends 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management

THE 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (COP to AADMER) were held in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 4 October, and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung and representatives from Myanmar were present.

During the meeting and conference, the ASEAN Ministers openly discussed for pacts on policies by the ministers, efforts from respective countries to improve Government-Public collaboration on the Disaster Management Work Programme, reduction of disaster losses in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets by collaborating of private sectors, experts team and civil societies,



Foreign ministers at the 6th-AMMDM and 7th ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 4 October 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

accretion funding for disaster management, coordination on Emergency Response Operations and early restoration, upgrading the ability on disaster management of private sector

and encouragement on the collaboration of private organizations to facilitate response in times of disasters.

The meeting was opened by H.E. Prime Minister of Malaysia

YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and Secretary-General of ASEAN H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia YAB Dato' Seri Wan Azizah Dr. Wan

Ismail and co-chaired by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung.

The Meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of disaster management, Secretary-General of ASEAN, representatives from all ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).

The Ministers expressed confidence for the leadership of Myanmar as the forthcoming Chair of the ACDM, the Governing Board of the AHA Centre, the COP to AADMER and the AMMDM in 2019, and looked forward to the 7th AMMDM and the 8th Meeting of the COP to AADMER, scheduled in Myanmar in 2019.—MNA ■

28,500 Yaba tablets seized in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State

SECURITY forces arrested two Bangladesh nationals and a local from Maungtau Township on a boat in Naf River, Rakhine State, with Ks 57 million worth of 28,500 Yaba tablets yesterday morning.

Security forces were patrolling along the Naf River in two motorboats when they found a boat being rowed towards Bangladesh.

The boat was stopped and searched and Ali Sulihaman, 20, from Maungtau Township, Abdul Seidi, 27, and Luban, 18, from a village south of Teknaf, Bangladesh, were found with the Yaba tablets.

Upon investigation, the Yaba tablets were found to be owned by Eliyet in Maungtau and were being sent to Norbi Husson in Musoni camp, Bangladesh. Ali Sulihaman was paid Ks 200,000, while Abdul Seidi and Luban each received 20,000

Taka for transporting the Yaba tablets.

Ali Sulihaman first carried the tablets from Thayet Oat village to the mouth of Ywet Nyo Taung creek where he met up with the two Bangladesh nation-

als on a boat.

They were caught while transporting the Yaba tablets to Bangladesh by boat. The police are continuing the investigation to apprehend other suspects related to the case.—MNA ■



Three suspects detained together with seized yaba tablets in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Warning issued to workers possessing fake documents

THE Department of Labour only sends Myanmar workers to work in Thailand through licensed overseas employment agencies, operating in line with the MoU system.

Employers in Thailand submit their call for employment vacancies to their respective local labour office, which relays it to the Thailand Employment Department. Once the department gives approval, the list is sent to employment agencies in Thailand who send it over to their counterpart agencies in Myanmar. From there, the lists are taken by the labour agent to be submitted at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

At this part of the process, the Committee for the Development of Education, Health and Human Resources scrutinizes the list and once approval is received, the employer from Thailand, or a representative agent, travels to Myanmar to sign an employer-employee contract, make an overseas worker identification card provided that an entry-visa is obtained from Thailand, and then accompanying together with the representative to the labour exchange office in Myawady Town to send the workers to their place of employment.

There is a large proportion of Myanmar workers contacting labour brokers and then migrate into Thailand to work illegally. This resulted in recurring arrests of Myanmar migrant workers in possession of fake documents.

All Myanmar workers need to be aware that a passport alone is not sufficient to work in Thailand. A visa is required to stay in Thailand and a letter of employment is required to legally work in the country.

There have also been instances where a Myanmar worker possessing all three required documents decides to change jobs but has not sought or received a letter of employment from the new employer, which has resulted in arrests.

Possession of fake documents is punishable by Thailand's existing Law 269/13, which can sentence an imprisonment term from 1 to 10 years and a fine from Baht 10,000 to Baht 200,000.

Myanmar workers seeking employment in Thailand are notified to follow the bilateral MoU agreement between Myanmar and Thailand and enter the country legally.—Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population ■

12 injured in train derailment in Pyawbwe

TWELVE passengers have been injured after a train carrying 84 people derailed near Pyawbwe, Mandalay Region, yesterday.

The Uptrain-3 came off the tracks yesterday morning near

Yengan Village after leaving Lebu station in Natmuk Township for Pyawbwe, according to a local police source. Police, rescue teams and railway officials reached the spot after the

accident, which occurred at 9.55 am, and transported the injured to Pyawbwe Township People's Hospital and remaining passengers to Pyawbwe Station.—GNLM ■

YCDC new compensation policy covers wage labourers

By Nyein Nyein

RESPONDING to a question raised by U Hla Thein of Tam-way township constituency 1 at the 14th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of Second Yangon Region Hluttaw, held on 2 October, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe said Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has drawn up a new policy that provides compensation to worksite fatalities and injuries for wage labourers. U Hla Thein was asking if there were plans to pay compensation to wage workers for occupational hazards.

YCDC wage workers were not compensated when they are involved in fatal worksite accidents, injured or suffer chronic illnesses and only receive compassionate grant, added U Hla Thein in his question.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe said wage workers working in YCDC departments are not covered by social security law and rules. Therefore, YCDC implemented a new policy on 16 March 2015 to provide compen-

sation to wage workers who are involved in fatal accidents or are injured in work sites or are chronically ill and are unable to work.

Compensatory payments are made after individual cases are scrutinized under the new policy of YCDC. Under the new policy, compensations for wage workers involved in accident will depend on the length of their service, said Yangon mayor. "A wage worker who had worked in YCDC for a minimum of three months will receive compensation if the wage worker is involved in a work site accident. If the wage worker's service in YCDC is less than three months, the wage worker involved in a work site accident will be given a compassionate grant," said U Maung Maung Soe.

From fiscal year 2015-2016 to date, YCDC has provided compensation to a total of 18 wage labourers. Ks 4,083,600 was provided to 11 wage workers who were hurt in work site accidents, while families of seven wage workers involved in fatal work site accidents were provided with Ks 142,84,000. ■

Human resource: biggest challenge for private health sector

By May Thet Hnin

LACK of human resources is the biggest challenge for private health care sector, said Dr. Aye Aye San, general secretary of Myanmar Private Hospitals' Association.

"The biggest challenge we face is the lack of human resources. Currently, there are shortage of doctors, nurses and expert workers. If foreign direct investments (FDIs) flow into this sector, the challenges will even become bigger. As there are insufficient human resources for local health care services, entry of FDIs will mean sharing of the scarce human resources."

Private hospitals and clinics are facing the issues of competency in human resources as well as in technology and facility, said Dr. Aye Aye San.

"At the moment, there is no investment of international standard medical equipment in private health care sector. Around 100,000 patients went

abroad to receive health care. We need to attract them back", she added.

Health care standard is not the only reason of medical tourism. The world has become a village and there is also smooth transportation. Some people were travelling for a medical checkup.

"We need to build trust with such patients and attract them back. In this case, competencies are very important. We can develop medical tourism through promotion", she added further.

Patients also complain about the waiting time for doctors in the private health care sector. "Whenever we went to a specialist in a private hospital or clinic there is a long waiting time for us to receive treatment.

At least getting treated after a long wait is bearable, because in some cases, the specialist calls the hospital or clinic to see how many patients there are and will not show

up if there are only one or two patients.

Sometimes they show up to treat a single patient, but then the treatment charge increases from the usual Ks 7,000 to Ks 10,000," said a patient.

On this matter, Dr. Aye Aye San said 95 percent of specialist doctors went on to provide their service in a private clinic and/or hospital after completing their day's work at government hospitals. Sometimes they could not reach the clinic on time because of traffic.

Therefore, clinics appoint retired doctors at private clinics and hospitals. Private clinics and hospitals cannot appoint a foreign doctor because their salaries are high.

There are over 4,900 clinics, 655 special clinics, 225 private hospitals and 1,134 government hospitals in Myanmar. Myanmar Private Health Care Service Law was enacted in 2007 and rules were issued in 2014. ■

Norwegian, Myanmar artists showcase sculptures



DUO Art Exhibition by Norwegian artist Merete Sejersted Bodtker and Myanmar's prominent sculptor Sonny Nyein opened at Beikthano Gallery in

Yangon yesterday.

During the four-day exhibition, the duo have displayed their sculptures and works on paper until 7 October.



Merete Sejersted Bodtker has showcased her work of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi portrait sculpture, prints of her mix-media works and prints of her sculpture works from Norway.

She showcased her work of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's bust, which she had donated to the National League for Democracy office since last year.

"I exhibited my works outside Norway. But, this is the first time in Myanmar and I am happy," said Merete Sejersted Bodtker.

Merete Sejersted Bodtker was born in Oslo, Norway, in



Sonny Nyein, left, and Merete Sejersted Bodtker, right.

1956. Her public works can be found in Norway and Sweden, as well as in private collections in the US, Switzerland, Germany, Sri Lanka, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Sonny Nyein has displayed five abstract sculptures. Sonny Nyein was born in 1949 in Mandalay. He received his graduation from the Yangon State School of Fine Arts in 1971, majoring in Sculpture.

While showing an enthusiast to his works of two forms : one is made of used recycled cans and another one is empty iron square, Sonny Nyein trans-

lated his works, "rich and poor".

He also studied Form and Space concepts in both sculpture and painting from Baji Aung Soe, icon of the Myanmar Modern Art and former lecturer at Rangoon Institute of Technology.

His early works were made from scrap metal, with the subjects ranging from pieces inspired by traditional myths to social commentaries. The multimedia sculptures were of various sizes.

Beikthano Gallery is located at 113/3, KabaAye Pagoda Road, in Yangon. — GNLM ■

To promote education standards, raise quality of teachers

TODAY is World Teachers' Day – a UNESCO initiative that celebrates teachers around the world. Every year, the United Nations marks October 5 as World Teachers day.

Held annually since 1994, World Teachers' Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO recommendations concerning the Status of Teachers to raise awareness and address the issues pertinent to teachers.

Myanmar celebrates World Teachers Day every year to remember the teachers for their contribution to society.

Today is the day to appreciate teachers and the extraordinary job they do to teach, support and inspire our children. Teachers lie at the heart of quality education on which the future of the country lies.

Raising the capacity of the teachers is a big challenge. To raise our education standard, we need to raise the quality of our teachers. It means we need to struggle a lot.



Today, we want to acknowledge and thank all our teachers. We would like to urge our teachers to continue learning and developing themselves and not to give up on the future of our country.

We have noticed that education development is most important for our country. We must encourage enthusiasm in our students and the confidence they have.

Most youths who are in the higher education level now are victims of a weak education system. They need to change the old habits they have acquired. They need to be taught on how to obtain education that is appropriate to the times.

This is a big challenge our teachers are facing. If we can overcome this challenge, we can be satisfied for our country's future. We don't need to wait until the youngsters attending primary schools come of age. All have the responsibility of overcoming this big challenge to our higher education system in creating educated youths that would support our country's development.

This responsibility lies with the teachers who are government employees, the teachers, the students and even the private sector. The main responsibility is on the parents. Only when parents instill in their children proper mindsets and good values, can the teachers have good support.

All need to work together in this for success to be achieved, and we believe it can be achieved. Because of this belief, we can say we will succeed.

Today, we want to acknowledge and thank all our teachers. We would like to urge our teachers to continue to learning and developing themselves and not to give up on the future of our country.

We thank you, teachers, because you can make positive difference for our students, our children, the next generation of our country.

Hailing World Teachers' Day (5 October)

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

TODAY, 5 October 2018, Myanmar joins with other countries in celebrating one of the auspicious days which the United Nations Organization has been holding under its auspices.

We, Myanmar people, have not only recognized the selfless efforts of teachers in their noble profession of teaching but also included them in the Five Categories whom we owe infinite gratitude.

The Five Categories are: (1) The Buddha, the Supreme Teacher; (2) The Dhamma, His Teachings; (3) The Sangha, the entire Body of Buddhist monks who keep the torch of teaching and learning in post Buddha time; (4) Parents, who give birth to us and bring us up; and, (5) Teachers who teach us and train us in good character.

Every time we say prayer we begin with paying respects and obeisance to these Five Categories, and when we share the merits of good works with others we always start with Five Categories.

There are many old sayings to remind us of our credit to teachers.

လက်ဦးဆရာမည်ထိုက်စွာ၊ ပုပ္ဖဆရာ မိန့်သ

The first teachers at the moment of our birth are our parents.

ကန်ကုလက်လှည့်ဆရာ

The teacher who teaches you how to handle soft stone pencil to write

သင်ဆရာ၊ မြင်ဆရာ၊ ကြားဆရာ

Teacher is a teaching teacher.

Your eyes are your seeing teachers

Your ears are your hearing teachers

All mass media today are your teachers.

သားသမီးမကောင်း မိဘခေါင်း

တပည့်မကောင်း ဆရာခေါင်း

If teacher does not show, you are unsystematic

ဆရာမပြ နည်းမကျ

Parents are responsible for educating and training their children. They are accountable for their bad character. Teachers are responsible for teaching pupils to be learned and good. They are accountable for bad pupils.

Lord Buddha had prescribed 5 duties and rights between Parents and Children, 5



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

between Husbands and Wives, and 5 between Teachers and Pupils.

Five duties of teachers to pupils are:

၁။ အတတ်လည်းသင်

1. Teach till pupils are learned.

၂။ ခဲ့ပြင်ဆုံးမ

2. Admonish pupils for good character.

၃။ သိပ္ပံမချန်

3. Teach pupils science and technology also.

၄။ ဘေးရန်စီးကာ

4. Protect pupils from dangers.

၅။ သင်ရာစို့အပ်

5. Send pupils to suitable places.

Five duties of pupils to teachers are:

၁။ ညီညွတ်ချေ

1. Gather in unity.

၂။ ဆုံးမနာယူ

2. Listen to teacher's admonition.

၃။ လာမကြိုဆီး

3. Welcome teachers' arrival.

၄။ ထံနီးလုပ်ကွေး

4. Give necessary service to teachers.

၅။ သင်ထွေးအံ့ရွတ်

5. Learn thoroughly what teachers teach.

There are three special occasions on which pupils pay homage to their teachers. On New Year's Day, the day after Thingyan Festival, when pupils visit their teachers with earthen

water pots filled with natural scented water and some gifts, fruits, flowers, snacks and pay respects to teachers, begging their pardon for any act of disrespect committed physically, verbally or mentally. Teachers exclaim in rapture Sadu, Sadu [well done, well done, well done], your sins are all pardoned.

The second occasion is at the beginning of Buddhist Lent [Rain Retreat] in the month of Waso. On this occasion all lay and monk pupils pay homage to their teachers. Before they take wa vows [Lenten vows], monks pay homage to their teacher monks. The most well-known and widely practiced is Acariya Pujas at the end of Lent. The month of Thadinkyut is the end of Buddhist Rain Retreat. Monks are freed from wa vows. They can go out freely from their residential monasteries. In this month, Acariya Pujas are held across the country. Schools, colleges, universities, institutes, organizations, governmental departments are active with puja activities.

Here we witness that not only Buddhists, but also followers of other faiths — Christianity, Islam, Brahmanism, Hinduism, Ancestor worship, Confucianism, Nat worship, etc. — all in unity hold and participate in Acariya Pujas. The teachers who receive the pujas from the pupils

are also followers of different Faiths. But, just as the pupils who perform puja have only one common aim — to pay homage to their teachers, the teachers who receive pujas from their pupils have one common aim to see their pupils with good character and they are extremely delighted.

Here, the writer wishes to share his knowledge and experience of Acariya Pujas with the readers of this highly esteemed daily, the *Global New Light of Myanmar*, of today's auspicious issue.

The writer used to meet Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin, retired first Myanmar Principal of Yangon University, Pali scholar and Professor of Oriental Studies. At one meeting, we were sitting under the shade of trees on benches on the side of the Chancellor Road, leading to the Convocation Hall.

"Hey, Maung Khin Maung Nyunt! I haven't told you about the Acariya Puja, I initiated in Oxford University way back in 1920?"

"No Saya Gyi, how was it possible you held Buddhist ceremony in a non-Buddhist country, like UK, and at such a prestigious Oxford University."

"Yeah, Yeah. I'm glad you asked me that question."

Then Sayagyi related his Acariya Puja ceremony at Oxford University in 1920 as follows:

"There were only a few students at Oxford that time. Including me, 7 students. I was the only one, research scholar in Pali. The rest were all I.C.S. [Indian Civil Service, Highest Serviceman under British Colonial Rule] trainees. They were studying British Constitution legal system, Administration and English culture to become accomplished Black Englishmen to serve British Colonial Government faithfully. Time was that we finished and passed our examinations. So we got together to discuss holding a farewell party to our teachers. Each of us had some souvenirs from our country—Shan bags, lacquerwares, smoking pipes, etc.

I interrupted. 'I, for one, like to hold Acariya Puja. That's our way of saying farewell to our teachers'. They all were shocked at my idea. One of them asked me:

'Ko Maung Tin, you're Christian, how you would arrange a Buddhist Acariya Puja?'

'My friend, don't go astray, Acariya Puja means paying respect to Teachers. It is in all religions.'

'But would these Oxford dons understand it?'

'Don't worry. I'll explain it'.

So Acariya Puja was held for the first time at Oxford University. When I explained that we owed boundless gratitude to our teachers, one Professor retorted, 'We are duty bound to teach you. You are duty bound to learn. There is no boundless gratitude.'

But I explained that teachers are on the same level with Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha and Parents. So please accept our obeisance. We all worshipped them, with our two hands clasped together and bowed from the floor as they sat on chairs. Some professors shed tears of extreme delight. They said they had never experienced such kind of culture. So Khin Maung Nyunt, please take my good precedent with you when one day, you may be at one of the English Universities." [The writer won state Scholarship and was sent to London University to work for Ph.D degree in international Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. After four and a half years of research and

hard work, he obtained Ph.D degree with flying colours.]


In following the good precedent of Saya Gyi U Pe Maung Tin, the writer held Acariya Puja cum farewell party at Burmese Restaurant owned by Daw Mya Sein on St. Gile Street, Oxford Circus, London. The writer invited Professor B. R. Pearn who was Professor of History, Rangoon University, and author of a great book, "History of Rangoon". When the writer performed Acariya Puja by sitting on the floor and worshipping them with my two hands. Professor Pearn explained his experience of such pujas when he was History Professor at Rangoon University. Lacquerwares, Shan bags and smoking pipes were parting gifts the writer presented them. They all were overjoyed. Myanmar European dinners were served. Unfortunately, photo snaps taken that evening were destroyed by Nargis storm and rain.

When the writer returned to his home country and rejoined his Alma Mater Yangon University International Relations Department, the writer went to see Saya Gyi U Pe Maung Tin now in his late 70's. The writer told him that his precedent of first Acariya Puja at Oxford University was faithfully followed by the writer at LSE London University in 1960. The writer showed him the snap shots taken. Professor B.R. Pearn explained the meaning of Acariya Pujas to the invitees, the writer told Saya Gyi. He became alert and his face beamed with delight and recalled his memory. "Oh, I know him very well. He's my friend. How is he? I'd like to meet him again".


When the writer paid obeisance to him with some food stuff and warm clothing brought from London, Saya Gyi uttered Sadu, Sadu, Sadu.

Now, Saya Gyi U Pe Maung Tin, Professor B.R Pearn, the writer's Professor at LSE Professor C.W Manning and Ph.D supervisor Mr. Tunstall were no more. The writer himself is now a late Octogenarian. In 7 months' time, he will be 90 years old.

With this article may I hail the World Teachers' Day of 5 October 2018.



ကမ္ဘာ့ဆရာများနေ့
အောက်တိုဘာလ (၅)ရက်
5th World Teachers' Day 2018
THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION
MEANS THE RIGHT TO
A QUALIFIED TEACHER
“ပညာအခွင့်အလမ်းရရှိရန် ဆရာသည်အသွေးဖြည့်ဆရာ ဖြစ်ရမည်။”



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Thursday 4 October 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Chin State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Rakhine and Mon states, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi regions, Eastern Shan and Kayin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Mandalay Region and isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Loikaw (4.14)inches, Phayathonzu (2.64)inches, Bawlake (2.48)inches, Kya-in-Seikkyi (2.36)inches, Kyaymone and Patheingyi (1.85)inches each, Mingin (1.81)inches, Nawnghkio (1.77)inches, Sittway (1.69)inches, Taungtha (1.54)inches and Mandalay (1.50)inches.

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 5 October 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin and Chin States, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi regions, Kayin and Mon states and fairly widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (2 - 5)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery conditions in Southern Myanmar aeras.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at (03:40) hours MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (10) miles west of (Salin) latitude 20.58°N, longitude 94.49°E, depth (8) kilometers about (51) miles Southwest of NyaungU seismological observatory was recorded at (03)hr: (03)min (59)sec MST on 4 October 2018.

Merkel, Netanyahu seek to brush past differences for Israel talks

JERUSALEM — German Chancellor Angela Merkel holds talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday as they seek to publicly brush past their list of differences and promote cooperation between their countries.

The visit by Merkel and members of her cabinet comes as part of German-Israeli government consultations held regularly, though the last one in 2017 was postponed, with scheduling conflicts cited as the official reason.

There were reports however that Merkel was unhappy with a law passed then related to Israeli settlement building in the occupied West Bank.

There has been no shortage of controversy ahead of this week's visit.

Last week at the UN General Assembly, Netanyahu accused Europe of "appeasement" of Iran, a word evoking European capitals' reluctance to stand up to Adolf Hitler in the run-up to World War II.

Netanyahu has been



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and German Chancellor Angela Merkel pose for photographers between meetings in Jerusalem, on 4 October, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

seeking to convince European countries to follow US President Donald Trump's lead and withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal.

Germany, like the other signatories to the hard-fought deal, has sought to keep it alive, saying it is preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons for now.

Netanyahu has also

hit out at what he calls the EU's "absolutely crazy" demands of Israel, such as those related to his country's occupation of Palestinian territory.

As a counterweight, he has sought sympathetic ears within the EU among countries whose leaders' nationalist stances have been a thorn in Brussels' side, including Hungary.

Despite those issues and others, both sides seem determined to have the visit run smoothly.

Germany says the discussions will focus on economic ties, innovation and technology, while noting that the government-to-government consultations have been in place for 10 years.

—AFP ■

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"flour; flour based mixes for cakes, brownies, quick breads desserts; yeast breads, ready to eat pastries and confections; canned frosting (icing) for cakes, pizza, refrigerated biscuits, pancake and waffle mix; syrup for pancakes, flour confectionery; preparations made from cereals for food for human consumption, frozen pancakes; frozen waffles, refrigerated dough products with and without filling, frozen dough products with and without fillings" in **Class 30**.

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US, China look on as Putin seeks India arms deals

NEW DELHI — Russian President Vladimir Putin arrives in India on Thursday looking to tie up billions of dollars in arms deals with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, likely irking the US, China and Pakistan in one fell swoop.

The Kremlin said before the two-day visit that the “key feature” would be the signing of a \$5-billion deal for the advanced S-400 air defence system, despite US sanctions against countries buying Russian defence hardware.

India will ask the United States for a special waiver for the purchase — as discussed by their defence and foreign ministers in New Delhi last month — but Washington has signalled there is no

guarantee it will accede.

The US is in a difficult position as it seeks to contain China through better ties with India, which like Washington has been unnerved by Beijing’s growing assertiveness.

Washington and New Delhi announced plans last month for joint military drills in 2019, and agreed on the exchange of sensitive military information.

But Russia remains India’s main arms supplier, and a string of new deals with the Asian giant would be a major win for Moscow — and a big snub to the US.

Putin and Modi, who appear to enjoy a personal rapport, are also likely to discuss a deal for four Kriyak-class frigates worth \$2 billion and 200 light utility



Russian President Vladimir Putin is looking to seal a \$5-bn deal to sell the S-400 air defence system to India. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ka-226 helicopters pegged at \$1 billion.

India and Russia have already concluded an In-

ter-Governmental Agreement for the choppers, 60 of which would be built in Russia and the rest in In-

dia.

“Russia is a time-tested friend. I am really glad some spine has finally been

shown by India,” R.R. Subramanian, a Delhi-based strategic affairs analyst, told AFP.

“It’s about time we... showed that we are not going to be pushed around by Washington.”

Experts say India needs the sophisticated S-400 system to fill critical gaps in its defence capabilities, in view of China’s rise and perceived threats from Pakistan, against whom India has fought three wars.

Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa said on Wednesday that the S-400 and the 36 Rafale fighter jets purchased from France — a 2016 deal mired in political controversy — represent a “booster dose” for the country.— AFP ■

Pentagon says castor seeds, not ricin, in suspect packages

WASHINGTON (United States) — Suspicious packages sent to the Pentagon this week contained castor seeds, from which ricin can be derived, but not the deadly poison itself, an official said on Wednesday.

The Pentagon’s mail screening facility on Monday had intercepted at least two packages — addressed to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Navy chief Admiral John Richardson —

that authorities suspected to have contained ricin.

“According to our preliminary analysis, the substance was castor seeds, from which ricin is derived,” Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said, noting that the matter remained under FBI investigation. All mail at the Pentagon was briefly quarantined when the packages were uncovered. No one was hurt. — AFP ■

Turkey parliament extends mandate for troop deployment in Syria, Iraq

ANKARA (Turkey) — Turkish parliament on Wednesday approved a motion to extend the deployment of troops in neighbouring Syria and Iraq for another year, the official Anadolu news agency reported.

The mandate, first approved by parliament

in October 2014, has been renewed every year since then. It allows military action in Turkey’s two southern neighbours against Islamic State (IS) extremists and other groups deemed by Ankara to be terror organisations.

The approved motion

said it was “essential for Turkey’s national security to take all necessary measures ... in the face of any threats.”

Ismet Yilmaz, head of parliament’s defence committee, said there would be no let-off in Turkey’s fight against terror. “We

will not allow terror groups to shelter or be trained in our country’s southern borders, or stage attacks against our country utilising the instable political situation in Iraq and Syria,” Yilmaz was quoted as saying by Anadolu.— AFP ■

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Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botataung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 5th October 2018

Imm@kcyangon.com

Wedding Announcement

Both parents are pleased to announce the marriage of

Wint Mar Tin Kyaw
Daughter of U Aung Kyaw & Daw Cho Cho Khine, 4125 Dyer St, Union City, Ca 94587 USA.

To

Zeyar Phone Paing
(A.G.T.I (Civil)), D.A (LCCL)

Son of U Kyaw Zeya & Daw Nora, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

The couple signed the marriage certificate at the Yangon West District Court on 25th September 2018 and got married.

Japan to host Mekong summit on Tuesday

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will chair a summit next Tuesday attended by the leaders of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and Viet Nam with enhanced connectivity in the region topping the agenda, the top government spokesman said Thursday.

Tokyo will promote quality infrastructure development in the Southeast Asian countries along the Mekong River to realize a “free and open” Indo-Pacific region based on a rules-based order and free trade, Japanese

officials said.

“We will adopt new guidelines on Japan-Mekong cooperation and hope to strengthen relations with the region even further,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a press conference. Deepening cooperation and promoting the integration of the Mekong region has been a priority for Japan as the area located between India and China, and facing the South China Sea, is strategically important when Beijing is increasing its clout in the region, the

officials said.

Following up on the current strategy adopted in 2015, the leaders are expected to adopt a new one aimed at improving connectivity in the region through infrastructure building.

Demand for infrastructure investment in developing Asia is estimated at \$26 trillion between 2016 and 2030, or \$1.7 trillion per year, according to the Asian Development Bank. To meet the growing needs, policymakers and experts have called for more pri-

vate-sector investment.

The region is seen as a promising market for Japanese companies and economic growth in the five countries from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has made development needs more complex and diversified.

Tokyo’s official development assistance has been intended to enhance connectivity by building roads and other infrastructure to facilitate flows of goods, services and people. Technical training and human resources development are

also part of its assistance.

In Viet Nam and Myanmar, the introduction of e-customs systems has helped shorten the time required for customs clearance to a few seconds from 15 minutes, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

A project is also under way to develop a facility for containers at an international port in Cambodia’s Sihanoukville. When completed, the volume of containers handled at the port is expected to double from 2015.

Before Tokyo takes

over the Group of 20 presidency next year, it also hopes to highlight its resolution in the Japan-Mekong summit to help achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals, which cover 17 objectives to be achieved by 2030 in areas such as climate change, disaster prevention and education, the Japanese officials said.

On the sidelines of the summit, a series of bilateral meetings between Abe and the Mekong leaders are being arranged, according to the ministry.—Kyodo News ■

Wife of ex-Malaysian leader charged with money laundering

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia)—Rosmah Mansor, the luxury-loving wife of Malaysia’s former prime minister, was Thursday charged with money laundering linked to a multi-billion-dollar scandal that helped bring down his government.

The 66-year-old pleaded not guilty to 17 charges of money laundering at a court complex where her husband Najib Razak was also making a separate appearance in connection with the alleged plunder of state funds.

Rosmah was allowed to post bail of two million ringgit (\$483,365) and ordered to surrender her passport. She was also



Rosmah Mansor (top C), wife of former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak, is escorted by police personnel during her arrival at court in Kuala Lumpur on 4 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

barred from contacting any witness.

Prosecutors had sought 10 million ringgit in bail, citing the seriousness of the charges, which could result in Rosmah having to spend the rest of her life in prison.

Lead prosecutor Gopal Sri Ram told the court that Rosmah “had approached a witness with a request to give a statement in her favour”.

In the first charge sheet, prosecutors said “you engaged directly in a transaction that involves proceeds of unlawful activity” in violation of laws against money laundering.

Prosecutor Gopal told

court Rosmah’s alleged offences were “very serious” as he justified the high bail amount sought. Defence lawyers sought bail of 250,000 ringgit.

Rosmah, wearing an orange dress and scarf, arrived under heavy security at the court complex after being arrested Wednesday and held overnight at the headquarters of the country’s anti-corruption agency, which had subjected her to three rounds of questioning.

At court on Thursday, she sat quietly in the dock and did not look at the gallery, where her family members were seated.

—AFP ■

Indonesia quake kids traumatised as rescuers race against clock

PALU (Indonesia) — Many children have been separated from their families and are “in shock and traumatised” following Indonesia’s devastating quake-tsunami, aid workers said Thursday, as much-needed supplies trickled in to shattered communities.

A total of 1,411 people have been confirmed dead and over 2,500 injured after the monster earthquake struck Friday sending destructive waves barrelling into Sulawesi island.

The disaster reduced buildings in the seaside city of Palu to rubble but, with transport links badly affected, aid has been slow to arrive and looting has broken out.

While rescuers continue to comb through the ruins of destroyed buildings, hope is fading that anyone will be found alive under the rubble. Authorities say over 100 people are still unaccounted for.

As officials scrambled to deal with survivors’ basic needs and foreign aid

groups rushed to reach the disaster zone, attention focused on the huge number of children left orphaned or separated from their families. Save the Children said many youngsters were sleeping on the streets among ruins in Palu, and authorities urgently needed to identify and reunite them with their relatives. “It’s hard to imagine a more frightening situation for a child,” said Zubedy Koteng, the group’s child protection adviser, who is in the city.—AFP ■

INVITATION FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSALS MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK and IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SELECTION OF A CONSULTING FIRM FOR THE AUDIT OF THE ITALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) is currently implementing the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The Italian Government, through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation contributes in the funding of this project through a Soft Loan for the scaling up of the NCDDP and a Debt-for-Development Swap Agreement. DRD intends to apply part of the funding by the Italian Government hire the services of a specialized audit firm.

The main mission of the audit firm is to audit the use of the funds of both the Soft Loan Agreement and the Debt-For-Development Agreement. This assignment includes 5 separate audits reports between the start of the assignment up to and including 2020. The maximum available budget for this assignment is two hundred and two million five hundred thousand Myanmar Kyat (MMK) 202,500,000 (net of taxes).

All Myanmar based affiliates and subsidiaries of International Firms specialized in financial audit and accredited by the International Federation of Accountants can obtain the Request for Proposals including detailed Terms of Reference in electronic format from the address below.

The deadline for submission of the Technical and Financial Proposals is 40 calendar days after publication of this advertisement, at 10:00am, DRD premises, Building 36, Nay Pyi Taw. A clarification meeting will be held not later than 20 calendar days after publication of this advertisement.

Address for more information and request for an electronic copy of the Request for Proposals:

U Kyaw Swa Aung
Procurement and Logistics Director
Department of Rural Development
Office No.(36), Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar
e-mail ksaung@ncddpmyanmar.org, unionncddpprocurement@gmail.com
telephone +95-673418632



AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO

Europe fires to worsen even if climate goals met

PARIS — Even reaching the most optimistic goals in the Paris climate treaty will still increase the area of southern Europe devastated by forest fires each year by at least 40 percent, researchers warned on Tuesday.

Following two years of often deadly blazes across Portugal, Spain, southern France and Greece, scientists at the University of Barcelona said more woodland areas could be lost to the flames if the targets laid out in the 2015 climate deal were missed.

The agreement aims to limit global temperature increases to “well below” 2.0 degrees Celsius — and to 1.5°C if at all possible.

In the first study of its kind, the team tested computer models of how much worse fires would get if global temperatures were to rise 1.5°C, 2°C, or 3°C by the end of the century.

“It’s relevant because there are a lot of fires in this area, for instance, in Greece this year or last summer in Portugal,” Mar-



In July, nearly 100 people perished in blazes at coastal resorts near Athens, the country’s worst fire. **PHOTO: AFP**

co Turco, from the university’s Department of Applied Physics and lead study author told AFP. “These are examples of things to come in the future.”

Turco and the team found that the area of southern Europe lost each year to fire would increase between 40-54 percent, even if temperature rises were limited to 1.5°C — the most ambitious goal in all climate change mit-

igation efforts. “1.5°C is really ambitious... but it’s not physically impossible,” said Turco. Were temperatures to climb 2°C above the preindustrial benchmark, the area destroyed by fire was projected to increase between 62-87 percent, and for 3°C it could grow

by as much as 187 percent as climate change-induced droughts produce more combustible material.

Southern Europe currently loses around 4,500 square kilometres — three times the area of Greater London — each year to fire.—AFP ■

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and sports for the supply of Medical Equipments for Yangon Children Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital by Donation of Government of Republic of India.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supply Division, Department of Medical Services, office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (8.10.2018).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (5-11-2018) 15:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the phone No. 067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Tender Receiving and Evaluation Committee
Ministry of Health and Sports

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0261-570W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0261-570W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

TRADEMARK CAUTION

General Mills, Inc., a company incorporated in the State of Delaware and having its registered office at Number One General Mills Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55426, United States of America is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

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Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P
For **General Mills, Inc.,**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd,**

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Botataung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated **5th October 2018**

Imm@kcyangon.com

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1821N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1821N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date : 05th October, 2018

Invitation for Bids

IDA, Credit No: 5727-MM

Contract Title : **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Bago (West) and Ayeyarwaddy for National Electrification Project**

Reference No : **MOEE-NEP/C1-W7/18 & MOEE-NEP/C1-W8/18**

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W7/18 for Bago (West) and MOEE-NEP/C1-W8/18 for Ayeyarwaddy.**

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W7/18 for Bago (West) and MOEE-NEP/C1-W8/18 for Ayeyarwaddy in the following locations.**

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding

MOEE-NEP/ C1-W7 /18 process for Bago (West) is:

Lot 1: Pyay District	- 59 villages
Lot 2: Pyay District	- 95 villages
Lot 3: Thayarwady District	- 83 villages
Lot 4: Thayarwady District	- 47 villages
Lot 5: Thayarwady District	- 57 villages
Lot 6: Thayarwady District	- 69 villages
Lot 7: Thayarwady District	- 69 villages
Lot 8: Thayarwady District	- 41 villages
Lot 9: Thayarwady District	- 70 villages

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding

MOEE-NEP/ C1-W8/18 process for Ayeyarwaddy is:

Lot 1: Pathien District	- 44 villages
Lot 2: Pathien District	- 89 villages
Lot 3: Pathien District	- 72 villages
Lot 4: Hinthada District	- 72 villages
Lot 5: Hinthada District	- 49 villages
Lot 6: Hinthada District	- 42 villages
Lot 7: Maupin District	- 48 villages
Lot 8: Maupin District	- 73 villages
Lot 9: Myaungmya District	- 52 villages
Lot 10: Pyapon/ Labutta District	- 71 villages

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank’s [Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers](#) (“Procurement Guidelines”), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and nep.pmomoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [09:30 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 7th November, 2018, (10:00 A.M) - Myanmar Time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below.

7. All bids must be accompanied by “Bid-Security”

8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: **Project Manager**
Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)
Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw /ZIP Code: 15011
Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone: +95 67 3431175
Facsimile number: +95 67 3431176
Electronic mail address: nep.pmomoep@gmail.com

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Dying of cancer, quake-hit Indonesia's disaster spokesman Nugroho battles on

JAKARTA — Indonesia's disaster agency spokesman is fighting a daily battle to update the world 24/7 on the latest developments in a deadly quake-tsunami, despite his own impending date with death from terminal cancer.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, known affectionately as Pak Topo (Mr Topo), is the face of the government's communication efforts to get word out on the devastating crisis on Sulawesi island that has killed over 1,400 people.

The 48-year-old refuses to pass the torch, dragging himself to daily press briefings, taking reporters' calls and communicating on social media at a frantic pace, even as he "feels weaker every day" from Stage IV lung cancer.

"I can't lie about my physical condition—the cancer has spread to other parts of my body and it's weakened my body," he said in a heart-wrenching message to reporters on social media this week.

"I apologise if I cannot respond to every question from journalists, my friends. If I was healthy, I would surely do it no matter what."

Pale and visibly thinner,



Nugroho got grim news in January that he was dying and might have as little as a year to live. PHOTO: AFP

Nugroho got the grim news in January that he was dying and might have as little as a year to live.

Nugroho has reportedly promised his wife to slow down his work schedule but he is showing few signs of easing up in a job that has made him a household name in disaster-prone Indonesia.

He managed to get out a

200-word update on a deadly landslide back in February from his hospital bed, local media reported.

Then in August, he was sending out reports on a deadly quake disaster on Lombok island, next to Bali, minutes after finishing a chemotherapy session. Nugroho, who has a doctorate in natural resources and the environment, took the

job eight years ago in a bid to combine his education with a love of writing, he told the *Jakarta Post* earlier this year.

"Doctors told me that with chemotherapy and radiation, I probably have one to three years left," he was quoted as saying. "Illness or death is in God's hands, but while I'm still alive I still want to do my best to serve others."—AFP ■

Cell networks disrupted after first presidential alert message test in US

WASHINGTON — For several hours, subscribers of several cell networks were unable to access their network after receiving the first ever presidential alert on Wednesday, local reports said.

The unexpected outage began at around 11:21 am. Pacific Time (1821 GMT), about two minutes after the inaugural test of the National Wireless Emergency Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, which is run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"The presidential alert went out and after that I lost all Internet, Gmail, apps. Everything stopped working," Sarah Mendivel, a medical researcher at Seattle Children's Hospital, told the *Seattle Times* Wednesday afternoon.

Soon after the outage, an AT&T spokesperson told the *Seattle Times* that the problem had been addressed and that it had not been related to the presidential text.

It is the first nationwide test of the system built by the federal government and cell phone carriers to warn Americans of an emergency, like a terror attack or a widespread disaster.

"The test will assess the operational readiness of the infrastructure for distribution of a national message and determine whether improvements are needed," read a statement from FEMA ahead of the alert test.

The alert went out to nearly every smart phone in the United States that was turned on and there was no opt-out.

Originally scheduled for 20 September, the test was postponed due to ongoing response efforts to Hurricane Florence. —Xinhua ■

Einstein's 'God letter' to go on sale for \$1mn

NEW YORK (United States)—A handwritten letter from Albert Einstein about his thoughts on God, religion and his search for meaning is to go on sale in New York, valued at up to \$1.5 million, Christie's said Wednesday.

Written a year before the legendary physicist died in 1955, his name synonymous with genius, Einstein writes in German from Princeton, New Jersey to German philosopher Eric Gutkind.

"The word God is for me nothing but the expression and product of human weaknesses, the Bible a collection of venerable but still rather primitive legends," writes the physicist, best known for his theory of relativity.

"No interpretation, no matter how subtle, can (for me) change anything about this."

The one-and-a-half-page letter will go on sale on December 4, estimated by Christie's to fetch between \$1 million and \$1.5 million.

The letter was previously offered at auction in 2008, bought by a private collector for \$404,000, Christie's said.

"It is one of the definitive statements in the religion vs science debate," says Peter Klarnet, senior specialist in books and manuscripts at the auction house.

The son of secular Ashkenazi Jews and forced to flee Germany after Adolf Hitler took power, Einstein did not

exclude Judaism from his critique.

"For me the unadulterated Jewish religion is, like all other religions, an incarnation of primitive superstition," he writes to Gutkind.

"And the Jewish people to whom I gladly belong, and in whose mentality I feel profoundly anchored, still for me does not have any different kind of dignity from all other peoples.

"As far as my experience goes, they are in fact no better than other human groups, even if they are protected from the worst excesses by a lack of power. Otherwise I cannot perceive anything 'chosen' about them."

Last October, a note that

Einstein had given a courier in Tokyo briefly describing his theory on happy living sold at auction in Jerusalem for \$1.56 million, Winner's auction house said.

"While Einstein letters and manuscripts appear with some frequency at auction, those of great importance and significance do not," said Klarnet.

"In the broadest sense, it is similar to Einstein's 1939 letter to (US president) F.D.R. warning of German efforts to build the bomb that we sold for \$2 million in 2002," he added.

The letter, already been shown in Shanghai, goes on public view in New York from 30 November to 3 December, Christie's said.—AFP ■

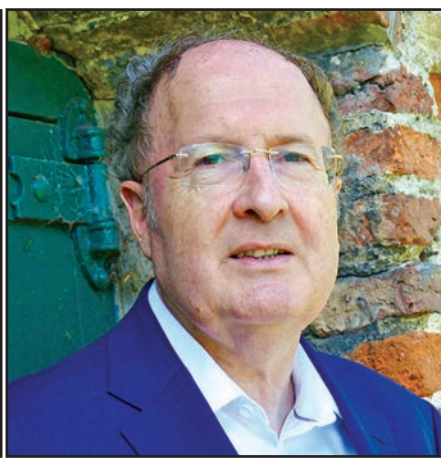
‘Darwin in a test tube’: Trio wins Nobel for harnessing evolution

STOCKHOLM (Sweden)—US scientists Frances Arnold and George Smith and British researcher Gregory Winter won the Nobel Chemistry Prize on Wednesday for applying the principles of evolution to develop proteins used in everything from new biofuels to the world’s best-selling drug.

Arnold, just the fifth woman to clinch chemistry’s most prestigious honour since Marie Curie was honoured in 1911, won one half of the nine million Swedish kronor (about \$1.01 million or 870,000 euros) award, while Smith and Winter shared the other half.

“The 2018 Nobel Laureates in Chemistry have taken control of evolution and used it for purposes that bring the greatest benefit to humankind,” the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences said.

Life on Earth exists because over the past 3.7 billion years organisms have adapted to their



US scientists Frances Arnold and George Smith and British researcher Gregory Winter have won the 2018 Nobel Chemistry Prize. **PHOTO: AFP**

environment, with evolution solving complex chemical problems: fish can for example swim in polar oceans because they have antifreeze proteins in their blood.

The trio used the principles of evolution—genetic change and selection—to develop proteins now used in a range of fields, in what is known as directed evolution. “They have applied the principles of Darwin in test tubes. They have used the molecular understanding we have

of the evolutionary process and recreated the process in their labs,” the head of the Academy’s Nobel Chemistry committee, Claes Gustafsson, told reporters. “They have been able to make evolution many 1000s of times faster and redirect it to create new proteins.”

‘Bouncing off the walls’

Arnold, 62, who has survived breast cancer and is a single mother to three sons, is a pro-

fessor of chemical engineering at the California Institute of Technology.

“I’m bouncing off the walls but I’m trying to pretend to sound calm and collected,” she told the Nobel Foundation in an interview, adding she was “annoyed” she couldn’t reach her sons to give them the news. “They never answer the phone when Mom calls.”

Her method of rewriting DNA to mimic evolution has

helped solve problems such as replacing toxic chemicals like fossil fuels. As a result, renewable resources like sugar cane are being converted into biofuels. More environmentally friendly chemical substances are being developed, improving everyday products such as laundry and dishwashing detergents to enhance their performance in cold temperatures.

“What I do is copy nature’s design process. All this tremendous beauty and complexity of the biological world all comes about through this one simple beautiful design algorithm,” she told the Foundation. “What I do is use that algorithm to build new biological things,” she said.

“Nature is solving all sorts of problems that we throw at her such as how to degrade plastic bottles, how to degrade pesticides and herbicides and antibiotics... she creates new enzymes in response to that all the time, in real time.”—AFP ■

NASA skeptical on sabotage theory after mystery ISS leak

WASHINGTON(United States)—NASA expressed doubts Wednesday over a theory floated in Russia that a tiny hole that caused an air leak on the International Space Station was the result of sabotage.

The breach detected on August 29-30 in a Russian space craft docked at the orbiting station was not the result of a manufacturing defect, according to the Russian space agency, which says it is investigating the possibility that it was drilled maliciously.

But NASA, the US space agency, countered in a statement that ruling out defects “does not necessarily mean the hole was created intentionally or with mal-intent.”

Russian space agency Ro-

scosmos immediately launched an investigation into the hole, and its chief official Dmitry Rogozin went on television days later to say it could have been the result of foul play either back on Earth or by astronauts in space.

“Where it was made will be established by a second commission, which is at work now,” said Rogozin, a former Russian deputy prime minister who was placed under US sanctions over the Ukraine crisis in 2014.

The Russian daily *Kommersant* reported that an investigation at home was probing the possibility that US astronauts deliberately drilled the hole in order to get a sick colleague sent back home—something Russian officials later denied.—AFP ■



NASA and its Russian counterpart Roscosmos “are both investigating the incident to determine the cause” of a small hole found on a Russian spacecraft attached to the International Space Station. **PHOTO: AFP**

JUUL: e-cigarette dominates the market—and fears of parents

WASHINGTON—In just three years, electronic cigarette maker JUUL has come to dominate the American market with its vaping devices that look like thumb drives, a business success that has brought a public health dilemma for authorities in the US, and elsewhere.

On the one hand, e-cigarettes expose users to significantly lower levels of potentially toxic substances, except for nicotine, the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine said this year.

Converting conventional cigarette smokers to vaping would therefore reduce the number of cancer cases.

At the same time, numerous parents and high schools say teenagers are using JUUL, raising fears that a new generation is being exposed to nicotine, which is addictive but not cancerous.

The US Food and Drug Administration has denounced “an epidemic of regular nicotine use among teens,” and confirmed to AFP that its agents made a surprise inspection Friday of JUUL’s San Francisco headquarters, seizing more than a thousand pages of documents on its marketing practices.

The startup wasn’t the first on the market, but it quickly de-



An electronic JUUL cigarette box includes a rechargeable device and cartridges containing nicotine as well as the flavoring that alarms regulators. **PHOTO: AFP**

throned tobacco giants, including British American Tobacco, which markets e-cigarettes using a different technology.

JUUL has soared from a two percent market share in 2016 to 29 percent in December 2017, according to data published Tuesday in JAMA, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

By September of this year, JUUL had reached almost 73 percent of the market, according to Nielsen data provided to AFP by JUUL. The e-cigarette market remains a fraction of overall tobacco sales but is growing fast.

“Like many Silicon Valley technology startups, our growth is the result of a superior product disrupting an archaic industry—in this case, one whose prod-

ucts are the number one cause of preventable death,” JUUL told AFP in a statement.

It added that the company “has helped more than one million Americans switch from cigarettes.” CEO Kevin Burns said the company is cooperating with the FDA to “keep JUUL out of the hands of young people,” and has turned over 50,000 pages of documents to the federal health regulator since April.

JUUL is also available in Britain, Canada and Israel, although the latter country has forbidden sale of the strongest doses of nicotine.

Others, including Australia and Japan, have limited sales of the product to medical use only.—AFP ■

MFF, MNL officials, referees hold discussions



MFF and MNL officials and referees holding a meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

OFFICIALS from Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and Myanmar National League (MNL) and referees who were in-charge of the football matches throughout the 2018 football season held a meeting at the Thuwunna Gymnasium on October 3.

Present on the occasion were U Ko Ko Thein, general secretary of MFF, U Soe Moe Kyaw, CEO of MNL, U Hsu Aung, chief of management of MNL, director U Tun Hla Aung of Refereeing Department, U Win Cho, chairman of Referee Committee, adviser U Tin Aung (goalie) of Refereeing Department of MFF, referees and refereeing supervisors who discharged their duties in

various football tournaments organized by the MNL during the 2018 football season.

At the start of the meeting, U Soe Moe Kyaw highlighted the flaws of the referees discovered throughout the football season, but praised them for their correct decisions and performance. He also urged responsible persons of the refereeing department to put more efforts into the improvement of the referees' ability and producing more new generation qualified referees. "The MFF has planned to improve the role of the referees before the upcoming football season. The referees need to correct their mistakes and prepare to show off their best

performance in the upcoming football season," said U Ko Ko Thein.

After that U Hsu Aung said, "Referees should make decisive actions on foul plays during football matches. They must follow rules and regulations. They should make fair decisions on violations and mete out punishment. The capability of junior referees must be enhanced to enable them to handle first-class tournaments."

Next, U Tin Aung (goalie) gave words of advice to the referees and the refereeing supervisors. Afterwards, U Tun Hla Aung and U Win Cho cross-questioned the referees.—Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

U-19 women's football squad to play two matches against Thailand U-19

AS part of preparations for taking part in the 2019 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-19 Women's Championship Qualification, Myanmar U-19 women's football squad will demonstrate two warm-up matches against Thailand U-19 women's football team. The friendly matches will be held

at Thuwunna Youth Training Center at 3.30 pm on October 5 and at 6 pm on October 7. Football enthusiasts can watch the warm-up matches free of charge.

Daw Thet Thet Win will take charge of Myanmar U-19 women's football team as the head coach. The Myanmar team

is comprised of 40 members, including 31 players, and 9 managers and coaches. Myanmar U-19 women's football team hammered Singapore U-19 women's football team with a wide margin of 7-0 in a friendly match at Thuwunna Youth Training Center on September 6.—Htute Htut (Twantay) ■

Mourinho and Manchester United longing for past glories

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho again pointed the finger at his players' failings rather than his own shortcomings after a 0-0 Champions League draw with Valencia that did little to lift spirits at Old Trafford. Mourinho has now

failed to win in four consecutive home matches for the first time in his career following defeat to Tottenham, a draw against newly promoted Wolves and a League Cup exit on penalties to second division Derby.

Already nine points adrift of Premier League leaders Man-

chester City and Liverpool, it now appears a question of when and not if Mourinho goes, with an unhappy squad now mirrored by disgruntled fans and outspoken former players.

The home faithful implored their side to "attack, attack, attack" in the second half of Tuesday's stalemate.—AFP ■

Pogba says 'not allowed' to talk after Manchester United stalemate

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Paul Pogba said he was not allowed to talk after Manchester United failed to arrest their recent slump with a drab 0-0 Champions League draw against Valencia. Jose Mourinho's United have made their worst start to a league campaign in 29 years after an embarrassing 3-1 loss at West Ham and are already out of the League Cup.

Tuesday's stalemate at Old Trafford was their fourth consecutive match without a win.

Many players avoided the post-match mixed zone interview area after the game to avoid awkward questions.

Pogba was among those to go through but told reporters "I've been told I'm not allowed (to talk)."

The French World Cup winner, who was last week told he would not captain the side again, appeared to get under Mourinho's skin after their recent draw with Wolves by saying United should attack more.

Captain Antonio Valencia and midfielder Marouane Fellaini have both backed the manager despite the growing crisis at the club.

Valencia insisted he is "fully supportive" of Mourinho after appearing to back calls for the under-fire man-

ager to leave.

The 33-year-old 'liked' an Instagram post from a fan account which said that "recently Mourinho has made watching us a punishment" and "it's time for Mourinho to go".

But he attempted to explain and apologise on Wednesday.

"Yesterday, I liked a post on Instagram without reading the text that accompanied the picture," the right-back wrote on Twitter. "These are not my views and I apologise for this. I am fully supportive of the manager and my teammates." "Everything will calm down when we get some wins," the Ecuadoran added. "We are 100 per cent behind the manager."

The players attempted to show a united front before kick-off by breaking with tradition and taking part in a pre-match huddle.

"Everyone is going in the same direction to try to improve and to do better," Fellaini said of the on-pitch huddle. "I think we wanted to show that we are together."

"I think we showed improvement and we have to keep going," he added. "Everybody (was behind the idea). I think everybody is behind the manager."—AFP ■



Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba has been stripped of the vice-captaincy of the club by Jose Mourinho. **PHOTO: AFP**