Gov’t pledges to tackle man-made impacts on eco-system of coastal areas

Union Government pledged to tackle the man-made errors which are causing degradation of the eco-system of Myanmar’s coastal areas, seeking the cooperation from the country’s people and local and foreign non-governmental organizations.

Vice-President U Myint Swe made the remark at the third coordination meeting of the State-Level Central Committee on Management of Natural Resources in Coastal Areas held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

“When implement the management of natural resources in coastal areas, the active cooperation of the businessmen, international and local non-governmental organizations and local people are essential for success of the task,” said the Vice President.

While highlighting prominent causes which degrade the coastal areas, Vice President U Myint Swe also disclosed new findings including difficult transportation, insufficient infrastructures and funds, shortage of skilled labors for the fishery sector.

Myanmar’s coastal areas are being damaged by people clearing areas of mangrove forests for prawn breeding, using small-scale explosives for

Fish farms: skills, sustenance for people in Maungtaw

To fulfil the urgent need for food sufficiency of Maungtaw residents following the terrorist attacks of 25 August, the Rakhine State government will fund freshwater fish farms in 82 villages in the township, according to the local fishery department.

In the immediate aftermath of attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), homes and entire villages were destroyed, thousands of residents fled and resources were depleted. For those who stayed and those who returned, there was an immediate need for basic sustenance, as well as jobs.

“The reason is to supply sufficient food to the local people. The surplus from the farming will be exported,” U Tun Tin of the Maungtaw District Fishery Department said yesterday.

Digging a pond costs around Ks6.2 million, and one each will be installed in the 82 villages, he added. So far fish ponds have been dug in five villages and 5,000 fingerlings have been released into each pond, said U Tun Tin.

Freshwater fish pond in Myothagyi Village in Maungtaw Township in Northern Rakhine State. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG LWIN

Freshwater fish pond in a village in Maungtaw Township. PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

Freshwater species to be farmed in Maungtaw. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG LWIN

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6th regular session of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discuss monetary issues

Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

In the second day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th regular session, matters of changing Myanmar financial year sent by the State President, Lt Colonel Thaung Sein, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative said, “Provided that a system of great importance for the nation will be changed, consultations should be made with economists with the professional expertise from external spheres, responsible officials on compilation of budget from respective ministries, authorities who deal with budget affairs from departments, retired veterans and other intellectuals and scholars. When budget period will be designated into a new one, a government cannot find it difficult in implementing its tasks only if it will take office for the second tenure. Instead, if a new government will take office for the next tenure it will surely find it difficult as it may meet delays and hindrances in implementing the tasks more than the situations when the incumbent government had received its duties from the former government because of changing budget the ex-government compiled, reformation of ministries. If the financial year which had been exercised for 43 years are essentially to be changed, Region and State Governments and the ministries should find solutions after taking time to discuss with respective organisations and interested persons concerning advantages and disadvantages of the financial year presently being used. A financial system which had been used for long should not be changed urgently.”

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Concerning the matter, Hluttaw representatives discussed respectively. Following that, parliamentarians discussed as regards the report of implementation of monetary policy FY 2015-2016 and the report on the situation of monetary system stability.

Afterward, Dr Thet Thet Khaiing of Dagon constituency discussed, “Study of trade situation, FY 2015-2016, debit and credit of foreign exchanges and situation of foreign exchange rate is also a study of given statements for the new government which commenced to take office on 1st April 2016. Due to raising up interest rates by the American Federal Bank in December 2015, American dollars became strengthened, hence the drop in value of Myanmar currency—Kyat to some extent, it was learnt. Compared to major trade partner countries of Myanmar, inflation rates are higher and Myanmar currency rates are dropping, hence competency of export was found to fail to have reached the satisfactory stage.”

She added, “For foreign currency flow to be smooth and for exchange rates to avoid plunging and skyrocketing of exchange rates, Myanmar Central Bank is helping private banks by selling and purchasing the dollar through competitive auctions of foreign currency. But during the period FY 2015-2016, net sale amount reached US $ 98 million, it was found. According to the situations on trade in FY 2015-2016, the performances of Myanmar and Thailand are found to have invested 66 percents of all foreign investments. In the FY 2016-2017 51 new enterprises invested US $ 770.325 million and K 1459 billion. It is learnt that added amount of investment of the existing 18 enterprises reached US $ 22.218 million and K 114 billion. As for investment, 11 kinds of business till 30th September 2016 include real estate, production, transport, hotel and tourism. Mostly, investments go into agriculture and livestock breeding. So, it needs to find ways for more investments to come into the country.”

Following that, representatives discussed respectively.

3rd day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th regular session will continue to be held on 24 October.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker observes health care given by SPHF in Taninthayi Region

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint together with Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr Le Le Maw and Ministers of the Region visited the third day ceremony of giving health care and medical assistances to local people by Shwe Paya marathon Health Foundation (SPHF) in the compound of basic education high school in Thayet Chaung Township, Dawei District, Taninthayi Region yesterday.

The delegation greeted and gave words encourage to the local people who are receiving health care in the compound.

Next, the delegation also paid obeisance to historic Shin Koe Shin Shin Daunpone Pagoda in Thayet Chaung Township and donated cashes to pagoda’s trustees for the pagodas and signed in the special guest book._—Naing Win (IPRD)
President to visit Thailand to attend the Royal Cremation Ceremony

U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and wife Daw Su Su Lwin will pay a visit to the Kingdom of Thailand to attend the Royal Cremation Ceremony for His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej in the near future.—Myanmar News Agency

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL MESSAGE ON UNITED NATIONS DAY
24 October 2017

Our world faces many grave challenges. Widening conflicts and inequality. Extreme weather and deadly intolerance. Security threats – including nuclear weapons. We have the tools and wealth to overcome these challenges. All we need is the will. The world’s problems transcend borders. We have to transcend our differences to transform our future. When we achieve human rights and human dignity for all people – they will build a peaceful, sustainable and just world. On United Nations Day, let us, ‘we the Peoples’, make this vision a reality. Thank you. Shokran. Xie Xie. Merci. Spasibo. Gracias. Obrigado.Yet

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar Soltan Bin Saad Al Muraikhi in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 October 2017. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

State Counsellor receives Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received H.E. Soltan Bin Saad Al Muraikhi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar at Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 11:15 am yesterday. Also present at the meeting together with State Counsellor were U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar was accompanied by H.E. Dr. Mutaq M. Al-Qahtani, Special Envoy for the Foreign Minister on Counterterrorism and Mediation for Settling Conflicts of the State of Qatar and H.E. Hassan Bin Mohamed Raifei AL-Emadi, Ambassador of State of Qatar also attended from Qatar side. —Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor encourages Mixed Martial Arts contestant Aung La N Sang representing Myanmar

Mixed Martial Arts contestant Aung La N Sang who represented Myanmar made a courtesy call on the State Counsellor at the State Counsellor’s residence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon together with his sparring partner Mr. Nchukwi Tafon Ndi, a US citizen and manager U Phone Kyaw Moe Myint (Vice Chairman, Myanmar Yachting Federation). The Union Minister for Health and Sports accompanied Aung La N Sang and party in their courtesy call on the State Counsellor. The State Counsellor told Aung La N Sang that she was happy that a former Myanmar national came to pay respects to her. She as well as all Myanmar nationals would be praying for Aung La N Sang’s victory in the One Championship match on 3 November 2017 and believed that he would be successful. On his part, Aung La N Sang explained about how he became a select sportsman in stages after putting in effort since his youth. The State Counsellor commented that in whatever area success can be achieved if an effort is made. Success may not be achieved at one go but if difficulties are overcome in stages with diligent effort it will definitely be achieved, added the State Counsellor. Aung La N Sang and his sparring partner arrived in Myanmar yesterday morning to make a courtesy call on the State Counsellor and will return to the United States in the evening. Officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports gave Aung La N Sang and party a guided tour to Nay Pyi Taw sports museum and sports complex including Wunna Theikdi Sports Stadium.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts the memento given by Mixed Martial Arts contestant Aung La N Sang at the State Counsellor’s residence in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

SEAMASTER
AQUA TERRA

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Kayin State Chief Minister calls for reclaiming land to attract investors

Kayin State Chief Minister Nan Khin Htway Myint delivers the speech at the coordination meeting confiscated land management groups in Kayin State.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

May Thet Hnin

OFFICE OF THE LABOUR ATTACHE OF MYANMAR EMBASSY Refutes Rumour of CI on Social Network

Nay Pyi Taw ‘Ngalike Elephant Camp’ sees second highest number of local and foreign visitors

Nay Pyi Taw ‘Ngalike Elephant Camp’ sees second highest number of local and foreign visitors...
Onion price shoot up due to flood in onion plantation

SOME onion plantations are damaged by torrential rain these days and the price has risen steadily in the domestic market.

A viss (3.6 pounds) of onion fetched up to Ks2,625 on 21 October in Yangon market while the prices of onion ranged from Ks1,825 to Ks2,325 per viss on 17 October.

The price of China’s onions is gradually on the rise aligned with increasing local price. Therefore, China’s onion is currently banned for import.

The consumers prefer local onions because of good quality in spite of the fact that China’s onion is cheaper than the domestic one.

It is normal that the onion price climbs up in the market when the flood surged to onion plantations. Onion price hit a record high of Ks3,300 a viss in October and November 2015. Nevertheless, this year’s onion price in October and November is higher than that of last year’s price, according to Central Statistical Organization.

Despite the high price in local market, onions are daily exported to Thailand and China through border gates, according to yesterday’s report of Myanma Alinn.

Onion plantations in Kyaukse and Myitha towns were battered by flood. There has a little damage in Pyawbwe Township.

Last fiscal year saw more than 1 million tons of onions.—Htet Myat

MOI plans to return 24 suspended factories into operate in Jan 2018

CURRENTLY suspended 24 factories under the Ministry of Industry have been planned to restart their operations in Jan, 2018, according to yesterday’s report of Myawady Daily.

Those factories were suspended by parliament and being planned to restart its operation. Twelve of 24 factories will be handled by the Ministry of Industry alone and the remaining factories will be in cooperation with private sector. Most of the state-run factories are making loss and burden on government.

Economic experts suggest the government to hand over those losing businesses to private sector.—GNLM

Yangon Region attracts the most domestic investments this FY

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) has granted approval to 53 local enterprises in 12 regions and states as of September in current FY and Yangon Region attains the most domestic investments, according to Myanmar Investment Commission.

Twenty four enterprises of 53 will invest in Yangon Region while Mandalay Region attracted 8 local enterprises. Six domestic projects flow into Magway Region while 4 enterprises with domestic investment enter Bago Region. Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions attracted two enterprises each. MIC has permitted two enterprises in Mon State, one each in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states and two in Nay Pyi Taw.

Those domestic investments are engaged in electric power, real estate development, transportation and telecommunication, livestock and fisheries, hotel and tourism, industrial estate development, agriculture and other service sectors.

Since FY 1988-1989, domestic investments have reached Ks14.6 trillion so far with real estate development sector at the top of the list, according to Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Meanwhile, Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Rakhine states and Magway Region failed to attract foreign investments in first half of this Fiscal Year.

In an attempt to attract investments into far-flung areas, MIC set three different zones in which the entrepreneurs will enjoy the benefits of tax exemption and relaxation from three to seven years.—Mon Mon
Gov’t pledges to tackle man-made impacts on eco-system of coastal areas

FROM PAGE-1

catching fish, mining, waste disposal, over using fertilizer and pesticides in farming, oil spills and land use inland.

“To tackle the problems and to carry out survey about the coastal areas in terms of management and natural science, we need to establish an information management system,” said Vice President U Myint Swe.

Following his opening address, participants of the meeting also discussed implementing the decisions of the previous two meetings.

The coastal areas of Taninthayi, Ayeyawady and Rakhine are abundant with coral reefs, mudflats, estuaries and sand dunes and that they all play an important role in the people’s socio-economic development and environmental diversity, according to environmental experts.

Meanwhile, areas of mangroves, which are an important asset in dealing with global change, are cleared for prawn breeding and rice plantation have decreased production after a certain period, farmer and breeders move to new areas and cut down more mangroves, leaving behind barren areas of land.—MNA and GNLM

Bangladeshi shot dead for rushing into police outpost holding kirpan

ONE unidentified Bangladeshi was shot dead as he rushed into the police outpost of Kwnuntheep Chaungw in Maungtaw township holding a kirpan, according to local authorities.

At about 8 am on October 20, the attacker rushing into the police outpost of Maungtaw township region 3 Kwnuntheep in Chaungw holding a curved knife/kirpan when a police-man on duty shouted to surrender his weapon. But, he failed to stop, and instead rushed shouting “Allah Wakkarr” so he was shot unavoidable.

Due to the shooting, he fell down at 5 yards far from the outpost, being hit below his right chest.

According to the examination, he was a Bangladeshi aged 56, whose name was Mohammad Sharhat Arthur holding ID—2690421588992. Together with him, ID card and one kirpan was seized. The case was filed at the Taungpyo Yar police station near the Taungpyo Yar police station under section 50/A of anti-terrorism law, it was learnt.—MNA

Fish farms: skills, sustenance for Maungtaw

FROM PAGE-1

The fisheries department has also invited investors for the northern Maungtaw fish farms.

River catfish, a variety of carp of the Thai Burbus species, are already being farmed in freshwater breeding sites in the Maungtaw District.

Some of the 15,000 acres of prawn ponds in Maungtaw District are also converting to fish farming as a pilot business.

The deputy director also called for authorities to control sea fishing in the non-fishing season as part of an effort to prevent declining ocean fish resources.

Previous to this project, residents and fishermen in the coastal area were not widely accustomed to consuming fish from ponds, and fish farming was not popular in the area.

Over Ks 2,347.5 million worth Yaba pills seized in Phakant

An anti-narcotic squad from Mohnyin stopped and searched a vehicle driven by Wai Min (a) Aye Thar, 40, together with Kyaw Aung (a) Arr T, on board at the combined inspection gate in Lalpyin village, Lonekhin village-tract in Phakant Township on 22 October. Police seized 234,000 yaba pills, 88 heroin soap-box weighing 1.056 kilos from the house and also found 136 heroin soap-box weighing 1.632 kilos from a vehicle parked on front yard lawn.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force

One killed by knife wound and one injured by shooting

At night on 20 October, there took place a quarrel between customers and restaurant staff at the Royal Restaurant on May Yu Taung Road of Min Wun ward, Sittway, and it was learnt one was killed and one was injured in shooting.

About 12 midnight on 20 October, 3 persons with Zaw Aye aged 30 and Aye Ko aged 37, residents of Sinkalan ward included, taking meals, they had an altercation with staff including manager Win Maung Thein aged 27 and Nay Myo aged 18, as regards the meal.

According to police, Zaw Aye was dead while being hospitalized at Sittway hospital. While examining the car driven Zaw Aye and party one 9 mm pistol, one magazine, 9 bullets, one cartridge, 4 knives and one metal-ball-shooter pistol was seized. Aye Ko, the car owner, was arrested under the illegal possession of weapon.—MNA
PC, DPN holds 7th meeting

By Ye Khaung Nyunt

THE Peace Commission and the Delegation for Political Negotiation—DPN of the United Nationalities Federal Council—UNFC held their 7th meeting in Yangon yesterday, discussing remaining four points proposed by the UNFC for signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

In his opening remarks at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, U Thein Zaw, Vice-Chairman of the Peace Commission, invited those armed groups which have not yet signed the NCA to participate in the negotiation for the peace.

“In the future, amendments to the NCA can be made in the framework of the agreement,” he said. Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, a representative of the Tatmadaw, expressed that the Tatmadaw want to see an agreement in the political dialogue with the DPN as the NCA can be considered the agreement reached after negotiations between organizations with diverse opinions.

The peace makers will review strong and weak points of the Joint Monitoring Committee next week as a step towards better peace process, he added.

Khu Oo Rai, the leader of the Delegation for Political Negotiation of the UNFC, said it is questionable that there were technical weaknesses in discussing the 8 points proposed by UNFC as the two sides had to discuss them for more than 15 months.

“DPN prefer to move forwards with a new way which is believed to be better than current one as the two sides have sought ways which can bring both on the road of mutual understanding,” he said. He also said that DPN proposed a better way for discussion to UPDJC as there are some deadlocks in the discussion between the Peace Commission and DPN.

During the meeting today, the two sides reached agreement on inviting international representatives for the joint-monitoring committee.

The 7th meeting of the Peace Commission and the Delegation for Political Negotiation of the United Nationalities Federal Council being held in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOEHTAUNG

Two Daingnet ethnic men killed, two wounded in shooting incident on Myanmar-Bangladesh border

TWO Daingnet ethnic villagers from Aungthabyaw Village in Maungtaw Township were shot dead and two others were wounded by about 15 gunmen in civilian clothes after crossing the border into Bangladesh, said local authorities.

Maung Nge Hla, 29, Maung Shwe Thein, 28, Maung Sein Hla Maung, 32, and Maung Ni Tun, 20, crossed the border into Bangladesh around 7 pm on 22 October to capture a boar and got shot by 15 people at about 100 yards from the border fence, said the authorities. In the incident, Maung Sein Hla Maung and Maung Ni Tun were killed while two others were injured. The injured returned home around 10 pm and they were rushed to Maungtaw Hospital. The security forces found the bodies of the two hunters at 10:40 am yesterday at the place where the incident happened and brought back the bodies to Aungthabyaw Village. —MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann receives IMF personnel

THURA U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission received Mr. Irving Aw, Professor Kimberly Brooks, Mr. Michael Oomin and Mr. Andrew Minto from International Monetary Fund (IMF) at the Hluttaw Building Hall (I-1) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, situation of income tax law drafted with the assistance of IMF working in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and Finance and conditions of cooperation with the Commission were cordially discussed. Matters on taxes were also discussed in the meeting. —Myanmar News Agency

Provisions to victims of gale in Mrauk-U

MYANMAR Red Cross Society presented provisions to victims of a gale which destroyed houses from Shar Shae Pyin Village, Mrauk-U Township, on 22 October.

The State Red Cross supervisory committee chairman, the District police officer and volunteers provided humanitarian assistance, 22 hygiene kits, 22 mosquito nets, 44 tarpsaulin and drinking waters to 22 households from the village which were damaged by gale. There are 235 households in Shar Shae Pyin Village in which seven houses were completely destroyed and 15 were partly damaged, a total of 22 were damaged. Besides, a KG school building, a Basic Education Post Primary School building and houses for teachers were damaged during the gale. —Han Lin Naing (Sub Printing House)

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HALONG VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HALONG VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MLT/TMLP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

There are 235 houses which were partly damaged and some houses were completely destroyed.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed by 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: MS CHINA SHIPPING LINES Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses 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: MS INTERASIA LINES Phone No: 2301185

Photo: Phoehtaug
Cogwheels of a development process

Khin Maung Oo

DEVELOPMENT is a matter to be gauged after assessing from every point of view. From the point of view of foreign companies that would like to invest in Myanmar, they would probably like to know the whole situation of the Myanmar economy. The government always publicizes its annual reports of such economic data such as facts, figures and information which reflect the extensive coverage of economic situations about the country. However, in the opinion of foreign analysts, data of companies in Myanmar is still weak.

For foreign companies desirous of investing in Myanmar, compilation of data regarding the kinds of companies which are investing in various economic sectors are of great importance. Though we have telephone directories such as Yellow Pages in Myanmar, other reliable books describing detailed facts and information about companies operating in the country were rarely found until now. Individual data of companies—the kind of business, number of staff, profit or loss, tax levied on business and other relevant data are important ones in assessing the status of individual companies.

Here is an example we would like to present. The incumbent government elected by our people is organizing its businessmen with tax-assessable income to pay tax in accord with the prescribed rules and laws. Had companies paid tax levied on them to the full, and respective authorities concerned performed their duties with zealous efforts to fully collect tax and revenue the country deserves, statistics on tax will become an important index for foreign companies who will come to invest in the country.

It is thus essential to compile data and statistics on companies in accord with international standards. Foreign investors will be able to decide as to whether these local companies are really the ones which are worth working hand in hand or not, only if statistics and data that comply with international standards are available. Thereafter, the foreign companies will make their own assessment before deciding whether they wish to form a joint venture with a local partner or not.

Last but not least, we humbly urge that local companies submit their relevant statistical data as required by the government. Simultaneously, the authorities are responsible to promptly compile data and statistics that comply with international standards.

By Andy Rowell / EcoWatch

“FOR decades, pollution and its harmful effects on people’s health, the environment, and the planet have been neglected both by Governments and the international development agenda. Yet, pollution is the largest environmental cause of disease and death in the world today, responsible for an estimated 9 million premature deaths.

So begins the executive summary of the landmark Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, just published. It continues: “The substantial health and economic costs of pollution globally can no longer be ignored.”

The introduction to the report is stark: “Pollution is one of the great existential challenges of the Anthropocene epoch. Pollution is now a substantial problem that endangers the health of billions, degrades the Earth’s ecosystems, undermines the economic security of nations, and is responsible for an enormous global burden of disease, disability, and premature death.”

Some of the statistics and findings are startling. People are not just dying—they are getting sick and living with years of disability. This has an economic toll. The “welfare losses due to pollution to be more than US$4.6 trillion per year, which is equivalent to 6.2% of global economic output.”

If the message was not unambiguous enough: Air pollution “threatens the continuous survival of human societies.”

The impact on health is immense: Air pollution was responsible in 2015 for 19 percent of all cardiovascular deaths worldwide, 24 percent of ischaemic heart disease deaths, 21 percent of stroke deaths, and 23 percent of lung cancer deaths.

However, the burden is disproportionately on the poor and the world’s most vulnerable. More than ninety percent of all pollution-related mortality is seen in low-income and middle-income countries.

Children are also “at high risk of pollution-related disease and even extremely low-dose exposures to pollutants during windows of vulnerability in utero and in early infancy can result in disease, disability, and death in childhood and across their lifespan.”

The commission points the finger at the fossil fuel industry: “Pollution is intimately linked to global climate change. Fuel combustion—fossil fuel combustion in high-income and middle-income countries” is a key driver of pollution and “coal is the world’s most polluting fossil fuel, and coal combustion is an important cause of both pollution and climate change.”

“We fear that with nine million deaths a year, we are pushing the envelope on the amount of pollution the earth can carry,” said professor Philip Landrigan at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, who co-led the commission.

Landrigan told the Guardian that the scale of deaths from pollution had surprised the researchers and that two other “real shockers” stood out. First was how quickly modern pollution deaths were rising, and secondly, “The current figure of nine million is almost certainly an underestimate, probably by several million.”

Landrigan added, “We always hear ‘we can’t afford to clean up pollution’—I say we can’t afford not to clean it up.”

Instead of cleaning up pollution and pioneering a clean energy future, the Trump administration is promoting dirty fossil fuels, including coal. Gina McCarthy, former head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, criticized the Trump administration after the report was released: “Now is not the time to go backwards in the U.S. Environmental protection and a strong economy go hand in hand. We also need to help other countries, not only for the benefit it will bring them, but because pollution knows no boundaries.”

It does not have to be this way. “This Lancet Commission should inform policy makers and serve as a timely call to action. Pollution is a winnable battle … Current and future generations deserve a pollution-free world,” the commission said in an editorial.

The time to act is now.”
Dr. Win Myat Aye separately receives ADPC, UNHCR and Qatar Minister of State

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye separately received Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) Executive Director Mr. Hans Guttman and party, United Nations Human Rights Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) representative Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis and party and Qatar Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H.E. Soltan Bin Saad Al-Muraikhi in Maykhalar Hall of the ministry yesterday.

In the meeting with ADPC, matters relating to ADPC closely cooperating with Myanmar government in implementing natural disaster related works, courses on increasing quality, preparedness against natural disaster and setting up a disaster resistant society were discussed. The Union Minister thanks ADPC for its cooperation and discussed cooperative works between Union Government and related state and region governments by forming Natural Disaster Committee, works involved in recently introduced Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) work done for conflict affected people by establishing Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) and assistance ADPC can provide.

During the meeting with Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis of UNHCR, work programs to be implemented by UEHRD, ways in which local civil societies, international non-government organisations and international circle can participate in the work programs that are being conducted by the people, selecting priority regions for resettlement and reconstruction works that are underway, assistance to be provided to people who want to return to Myanmar from Thai-Myanmar border areas were discussed while UNHCR added its readiness in assisting in conducting capacity building workshops.

While meeting the party led by H.E. Soltan Bin Saad Al-Muraikhi of Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs matters relating to the duties and responsibilities of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement during the time of a new democracy government, status of conducting development works in least developed regions of Rakhine and Chin States, providing humanitarian assistance to people in northern Rakhine State suffering from terrorist attack, implementing the suggestion of Rakhine State Advisory Commission, work projects to be implemented by UEHRD and regional development were discussed.

H.E. Soltan Bin Saad Al-Muraikhi then inquired about the government’s humanitarian assistance works and stated Qatar being against any form of terrorist acts, considering Myanmar as a friendly country, Qatar’s wish to assist in implementing peace and development matter, providing health, education and other assistance to disaster affected people in Rakhine State it is learnt.

—Myanmar News Agency

Message from His Excellency U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to the United Nations on its 72nd Anniversary (Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 24 October 2017)

On this auspicious occasion of the 72nd Anniversary of the United Nations Day, I have the great pleasure to congratulate the United Nations and offer our best wishes for the Organization’s continued success in striving towards world’s peace and equitable and sustainable development for all.

The United Nations was established in 1945 with the aims of maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, and creating a free, just and democratic society. The Organization should always be mindful of these noble aims and focus on cooperation and consultations in resolving the world’s conflicts in a peaceful way.

The world today is significantly different from the time when the United Nations was founded over seven decades ago. However, the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter remain valid today serving as a useful guidelines for all member States in promoting world peace and stability. Yet, the United Nations is in need of speedy reform to reflect the changing circumstances and to make the Organization more effective.

Ever since becoming a member state of the UN, Myanmar places cooperation with the United Nations as a cornerstone of its foreign policy. The Government of Myanmar takes this opportunity to reaffirm its faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Myanmar will continue to work together with United Nations in its national endeavors, especially for uplifting of socio-economic development of its people.

The theme of 72nd Anniversary of the United Nations Day is “Focusing on people - Striving for peace and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet”. The theme gives us a further impetus to our efforts for ongoing processes of peace and reconciliation, democratization, promotion and protection of human rights and economic development. I hope that in accordance with the theme, the United Nations will be able to enhance its support to the peoples of the Member States in their nation building and development efforts in line with the host country’s priorities, adhering to their basic principles and code of ethics.

As an expression of its commitment to sustainable conservation of environment, Myanmar has recently deposited with the UN Secretary-General the Instrument of Ratification of the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Instrument of Accession to the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. Moreover, Myanmar has also ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) on 6 October 2017 reflecting its strong commitment to promoting and protecting of human rights and respecting fundamental rights of an individual.

Myanmar is working together with UN agencies, International Organizations, Non-governmental Organizations, and individuals for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

As a fledging democracy, Myanmar is still confronting with so many challenges. But the government is resolute to make every efforts to successfully overcome those challenges with the active participation of our peoples and the continued support of its friends around the world.

We welcome the celebration of the 72nd Anniversary of the United Nations Day with our earnest hope for the Organization to help create a peaceful, harmonious, just and prosperous world for all.
May, Juncker aides in Twitter spat over dinner leaks

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said on Monday it was the victim of a smear intended to disrupt Brexit negotiations after a newspaper report that its president Jean-Claude Juncker disparaged Theresa May’s “despondent” demeanour over a dinner last week.

It was the second time in six months that a correspondent for Germany’s Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, who is respected for his access to Juncker’s entourage, has published an account of the EU chief executive’s reactions after a dinner meeting with the British prime minister at Britain’s EU withdrawal.

Sunday’s story, which painted an unflattering picture of a British leader worn down by party in-fighting and “pleading” for help from the EU, sparked a Twitter spat between aides past and present to May and Juncker.

After a summit last week at which EU leaders sought to build trust with May to try to speed up Brexit talks, Juncker’s chief-of-staff denied an accusation levelled on Twitter by his former British counterpart in May’s team that he was the source of the story — as many suggested he was after a dinner in London in April.

Martin Selmayr called the FAZ story an attempt to “frame” him and to sour relations between Juncker and May.

Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas told reporters: “Some people like to point at us to serve their own political agendas ... or even to undermine our own negotiating position. We would appreciate if these people would leave us alone.

“We have lots of work and no time for gossip.”

He declined to say who might wish the Commission ill but added that Juncker would “never have said something like this”.

London was irritated that after a Downing Street dinner in April, the FAZ said Juncker told aides that he thought May was “in another galaxy” with her demands for EU favours from the European Union after Britain leaves in 2019. At the time, EU officials did not repudiate the main thrust of the report.

Nick Timothy, who resigned as May’s chief-of-staff after she lost her parliamentary majority in a snap election in June, tweeted that Selmayr was the source of Sunday’s story: “After constructive Council meeting, Selmayr does this,” he wrote. “Reminder that some in Brussels want no deal or a punitive one.”

Selmayr snapped back saying that neither he nor Juncker made the reported comments. “I deny that 1/we leaked this; 2/ Juncker ever said this; 3/ we are punitive on Brexit,” he wrote.

“It’s an attempt 2 frame EU side & 2 undermine talks ... This is false. I know it doesn’t fit your cliché, @NickTimothy. But @JunckerEU & I have no interest in weakening PM.

“But it seems some have interest in undermining constructive relations @JunckerEU & PM May. Who? is the real question.”

Sunday’s report was by the same journalist whose story on April’s dinner was dismissed by May at the time as “Brussels gossip”. EU officials did not deny the accuracy of that account of the earlier meeting. Officials on both sides said it did little to foster an atmosphere of trust needed to reach a deal and which prompted reports that German Chancellor Angela Merkel was also irritated by the leak for the same reason.

On Friday, EU leaders moved to speed up talks and spoke of opening a new phase in December. Some said they understood May’s difficulties in forging consensus in London. — Reuters

Military option must remain on the table

LONDON — A military option must remain on the table in dealing with North Korea’s nuclear programme, British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson said on Monday, adding that nobody wants tensions in the Korean peninsula to be resolved in such a way.

“I don’t think anybody could conceivably want a military solution to this problem,” Johnson said at a speech in London. “And yet clearly... the possibility of some kind of military option... that possibility must at least theoretically be maintained on the table.” — Reuters

EU Commission says it has not changed its position on Catalonia

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said on Monday it had not changed its position on Catalonia after Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy announced he would invoke special constitutional powers to fire the regional government and force a new election.

“The position is well known. We’ve always said we respect the constitutional and legal arrangement of Spain”, a Commission spokesman said.

He added that the measures taken were “precisely to be seen within that constitutional context.” — Reuters

Russian radio station says intruder stabs presenter in neck

MOSCOW — An intruder forced his way into the offices of Russian radio station Echo Moskvy and stabbed one of the station’s anchors in the neck, the broadcaster said on its Internet site on Monday.

The intruder was detained by the station’s security staff and handed over to police. The victim, Tatyana Felgengauer, has been hospitalised but her life is not in danger, the station said. — Reuters
Six die as powerful typhoon batters wide area of Japan

TOKYO — Powerful Typhoon Lan battered a wide area of Japan with heavy rain and strong winds, causing at least six deaths, injuring many others and disrupting vote counting for Sunday’s general election, authorities said on Monday.

The typhoon made landfall on the central prefecture of Shizuoka around 3 am, causing floods and mudslides as it traveled along the Pacific coast of Japan’s main island of Honshu. It was downgraded to an extratropical cyclone around 3 pm on Monday that Islamic State killed at least 128 people in a Syrian town, says monitor

BEIRUT — The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Monday that Islamic State killed at least 128 people in a Syrian town in central Homs over a three-week period before the Syrian army recaptured it on Saturday.

There was no immediate comment from Syrian government officials or state media on the report by the Observatory, a Britain-based war monitor.

Syrian troops and allied forces regained control of al-Qaaryatayn town “after eliminating terrorist Daesh (Islamic State) groups that had infiltrated it,” state media said on Saturday.

Earlier this month, the Observatory said IS fighters had seized the town from government forces, part of a counter-attack by the jihadists who have come under intense pressure in eastern Syria.

At least 83 people were killed in the 48 hours before the Syrian army retook the town, the war monitor said, adding that IS had accused the civilians of being “agents of the regime”.

The town lies nearly 300 km (190 miles) from Deir al-Zor city in eastern Syria. Germany’s domestic intelligence agency placed the movement under observation after the killing as a possible unconstitutional extremist group.—Reuters

Iraq’s Kurdistan region delays elections

BAGHDAD — Elections for Iraq’s Kurdistan region’s presidency and parliament set for 1 November will be delayed because political parties failed to present candidates, the head of the electoral commission Hendren Mohammed told Reuters on Monday.

Parties have been unable to focus on the elections because of turmoil that followed a referendum on 25 September on Kurdish independence, a Kurdish MP said on condition of anonymity. Authorities in Baghdad as well as neighbors Iran and Turkey opposed the referendum that saw a clear independence majority.

Last week, Iraqi forces captured the oil city of Kirkuk and other territory claimed by the Kurds in retaliation for the referendum, dealing a severe blow to Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) President Masoud Barzani.—Reuters

German "Reich" extremist given life for killing policeman

BERLIN — A right-wing extremist member of a group that still believes in Adolf Hitler’s World War Two-era German “Reich” was convicted of murdering a police officer last year and sentenced to life in prison on Monday, German media reported.

The man, known only as Wolfgang P because of German court rules, fired on policemen attempting to search his flat for illegal weapons in October last year, killing one of them.

The Reichsbuerger (Reich Citizens) movement, which authorities believe may have up to 900 far-right members, regards the modern German state as illegitimate.

Its members say they owe allegiance only to the German Reich, or state, despite its abolition in 1945. Germany’s domestic intelligence agency placed the movement under observation after the killing as a possible unconstitutional extremist group.—Reuters
The 400-Triumf is the most advanced long-range antiaircraft missile system that went into service in Russia in 2007. PHOTO: TASS

Russian defence contractor delivers second regiment set of S-400 missile systems

MOSCOW — Almaz-An- tey contractor has deliv- ered the second regiment of S-400 Triumph air de- fense missile systems to Russia’s Defence Minis- try this year, the compa- ny’s press office reported on Monday.

“The delivery cer- emony took place at the Kapustin Yar practice range in the Astrakhan Region in south Russia. The acceptance/delivery trials have passed suc- cessfully,” the press office said.

The S-400 Triumph is the most advanced long- range antiaircraft mis- sile system that went into service in Russia in 2007. It is designed to destroy aircraft, cruise and ballistic missiles, in- cluding medium-range missiles, and can also be used against ground objectives.

The S-400 can engage targets at a distance of 400 km and at an altitude of up to 30 km. Russian Aerospace Force Com- mander-in-Chief Viktor Gumnyov said in April that the troops started to receive missiles for S-400 systems capable of de- stroying targets in outer space.—Tass

Catalonia warns of civil disobedience as Madrid readies direct rule

MADRID — Catalonia said on Monday it was confident all officials in- cluding police would defy attempts by Madrid to en- force direct rule on the region, in an escalating dispute that has raised fears of unrest among Spain’s European allies.

The Spanish govern- ment has invoked special constitutional powers to de- fire the regional govern- ment and force a new election to counter an independence drive that has rattled the economy. A vote in the Senate to im- plement direct rule is due on Friday.

But the leaders of the secessionist campaign said a disputed referen- dum on 1 October gave them the mandate to claim independence from the rest of Spain.

“It’s not that we will refuse (orders). It is not a personal decision. It is a seven million-person de- cision,” Catalonia’s foreign affairs chief Raul Romeva told BBC radio.

Romeva was asked whether he believed all institutions, including the police, would follow orders from Catalan institutions rather than from the Span- ish government.

“And from that pers- pective, I have no doubt that all civil servants in Catalonia will keep fol- lowing the instructions provided by the elected and legitimate institutions that we have right now in place (in Catalonia),” he said. Catalan authorities sought to minimise Spain’s crisis with Catalonia and described the secession bid as a domestic issue.

—Reuters
Twelve big cities to buy zero emissions buses, extend green areas

OSLO — Twelve major cities including London, Paris, Los Angeles and Cape Town promised on Monday to buy only zero-emissions buses from 2025 and to make major areas free of fossil fuel emissions by 2030 to protect the environment. The 12, with a combined population of almost 80 million, said they would promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport under a joint “fossil-fuel-free streets declaration.” Many cities are setting tougher environmental goals than governments to limit air pollution and to achieve the goals of the 2015 Paris climate agreement to curb greenhouse gas emissions. “Air pollution caused by petrol and diesel vehicles is killing millions of people in cities around the world,” Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said in a statement. “The same emissions are also causing climate change.” The mayors, part of the C40 group of cities which is seeking to slow global warming, said they would “procure only zero-emissions buses from 2025 and ensure that major areas of their cities are zero emissions by 2030.” Other cities signing up were Copenhagen, Barcelona, Quito, Vancouver, Mexico City, Milan, Seattle and Auckland.

Zero emissions areas could mean more parks, pedestrian areas or roads where only electric or hydrogen-powered vehicles could enter to make cities more attractive places to live. They did not define how big “major areas” would be. Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau, for instance, said the city was aiming to add 165 hectares (408 acres) of green space in coming years, extend bike lanes and cut the number of trips by private vehicles by a fifth. —Reuters
Tyler Perry’s ‘Boo 2!’ tops downbeat weekend with $21.7 million

LOS ANGELES — Tyler Perry has prevented a disaster at the box office with the opening of Lionsgate’s comedy sequel “Boo 2! A Madea Halloween” scaring up a solid $21.7 million ($16.46 million) at 2,388 North American locations. That was pretty much the limit of good news at the nation’s multiplexes, where moviegoers gave limited support to a quartet of new arrivals — weather-disaster title “Geostorm,” firefighter hero tale “Only the Brave,” murder mystery “The Snowman” and faith-based drama “Same Kind of Different As Me.”

“Boo 2! A Madea Halloween,” which received an A- CinemaScore, is finishing in line with expectations and about 25% behind original “Boo! A Madea Halloween,” which won its opening weekend last year. The sequel, set at a haunted campground, is directed and written by Perry, who also stars in his ninth iteration as the tough-talking Madea. Warner Bros.’ “Geostorm,” starring Gerard Butler, is finishing a distant second place with about $13.3 million at 3,246 venues — at the top end of modest forecasts but a major disappointment given the film’s estimated $100 million budget, financed by Warners Bros. and Skydance Media. Moviegoers gave “Geostorm” a B- CinemaScore. The timing of the release, with hurricanes hitting hard in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico over the past two months, probably dampened enthusiasm.

On the international side, “Geostorm” took in $38.4 million at 13,000 screens with first-place finishes in 36 territories to lift its international total to $49 million. South Korea and Russia were the strongest new markets. Black Label Media’s “Only the Brave,” distributed by Sony, is heading for fifth place with $6 million at 2,577 sites, finishing behind Universal’s second weekend of “Happy Death Day” at $9.4 million and Warner’s third weekend of “Blade Runner 2049” at about $7.4 million. “Only the Brave,” is based on the story of the 19 Arizona firefighters who died in the 2013 Yarnell Hill Fire, has received stellar critical support with a 90% “fresh” rating on Rotten Tomatoes. STXfilms’ “The Snowman,” produced by Working Title, is in a tie with New Line’s seventh weekend of horror blockbuster “It,” which will win up with a total of $329 million domestically after 45 days.

“The Snowman” fell flat with audiences, who gave it a D CinemaScore while critics panned the movie with a 9% rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Pure Flix’s “Same Kind of Different As Me” debuted out of the top 10 with about $1.4 million at 1,362 sites. — Reuters

Julie Walters wishes to play Bond villain

LONDON — Veteran actor Julie Walters said she wants to play a Bond villain and has even suggested it to producer Barbara Broccoli.

The 67-year-old actress recently worked with Broccoli on “Film Stars Don’t Die In Liverpool,” reported Femalefirst. “I told her I want to be the new Rosa Klebb (the villain in From Russia With Love). They should have a baddie woman. I’d love that. What accent would I use? Depends on the baddie — depends on the baddie. Maybe she should be from North Korea. Anyway, I haven’t heard back,” Walters said. The actor also revealed she was surprised by the news that there would be a “Mamma Mia!” sequel. “When they told me about that, I thought: but surely they’ve used up all the bloody songs? But they’ve done another and it’s really good. — PTI

Graffiti set design adds punch to Cuba theater festival

Havana — A play parodying the lengths some Cubans will go to in order to earn a few tourist dollars set against the backdrop of socially critical graffiti is adding punch to Havana’s annual theater festival.

The first-time collaboration between veteran theater director Nelda Castillo, 64, and street artist Yulier Rodriguez, 27, underscores unease among some Cubans with the recent influx of tourists on the cash-strapped, Communist-run island.

The interdisciplinary spectacle, “¡Guan melón!, ¡tu melón!,” is also an example of the innovative ways Cubans are pushing the boundaries of critical expression.

Rodriguez’s eerie murals of creatures that look malnourished and malformed had become ubiquitous throughout Havana over the last three years, reflecting his view of the dark path upon which society was.

But the artist said authorities detained him for two days in August and ordered him to stop painting in public spaces.

Graffiti is seen as vandalism in many countries, although Rodriguez suspects authorities stopped him more because they did not like the content of his work.

“The piece is about the Cubans’ struggle in the street in the context of the new relations with the United States and the influx of American visitors,” she said. “His work is also about that struggle in the street.”

In the play that was first staged last year, a skinny and squat comic duo attempt frantically to entertain tourists arriving on cruise ships with Cuban tunes and to sell them outsized cigars and paper cones of peanuts.

A student with a manic fake smile, rudimentary English and a hypersexualised walk sells chocolate and offers salsa lessons, city tours and cabaret acts “as way to make ends meet.”

In a beleaguered economy which shrunk last year and where the average state salary is $30 a month, the tourist sector is a relative gold mine.

Castillo said Rodriguez’s graffiti — eerie, scared and hungrily-looking creatures with four eyes, two gaping mouths or a crown of skulls — was like another protagonist in the play.

“Dialogue is always enriching as long as it is coherent,” said Castillo. The two kept quiet about their collaboration until the day it opened to the public, at the start of the theater festival that runs from 20-29 October.— Reuters

Public wait for the beginning of the spectacle “¡Guan melón!, ¡tu melón!” beside a paint of Cuban street artist Yulier Rodriguez in a theater in Havana, Cuba on 20 October, 2017. — Photo: Reuters
Foods for people needing nursing care getting tastier, more available

TOKYO — Easy-to-eat foods for people needing nursing care are improving in quality and availability as makers look to tap a growing market in rapidly graying Japan.

Food makers are offering a growing variety of soft-food products with essential nourishment for people who have difficulty chewing and swallowing, while the products are also getting greater prominence on supermarket shelves.

Kewpie, for example, has 54 items in five categories, varying in degree of softness and thickness, its ‘Yasashii Kondate’ (gentle menu) series of retort foods for the elderly.

Among such items are ‘potage of beef and burdock root’ and ‘potage of flatfish and Japanese radish,’ each with a suggested price of 180 yen (91.60¢), excluding tax.

Kewpie, better known for its flagship mayonnaise product, developed soft foods for the elderly by using its baby food-production technology, taking its cue from customers who used baby foods for people who need nursing support, according to company officials.

“We want everyone — not only people requiring nursing support but also those with a weakened swallowing function — to enjoy eating through the meals we serve,” said an official at Kewpie, which launched its retort meals for the elderly 20 years ago.

Meiji Co started selling a new series of its “Mei Balance Mini Cup” nutritional supplement drink in late September. The company said a 125-milliliter Mei Balance Mini Cup is rich in energy with 200 kilocalories, containing indispensable nutrients such as protein, vitamins, minerals and fiber.

With a wide assortment of flavors, the product also targets undernourished people as well as those who suffer from mouth injuries like a fractured jaw.

“We will offer products aimed at nutritionally supporting the elderly because an increasing number of people receive nursing care at home nowadays,” a Meiji official said, noting that elderly people may face malnutrition if they lose their appetites or eat a poor diet.

Major supermarket chain Ito-Yokado Co has earmarked shelf spaces for food items targeting people needing nursing care at 105 of its 180 stores nationwide, according to its parent Seven & I Holdings Co.

In late September, a wheelchair-bound elderly woman at a store in Oimachi, Tokyo consulted with a sales clerk at a section devoted to foods for the elderly.

About 300 food items were on offer, and popular foods include retort items such as “nikujaga” (simmered meat and potatoes) and sukiyaki (thin slices of beef cooked with vegetables), and frozen foods such as boiled mackerel with miso sauce, according to the store.

Some of the frozen foods are easy to eat even for those who have no teeth as they can eat them by mashing them between their tongue and upper jaw.

The store used to display foods for elderly people according to the degree of easiness to eat, as classified by the state.

But the store now sorts out products by food type, such as Japanese cuisine and Chinese food, in response to customers’ requests. Since then, sales of nursing-care foods have increased some 20 per cent on a year-to-year basis, the official said.

— Kyodo News □

Serbia reopens contemporary arts museum after decade-long reconstruction

BELGRADE — Serbia on Friday reopened a contemporary arts museum after decade-long reconstruction.

Opening of the refurbished Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade, work of awarded Yugoslavian architects Ivan Antić and Ivanka Raspopovic, was opened in 1965, becoming one of the landmarks of high modernist architecture of socialist Yugoslavia.

However, it was closed in 2007 as it had to be preserved and adjusted to new architectural standards and safety regulations.—Xinhua □

People visit the exhibition “Sequences. Art of Yugoslavia and Serbia from the Collections of the Museum of the Contemporary Art” in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Belgrade, Serbia on 20 October, 2017. The museum is reopened for the public after a ten-year renovation. PHOTO: XINHUA

Michelin trims star list to 25 restaurants for Chicago

CHICAGO — Michelin said on Friday it awarded its coveted stars to 25 Chicago restaurants in the latest edition of its dining guide that will be launched on 26 October, one less than last year.

The list for the third most populated US city was reduced partly because of the closures of 42 Grams and Tru earlier this year. Each eatery earned two Michelin stars last year.

“It’s still a good year for Chicago,” said Michael Ellis, international director of the Michelin Guide.

The city has transformed itself into a vibrant dining destination with a growing breadth of cuisines that feature local Midwestern products with international flair, he said.

“Chicago has most recently been a meat-and-potato kind of a place,” he said.—Reuters □
Open work out of Aung La N Sang and Alain Ngalani to be launched

Kyaw Zin Lin
An open workout of Aung La N Sang, also known as a Burmese Python and his challenger Alain Ngalani including two other Myanmar fighters will hold at the Myanmar Plaza in Yangon between 2pm and 4pm on 31 October according to Aung La N Sang’s facebook page. It is known that the registration for the open workout will be started at 1.30pm on that day. Alain Ngalani, the opponent of Aung La N Sang has also arrived in Yangon, Myanmar by Qatar Airways flight yesterday. The open work out is aiming for the challenging match between Myanmar hero Aung La N Sang and Muay Thai, kickboxing heavy weight world champion Alain Ngalani at the Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar on 3 November and all the media and interestees are being invited in the open workout.

Klopp must take blame for Liverpool's poor defence — Schmeichel

LONDON — Juergen Klopp unfairly shifted the blame for Liverpool’s defensive frailties onto Dejan Lovren by hauling him off on 31 minutes.

Harry Kane scored a brace while Son Heung-min and Dele Alli also got on the scoresheet to hand Liverpool their second league loss after Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, former Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel said.

Defender Lovren was replaced by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain while Son Heung-min and Dele Alli scored a brace for Tottenham Hotspur in the 1-3 loss at Anfield.

Although the first two rounds at Tokyo’s Ryogoku Kokugikan were slow and deliberative with fewer punches connecting than clinches, Murata increased the tempo from the third round and from the fourth round N’Dam’s legs began to look rubbery and he had trouble moving away when Murata came at him.

After dominating the fight for five straight rounds, N’Dam’s corner threw in the towel before the start of the eighth round. “This victory was for everyone,” Murata said. “The hard part starts after I win the belt. It was the same with the Olympics. Getting there was the easy part, moving forward after that was the hard thing.” Murata becomes only the second Japanese to win a world middleweight crown after Shingo Takahara in 1996 and the nation’s only Olympic medalist to win a world title.

“My hope this inspires those (in Japan) who love boxing,” Murata said. “I hope they aspire to be middleweight champs and be stronger boxers than I am.” —Kyodo News}

Myanmar to play the Philippines today in AFC U-19 Championship 2018 qualifier

Kyaw Zin Lin
As a Group G match of AFC U-19 Championship 2018 qualification, Myanmar U-19 national football team will play against the Philippines U-19 team today at the Phnom Penh Olympic Stadium in Cambodia.

A pre-press conference of AFC U-19 Championship 2018 was also held at Phnom Penh Hotel in Cambodia yesterday morning and Myanmar U-19 team attended the conference, it is known according to Myanmar Football Federation.

“Our team has been trained almost nearly two months for the tournament as we are dreaming for winning the champion. It is not easy to say which team is small or big in our Group (G) as all teams are composed of young and active players. We will play every team respectfully,” said U Chit Naing head coach of Myanmar U-19 team at the conference.

Myanmar has fallen in the Group G together with China, Host Cambodia and the Philippines and today’s match is one of the most important one for Myanmar.