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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Vice Chairman of Standing Committee of NPC of China, discuss promoting bilateral cooperation

SPEAKER of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat received a delegation led by H.E Mr. Ding Zhongli, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China, at the Zabethiri Hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Speaker U T Khun Myat said Myanmar would promote further cooperation in the bilateral strategic friendship relations through the pauk-phaw relations between the two countries.

He expressed thanks to China for its support to internal peace and national reconciliation in Myanmar.

U T Khun Myat said the signing of an MoU on building a China-Myanmar economic corridor would result in promoting the friendship and cooperation not only between the two governments

but also the peoples of the two countries.

In his discussion, Mr. Ding Zhongli said China will cooperate in the legislation and in the science and technology sectors which can underpin the peace and development in Myanmar.

The purpose of the visit by his delegation is aimed at promoting the relations between China and Myanmar and investment, he said.

Myanmar is rich in natural resources and has favorable climate for agriculture, he said, adding that as far as the transportation between China and Myanmar is better; Myanmar’s economic development rate would rise in future, he added.

Afterwards, U T Khun Myat and Mr. Ding Zhongli posed for documentary photos together with attendees at the meeting.

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hands with Vice Chairman of Standing Committee of NPC of China Mr. Ding Zhongli in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talks with Vice Chairman of Standing Committee of NPC of China Mr. Ding Zhongli in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Vice Chairman of Standing Committee of NPC of China

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received a delegation led by Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China H.E. Mr. Ding Zhongli at the guest hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

During the meeting, organisation and legislative work processes of the two parliaments, strengthening bilateral relations and promoting cooperation were

openly and cordially discussed.

The meeting was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw government guarantees, pledges and undertakings vetting committee and local and international non-government organizations committee, Myanmar-China Inter-parliamentary Friendship Association chairman, bill committee secretary and officials from Amyotha Hluttaw office. — MNA ■

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Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds 18th-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE 18th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, motions on reports tabled, receipt of a bill announced and a bill approved.

Asterisk-marked questions

In the first question of the day, U Kyaw Shwe of Yanbye constituency asked if there is a plan to construct multi-purpose cyclone shelters for workers and families living in Yanbye Township, Laytaung region, Santinmaw port and Kyaukoomaw port. In his reply on behalf of the ministry and Rakhine State government, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung said the two ports had a population of more than 700 and 500 from 150 and 100 houses and there were even more during the open season. They were living close to the sea, and the nearest inland villages at Zayatpyin village tracts are about 6 miles away and there are no high grounds near the port. The Deputy Minister explained that a multi-purpose cyclone shelter will be constructed as a priority on an appropriate land chosen by Rakhine State government near the two ports with National Natural Disaster



Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung.

Management Fund in fiscal year 2018-2019.

Next, Daw Nan Htwe Thu of Pasawng constituency said student selection criteria for education training school opened by Ministry of Border Affairs in Bawlake town was not proportionate township-wise and is not transparent. She enquired about the selection criteria and if there is a plan to select students proportionately from townships. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut answered that priority is given towards orphans and children of single parents and not to accept students who stay in outside boarding houses. Priority is also given toward students with good basic education and those who want to study. They also need to be healthy and fit and must be between 11 and 12 years old, fifth standard students. Selection and acceptance is during the set period at the start of an education



Daw Nan Htwe Thu of Pasawng constituency.

year and there is no selection and acceptance during other periods, said the Deputy Minister.

For education year 2017-2018, school management committee of the school assess and select students and then submit it to Kayah State Chief Minister for approval. The ministry proposes to the Chief Minister the number of students the school is accepting for the education year and continues with the selection of the students, according to the Chief Minister's confirmation and approval, explained the Deputy Minister.

U Sein Aung of Paletwa constituency then asked if there is a plan to construct a suspension (rope) bridge for human crossing at Phayonchaung village, Paletwa Township, and Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut answered that starting from fiscal year 2019-2020, depending upon fund permitted, proposal

will be submitted to conduct the work.

Replying to a question by U Wom Hla of Nanyun constituency on action taken against Global Land company for installing sub-standard box culverts along the Nanyun Township Shatenyo-Lonkyan road, in addition to replacing with standard box culverts, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut said officials inspected the construction of sixty box-culverts and sub-standard box culverts were asked to be replaced. The replacement work was fully completed on 25 August and a report had been submitted about this. If a group led by the Hluttaw representative found any requirements or shortcomings, the company will be asked to work on it again. If the work is not up to standard, action will be taken against the company according to procedure, said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly, questions raised by U Tin Aye of Metmung constituency, U R Moe Hsi of Khaunglanphu constituency and U Kyaw Htay of Leshi constituency were explained by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut.

Submission of motions on reports

After the asterisk-marked questions session, Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens, Fundamental Rights Committee member and Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports De-

velopment Committee member submitted motions to approve a report of each committee.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and Hluttaw agreed to approve it.

Receipt of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill

Following this, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the receipt of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill, returned by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendment, and called for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to table an amendment motion to register their names.

Approval of Consumer Protection Bill

Bill committee member U Nay Myo Tun then explained about amended motions tabled for Consumer Protection Bill, submitted by Ministry of Commerce.

After the explanation, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the bill by clauses and sub-clauses and approved it.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the entire bill and announced the approval of the Hluttaw.

The 19th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held today, it is learnt. ■

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds 18th-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin (MNA)

THE 18th-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session was held yesterday morning at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall. In the meeting asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, Boundary Measurement and Demarcation Bill and Myanmar Mines Rules were approved.

Asterisk-marked questions

Dr. U Kywe Kywe of Mandalay Region constituency 6 posed the first asterisk-marked question on plans to terminate the allocation of 50 per cent each of male and female students' entrance to University of Medicine and to permit according to marks. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that there is no plan yet



Amyotha Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

to terminate the 50 per cent allocation at the moment. The matter needs to be discussed and coordinated with the rectors first and then submit it to the Union government for this to be

changed, said the Union Minister. U Saw Chit Oo of Kayin State constituency 3 then asked if plans are made to prevent damage caused by rain water inundation every year to Kayin

State, Hlaingbwe town, ward 4 and villages in the township and to repair the damaged and destroyed roads and bridges in the township. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied

that to prevent inundation in Kayin State, Hlaingbwe Township from the Hlaingbwe river that flows through it, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River System is conducting long term plans for the river to have the required depth and width, detailed study and surveys were conducted for construction of river bank retaining wall on the outer bend of the river and discussion held with local populace. Afterwards, necessary plans and arrangements will be made, said the Deputy Minister.

Replying to a question posed by U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency 3 on a plan to upgrade the 7-mile long village connecting road that connects Thantlang Township Khuhrang village and Haka Township Leipi village to an all-weather road,

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Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Vice Chairman of Standing Committee of NPC of China

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein received Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of the People's Republic of China H.E. Mr. Ding Zhongli and party at Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In the meeting, they exchanged views and discussed cooperation between governments, parliaments and peoples, following the visits of the leaders of the two countries; government of China further assisting, cooperating and participating

in Myanmar's transition to democracy and the peace process; bilateral trade, investment, energy and human resources development; and parliament matters.

Present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw's international relations committee chairman U Zaw Thein, electricity and energy development committee chairman U Kyi Moe Naing, secretaries U Bo Bo Oo, U Soe Myint @ U Aung Zaw Myint, international relations committee member Daw Pyone Kaythi Naing and officials, while Mr. Ding Zhongli and party were



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with Mr. Ding Zhongli, Vice Chairman of Standing Committee of the NPC of China, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

accompanied by Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang.

After the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun

Hein, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China H.E. Mr. Ding Zhongli and attendees posed for a commemorative group photo.

Later in the evening, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker hosted a dinner for H.E. Mr. Ding Zhongli and party at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA ■



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Norwegian Ambassador Mrs Tone Tinnes at the Union Attorney-General's Office. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Norwegian Ambassador

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Ambassador of Norway H.E. Mrs Tone Tinnes at the guest hall of Union Attorney General's Office yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to strengthening the practice of

democratic system, holding discussion on the Constitution, amending laws to be in accord with the times, improving and developing the media sector, providing scholarships and supporting law officers in training courses and increasing cooperation. — MNA ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Vice Chairman of Standing Committee ...

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Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein, chairmen of Hluttaw committees U Khin Maung Win, U Aung Min, U Zaw Thein, U Khun Maung

Thaung, Dr. Tin Aung, Dr. San Shwe Win, U Yan Lin and U Tin Maung Win, Secretary U Bo Bo Oo and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, while Mr. Ding Zhongli was accompanied by the Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang. — MNA ■

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

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 15/2018 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 15 September.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 15 September.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 19 September issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar* — GNLM ■

UEC, IIDEM conduct Training of Trainers and Facilitators in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) and Election Commission of India jointly conducted Training of Trainers and Facilitators (TTF) at the office of UEC in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The training is a part of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Myanmar, signed on 6 September last year.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the training, U Hla Thein, Chairman of the UEC, expressed UEC's willingness to make further cooperation with the Election Commission of India. A total of 25 trainees are attending the five-day course and trainers from India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM) are giving lectures



Chairman of the UEC U Hla Thein poses for a documentary photo with representatives from Training of Trainers and Facilitators. **PHOTO: MNA**

at the second training under the MoU. The first training was conducted in India and a total of 25 trainees attended it from 16 to 25 July in New Delhi, India.

A total of nine trainings will be conducted in 2018 and 2019 in India and Myanmar al-

ternatively, said Dr. Bhagbanprakash, Senior Advisor of the IIDEM.

He said that India will cooperate with Myanmar in transition to democracy and will share its experiences with Myanmar. — MNA ■

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New clinics in Insein Prison to be opened later this month: 3MDG

FUNDED by Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG), a programme strengthening Myanmar's national health system at all levels, newly constructed clinics in Insein Prison in Yangon Region will officially be opened later this month, according to a press release.

Also, plans are underway to implement construction of new clinics in Mandalay Prison within this year. The costs of construction of the healthcare facilities in Insein and Mandalay prisons are US\$1.2 million.

This is part of the 3MDG's healthcare programmes to offer better healthcare services to those in prisons nationwide. Under the programme, the 3MDG Fund has helped Myanmar's Ministry of Health and

Sports control communicable and non-communicable diseases in the country's correctional facilities.

In a report of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, the number of inmates exceeded the space available in the country's prisons. Overcrowding, poor ventilation and repeated prison transfers can create an environment, where infectious diseases, including HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis and cholera can spread quickly causing fatalities.

There are approximately 90,000 prisoners in the country, with nearly half serving sentences for drug-related offences, said the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, at the launching ceremony of Stand-

ard Operating Procedures for Health in Prisons.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Thandar Lwin, Deputy Director General of the Department of Health under the Ministry of Health and Sports, said, "Health in prisons is not only for the prisoners, but also for the community outside, since it is closely linked to communicable and non-communicable diseases. The Ministry of Health and Sports and the National AIDS Programme (NAP) are implementing HIV and TB screening in several other prisons, including Insein, Mandalay and Taunggyi."

The country has a high rate of HIV-TB co-infections, which were responsible for around 4,100 deaths in Myan-

mar in 2014, out of the estimated 32,000 deaths for all TB forms. Myanmar has been ranked as a high-burden country for both TB and HIV incidences. According to the UNAIDS Programme 2017, HIV prevalence among inmates in Myanmar is 5.6 per cent.

As part of its plan, the 3MDG on Saturday opened new clinics worth \$132,000 in Lashio Prison in northern Shan State. The new facilities will provide basic healthcare services, with a focus on treatment for tuberculosis. This was the second prison to undergo a refurbishment of its health facilities. The first was the Myitkyina Prison in Kachin State, which was handed over to the Ministry of Home Affairs earlier this year. — GNLM ■

Entrance road to staff housing upgraded

THE entrance road to the left side of staff housing in Taninthayi Township, Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, was upgraded to a concrete one, spending a fund of over Ks 5.2 million by Taninthayi Township Development Department.

The project, being implemented under the supervision of Township Development Committee Chairman

U Min Wai and members, Township Development Executive Officer U Hon Soe and Junior Engineer-2 U Aung Thet Oo, was completed on 16 September.

The improvement of the 243 feet long, 12 feet wide and six feet high earth facility will contribute a lot to smooth and secure transport in the region.— MDN ■

Yaba, heroin seized in Phakant Township

ACTING on a tip-off, authorities searched the house of Daw Khin Mya, 54, in ward-3, Namyar village, Kamine Town, Phakant Township, on 17 September and found 205 Yaba tablets worth Ks 1,025,000 and heroin powder weighing 02 grams, worth Ks 19,000, and two bags of opium oil weighing 3 grams in each bag, worth Ks 28,800.

Police have filed charges against her under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— Kamine IPRD ■



Daw Khin Mya and seized stimulant tablets.
PHOTO: KAMINE IPRD



Fire at a timber factory in Thanbyuzayat. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD

Fire breaks out at timber factory in Thanbyuzayat

A fire broke out at Dammar Pine Family timber factory near mile post No. 45 on the road between Thanbyuzayat and Ye towns, in the early hours of Sunday morning, according to a police report.

The fire occurred in the heating room due to overheated drying machine at 7:20 am on 16 September. However, no death has been reported.

Led by U Aung Kyaw Htwe,

head of the township Fire Services Department, firefighters, Tatmadawmen and residents put out the blaze using 10 fire engines. The flame was successfully controlled at 8:30 am on the same day.

Action has been taken against U Myint Wai, manager of the factory, according to the law. The cause of the fire is being investigated.—Township IPRD ■

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Indonesia expects boosting bilateral trade with Myanmar

By May Thet Hnin

INDONESIA is expecting to boost bilateral trade with Myanmar, said Ambassador of Indonesia to Myanmar Prof. Dr. Uza Fadri at Indonesia-Myanmar Business Matching 2018, held in Yangon on 17 September.

Bilateral trade between Indonesia and Myanmar has gradually increased year after year. In 2017, between January and December, bilateral trade between Myanmar and the Republic of Indonesia reached over US\$973 million. This year, bilateral trade is expected to reach \$1 billion. Myanmar-Indonesia trade increased by 31 per cent, compared to the same period of last year, he added.

“Indonesia will continue to encourage state-owned and private companies to invest in Myanmar,” he added further.

Indonesia exports palm oil, electrical devices and foodstuffs while importing only some agricultural products from Myanmar.

“Bilateral trade between Myanmar and Indonesia has increased, though. Among ASEAN countries, Indonesia



Director General of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization U Aung Soe delivers a speech at the Indonesia-Myanmar Business Matching 2018 in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

is the largest and the most populous country. However, Myanmar's export volume to Indonesia is less than the import volume. Therefore, the country needs to increase its export volume. Myanmar needs to learn the needs of their market situation. The main challenge for developing countries is supply constraints. The most

important thing is, we must have product to sell. Next, we need to care about products quality. Our country can produce only a few products,” said U Aung Soe, director general of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

He added further, “The new government has emphasized on private sector devel-

opment and encouraged public private partnership (PPP). Myanmar has also focused on the expansion and diversification of external trade by laying down new trade policies and practices, after adoption of the market-oriented economic system and has carried out a number of trade reform measures by liberalizing, fa-

ilitating, and streamlining restrictive measures which may hinder fair and free trade and also to be in compliance with our obligations as a member of the WTO.”

Economic Affairs Officer of the Indonesia Embassy in Myanmar Second Secretary Mr. Vinsky G. Wattimena said the Indonesia Embassy holds business matching in Myanmar annually. Although there are some conflicts in Myanmar, Indonesian businesspersons are told that major cities like Yangon and Mandalay are safe, as they worry about these conflicts, added the Economic Affairs Officer.

Indonesia-Myanmar Business Matching 2018 was attended by businesses from both countries, related to food, packaging, construction, telecommunications, banks, electronic devices manufacturing and pharmaceutical manufacturing. One-on-one business meetings were also held.

According to figures from Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar-Indonesia trade was \$741 million in 2015-2016 FY, \$827million in 2016-2017 FY and \$1,025 million in 2017-2018 FY. ■

Over 250,000 viss of onions enter Yangon market

THE price of onions has declined after 250,000 viss (one viss equals 3.6lb) of onions entered the Yangon market on 17 September.

The price of Seikphyu onions have declined to between Ks 700 and Ks 1250 per viss in the wholesale market, according to traders.

On 15 September, only 66,000 viss of onions entered the market and the prices of onions continued to rise.

But on that day, demand was less than supply, even though the supply was less than usual and not much was sold.

Some traders were even predicting that the price was unlikely to rise on Monday and true to their prediction the price fell on 17 September.

Onions in the wholesale market was sold between Ks 400 and Ks 600 per viss on 28 August, between Ks 500 and Ks 775 per viss on 8 September,



Labourers carrying sacks of onions on their shoulders. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

between Ks 900 and Ks 1,200 per viss on 11 September, between Ks 600 and Ks 1,050 on 13 September and between Ks

800 and Ks 1,350 per viss on 15 September.

“On 17 September, the price of onion fell by Ks 100 a

viss,” said Ko Zaw Tun, a buyer in the market. Onion dealers are selling their goods because prices are not likely to increase

further, he added. Dealers usually control demand by selling under a quota system if prices are likely to rise.

In regions where they are cultivated onions fetch Ks 1,200 per viss. Onion price has also increased to 2,500 Yuan (Ks 514,772) per ton on 11 September from 1,950 Yuan (Ks. 434,977) on 7 September in the Muse market.

In Fiscal Year 2017-2018, Myanmar exported 22,897 tons of onion worth US\$9 million. As of 31 August 2018, Myanmar exported 29,486 tons worth US\$8.777 million.

Even though the export amount increased, revenue decreased because the price of onion has declined.

As onion prices in Yangon wholesale market reached Ks 1,000 per viss, export onions re-entered the local market and were sold between Ks 700 and Ks 800 per viss.—Maung Say Aung ■

Democratic Party for a New Society presents policy, stance and work program



Chairman U Aung Moe Zaw .

CHAIRMAN U Aung Moe Zaw of Democratic Party for a New Society presented the party's policy, stance and work program on radio and television on 17 September.

Following is a translation of the presentation:

Respected and esteemed people, Mingalar Par.

First of all, allow me to extend our heartfelt wishes to the people for peace, liberty and good livelihood without anxiety.

Our Democratic Party for New Society demands for peace, liberty and equality of Myanmar society. For this, no matter what barriers and blockages were there, we have struggled and still struggling. Counting from the year 1988, our party initiated the 8888 democracy movement, which has entered its struggle for over 30 years. During these years, we have never missed a single day in our struggle for the independence of human society with equality and justice and development and peace.

Today, we can say that our society is heading with more chances towards liberty, equality, and justice. However, we need to continue to struggle much more. We firmly promise and pledge to carry on our struggle.

It is correct. Our society needs to be fully independent. We also need full equality and full justice. Only then, our people could enjoy peace with full satisfaction. Without fear and anxiety, people could engage in their livelihoods happily and work for the welfare of the family and the locality with a broader sense for the development of the country.

Today, people are hearing many disturbing news such as that of inequality in politics, economics and social matters in the context of not having a level playing field, losing in competition; that of inequality of wealth and opportunities between persons with power and the people with bare hands; that of discrimination over race, nationality, religion and gender; that of the deprivation of human dignity and human rights. Our party has noticed these unpleasant situations. We would make an effort in the fight against injustice and inequality hand in hand with the people.

The reason why we competed in the general elections is that we would like to take up these unjust matters to parliaments where we could discuss in accordance with the democratic norm. We would

raise questions in the Hluttaws. In other words, the voice of the grassroots people would be heard in the parliaments. That is exactly what we have intended.

Our people would be able to enjoy individual peace and security in our society only when we have full liberty, equality and justice. On the other hand, it would be a sort of paying gratitude to the leaders who fought for the independence of the country with their sweat and blood for the Union of Myanmar. We would like to make an assessment that the aspiration and wisdom of our independence fathers was to create a "land of equality and opportunities" in our society. It is due to this reason that we can see their wisdom and goodwill in our independence declaration and in our national anthem. With a view to demonstrate pragmatic implementation of the aspiration of our independence fighters, we must work together with like-minded persons, political forces, and lawmakers including political parties in amending and making changes to the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008.

Today in our country we have many events that deserve admiration, praise and respect. It is in the context of individual security, liberty, equality, dignity, and in the long term, it is connected with the idea of building a "land of equality and opportunities". Therefore, we need to fix and amend laws as well as cancel some laws. If our party is able to join the parliaments, we would firmly propose for the formation of unions and organizations, encourage freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of publishing, freedom of meeting, and rights to freedom of religion.

Our party believes that the general administration sector is to be reformed for expanding democracy and for providing more independent and liberal atmosphere for the people. It is therefore, we would demand in shifting over the General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs to the domain of the President, which is more politically pragmatic for the country.

Moreover, it is very important in serving the people with accountability by administrators, city development committee members, officers and staff members at various levels of ward/village, township, and district. Therefore,

it is most advisable that they are to be chosen and appointed by the people through direct recruitment. We will also propose and demand for the direct election of Yangon mayor and Mandalay mayor.

Today, we need to pay more emphasis and attention on education, if we are desirous to see our society as practising equality and highly tolerant and peaceful in the long term. We need to invest in education with highest resources. Similarly, we need to take care of the kids and youth through highly funded investment. Our party believes in creating an education system with the motto of "education for all." We want to spread and broaden the concept and notion that education is not only for the privileged, but to all citizens.

We fully endorse and support students' league and national educational reform and movement of the students. At the same time, we support the basic concept on educational improvement and that of the country wide congress carried out by the National Network for Education Reform. Our party demands educational democracy where there is liberty, equality and self-determination. We would struggle for this goal.

Our people need to be healthy. Our society needs to be healthy. We would be able to work for the development of the country only when we are healthy. Our party believes that the access to health is also human rights. Irrespective of race, religion, social, and economy, each and every one is entitled to health care. We would try our best to supplement the budget for health care in the context of quality and quantity, the expansion of public health care, access to medical care by each and every citizen. We would also propose the project for the public health care and health insurance.

Our country is still an agricultural based country where majority of peasants and farmers reside. In this situation, food, clothing and shelter of the people entirely depend on land. Therefore, we need to pay more attention on agro-based economy and trade.

In our country, land reform tasks and process depends and covers all aspects, such as that of the land related laws, rights and protection of the cultivators, laws to elevate the interest of the farmers, and the policy of land utilization. These work plans have some defects and drawbacks. In the context of land policy, it is necessary to measure and gauge with human rights standards, the international norms, democracy criteria, self-determination standards, and the traditional ways. The land policy should be in line with documents related to international human rights agreements, international instruments, and other reputable documents being signed by the Myanmar government. The situation calls for the incorporation of cultivators' rights in a document similar to the Constitution of 1947 to protect the farmers and to curb and control the land owners' influ-



Party logo.

ence. We would endeavor to get the assurance and guarantee from the government for matters, such as that of the role of the workers, basic pay and salary, 8 hours work time, health care of the workers, social welfare, and pleasant work environment.

We would also try to amend the Workers' Union Law. The rights of the workers would be protected with the provisions of the constitution.

During the time of our independence, government employees in Myanmar were comfortable in their livelihoods, leading peaceful and secure lives. At that time, the dignity and prestige of employees were high. We must work in getting back the status of the officers and staff members. Our party believes that we need to work for adequate and sufficient food, clothing and shelter for them. For that purpose, we have to fight and eradicate bribery and corruption. Moreover, the dignity and prestige of government employees would be elevated. The prestige of the employees is the value of the nation.

What I have just presented about the tasks and plans of the country are wide ranging and vast. Our party is just a small party and would be very difficult to implement such enormous tasks. It is not easy for us. It is meant to be worked together with democratic forces and elected political parties. This is only a by-election, and our party will compete for the Hluttaw slot from Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region. I would like to declare firmly that our representative would reflect the voice of the people in the parliament no matter how much barriers are there. At the same time, the candidate would compete from Myingyan, and therefore, our representative would serve with special care over the difficulties of Myingyan people. He would deal with the following matters.

- (1) Regarding unnecessary tax by the city development committee; the over tax needs to be blocked.
- (2) The tender application and auction sale should be more transparent by the township city development department.
- (3) Among auction dealers and tender submitters, there are irregularities, and wrong doers are to be controlled.
- (4) All the agreements signed with the township development department should be reviewed. The following matters are to be reviewed as necessary.
 - (1) Auction system at the Pyaung Pyar Ferry should be cancelled and changed into a licensed system.

- (2) Project to provide electricity in all the villages in Myingyan Township is to be implemented by 2028.
- (3) Addressing and solving all existing land problems in the villages.
- (4) Getting Form 7 for working rights on the lands and also getting regular cultivation loans from the agricultural bank.
- (5) For adequate appointment of doctors and nurses at township hospital and sub-township hospital.
- (6) For adequate appointment of teachers at village schools.
- (7) Suppression and eradication of drug abuse and drug selling.
- (8) Suppression and control of crimes and robbery.
- (9) Proper handling and investigation over complaint letters.
- (10) Budget allocations to departments in all the villages in the whole of the township should be taken care of and not to get into wastage.

To overcome these hurdles and barriers, the representative of our party would pay special care in solving the problems in accordance with the existing laws. In this regard, our party pledges to work on with firm conviction.

When the representatives of our party have been elected as lawmakers to the parliaments, the voices of the people would be heard in the Hluttaws. I would like to say firmly that our representative is competing for the seat at the Myingyan Hluttaw, and therefore, the voice would reflect the people of Myingyan.

I would like to ask you to vote for our party. If we are elected, we would serve not only the persons that voted for us, but also for those who protested us. We would work for all the Myingyan people. We would never accept discrimination. We endeavour to be the people's party in treating persons, irrespective of their wealth, race, religion, and gender.

Our motto stands out as "People are our mother and people are our father".

The slogan for the by-election of our party is "Cause of the people is the cause of DPNS".

We pledge and promise that the voice of the people would be heard in the Hluttaws.

We wish all the people be free from fear and anxiety, and that they may have peace and liberty. We also wish for decent livelihoods. In conclusion, we wish all the best to you, and request you to vote for the Democratic Party for a New Society. Thank you.

Translated by UMT (HK),

ASEAN preventive diplomacy workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy: Skills and Tools Towards Effective Peacebuilding was held in the Grand Ball Room of the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Attending the workshop were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, high-level officials and representatives from ASEAN regional forum member countries, members of the administrative council and advisory board of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, MPs from Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, representatives from the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, the office of the ASEAN secretary-general, and the United States Institute of Peace, experts from international and regional organizations, and other officials.

Firstly, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin delivered the opening speech, followed by individual speeches from New Zealand Ambassador Mr. Steve Marshall and US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel.

Next, U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Jerr



Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin addresses the ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy: Skills and Tools Towards Effective Peacebuilding in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Helsing, Senior Advisor for the US Institute of Peace, formally introduced the workshop to the attendants.

This was followed by Ambassador Rezian Jenie, Executive Director for the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, giving a presentation on the institute's prioritized operations for the one-year term.

Afterwards, the first topic for discussion, 'Effective Peacebuilding and Practical Procedures', was led by Ms. Piyamal Pichaiwongse, the deputy liaison officer for International Labour

Organization in Myanmar, and Ms. Shadia Marhaban from Mediators Beyond Borders, with Ambassador Mr. Steve Marshall acting as the moderator.

The second topic for discussion, 'Effective Peacebuilding, Challenges for Myanmar's Peace Process and Journey Moving Forward', was led by U Zaw Htay, Director General of the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office, and U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho, member of the Pyithu Hluttaw's Committee on Citizen's Fundamental Rights, with U Hauk Kant Some, Direc-

tor General of the ASEAN Affairs Department under MOFA, acting as the moderator.

This was followed by an explanation on the basic principles of peace process development and conflict analysis by Mr. Anthony Wanis-St. John from American University.

Next, attendants at the workshop discussed about conflict analysis.

Later at night, U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of MOFA, hosted a banquet for the workshop attendants at M Gallery Hotel.

The workshop will be held from 17 to 19 September. Today, the workshop will focus on effective communications in applying diplomatic protection, discovering solutions to conflicts and negotiation skills, reporting the results of trainings, solutions to conflicts and conciliation skills, understanding and negotiating, policies and principles, among other topics. On 19 September, tomorrow, attendants will watch a documentary on establishing agreements, discuss on relevant topics, and make final evaluations on the workshop. —MNA ■



Union Minister U Thein Swe holds talks with Country Director of World Bank Ms. Ellen Goldstein in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Discussions held on all-round, socio-economic development in Rakhine State

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe met Ms. Ellen Goldstein, Country Director of World Bank for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR, at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, matters relating to assistance provided by World

Bank towards the government setting up and implementing all-round development projects in Rakhine State, successful implementation of peace process and Rakhine State development work processes, status of work conducted under MoU signed between the ministry and UNHCR in the repatriation of returnees

from Bangladesh, status of attempts toward socio-economic development and job creation for people in Rakhine State, status of creating investment and skilled workers, ministry's cooperation with World Bank's field trip to Rakhine State for rehabilitation and development were discussed.—MNA ■

Repatriation & Resettlement Committee holds 5th meeting



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attends the committee meeting for repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

COMMITTEE on Repatriation and Resettlement of Displaced People held its 5th meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye called for cooperation of the people and representatives of peoples in Rakhine State in solving the Rakhine State issue

and urged the people in Rakhine State to cooperate with the authorities, as the government has planned to carry out short-term and long-term plans.

The government has drawn plans for repatriation under the Myanmar-Bangladesh agreement and stressed the need to discover and deal with the hindrances to repatriation processes.

The Union Minister also highlighted the secu-

rity sector for the repatriation of returnees.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister for SWRR U Soe Aung, Joint Chairman of the committee U Aung Kyaw Zan and members of the committees concerned participated in the discussion.

The meeting ended after resolutions were made.—MNA ■

Striving together with "collective strength" of the people

“THE greatest strength of a democratic transition, the involvement of the people, is also its greatest challenge. To weld together the will and purpose of millions into a whole that allows the wonderful diversity of our country to shine through is a formidable undertaking. I believe that our people have the capacity to meet this challenge and to carry the transition to a successful conclusion, which will be the starting point of a new, better era for our nation”, said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the 43rd Singapore Lecture entitled, “Democratic Transition in Myanmar: Challenges and the Way Forward”, during her recent visit to Singapore.

“Collective strength and concerted efforts exerted by all the nationalities are crucial in building a Democratic Federal Union which all our people aspire to.

process is a powerful strength as well as a big challenge. The State Counsellor reiterated her belief that the citizens of Myanmar would successfully overcome the challenges of the democratic transformation process.

In a message sent by President U Win Myint, on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, he mentioned that the democratic system is based on the theory which stated that, “democratic government is to serve the people, not the people are to serve the government.” To nurture democracy, we have to abstain from wrong-doings and it is necessary for all to take part in establishing democratic roots in our country to foster peace, development, human rights and rule of law.

Collective strength and concerted efforts exerted by all the nationalities are crucial in building a Democratic Federal Union which all our people aspire to. We are also witnessing that the entire people are collectively striving for the emergence of a Democratic Federal Union. As a democratic system is centered on people’s collective strength and power, we have to put people’s aspirations and desires at the forefront.

Since a democratic government is to serve its people, it should strive to work in truth, justice and without any blemish in the interest of the people. At present, one can witness that current Government is effectively carrying out its responsibilities as a people’s government and a democratic government.

Therefore, cooperation is of great importance for all ethnic nationals to be able to strive together with the “collective strength” of the people to bring about a united and harmonious society in the spirit of mutual understanding, respect, trust and amity as well as for successfully building a Democratic Federal Union.

By Aung Htein

Free flow of news beyond borders on this planet creates a motley assortment of fake news. Fake news is everywhere. You see it on your social media feeds, and even on forwarded messages on your phone’s group chat, dancing in dashing and dazzling moves.

Ironically, there’s always one person in your group who likes to send unverified news. Perhaps, a child is being kidnapped in your local city mall, or stories of political unrest and latest cancer scares. The news is forwarded from one citizen to another, like wild fire – not into the universe to get lost – but only on this lonely planet to cry havoc. The news can only be described as dubious sources.

Fake news was even named 2017’s word of the year by Collins English Dictionary, which describes fake news as “false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting”.

With so much fake news online created by shrewd and sharp-witted scumbags, it can sometimes be hard to figure out the truth. But some countries are actually declaring the practice illegal – attracting hefty fines and jail time. Of course, it is necessary.

We thought you might need a crash course on how to tell what’s fake and what’s not.

In April, Malaysia enacted the Anti-Fake News Act, the latest in a series of legislative acts addressing the issue of “false” news and rumor-mongering. For instance, Section 8A of the Printing Press and Publication Act 1984 penalizes “false news,” and the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 Section 233(1) (a) forbids any communication that is “obscene, indecent, false, menacing or offensive.” The penalty is six-year imprisonment and 500,000 Ringgit fine.

We must block fake news

In this digital world, we should willfully join the world in the fight against fake news. It is necessary to stay away from the harm of fake news creators. We need to differentiate between genuine and fake news. We must kick out fake news that may bring misfits, chaos and conflicts to our society.

Look at where the story comes from and read other articles on the site. Check whether they are well written with proper citations. Make sure whether the news is riddled with grammatical

errors.

You should also make sure that you’re on a legitimate news site.

Some fake sites use addresses and even logos that are similar to those of real news organizations.

For example, abcnews.com is real, while abcnews.com.co is not.

Sometimes a fake news story can have a sliver of truth to it, but most of the facts and figures are made up.

For example, events and people mentioned are real, but the quotes attributed to them and other facts are simply made up.

To make sure, search for the same story on several credible websites to ensure nothing has been misrepresented.

Do a Google Reverse Image Search.

If you have come across a suspected photo assumed to be a fake one, then the photo in question could be checked through “Google Reverse Image Search.”

Upload a photo to Google’s Reverse Image Search to see where else it has been used and for what purpose.

That will help you ascertain if a photograph has been doctored or is being falsely presented.

If you are in doubt that the photograph under referral occurred in your own ward or village of a certain township/district, then one could check with other news reports of the relevant township/district for personal assessment.

Do some independent research

If the news is not a domestic item, but a foreign event, then one could check with other digital applications. Check the questionable piece of news against other news sources or fact-checking websites.

Websites such as “Snopes.com”, “PolitiFact.com” and “Fact-Check.org” are essential sources

that help throw light on fake news, rumors and urban legends.

Make sure it’s not satire



If the story is on a satirical website, you should be aware that the intent is humor and satire, and not to mislead.

Check that you are not reading a satirical website like “The Onion”, or “The Borowitz Report” in The New Yorker.

Satire means the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridi-



cul to expose and criticize people’s stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues, and that the piece is acceptable. Top notch newspapers in this world have been printing satirical pieces in their particular pagines, and it is quite normal. These humorous reporting may contain some overstatement and exaggerations, but it is not “fake news”.

Yellow journalism and yellow press are American terms for

journalism and associated newspapers that present little or no legitimate well-researched news, use eye-catching headlines for in-

creased sales. Techniques may include exaggerations of news events, scandal-mongering, or sensationalism. The use of social media is a growing trend, and fake news could be disseminated within seconds and minutes across the globe, pushing innocent people into harm’s way.

Modern media comes in many different formats, including print media (books, magazines, and newspapers), television, movies, video games, music, cell phones, various kinds of software, and the Internet. Each type of media involves both content and a device or object through which that content is delivered. We have to be careful of the “fake news” in such media.

Dissemination of fake news is possible to destroy the govern-

ment, non-governmental organ-

izations or an individual, which could jeopardize peace and tranquility.

Upset and distressed

The characteristics of fake news are rather peculiar and immediately cause people to have lot of anxiety. It creates chaos and pushes in a state of complete confusion and disorder. Therefore, we must rely only on the main stream of decent media outlets.

Even then, well-mannered media outlets may sometimes bring in fake news, which we must only accept with a balanced outlook. In today’s world, media should focus more on media ethics, and moreover, they must elevate professionalism.

All main stream media sources must get in line with ethics so that it may tantamount to uplifting the democratic system and earn the esteem of the people.

The esteemed readers themselves must check whether the news is correct or otherwise, and on the other hand, it requires control mechanism and relevant laws that should be properly prescribed.

Struggle on the way

When fake news come under necessary scrutiny, then ethical media persons may have to struggle more to cope with the situation. As news is flowing more rapidly each and every second, people have to be very careful in reading and listening.

Especially, as fake news over online media is spreading like wild fire, people must always be alert to understand and differentiate the right news and wrong news.

Correct view

In Myanmar 33 million people are using information data over their mobile and smart phones. In this digital age, it is vital to have “information literacy” as well as “digital literacy”, and they are instrumental in the consumption of news.

In the country, Facebook application is very much popular and it has three main features, such as (1) correct information, (2) mixed information, and (3) disinformation.

Can be viewed as a bad act

When a person is sharing good news to another person, it is all right. However, when mixed information is being sent, then it is a bad act. Sending wrong news is the worst scenario.

Sharing of fake news is sure to wreak havoc among the people, and therefore, all the people must pay attention to it. In the digital world, people must pay utmost consideration of fake news, especially on the social network.

The author would like to share some statistics on the social media.

In every five seconds, there are uploads of 205,000 posts on Facebook, 23,000 tweets, 8,666 mobile conversation snapshots, 28 new WordPress blog, 6 hour YouTube video, and 300 Instagram.

There are social media that brings connectivity, harmony and friendship among the people. They are (1) social networking sites, (2) blogs, (3) Wikis, (4) Podcasts, (5) Forums, (6) Content Communities, and (7) micro blogging.

The social media should be instrumental for the greater good of the public, and not abused as destructive tools by wrong doers.

When creating a Facebook account, all particulars in the profile should be reasonable, fair, and acceptable, in compliance to generally accepted standard of respectable or moral behavior.

The Facebook account holder must never misuse and mishandle the webpage, especially with regards to race and religion.

When using social media, one must be careful never to endorse “Like” on an unhealthy page, and at the same time one must observe the rules of “privacy” in sharing the pages. One should avoid doubtful and dubious writings. Moreover, one must never ever take it for granted the information on the social media with a blind eye.

All people must be careful right from the news headlines, source of news, and the target audience to ascertain that it is not fake news.

In conclusion, the author of this article would like to urge esteemed readers to evaluate the news with wisdom before accepting the contents. The writer also wishes readers to consciously resist with alert over the fake news currently overflowing in the digital stream.

Translated by UMT (HK)

Source: Can You Spot Fake News? /Reader’s Digest [http://www.readersdigest.com.au/true-stories-lifestyle/thought-provoking/can-you-spot-fake-news]

Earthquake News

(Issued at 17:45 hour MST on 17 September 2018)

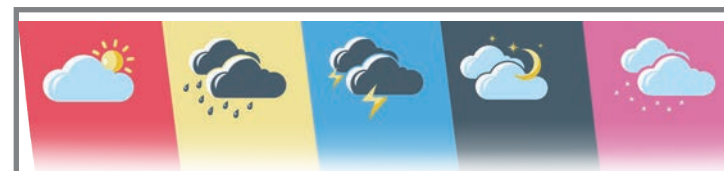
A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (32) miles northeast of Homalin), latitude 25.04°N, longitude 95.41°E, depth (10)kilometers about (90) miles northeast of Tamu seismological observatory was recorded at (17)hr (14)min (26)sec MST on 17th September, 2018.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 15:00 hrs MST on 17-9-2018)

Flood condition of Sittoung River

According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (½) foot at Madauk above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Monday 17 September 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing Region, Kachin, (Northern and Eastern) Shan and Kayah states, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady regions, Chin and Rakhine states, scattered in Yangon Region, Southern Shan, Kayin and Mon states and widespread in Bago and Taninthayi regions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Hlaingbwe (2.70)inches, Kawthoung (2.12)inches, Myeik (1.57)inches, Toungoo (1.26)inches, Paingkyon (1.11)inches, Labutta (0.79)inch, Hpa-an (0.67)inch and Theinzayet (0.55)inch.

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 18 September 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Bago Region, Eastern Shan, Kayin and Mon states, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Kachin, (Northern and Southern)Shan, Chin and Kayah states and isolated in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)mph. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9)feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (3 -6)feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th September, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th September, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th September, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Deputy Commander-in-Chief attends dinner marking BIMSTEC Army Chiefs' Conclave in Pune, India

MYANMAR military delegation, led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, attended a dinner hosted by India's Army Chief General Bipin Rawat to com-

memorate the BIMSTEC Army Chiefs' Conclave at Pune, India, on 15 September, according to a news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.

Before the dinner, he enjoyed the Army Symphonic Band Concert of India, together

with army chiefs of BIMSTEC member countries, and presented gifts to the band.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the BIMSTEC Army Chiefs' Conclave on 15 September morning.— MNA ■



Deputy C-in-C of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win receives a souvenir from India's Army Chief General Bipin Rawat in Pune, India. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Myanmar-Bangladesh conduct coordinated border patrols

ON 16 September, from 9:45am to 11:20am, Myanmar and Bangladesh border police forces performed a coordinated patrol along their respective borders from milepost 49 to 50. The 20-officer team from Myanmar was led by Police Sub-Lieutenant Aung Kyaw Soe from milepost 50 outpost under the Aungthapyay Area Station, No. 5 border police subdivision, Area 1, Maungtau Township. The 15-officer team from Bangladesh was led by officer Subedar Md. Mahamud Hossain from Lembuchari outpost of No. 11 Border Guards Bangladesh.



PHOTO: MPF INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Similarly, another coordinated patrol was conducted on the same day from milepost 36 to 38 from 9am to 11:20am. The 15-officer team from Myanmar

was led by Police Captain Aung Myo Zaw Lwin from Taungpyo (right) border police outpost, No. 1 border police subdivision, Area 3, Maungtau Township. The 15-officer team from Bangladesh was led by officer

Subedar Md. Rafiqul Islam from Baishfari outpost, No. 34 border cantonment, according to the news release from the Myanmar Police Force.— MPF Information Department ■

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds 18th-day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said fund will be proposed from Chin State government fund in fiscal year 2020-2021 and work will be conducted based on fund availability.

Similarly, questions raised by U Maung Kyaw Zan of Rakhine State constituency 9 and Daw Hla Htay @ Daw Ohn Kyi, of Mandalay Region constituency 4 were answered by Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe.

Hluttaw approves Boundary Measurement and Demarcation Bill

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw

Ohn Kyi read and explained the committee report on Boundary Measurement and Demarcation Bill. As there was no objection to the report, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on whether to enact the bill as law. As the majority voted for the report, an announcement was made for Hluttaw to proceed further on the bill.

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the bill by paragraph and Hluttaw approved it.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw then tabled a motion to approve the bill and U Saw Chit

Oo of Kayin State constituency 3 supported the motion.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the bill, after its decision was obtained.

Hluttaw approves Myanmar Mines Rules

Following this, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Kyein Ngai Mahn read and explained the committee report on Myanmar Mines Rule.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved the rules.

The 19th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 18 September.

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations transferred

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names, from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Htay Aung Permanent Secretary/ Acting Director-General (Mines) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Managing Director Myanma Pearl Enterprise Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
(2) U Min Min Oo Managing Director Myanma Pearl Enterprise Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Director General (Mines) Office of the Union Minister Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear civil cases

CHIEF Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court judges U Myint Aung and U Aung Zaw Thein of Special Appellate Bench sat at Union Supreme Court room

number 1 yesterday morning and heard six (Certiorari) civil cases, passed judgment on one (Certiorari) criminal case and five (Certiorari) civil cases.—MNA

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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US-Cuba relations 'in decline,' president says

HAVANA (Cuba) — Relations between Cuba and the United States are in decline under President Donald Trump, his Cuban counterpart Miguel Diaz-Canel said in an interview broadcast on Sunday.

"Relations today are in decline. We still maintain channels of dialogue and our position is that we do not reject the possibility of dialogue at any time, but it must be between equals," Diaz-Canel said in the interview with the Telesur network, his first

since taking office earlier this year. Since Trump's election as US president, ties with Cuba have deteriorated after a historic rapprochement overseen by his predecessor Barack Obama.

Diaz-Canel took aim at the US economic blockade of Cuba, terming it "the main obstacle to the development of the country."

He also said Cuba was not behind mysterious "health attacks" that have plagued US diplomats in the country, saying: "We have not attacked anyone."

The apparent victims of what Washington has called sonic "attacks" have suffered symptoms consistent with mild brain trauma — including, in some cases, disorientation and hearing loss.

In the same interview, Diaz-Canel expressed support for same-sex marriage. "The approach of recognizing marriage between two people, without limitations, responds to a problem of eliminating all types of discrimination in society," he said.

A new constitution to replace the 1976 version — which limits marriage to the "voluntary union of a man and a woman" — has been approved by parliament and submitted to public debate.

Spearheaded by Mariela Castro, the daughter of former president Raul Castro, changes to the new constitution would include a provision that defines marriage as between "two people" rather than "a man and a woman." The silver-haired Diaz-Canel assumed power in April from Castro, who himself took over from his elder brother Fidel, father of the 1959 revolution.—AFP ■



Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel took aim at the US economic blockade of Cuba. PHOTO: AFP

Washington set to replace US military commander in South Korea

SEOUL (South Korea)—Washington is set to replace the commander of US forces in South Korea amid a rapid diplomatic thaw on the peninsula, even as denuclearisation of the North stalls.

The US stations 28,500 troops in the South, a treaty ally, to defend it against its nuclear-armed neighbour, which invaded in 1950, triggering the Korean War.

General Robert B Abrams, commander of the US Army Forces Command, will undergo a confirmation hearing next week to be head of US Forces Korea (USFK), the Senate Armed Services Committee's website showed.

If his nomination is approved, he will succeed General Vincent Brooks as commander of USFK, the UN Command and the South Korea-US Combined Forces Korea, who has been in the post since April 2016.

The outgoing commander has described his time in the South as "a rollercoaster ride", with the peninsula turning from the fears of war to a historic summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

"We have gone from points of great tension and great danger to points of great opportunity and sometimes back and forth

between those, never being completely certain about what will come the next day," Brooks told reporters in Seoul last month.

"So it's been quite a ride and a great honour to have been part of such a historic period of time," he added.

Abrams, whose father was a former Army Chief of Staff, General Creighton W. Abrams Jr, comes from a family of career military officers.

He has held various command and staff positions across the Army and Joint Community in Germany, the US and South-west Asia during his 34 years of active service.—AFP ■



British Prime Minister Theresa May. PHOTO: AFP

My Brexit plan or crash out of EU: UK PM

LONDON (United Kingdom) — British Prime Minister Theresa May has warned that her Brexit plan is the only alternative to crashing out of the European Union without agreement, in an interview broadcast on Monday.

Despite strong opposition in her Conservative party and criticism in Brussels, May has stuck by the so-called Chequers proposal to keep close trade ties with the EU after Brexit on 29 March next year.

"The alternative to that will be not having a deal," she told the BBC.

May will meet EU leaders in Salzburg on Wednesday and Thursday, as she seeks a breakthrough in talks on the Brexit divorce and the future UK-EU trading relationship.

Even if she gets a deal in the coming weeks, it must be agreed by the House of Commons in London, where she has only a small majority.

A senior figure in the main opposition Labour party has said it was likely to vote against the deal, meaning only a small number of May's Conservative MPs need rebel to kill it.

May expressed confidence parliament would approve the deal — but warned there was no alternative if Britain wanted to avoid a potentially disruptive "no deal" scenario.

"Do we really think... that

if parliament was to say, 'No, go back and get a better one', do we really think the EU is going to give a better deal at that point?" she said.

May has proposed that Britain follow EU rules in trade in goods after Brexit, to protect manufacturing supply lines and avoid a "hard border" between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

"I don't want manufacturers to feel that they've got to operate under all sorts of different rules, because that complicates life for them and that potentially means business leaving this country," she said.

May also insisted no other plan on the table would ensure "frictionless" trade in Ireland.

But critics say her proposal would tie Britain too closely to the EU, and argue that the Irish issue can be resolved through trusted trader schemes and the use of technology.

Former foreign minister Boris Johnson, who quit in July in protest at the Chequers plan, launched a fresh attack on it in his weekly newspaper column on Monday.

"The whole thing is a constitutional abomination," Johnson, who has previously compared the plan to a "suicide vest", wrote in the *Daily Telegraph*. —AFP ■

Several people injured in street knife fight in Luton, Britain

LONDON — A number of people have been taken to hospital with stab wounds after a massive street brawl in Britain's Luton, said local police on Sunday.

The Bedfordshire police were called to Saxon road in Luton after receiving reports of a large number of individuals fighting.

Witnesses said they saw several people were bleeding and some ambulances came to treat them. Cops and the local council held a meeting in May to discuss

the "shocking rise of violence" in the area, following a number of murders.

A Home Office report claimed that one of the reasons

behind the increasing knife crime is that expanding London drugs gangs were engaging in turf wars with local drug dealers. —Xinhua ■

Denuclearisation to top Moon's Pyongyang agenda

SEOUL (South Korea) — Denuclearisation will be high on South Korean President Moon Jae-in's agenda when he meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang this week, Moon's office said on Monday.

Moon will fly to the North Korean capital on Tuesday for his third summit with Kim in the latest stage of a diplomatic thaw on the peninsula, although progress has stalled in denuclearisation talks between Pyongyang and Washington.

"We will push for North Korea's advanced denuclearisation and a reciprocal measure from the US by swiftly reviving sincere dialogue aimed at establishing new, peaceful relations," Moon's chief of staff Im Jong-seok told reporters.

Moon, who met Kim twice this year, was instrumental in brokering the historic Singapore summit between US President Donald Trump and Kim in June, when Kim backed denuclearisation



North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un (top) and South Korea's President Moon Jae-in (r) as they meet at the Military Demarcation Line that divides their countries at Panmunjom on 27 April, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

tion of the "Korean peninsula".

But no details were agreed and Washington and Pyongyang

have sparred since over what that means and how it will be achieved.

The US is pressing for the North's "final, fully verified denuclearisation", while Pyongyang has condemned demands for it to give up its weapons unilaterally as "gangster-like".

Im said the South Korean leader will try to close the gap between the US and the North by playing the role of a mediator.

"Through various meetings and phone calls, President Moon has a better understanding of what the US is thinking than Chairman Kim," he said.

Moon will become the third South Korean leader to visit Pyongyang and will hold at least two meetings with Kim, who may make a rare appearance at the airport to welcome his guests, the chief of staff said.

He is also scheduled to attend a concert and visit key sites in the North's capital with his delegation, which includes tycoons Lee Jae-yong — the heir to the Samsung group — and the vice chairman of Hyundai Motor.

Moon has been pushing inter-Korean economic co-operation but several South Korean newspapers urged caution Monday, with the *Korea Herald* calling the businessmen's presence on the trip "untimely".

"It is better to postpone economic projects involving the North until after negotiations to remove its nuclear program make substantial progress," it said in an editorial.

And investment in the North was "fraught with risks and uncertainty", it added.

Other issues on Moon's agenda will be improving inter-Korean ties and easing military tensions on the peninsula, which the South said could lay the ground for declaring a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

That suggested a declaration — which Pyongyang has been pressing for strongly — was unlikely during Moon's trip.—AFP ■

Death toll from super typhoon Mangkhut climbs to 65 in Philippines

MANILA — The death toll from super typhoon Mangkhut has climbed to 65 in the Philippines, police said on Monday.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said 54 of the fatalities were from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) in Luzon island.

The other casualties were also from the northern Philippines according to the PNP. Seven people were killed in Cagayan Valley, two in central Luzon, one in Ilocos region and one in Metro Manila.

The PNP added 43 others are missing while 64 people were wounded. Presidential adviser Francis Tolentino, who was appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte for preparation and response efforts of typhoon Mangkhut, said among the 54 victims from the CAR, most died in landslides triggered by the powerful typhoon. CAR, one of the worst-hit areas, is the only land-locked region of the Philippines. It consists of the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province and Apayao. The regional center is Baguio City. Tolentino

said 42 people are still missing in the CAR. Five of these missing people are from Baguio, 36 in Itogon town and one in Benguet province. Tolentino said search and rescue operation continued to find the missing people especially in Itogon town where people, mostly miners and their families, are still feared trapped after a landslide in the remote village of Ucab.

Mangkhut, which made landfall at 1:40 am local time on Saturday in the northern Philippines, already exited this Southeast Asian country on Saturday night. However, the strongest typhoon in the region so far this year left a trail of destruction across the Philippines's main Luzon island.

The Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said nearly 220,000 residents were still being served inside and outside evacuation centers provided by local governments until Monday morning. The government declared a total of seven provinces and cities under a state of calamity due to the typhoon.—Xinhua ■

Quake-hit Hokkaido power plant to be possibly restarted on Tuesday

SAPPORO — A Hokkaido thermal power plant that has been offline since a powerful earthquake on 6 September could resume power output at one of its units on Tuesday, its operator Hokkaido Electric Power Co said on Monday.

Restarting the No 1 unit at the Tomatoatsuma thermal power plant, which provided roughly half of Hokkaido's electricity before the quake, would add 350,000 kilowatts to the power supply. The plant suffered infrastructure damage and a small fire in the disaster, triggering a

prefecture-wide blackout. Initially, Hokkaido Electric planned to reboot the No 1 unit at the end of September or later but moved the schedule forward as the damage was smaller than expected and repair work ended earlier. The plant has two other units with combined power generation capacity of 1.3 million kw. They could be brought back online around mid-October and November, respectively, the utility said.

From Tuesday, the government will drop its target of achieving a 20 per cent cut in

Hokkaido electricity use from its pre-quake weekday peak demand, with power supplies gradually being restored in the prefecture. Hokkaido Electric said it is prepared to provide up to 3.6 million kw against a projected peak of 3.19 million kw on Monday. However, as electricity demand is expected to increase with the restart of corporate activities following the end of a three-day holiday through Monday, Hokkaido Electricity urged users to save power between 8:30 am and 8:30 pm on weekdays.—Kyodo News ■



Photo taken on 6 September, 2018, shows the Tomatoatsuma thermal power plant operated by Hokkaido Electric Power Co in Atsuma on the northernmost Japanese main island of Hokkaido. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Dominica's beloved wildlife still shaky a year after Maria

ROSEAU (Dominica) — 'Sad' parrots and 'stressed-out' frogs might be unlikely contenders for concern in the aftermath of a catastrophic natural disaster.

But the fate of two of Dominica's most prized species are still a source of worry a year after Hurricane Maria tore apart the tiny Caribbean island.

Dominica's famously lush forests are slowly coming back to life after the worst destruction in the country's history, prompting a return of the intriguing creatures that call them home.

The sisserou parrot and the mountain chicken frog — both national emblems and both endangered — have grown notably more scarce, however.

"The impact on their habitat affects everything,



The Dominica forest is seen in August 2015, two years before Hurricane Maria tore through the tiny Caribbean island. PHOTO: AFP

from their feeding habits to their stress levels and the way they relate to each other," forestry officer Bradley Guye told AFP.

The endemic sisserou — at the centre of the

national flag — was badly hit by the 160 mile (257 kilometre) per hour winds.

Up to half of the estimated 400 birds left in the wild may have been lost, according to Guye.

Exact numbers are elusive because much of the woodland is inaccessible. The parrots mate for life, are said to be extremely faithful to each other and even grieve for

a lost partner.

Traumatic blow

The sisserou birds are still reeling from Maria's onslaught: "Just like humans, some animals want to feel loved and comforted when they've suffered trauma, which can lead to exaggerated mating," Guye said. "And some just want to hide away and not see anybody." Exacerbating the parrots' plight was the loss of Dominica's abundant fresh fruit trees, an important food source.

Apples, pears and grapes were flown in especially for them to eat. Fruit was left at strategic locations in the wild and brought to a breeding center in the capital, Roseau, along with several injured parrots. The center has been working to increase the numbers

of both the birds and the frogs. The critically endangered mountain chicken frog was once the national dish, gaining its name from its chicken-like taste. But a deadly fungal disease has taken the frog to the brink of extinction in recent years. Dubbed the "crapaud" — French for "toad" — the frogs are unusually large, breed in underground burrows rather than water, and have a distinctive mating call that is somewhere between a "whoop" and a bark.

"We have been to their usual sites and heard their calls so we know there is still some activity," Mr Guye said. "But their habitat was badly damaged and some relocated."

"The skin disease combined with the storm means their status is very shaky."—AFP ■

Philippine farmers risk death to save crops from killer typhoon

BAGGAO (Philippines) — As Typhoon Mangkhut hurtled toward the Philippines, those in its firing line had a stark choice: stay or flee. Many chose to remain in order to protect their most precious possessions — their food and livestock.

Residents of the storm's ground zero, in Baggao on the eastern flank of Luzon island, knew they would be hit full-force, but losing their livelihoods was a disaster they were willing to risk everything to prevent.

"Our house was blown away. We were flooded," Diday Llorente, 55, told AFP. "But we did not evacuate because we didn't want to leave our carabao (water buffalo) and livestock."

Llorente lives in the coastal farming area of Baggao that is home to some 80,000 people, and which took a direct hit from Mangkhut when it made landfall there in the pre-dawn darkness on Saturday.

In this key farming region of northern Luzon island, a quarter of the people live in poverty — getting by on less than US\$2

per day. Like many in the region Llorente is a small-scale farmer, eking out a fragile existence from the land. The two hectares (five acres) of corn she farms with her husband were drowned in flood waters.

For farmers like her, there is no insurance to compensate for a destroyed crop or dead cow, and no rainy-day savings to bridge the gap.

"If we think from their perspective, these are really their greatest assets... whatever little they have is all they have," Lot Felizco, country director for Oxfam Philippines charity, told AFP.

"It's really heartbreaking... for people who already live in a very difficult and dangerous situation. What choices do they have?" she asked.

'No means to live'

The decision not to evacuate can have horrendous consequences. Many of the 7,350 people killed or missing in the nation's deadliest storm, Super Typhoon Haiyan of 2013, did not heed warnings of a heavy storm surge.

Yet, for those in Baggao the threat of losing their produce, to the violent weather or to thieves, has a powerful influence.

Aida Acopan, 59, evacuated from her home during the last massive storm that struck the area, 2016's deadly Typhoon Haima. She survived, but at a cost.

"Someone broke into my house and stole half a cavan of rice... so I didn't want to take any chances this time," she said.

The loss was roughly 25 kilos (55 pounds) of the

staple that is consumed at every meal in the Philippines. Having sufficient supplies of it is a primary concern in rich and poor households alike.

With that roughly \$10 loss in mind — worth more than a week's income for the Philippines' poorest people — and after days of increasingly urgent warnings from authorities last week, she came to a decision about what to do this time. "We decided not to evacuate," she said, standing outside her battered,

but still standing home of concrete blocks and wood.

The other problem with evacuating is that it does not come with any guarantees. Shelters in the Philippines are basic affairs, usually just some floor space in a school or

gymnasium. "They (evacuees) lose whatever little control they have over the situation," said Felizco.

But there are no guarantees either that staying with one's crops or animals will mean that they survive.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1825/1826)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1825/26) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/ M.I.T.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 MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)

1. The Yangon Region Government, Tender Committee invites the local and foreign companies to submit the Expression of Interest for Upgrading and Renovation of Yangon City Golf Course owned by Yangon City Development Committee on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

Location of City Golf Course - Yangon Region, Insein Township, Ywama East Ward, 10 miles, Thiri Mingalar Street.

2. The EO documents will be available for purchase from 17-9-2018 at City Golf Course office, Yangon City Development Committee, Insein Township, Yangon Region during office hours. The EO documents must be submitted to the above office no later than 16:30 hours on 28-9-2018. Late applications will not be considered.

3. Further information may be obtained at the Playgrounds, Paths and Gardens Department, Yangon City Development Committee, Phone — 095083384, 0949445465 during office hours.

Yangon Region Government
Tender committee

'Green Book' wins Toronto film festival audience prize

TORONTO (Canada) — Peter Farrelly's "Green Book," starring Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen, won the Toronto International Film Festival audience prize on Sunday, giving it a lead in the race for Oscar glory.

The film follows a working-class Italian-American bouncer who takes a job chauffeuring an African-American classical pianist through the US South in the 1960s, because it is too dangerous to travel alone.

"I'm still reeling from the response to the film (in Toronto) so this is incredible," Farrelly said in a statement.

"This win is beyond my wildest dreams."

The film beat out Alfonso

Cuaron "Roma" (second runner up) and Barry Jenkins's "If Beale Street Could Talk" (first runner up) for the festival's top prize.

Based on a true story, the film tells of Don Shirley (Ali), the well-dressed son of a Jamaican immigrant family who carries himself with the confidence of a prince, and speaks perfect English but is, according to a write-up by festival organizers, "not built for the brutal bigotry of his time."

So he hires street-fighting loud-mouthed Tony "Lip" Valdelonga (Mortensen) to accompany him on his journey, guided by the Negro Motorist Green Book to safe hotels and restaurants in the segregated South.

—AFP ■



The film follows a working-class Italian-American bouncer who takes a job chauffeuring an African-American classical pianist through the US South in the 1960s, because it is too dangerous to travel alone. PHOTO: AFP

Paris show blends happiness and melancholia of young Picasso



The Musee d'Orsay in Paris will be showing 'Picasso Blue and Rose' through 6 January. PHOTO: AFP

PARIS (France) — More than 300 works from two key periods in Pablo Picasso's early years go on display in Paris on Tuesday, the first time they have been brought together in the city where the Spanish master took his first steps toward revolutionary new territories of modern art. "Picasso: Blue and Rose" delves into the formative days from 1900 to 1906 when the young artist was living the Bohemian life in a Montmartre studio, at times burning his works to ward off the cold.

"The strongest walls would open before me," he would proudly write while absorbing the influence of Manet, Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec and Van Gogh.

The exhibition at the Musee d'Orsay was conceived with the Picasso and Orangerie museums in Paris as well as the Beyeler Foundation in Basel, Switzerland, which will also

show the works early next year.

Curators managed to secure exceptional loans of works from the Picasso Museum in Barcelona and institutions in the US, Switzerland and Russia as well as from private collections rarely open to the public.

The works include some 80 paintings and 150 drawings by the artist in his early 20s as he absorbed what would become his adopted country, and several sculptures alongside portrayals of Picasso by other artists.

"It's the first show in France to consider a period overlooked by art historians, allowing a chance to re-evaluate the early Picasso," said Laurence des Cars, the Orsay's director.

The museum was chosen because it is where the 18-year-old artist arrived when it was still a train station, to represent Spain at the Universal Exposition in October 1900. "It could

only be here," des Cars said.

Light and dark

"We're going to discover Picasso at 18 to 25 years old, before cubism. It's all taking shape," said Stephanie Molins, a curator of the show.

"He's not only the unrivalled master of the 20th century but also a child of the 19th century," she said.

The show begins with the Blue period, marked by the artist's frequent travels between Paris and Barcelona, discovering the possibilities of avant-garde expressionisms while still under the more classic influences of his father, an art teacher.

An early work includes "Yo Picasso" (I Picasso), a vivid self-portrait showing him confident at his easel.

But just a few months later the paintings take on a markedly sombre tone, following the death of his fellow painter and close friend Carles Casagemas, who shot himself in the head at a Montmartre cafe following a soured love affair. Many of the Blue period works are nearly monochromatic and depictions of poverty and old age recurring subjects, including prostitutes with a child languishing in a prison cell. There are also several funereal portrayals of Casagemas, culminating in the 1903 masterpiece "La Vie" (Life), where his body is embraced by a nude woman alongside a mother holding her child. —AFP ■

'Predator' slays competition at N.America box office

LOS ANGELES (United States) — "The Predator" — the latest installment in the long-running sci-fi action series — chewed up its rivals to debut atop the North American box office this weekend, industry data showed on Sunday.

But the Fox reboot, which cost \$88 million to make, will look to earn back some money in international markets, as its estimated \$24 million haul did not meet expectations.

The movie, which comes more than 30 years after the franchise's original film starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, courted controversy before its release when the studio cut a scene featuring an actor who was a registered sex offender.

Star Olivia Munn had requested the change, saying she was unaware of the actor's past when the scene was filmed. Director Shane Black initially said he hired the actor because he was a friend, but later issued a strong apology.

Dropping to second place was last week's top draw, horror movie "The Nun" — the latest fright fest in the popular "Conjuring" series. It earned an estimated \$18.2 million in its second week, box office tracker *Exhibitor Relations* said.

"Nun" stars Taissa Farmiga whose sister Vera headlined two "Conjuring" films in a story

about a young nun, an exorcist and a guide stumbling onto a dark secret deep in Dracula country: the Romania of 1952 — Transylvania, no less.

Opening in the third spot was "A Simple Favor," a tale about a mommy blogger (Anna Kendrick) investigating the disappearance of her friend (Blake Lively). The Lionsgate film raked in \$16.1 million on the back of positive reviews.

Matthew McConaughey's new film "White Boy Rick" opened in fourth place with \$8.8 million. The movie, based on a true story, stars the Oscar winner as the father of a teenage boy who became an informant for the FBI in the 1980s. Glitzy rom-com "Crazy Rich Asians," another Warner Bros product along with "The Nun," fell to fifth place. The film, with a nearly all-Asian cast led by Henry Golding and Constance Wu, took in \$8.7 million, building on a crazy-good run.

Its North American take stands at nearly \$150 million, with another \$28 million earned overseas.

Rounding out this weekend's top 10 were:

"Peppermint" (\$6.1 million)
"The Meg" (\$3.8 million)
"Searching" (\$3.2 million)
"Unbroken: Path to Redemption" (\$2.4 million)
"Mission Impossible — Fallout" (\$2.3 million). —AFP ■

Machines will do more tasks than humans by 2025: WEF

PARIS — Robots will handle 52 per cent of current work tasks by 2025, almost twice as many as now, a World Economic Forum (WEF) study said on Monday.

The sharp increase could also see a net gain in “new roles” for humans, who will have to re-vamp skills to keep pace with the “seismic shift” in how we work with machines and computer programmes, the forum estimated.

“By 2025 more than half of all current workplace tasks will be performed by machines as opposed to 29 per cent today,” a statement by the Swiss non-profit organisation said.

Simultaneously, rapid changes in machines and algorithms, or computer processes that are designed to solve problems, “could create 133 million new roles in place of 75 million that will be displaced between now and 2022,” the group forecast.

Based near Geneva, the WEF is known for the annual pow-wow of wealthy individuals, politicians and business leaders that it organises in Davos, Switzerland.



Robots will handle 52 percent of current work tasks by 2025, a World Economic Forum study says. PHOTO: AFP

Its report, *The Future of Jobs 2018*, foresees robots swiftly replacing humans in the accounting, client management, industrial, postal and secretarial sectors.

Jobs that require “human skills” such as sales, marketing and customer service should see demand increase meanwhile, along with e-commerce and social media.

A major challenge will be to

retrain workers, who will themselves be pressed to update skills especially in the areas of “creativity, critical thinking and persuasion”, the study found.

It surveyed personnel directors and senior executives from a broad range of companies around the world that account for 70 per cent of global output.

Between now and 2022, they believe the aviation, travel and

tourism sectors in particular will have to retrain workers, and identified an overall trend towards lifelong learning and adaptation.

Governments were advised meanwhile to prepare safety nets for workers and communities threatened by what the WEF concluded would be “a significant shift” in the quality and permanency of the new jobs. —AFP ■

Scientists develop new photonic chip for potentially robust quantum computers

WASHINGTON — Australian, Italian and Swiss scientists have developed a new kind of photonic chip to process quantum information, promising a more robust option for scalable quantum computers. The study published on Friday in the journal *Science Advances* demonstrated for the first time that quantum information can be encoded, processed and transferred at a distance with topological circuits on the chip.

The breakthrough could lead to the development of new materials, new generation computers and deeper understandings of fundamental science, according to the study. The researchers from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, in collaboration with scientists from the Politecnico di Milano and ETH Zurich, used topological photonics to fabricate a chip with a beamsplitter creating a high precision photonic quantum gate. Topological photonics is a rapidly growing field that aims to study the physics of topological phases of matter in a novel optical context.

“We anticipate that the new chip design will open the way to studying quantum effects in topological materials and to a new area of topologically robust quantum processing in integrated photonics technology,” said Alberto Peruzzo with RMIT.

Peruzzo said that the topological photonics had the advantage of not requiring strong magnetic fields, and featured intrinsically high-coherence, room-temperature operation and easy manipulation.

“These are essential requirements for the scaling-up of quantum computers,” said Peruzzo.

The team was able to use the photonic chip to demonstrate, for the first time, that topological states can undergo high-fidelity quantum interference. Topologically protected states could add robustness to quantum communication, decreasing noise and defects prevalent in quantum technology, according to the researchers. Demonstrating high-fidelity quantum interference is a precursor to transmitting accurate data using single photons for quantum communications, a vital component of a global quantum network. —Xinhua ■

India successfully tests man-portable anti-tank guided missile

NEW DELHI — India’s Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has conducted the first successful test firing of a new indigenously designed and developed man portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM) in western state of Maharashtra, officials said on Sunday.

The missile test was carried out at the Ahmednagar test range.

“Indigenously developed MPATGM was successfully flight tested for the second time from the Ahmednagar range

today. All the mission objectives have been met,” a statement issued by the Defense Ministry said.

“The two missions on 15 and 16 September 2018 have been successfully flight tested for different ranges including the maximum range capability.”

A Defence Ministry spokesman said Indian Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman congratulated the DRDO team, Indian army and associated industries for the two successes of the MPATGM weapon system. —Xinhua ■



Indian Ministry of Defence. PHOTO: XINHUA

Newly formed blood vessels may contribute to eye disease: study

CHICAGO — A study of Northwestern University (NU) found that blood proteins linked to macular degeneration crossed the blood-ocular barrier of new blood vessels in mouse models.

This indicated that newly formed blood vessels may be cracks in the barrier between the bloodstream and the eye.

In the study, NU researchers drew blood from nitrogen-15 mice and injected it into normal mice with one of two eyes induced for new blood vessel growth.

Within hours, the researchers detected nitrogen-15-labeled proteins in both eyes, but only the induced eye let through certain immune suppressor proteins linked to age-related macular degeneration.

“These new vessels are different when compared to older or more typical vessels in the eye,” said Jing Jin, assistant professor of Medicine in the Department of Neph-

rology and Hypertension and senior author of the study.

“There are some pathological consequences associated with this.”

“Newly formed blood vessels are involved in a number of human eye diseases,” Jin said. “Our method characterizes the protein basis for that barrier permeability.”

The study became possible through a method of marking mouse models’ protein with nitrogen-15, a nitrogen isotope slightly heavier than normal nitrogen.

Mice are fed a diet containing nitrogen-15 and without normal nitrogen for three months. During the time the mice incorporate nitrogen-15 to make proteins. These “heavy” proteins are detectable by mass spectrometer, an instrument that detects molecules by weight.

The study has been published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. —Xinhua ■

Yarmolenko double helps Hammers to first league win under Pellegrini

LONDON — Andriy Yarmolenko scored twice on his first start for West Ham as they climbed off the foot of the English Premier League table with a 3-1 win away to Everton on Sunday.

It was the Hammers' first league win under manager Manuel Pellegrini, whose four previous top-flight games in charge of the east London club at the start of this season had all ended in defeat. This victory at Goodison Park also catapulted West Ham out of the bottom three.

Chilean boss Pellegrini, celebrating his 65th birthday on Sunday, had spent £100 million (\$129 million) bringing nine new signings to the London Stadium in the close season.

But such had been the Hammers' poor start to the new campaign that questions were already being asked about the former Manchester City manager's long-term job prospects.

'This is the way'

"It's easy to say we were going to change, but I was absolutely convinced this is the way," Pellegrini, who said his birthday



Manuel Pellegrini looks on from the touchline during his first Premier League win as West Ham manager got, a 3-1 win over away to Everton. PHOTO: AFP

was the "last thing" on his mind, told Sky Sports.

"We score goals and always try to continue scoring goals. I saw the players working every day of the week...I am convinced and the players are convinced."

Ukrainian forward Yarmo-

lenko, one of Pellegrini's new signings, gave his manager some breathing space on Merseyside with a double strike that put the visitors 2-0 up just after the half-hour mark.

Gylfi Sigurdsson pulled a goal back in first-half stoppage

time before Marko Arnautovic restored West Ham's two-goal lead in the 61st minute as Everton suffered their first defeat under manager Marco Silva. "We didn't play with enough quality to win the match," Silva told the BBC. "It's a tough result for us." It

took West Ham just 11 minutes to break the deadlock when one long ball out of defence proved too much for Everton to handle.

Arnautovic unselfishly squared the ball to Yarmolenko, who fired home from close range.

And the away fans had a second goal to celebrate when Yarmolenko doubled the Hammers' lead in the 31st minute.

Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford's poor pass gifted West Ham possession in a dangerous area and Yarmolenko, cutting in off the right flank, beat two defenders before curling a left-footed shot into the top corner from the edge of the box.

But just when it seemed West Ham would enjoy a 2-0 lead at the break, Everton gave themselves a lifeline when Sigurdsson headed powerfully home from an excellent cross by full-back Jonjoe Kenny.

Everton squandered several chances to equalise and were made to pay when Pedro Obiang drove into their box and slipped the ball sideways to Arnautovic, who toe-poked a shot past the diving Pickford. — AFP ■



Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first goals for Juventus in a 2-1 over Sassuolo in Turin. PHOTO: AFP

Ronaldo gets off the mark for Juventus

MILAN — Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first competitive goal for Italian champions Juventus and then added a second in Sunday's fourth Serie A game of the season, against Sassuolo in Turin.

The 33-year-old tapped in on the line after a goalmouth scramble on 50 minutes, and added a second 15 minutes later to give the reigning seven-time champions a 2-0 lead.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner was the star signing of the summer transfer period, arriving amid great pomp and ceremony following a 100 million euro (\$117 million) deal from Real Madrid.

Coach Massimiliano Allegri had said before the match he was not concerned that Ronaldo has failed to find the net

despite 23 shots at goal in the team's three wins out of three so far this season.

"I don't expect Ronaldo to do more or less than what he did in the first three games," said Allegri.

"I believe tomorrow could be his day."

Ronaldo scored 44 goals for Real Madrid last season including 15 in the Champions League on the way to a third straight title.

Bolstered by five-time winner Ronaldo, Juventus begin their quest for the Champions League title which has eluded them in two decades in Valencia next Wednesday.

The Turin giants won the European title in 1985 and 1996, but finished runners-up twice in 2015 and 2017, under current coach Allegri. — AFP ■

Jimenez's goal for Wolves leaves Burnley winless

WOLVERHAMPTON (United Kingdom) — Raul Jimenez scored the only goal of the game as newly-promoted Wolverhampton Wanderers continued their impressive start to the Premier League season with a 1-0 win at home to Burnley on Sunday.

Victory lifted Wolves into the top half of the table but this result left Burnley still searching for their first league win of the campaign as they equalled a club record run of four successive Premier League defeats.

The win was no more than hosts Wolves deserved. They dominated and could easily have been at least two goals ahead before Jimenez broke the deadlock in the 61st minute when he turned in Matt Doherty's cross.

By contrast, Burnley rarely threatened and their only

notable chances fell late in the match to Johann Berg Gudmundsson.

"I am very, very satisfied," Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo told Sky Sports. "We played good football and stayed organised and created chances. Burnley are a good side and stayed in it until the end.

"If there is a 'but', we could be more clinical. But if we can continue to make these many chances, it makes me very proud."

Meanwhile Burnley boss Sean Dyche urged supporters to keep faith with the side, telling the BBC their experience of losing streaks in the Premier League would stand the Clarets in good stead.

"We have been down this road before," he said.

"That is important now so we can realise it (climbing the table) can be done." — AFP ■