

NATIONAL

State Counsellor separately receives New Komeito Party leader, special envoy to Myanmar, JETRO Chairman & CEO, Japanese PM's wife



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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 176, 15th Waning of Tawthalin 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 9 October 2018

State Counsellor calls for Japanese Investment

State Counsellor attends Myanmar Silk Promotion Event, Myanmar Investment Conference



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the Myanmar Investment Conference in Tokyo, Japan yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is on a working visit in Tokyo, Japan, attended the Myanmar Silk Promotion Event facilitated by the ASEAN-Japan Centre and the Myanmar Investment Conference discussing under the topic 'Strengthening the Bond Between Myanmar and Japan', both held yesterday.

The State Counsellor and her entourage made their way to the ASEAN-Japan Center at 1pm local standard time and were welcomed by Mr. Ichiro Aisawa, Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Parliamentary Friendship Association, Mr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to the Japanese Prime Minister,

Mr. Hideo Watanabe, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association, Mr. Keiji Fuji, Chairman of Daimatsu, and Mr. Masataka Fujita, Secretary-General of the ASEAN-Japan Centre.

The State Counsellor and Union Ministers U Thaung Tun and U Kyaw Tin, and their welcoming party then cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the Myanmar Silk Promotion Event. They toured the displays of clothing sewn with Myanmar silk while officials gave explanations.

The State Counsellor then received souvenirs from the ASEAN-Japan Center officials and took a documentary photo.

The ASEAN-Japan Center was established on 25 May 1981

... We welcome your investment with enthusiasm and confidence ...

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

and Myanmar became a member on 27 April 2006. The center promotes trade, investment and tourism in and between ASEAN countries and Japan as well as developing human resources.

The State Counsellor and her entourage next went to Meiji Kinekanto attend the

Myanmar Investment Conference held there, under the title 'Strengthening the Bond Between Myanmar and Japan'. They were welcomed by Japan External Trade Organization – (JETRO) Chairman and CEO Mr. Hiroyuki Ishige and Vice President Ms. Yuri Sato.

Mr. Hiroyuki Ishige and the Japanese Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr. Hirofumi Takinami delivered separate addresses.

This was followed by an opening speech from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in which she said that given the close relationship between Myanmar and Japan, a majority of the investors and

business people participating in this event will bring with them a deep understanding of Myanmar, informed by the historical ties which connect the two countries. She said she was equally certain that these same investors and business people are also taking a keen interest in recent positive changes to Myanmar's investment environment. New investment and company laws recently in effect provide a much-improved legal framework for investors, she said.

Myanmar has been undergoing multiple, simultaneous, complex transitions throughout recent years.

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These transitions have affected all aspects of the country's social, political and economic life. Very few of our people remain untouched by these transitions, she said.

As Myanmar has only recently emerged from a lengthy period of self-imposed isolation, many of the reforms that are now underway are focused specifically on addressing 'legacy issues.' She said, the legacies are more on the negative than the positive side, so we have to struggle very hard to cope with that. This social, economic and political 'housekeeping', much of which occurs out of the spotlight, behind closed doors at times, is essential if we are to create an enabling environment which will permit many of the newer, pipeline reform initiatives to go forward, she said.

The State Counsellor said that since the incumbent government took office in 2016, it has been fully committed not just to the pursuit of economic development, but also to striking the right balance between development and stability – both economically and politically – and one cannot survive without the other. Striking the right balance is never easy. In Myanmar, we have boldly decided against taking a populist approach to macroeconomics and chosen to favour the less glamorous but still fundamentally important work required to reform and strengthen the management of our economy, increase resilience to shocks, and to stabilize macroeconomic foundations, such



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi cuts the ceremonial ribbon alongside Japanese high-level officials to open the Myanmar Silk Promotion Event at the ASEAN-Japan Centre in Japan. **PHOTO: MNA**

as bringing inflation down from the double-digit figures we saw, faced in 2015-2016, said the State Counsellor.

As a result of our collective efforts, inflation has been tamed at around 5 per cent, for the present, which has allowed our economy to grow at a decent rate of 6 to 7 per cent, amongst the fastest in Asia. Which, I do not think is good enough, but it's not bad, she said. Thanks to these and other reform efforts, there has been per-capita incomes risen by 50 per cent. Poverty rates have fallen from above 40 per cent to 30 per cent today. Furthermore, as a result of our combined efforts, earlier this year, for the first time, Myanmar fulfilled all eligibility criteria to graduate from Least Developed Country status, she said.

The State Counsellor said

that despite all these very positive developments, there is still ample room for improvement and

"so please do come and visit so that you can soak up an atmosphere brimming with opportunities and witness our newfound economic vibrancy with your own eyes"

of course the expectations of the people are rising, and will always be rising.

As we are all aware, the global economy has, since 2008, been recovering from a decade long fever. Thanks partially to relative isolation, Myanmar managed to evade that particular fever, she said. Ten years on, global economic growth is now expected to remain robust at 3.1 per cent in 2018, with some Central Banks having begun gradually removing monetary stimulus put in place to combat economic downturns.

Unlike ten years ago, Myanmar today is exposed to these global macroeconomic shifts in ways never before experienced. For example, unlike in the past, the gradual removal of monetary stimulus in some big economies could have undesirable direct or indirect impacts on an emerging economy like ours. This is a challenge we have to be prepared to face.

Luckily, despite global challenges, the growth outlook for developing Asia in 2018 was recently upgraded to 6 per cent, or 0.1 percentage points higher than the rate envisaged in September 2017 by the Asian Development Bank. As part of this developing Asia, Myanmar's economic trajectory is promising.

The State Counsellor said that the Government of Myanmar is steering a careful course through waves of multiple, complex and simultaneous transitions that are social, political and economic in nature. Despite multidimensional risks, external and internal pressures, and the monumental complexity of the issues we must deal with, our

commitment to be a responsible member of the global community has not wavered, she said. The Government of Myanmar has confirmed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals which have now been integrated into Myanmar's planning, budgeting and monitoring frameworks consistent with the conditions and needs of the country. We have developed a comprehensive social, economic and environmental policy reform agenda, the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, or MSDP, which provides a unifying and coherent roadmap for our future reforms, she said.

Structured around 3 Pillars, 5 Goals, 28 Strategies and 251 Action Plans, the MSDP can be seen as the expression of our national development vision; a vision which finds resonance in the global sustainable development agenda.

The first MSDP goal focuses on peace and national reconciliation, key elements for achieving political stability, and of course, there are the greatest number of challenges in that sector and that has to do with the aforementioned 'legacy issue', said the State Counsellor. She said the second goal emphasizes macroeconomic management, with a focus on achieving and then maintaining economic stability, without which broader, multi-sector development cannot begin to materialize. The third goal relates to job creation and private sector growth, the fourth goal focuses on human capacity and social development, including expanding access to quality education and healthcare.

The fifth goal – natural resources management and environmental protection – highlights our commitment to play our part to protect our planet through sustainable environmental and natural resources management, she said. The State Counsellor said MSDP Goal 3 demonstrates our commitment to creating a favorable investment and business environment. In line with this commitment, the Myanmar Investment Commission, under its new Chair Union Minister U Thaung Tun, is now reviewing all processes not only within the MIC itself but also within other government agencies, with a view to establishing simple, clear and predictable Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes a piece of silk cloth woven with Japanese designs at the Myanmar Silk Promotion Event at the ASEAN-Japan Centre in Japan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rakhine State issue

In order to handle the Rakhine issue, peaceful coexistence through diversity will be implemented. However, if mind-sets and perspectives remain the same as when the conflicts and tension occurred, we will not be able to resolve these issues. Thus, the issue should be addressed with a new approach, taking into consideration regional and international perspectives, in accordance with 21st century globalisation. We will only be able to overcome the unfair challenges and pressures with the unity of our citizens.

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



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with New Komeito Party leader Mr. Yamaguchi Natsuo in Tokyo, Japan. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, the Special Envoy of the Japanese Government for National Reconciliation in Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor separately receives New Komeito Party leader, special envoy to Myanmar, JETRO Chairman, Japanese PM's wife

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who is in Japan separately received New Komeito Party leader Mr. Yamaguchi Natsuo, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, JETRO Chairman and CEO Mr. Hiroyuki Ishige and Mrs. Akie Abe, wife of the PM of Japan, yesterday.

The State Counsellor received a group led by New Komeito Party leader Mr. Yamaguchi Natsuo at Hotel New Otani Tokyo, Tokyo in the morning and discussed promoting bilateral friendship and relations, matters relating to Myanmar's transition to democracy, economic

development and human resources development.

Next, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received a group led by Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar Mr. Yohei Sasakawa in the same hotel later in the morning.

During the meeting between the State Counsellor and Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, matters relating to the Myanmar peace process, national reconciliation process, progress in eradicating leprosy and constructing schools in Rakhine State were discussed.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor met with JETRO Chairman and CEO Mr. Hi-

royuki Ishige in Meiji Kinenkan. In the meeting Mr. Hiroyuki Ishige gave a briefing about the support being given by JETRO to Japanese businesses investing in Myanmar, Japanese companies investing in agriculture, forest and aquatic sectors of Myanmar where there are many good prospects. Of the close to 100 businesses in the Thilawa Economic Zone that created over 10,000 jobs, more than half are from Japan. Due to the enactment of a new investment law in Myanmar, it has become easier to invest in Myanmar and the investment amount from Japan has reached record levels in 2017.

They also discussed about Japan and

Myanmar at the moment cooperating to plant Japonica rice in Myanmar and to export to a third country and of making more efforts towards putting in more investment in Myanmar as she has good prospects in the Asia region.

Present at the meetings were Union Ministers U Thaug Tun and U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Ministers U Min Thu and U Set Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Thurein Thant Zin, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama and officials. Later in the evening, the State Counsellor received Mrs. Akie Abe, wife of the Japanese PM, at Hotel New Otani Tokyo, in Tokyo. — MNA ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with JETRO CEO MR. Hiroyuki Ishige in Tokyo, in Japan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Mrs. Akie Abe, wife of the Japanese PM, in Tokyo, in Japan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

53rd ASEAN-COCI Meeting organizing steering committee coord meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw

The 53rd Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI) organizing steering committee's coordination meeting was held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The coordination meeting was attended by Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, Rectors, Deputy Directors-General, Pro Rectors and officials from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Ministry of Health and Sports.

At the meeting, 53rd ASEAN-COCI Meeting organizing steering committee chairman Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko said the 53rd meeting will be held in Myanmar in November and the meeting will be attended by representatives from ASEAN countries. The coordination meeting of the 53rd ASEAN-COCI Meeting organizing steering committee was held in order to successfully hold the 53rd ASEAN-COCI Meeting, said the Union Minister.



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko gives speech at the 53rd meeting of ASEAN-COCI organizing steering committee coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The upcoming ASEAN-COCI meeting is held under the framework of ASEAN Charter and is alternatively hosted by ASEAN member countries. The 53rd ASEAN-COCI Meeting hosted by Myanmar will be held from 12 to 16 November. All related ministries are urged to work together towards successfully hosting the meeting, said the Union Minister.

In addition to nurturing mutual understanding and unity among ASEAN citizens and to successfully establish an ASEAN

community in 2025, ASEAN-COCI is striving toward effectively increase cooperation in culture and information sector among ASEAN countries by drawing up projects and implementing work processes.

That is why departmental officials who took up responsibilities in each sub-committees need to work together towards the successful holding of the 53rd ASEAN-COCI Meeting and are invited to discuss and make suggestions, said the Union Minister.

Next, meeting organizing work committee chairman Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture Permanent Secretary U Htun Ohn, meeting organizing work committee deputy chairperson National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) Rector Prof. Daw Khin Kyi Pyar and Myanmar Radio and Television Deputy Director-General U Myo Myint Aung attending on behalf of meeting organizing work committee deputy chairman Myanmar Radio

and Television Director-General explained about sub-committees formed, preparation works conducted and future works to be done for the successful holding of 53rd ASEAN-COCI. Afterwards, the chairmen and officials of the sub-committees explained about sub-committee-wise work processes. Organizing Steering Committee Chairman Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko coordinated on the discussions made and concluded the meeting after delivering a closing speech.

After becoming a member of ASEAN in 1997, Myanmar had hosted 35th ASEAN-COCI Meeting in Yangon in 2000 and 43rd ASEAN-COCI Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw in 2008 with Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture chairing the meetings.

Myanmar is hosting the 53rd ASEAN-COCI Meeting from 12 to 16 November 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw and the meeting will be beneficial in implementing cooperation and communication projects to increase awareness of ASEAN, establishing positive views on ASEAN and increasing the holding of culture and art shows, it is learnt. —MNA ■

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe attends opening ceremony of Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended an opening ceremony of Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at 1000-bed General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said cardiac related diseases are not like any other diseases as without timely and systematic treatment, patients can lose their lives. Hence, the opening of Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and treating cardiovascular disease is an important occasion because it will bring huge benefits to the people. He then thanked and put on record the efforts of the superintendent, doctors, nurses, technicians and staffs of 1000-bed Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital, specialists and officials from Yangon General Hospital, University of Medicine (Mandalay) and North Okkalapa General Hospital. The Union Minister also told



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe encourages a patient seeking treatment at the cardiac intensive care unit in the 1000-bed General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

of the requirement to train next generation doctors, nurses and experts to use and maintain the equipment and machinery in the

laboratory. A training room full of learning aids should be established in Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital to conduct medical sub-

ject training and the ministry will provide the necessary support.

He said contact should be established with international

universities and organisations for further development of Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital and all should think out of the box and work toward for both short term gain and long term gains. Next, hospital superintendent Dr. Pa Pa explained about establishing the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory.

Afterwards the Union Minister, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Tin Htun, Ministry of Health and Sports Permanent Secretary Dr. Thet Khaing Win and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory. They then toured the laboratory and encouraged patients in cardiac intensive care unit.

Cardiac catheterization machine was established at a cost of Ks 1.44 billion on 30 September and 8 cardiovascular disease patients had been successfully operated with the machine on 4 and 5 October it is learnt. —MNA ■

State Counsellor calls for Japanese Investment

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She said there is anticipation that this exercise will contribute to the development of a single window system for use by all investors and businesses who may or may not be registered under the MIC.

The State Counsellor was pleased to say that a single window system is already in use at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and that it provides a strong and positive precedent. She said Thilawa is the great success story of cooperation between Myanmar and Japan. She hopes it will be seen as an indication of future possibilities. It makes us confident that the roll out of similar systems elsewhere, starting with the MIC, should not be too difficult, she said.

The State Counsellor gave an example of a next step, which will involve migrating many existing manual processes online so that investors do not even need to come to a physical single window to have their needs addressed. One excellent example of such a system already in use is the MyCo system used by our Directorate for Investment and Companies Administration, she said. MyCo is an electronic registration system through which companies can now be incorporated online without needing to be physically present at the registrar's office. This is the type of progress we are now focused on, and replicating and expanding.

The State Counsellor expressed her personal and sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan and to JICA for their instrumental support towards the development of the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan, which will promote even greater foreign direct investment in Myanmar, and which will play a significant role in supporting the Myanmar Japan Joint Initiative (MJJI) programme, in part by identifying, and then resolving, impediments faced by investors, and providing further policy recommendations. She also thanked JICA for being very careful in coordinating their work to our development aims. It is very important that we should all coordinate and cooperate if we are to make the fastest progress possible in a



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses a documentary photo with attendees at the Myanmar Investment Conference in Japan. PHOTO: MNA

If you have concerns or worries, please discuss this openly with us and please keep an open mind. Unless you keep an open mind, you will not be able to see what the true situation is like.

country that has fallen behind others in our region, she said. She said Myanmar has the advantages of the late comer in the sense that there is much to learn from the mistakes as well as the successes of others who have gone before us.

The State Counsellor said further policy recommendations will assist us in creating an enabling environment that will enhance opportunities for the ability of our Japanese investors to do business in Myanmar comfortably, efficiently, and in a predictable and transparent manner, underpinned by the Agreement on Liberalization, Promotion and Protection of Investment signed between our two governments. The Agreement ensures an easy entry into a wide range of economic sectors as well as protection and security for Japanese investments.

She said another success story which highlights the type of positive partnership that can be achieved between our respective public and private sectors is the Thilawa SEZ. The State Counsellor said, as she mentioned earlier, that we are very proud of the successful example of Japanese-Myanmar

cooperation. Thilawa SEZ has become a crowning success in a very short period of time, receiving a total investment of USD 1.491 billion, a figure which reflects the dollar value of those investments actually entering the economy. Investors from countries such as Japan, the United States, Germany, France, Sweden,

Australia, China, India, Singapore, Thailand and Taiwan have each invested in the Thilawa SEZ, with many more investors eager to invest in Zone B of the SEZ.

The State Counsellor said that to assist investors in the process of identifying infrastructure priorities in a more strategic, transparent and open manner, we are developing a Project Bank, that is to say: a rolling databank consisting of major, transformative projects that have been screened, appraised and prioritized such that they are ready for implementation with the most appropriate source of financing, be it from the government budget, development assistance or even private sector financing by way of Private-Public-Part-

nership (PPP) mechanisms.

The opening of Myanmar's markets is now in full swing, she said. In what has been referred to as Southeast Asia's final frontier market, investment opportunities are everywhere in the country. Some are plain to see, others are waiting to be found.

The Government of Myanmar is wholly committed to a continued improvement in Myanmar's investment environment. All we ask of our investors is that they ensure that their investments are responsible by incorporating environmental, social and governance factors (ESG in short) in their enterprises.

She said it is also important that the rights of stakeholders, including employees through the creation of fair and favorable working conditions are prioritized as part of this responsible investment approach. She said Myanmar's long close relationship with Japan has left no doubt as to Japan's capacity for ensuring responsible investment in Myanmar. We welcome your investment with enthusiasm and confidence, she said.

The State Counsellor was also pleased to inform that both business people and tourists from Japan can now enjoy visa free access to Myanmar. She invited them to visit and soak up an atmosphere brimming with opportunities and witness the newfound economic vibrancy with your own eyes.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes a silk loom and silk cocoon display at the Myanmar Silk Promotion Event held at the ASEAN-Japan Centre yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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

100 years old cameras to be exhibited in Yangon

A PRIVATE collector will exhibit 150 antique cameras from 19 to 21 October in Yangon Gallery.

"This is the first antique cameras exhibition in Myanmar. At the exhibition, we will display 150 cameras out of 500 cameras that we had collected. Some cameras on exhibition will be more than a hundred years old. Pictures of the cameras that we could not display will be shown. The exhibition may not be complete but we will show the best we can," said U Kyaw Thet Min the organizer of the exhibition, said the press conference at the Orchid Hotel in Yangon on 7th October.

"Actually I would like to show the cameras I collected in a small museum but there is difficulty to find even a small place in Yangon. It wouldn't be easy. That is why I'm holding this exhibition

First antique cameras exhibition to be held in Yangon from 19 to 21 October. **PHOTO: THI THI MIN**

to show the cameras and for interested people to observe them," he added.

At the exhibition, about 150 cameras will be showcased including cameras used

circa 1900. The event organizer starts collecting the cameras 15 to 16 years ago. To date he collected over 500 cameras of over 40 different types.

The three-day exhibition

will exhibit the history of the cameras, cameras collected yearly, photos of rare ancient cameras and other knowledge about cameras, it is learnt.—

Thi Thi Min ■

**PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Ancient engraving can be explored at Kyay Myin Monastery in Mandalay

KYAY MYIN Monastery donated by King Mindon's queen is featuring ancient engraving arts and those enjoying historical site can explore its finest ancient works and unique arts.

The monastery's roof is three-tiered and engraving works on the entrance stairs

are impressively featured. Wooden columns traditionally carved can be seen. The visitors can also explore the ancient furniture such as bronze bed, old lamps, cupboards. It is famous for its unique arts in

The original owner was the Yandabo Ywarsar (a vil-

lage-head entitled to a portion of revenue of the village) but it was restored by King Mindon's queen.

Kyay Myin Monastery is located on 62nd Street and the entrance is at the end of a narrow lane off the street.

—Taintaman ■

Plastic factory fire losses set at K80 million

A FIRE broke out at a plastic factory in the Shwelinban Industry Zone in Yangon on 7 October morning.

The fire started at 7:40 am and was put under control by firefighters after one hour, according to the Department of Fire Services.

"The plastic factory owned by U Zeyar Min is closed at night. On 6 October evening, a driver of the factory switched on an electric pot to boil water but he forgot to switch off. After work, all main switches were shut down. When all main switches were up at 6 am next morning, the electric pot was overheated and caused the fire

spreading to nearby chemicals and plastic pellets," said a fireman.

The fire destroyed a steel structure building and 500 bags of plastic pellet, leave losses amounting to K80.5 million.

The Department of Fire Services and 43 fire engines together with 30 supporting vehicles were used to put down the fire. A case was opened against Ko Soe Min Aye, 26-year-old driver of the factory, at the Hlinethaya Myoma Police Station. The Department of Fire Services and 47 fire engines together with 19 other supporting vehicles were used to put down the blaze. — GNLM

**PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Cotton price hits high of Ks1,750 per viss

COTTON price hit its highest level reaching Ks1,750 per viss in past 20 days increasing from K1,250, according to the cotton growers in Monywa.

The pre-monsoon cotton price has been spirally upward since 20 days ago and reached peak yesterday due to higher demand from China.

The pre-monsoon cotton are planted in March before the rainy season and harvested in July.

“The prevailing cotton price is Ks1,600 per viss for those cotton that has moisture content due to rain. The dried cotton fetches higher price. The global cotton price is around Ks5,000-6,000 per viss. Therefore, cotton price is likely to

remain on the high side. It can receive Ks1,500 per viss when there is an excess supply in the market during harvest season”, said U Tun, a cotton grower.

Insect-protected cotton seeds imported from India are distributed among local growers.

The corn yield average of 1,000 viss per acre with irrigation water and from 400 to 700 viss from rain-fed field.

A grower can earn K1.6 million from per acre yield of cotton from a farmland with irrigation if it is calculated with current market price.

The cultivation cost is around Ks400,000 per acre, said the growers.

“China is main buyer of My-



Farmer collecting cotton. PHOTO: AFP

anmar’s cotton. China re-exported Myanmar’s cotton to Viet Nam and Hong Kong. However, we cannot be solely reliant on single market. We have joined hands with India’s merchants. India offers price depending on

global cotton price. Meanwhile, China offers lower than actual price and it often manipulates the market with non-competitive practices whenever there is another buyer country. Cotton price is possibly around

Ks1,500 per viss. If moisture content will become higher due to unseasonal torrential rain, it might drop to Ks1,300”, said U Than Tun, Sagaing Region agriculture expert. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)■

Myanmar’s fruit exporters face difficulties with China’s quality inspections

DESPITE China’s demand for Myanmar’s fruits, Myanmar still has not received approval from food safety inspection mechanism_ the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People’s Republic of China for imported fruits and Myanmar’s exporters are experiencing hardship in export, according to Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP).

There is China’s demand for Myanmar’s Sein Ta Lone mango (Diamond Solitaire), avocado and muskmelon.

“Without AQSIQ’s registration, Myanmar cannot export the fruits legally. Seeking AQSIQ process can be made between the two governments. The AQSIQ’s approval is crucial in exporting the fruits through legal trade channel”, said Dr. Myint Sein, vice chair of MFVP.

MFVP showcased the country’s products at 15th China-ASEAN expo held in the second week of September in Nanning city, China. Chinese merchants expressed their interest in quality of agricultural produce and proposed to purchase them, according to MFVP.

“We came to know the international traders are interest-

ed in local agricultural produce when it is exhibited. It benefits the growers as well as the country’s export sector”, said Dr. Myint Sein.

Elephant foot yam and cardamom were previously restricted for export as they were included in the list of forest products. Now, the restriction has been lifted and they are available for export. Traders from China and Canada showed their interest in them, MFVP

stated.

Dr. Myint Sein put forward three points to enhance fruits, flower and vegetable production industry at 20th regular meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee led by Vice President 1, and private entrepreneurs held on 6 October.

He requested authorities to have legal trade channel as Chinese merchants proposed to purchase 5 tons of dried tea leaf when tea booth was show-

cased at China-ASEAN Expo held in Nanning city. They also offered to buy dried Kayen chilli. Nevertheless, Myanmar cannot seek China’s AQSIQ registration. Therefore, MFVP called for government to government discussion for this between the two countries. Additionally, he also requested to set respective zone areas for each vegetable to produce quality vegetables and fulfill the market’s demand. —Minthit / Ko Htet ■



Merchants check the Myanmar’s mangoes and fruits at Muse 105 mile check-point. FILE PHOTO: THANT ZIN (MUSE)

930 acres of forests to be established in 17 townships in arid zone this FY

DRY Zone Greening Department in Sagaing Region said it is working to establish 930 acres of forest plantations in 17 townships in four districts in the region in the present 2018-2019 fiscal year.

To conserve the natural environment, four different species of plants, which are suitable for the region, will be included in the plantations to be developed in Shwebo, Monywa, Sagaing and Yinmabin districts that are located in the country’s dry zone. The new forest plantations will cover 200 acres of village supply plantations, 230 acres of watershed plantations and 70 acres of other plantations.

U Ba Lwin Oo, director of the department, elaborated on the benefits of trees that leaves of trees release water into the atmosphere and bring rain to the region and big trees are better than bushes and hedges to cause rain. This is why the department targets to mainly develop green trees in the dry areas that will reduce heat and help cool the environment.— Win Oo (Zeya Taing)■

Change of mindset key to success in democratic reforms

MYANMAR has not become a complete democratic state yet. It is a country in its reforms to adopt a suitable democracy system. So, we need all-inclusive participation for the success of the reform process.

The objectives President U Win Myint explained at his meeting with officials of the administrative, legislative and judicial sectors, in fact, are the essence of his inaugural speech. As the instructions of the President are the essential needs of the democratic transition, the recent public meeting is a reiteration of those instructions.

“A vital requisite for the smoothness and success of the democratic transition is the change in the mindsets and habits of the people, government employees and civil servants.



In fact, we cannot achieve our aspired goal without changing the mindset and habits of the people, government employees and civil servants which is the most important and hardest part of the transition process.

ident, but we are still facing hardships in some other sectors. In fact, we cannot achieve our aspired goal without changing the mindset and habits of the people, government employees and civil servants which is the most important and hardest part of the transition process.

Those persons should root out their dogmatic thoughts and beliefs through self-awareness and correct practices for the smoothness and success of the democratic transition. Amidst the immature transitional process, we have made significant progress that deserve recognition and praise. We also need substantial improvement in driving away those out-of-date ways and thoughts, and anyone who sticks to them must be removed or dismissed.

We can say that our reform process is on its correct way under the guidance of the President. As the reforms are towards the good of the country we all must partake in them out of our own volition. Only then will we be able to accelerate our speed towards a peaceful and developed democratic state.

its of the people, government employees and civil servants. Tighter management is a mandatory for departments which lag behind in the reform process, whereas the judicial sector must be strengthened. We must combat corruption and protect human rights, while putting more energy in curbing narcotic drugs. We need proper management system to prevent loss of public funds. There must be a legal process to return the illegally seized land to the owners or provide them with compensation, said the President.”

We are effective in realizing some of the democratic reforms as guided by the President.

By Dr. Maung Aung

GENERALLY, a country's economic development can be basically divided into agriculture, industrial and service sectors, which are components of the GDP of a nation. GDP is a very vital indicator of economic progress. In general, if a country's GDP has a high ratio in agriculture, it can be regarded as a developing country. But if a country's GDP has maintained a high ratio in the service sector, we can regard it as a rich developed country. It is found that the service sector makes a higher contribution to GDP in developed countries than the industrial and agricultural sectors.

The export of services is one of the main sources that earn foreign currency for the country. Service exports include all the service industries such as tourism, real estate services for foreigners, transportation, banking, insurance, technology, education, healthcare services, foreign firms, people who work at international agencies, and seamen and labourers who are going to work in foreign countries. Out of many service export industries in the country, related measures have been taken to set up the National Export Strategy that includes tourism industry aiming to promote nature-based tourism and adventure tourism. Myanmar is the largest mainland country in the South-east Asia region that contains different topographical features, mountains, unspoiled beaches along the coastlines, rivers, lakes situated on highlands, different ethnic tribes, customs and archaeological sites and so on. That's why Myanmar is listed as one of the most amazing nations with promising tourism destinations in the world. In order to promote the tourism industry, arrangements have been made to grant visa exemption, to relax some rules including show money cases and to abolish arrival and departure cards, aiming to facilitate the tourism industry. The Myanmar Tourism Law will be enacted and will tourists to enter the country through airlines and waterways. As a result, it is found that a horde of tourists from many countries including Thailand, China and India are visiting through

Developing new service industry

Authorities concerned should try to create new environments in order for tourists to spend more money. It is found that majority of them pay a visit to many destinations such as Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan, Inlay and the Kyaikhteeyoe. According to the data on tourist arrivals in Asia, China sees the highest number of tourists, followed by Thailand, which is a major source of foreign currency income for the country, and this smokeless industry can contribute to the tourism-related industries such as hotels,



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

the border gates.

Challenges

In terms of mass tourism, Myanmar's tourism boom is set to slow down due to false news and instability in Rakhine State, which can potentially hamper the tourism industry. In order to improve the tourism sectors, efforts are needed to restore peace and stability, to provide safe environments, smooth transportation and reasonable hotel rates for globetrotters. As for the hosts, they should welcome and treat the tourists with open arms and good hospitality. Cooperation is also needed to create good environments for tourists to enjoy a safe and pleasant stay in Myanmar.

Offering new places for the tourists

One of the vital services for the tourists is to have easy access to safe and pleasant environments as well as nice restaurants, i.e. it is important for the wayside shops to sell clean, hygienic and fresh food. Similarly, we should find ways and means to sell hand-made products, to establish elephant camps and water-based tourism for the local people. Moreover, the Hluttaw has approved legalization of hotel casinos for foreigners and it can presumably be one of the new ways to earn foreign currency. Similarly the authorities should consider opening registered nightclubs as an additional channel for tourist income. Likewise, the government can get revenue from foreigners leasing real estate and condominiums. It is also important to receive revenues and taxes from the Myanmar nationals working in local NGOs, companies, agencies and INGOs. All their taxes are important for the national income and remittance should be made in proper channels so that the country can gain benefits from it. According to a report released by the World Bank, there was a total of \$600 billion in 2017 alone, among major remittance recipients; India

retains its top spot, with \$69 billion, China retains \$64 billion and the Philippines retains \$33 billion, respectively. Many labourers from the Philippines work overseas in countries such as the US, Europe, Japan, Korea and Singapore, in jobs as doctors, engineers, experts and nurses, especially home-help-

People's obligation

Only if the government and all the citizens work hand in hand will a prosperous nation be built. Cooperation with a spirit of nationalism is required to boost service exports through business personnel, endeavour of the youths, innovation, and adopting international standards. As for the State Government, necessary measures have to be taken to boost the tourism industry, transfer remittance of migrant Myanmar workers officially through banks, while ensuring they adhere to the rules and regulation of the banks, so that national economic development is achieved.

had worked in foreign countries in 2015-2016. The disadvantage is that they illegally entered into Thailand without holding any passports or visa. But, thanks to the endeavour of the authorities concerned, permission had been granted to send the Myanmar labourers legally through registered employment



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

ers. The advantage is that the majority of Filipinos can speak fluent English, which can facilitate their jobs to some extent and can avoid exploitation, ill-treatment and forced labour.

According to the World Bank report, it is estimated that there were approximately 4 million Myanmar migrant workers who

mutual trust between the government and the employees can be built. Most of the workers come from the remote areas and they have managed to borrow money for their travelling expenses and various payments for employment agencies' services. Thus, we can tackle their financial problem by borrowing enough money needed for their jobs. Moreover they can transfer the money to Myanmar through the proper channels. The migrant workers can transfer their money through the banks. Therefore, the government should find ways and means to increase the nation's wealth by uncovering the exports of services, especially the tourism industry and migrant workers.

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

Ref: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/...>

Myanmar: Boosting productivity key to fostering economic development

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

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 18/2018 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 6 October.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 6 October.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 10 October issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM

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“REDUCING ECONOMIC LOSSES FROM DISASTERS HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM LIVES”

“ပြည်သူ့ဘဝ တိုးတက်ပြောင်းလဲဖို့၊ ဘေးဒဏ်ကြောင့် စီးပွားဆုံးရှုံးမှု လျော့ချဖို့”

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at Monday 8 October 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Kayin State, scattered in Magway and Bago regions, Chin and Rakhine states, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Eastern Shan and Mon states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Mandalay Region. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Manaung (4.65)inches, Sittway (3.15)inches, Singu (2.75)inches, Bhamo and Mogok (2.17)inches each, Hpa-an (1.61) inches and Meiktila (1.41)inches.

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30)hrs MST today, the depression over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal has moved West-Northwestwards. It is center at about (370) miles Southeast of Gopalpur and about (350)miles Southeast of Kalingapatnam (India). Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 9 October 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah and Kayin states, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Eastern Shan and Mon states, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, (Northern and Southern) Shan and Chin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway regions and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Sea will be moderate to rough elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9 - 12) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (6-9) feet Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Sagaing and Mandalay regions, Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 October 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 October 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State Counsellor calls for Japanese Investment

FROM PAGE-5

She said that as we move our business-to-business engagement forward, we will also promote our people-to-people relationship which is founded on a deep, steadfast and mutually beneficial friendship that brings peoples and business together for the benefit of all.

In her final remarks, the State Counsellor said that as between friends, she was ready to acknowledge that Myanmar has challenges to face, particularly with regard to the Rakhine and with the struggles Myanmar has on the peace front. She said we are aware of the difficulties, we are not hiding this fact from our friends but we are confident that if we stand firm in the interest of all who live within our frontiers and who are all dependent on Myanmar for their security and their prosperity, we shall not fail to go forward. Peace and prosperity go together, we cannot have one without the other, she said. She said we understand

that peace, reconciliation, harmony, stability, rule of law, human rights – all these have to be taken into consideration when we are looking for more investors, for greater economic opportunities, and when we are looking to our friends to come and join us in our economic ventures. It is not simply an economic venture; it's a national venture which incorporates many, many strands – social, economic, political, she said. The State Counsellor expressed her wish to be very open and transparent with our friends. She requested that if there were any concerns or worries, to please discuss this openly with us and to please keep an open mind. Unless you keep an open mind, you will not be able to see what the true situation is like, she said. She continued, saying, and while we are prepared to discuss openly with you, I think it is also important that you are prepared to listen and to consider seriously in what way we can work together not just to make bilateral trade and investment



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends a banquet dinner hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shizo Abe yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

relations between Japan and Myanmar better, but to improve relations between our two peoples, and to contribute better relations throughout the world.

The State Counsellor then took a documentary photo with all in attendance. The conference was attended by more than 400 Japanese business owners, Myanmar business owners and invited guests.

JETRO is supported by the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and works to promote mutual trade and

investment between Japan and the rest of the world, and has a branch office opened in Myanmar.

JETRO was first established under the name Japan Export Trade Research Organization in Osaka in 1952, with the initial aim to consolidate Japan's efforts in export promotion. Later, JETRO's role shifted to encompass more varied activities such as furthering understanding with trade partner countries, promoting imports and exports, creating markets for small and

medium enterprises, supporting foreign investors to Japan and to Japanese investors investing in foreign countries.

JETRO has 75 offices around the world, which include 27 in Asia, 2 in the Pacific Region, 8 in North America, 9 in South and the Mid-American Region, 14 in Europe, 3 in Russia, 5 in the Middle East, and 7 in the African Region. Later at night, the State Counsellor attended a banquet dinner hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shizo Abe. — MNA ■

Advanced judo, referee courses open in Yangon



AN advanced judo course and referee training course collaborated by the Ministry of Health and Sports and Myanmar Judo Federation opened at the Kyaikkasan Stadium of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon) yesterday, with chairperson of the Myanmar Judo Federation U Tun Tun delivering the opening remarks and gifting presents to the Japan judo referee coaches from Japan's PARK TRAINNER ASSOCIATION. In the opening remarks by U Tun Tun, he thanked the Japan judo referee coaches and officials from Japan International Collaboration because the

advanced judo course and referee training course were opened with their assistance.

Judo arrived in Myanmar with Thirty Comrades in 1941 and Myanmar Judo Federation was first founded in 1985 and it was re-formed with new policies on 28 February 1965. Advanced judo course and referee training course are aimed to raise the new generation and new coaches. Coaches from ISPE, coaches from districts, states and the military, and 50 students were present at the ceremony. The course duration will be 2 weeks. —Saw Thein Win ■

Yangon Hluttaw to discuss bill amending the YCDC Law

By Nyein Nyein

WITH an aim to hold the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) election successfully, the Yangon Region Hluttaw is preparing to discuss a bill amending the YCDC Law, it is learnt.

The bill amending the YCDC Law was tabled for discussion in the Hluttaw by U Nay Myo Kyaw (a) U Nay Phone Latt of Thingangyun Township constituency 1 at the 17th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of Second Yangon Region Hluttaw held on 5 October.

The tabled bill includes an amendment and an addition to the 2018 YCDC Law. There are two sections in the 2018 YCDC Law that need an amendment and an addition. The bill proposed section 13 of the law to be amended as “the Com-

mission is to designate constituencies for YCDC election based on the township-wise population”, and to add “According to section 324-a, anyone found guilty of committing any offences prescribed in the YCDC election rule enacted under the YCDC Law will be sentenced as stipulated in the YCDC election rule” to section 324, it is learnt.

“When reviewing the YCDC election rule drawn up by the YCDC, it was found to include offences and verdicts. Offences related to elections were included in the rule but it was not included in the law. Legal action can only be taken according to the law and not by the rule. That is why the addition was proposed,” said U Nay Myo Kyaw (a) U Nay Phone Latt. “It is timely that this amendment and addition were tabled because the peo-

ple want another YCDC election as the last one was held quite some time ago, and for the election to be conducted more properly in a way the people want,” added U Nay Myo Kyaw (a) U Nay Phone Latt.

In addition to the tabling of the bill, the Bill Committee Report on the committee's findings and comments on the bill was also read by committee member U Nay Naing Oo of Twantay Township constituency 2 at the 18th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of Second Yangon Region Hluttaw held yesterday.

The bill will be debated by the Hluttaw representatives and the Hluttaw will decide it in the 19th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of Second Yangon Region Hluttaw that will be held today, it is learnt. ■

Pompeo says Kim 'ready' to invite inspectors to nuclear site

SEOUL (South Korea) — International inspectors will be allowed into North Korea's dismantled nuclear testing site, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Monday, after a meeting with Kim Jong Un in which he said "significant progress" was made towards denuclearisation.

Pompeo met with the North Korean leader in Pyongyang on Sunday to rekindle stalled denuclearisation talks following a landmark summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump in Singapore.

"Chairman Kim said he's ready to allow them to come in" to see the dismantled Punggye-ri nuclear test site, Pompeo said.

North Korea took apart the Punggye-ri facility in the country's northeast in May but has yet to allow international observers into the site to verify its claims.

The facility, buried inside a mountain near the border with China, was the staging ground for all six of the North's nuclear tests.



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un is ready to allow international inspectors in to see dismantled nuclear sites, said US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. PHOTO: AFP

The inspectors will be allowed in as soon as the two sides agree on "logistics", Pompeo told reporters in Seoul before leaving for Beijing on a whirlwind diplomatic trip.

Denuclearisation of North Korea is "a long process", Pompeo said, adding: "We made significant progress."

The visit was Pompeo's fourth to North Korea.

Trump met Kim in Singapore in June for the first-ever summit between the two countries, resulting in what critics say was only a vague commitment by the North Korean leader towards denuclearisation.

The two sides have since sparred over the exact terms of the vaguely-worded deal, with the US pushing for a "final, fully verified denuclearisation" of North Korea while Pyongyang has slammed Washington for its "gangster-like" demands for its unilateral disarmament. — AFP ■

Brief in News

China says former Interpol chief accepted bribes

BEIJING (China) — The former Chinese head of Interpol, who went missing last month, has been placed under investigation for accepting bribes, China's public security ministry said on Monday. Meng Hongwei, who resigned on Sunday, "accepted bribes and is suspected of violating the law", the ministry said in a statement, adding that any others who took bribes would be investigated. — AFP ■

Bosnian Serb nationalist Dodik claims victory in presidency vote

BANJA LUKA (Bosnia and Herzegovina) — Nationalist Milorad Dodik claimed victory on Sunday in the vote for the Serb seat of Bosnia's tri-partite presidency, a post he will share with Muslim and Croat leaders.

"This is victory as clean as a whistle and I proclaim this victory," Dodik announced, though his rival's party said the vote was too close to call. — AFP ■

Venezuela says Colombia's president shielding Maduro's attackers

CARACAS (Venezuela) — Venezuela kept up its war of words on neighbour Colombia on Sunday, saying its president Ivan Duque was shielding the authors of an alleged attempt to assassinate its president Nicolas Maduro.

Caracas said in a statement that Colombia's President Ivan Duque "has placed Colombian institutions at the service of obscure and unspeakable interests against the government of Venezuela, endorsing and supporting all sorts of actions and conspiracies."

That included protecting "the intellectual and material authors" of an alleged on 4 August attempt to assassinate Maduro during a military parade, the foreign ministry said.

Bogota had on Friday rejected statements by Maduro who referred to Duque as a "devil who hates Venezuela". He accused the right-wing Colombian leader of "conspiring daily" against his socialist gov-

ernment and its armed forces.

Since his arrival in power on 7 August, Duque has continued to call for international pressure against the Maduro government, and joined his predecessor Juan Manuel Santos in calling it a "dictatorship."

Maduro accused Santos of being behind the explosion of two drones that disrupted the Venezuelan president's speech to an 4 August Caracas military parade.

Duque had rejected Maduro's demand that Colombia extradite the exiled former Venezuelan parliament speaker Julio Borges, who he accuses of participating in the drone attack.

Colombia has taken in more than half the 1.9 million refugees the United Nations says have fled Venezuela since 2015 as the collapse of the economy — under an increasingly authoritarian Maduro — led to dire shortages of food and medicine. — AFP ■

US needs answers on Saudi journalist: Washington Post

WASHINGTON (United States) — The United States should "demand answers" from Saudi Arabia about the disappearance and alleged killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, *The Washington Post* said late Sunday — and punish the kingdom if cooperation is lacking.

Khashoggi, a contributor to the *Post* who has been critical of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, vanished after an appointment with Saudi officials on Tuesday at the consulate in Istanbul. A Turkish government source has said that police believe the journalist was murdered — a claim denied by Riyadh.

"The United States must now make a concerted effort to determine all the facts about Mr Khashoggi's disappearance," the *Post* said in an editorial, imploring Washington to "demand answers, loud and clear."

Noting that President Donald Trump has treated Prince Mohammed as a "favored ally," the newspaper said the kingdom now should reciprocate with information about Khashoggi's

whereabouts.

"If the crown prince does not respond with full cooperation, Congress must, as a first step, suspend all military cooperation with the kingdom," the *Post* said.

The newspaper called on Turkey to reveal any evidence that it has about Khashoggi's alleged murder, and to "spare no avenue to investigate."

It also said that Riyadh should explain the presence of about 15 Saudi nationals, some of them officials, who traveled to Istanbul and were at the consulate at the same time as Khashoggi.

"We are hoping against hope that Mr Khashoggi is unharmed and will soon return to his writing desk," the *Post* said.

"If the reports of his murder prove true, grief must be accompanied by accountability for those who carried out the murder and those who ordered it."

Khashoggi, 59, is a former government advisor who has criticized some of Prince Mohammed's policies and Riyadh's intervention in the war in Yemen. — AFP ■

20 killed in New York state two-car crash

NEW YORK (United States) — Twenty people have been killed in a two-car crash in New York state, police said, with local media reporting that one of vehicles slammed into a crowd of pedestrians at a country store.

Police said the accident occurred at Saturday when two cars collided in Schoharie County, near the state capital, Albany.

The Albany Times Union cited police as saying an SUV-style stretch limousine involved in the collision sped down a hill, crashing into pedestrians outside the Apple Barrel Country Store and Cafe. — AFP ■

Far-right Bolsonaro wins 1st round Brazil vote: exit poll

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil) — An exit poll after the first round of presidential elections in Brazil on Sunday suggested the far-right favorite, Jair Bolsonaro, won 45 per cent of votes to 28 per cent to his nearest rival, leftwing Fernando Haddad. — AFP ■

Japan, Viet Nam agree on cooperation to secure peace in S China Sea

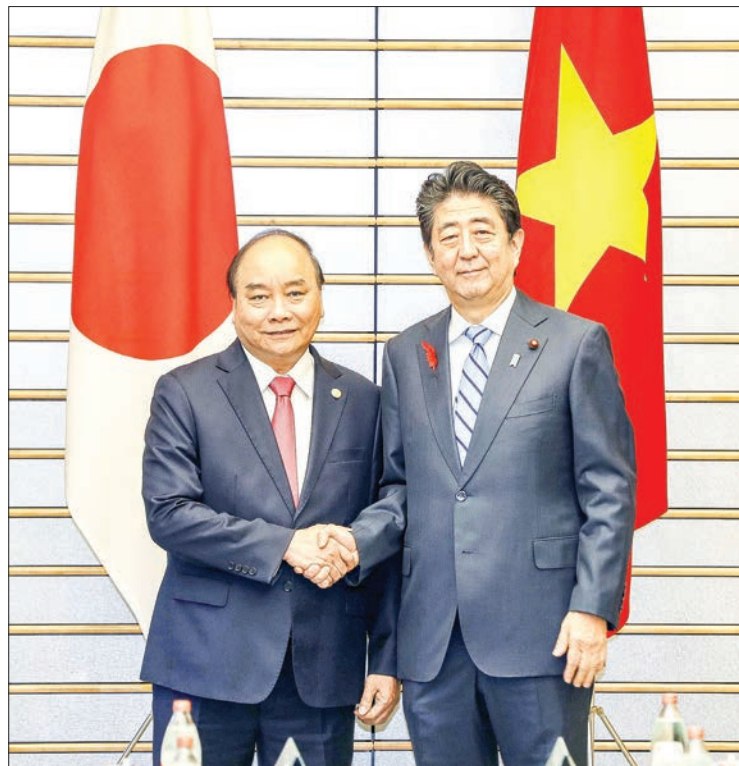
TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc agreed on Monday to work together to maintain peace and security in the South China Sea, where Hanoi is engaged in a territorial dispute with Beijing.

During their meeting in Abe's office in Tokyo, the two leaders also confirmed their readiness to promote free and fair trade through regional trade agreements, including the 11-member Trans-Pacific Partnership, despite the spreading protectionism trend.

"Going hand-in-hand with Prime Minister Phuc, I am determined to realize the free and open Indo-Pacific region," which covers the South China Sea, Abe said in a press conference.

Phuc is visiting Tokyo to attend the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting, which will also bring together the leaders of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand on Tuesday.

Viet Nam, along with some other Southeast Asian nations,



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc shake hands at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 8 October, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

and China have overlapping territorial claims in the South China Sea. Amid tensions, Beijing has built artificial islands with military infrastructure in the waters.

Japan does not face the

South China Sea but views the vital shipping lane as strategically important.

Phuc refrained from naming China, but said in the press conference he and Abe confirmed the necessity to ensure

peace, maritime security and freedom of navigation in and flying above the South China Sea.

"I welcome and support Japan's efforts and initiative to secure economic prosperity, freedom of trade and safety of navigation in the Indo-Pacific region," Phuc said.

With this year marking the 45th anniversary of establishing bilateral diplomatic ties, Abe pledged to promote people-to-people exchanges as Japan is preparing to boost foreign workers through the introduction of a new residence status from April next year.

Japan also promised up to 1.2 billion yen (\$11 million) in grant aid to procure equipment to check food safety in Vietnam in an attempt to help expand the country's food exports.

Abe expressed Japan's condolences for the deaths of Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang in September and former Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary Do Muoi earlier this month. —Kyodo News ■

One Indian tourist killed, one seriously injured by gunfire in Bangkok

BANGKOK — One Indian tourist was killed and another was seriously injured following a brief shoot-out in a busy district of Thailand's capital Bangkok on Sunday night, police said. A few adolescents had opened gunfire on a gang of teenagers from an alley next to a parking lot of Centara Watergate Pavilion shopping mall in Pratunam area but it hit the two Indian tourists and three others, said Metropolitan Police One commander Pol Maj Gen Senit Samransamruatkit.

The unidentified young men were believed to arm themselves with AK-47 assault rifles and fired on their enemies who were running for cover in the parking lot area. They incidentally killed the 42-year-old male and seriously wounded the 45-year-old male, according to the police general.

Besides, two Thai males and one Lao male were injured by gunfire and rushed to hospitals nearby. The police have launched investigation into the rare street fight with the use of war weapons in Bangkok. —Xinhua ■

Kim expected to meet 'soon' with leaders of China, Russia

SEOUL (South Korea) — South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Monday he believed North Korea's Kim Jong Un would soon meet with the leaders of China and Russia as part of an ongoing diplomatic effort to reduce tensions on the Korean peninsula.

It comes a day after the North Korean leader agreed to hold a second summit with US President Donald Trump "as early as possible", following a meeting with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Pyongyang.

"Separately from the second US-North Korea summit, Chairman Kim Jong Un's visit to Russia and President Xi Jinping's visit to North Korea are expected to take place soon," Moon told a cabinet meeting.

The possibility of a summit between Kim and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is also "open", Moon said, adding: "A new order is being created on the Korean peninsula."

Kim and Xi have met three

times in China this year as the two countries seek to repair relations frayed by tensions over the North's nuclear activities and Beijing's backing of United Nations sanctions against its Cold War-era ally.

The North Korean leader has yet to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has previously invited Kim to Moscow.

Japan has historically taken a hard line on Pyongyang and stressed the need to maintain pressure on the regime. More recently, however, Abe has expressed interest in a face-to-face meeting with former international pariah Kim.

The latest chapter in the diplomatic flurry comes as Trump sent Pompeo on a whirlwind trip to the region to rekindle stalled denuclearisation talks with Pyongyang.

Pompeo tweeted on Monday that he was heading to China to work on a "final, fully-verified" denuclearisation of North Korea. —AFP ■

India to purchase Russian defence systems despite US threats to slap sanctions

NEW DELHI — India is pursuing an independent policy and will continue to purchase defence systems from Russia despite Washington's threats to slap sanctions on New Delhi, Chief of India's Army Staff Bipin Rawat has said.

"You (Russia) can be rest assured (that) while we may be associating with America in getting some technology, but we follow an independent policy," Indian media outlets quote Rawat as saying on Monday.

His comments came after the United States warned its allies and partners about the potential sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) following the signing of the Russian-Indian contract on S-400 missile systems supply. Rawat added that India is ready to purchase the Kamov helicopters and other weapon systems from Russia.

The Indian general noted that Russians were keen on associating with the Indian army,

because "they do understand that we are a strong army capable of standing up for what is right for us, based on our strategic thought process," he has been quoted as saying.

A contract for supplying to India the cutting-edge air defence missile system S-400 Triumf was signed on Friday during Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India. Under the contract, New Delhi will get five regimental sets of S-400s for \$5 billion.

The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) was signed by US President Donald Trump in August 2017. The Act toughens sanctions on Russia, Iran and North Korea. It also provides for US sanctions against third countries cooperating with Russia's defence and intelligence sectors. New Delhi hopes Washington will make an exception for it, because it does not want to lose the Indian defence market. —Tass ■



A contract for supplying S-400 air defence missile systems to India was signed on 5 October. **PHOTO: TASS**

UN warns paradigm shift needed to avert global climate chaos

INCHEON (South Korea) — Avoiding global climate chaos will require a major transformation of society and the world economy that is “unprecedented in scale,” the UN said on Monday in a landmark report that warns time is running out to avert disaster.

Earth’s surface has warmed one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) — enough to lift oceans and unleash a crescendo of deadly storms, floods and droughts — and is on track toward an unlivable 3C or 4C rise.

At current levels of greenhouse gas emissions, we could pass the 1.5C marker as early as 2030, and no later than mid-century, the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) reported with “high confidence”.

“The next few years are probably the most important in human history,”

Debra Roberts, head of the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department in Durban, South Africa, and an IPCC co-chair, told AFP.

A Summary for Policymakers of the 400-page tome underscores how quickly global warming has outstripped humanity’s attempt to tame it, and outlines paradigm-shift options for avoiding the worst ravages of a climate-aded future. Before the Paris Agreement was inked in 2015, nearly a decade of scientific research rested on the assumption that 2C was the guardrail for a climate-safe world.

The IPCC report, however, shows that global warming impacts have come sooner and hit harder than predicted.

Pay now or pay later

“Things that scientists have been saying would happen further in the future are happening now,”

Jennifer Morgan, Executive Director of Greenpeace International, told AFP. To have at least a 50/50 chance of staying under the 1.5C cap without overshooting the mark, the world must, by 2050, become “carbon neutral,” according to the report.

“That means every tonne of CO₂ we put into the atmosphere will have to be balanced by a tonne of CO₂ taken out,” said lead coordinating author Myles Allen, head of the University of Oxford’s Climate Research Programme.

Drawing from more than 6,000 recent scientific studies, the report laid out four “illustrative” pathways to that goal.

The most ambitious would see a radical draw-down in energy consumption coupled with a rapid shift away from fossil fuels and a swift decline in CO₂ emissions starting in 2020. It would also avoid an “overshoot” of the 1.5C

threshold.

A contrasting “pay later” scenario compensates for a high-consumption lifestyles and continued use of fossil fuels with a temporary breaching of the 1.5C ceiling. It depends heavily on the use of biofuels. But the scheme would need to plant an area twice the size of India in biofuel crops, and assumes that some 1,200 billion tonnes of CO₂ — 30 years’ worth of emissions at current rates — can be safely socked away underground. “Is it fair for the next generation to pay to take the CO₂ out of the atmosphere that we are now putting into it?”, asked Allen. “We have to start having that debate.”

‘Hail of silver bullets’

The stakes are especially high for small island states, developing nations in the tropics, and countries with densely-populated delta regions already suffering from rising seas.

“We have only the slimmest of opportunities remaining to avoid unthinkable damage to the climate system that supports life as we know it,” said Amjad Abdulla, chief negotiator at UN climate talks for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). “Historians will look back at these findings as one of the defining moments in the course of human affairs.”—AFP ■



The southern French city of Marseille has been wrestling with growing air pollution as it seeks more of the lucrative cruise tourism business. PHOTO: AFP

US cruise ship captain on trial over French pollution charges

MARSEILLE — The American captain of a massive cruise ship faces trial in Marseille on Monday accused of using fuel with sulphur levels above European limits, as the Mediterranean port city grapples with the polluting effect of its drive to increase boat tourism.

The Azura, capable of carrying more than 3,000 passengers, is one of the largest in the fleet operated by P&O Cruises, whose parent company Carnival is also being charged.

Prosecutors in Marseille say it is the first time pollution charges have been lodged against a ship’s captain on France’s Mediterranean coast.

The city has wrestled with increased smog in recent years, as it seeks to attract more lucrative cruise tourism.

Authorities say shipping could be responsible for 10 to 20 per cent of the damaging particulate matter in Marseille’s air, which can cause respiratory problems and lung disease.

A spot check onboard the Azura in March found it was burning bunker fuel containing 1.68 per cent sulphur, above the 1.5 per cent limit. High-sulphur fuel, which is cheaper than cleaner versions, produces sulphur oxides which contribute to acid rain and the acidification of oceans.

The ship’s 58-year-old captain, whose name has not been disclosed, faces up to one year in prison and a 200,000 euro (\$230,000) fine. Tracked down by in-

vestigators a few days after the testing during a stop east of Marseille, he admitted using the fuel.

But he did not appear at a previous court hearing in July, when Carnival lawyers argued that the company was not responsible.

Sulphur in crosshairs

Environmental advocates say shipping is particularly harmful in Marseille, with fine particle levels 100 times higher near the city’s bustling port than elsewhere in the city.

Even when docked at quai a single ship emits as much pollution as 10,000 to 30,000 cars, according to AirPaca, the regional air pollution monitoring agency. The UN’s International Maritime Organization has been lowering the allowed sulphur levels in ships for years, with a new limit of 0.5 per cent coming into force in 2020. But the NGO France Nature Environnement, which has welcomed the charges against the captain, says the new maximum is still too high.

It cites a 0.1 per cent sulphur limit enforced in the Baltic Sea and other designated Sulphur Emission Control Areas, including the North Sea and along coastlines in North America and the Caribbean.

Marseille registered 1.55 million cruise ship visitors last year, and officials hope it will surpass the numbers in Venice this year to become the fourth-largest port of call for cruise ships in the Mediterranean.—AFP ■



UN experts warn time is running out to stave off climate disaster. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V HONGLI 8 VOY. NO. (1809)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HONGLI 8 VOY. NO. (1809) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 WINHIGHEST LOGISTICS
PTE, LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAIESTIC PESCADORES VOY. NO. (-)

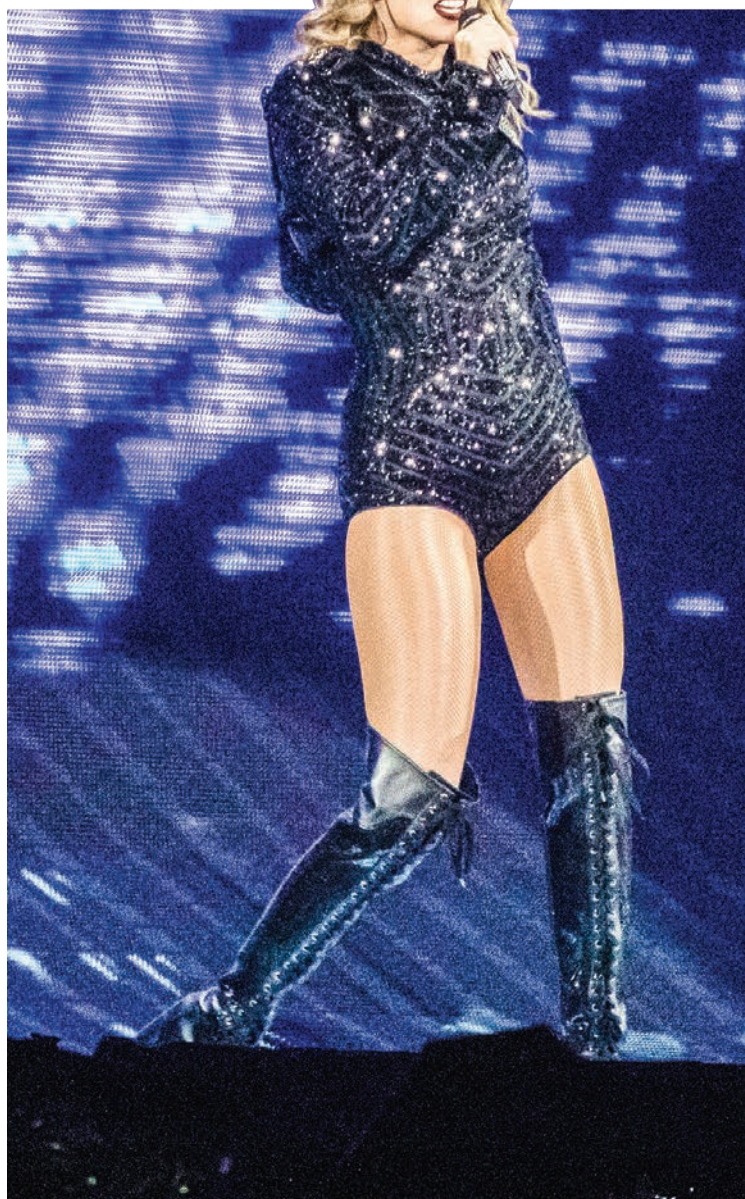
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAIESTIC PESCADORES VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Taylor Swift — shown performing in Houston, Texas on 29 September, 2018 — has come out against her Republican congresswoman, Marsha Blackburn. **PHOTO: AFP**

Taylor Swift gets political, endorses Democrats in US midterms

WASHINGTON — Pop star Taylor Swift is not really known for making political statements, but the “Bad Blood” singer is no longer holding back ahead of the midterm elections in November.

In a lengthy post on Instagram, where she has 112 million followers, the 28-year-old Swift says while she has been “reluctant” to share her political views in the past, she has changed her mind.

She endorsed the Democrat running for the US Senate in her home state of Tennessee, and unleashed a fierce attack on his opponent, Republican Marsha Blackburn, who currently serves in the House.

“As much as I have in the past and would like to continue voting for women in office, I cannot support Marsha Blackburn. Her voting record in Congress appalls and terrifies me,” Swift said.

“She voted against equal pay for women. She voted

against the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which attempts to protect women from domestic violence, stalking, and date rape.”

Last year, Swift won a lawsuit against a former radio DJ she accused of groping her.

Blackburn “believes businesses have a right to refuse service to gay couples. She also believes they should not have the right to marry,” Swift added.

“These are not MY Tennessee values. I will be voting for Phil Bredesen for Senate and Jim Cooper for House of Representatives.”

She urged her fans to register to vote, saying: “Please, please educate yourself on the candidates running in your state and vote based on who most closely represents your values.”

“For a lot of us, we may never find a candidate or party with whom we agree 100% on every issue, but we have to vote anyway.”—AFP ■

Villain Venom is box office hero in North American theaters

LOS ANGELES (United States) — Superhero blockbuster “Venom” saved the day at the North American box office this weekend, pulling in an estimated \$80 million in ticket sales, industry tracker Exhibitor Relations reported on Sunday.

The first movie in Sony’s Marvel Universe, it stars Tom Hardy as a journalist who becomes the host for an alien symbiote that gives him superpowers as the popular “Spider-Man” character.

“Venom” was panned by critics, but comfortably broke the October opening weekend record by over \$20 million, according to Box Office Mojo figures.

In second was another new release, musical romance “A Star Is Born,” which took in \$41.2 million. The third remake of the 1937 film of the same name, it marks the directing debut of Bradley, who stars as a musician who discovers and falls in love with a young singer played by pop superstar Lady Gaga.

Third place went to Warner Bros.’s “Smallfoot,” with earnings of \$14.9 million in its second weekend. The comic family animation



“Venom,” which stars Tom Hardy (L) was met harshly by critics, but had a record opening weekend. **PHOTO: AFP**

tells the story of a group of Yeti who come across a human, with voicing by Channing Tatum, LeBron James and Danny DeVito.

Coming in fourth was last weekend’s champion, Universal’s “Night School,” whose earnings dropped nearly \$16 million to \$12.3 million this weekend.

The raucous comedy stars Kevin Hart as one student in a class of misfits working toward high school diplomas under the firm tutelage of Tiffany Haddish.

Fifth place went to Univer-

sal’s family-friendly offering “The House With a Clock in Its Walls,” which slipped from third place last weekend with takings of \$7.2 million.

Rounding out this weekend’s top 10 were:

“A Simple Favor” (\$3.4 million)

“The Nun” (\$2.6 million)

“Hell Fest” (\$2.1 million)

“Crazy Rich Asians” (\$2.1 million)

“The Predator” (\$900,000).

—AFP ■

Instead of #MeToo, it should be #YouToo for men: Shilpa



Shilpa Shetty. **PHOTO:PTI**

MUMBAI — Actor Shilpa Shetty on Sunday said it is time women spoke about their harassment but not under the hashtag ‘MeToo’ but ‘YouToo’ as it is the men who are at fault. Shilpa applauded Tanushree Dutta for speaking up about the alleged harassment she faced from Nana Patekar on a film’s set ten years ago and said it has kick-started a movement.

“In any milieu, actors, entrepreneurs, the working environment should feel safe. That should be a prerequisite. This entire movement which has been initiated by Tanushree Dutta, my

heart goes out to her, as a woman and on a human level because something like this was brushed under the carpet,” Shilpa told PTI.

Patekar has denied the allegations of sexual harassment.

Shilpa said women should not feel weak or blame themselves and should rather be strong today. “We don’t know the nitty gritty of the goings on but it has kick-started a movement. People have suffered. It’s time women wake up and take charge. It shouldn’t be hashtag MeToo, it should be YouToo, for

the men. It’s shouldn’t be the women, cowering down and saying oh #MeToo,” she added. Shilpa was speaking at the Skechers Mumbai Walkathon here.

The actor said she always believed in staying fit and going to the gym at a time when even her contemporaries were not into it.

“When I entered the industry back in the day, nobody was into fitness as much. They were into looking good. I don’t think any heroines also went to the gym 25 years ago, I used to be one of those who used to go! It started way back and I slowly transitioned from an actor to wanting to become a health enthusiast.”

Shilpa said it was not that because she was an actor that she chose to stay fit and says she was always a fitness enthusiast, thanks to her father.

“If I wasn’t an actor also, I would’ve led my life like this, focusing on fitness. Sometimes I feel agitated that I can’t give fitness enough time because there are things to balance and I also have a beautiful family life,” she said. —PTI ■

US 'green growth' duo win Nobel Economics Prize



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced the winners of the Nobel Economics Prize in Stockholm. **PHOTO: AFP**

STOCKHOLM — US economists William Nordhaus and Paul Romer on Monday shared the 2018 Nobel Economics Prize for constructing “green growth” models that show how innovation and climate policies can be integrated with economic growth.

Working independently, they have addressed “some of our time’s most basic and pressing questions about how we create long-term sustained and sustainable growth,” the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a statement.

Nordhaus is a professor at Yale University. Romer is a former World Bank chief economist now at New York University’s Stern School of Business.

The academy said their models, both developed in the 1990s, have “significantly broadened the scope of economic analysis”.

The prize announcement came as the UN warned in a landmark report that an “unprecedented” transformation of society and the world economy was needed to avoid global climate chaos.

It said time was running out to avert disaster, noting that our planet’s surface has already warmed one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit).

Romer told the Swedish academy in a live phone

interview at the prize announcement that he was confident the world could reduce greenhouse gas emissions and still improve standards of living in the future.

“We can absolutely make substantial progress to protecting the environment, and without giving up the chance for sustained growth,” he said.

“One of the problems with the current situation is that many people think that dealing with protecting the environment will be so costly and so hard that they will ignore the problem and deny it exists,” he said.

“I hope the prize will help people see humans are capable of amazing accomplishments when we try to do something.”

‘Achieving sustainable growth’

The jury said that while Nordhaus and Romer “do not deliver conclusive answers ... their findings have brought us considerably closer to answering the question of how we can achieve sustained and sustainable global economic growth.”

Nordhaus, 77, was specifically honoured for “integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis.”

His “integrated assessment model” was created in the 1990s and combines

theories and empirical results from physics, chemistry and economics.

It is now widely “used to simulate how the economy and climate co-evolve.”

It is used to examine the consequences of climate policy interventions, for example carbon taxes.

Nordhaus’s research shows that the most efficient remedy for problems caused by greenhouse gas emissions is a global scheme of carbon taxes uniformly imposed on all countries.

Countries refusing to take part in the scheme could be subjected to customs tariffs.

The 62-year-old Romer meanwhile won the prize for “integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis.”

Complementing Nordhaus’ research, Romer laid the foundation for “endogenous growth theory”, which explains how ideas are different to other goods and require specific conditions to thrive.

His research demonstrated how economic forces govern the willingness of companies to produce new ideas and innovations.

“They [the laureates] show and they have taught us how the economic situation is dependent on technological development, environmental changes, so

they integrate economics with major issues facing mankind,” Goran K. Hansson, secretary general of the Royal Swedish academy for sciences, told AFP.

Romer resigned from the World Bank in January 2018 after raising questions about how the institution was ranking countries.

December 10 ceremony

Both Nordhaus and Romer have been tipped as frontrunners for the Nobel Prize in recent years.

The pair will share the nine million Swedish kronor (about \$1.01 million or 860,000-euro) prize.

Last year, the honour went to US economist Richard Thaler, a co-founder of the so-called “nudge” theory.

That theory demonstrates how people can be persuaded to make decisions that leave them healthier and happier.

Unlike the other Nobel prizes which were created in Swedish inventor and philanthropist Alfred Nobel’s will and first awarded in 1901, the economics prize was started by the Swedish central bank in 1968 to mark its tricentenary. It was first awarded in 1969.

The prize, which also consists of a diploma and a gold medal, will be presented at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on 10 December.

The economics prize wraps up the 2018 Nobel awards season, notable this year for the lack of a literature prize.

That award was postponed by a year for the first time in 70 years over a rape scandal that came to light as part of the #MeToo movement.

The awards for medicine, physics and chemistry were announced last week as was the most highly-anticipated Nobel, the peace prize. It went to Yazidi women’s campaigner Nadia Murad and Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege for their work in fighting sexual violence in conflicts around the world.—AFP ■

Funeral Notice

U Sein Maung

Aged 88 years

Hinthar Kyun Village, Yae Sa Kyo Township.

Our Beloved father passed away peacefully 29th September, 2018. Family and Friends are invited to attend memorial services scheduled on 6th October, 2018 at Hinthar Kyun Village, Yae Sa Kyo Township, Magwe Division.

Tin Soe (Electrician, Los Angeles)

Yuliana Soe (MD, Los Angeles)

NASA probe on brink of solar system detects cosmic ray increase

WASHINGTON — American space agency NASA’s probe, on a way to interstellar space, detected an increase in cosmic rays that originated outside the solar system, according to NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab.

Voyager 2, launched in 1977, is about 17.7 billion kilometers from Earth, more than 118 times the distance from Earth to the Sun. And it will become the second human-made object, after Voyager 1, to enter interstellar space after it exits the heliosphere.

An cosmic ray instrument on the probe had measured about a 5 percent increase in the rate of cosmic rays since late August, compared to early August. Another instrument on it also detected a similar increase in higher-energy cosmic rays, fast-moving particles that originate outside the solar system.

Some of these cosmic rays are blocked by the heliosphere, so mission plan-

ners expect that Voyager 2 will measure an increase in the rate of cosmic rays as it approaches and crosses the boundary of the heliosphere, according to NASA’s recent statement.

In May 2012, Voyager 1 experienced an increase in the rate of cosmic rays approximately three months before Voyager 1 crossed the heliopause and entered interstellar space.

However, the increase in cosmic rays is not a definitive sign that the probe is about to cross the heliopause. Voyager 2 is in a different location in the “heliosheath” or the outer region of the heliosphere than Voyager 1 had been, and possible differences in these locations points to the fact that Voyager 2 may experience a different exit timeline than Voyager 1, partly because the heliopause moves inward and outward during the Sun’s 11-year activity cycle. —Xinhua ■

China develops lower-limb rehabilitative robot

BEIJING — China has developed a lower-limb rehabilitative robot which will soon be put into clinical use, according to the *China Science Daily* on Monday.

The robot was developed by Avicrobot, a high-tech company focusing on service robot development and a subsidiary of the Aviation Industry Corporation of China.

According to He Chen, general manager of Avicrobot, this robot integrates aviation technologies with traditional rehabilitation

treatment. It can monitor patients in real time, which helps optimize rehabilitation therapy.

It also uses flexible composite materials and 3D printing technology, allowing patients to customize it and use it to sit, stand, and walk. “The robot is about one-fourth cheaper than imported ones,” He said. The robot has completely independent intellectual property rights including the appearance, the control method, and the software design. —Xinhua ■

MFF releases lineup for warm-up match against Indonesia

THE Myanmar Football Federation released a lineup of Myanmar national men's football squad made up by head coach Antoine Hey on 7 October.

Head coach Antoine Hey chose 20 out of 27 players who were intended to be prepared for Suzuki Cup. The opted lineup was aimed at making use of the warm-up match against Indonesia on 10 October.

The players who were ruled out for the match against Indonesia will be in practice session together with Myanmar U-21

men's football squad.

Striker Aung Thu, a Myanmar football star, who is playing for Thai club Police Tero as loan, is going to join his home team of Myanmar national football squad on 11 October.

The warm-up match against Indonesia will be the second international friendly one for head coach Antoine Hey.

The line up is comprised of Kyaw Zin Htet (goalie) and Hsan Hset Naing (goalie); David Dan (defender), Htike Htike Aung (defender), Nanda Kyaw (de-

fender), Win Moe Kyaw (defender), Soe Moe Kyaw (defender); Hlaing Bo Bo (midfielder), Sithu Aung (midfielder), Ye Ko Oo (midfielder), Myo Ko Tun (midfielder), Myat Maung Khant (midfielder), Than Htet Aung (midfielder), Lwin Moe Aung (midfielder), Maung Maung Soe (midfielder), Maung Maung Lwin (midfielder) and Yan Naing Oo (midfielder); Kaung Hset Naing (forward) and Htet Phyto Wai (forward). —Htute Htut (Twantay) ■



The players of Myanmar national men's football squad take part in the training session. PHOTO: MFF



Retired Chinese tennis player Li Na said Naomi Osaka has the tools to win multiple Grand Slams. PHOTO: AFP

Li Na says Osaka needs 'desire' to go further

SINGAPORE — Chinese tennis great Li Na said US Open champion Naomi Osaka can go on and win multiple Grand Slam titles — if she can find the inner desire to match her physical abilities.

Osaka has admitted feeling burdened by expectations after last month's stunning victory in New York, saying she puts pressure on herself to "do more, do better". The 20-year-old world number six was also in tears after her "bittersweet" US Open win, which was marred by Serena Williams' explosive row by the chair umpire.

"I believe with her abilities and strength, she can win many (Grand Slam titles) — that is if she really has the desire to be a champion," Li told AFP ahead of the Hong Kong Open.

Osaka, Asia's second Grand Slam singles champion after Li, has pulled out of the Hong Kong tournament with a back injury.

Williams, 37, brought a halt

to her season after the US Open final, where her latest attempt at a record-equalling 24th major title ended in acrimony. But Li, the former French Open and Australian Open winner who retired in 2014, cautioned that it was unwise to judge Williams, who is back on the circuit after becoming a mother last September.

"Looking at the players from the sidelines, we might not really understand some of their psychological goings-on on the court," said Li. "I've always thought she is a very strong player. There are very few players who can give birth and then immediately come back out," she added.

"For me, it's really hard to find a balance between family and the tennis court, but she very quickly got into the US Open final." Li is often credited with igniting tennis interest in Asia and especially in China, but she said the sport still had a long way to go. — AFP ■

Mahrez misses late penalty as Liverpool and Man City share goalless draw

LIVERPOOL (United Kingdom) — Manchester City's record signing Riyad Mahrez blazed an 86th-minute penalty over the bar to preserve Liverpool's unbeaten Premier League record as both sides failed to lay down an early marker in the title race with a disappointing 0-0 draw at Anfield.

City remain top of the table on goal difference, but both teams are now locked with Chelsea, who were 3-0 winners earlier at Southampton, on 20 points from eight games.

Unlike the four enthralling encounters between the two last season when Liverpool beat the English champions three times, a highly-anticipated clash fell flat with neither side managing to register a shot on target until after the hour mark.

City had the golden chance four minutes from time when substitute Leroy Sane was upended by Virgil van Dijk and referee Martin Atkinson pointed

to the spot after waving away two earlier strong appeals from the visitors for a penalty.

With Sergio Aguero replaced on the hour mark, Mahrez, a £60-million (\$78.7 million) signing from Leicester in July, took responsibility but fired high over the bar to Liverpool's relief as City's wait for a first win at Anfield since 2003 continued.

After starting the season with seven straight wins, though, Liverpool have now failed to win in any of their last four matches as the upcoming international break comes at the right time for Jurgen Klopp's men.

Pep Guardiola had lost on all three of his previous visits to Anfield as City manager and the champions looked unnerved from their recent experiences early on.

Goal-shy Salah

Ahead of the game, Klopp tried to

play down Mohamed Salah's slump in form after an incredible 44-goal debut season at Anfield.

But the Egyptian again looked far from his best and snatched at the sort of chances he buried last season.

Salah had the first opening after just three minutes when he pulled his shot wide after jinking inside John Stones. That

was as clear a chance as there was before half-time as both teams' exertions during Champions League games in midweek seemed to take their toll in a first 45 minutes lacking the intensity of their meetings from last



Liverpool's Croatian defender Dejan Lovren (top) vies with Manchester City's English midfielder Raheem Sterling during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on 7 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP