THE twelfth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s ninth regular session was held yesterday morning at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall. In the meeting asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, two reports read, a bill tabled and a motion discussed.

Asterisk-marked questions

Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency posed the first asterisk-marked question and asked if there is a plan to top up a layer and widen the Pathein-Monywa road section in Mindon Township simultaneously. The Deputy Minister replied that topping up a layer and widening the Pathein-Monywa road section in Mindon Township is conducted depending upon the present situation of the road and road layer design. Where necessary, fund for topping up a layer and widening is requested, and depending upon availability of fund, works are conducted, said the Deputy Minister.
Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s ninth regular session holds twelfth-day meeting

FROM PAGE 1

Next, U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency raised a question on plans to remove trees, bushes, buildings and shops that restrict view and provide extra width to S-bends and U-turns (hairpin turns) on 12 ft. wide and 18 ft. wide Ministry of Construction roads. The Deputy Minister replied that in the bends and turns on important roads on hills and mountains, turn radiiuses were widened for ease of big trucks using the roads. Road shoulder width and earth embankment width beside the roads were widened depending upon priority set, and in places where road widening is required, funds are requested and works conducted depending upon availability of the fund, said the Deputy Minister. Clearing of trees and bushes obstructing views will be conducted by the ministry and clearing of squatter huts, shops and roadside sellers on road junctions will be conducted in coordination with the state/region governments, explained the Deputy Minister.

U Wai Hlaing Tun of Pathein constituency then said Pyidawtha Housing Project in the center of Pathein Town consisting of 25 two-storey, four apartments per storey, private buildings and 150 houses was turned into public servant housing, but the process was not done according to law and asked if there is a plan to revert back the public servant housings into private houses as desired by the people. The Deputy Minister said a total of 350 apartments in the 25 two-storey apartment buildings and 150 houses of Pyidawtha House Project were designated as public servant housing during Ayeyawady Region Law and Order Restoration Council meeting 1/94.

Now, people living in 171 of the 350 apartments submitted a request to Ministry of Construction to re-designate the apartments as Pyidawtha Housing. Public servants living in public servant housings are to vacate the apartments when they retire, but public housings are apartment/houses where the public servants and their offspring can live on even after they retire. Converting a public servant housing to private housing is a sensitive matter and it needs to be considered in a nationwide manner; therefore, appropriate agriculture strategy is approved and priorities set, and in places where the embankment width beside the roads on hills and mountains, extra width to S-bends and U-turns (hairpin turns) are included, appropriate agriculture strategy (ADS) 2018-2019 to 2022-2023, plans are included to upgrade the water discharge pipes and action is to be taken against anyone who violate the prohibition. Rakhine State government will be informed about removing the prawn/shrimp ponds that are blocking the water discharge pipes, and action will be taken according to prevailing law if the blockage continues, said the Deputy Minister.

Finally Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State constituency 9 asked if there is a plan to upgrade state Agriculture Institute (Thaton) into lower Myanmar agricultural college or university. Deputy Minister said that if more Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) are required and technical and vocational sector will be promoted in an increasing momentum. Along the China-Myanmar economic corridor, agriculture higher education and TVET programs were conducted in cooperation, agriculture institutes are upgraded to regional agriculture colleges, proposal papers for human resources development were submitted and in the Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) 2022-2032, plans are included to upgrade agriculture institutes to agriculture colleges.

Once this development strategy is approved and permitted, appropriate agriculture institutes will be selected for upgrade to agriculture colleges and required basic buildings, education aid, teaching staff and upgrading the skills of the teaching staff will be conducted. As such, when this development strategy is implemented, the matters raised in the question will be conducted, said the Deputy Minister.

The Ministry has discussed with Ayeyawady Region government and will designate 171 apartments as public apartments while the remaining 179 apartments will remain as public servant apartments, said the Deputy Minister.

Second amendment bill to the Settlement of Labour Disputes Law

Afterwards, Hluttaw was informed about the receipt of second amendment bill to the Settlement of Labour Disputes Law sent by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments, and bill committee member U Nay Myo Tun read and submitted the bill committee’s report. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill to enroll their names.

Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s ninth regular session holds twelfth-day meeting

bananas without permission and to ensure that all is done according to the law, said the Deputy Minister.

The second question was raised by U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State constituency 3, and he asked if there is any plan to take action against prawn/shrimp ponds in Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State, that are blocking the two water discharge pipes of Panzinaw embankment. Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied that the farmer embankment is managed by local management committee and as per 2012 ward/village tract administration rule of Ministry of Home Affairs, the ward/village tract administrators are to provide permission to block water gates and discharge pipe and action is to be taken against anyone who violate the prohibition. Rakhine State government will be informed about removing the prawn/shrimp ponds that are blocking the water discharge pipes, and action will be taken according to prevailing law if the blockage continues, said the Deputy Minister.

U Nay Htet Win, explained the Deputy Minister.

Table of a bill

Afterwards, U Soe Moe of Ayeyawady Region constituency 1 tabled a bill amending the Bar Council Act to be discussed in the Hluttaw. It was supported by Daw Ohn Kyi and read and explained the committee report on the Boundary Delineation Bill. This was followed by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announcing for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill to enroll their names.

Discussion on Pyithu Hluttaw Government Guarantee, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee report

Following this, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency, U Khin Maung Thein of Sagaing constituency, U Win Win of Mohnyi constituency and Dr. Min Thein of YeU constituency discussed the Pyithu Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee report.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Myat announced the Hluttaw’s agreement to discuss the motion and announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the amendment motion to submit their names.

Hluttaw debates a motion

A motion tabled by U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 1 urging the government to control and manage the management committee, development committee and farmland management committee to ensure that there is no corruption, because plots were formed on many farms and plantation lands and sold off illegally, causing losses of farms and plantation lands, and lands set aside for expansion of towns and villages were also lost in a similar manner, was discussed by U Mya Min Swe of Magway constituency 9, U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4 and Daw Ohn Kyi of Ayeyawady Region constituency 1. Dr. Arkar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7, U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State constituency 3 and U Kyaw Kyaw Win of Rakhine State constituency 8.

The thirteenth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s ninth regular session will be held on 29 August it is learnt. – Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s ninth regular session holds twelfth-day meeting

Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s ninth regular session holds twelfth-day meeting

FROM PAGE 1

Next, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw submitted to the Hluttaw the Boundary Delineation Bill and Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Aung Thein read and explained the committee report on the Boundary Delineation Bill. This was followed by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announcing for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill to enroll their names.

Reading of reports

After the asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Ohn Kyi read and explained the committee report on Traditional Medicine Council Bill, approved and sent with amendment by Pyithu Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mohin Win Khang Tho then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved the bill.

Next, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw submitted to the Hluttaw the Boundary Delineation Bill and Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Aung Thein read and explained the committee report on the Boundary Delineation Bill. This was followed by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announcing for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill to enroll their names.

Afterwards, U Soe Moe of Ayeyawady Region constituency 1 tabled a bill amending the Bar Council Act to be discussed in the Hluttaw. It was supported by Daw Ohn Kyi of Mon State constituency 1. After taking the decision of the Hluttaw to accept and discuss the bill, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the agreement of the Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker also informed the Hluttaw on the receipt of Myanmar Mines Rules amendments and announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss it to enroll their names.

U Kyaw Kyaw Win.
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Wouter Jurgens at Pyithu Hluttaw Building, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, matters relating to increasing bilateral relations, legislative works of the Hluttaw, establishing peace in the country, democracy reforms, investment, water resources management and agriculture were openly discussed and views exchanged.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and officials from Pyithu Hluttaw office. —Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor, Thai PM exchange congratulatory message for 70 years of Myanmar-Thai relations

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and H.E. General Prayut Chan-O-Cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, exchanged congratulatory messages on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand, which falls on 24 August 2018. —Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s Singapore Lecture to be broadcast

A LECTURE titled “Democratic Transition in Myanmar: Challenges and the Way Forward” delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Singapore will be broadcast on Myanmar Television with Myanmar subtitles. The first part of the lecture will be broadcast on 23 August and the second part of the lecture will be broadcast on 24 August after the 8 pm local news. The complete discussion will be broadcast on 25 August after the 8 pm local news, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Wouter Jurgens at Union Attorney General office guest hall yesterday morning.

At the meeting, implementing rule of law works that is basis in transition to democracy, improving legal framework to protect investments, increasing protection of human rights, increasing role of media sector, cooperation between legal experts of the two countries and sharing experiences and sending of state scholars were discussed.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and Director Dr. Kyi Kyi Than Aung. —Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Netherlands Ambassador Mr. Wouter Jurgens in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo holds talks with Netherlands Ambassador Mr. Wouter Jurgens in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

 Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 115/2018
12th Waxing of Wagaung, 1380 ME
23 August, 2018
Granting permission to “The People’s Party” to register as a political party

THE People’s Party headquartered at No. 279, first floor (B), at Thumingala Street, Ward 9, in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law as of 23 August 2018.

The registration number of The People’s Party is 110.
(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

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By-law needed to strictly control illegal wildlife trade

UPON institution of a by-law for the protection of wildlife and conservation of natural areas, illegal wildlife trade can be strictly controlled, said U Thein Toe, director of Yangon Region Forest Department.

He mentioned that at a meeting with stakeholders concerned in order to receive suggestions for formulation of a by-law for protection of wildlife and conservation of natural areas.

“Crime and punishment under previous law is no longer relevant. New law seems to cover criminal liability and so, punishments will vary depending on cases for fully and partially protected wildlife animals. This move is hoped to be effective in cracking down on illegal wildlife trade in border areas”, said U Thein Toe.

Myanmar has become an illegal wildlife trading hub with an increasing demand of wildlife products. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) reports that there is a central big market for illegal wildlife trade in Golden Triangle area where China, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand border areas meet. The Department of Forest is conducting awareness campaigns to stop shops selling wildlife animal souvenirs and cuisines at pagoda precincts, airports and markets.

In order to be adaptable with changing times, the Protection of Wildlife and Protected Areas Law 1994 was revised and enacted on 21 May 2018. — Min Thit (MNA) ■

Kayin wrist-tying event celebrated in Minhla Township

UNDER the supervision of Bago Region Kayin ethnic affairs minister, a Kayin wrist-tying ceremony was held at Myoma monastery, Ward-2, Minhla Township on 21 August around 9 am.

At the ceremony, Kayin people paid respect to the Kayin national flag and sang Kayin national song. Then, Gyobingauk Town, Chaungwwa village Sayadaw delivered a sermon.

Bago Region Kayin Ethnic Affairs Minister Naw Pwai Say explained about the nine items typically included in the wrist-tying ceremony. The event was held with the aim to reunite Kayin people living away from their families and relatives, and to prevent them from forgetting their cultural traditions.

Region Kayin Literature and Culture Committee deputy chairman Dr. Saw Kyi Soe, District Kayin Literature and Culture Committee chairman Saw Thaung Gyi and Minhla Township administrator U Khin Maung Zaw explained about Kayin people maintaining their traditional language and culture. Minhla Township representative Naw Su Su Hwaw gave a speech of appreciation.

At the Kayin wrist-tying ceremony, the minister and other dignitaries tied white threads around each other’s wrists. About 1,200 Kayin people from the district attended the ceremony. Then, they treated tradition foods and performed traditional dances to the guests.

The Kayin wrist-tying ceremony is held during the month of Wagaung, or August, every year. Wrist-tying is meant to protect children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren from harm and evil spirits.—PaukSa (MINHLA) ■

Relief camps opened due to water level rising again in Thanlwin River

AUTHORITIES have opened new flood relief camps as water level in Thanlwin River has reached above its danger level, following continuous rain in Kayin State, Hpa-an District, Hlainghwe Township, Shwe Gun Village.

The water level in Thanlwin River reached 1158 cm on the morning of August 21 and in Shwe Gun Village above the danger level of 980 cm. Therefore, authorities opened a new flood relief camp and there are now about 1,961 persons from 411 families temporarily sheltering at the camp.

Township administrator, officials, social organization members and welfare organizations are planning to donate rice, food supplies and personal effects to the victims from the flooded areas.

Following continuous rain, people are facing difficulties to travel by cars and motorbikes to Shwe Gun, Kyunpako, Jo Chaung and Thayargon villages. Authorities are providing motor boats for the people to travel safely. —Thein Than (IPRD) ■
Maritime trade reaches almost $10 billion in current FY

The value of trade through shipping between Myanmar and international traders totalled US$9.997 billion since this April, increasing by $1.226 billion from this time last fiscal year, according to the official statistics issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

At this time in the last FY, maritime trade was $8.8 billion in total, with exports worth $3.124 billion and imports worth $5.646 billion. The country’s value of imports is usually greater than its exports. Between 1 April and 10 August this year, the country’s export was valued at $4 billion while its imports reached nearly $6 billion.

When compared with the same period in the last year, this year saw an increase in value of marine export/import. According to the ministry’s data, the country’s export during the period went up by $876 million and its imports by $349 million.

The overall value of overseas trade as of 10 August this year exceeded $13 billion, which shows an increase by $1.6 billion in comparison with this time last year.

Approximately 80 per cent of the country’s total trade is delivered by sea. Myanmar primarily imports capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer products, whereas it exports seven major groups of commodities, such as agricultural, animal and aquaculture products, forest-based products, minerals, manufacturing goods and other miscellaneous items.

According to the ministry’s annual statistical report, the country’s maritime trade was valued at $23.019 billion during the last FY. The external trade by sea was $14.67 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, $20.37 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $22.37 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $20.56 billion in the 2015-2016 FY and $21.43 billion in the 2016-2017 FY. —Shwe Khine

Export surpasses import in border trade

Myanmar’s export outperformed import, while carrying out border trade with the neighbouring countries — China, Thailand, India and Bangladesh — between 1 April and 10 August of six-month interim period prior to next fiscal year 2018-2019, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the past four months, Myanmar’s export through border gates is worth US$1.986 billion whereas import is valued at $1 billion. Border trade this year totaled $3 billion, which is up by $431 million compared to similar period of last Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Myanmar’s trade flows in and out of the following border gates: Muse, Lwejel, Chinsawehaw, Kampahtik, Kengtung, Myawady, Kawthong, Myeik, Hteekhee, Tachilek, Maungtaw, Taunggyi, Meisei, Sittway, Maungtaw, Tamu and Reed. Myawady, Tachilek, Sittway, Meisei and Hteekhee show higher import than export. The remainders are seen export surpassing import.

Border trade over past four months were registered at $2.17 billion at Muse, $74 million at Lwejel, $118 million at Chinsawehaw, $78.9 million at Kanpaitik, $0.87 million at Kengtung, $32 million at Tachilek, $287 million at Myawady, $48 million at Kawthong, $84.5 million at Myeik, $3 million at Hteekhee, $3.5 million at Maungtaw, $0.38 million at Mawbe, $50 million at Sittway, $3.7 million at Maungtaw, $46 million at Tamu and $12.4 million at Reed gates respectively.

Myanmar exports agro products, fishery products, livestock, minerals and other products, while machinery, chemicals, fertilizers, raw materials and consumer goods are imported into the country. —GNLM

Private sector import of capital goods decrease by $30 million

The value of capital goods imported into Myanmar by private sector between 1 April and 10 August this year reached US$2.117 billion, a decrease in value by $30 million, against the same period in the last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the last 2017-2018 FY, the private sector bought $2.148 billion worth of capital goods.

Despite decrease in value of capital goods by private sector this year, the import of the same products by public sector increased by over $120 million.

The ministry’s data showed that the total import value between Myanmar and international countries was $7.032 billion over the first 132 days of this FY, including $458.473 million by the private sector and $6.573 billion by the public sector. The figures increased by $381 million matched against the last FY. This year, the country imported semi-finished goods worth $2.723 billion and consumer goods worth $1.812 million.

Myanmar conducts external trade with ASEAN members, European Union member states, some island nations, Asian and African states, as well as a few western countries, with goods mainly being transported by sea. —Swe Nyein

Export surpasses import in border trade
Ethnic armed organizations - EAOs donated cash to flood affected people through the Peace Commission yesterday.

Representatives of the Wa Special Region-2, on behalf of EAOs, handed over K436.68 million to the Peace Commission at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon.

Speaking at the ceremony, Peace Commission Chair Dr Tin Myo Win said it was a noble donation because it supported the right things to real people in need at the right time.

As for now, ethnic people are giving their special aid for the flood affected ethnic people in Myanmar and that means the same family members are helping each other. Whatever the differences seen in the family, they have the same goal, peace. In building trust, understanding and friendship, helping each other can really work towards peace, said the Peace Commission Chair. Next, head of representatives of Wa Special Region-2 U Nyi Yann explained the aims of the donation and donated Ks 436.68 million to the Chairperson of the Peace Commission and a certificate of honour was given back to donor U Nyi Yann.

Member of the Union Peace Commission’s peace assistant group U Moe Zaw Oo said to the media that, “We have arranged to make donations in Kayin State, Mon State, Taninthayi and Bago regions because these regions were affected by the floods severely. This is the first organization which has donated cash assistance for flood affected people to the Union Peace Commission. The reason they came to donate at the commission is because they are all ethnic kin.”

There will be much more benefits than usual as ethnic people are donating for the ethnic people affected by floods in Mon State, Kayin State and Taninthayi region and it can be said that unity plus friendship were seen between the ethnics on the road to peace, he added. Also present at the ceremony were, Vice Chairperson of the Union Peace Commission U Thein Zaw and members of the Secretariat of the UPDJC Lt-Gen U Khin Zaw Oo (Retd), U Naing Ngan Lin, Dr. Aung Tun Thet, U Hla Maung Shwe and representatives led by U Nyi Yann and U San Shwe from Wa Special Region (2). — Myanmar News Agency

Department of Population launches redesigned website

Launching ceremony of Department of Population’s website held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE Department of Population under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and OneMap Myanmar have collaborated to introduce the Department of Population’s website and explain about the REDATAM Database for the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census and online interactive maps in a launch event held at M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Attending the launch event were Permanent Secretary U Aye Lwin from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, ministry officials, UNFPA representative Ms. Janet E. Jackson, officials from OneMap Myanmar and invited guests.

Permanent Secretary U Aye Lwin spoke at the event, saying that the ability to receive accurate news and information quickly is important for the country’s economic development. He said his ministry has successfully compiled the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census for the first time in 30 years, and results of the census have been fully publicized at each level.

The permanent secretary said the results from the census have been uploaded to their website and the website has been completely re-designed with technological assistance from OneMap Myanmar for a smoother experience and easier access. He also said the REDATAM Database has been formulated so that people can compile their own statistics and tables for use in their projects and research. He added that support will be given if 10 per cent of micro data from the 2014 Census is requested and will further assist regional statistics.

Following were explanations by UNFPA representative Ms. Janet E. Jackson about UNFPA’s support in conducting the census, an official from OneMap Myanmar on the website’s new designs, and the Department of Population’s Acting Director-General Dr. Nyi Nyi on the website and its functions.

Officials also explained about the interactive maps, REDATAM Database and excel data, and micro data uploading before conducting a Q&A session with the attendants.

Information relating to the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, including the national-level reports, fifteen reports from Nay Pyi Taw and regions and states, thirteen research reports, maps charting the census, and over 400 township and sub-township reports, have been uploaded to www.dop.gov.mm for ease of access.

The new design of the website was accomplished with support from OneMap Myanmar and displays information separated into seven categories for the census, publications relating to the census, data and maps, activities, the history of the department and exhibition room.—Myanmar News Agency

Seminar on copyright and collective management held in Yangon

A JOINT seminar by the Ministry of Education, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Japan’s Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA) was held in Yangon’s Melia Hotel yesterday with the title “Awareness Seminar on Copyright System and Collective Management Organization (CMO)”.

As the first order of business, Dr. Myint Thein, Rector of the Yangon Technological University, and Mr. Tsunashige Shiroriti, Director of the Office for Promoting Works Distribution Copyright Division, Japan Copyright Office, Agency for Cultural Affairs, both respectively delivered the opening speech.

As the seminar progressed, presentations on various titles were made including ‘Status of the Establishment of IP Systems in Myanmar’ by Director Dr. Hnin Nwe Aye of the Copyright Department under the MOE’s Department of Research and Innovation, ‘Copyright System of Myanmar and Knowledge on CMO’ by Dr. Nwe Yi Win, ‘Copyright System in the Music Industry in Myanmar’ by Vice-Chair Composer U Myint Moe Aung of Myanmar Performance Rights Organization (MPBO), ‘Collective Management System in Japan’ by Mr. Tsunashige Shiroriti, Director of Japan’s ACA, ‘Lesson Learned of Japanese CMO’ by Mr. Satoshi Watanabe, and expert from the Japanese Society for Rights of Authors, Composers and Publishers (JASRAC), and ‘Lesson Learned of International CMO’ by Mr. Benjamin Ng, the Asia-Pacific Regional Director for International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC).

Attending the seminar were officials from the Office of the Chief Justice of the Union, Office of the Union Attorney-General, ministries, representatives from the Myanmar Literature and Fine Arts Association, the Intellectual Property Proprietors Association of Myanmar (JPPAM), legal experts and professionals, students and faculty from Yangon University, representatives from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (JCCM), and officials from MOE’s Copyright Department.

The seminar primarily focused on reviewing opportunities and the current state of affairs for literature and the fine arts, effective implementation of a collective management system for copyright issues, the tasks and responsibilities of a CMO, laying the foundation for establishing CMOS in the future, and collecting relevant news and information.—Myanmar News Agency

(Translation and editing by MNA Staff)
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Myanmar Theravada Buddha Vihara monastery in Moscow

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party who are in Russian Federation visited Myanmar Theravada Buddha Vihara monastery yesterday morning.

At first, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party pay homage to Buddha image in the monastery and Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nannissara who was in Russian Federation to propagate Buddhism.

Sitagu Sayadaw spoke of matters need to be done for the long term sustenance of Myanmar Theravada Buddha Vihara monastery in Moscow and the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services explained about the status of donation toward the long term sustenance of the monastery.

Next, Sitagu Sayadaw and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services inspected the site in the monastery compound where a Dhammayone (Congregation Hall) will be built, monastery expansion works conducted, construction of a Shwezigon Pagoda replica in the compound of the cultures of the world museum compound and status of constructing a Bagan era Dhammasasthya Mudra Buddha image and discussed religious matters.

Afterwards, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services donated Waso R obe and offered day ‘soon’ (lunch) to Sitagu Sayadaw and Sanghas.

Later, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services donated cash to monastery trustee and offered day ‘soon’ (lunch) to Sitagu Sayadaw and Sanghas.

Union Minister U Ohn Win holds talks with Japanese Deputy Mayor Mr. Atsuhito Sadakari yesterday.

Union Minister U Ohn Win receives Deputy Mayor of Fukuoka Prefecture

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, U Ohn Win, received the Deputy Mayor of Fukuoka Prefecture in Japan, Mr. Atsuhito Sadakari, and his delegation at the union minister’s office yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed promoting bilateral relations between Myanmar and Japan, marking Yangon City and Fukuoka City as sister cities and their processes, the living conditions of animals at the Fukuoka City Zoological Garden and its processes, negotiations on trading wildlife between the two countries so that Fukuoka can exhibit elephants; a species that have been missing from the Japanese zoo since 2017; exchanging wildlife conservation techniques, providing trainings, providing support for medical supplies and equipment, and other collaborative ventures.—Myanmar News Agency

Local, foreign media gather news in Maungtaw Township

A GROUP of journalists from domestic and foreign media agencies departed from Sittway for Maungtaw yesterday to gather news on the ground concerning Maungtaw District’s development, rehabilitation and relocation processes.

The media group first met with Maungtaw District Deputy Administrator U Ye Htoo, District Police Superintendent Police Lt-Colonel Tun Myint Tun and other officials at the Maungtaw District General Administration Office.

During the meeting, Deputy Administrator U Ye Htoo explained about the UEHFD-facilitated repatriation process for returnees, rebuilding houses in the district, and the construction and completion of reception centers, while Police Lt-Col Tun Myint Tun explained about security measures taken. This was followed by a Q&A session between the media group and officials.

In the afternoon, the media group travelled to Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre, viewing the structure and gathering news.

The media group then travelled to Shwe Zar Village and interviewed the Muslims, Hindus and local residents peacefully co-existing.—Ramanya, Myo Thu Hein

Rice provided to flood victims in Taninthayi Region

Relief Aid Distribution Team distributed rice bags donated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Taninthayi region government to a total of 13,718 victims in ten temporary relief camps on 23 August, according to the temporary relief camp administration office.

Following continuous heavy rain that starts on 15 July, there are flood in Taninthayi Township, Myeik District, Taninthayi Region. The river remain flooded in Taninthayi Region to date. The ten temporary relief camps are monasteries in Chaunggyi Ward, Myanmar Indaw Village, Kyauk Mee Kyuang Village, Chaung Lamu Village and Ban Thae Village, Taninthayi hall, Chaung Nge Avenue school, Kyein Chaung school, Myay Ma Ohn village hill and Chaung Lamu village school.

There are a total of 13,718 flood victims including 6,762 flood victims from 1,338 households who were moved to their respective houses and 6,956 flood victims from 1,465 households who were moved to the ten temporary shelter camps, according to an announcement released by temporary relief camp administration office.—Nan Thar Yi
None of us can tackle threats of terrorism alone.

The global terrorism threat is a dangerous trend also for the region. The area in 2010 and 2012 and the terrorist attacks by the ARSA in 2016 and 2017 also intensified the mistrust which has existed between the two different communities for decades. It was indeed a sad truth, which was the initial cause of events leading to the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine, remains untouched by its outcome.

Unless this security challenge is addressed, the risk of inter-communal violence will remain. It is a threat that could cause grave consequences not just for Myanmar but also for other countries in our region and beyond. Terrorism and terrorism alone and confidence in order to achieve lasting peace, stability and the reality of the situation on the ground and accommodate will remain untouched by its outcome.

We thank all our friends near and far who are helping us in

The communal violence in 2012 and the terrorist attacks by the ARSA in 2016 and 2017 while the government was making efforts to bring peace and

It is a threat that could cause grave consequences not just for Myanmar but also for other countries in our region and beyond. Terrorism and terrorism alone and confidence in order to achieve lasting peace, stability and the reality of the situation on the ground and accommodate will remain untouched by its outcome.

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The communal violence in 2012 and the terrorist attacks by the ARSA in 2016 and 2017 while the government was making efforts to bring peace and
ICRC calls for swift humanitarian support to displaced Ethiopians from inter-communal conflict

ADDIS ABABA — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Wednesday called for swift measures to meet the humanitarian needs of nearly one million people who have been displaced due to inter-communal violence in Ethiopia.

The UN migration agency has recently revealed that since April this year some 970,000 people have fled their homes due to fighting between communities along the border of Ethiopia’s Gedeo Zone in the Southern region and West Guji Zone in Ethiopia’s largest Oromia region.

According to the ICRC, while aid has increased in recent weeks, “it is still insufficient to meet the needs of the displaced. With schools being used as shelters and so many children still displaced, it could also be difficult for students to return to school when the new academic year starts in September.”

“Schools, factories, and courthouses are just a few of the buildings that now act as shelters for displaced families in southern Ethiopia after a wave of inter-communal clashes along the border areas of Gedeo and West Guji zones drove nearly one million people from their homes,” the ICRC said in a statement on Wednesday.

People often lack food and clean water, and are sleeping on the floor with no blankets or mats.

Kochere district in Gedeo zone has seen its population nearly double from 130,000 people to more than 230,000, according to the ICRC.

The influx of displaced people has also put a heavy strain on host communities, many of whom were already struggling with food insecurity.

Hospitals and clinics have also been overwhelmed by the sharp increase in patients, according to ICRC.

“We have seen health centers in the area faced with an enormous problem. People often lack food and clean water, and are sleeping on the floor with no blankets or mats.”

Saudi Arabia insists ‘committed’ to Aramco IPO

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia on Thursday rejected reports that Aramco’s planned initial public offering had been scrapped, saying the kingdom had stepped up preparations for the stock market debut of the state energy giant.

“The government remains committed to the IPO of Saudi Aramco at a time of its own choosing when conditions are optimum,” energy minister Khalid al-Falih said in a statement.

The plan to float around five percent of Aramco — expected to be the world’s largest stock sale — forms the cornerstone of a reform programme envisaged by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to wean the economy off its reliance on oil.

But Aramco executives have repeatedly cited unfavourable market conditions to push back the IPO, earlier scheduled for this year, with many observers sceptical whether the listing will happen at all.

Fresh speculation about the listing swirled late Wednesday after a media report that the kingdom had halted the plan and financial advisors working on it had been disbanded.

London, New York and Hong Kong have all vied for a slice of the much-touted IPO.

But experts say Aramco’s inability to generate a $2 trillion valuation sought by the crown prince and legal concerns that the IPO will invite unprecedented scrutiny to the company have prompted indecision and delays.

Falih, however, insisted that the kingdom had boosted preparatory measures including issuing a new income tax law as it relates to hydrocarbons activities, revising a long-term exclusive concession, and appointing a new board of directors, Falih said.

Falih refused to specify a possible timing for the IPO, reiterating that it depended on factors such as ‘favourable market conditions and a downstream acquisition which the company will pursue in the next few months’.

He did not elaborate on the acquisition but Aramco chief executive Amin Nasser last month confirmed preliminary talks to acquire a “strategic stake” in SABIC, the world’s fourth largest petrochemicals company that is 70 percent owned by the government-run Public Investment Fund (PIF).

Nasser had acknowledged in an interview to Al-Arabiya television that a potential SABIC-IC deal would “affect the time frame for Aramco’s initial public offering”.

Observers see the acquisition of a stake from PIF as a complex alternative to raise much-needed cash for the kingdom’s top sovereign wealth fund.—AFP
US President Donald Trump was dealt back-to-back blows in the cases of his former lawyer Michael Cohen (L) and former campaign chairman Paul Manafort (R). AFP

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Defiant Australia PM Turnbull refuses to ‘give in to bullies’

SYDNEY — Defiant Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull vowed not to “give in to bullies”. Thursday’s off the top of a Newshour challenge, but said he will quit politics if his party no longer supports him.

Former home affairs minister Peter Dutton, an ex-police officer and right-wing conservative, said he was confident he now had the numbers to unseat Turnbull, considered a moderate.

And with senior ministers defecting, Turnbull’s near three-year grip on power is tenuous despite surviving a snap ballot on his leadership on Tuesday, winning the vote 48-35.

He said Dutton had yet to prove he has majority backing from the Liberal Party — a requirement for him to force another meeting to have a second crack at the top job ahead of national elections due by the middle of next year.

If the petition arrives showing this, the meeting will be held at midday on Friday and Turnbull will not stand as a candidate and leave parliament.

Turnbull accused Dutton and his supporters of intimidation with the crisis snowballing quickly since it began unfolding on Monday after months of poor opinion polls and a revolt by fellow Liberal politicians over plans to embed carbon emissions targets in law.

“What began as a minority has by process of intimidation persuaded people that the only way to stop the insurgency is to give in to it,” he said.

“I do not believe in that. I have never done in to bullies, but you can imagine the pressure it’s put people under.”

He added that what Australia was witnessing was “a very deliberate effort to pull the Liberal Party further to the right”.

Dutton earlier told reporters he had advised Turnbull by phone that “it was my judgement that the majority of the party room no longer supported his leadership”.

“As such, I asked him to convene a meeting of the Liberal Party at which I would challenge for the leadership of the parliamentary Liberal Party,” he added.

In a major blow, Turnbull’s influential Finance Minister Mathias Cormann, along with the employment and education ministers, then said he no longer had their backing.

They joined at least 10 other ministers who have either resigned or offered to.

“It is in the best interests of the Liberal Party to help manage an orderly transition to a new leader,” said Cormann, who used to be a trusted ally.

‘Absolute crap’

In a twist to the plot, ABC and Sky News reported that Treasurer Scott Morrison, Turnbull’s right-hand man, may also stand if there was a ballot in a bid to derail Dutton’s power grab.

Complicating matters, it has emerged that Dutton has financial interests in childcare centres that get government subsidies — possibly breaching constitutional rules — and Turnbull suggested he may not be eligible to sit in parliament, let alone be prime minister.

“This issue of eligibility is critically important,” he said, with the solicitor-general looking into it.

Dutton, described by supporters as a pragmatic legislator who gets things done and by detractors as a racist who demonises refugees, has said he has legal advice that he is in the clear.

He quit his cabinet position after his first failed leadership bid on Tuesday and has said that if he became prime minister, he would focus on cutting immigration to ease population pressures and boosting water investment to help drought-stricken farmers.

Dutton and his camp, including former prime minister Tony Abbott who once described climate change as “absolute crap”, have also made clear keeping power prices down was more important than meeting Canberra’s commitment to slash carbon emissions by 26 per cent by 2030.

The unrest is the latest chapter in a turbulent decade for Australian politics, with no leader managing to serve out a full term since John Howard lost the 2007 election.

And it has played into the hands of the Labor opposition, which has been making the most of it.

“Another day and another one of chaos from this government — a government that has effectively stopped governing because it’s too busy fighting itself,” said deputy opposition leader Tanya Plibersek. — AFP

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Electrification Project (NEP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NEP, intends to recruit an eligible candidate under the Contracts for which this Request for Expression of Interest is issued. DRD now invites eligible candidates to express their interest in applying for the following item:

**C-2 TA-31**

**Local Technician for Practical Technical Training**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref No</th>
<th>Description of Job</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<td>C-2 TA-31</td>
<td>Local Technician for Practical Technical Training</td>
<td>1</td>
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Eligible candidates having expressed interest will receive a Terms of Reference (TOR) by e-mail. Interested candidates will be submitted their CV to the address below via email or personal not later than 7.9.2018. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Department of Rural Development, Office No. (36), Nay Pyi Taw. Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 0673416865 and email to kswaung@gmail.com, drdnp.procurement@gmail.com, neppmo.drd@gmail.com.

**Myanma Port Authority**

**“Notice of High Tide”**

Exceptionally high spring from 20.24 feet to 20.34 feet above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 27th to August 31st, 2018. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV COSMIC ACE V.OY. NO. (EAL-10)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV COSMIC ACE V.OY. NO. (EAL-10) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/V ECL (‘SPORE’) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178
‘Trash is gold’ as Benin community turns waste into biogas

PORTO-NOVO (Benin) — Garbage has never smelled so sweet for a small village in southern Benin since it opened a pilot waste treatment centre to turn household rubbish into gas — and cash.

“Our trash has become gold. We no longer throw it into the bush. We use it to make money,” beams Alphonse Awo, who lives next to the centre in Houegbo village.

ReBin, a Swiss foundation for sustainable development, built the 1.3-hectare (3.2-acre) facility, which every week turns around six tonnes of organic waste into 200 cubic metres of biogas — saving some 164 tonnes of wood from being used to make charcoal.

The centre, which opened late last year, also plans to produce around 400 tonnes of organic fertiliser per year.

So far, around 100 households in the area have signed up to the scheme to deposit their waste at the centre on a daily basis. Every 10 kilogrammes (22 pounds) of waste fetches 250 CFA francs (around 50 euro cents, 57 US cents), paid either in cash or credit — to buy biogas. The fuel is a precious commodity in a rural region where electricity remains scarce. Agnes Avoce, a shopkeeper and mother of five, proudly says as he dumps a load of the cart was a real burden.”

The NGO’s chief, Giannelli, told AFP that he had been searching for a potential site for his project in Benin’s West African neighbours Ghana and Togo. But it was the enthusiasm with which the locals embraced his idea that finally convinced him to set up the waste treatment centre here, he said.

Avoce, a shopkeeper and mother of five, proudly

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Next season of ‘Big Bang Theory’ to be its last

LOS ANGELES—Award-winning ratings smash “The Big Bang Theory” will end with the finale of its 12th season in May next year, CBS said on Wednesday, lavishing praise on the long-running comedy.

Focusing on a highly intelligent but socially-awkward professor and his group of scientist friends, “Big Bang” was the biggest comedy ratings draw on broadcast television for years, winning 10 Emmys.

“We are forever grateful to our fans for their support of ‘The Big Bang Theory’ during the past 12 seasons,” CBS said in a statement released jointly with producers Warner Bros. Television and Chuck Lorre Productions.

“We, along with the cast, writers and crew, are extremely appreciative of the show’s success and aim to deliver a final season, and series finale, that will bring ‘The Big Bang Theory’ to an epic creative close.”

The show—which will end its 12-year run on 279 episodes—is a rare example of a long-running hit TV series that has managed to retain its massive viewing figures. The last season attracted an audience of almost 19 million per episode, not far off its ninth season peak of 20.4 million.

It hit the headlines in its most recent seasons for a deal which meant its lead cast of Jim Parsons, Johnny Galecki, Kunal Nayyar, Simon Helberg, Kaley Cuoco, Mayim Bialik and Melissa Rauch all earning the same — estimated at a shade under $1 million an episode.

“There are many ways to look at the dozen years of ‘Big Bang Theory’ as we draw to a close, but for me it will be the family that gathered each week to create a true labor of love,” tweeted co-creator Bill Prady.

“I will treasure my Big Bang family to the end of my days.”

Last year CBS premiered “Young Sheldon,” a prequel series starring Iain Armitage as a nine-year-old version of nerdy genius Sheldon Cooper. It begins its second season on CBS in September.

The main show’s final season premieres on Monday September 24 before shifting back to its regular Thursday time slot.

—AFP

US actor speaks out over Asia Argento assault claim

PARIS—The US actor who accuses Asia Argento of sexually assaulting him as a teenager said Wednesday that he had been too “ashamed and afraid” to speak publicly against the Italian actress and abuse campaigner.

Argento, who shot into the headlines for accusing disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein of rape, paid Jimmy Bennett hush money after he claimed that she sexually assaulted him in a California hotel room in 2013.

“I did not initially speak out about my story because I chose to handle it in private with the person who wronged me,” Bennett said in a statement posted on his Instagram account Wednesday.

“Many first public remarks on the matter: ‘My trauma resurfaced as she came out as a victim herself,’” he added, saying he had not spoken publicly until now because he was “ashamed and afraid to be part of the public narrative.”

The actor and rock musician was 17-years-old at the time of the alleged assault. The legal age of consent in California is 18. Ar- gente was 37.

The New York Times reported on Sunday that Argento paid Bennett $380,000 after his lawyers launched legal action, a month after Argento’s accusations against Weinstein were made public.

On Wednesday, Bennett said he “tried to seek justice in a way that made sense to me at the time,” on the grounds that he was “not ready to deal with the ramifications of my story becoming public.” —AFP

Beauty is confidence: Kareena Kapoor Khan

MUMBAI—Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan believes looking beautiful is all about feeling confident.

The 37-year-old actor, who is most recent seasons for a deal.

“Rockstar,” tweeted: “i landed guys. thank you for your prayers. can’t believe how many people wished death on me on this website.” —AFP

Plane carrying US rapper forced to make emergency landing

NEW YORK—A small plane carrying US rapper Post Malone was forced to make an emergency landing at a New York state airport on Tuesday after two of its tires blew out during takeoff, aviation authorities said.

The Gulfstream G-IV jet took off for London at 10:50 am local time at Teterboro Airport, located some 50 kilometers (30 miles) from New York, the Federal Aviation Authority said.

According to the FAA and the FlightRadar website, the plane, which was carrying a total of 16 people on board according to celebrity news site TMZ, went around in several circles in order to drain its fuel reserves before landing at Stewart airport, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from New York city, close to 4:00 pm.

The 23-year-old, who won “Song of the Year” on Monday night’s MTV video awards for “Rockstar,” tweeted: “I landed guys. thank you for your prayers. can’t believe how many people wished death on me on this website.” —AFP

PHOTO: AFP
European wind survey satellite launched from French Guyana

The launch of the "Aeolus" satellite—named after the guardian of wind in Greek mythology—took place at 2120 GMT Wednesday, after a 24-hour delay due to adverse weather conditions.

Arianespace’s light-lift vehicle “Vega lofted its passenger during a flight lasting just under 55 minutes, with Aeolus placed into a Sun-synchronous orbit,” the company said after the launch.

Sun-synchronous orbits allow satellites always to have view of the Sun, for example so their solar panels can always draw power.

The satellite “will probe the lowermost 30 kilometres (18 miles) of the atmosphere in measuring winds around the Earth,” Arianespace said.

Aeolus is part of the Copernicus project, a joint initiative of the European Union and the European Space Agency (ESA) to track environmental damage and aid disaster relief operations.

The satellite is equipped with a single instrument: a Doppler wind lidar—an advanced laser system designed to accurately measure global wind patterns from space.

“The LIDAR’s near-real-time observations will provide reliable wind profiles, further improving the accuracy of numerical weather and climate prediction, as well as advance the understanding of tropical dynamics and processes relevant to climate variability,” Arianespace said after the launch.

It described the satellite as the world’s first space mission to gather information on Earth’s wind on a global scale.

Tropical winds in particular are very poorly mapped because of the almost complete absence of direct observations.

The Doppler lidar transmits short, powerful pulses of laser light toward Earth in the ultraviolet spectrum. Particles in the air—moisture, dust, gases—reflect, or scatter, a small fraction of that light energy back to the transceiver, where it is collected and recorded.

The delay between the outgoing pulse and the so-called “backscattered” signal reveals the wind’s direction, speed and distance travelled.

Once per orbit, data is downloaded to a ground station in Svalbard, Norway.—AFP

A ‘missing link’ sheds light on mystery of turtle evolution

Relatively few fossils of early turtles have been found, leaving it a mystery how the creature evolved its unique features, and even which ancestors they evolved from.

But new research published Thursday in the journal Nature fills in some gaps by examining a turtle fossil discovered in China that dates back 228 million years.

The skeleton has a beak, but also some teeth, suggesting it may be a “missing link” in the evolution from an earlier toothy turtle to today’s form.

“This is the first early fossil turtle with a beak,” said Chun Li, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing and co-author of the paper on the fossil dubbed Eorhynchochelys.

“The interesting thing is that although a beak had developed, the teeth were preserved, so it is a half-beak, half-toothed jaw—an excellent transitional characteristic,” he told AFP.

The fossil is also large, at 2.5 metres long, with a lengthy tail and broad and flat ribs along its back that appear to have formed a disc-like precursor to a shell. —AFP

Saga of early humans etched in DNA of mixed-species child

Paris—Denny was an inter-species love child.

Her mother was a Neanderthal, but her father was Denisovan, a distinct species of primitive human that also roamed the Eurasian continent 50,000 years ago, scientists reported Wednesday in the journal Nature.

Nicknamed by Oxford University scientists, Denisova 11 — her official name — was at least 13 when she died, for reasons unknown. “There was earlier evidence of interbreeding between different hominin, or early human, groups,” said lead author Vivian Slon, a researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.

“But this is the first time that we have found a direct, first-generation offspring,” she told AFP.

Denny’s surprising pedigree was unlocked from a bone fragment unearthed in 2012 by Russian archeologists at the Denisova Cave in the Altai Mountains of Siberia. PHOTO: AFP

Although the bone’s DNA left no doubt: the chromosomes were a 50-50 mix of Neanderthal and Denisovan, two distinct species of early humans that split apart between 400,000 and 500,000 years ago.

“Initially thought that they must have screwed up in the lab,” said senior author and Max Planck Institute professor Svante Paabo, who identified the first Denisovan a decade ago at the same site. Worldwide, fewer than two dozen early human genomes from before 40,000 years ago—Neanderthal, Denisovan, Homo sapiens—have been sequenced, and the chances of stumbling on a half-and-half hybrid seemed vanishingly small.

Inter-species hanky-panky

“The very fact that we found this individual of mixed Neanderthal and Denisovan origins suggests that they interbred much more often than we thought,” said Slon. —AFP
SPORT

LOS ANGELES—Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson will go head-to-head in a winner-take-all $9 million (7.78 million euro) duel in Las Vegas in November, it was announced on Wednesday.

Woods and Mickelson, who have 19 Major titles between them, will face off at the Shadow Creek Golf Course on November 23, coinciding with Thanksgiving weekend in the United States. The match play duel between the two veterans, a head-to-head meeting that has been mooted repeatedly over the years, will be screened on pay-per-view.

“It’s an opportunity for us to bring golf to the masses in prime time during a period where we don’t have much going on in the world of golf,” Mickelson told ESPN on Wednesday.

“It’s a way to show a side you don’t normally see by having us miked up to hear some of the interaction between us.”

Mickelson and Woods had an occasionally frosty relationship during their prime years at the summit of men’s golf, but have enjoyed warmer ties recently after working closely during various Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup campaigns.

Mickelson said there was no chance of the duo carving up the lucrative purse between them, insisting that the event would be winnertake-all. “If you (don’t) do that, it undermines it,” Mickelson said. “The whole point is the winner-take-all thing. That’s the exciting part about it.”

Former world number one Woods only returned to golf this year after missing most of the previous two years due to recurring back problems.

The 42-year-old bagged a second place finish at the PGA Championship earlier this month while 48-year-old Mickelson missed the cut.—AFP

World Cup failure haunts German stars as Bundesliga returns

BERLIN—The Bundesliga returns Friday with German football shaken by the shambolic early World Cup exit while Bayern Munich hope new coach Niko Kovac can maintain the relentless success the club expects.

Germany’s embarrassing failure to defend their title in Russia, crashing out after finishing bottom of their group, leaves several Bundesliga stars with a point to prove in the new season.

Bayern kick off the new campaign on Friday at home to Hoffenheim, who will make their debut in the Champions League group stages this season, with midfielder Thomas Mueller admitting the World Cup debacle provides extra motivation.

“No-one expected it,” Mueller told the Bayern website.

After the debacle in Russia, Germany coach Joachim Loew is expected to make sweeping changes when he names his squad on Wednesday for the home game against newly-crowned world champions France on September 6 in the Nations League.

The focus against Hoffenheim at the Allianz Arena will be on Bayern’s World Cup stars Mueller, Jerome Boateng, Mats Hummels and Manuel Neuer, who all under-performed on the World Cup stage.

The spotlight will also fall on Kovac in his first home league game after joining from Eintracht Frankfurt, who shocked Bayern 3-1 in May’s German Cup final in his final game.—AFP

Myanmar teams try best at 2018 Asian Games

MYANMAR athletes competed their best on the fifth day of the 18th Asian Games, which is being held in Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia yesterday, but the luck was not on Myanmar side. Myanmar athletes lost in most of the games they competed yesterday.

In Round of 32 level of men’s single recurve archery competition in Jakarta, Myanmar’s Htike Nwe Oo beat Kyrgyzstan by a record of 6-0, but in the Round of 16 level, he lost to Malaysia by 7-1. In Round of 16 level of women’s single recurve archery competition, Myanmar’s Thida Nwe Oo lost to China (6-0).

Again, in the men’s double sepak takraw opener at JSC Roneu Stadium in Palembang, Myanmar team lost to Thailand 2-1. Later, in the second match of the same event, Myanmar also lost to Laos 2-1.

In the women’s double international boat race competition, Myanmar team had to be contented with the fifth place.—Myanmar News Agency

Woods, Mickelson confirm $9 million duel in Las Vegas

Phil Mickelson (L) and Tiger Woods meet during a preview day of the World Golf Championships - Bridgestone Invitational, at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio, on 1 August 2018. PHOTO: AFP

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In the semifinals, Toungoo (A) team advanced to the final by beating Bago (A) team 3-0, while Toungoo (B) team made the final by winning over Pyay (B) team by 6-0.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)