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State Counsellor, Vice Chairman of NDRC of China, discuss implementation of projects



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for documentary photo with Vice Chairman Mr. Ning Jizhe from China's National Development and Reform Commission at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received the delegation led by Mr. Ning Jizhe, Vice Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of the People's Republic of China, at 4:00 pm on 26 November 2018 at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on future work plans for the implementation of the early harvest projects for the benefits of both peoples in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Building

the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor which was signed between Myanmar and the People's Republic of China in Beijing on 9 September 2018.

The State Counsellor emphasized that implementation of those projects needs to be in conformity with the programmes and the priorities of

the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) and to be supportive to the long-term interests of both peoples. She also stressed the need to hold consultations systematically and accurately in accordance with the domestic rules and regulations.

Also present at the meet-

ing were Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, U Soe Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, Mr. Hong Liang, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—

MNA ■

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw MPs, ministries discuss transfer, appointments, taxation, loans, bills

By Mawsi, Hmwe Kyu Zin

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's tenth regular session held its fourth day meeting at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday. The Hluttaw discussed transfers and appointments of Union Ministers and a State Minister, taxation, loans, memorandum of understanding (MoU), membership in an international organisation and a bill, while reports on bills were read.

Appointment of Union Ministers and State Minister

The Hluttaw first discussed the transfer, appointment and proposal for appointment of ministers sent by the President. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker first informed the Hluttaw about the transfer of Union Minister U Thaung Tun as Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and announced the Hluttaw putting the matter on record.

The Speaker then informed the Hluttaw about the President's proposal to appoint U Min Thu as Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government and announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table motions of support or objection to do so in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting scheduled for 29 November.

Finally, the Speaker informed the Hluttaw about appointing Col. Nay Htut Oo as Mon State Minister for Security and Border Affairs and announced the Hluttaw putting the matter on record.

Joint Bill Committee reads committee's reports on bills

Next, Joint Bill Committee members read the committee's findings and reports on the International Theravada Buddhist



Hluttaw representatives arrive the parliamentary building to attend the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's tenth regular session. **PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE**

Missionary University Bill and the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill, in which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement. The Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss and table amendment motions to register their names.

Hluttaw explains taxation

Next, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win explained to the Hluttaw about the tax receipts status of union ministries and organisations during the second six months of fiscal year 2017-2018. During this fiscal year, the Internal Revenue Department is collecting 77.28 per cent of the tax revenues because of the Ks 7,546.030 billion earmarked to be collected under 21 types of taxes, and it is collecting Ks 5,831.593 billion under 5 types of taxes.

Of the amended tax receipts of Ks 5,831.593 billion for fiscal year 2017-2018, the first six months from April to September collected Ks 2,364.957 while the second six months from October

to March collected Ks 3,275.141 billion totaling Ks 5,640.098 billion and achieving 96.72 per cent of the target. To improve taxation service and reduce corruption among staff, welfare is being provided for the staff according to the law while ITAS (Integrated Tax Administration System) using ICT technology is being implemented. The public is being provided with tax education and the Tax Administration Law has been submitted to the Hluttaw.

The Deputy Minister further explained that suggestions and comments made by Hluttaw representatives on tax collected and tax system was being put on record and is being followed through. Joint Public Accounts Committee member U Bo Gyi then read the committee's findings and comments report 11/2018 on the matter and tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to deliberate on it.

The Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to enroll their names.

Explanation on Euro 70 million AFD loan

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win then explained about the matter of Euro 70 million AFD (French Development Agency or Agence Francaise de Developpement) loan sent by the President for projects in Yangon Region. The Deputy Minister said that the estimated annual interest for the loan at 0.77 per cent comes up to Euro 8.2 million, which is less than the Euro 9.5 million annual aid provided by EU (European Union) for this loan. He said it is evident that France and the EU are consistently providing aid money to Myanmar and requested the Hluttaw to approve the AFD loan.

The Speaker said that the Hluttaw needs to study the matter again and decision on it will be suspended for the time being. The Speaker then announced the Joint Public Accounts Committee is to discuss with relevant departments, organisations and Hluttaw affairs committees in order to read and submit its findings and reports to the Hluttaw in the

forthcoming meetings.

Signing MoU on Mekong Region Capital Market Development and Cooperation

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win explained and discussed about the matter of Myanmar participating and signing the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Mekong Region Capital Market Development and Cooperation.

The Speaker said the matter is planned to be discussed in the following Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting.

IRRDB membership

Later, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw explained about Myanmar becoming a member of the IRRDB (International Rubber Research and Development Board). The Deputy Minister explained that becoming a member of IRRDB would benefit Myanmar's rubber sector development by improving rubber quality, creating an export market and achieving good prices.

Discussion on bill amending the Sea Customs Act

This was then followed by U Aung Sein of Dawei constituency and Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Aung Zin Min discussing about the Sea Customs Act. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that as the matter is scheduled to be decided upon during the meeting on 29 November, if required, the joint bill committee is to discuss it in time with relevant Hluttaw committees, union level organisations and Hluttaw representatives who have discussed the matter before.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on Traditional Medicine Council Bill at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall, yesterday afternoon. The two Hluttaws were in disagreement over the Traditional Medicine Council Bill.

The meeting was attend-

ed by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Joint Bill Committee deputy chairman, secretary, joint secretary and committee members, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission mem-

bers, officials from Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council members, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Association members, officials from Union Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein chair the joint bill-committee meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses 2nd coordination meeting for 19th ASEAN University Games



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the coordination meeting to make arrangements for hosting the 19th ASEAN University Games, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Steering Committee on hosting the 19th ASEAN University Games (AUG) was held its second coordination meeting at the hall of the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, Vice President U Myint Swe, the patron of the AUG Steering Committee, said that the committee had been formed with Notification No. 20/2018 of the Office of the President, and was assigned six tasks. The tasks include providing guidelines for the successful hosting of the 19th ASEAN University Games and coordinating with concerned ministries to get the buildings and sports grounds ready for the games.

“To implement these tasks, about 15 work committees and 18 sub-committees have been formed. The steering committee held its first meeting on 5 April, 2018 and laid down eight

points, which have already been implemented. As for the Government, efforts are being made to ensure fitness, intelligence, and all-round development of university students, while striving to produce outstanding athletes for the country who are also good in their academic studies,” the Vice President said.

“While carrying out the set tasks, about seven points were laid down for the education sectors, which included permitting formation of university sports teams in line with international standards, allowing them to compete in the ASEAN University Games and SEA Games, sending athletes to play friendly matches in neighboring countries, holding inter-school sports events at Basic Education Schools, townships, regions, states and zone levels, identifying talented students, conducting sports training for

students and referees in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sports,” he added.

“Myanmar will host the biennial games which will see over 2,000 athletes from 11 countries competing in various events. Originally, the number of sports categories were listed as 16, they were increased to 17, with the inclusion of tennis. Participants will now compete in 17 sports with 201 events. Myanmar is making efforts to gain success in these games while implementing the tasks,” he said.

The AUG aim to strengthen friendship and unity between ASEAN youths, produce brilliant athletes from the ASEAN region, and serve as a platform to exchange information and culture through universities, he said.

“In this modern age, we all know that sports have become an effective diplomatic tool that portray the prestige of a nation.

In terms of the athletes who represent the country in the sport events, they can show their sporting spirit, the sporting quality, and pride of the country. Relevant committees and sub-committees have been urged to encourage athletes to try their best with sporting spirit,” he added.

Myanmar will host the ASEAN University Games for the first time and all the committees and sub-committees have been urged to discuss the work process and on-going work to conduct the games successfully, he said.

Afterwards, the Chairman of the Steering Committee and Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, gave the status of tasks laid down in the first meeting of the committee, the condition of athletes, games, and accommodation facilities.

The Deputy Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Mya Lay Sein, then spoke about the pre-

paredness for training of athletes and healthcare services. Later, the Director General of Higher Education Department, Dr. Thein Win, gave a briefing about the arrangements for visitors’ cards for athletes and visitors and schedule for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Next, the Director General of Health and Sports U Myo Hlaing, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture U Tun Ohn, Managing Director U San Myint, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, U Tin Myint, and Deputy Police Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Major General Aung Naing gave reports about the implementation of tasks.

The Steering Committee meeting ended with closing remarks from Vice President U Myint Swe. — MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

India hands over \$4.9485 mln for Myanmar-India Friendship Project

INDIA has provided over US\$4.9485 million to Myanmar in the second round of funding under the Myanmar-India Friendship Project.

The cash assistance was handed over by the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Vikram Misri, to Union Minister for Border Affairs, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Border Affairs yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Min-

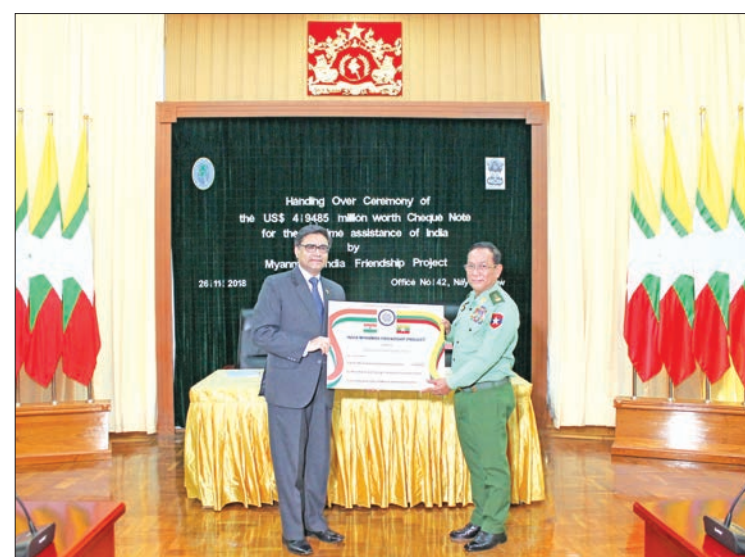
ister Lt-Gen Ye Aung gave the status of implementation of works under the project, while Mr. Misri detailed the status of Indian assistance now and in the future.

Myanmar and India signed an MoU for border development on 28 May 2012 as part of the Myanmar-India Friendship Project. As part of the agreement, India will give a total of \$25 million to Myanmar, separated five times into \$5-million each.

With the first time of handing over US\$5 million, Myanmar completed 8 road and bridge projects, 21 school projects, and 17 health projects in Chin State and Naga Self-Administered Zone in 2015.

By the second time of handing over cash assistance, Myanmar has completed 20 road/bridge projects and 11 schools projects in 2018. —MNA

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)



Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vikram Misri hands over the US\$4.9485 mln worth Cheque Note from India to Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung. **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.

Khami holds harvest feast in Mrauk-U

THE Khami, an ethnic group from Rakhine State, held their traditional harvest feast on Sunday in Mrauk-U Township. The annual festival was organized by U Lay Kyaw Aung, the chairman of the Khami ethnic Literature and Culture Association.

The feast took place in U Nyo Win Maung's paddy field in Maung Hnama Village. It was attended by Rakhine State Hluttaw MP, U Kyaw Win, the head of the district's Information and Public Relations Department, U Tin Shwe, and other invited guests. At the ceremony, young Khami women performed traditional dances. There are over 80,000 Khami ethnic people residing in Rakhine State.—District IPRD

(Translated by Hay Mar)Khami ethnic women perform at the harvest feast festival in Mrauk-U. **PHOTO: MRAUKU DISTRICT IPRD**

International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women observed in Mandalay

THE International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women was held on Sunday at the Aung Myin Gyin hotel located on the 26th street between the 55th and the 56th streets in the Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay.

The event was jointly organized by the European Union (EU), the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), My Justice, the British Council, Life Drama and other partner organizations. The celebration marked the first day

of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, an international campaign. Participants wore orange vests to mark the campaign this year.

Mandalay Region Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation Minister U Myo Thit attended the event and called on the public and the government to work together to reduce and finally eliminate gender-based violence. Afterwards, the regional in-charge of British Council said Myanmar needs to promote capacity

building of women to ensure justice.

The theme for 16 Days of Activism this year is "Hear Me Too". Women are being encouraged to share their stories and raise awareness so that other women and children may be encouraged to speak out.

During the 16 Days of Activism, people around the world will join in raising awareness on gender-based violence and the challenges of discriminatory attitudes. They will also call for improved laws and services to

end violence against women for good.

In 2016, 1,100 sexual assault cases were recorded in Myanmar. Of these, 429 cases involved adult women victims and 671 involved child victims. Between 2016 and 2017, the number of rape cases rose by 305. In 2017, there were 1,405 rape cases reported across Myanmar--508 involving adult women victims and 897 involving child victims.—Maung Pyithu (Mandalay)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

One-stop service pier in Myeik to check marine exports

THE Myeik authorities is planning to build a one-stop service pier in Myeik to check marine products, such as fish and prawns, meant for exports. As part of the service, teams are expected to inspect the products directly on fishing vessels. A meeting to discuss the matter was held on 25 November.

"It would be more efficient to inspect marine products meant for exports at the pier. The pier is essential to the region," said Tanintharyi Region Government Planning and Finance Minister U Phyo Win Tun at the meeting.

Myeik district's Fisheries Department Head, U Than Lwin, discussed the possible difficulties

that may arise when inspection teams conduct checks on board the fishing vessels as part of the one-stop services.

The region's Port Officer U Myat Soe Win presented the situations on use of both government and private piers.

Afterwards, Minister U Phyo Win Tun, Myeik District Administrator U Aung Kayw Oo, and officials from concerned departments toured the site on which the pier will be constructed. The pier will be constructed using funds allotted by the Regional Government. Upon completion, it is expected to help save time, check volume of low quality exports, and contribute to the

**PHOTO: KHINE HTOO (MYEIK IPRD)**

development of Myeik region's marine exports through systematic checks. Myeik has a thriving aquatic industry. The region exports over 8,000 tons of marine products annually. According to the FOB supervision committee, marine exports from the region

fetch over US\$10 million every year. Entrepreneurs from Myeik are operating their businesses with over 1,100 offshore fishing vessels and 5,200 inshore fishing vessels.—Khine Htoo (Myeik IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Eight foreign companies permitted to invest in Myanmar this fiscal year

FOREIGN direct investments totalling US\$37.49 million, including funds for expansion of capital, were permitted by the Myanmar Investment Commission and respective investment committees last month, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

During the first month of the current Fiscal Year, eight enterprises from China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Taiwan were given the green light to invest in Myanmar. Among them, one Singapore-listed project pulled in the largest investment of \$21.57 million. Last month, the man-

ufacturing sector absorbed the largest FDIs. Agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, and other services sectors also witnessed FDI inflows. The MIC targeted FDI inflows of \$3 billion during the mini-budget period from April to September this year, prior to 2018-2019 FY. However, only \$1.76 billion of FDIs flowed into the country. Under the Myanmar Investment Law, region and state investment committees are authorized to grant endorsements of an investment proposal with a capital of not more than \$5 million (Ks6,000 million) to facilitate the verification of investment projects. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Mon)

Rice, broken rice exports total \$448 million

THE VALUE of Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports between 1 April and 9 November reached US\$448 million, with export volumes touching 1.2 million metric tons, said the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Over the past seven months, Myanmar shipped over 1 million metric tons of rice worth \$370.5 million to 43 countries. The country exported over 258,590 metric tons of broken rice to 18 countries, earning \$77.79 million.

For rice exports, border trade remains relatively high compared to sea trade, accounting for 53.57 per cent of the total

exports. Rice exports through border checkpoints were estimated to be worth \$246 million, while exports by sea fetched over \$202 million.

In the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, Myanmar exported 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice worth \$1.13 billion. Since October this year, China's restrictions on some agro products, including rice, has led to suspension of trade at Sino-Myanmar border checkpoints. The MRF did not reach its export target of 2 million tons in the mini-budget period (April to September this year). —GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Mon)

Eye on pulses market, Myanmar opens talks with India



Pigeon pea prices decline in the market due to fresh supplies. PHOTO SUPPLIED

By May Thet Hnin

In a move to control price fluctuations in the pulses market, Myanmar is negotiating with India to enter into a government-to-government trade agreement for trading of pulses. The government is endeavouring for such an agreement as it is more secure.

Myanmar planned to discuss the pulse trade agreement with India at a minister-level joint trade committee meeting which was scheduled to be held in November. The meeting has now been rescheduled to early 2019 as the Indian side needs more time to prepare. Prior to that meeting, negotiations are under way between the two countries.

The prices of pulses in Yangon started to increase from 22 October. The price of mung bean RC reached a high of Ks988,000 per ton on 6 November, while the price of pigeon peas (red grams) increased to Ks834,000 per ton. However, the prices have

been fluctuating in the market, depending on trading volumes.

According to the pulses depot, a ton of mung bean RC was priced at Ks899,000 for fair average quality and Ks1.12 million for special quality yesterday. The rate for pigeon peas (red grams) stood at Ks849,000 per ton.

"Hopefully, an agreement with India will help deal with the fluctuating prices in the market", said Ko Kyargyi, a merchant from Yangon. The India's pulse production has decreased this year, and therefore, growers in Myanmar are hoping for an increase in exports to India.

Mung beans and pigeon peas from Myanmar have been entering Indian markets for nearly 30 years. Growers from Myanmar have long relied on the Indian market. But in a move to protect its growers, India has imposed quotas on imports of pulses. This change in India's import policy led to a drastic fall

in prices of pulses last year. In mid-June, India announced an import quota of 150,000 tons of mung beans and green gram each and 200,000 tons of pigeon peas by August. India purchased 150,000 tons of Myanmar's mung bean in the end of August. At present, India has bought the total quota of mung beans and is continuing to import the beans by issuing special licences to some companies.

However, the Myanmar government has notified growers to reduce production of pulses by supporting crop substitution since India is no longer a reliable market. Starting from this year's cultivation season, growers have scaled down their pulses production and are prepping for other crops. Myanmar shipped 1.2 to 1.4 million tons of various pulses to international markets last year. This year's export volume is expected to reach similar levels.

■ (Translated by Ei Mon)

MTG

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16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence launched

A campaign titled “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” was launched with a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by U Hla Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, U Win Mra, Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, U Soe Aung, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Vice Chairman of the All Myanmar Women Committee, MPs, diplomats and CSOs.

Speaking at the ceremony, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung stressed the need to raise effective awareness of violence against women in Myanmar.

He quoted the Demographic Health Survey-DHS saying that one in seven women including children was a victim of violence and 282 in 100,000 women



U Hla Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, visits booth at the ceremony to launch the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

had been killed due to violence against them in Myanmar.

The Union Government

has been working together with partner organizations to give protection and rehabilitation to

the women population which makes up over half of the country's total population.

The All Myanmar Women Committee was re-established with ministries concerned and seven civil society organizations as part of efforts for fighting the violence against women.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has opened the One Stop Women Support Center-OSWSC in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Lashio to provide shelter and services to victims of violence.

At the ceremony, participants discussed the response to violence against women and cooperation in fighting it and budget allocation for fighting gender-based violence.

Myanmar will conduct the global “16 Days of Activism” campaign with the slogan #HearMeToo from 25 November to 10 December. —MNA ■

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Myanmar, ROK sign MoU for cultural development



Director-General of U Kyaw Oo Lwin and Mr. Kim Ho Kyum sign MoU to develop master plan for cultural development in Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum, under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, and the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, signed an agreement for cultural development in Myanmar yesterday.

The Director General of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, U Kyaw Oo Lwin, and the Vice Chairman of the Asian Culture Centre for Republic of Korea Mr. Kim Ho Kyum signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop master plan for cultural development in Myanmar, at the Mini Theatre of the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

afternoon.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is making efforts to protect, preserve, and accumulate knowledge of Myanmar's cultural heritage to teach future generations, to cherish and value it, and also raise the spirit of nationalism, said the Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min. The ministry has also laid down policies to safeguard, conserve, and promote Myanmar's cultural heritage and customs in the interests of the country and the people, he added.

In order to achieve this, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is conducting training, undertaking research, and organ-

izing cultural performances, he said.

“Myanmar is a country in which both tangible and intangible cultural heritages thrive and measures are being taken to preserve the country's archaeological monuments, sites, and numerous antiques. Besides, the country has a diverse cultural heritage spanning from the prehistoric times to the colonial era, which is why it needs to be recorded, accumulated and applied,” he said. Afterwards, the head of cooperation and enhancement department from ROK Embassy in Myanmar, Ms. Yun Ji Young, gave a speech. Following this, the Vice Chairman of the Asian Culture Centre for the Republic of Korea, Mr. Kim Ho Kyum, and the Chairman of Reshaping Development Institute, Mr. Lee Tae Joo, spoke about ongoing works at the Asian Cultural Centre. As part of the program, a workshop on ‘strengthening capacity of cultural resource management in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar’ was also held at the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. —MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Myanmar Police Band participating in 23rd World Police Band Concert in Thailand

HOST Thailand together with Myanmar, Singapore and Japan police bands conducted 23rd World Police Band Concert and entertained the public at Clock Tower Square of Asia-tique The River Front on 24 November.

The aim of Myanmar Police Band participating in the event is to show the changing abilities of Myanmar Police Force, exchange Myanmar's culture and arts among

Thai public and international police forces and increase friendship.

The World Police Band Concert was started at Japan, Tokyo in 1996. The 22nd event was hosted in Myanmar while 23rd was hosted by Thailand.

Similarly, Myanmar Police forces participated in playing music together with international police band it is learnt. —MNA ■

(Translation Thandar Aung)



The Myanmar Police Force Band participates in 23rd World Police Band Concert in Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Coord meeting held on integrating NEC, WEC into North-South Economic Corridor

A COORDINATION meeting on integrating Northern Economic Corridor (NEC) and Western Economic Corridor (WEC) into North-South Economic Corridor (NSEC) was held at the meeting hall of Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers U Han Zaw, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr. Than Myint, U Thaung Tun, departmental heads and officials.

First, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw said the day's meeting was to coordinate the integration of NEC and WEC into NSEC. Relevant ministries are requested to provide their comments and discuss to designate and confirm the Greater Mekong economic corridors and

the discussion agreements will be submitted to the government meeting said the Union Minister.

Next, Department of Road Director General U Ohn Lwin explained with Power Point on prioritizing the integration of NEC and WEC in Myanmar into NSEC.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung said that when the corridors of GMS (Greater Mekong Sub-region) were designated, Tamu, India to Lashio was called NEC while Mandalay to Yangon Thilawa was called WEC. The aim is to integrate NEC and WEC into NSEC and support the matter as integrating NEC and WEC into NSEC would be very beneficial.



Union ministers, departmental heads and officials discuss integrating the Northern Economic Corridor and Western Economic Corridor at a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Later Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint said integrating NEC and WEC into NSEC would smoothen the flow of goods, strengthen the economy and trade can be widely conducted.

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun also said that integrating NEC and WEC into NSEC would improve investment and once trade improves, flow of goods will speed up and

develop the economy.

Meeting attendees then conducted sector wise discussion and coordinated on integrating NEC and WEC into NSEC it is learnt. — MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Myanmar border troops carry out the patrol along the border together with Bangladeshi troops. **PHOTO: MPF**

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol at border

MYANMAR and Bangladesh police forces conducted a coordinated patrol at the border yesterday. The forces carried out the patrol between border posts 51/5 and 52 from 9 am to 11:20 am on 25 November, according to police source.

The Myanmar troop was led by Police Major Aung Shwe from No.5 Border Police, sub-division (Aung Thabyae), Area 1, Maungtau Township, and the Bangladesh troop was led by Naib Subedar Md. Salim Uddin

of No. 11 Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB).

Similarly, on the same day, another coordinated patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted from the border post No. 41 to 41/5 from 8 am to 1:20 pm.

During the patrol, the Myanmar troop was led by police Captain Aung Kyaw Kyaw from No. 1 Border Police sub-division (Ngayantchaung), Area 2, Maungtau Township. — GNLM (Translated by JT)

Local, foreign media gather news at That Kae Pyin IDP Camp in Sittway

A media team consisting of journalists from eight local and foreign media agencies arrived in Sittway yesterday afternoon to report about Rakhine State stability and development works conducted and status of preparation made to receive returnees. In the evening the media team visited Thet Kae Pyin Relief Camp in Sittway and

questioned the people living in the camp about resettlement, education, health, water supply and present living conditions and then toured the camp afterwards.

The media team consisted of media personnel from Nippon TV, TV Asahi, TBS, MIR, VOA, Black Night, MRTV and MNA.

News media groups were

sent to gather news for a total of 29 times, once in 2016, eight times in 2017, six times as of end February 2018, and 14 times on the recommendation of Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State starting from March 2018 at the rate of two trips a month. — MNA ■ (Translated by Thandar Aung)



Journalists interview a woman at the Thet Kae Pyin IDP Camp in Sittway, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Transfer, appointments and loans among matters...

FROM PAGE-2

Discussion on US\$ 24.3 million loan from NEDA

Finally, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Sein Bo of Myawady constituency, Daw Nan Than Than

Lwin of Hpa-an constituency, U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11 and Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11 discussed the matter of a US\$ 24.3 million loan from the Neighbouring

Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA), Thailand for the Greater Mekong Subregion East-West Economic Corridor Towns Development Project. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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No differentiation in human rights

MYANMAR has been undergoing a democratic transition in recent years, in addition to the peace process and a myriad of other development and reform processes. One of the aspects of democracy is human rights, entitled to all people within the nation, and under which is the rights of women and children.

There have been many advancements in the country concerning women's rights and opportunities as more and more women are entering into prominent political and economic positions. Just recently, the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women was celebrated in Mandalay and the 16 Days of Activism was held in Nay Pyi Taw, with this year's slogan being '#HearMeToo'.

However, there is no denying that, at present, crimes and violence against women and children are increasing, and the framework of law on these transgressions need to be complete and reliable, while penalties and punishments need to be effective.

One out of three women worldwide experiences violence during her lifetime, according to a statement issued by The Heads of Mission of the European Union Delegation and EU Member States accredited to Myanmar.

Keeping silent on violence is not an option. Every woman's voice must be heard, whether in the workplace or at home.

The statement outlines the effects of violence against women include shame, silence and stigma and allows violence to escalate. Keeping silent on violence is not an option. Every woman's voice must be heard, whether in the workplace or at home. But this concerns all of society and therefore, men and boys must also be knowledgeable about the matter, promote gender equality in all types of relationships, and condemn the use of violence to resolve conflicts anywhere in the community. This mindset needs to be carried on in all acts of human rights in the country, not just for women or men.

Myanmar recognizes these elements and has joined the Convention on the Rights of the Children (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

It is heartening to know that the Office of the Union Attorney-General is also cooperating for the establishment of laws that are complete and satisfactory, on par with international standards to protect children and women.

If we may think that the rights of women and children are not concerned with us or feel it is an issue too vast for one person to handle, we must remember that changes can start at the home and in our lives. Our mothers and sisters, and daughters and wives are all women who are an integral part of our lives. If we can empower or support the closest women in our lives, then all of our collective efforts will have the strength to make a positive impact on the nation and the world.

If doing business is easier than ever for both foreign and domestic businessmen, Myanmar's economy will improve – Director-General U Aung Soe

Dialogue titled “Is Doing Business in Myanmar Easy?”

By Kyaw Thu Htet &
Myo Thu Hein

MYANMA Radio and Television presents the dialogue under the title “Is Doing Business in Myanmar Easy?” in which Director General U Aung Soe of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, Director General U Aung Naing Oo of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration, Director Daw Thidar Myint of Internal Revenue Department and Secretary Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe of Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association are participating.

Facilitator: Please explain functions of Ease of Doing Business Ranking.

U Aung Soe: Myanmar has been participating in the process of Ease of Doing Business Ranking conducted by World Bank since 2014. In Myanmar, there is a team called Task Force on Business and Trade Promotion headed by the Union Minister for Commerce. This task force has supervised the business functions. Under this incumbent government, there emerged a committee called Private Sector Development Committee led by Vice-President U Myint Swe. This committee also supervised business functions. In doing so, ease of doing business is measured by ten indicators. To be able to increase the momentum of the functions, Supporting Groups led by Directors General concerned were formed. Then, to supervise these groups, a working group called Ease of Doing Business Index Promotion Working Group led by deputy minister for commerce was formed. I am the secretary of the working group and also taking charge of all the office works for the smooth running of the whole works.

Workshops

This group led by the deputy minister holds a meeting once in every two weeks. With the scope of the respective indicators, the directors general call meetings as necessary to discuss meas-



PHOTO: AYE THAN

ures taken in their respective fields. IFC of World Bank offers a helping hand to us to get more understanding on the indicators. They invited experts and these experts clarified us the nature of each indicator. If the indicator is new for our country, they explain us how this must be handled and how the answers are made. They sent queries and sometimes, we do not understand what the question is about. The queries are also sent to some departments concerned, private sectors and users. Some are sent to law firms and some to entrepreneurs. As they do not know the questions they gave the wrong answers.

Departments concerned also have the same problems. As they do not understand the business in depth, they gave the answers lightly. This is a great impact on us. At the outset, altogether 189 countries have been participating in the process. When we joined the process in 2014, we are ranked 182. Only seven countries were at the bottom of us. With cooperation of experts from World Bank we have

studied more to improve the situation. In September 2017, I myself led a team to make a study tour of Malaysia. In the ranking, Malaysia stands after Singapore. We studied their practices in the private sector, between private and government sectors and we applied these methods in our country. We held workshops with the aim of improving ease of doing business ranking.

To Increase Investment

To open up the economy to the world and to attract investors, it is needed to prove that our country possesses great opportunities to do business. To prove this, the indicators are the best proof. The investors keep a watchful eye on these indicators and study the business. As the improvement of these indicators are of most importance, the vice-president himself concentrated on it and gave instructions on improving the ranking within three years to remain under 100. To transform the vision into reality, union minister and deputy minister led the efforts of departments concerned

and the private sectors. My presentation is aiming at making the public known the process. Officials of the departments concerned will also clarify their works.

Regarding doing business, there are many obstacles and difficulties worldwide. As for our country, we have little businesses and we are trying to keep stability and thus there are also difficulties in doing business. Nevertheless, we have set the goal definitely to which we need to march and this will help ease doing business thereby attracting investment.

If doing business is easier than ever for both foreign and domestic businessmen, Myanmar's economy will improve sustainably. That's why we are trying our best to reach this goal.

Facilitator: As far as I know, Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration is engaged in carrying out the tasks of improving two indicators. To what extent these have been completed?

U Aung Naing Oo: For the general public, the ten indicators in doing business are difficult to

understand. I would like to explain about doing business to enhance people's knowledge. Doing business is just like a life cycle of human being that is to say birth, living and deceased. In like manner, in doing business, there is a startup, running and going into liquidation in case of bankruptcy. So, the ten indicators are used to measure such three situations. Born means startup.

Registered Firms

The second step is construction permit. To start a business, there needs to build factories, workshops and buildings. The fact that how much it is easy and takes time to get the permission to build such facilities is like giving birth. Thirdly, power supply. A factory or a workshop needs electricity. These three indicators represent birth. As regards living, there needs capital and funds. If you are going to start a business, you need to pay tax. It is measured by the fact that how much it is easy to pay tax and how much it is convenient. Thirdly, the indicators

show how much it is clear and easy in conducting import and export.

In establishing a startup, the properties shall be registered. The indicators rank the process of registering. If we make an agreement with someone, both sides need to follow the rules and regulations enshrined in the agreement. The indicators show how to make the agreement come into force, not only in the paper.

Next, a wealthy man can have a big share and a man with little capital can have a small share in a company. In such a case, there must be protection for investors. These are six indicators in running a business.

Finally, bankruptcy. What I want to mean is that a firm must be liquidated for various reasons. It is like an ill person. First, we must consider how we can make him well again. If we cannot save him then we are to consider how we can help him to abandon his life in an easiest way. This is called filing for bankruptcy. It is much complicated to say just 10 indicators for doing business. But it is just birth, living and dead. The indicators show how much it is easy to run a business and if it needs to be liquidated what will happen.

Limitations

Our department is responsible for startup business. There was a big challenge for starting a business. In 2014, when the World Bank made assessment through ten indicators, we were at the rank of 182. As regards startup business, we were at the rank of 189 among 189 countries. We were the last.

We have started from the last because we made reforms at that time but the reform process was too slow. For example, the Company Law is of 1914. There is a lot of companies doing business under the law. It is very difficult to register a company. This difficulty is posed by the law. Moreover, there were limitations due to institutionally established mechanism.

(To be continued)

(Translated by Wallace)

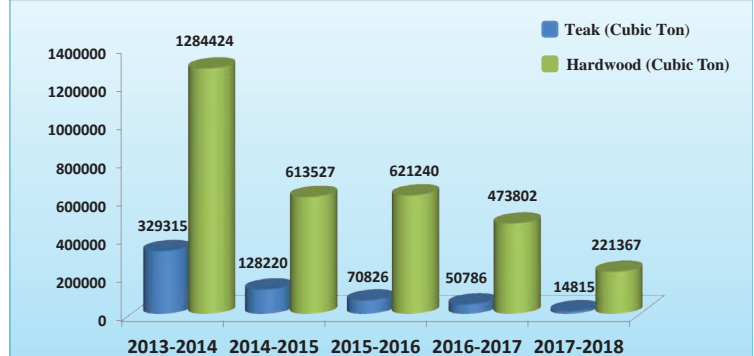
President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 25/2018 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 24 November.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 24 November.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 28 November issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.—GNLM

Teak And Hardwood Logs Extraction In Myanmar



Source: Myanmar Timber Enterprise
Information Unit : Central Statistical Organization

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Monday 26th November, 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region, Kayah and Kayin states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (5°C) below November average temperature in Northern Shan State, (4°C) below November average temperature in Yangon Region, (2°C) below November average temperatures in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady regions, Southern Shan, Rakhine and Kayah states, (2°C) above November average temperatures in Chin, Kayin and Mon states and about November average temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (1°C) in Haka, (3°C) each in Heho and Ramthlo, (5°C) in Hsipaw, (6°C) in Pinlaung and (7°C) each in Namsam, Tiddim and Matupi.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the South Bay and generally fair over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 27 November 2018: Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 November 2018: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 November 2018: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 November 2018: Generally fair weather.

Nissan CEO hints at intention to review alliance with Renault

TOKYO — Nissan Motor Co CEO Hiroto Saikawa on Monday hinted at his intention to review the alliance with Renault SA during a meeting with company employees to explain about the arrest of the carmaker's former chairman Carlos Ghosn last week, according to company sources.

The relationship is "not equal," Saikawa was quoted as saying, while also apologizing to the employees for undermining their trust in the company, the sources said.

Following the arrest on 19 November, Nissan dismissed Ghosn as chairman at its emergency board meeting last Thursday. Mitsubishi Motors Corp, the third partner in the Japanese-Franco alliance, is also set to strip Ghosn of his role as chairman at its board meeting later

Monday. Ghosn remains CEO and chairman of Renault.

The three-way alliance that has been led by Ghosn is seen to favor Renault, even though Nissan has contributed about 50 per cent of the French automaker's net income in recent years.

Renault owns a 43.4 per cent stake in Nissan, which holds a 15 per cent stake in its French peer but with no voting rights and 34 per cent in Mitsubishi Motors.

The French government is also involved in the complex structure, being the top shareholder of Renault with a stake of about 15 per cent.

The top executives of the three automakers are making arrangements to hold a meeting to discuss how to run the three-way alliance this week, sources familiar with the matter have said.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on Sunday on BFM TV that he hopes the alliance will continue to be led by a person from Renault and to maintain the shareholder structures in the group.

Le Maire also said Renault has launched an investigation into whether Ghosn conducted misdeeds over his remuneration and company assets, with the outcome expected to be concluded as early as this week.

Ghosn was arrested for alleged underreporting his remuneration by around 5 billion yen (\$44 million) for five years through fiscal 2014. He received nearly 10 billion yen during that period.

Greg Kelly, a Nissan director, was also arrested along with Ghosn on suspicion of conspiracy and was dismissed as represent-



File photo taken on 22 November, 2018, shows Nissan Motor Co's head office in Yokohama. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

ative director at the board meeting. Both Ghosn and Kelly have denied the charges, according to sources close to the matter.

Nissan has said an internal investigation uncovered Ghosn's "significant" miscon-

duct, including underreporting his remuneration and misappropriation of funds to cover private expenses, which were carried out for a long time. It also said Kelly was "deeply" involved in the misdeeds. —Kyodo News ■



Tokyo stocks gain on Expo cheer

TOKYO (Japan) — Tokyo stocks closed higher on Monday, led by gains in the construction sector and other firms related to Japan's hosting of the World Expo 2025, with investors paying close attention to talks over the US-China trade war.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index climbed 0.76 per cent, or 165.45 points, to 21,812.00, while the broader Topix index firmed 0.20 percent, or 3.24 points, to 1,632.20.

"The World Expo is bright news and has a positive impact broadly," Daiwa Securities senior technical analyst Hikaru Sato told AFP.

The Japanese city of Osaka was selected Friday to host the World Expo 2025, beating Russia and Azerbaijan for the right to organise the exhibition at which countries showcase their achievements.

Wall Street stocks fell on Friday as a sharp drop in oil prices sparked global growth worries.

But "the demand-supply bal-

ance is improving and by now investors have digested this negative news that has pushed share prices down in recent days", said Kyoko Amemiya, senior market advisor at SBI Securities.

Some investors are already shifting their focus to the year-end shopping spree, she added.

"A weak yen was also a positive factor" Monday, Toshikazu Horiuchi, a broker at IwaiCosmo Securities, told AFP.

The dollar was trading at 113.21 yen, against 112.90 yen in New York on Friday.

"Needless to say, the biggest event this week is the G20 summit" where Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping will hold a meeting with hopes they will find a way to temper their trade war.

In Tokyo, shares in the construction sector gained ground on news of the World Expo win. Obayashi jumped 4.10 per cent to 1,142 yen and Penta-Ocean Construction surged 5.45 per cent to 715 yen. — AFP ■

Singapore's manufacturing output growth rebounds to 4.3 pct in October

SINGAPORE — Singapore Economic Development Board announced on Monday that the city-state's manufacturing output rose by 4.3 per cent year on year in October, compared to the revised 0.1 per cent decrease in September.

Excluding biomedical manufacturing, Singapore's manufacturing output grew 3 per cent year on year in October, compared to the two per cent growth in September.

In the first ten months, Singapore's manufacturing output grew 7.5 per cent year on year. Excluding biomedical manufacturing, it grew 7.9 per cent year on year.

On a seasonally adjusted month-on-month basis, Singapore's manufacturing output hiked 2 per cent in October. Excluding bio-medical manufacturing, output grew 3.9 per cent.

On a year-on-year basis,

the electronics cluster's output fell by 2.7 per cent in October, the chemicals cluster's output declined by 1 per cent, the transport engineering cluster's output jumped by 30.8 per cent, the bio-medical manufacturing cluster's output hiked 11.5 per cent, the precision engineering cluster's output grew 1.4 per cent, and the general manufacturing industries saw their outputs up by 1.3 per cent. — AFP ■

Top ECB official calls for more women central bankers

FRANKFURT AM MAIN (Germany) — The European Central Bank should bring more women into leadership jobs to improve gender balance, the only female member of the powerful institution's board told AFP.

"I'm convinced that diversity in management positions is an intelligent idea to pursue," Sabine Lautenschlaeger said.

Lautenschlaeger's appeal follows the ECB's early November vote in favour of a male candidate, Italy's Andrea Enria, to succeed banking supervision chief Daniele Nouy from next year.

Enria, presently head of the

European Banking Authority (EBA) — which crafts the banking regulations supervisors enforce — was chosen over Irishwoman Sharon Donnery, and was last week confirmed in the new job by the European Parliament's economic and monetary affairs committee (ECON).

But several European sources told AFP they were "shocked" when during the selection process ECON chair Roberto Gualtieri wrote a letter to the ECB praising Enria's wealth of experience — while appearing to suggest the fact Donnery is a woman was her main qualification.

As for Lautenschlaeger,

she will in February leave her job as vice-president of the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) — the ECB's banking supervision arm — in favour of one of the men on the board.

"I hope our ratio of women in central banking, as well as in banking supervision, will increase," the German central banker told AFP.

The ECB pledged early this year to step up efforts to hire more female staff.

It was still short of its stated goal of one in four high-level management posts held by women, with the figure at just 17 per cent at the end of 2017. — AFP ■

Israel cabinet approves appointment of new army chief of staff

JERUSALEM — Israel's cabinet on Sunday approved the appointment of Aviv Kochavi, a former military intelligence head, as the army's new chief of staff, a government source said.

Kochavi will take up his new position at the start of 2019, succeeding General Gadi Eisenkot.

He was selected for the job by now former defence minister Avigdor Lieberman in October.

Kochavi has served as head of the army's northern command and as military intelligence chief during the 2014 war against the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas in Gaza.

He was also deputy chief of staff since 2017.

Kochavi, 54, is a graduate of the prestigious universities of Harvard and John Hopkins in the United States and holds a degree in international relations.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had welcomed the choice of Kochavi after his selection by Lieberman in October, saying he was "the most worthy candidate" to become the next chief of staff.

And Eisenkot had also congratulated him at the time and described him as "a distinguished officer with extensive combat experience from multiple combat theatres". — AFP ■

Russia strikes Syrian rebel targets over 'chlorine' attack

MOSCOW (Russia) — Russia on Sunday said it had launched strikes on Syrian "terrorist" groups it accused of carrying out a chlorine attack the previous day.

"Air strikes were carried out by Russian air force planes," defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said in comments reported by

TASS state news agency.

Russia's defence ministry spokesman said earlier that Syrian rebel fighters used chemical weapons containing chlorine in an attack on Saturday on the regime-held city of Aleppo.

Russia carried out strikes after identifying the attackers' positions and finding evidence they could use such weapons

again, Konashenkov said.

"As a result of the strikes, all of the rebel fighter targets were destroyed," he added.

Syrian state media and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor reported that around 100 Syrians were hospitalized with breathing difficulties in the regime-controlled city after an attack allegedly using "toxic gas".

The monitor said air strikes then hit the edges of the last opposition Idlib bastion on Sunday, adding that they were most likely carried out by Russia.

Russia's defence spokesman said earlier that the shells fired at residential areas of Aleppo were "filled with chlorine", calling this a preliminary conclusion backed up by the victims' symptoms.

On Saturday evening, "terrorist groups" in an area of the Idlib buffer zone controlled by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham jihad-

ist group fired grenade launchers loaded with "explosives apparently containing chlorine", Konashenkov said.

Russian military chemists have arrived in the area to help victims and monitor the situation, Konashenkov said.

The defence spokesman said 46 people including eight children suffered from exposure to chemicals and have been hospitalized.

He pointed to repeated warnings from Russia that the White Helmets rescue volunteers in Idlib were staging chemical attacks in order to blame them on regime forces.

During the seven-year Syrian conflict, the West has accused Damascus on a number of occasions of using chemical weapons against the civilian population.

The regime of Bashar al-Assad and its top backer Moscow have consistently denied those claims, pointing the finger at rebels instead. — AFP ■



Russia's defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov. PHOTO: AFP

Second needle incident in strawberries in New Zealand

WELLINGTON (New Zealand) — A needle has been found in a strawberry in New Zealand, police said on Monday, the second incident to hit the country two months after a contamination crisis erupted in Australia.

The needle was found in a punnet sold in the small South Island town of Geraldine over the weekend, a New Zealand police spokesman said.

The supermarket owner

Garry Sheed said he had since taken all strawberries off the shelves but would not comment on whether the punnet was from Australia or New Zealand.

This is the second such incident in New Zealand since the scare was sparked in September, when more than 200 reported incidents of needles hidden in strawberries were reported in Australia.

Some of those cases were

found to be hoaxes or false complaints.

A 50-year-old woman who worked at one of the strawberry farms where the tampered produce was grown has since been arrested in Queensland and charged with contaminating goods.

The New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) said the person who found the needle in Geraldine was not

harmful.

"The matter has been referred to the police who are leading the criminal investigation," a ministry spokesman told reporters.

"At this stage, MPI does not have any reason to believe this is more widespread than the single discovery. However, as a precautionary measure the store has removed strawberries from shelves." — AFP ■

Democrats to probe Trump money ties to Russia, Saudis: lawmaker

WASHINGTON (United States) — Democrats intend to probe US President Donald Trump's financial ties to determine whether they are the "hidden hand" driving US foreign policy on Russia and Saudi Arabia, the incoming chairman of the House Intelligence Committee said on Sunday.

Adam Schiff, currently the ranking Democrat on that committee, accused Trump of being "dishonest" about the role of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

A Republican senator privy to the intelligence also challenged Trump's denial this week

that the CIA had concluded that the crown prince ordered the 2 October assassination.

"What is driving this?" Schiff asked, questioning "whether there's a financial motivation; that is, his own personal finances."

"Is his personal financial interest driving US policy in the Gulf? Vis-a-vis the Russians? We don't know, but it would be irresponsible not to find out," he said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Khashoggi, a critic of the crown prince, was a Washington Post columnist who lived in Virginia; he was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul by a special team flown in for the job.

The Saudis, who changed their version of events as evidence was made public in Turkey, have insisted that Prince Mohammed had no prior knowledge of the assassination — an interpretation which Trump has accepted.

"The CIA doesn't say they did it," Trump said on Thursday. "They do point out certain things, and in pointing out those things, you can conclude that maybe he did or maybe he didn't."

Republican Senator Mike Lee of Utah, an opponent of US involvement in the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen's civil war, said Trump's assessment was "inconsistent with the intelli-

gence I've seen."

"The intelligence I've seen suggests that this was ordered by the crown prince," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Democrats, including Schiff, will have power of subpoena to pursue questions about the CIA's findings as well as about Trump's financial ties when they assume leadership of the House in January.

"I think others will also have responsibility of looking at: Are there financial entanglements with the Gulf? Are there financial inducements that the president has to not want to cross the Saudis? That cannot be allowed to drive US policy."

Schiff declined to comment on a report that the committee is recruiting money-laundering and forensic accounting experts in preparation for those probes.

But he said that among the issues that had not been investigated under the Republican leadership of the House "is whether the Russians have been laundering money through the president's businesses and this is the financial hold that the Russians may have."

"Is this the hidden hand in American foreign policy? We ought to be able to tell the American people, yes, it's true or no, it's not." — AFP ■

Peace treaty between Russia, Japan needed for regional, global stability — Japanese PM

TOKYO — A peace treaty between Japan and Russia is necessary from the point of view of regional stability and will open up a new page in the relations between the two countries, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in an interview with TASS First Deputy Director General Mikhail Gusman.

“I have said it more than once and I would like to repeat it once again: we need to sign the peace treaty to exploit our potential of bilateral relations to the full. It will bring our relations to an utterly new level and will bring about utterly new benefits to our peoples. It is necessary for our region, for its stability and for the interests of settling various problems of the international community. Japan and Russia must cooperate and pool efforts to resolve such problems,” he said.

“Both Russia and Japan are very important, respectable states,” he said, adding that it is abnormal that such states have no peace treaty between them. The Japanese prime minister stressed that relations between his country and Russia have a very promising potential. “We want to fulfil this potential to the full. Russia’s role in our region is very great and the implementation of the potential of the Japanese-Russian relations will do good not only to our two nations but to the region and the entire



Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe and First Deputy Director General of TASS Mikhail Gusman. PHOTO: TASS

world,” he added.

The Japanese prime minister noted he hopes to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of a Group of Twenty summit in Argentina later in November. He also said he plans to visit Russia early next year to have talks with President Putin. Apart from that, in his words, he will expect Putin to come to Japan to attend a Group of Twenty summit in June. “I am determined to bring to fruition, together with the [Russian] president, the task we have inherited from the end of WWII — to sign the peace treaty,” Abe stressed.

After Putin’s meeting with Abe in Singapore, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists that the two leaders had agreed to intensify the peace treaty talks on the basis on the 1956 declaration.

Since the mid-20th century,

Russia and Japan have been negotiating a peace treaty after World War II. The main stumbling block to this is the issue of the ownership of the southern Kuril Islands. After the end of World War II, all Kuril Islands were incorporated into the Soviet Union.

However, Japan challenged the ownership of Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan islands and a number of uninhabited islands of the Lesser Kuril Ridge called the Habomai Islands in Japan.

In 1956, the Soviet Union and Japan signed a joint declaration on ceasing the state of war. The two countries resumed diplomatic and other relations, however no peace treaty has been signed until now. The Soviet Union committed to paper in the declaration its readiness to hand over Shikotan, Habomai and a number of uninhabited small is-

lands to Japan as a gesture of good will after the peace treaty is ultimately signed.

However following Japan’s signing a security treaty with the United States in 1960, the former Soviet Union revoked its liabilities concerning the transference of islands. The Soviet government said back then that the islands would be handed over to Japan only when all foreign forces were withdrawn from its territory.

Tourism

Abe hopes for further growth of tourist flows from Russia.

“Last year, the number of Japanese citizens who visited Russia exceeded 100,000. This year, many young people came to the FIFA World Cup. Thanks to the liberalization of visa requirements last January, a record-breaking number of Rus-

sians have visited Japan - 77,000 people. I hope more Russian tourists will visit Japan,” he said.

Touching upon this summer’s FIFA World Cup, Abe thanked Russia as a host nation, which, in his words, “organized the event flawlessly, leaving unforgettable impressions in people’s hearts and souls” and offered a warm welcome to the Japanese team.

The Japanese prime minister recalled his forecast of the World Cup’s results he had voiced during his visit to the St Petersburg Economic Forum in May. “I remember I told French President Emmanuel Macron at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum that teams Japan and Russia would face each other in the finals, for which ends the French team would have to lose its matches.

It was taken as a joke but ultimately Russia managed to make it to the quarterfinals and Japan reached the Group of 16 stage. So, it turned out to be no joke at all,” Abe said.

Under an agreement reached after Russian President Vladimir Putin’s visit to Japan in December 2016, Japan eased visa issuance procedures for Russian citizens from 1 January, 2017. As a result, the number of Russian tourists visiting Japan increased by 40.8% in 2017 on the previous year, to exceed 77,000.—Tass ■

Mumbai attacks anniversary draws solemn tributes and new pressure on Pakistan

MUMBAI (India) — India on Monday marked the tenth anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks with ceremonies at sites across the city that became battlegrounds in the wave of violence that killed scores and dealt a critical blow to relations with neighbouring Pakistan.

Armed with AK-47 assault rifles and hand grenades, ten Islamic militants killed 166 people and injured hundreds more in a three-day rampage through India’s financial capital which started on Wednesday 26 November, 2008. Ten years on, the United States offered a new \$5 million reward for the capture of the remaining attackers and called on Islamabad to cooperate with the hunt for the planners of the assault.

The attackers belonged to Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

While Mumbai staged its own solemn ceremonies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the attacks “gruesome” and said: “A grateful nation bows to our brave police and security forces who valiantly fought the terrorists during the Mumbai attacks.”

Played out on TV news channels around the world, the bloody events — widely known as 26/11 — have been compared in India to New York’s suffering on 11 September, 2001.

The co-ordinated attacks on the city of nearly 20 million people hit luxury hotels, the main railway station, a restaurant popular with tourists and a Jewish centre. Mumbai’s police remem-



Mumbai police pay respects at the Police Memorial during an event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 2008 Mumbai militant attacks in Mumbai on 26 November, 2018. PHIRO: AFP

bered more than a dozen officers killed in the operation against the

militants while relatives of the victims laid wreaths at a police

memorial honouring the dead. —AFP ■

Sotheby's latest auction house to end rhino horn sales

HONG KONG (China) — Sotheby's on Saturday became the latest international auction house to end the sale of rhino horn artefacts, withdrawing antique lots from an upcoming event in Hong Kong following an outcry from environmental groups.

The auction house had been due to put three lots of rhinoceros horn under the hammer at a sale next week.

"The company will no longer offer rhino horn artefacts in the future," Nicolas Chow, chairman of Sotheby's Asia confirmed in a statement.

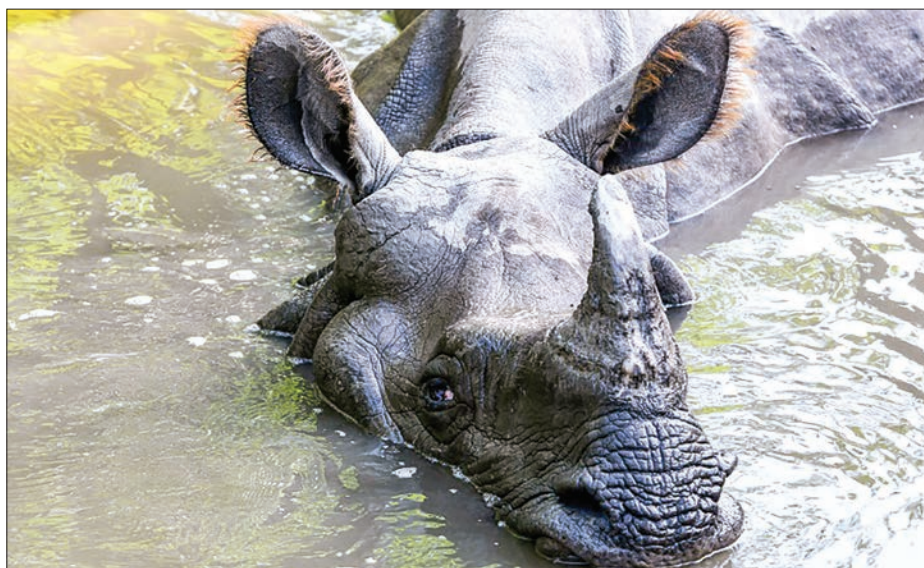
"Sotheby's deplors any illegal slaughter and trading of endangered wildlife, and strongly supports

conservation efforts from the global community," he added. The decision comes after Bonhams cancelled its sale in Hong Kong of 21 lots of rhino horn carvings, valued at \$3.87 million according to Humane Society International, following mounting pressure.

"In future, Bonhams will not offer artefacts made entirely or partly from rhinoceros horn in its salerooms," Bonhams global CEO Matthew Girling said in a statement.

The decision came after thirty-seven wildlife conservation organisations including WildAid wrote to the company demanding it cancel the auction and stop future sales.

An online petition



Rhino horns are highly coveted in Asia, where they have fetched up to \$60,000 per kilogram. **PHOTO: AFP**

describing the Bonhams sale as unethical had been signed by more than 10,000 people. "We congratulate Bonhams on its wise de-

cision to stop selling rhino horn items. The rhino will only survive if the trade in their horns, in whatever form, is stopped," said John

Baker, managing director of WildAid.

Christie's had already banned rhino horn items at its auctions. Environmen-

tal groups warned even a small uptick in demand for trading in antique rhino horns, as well as pseudo-antique horns, would push rhinos closer to extinction.

South Africa, which is home to about 80 per cent of the world rhino population, has been hit hardest by poachers. More than 7,100 animals have been killed over the past decade.

Rhino horns are highly coveted in Asia, where they have fetched up to \$60,000 per kilogram.

In 2017, South Africa hosted its first online auction of rhino horn, following the lifting of the ban on domestic trade. The auction attracted fewer bidders than anticipated.—AFP ■

California's deadliest wildfire finally tamed

LOS ANGELES (United States) — The deadliest and most destructive fire in California's history was finally brought totally under control by firefighters, more than two weeks after it erupted, authorities said on Sunday.

The so-called Camp Fire, which broke out on 8 November, is so far known to have killed 85 people.

The Butte County Sheriff's department said that they had mistakenly added two people to an earlier death toll of 87.

However late Sunday they increased the number of missing people to 296 from 249 — still considerably lower than the 474 re-

ported missing on Friday.

"#CampFire ... is now 100% contained," Cal Fire, the state fire authority, said in a bulletin on Twitter.

Only 54 of the fatalities have been identified, according to the local sheriff's office in Butte County, a rural area north of the state capital Sacramento.

A total of 153,336 acres were affected by the fire, with nearly 14,000 homes and hundreds of other structures destroyed.

Heavy downfalls that have soaked the fire zone in the past days helped douse the remaining flames, but also made it more difficult for crews searching for bodies. The Camp Fire

was the second major blaze to hit California in recent weeks with a fire in the Malibu area near Los Angeles also killing three people.

The smoke from the Camp Fire was so intense that schools in San Francisco had to close at one point earlier this month as did the city's famed cable car and Alcatraz Island.

California's governor, Jerry Brown, has warned that the state can expect a growing number of major fires as a result of global warming.

US President Donald Trump, who visited one of the worst-hit towns called Paradise last weekend,

caused some consternation by saying that the fires were due in part to forestry mismanagement.

Ahead of the announcement that the fire has been totally tamed, authorities had already begun letting residents return to some of the worst hit areas to inspect the damage to their homes.

In a joint bulletin posted on Saturday, the police and fire service said evacuation orders that had in place for some areas over the last fortnight were being lifted for both residents and non-residents, while warning that essential services were still "very limited."

"Prior to returning home, residents are encouraged to take steps to ensure they have food, water and fuel for their vehicles," said the statement.

While Brown has warned that mega fires such as those in Butte and Malibu will cease to be "abnormal" events, the state has allocated about \$1 billion over the next five years for fire prevention.

Much of the cash will go on education and suppression activities such as clearing grasses and other vegetation, according to officials.—AFP ■



(FILES) In this file photo taken on November 8, 2018 a home is overshadowed by towering smoke plumes as the Camp fire races through town in Paradise, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1825 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1825 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-11-2018 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

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TAW WIN NAN

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TAW WIN NAN are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-3 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 HOLY DRAGON CO., LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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The recent Hollywood premiere of Disney's "Ralph Breaks the Internet" brought together (l to r) director/screenwriter Phil Johnston, actors Sarah Silverman and John C. Reilly, and director Rich Moore. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Ralph Breaks the Internet,' and nearly a box-office record

LOS ANGELES (United States) — Disney's new "Ralph Breaks the Internet" dominated North American box offices over the holiday weekend, pulling in an estimated \$55.7 million for the Friday-through-Sunday stretch, industry tracker Exhibitor Relations reported on Sunday.

The animated sequel to "Wreck It Ralph" enjoyed the second-best debut ever for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, behind Disney's "Frozen," according to Variety.com, but will need staying power to make up for its \$175 million production budget.

The film has title character Ralph (voiced by John C. Reilly) and friend Vanellope von Schweetz (Sarah Silverman) venturing into the wide world of the web, where they encounter

some, well, not very Disney-like behavior.

The second spot this weekend went to another new release, MGM's "Creed II," with a take of \$35.3 million. This eighth chapter in the "Rocky" series stars Michael B. Jordan, Dolph Lundgren and, of course, Sylvester Stallone as the aging Rocky Balboa. Jordan plays Adonis Creed as he takes on the son of the boxer who killed Adonis's father.

In third was Universal's family-friendly animation "The Grinch," at \$30.2 million. Benedict Cumberbatch voices the ill-tempered title character, with support from Rashida Jones and Angela Lansbury.

Sliding from first spot last weekend to fourth was "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" from Warner Bros., at

\$29.7 million. The Harry Potter prequel stars Eddie Redmayne as Newt Scamander as he works with Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law) to take down evil Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp).

In fifth was "Bohemian Rhapsody," Fox's foot-stomping biopic about Freddie Mercury and rock group Queen, at \$13.9 million. Rami Malek has drawn critical acclaim for his portrayal of the singer/songwriter, and the film has amassed over \$150 million in North American receipts.

Rounding out the weekend's top 10 were:

"Instant Family" (\$12.5 million)
"Robin Hood" (\$9.1 million)
"Widows" (\$8 million)
"Green Book" (\$5.4 million)
"A Star Is Born" (\$3 million)

—AFP ■

Foreign Ministry official arrested over possession of stimulant drug

TOKYO — A Japanese Foreign Ministry official has been arrested in Tokyo's famous Kabukicho nightlife district for allegedly possessing an illegal stimulant drug, police said on Monday.

Yasutoshi Tanimoto, 46, is suspected of having 0.6 gram of the drug with him on a street in the district in Shinjuku Ward on Saturday afternoon, the police said. Tanimoto has admitted to the allegation and was quoted by the police as saying, "I was stressed out. I bought it online to use it for myself." —Kyodo News ■



The Japanese Foreign Ministry. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Screenwriter Terry Rossio roasted for using N-word in a tweet

LOS ANGELES — Terry Rossio, the screenwriter of "Shrek" and five "Pirates of the Caribbean" films, is receiving flak online for using a derogatory racial slur on Twitter.

In a tweet, responding to "The 100" writer Julie Benson's call for people to contribute to vaccination efforts, Rossio, 58, dropped the N-bomb while arguing against the use of vaccines.

"My heart goes out to all the parents of vaccine damaged children, who have to not only endure the sadness of their loss, but also the vitriol of ill-informed and insensitive people (such as those here)," he wrote.

"Anti-Vax is equivalent to calling someone a n****r and

makes as little sense," he added.

However, the response did not go down well with the social media users, including Benson, who slammed him for the comparison.

"Please never come on my feed with the n word again," Benson wrote.

Writer Jeff Grubb tweeted, "God, this is such a good point. I remember how American founders and citizens enslaved vaccine skeptics for decades. And then, even after freeing them, the government enshrined laws to marginalize vaccine deniers and to deny them wealth and opportunity. That's just history."

"Oh, and finally: eat s**t, Terry," he wrote in another tweet. —PTI ■

Sebastian Stan unsure if Winter Soldier will appear in 'Avengers 4'

LOS ANGELES — Actor Sebastian Stan has said that he is not sure about whether his Marvel character Winter Soldier will feature in upcoming "Avengers 4".

In an interview with Collider, the 36-year-old actor said as both "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Avengers 4" were shot simultaneously, he is clueless about the character's future.

"When I was shooting anything, nobody ever told me what was part one or part two. The truth is, I don't even know if I'm in (Avengers 4). What I shot was in part one. And anything that I shot may or may not have been

in part one or part two and I still don't know," Sebastian said.

"There were things that we shot that were never gonna make it because it was easier to just convolute the whole thing. So in a way, you go Alright, that's cool, but....," he added.

The actor, however, is confident that the superhero ensemble will "deliver on a level that we probably haven't even digested yet".

"Because that's what they do best," he added.

Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo, "Avengers 4" has a release date of 26 April, 2019. —PTI ■



(l-r) US director Joe Russo, Romanian-US actor Sebastian Stan, British actor Tom Hiddlestone, US actress Elizabeth Olsen, British actor Paul Bettany, Guyanese-born British actress Letitia Wright, British actor Benedict Cumberbatch, British actor Tom Holland and US director Anthony Russo pose on the red carpet upon arrival to attend the Avengers: Infinity War UK Fan Event in White City, west London on 8 April, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia to develop Glonass orbital navigation system with six new satellites

MOSCOW — Russia will continue developing its Glonass orbital navigation system with the launch of six new satellites, First Deputy CEO of State Space Corporation Roscosmos for Orbital Grouping Development and Priority Projects Yuri Urlichich said on 21 November.

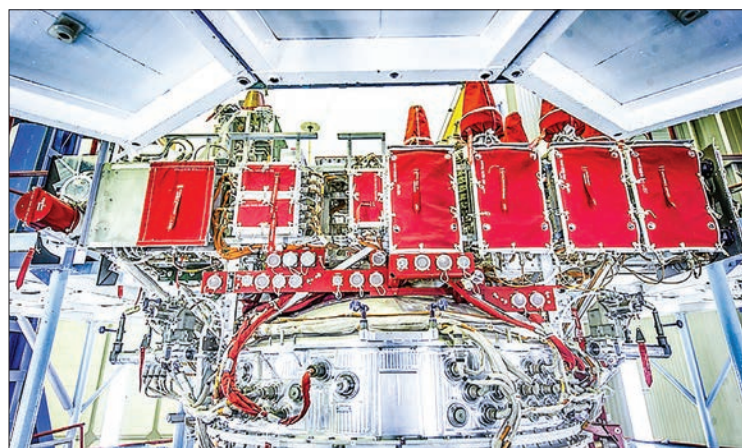
“We will have new satellites in other orbits that will help us solve the tasks of improving accessibility on the territory of Russia. We are planning to launch six space vehicles that will qualitatively improve the Glonass system. This will improve the accuracy, accessibility and integrity of the system,” Urlichich said at the 8th Era-Glonass international congress.

“What will this yield for us as consumers? Intellectual transport systems will become even

greater reality and humans’ work in them will become even less and unpiloted systems will emerge. Of course, there will be those willing to drive automobiles themselves but gradually they will find themselves on special tracks and special roads,” the Roscosmos official said.

“As of today, producers predict a total reduction in the production of automobiles. However, the human population is growing and there will be more rides but they will be unpiloted as unpiloted transport, both freight vehicles and cars, is awaiting us,” he noted.

In 2011, Russia launched its first Glonass-K satellite, which has been undergoing flight trials since then, and in 2014 its analogue was launched, Urlichich said.—Tass ■



This will improve the accuracy, accessibility and integrity of the system, Roscosmos believes. **PHOTO: TASS**

Life expectancy gap between poorest, richest expands to nearly 10 years in England: study

LONDON — The life expectancy gap between the most affluent and the most deprived members of society in England widened to nearly 10 years, British researchers have found.

The study analyzed a total of 7.65 million deaths in England between 2001 and 2016 based on data from the Office for National Statistics. Researchers at Imperial College London found that the life expectancy gap between the most affluent and most deprived sectors of society increased from 6.1 years in 2001 to 7.9 years in 2016 for women, and from 9.0 years to 9.7 years for men.

The life expectancy of women in the most deprived communities in 2016 was 78.8 years, compared to 86.7 years in the most affluent

group. For men, life expectancy was 74.0 years among the poorest, compared to 83.8 years among the richest, according to the study published Thursday in the journal *Lancet Public Health*.

The largest contributors to life expectancy inequalities were deaths in children younger than five years old, mostly neonatal deaths, as well as respiratory diseases, heart disease, lung and digestive cancers, and dementia among the elderly. Majid Ezzati, senior author of the research, noted that “a perfect storm of factors” led to the earlier deaths of poor people, including stagnated working income, rising price of healthy foods, funding squeeze for health and late diagnosis of diseases. —Xinhua ■



Aline Zimmer (l), EDL Systems Engineer, and Farah Alibay, Payload Systems Engineer, talk about Mars InSight during a social media briefing on 25 November, 2018 at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

Anxiety at NASA as Mars InSight spacecraft nears Red Planet

LOS ANGELES (United States) — NASA's top scientists admitted to sleepless nights, sweaty palms, stomach aches and moments of pure terror as their \$993 million Mars InSight spacecraft approaches a high-drama finale Monday: landing on Mars.

Mars InSight's goal is listen for quakes and tremors as a way to unveil the Red Planet's inner mysteries, how it formed billions of years ago, and by extension, how other rocky planets like Earth took shape.

The unmanned spacecraft launched nearly seven months ago, and is NASA's first to attempt to touch down on Earth's neighbouring planet since the Curiosity rover arrived in 2012.

More than half of 43 attempts to reach Mars with rovers, orbiters and probes by space agencies from around the world have failed.

NASA is the only space agency to have made it, and is invested in these robotic missions as a way to prepare for the first Mars-bound human explorers in the 2030s.

“We never take Mars for granted. Mars is hard,” said Thomas Zurbuchen, NASA associate administrator for the science mission directorate, on Sunday.

‘An absolutely terrifying thought’

The high drama of the entry, descent and landing phase begins at 11:47 am (1940 GMT) at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, home to mission control for Mars InSight.

A carefully orchestrated sequence — already fully preprogrammed on board the spacecraft — takes place over the next several minutes, coined “six and

a half minutes of terror.”

Speeding faster than a bullet at 12,300 mph (19,800 kph), the heat-shielded spacecraft encounters scorching frictions as it enters Mars' atmosphere.

The heat shield soars to a temperature of 2,700 Fahrenheit (about 1,500 Celsius). Radio signals may be briefly lost.

The heat shield is discarded, the three landing legs deploy, and the parachute pops out.

“We freefall for just a little bit, which is an absolutely terrifying thought for me,” said Tom Hoffman, project manager of InSight.

But then, the spacecraft's thrusters begin to fire, further slowing down the 800-pound (365 kilogram) spacecraft to a speed of just about 5 mph (8 kph) when it reaches the surface.

Since there is no joystick back on Earth for this spacecraft, and no way to intervene if anything goes wrong, Hoffman described his emotions as mixed.

“I am completely comfortable and completely nervous at the same time,” he said.

“We have done everything we can think to make sure we are going to be successful, but you just never know what is going to happen.” Hoffman, who is father to a two- and four-year-old, added that has “not been sleeping that great,” though he said that might be because of his rambunctious toddlers.

But when the first signal arrives at 2001 GMT, hopefully showing that the lander set itself down, intact and upright, “I am totally going to unleash my inner four-year-old at that point,” he said.

Goal: 3D map of inner Mars
Zurbuchen described InSight

as “unique” because the waist-high lander contains instruments that were contributed by several European space agencies.

France's Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES) made the Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure (SEIS) instrument, the key element for sensing quakes.

The German Aerospace Center (DLR) provided a self-hammering mole that can burrow 16 feet (five meters) into the surface — further than any instrument before — to measure heat flow.

Spain's Centro de Astrobiología made the spacecraft's wind sensors.

Other significant contributions to the project came from the Space Research Center of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Astronika in Poland, the Swiss Institute of Technology in Switzerland, and the Imperial College and Oxford University in Britain.

Together, these instruments will use physics to study geological processes, said Bruce Banerdt, InSight's principal investigator at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

By listening for tremors on Mars, whether from quakes or meteor impacts or even volcanic activity, scientists can learn more about its interior and reveal how the planet formed.

The goal is to map the inside of Mars in three dimensions, “so we understand the inside of Mars as well as we have come to understand the outside of Mars,” Banerdt told reporters.

Understanding how Mars formed could reveal more about the processes that formed Earth, too. —AFP ■

Over 200 compete in Japan Cup Judo Championship

WITH the help of Ministry of Health and Sports and cooperation between Myanmar Judo Federation and Embassy of Japan in Myanmar an opening ceremony of 14th Japan Cup Judo Championship 2018 was held in Aung San Indoor Stadium yesterday morning.

The opening ceremony was attended by officials from Depart-

ment of Sports and Physical Education, representative of embassy of Japan Counsellor Ms. Tomoko Yoshihiro and embassy officials, Myanmar Judo Federation President U Tun Tun and members, coaches and managers, sports persons, students and judo enthusiasts.

Ms. Tomoko Yoshihiro said Japan will put their best efforts

towards developing Japan's traditional sports of judo in Myanmar and Japan will continue to support Myanmar achieve Judo success not only in 2019 South East Asian (SEA) Games but also in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic.

Myanmar Judo Federation (MJF) President U Tun Tun also said that judo is a sports in which Myanmar achieve success every year in international competition. Starting from 1965 SEA Games it had achieved 25 golds, 66 silvers and 73 bronzes. Therefore, outstanding sports person will be selected and trained for the SEA Games said MJF President U Tun Tun.

The Japan Cup Judo Championship saw a total of 14 teams representing states, regions, ministries, sports science and universities competing with 218 players. It will be held from 25 to 27 November it is learnt. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Two contestants attempt to topple each other at the Japan Cup Judo Championship held in Aung San indoor Stadium yesterday. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**



Belgium's Kevin Hantsens.
PHOTO: BALA SOE



China's He Guoqing.
PHOTO: BALA SOE

IBSF World Snooker Championship 2018

THE semifinals of the IBSF World Billiards & Snooker Championship 2018 was held at the Grand Mercure Hotel in Yangon yesterday and saw 2 men's, 2 women's and 2 Masters snooker matches. The finals for all three categories will be held at 10 am today. —Tin Soe (MMAL)

Tomiyasu, Kamada score for Sint-Truiden in win Anderlecht

SINT-TRUIDEN (Belgium) — Japanese players Takehiro Tomiyasu and Daichi Kamada scored on Sunday as Sint-Truiden came from behind to beat Anderlecht 4-2 in the Belgian first division Europa League playoffs.

Japan defender Tomiyasu leveled the score at 2-2 in the 62nd minute at Stayen football stadium after Anderlecht forward Ivan Santini had given the visitors the lead with goals either side of halftime.

Following a corner kick, 20-year-old centre back Tomiyasu was first to the rebound from a save by Anderlecht keeper Thomas Didillon, scoring into an open net from close range.

Kamada netted four minutes later to give Sint-Truiden the lead and extend his scoring streak to four goals in the last three games.

Starting on the left side of a three-man forward line, the 22-year-old struck from a tight angle on the left of the area for his ninth goal of the season.

Ukrainian centre forward Roman Bezus opened the scor-



Daichi Kamada (l) of Sint-Truiden and his teammate Takehiro Tomiyasu (r, back) try to steal the ball during a match against Anderlecht. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

ing for Sint-Truiden in the eighth minute, while French attacker Yohan Boli sealed the victory with a goal in the third minute of injury time.

Japan midfielder Wataru Endo sat on the bench for Sint-Truiden, which is owned by Japanese e-commerce firm DMM.com.

In Germany, Hannover winger Genki Haraguchi on Sunday played his 100th match in the Bundesliga first division.

The 27-year-old, who gave a

strong showing for Japan at this summer's World Cup, played the second half of a 4-1 loss away to Borussia Monchengladbach.

A product of the Urawa Reds youth academy, Haraguchi transferred from the J-League side to Hertha Berlin in 2014. He helped Fortuna Dusseldorf clinch the second-division title during a short loan stint earlier this year before joining Hannover for the start of the current Bundesliga season. —Kyodo News ■

Ramos in spotlight again but Madrid need him more than ever

MADRID (Spain) — More than hour after the final whistle had sounded on Real Madrid's 3-0 humiliation by Eibar on Saturday, Sergio Ramos began to let rip.

Deep in the belly of the tiny 7,083-capacity Ipurua stadium, Ramos said his side's attitude had been off, their intensity lacking. "When you don't match your opponent, you become a vulgar team," he said.

It was not the result Real wanted before they travel to Roma in the Champions League on Tuesday, when the winner is likely to go through top of Group G. Then Ramos moved onto the anti-doping allegations published on Friday by German magazine Der Spiegel.

The most damaging among them claimed Ramos tested positive for dexamethasone after the 2017 Champions League final and failed to declare it, as is required according to World Anti-Doping Authority regulations.

Responding for the first time, Ramos said: "You can tell a lie many times over but it is still a

lie." He added: "These types of people try to stain my reputation and my professional career."

The issue may have been exceptional but the sharpness of tongue and apparent readiness for confrontation has become a vivid part of Ramos' football persona. In September, Antoine Griezmann was in the firing line when Ramos used a Champions League press conference to slap down the Frenchman's pinings for the Ballon d'Or.

"Ignorance is bold," Ramos said, poker-faced.

More recently, he turned Antonio Conte from favourite to no-hoper in the running to replace Julen Lopetegui as Real coach. "Respect is earned, not imposed", Ramos said, supposedly a dig at Conte, a renowned disciplinarian. This pugnacious Ramos off the pitch chimes so perfectly with his demonic reputation on it and so it seems possible that one of the game's most reviled characters has begun to revel in the noise that surrounds him. AFP ■