State Counsellor to pay working visit to Japan

At the invitation of H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a working visit to Japan in the near future to hold bilateral talks and attend the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit which will be held in Tokyo, Japan.— MNA

Anti-narcotics

Three centres for youth rehabilitation managed by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, and nine centres for rehabilitation managed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement were opened to give assistance, education and treatment programs to people taking mind-altering drugs and other kinds of substances. Assistance and rehabilitation to people suffering both physically and mentally was also given through educational and vocational training.

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

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses 54th Myanmar Police Force Day in Nay Pyi Taw

Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a speech at the 54th Myanmar Police Force Day held in Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

Present at the event were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Thaung, Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar Chairman U Myo Nyunt, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers, Union Auditor General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Union Supreme Court judges, Deputy Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, Permanent Secretaries, Myanmar Police Force Chief, Directors General, deputy directors general, diplomats, local and international organizations, artists, local and foreign media, invited guests and officials.

After the Myanmar Police Force Day flag hoisting ceremony, a one-minute silence was observed in honor of Police Force personnel who gave their lives in the line of duty.

In his speech at the event, Vice President U Myint Swe said that after achieving independence, Myanmar Police Force reforms were conducted and on 1 October 1964 it was renamed “People’s Police Force” and that day was designated as Myanmar Police Force Day. It may be noted that its motto of “loyalty, integrity and courage” has been practiced and observed.

SEE PAGE-3
Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects dam, road, bridges in Chin State

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who was in Falam Town, went yesterday morning to the proposed site where a new Var Bridge across the Manipur River will be constructed. The Vice President was accompanied by Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Lui, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Than Htut, U Aung Htoo and U Kyaw Lin, and officials. The bridge construction site is near mile post 68/5 on the Kalay-Falam-Haka road. At the site, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin and officials explained about the bridge, funding obtained and work processes.

From there, the Vice President and party arrived at Webula Town where the local people greeted them with traditional dances. The Vice President and party then went on to the Mani- dances. The Vice President and party arrived at Webula Town where the local people greeted them with traditional dances. The Vice President and party then went on to the Mani-
Vice President U Myint Swe addresses 54th Myanmar Police Force Day in Nay Pyi Taw

FROM PAGE-1

Since 1 October 1995, it was called the Myanmar Police Force and was transformed both in appearance as well as in essence to serve the people more. It is now in the 54th year.

The four aims of the Myanmar Police Force implemented were internal security and peace, rule of law, protecting and preventing the danger of drugs and to conduct works that are beneficial for the people.

As social problems, community problems, economic problems and drug problems are related to increase or decrease of crime, the attempt to control effectively terrorist acts as well as various crimes that are occurring could not be depended solely on the laws and judiciary system that are in practice now. It is important for the police force to cooperate with the judiciary sector as well as health, housing settlement, job search sectors, media, local and foreign non-government organizations and civil organizations in all sectors.

When cooperating, the main problem that the Union level needs to resolve is the drug problem. In solving today’s drug problem in the world, based on each country’s background history, culture, development and ownership of resources, location and geographical situation, various approaches were seen to be used. Myanmar also had suffered from the drug problem like other countries of the world for many years, and based on the experience of successive governments, there is a requirement to handle the drug problem more effectively.

According to 2017 UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes) report opium growing decreased by 25 percent and drugs produced from opium also decreased by 14 percent. However, new ecstasy pills made with modern chemicals were produced, and as the demand is high both locally and abroad, production has increased. Only through cooperation between the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), relevant organizations and related departments can the demand be reduced and can there be effective control.

The drug problem destroys people’s health, social life and basic economy in many ways and the result of cross border crimes and acts of terror affect regional stability and rule of law. Myanmar has signed on as member of three conventions related to drugs in order to handle the drug problem together. Laws have been amended and enacted according to these conventions, and drug control and eradication organizations have been formed and projects drawn and implemented.

Handling of the drug problem has been conducted and an Action Plan will be drawn up and implemented within two years.

In order to systematically receive complaint and information from the public to prevent and eradicate the danger of drugs and psychotropic substances, the office of the President had established a Drug Activity Special Complaint Department.

Starting from 1997, Myanmar has designated combating human-trafficking as a national priority in INTERPOL crime eradication operations on fake medicine conducted in 2018, border region management work processes on preventing and eradicating human trafficking and inspecting and scrutinizing movement of suspected criminals and terrorists at the border gates in Southeast Asian countries by connecting with the INTERPOL data system.

Similarly, it is working with ASEAN National Police (ASEANAPOL) and member countries by attending annual conferences and cooperating in various sectors.

Looking at the present situation, political, economic and social situations are changing and developing as technology changes and develops. Due to these changes and developments, new types of crimes evolve and continuous training and upgrade of the capability of the police force at all levels need to be done to handle instability caused by terrorism.

That is why police force personnel were sent to local and international workshops, discussions and trainings and from the experience gained, the capability of the personnel are not only raised but aimed towards making them to be on the same level internationally.

To increase the capacity of the police force, four areas have been designated in cooperating with international organizations. Training in police work to be upgraded to the international level, police work involving participation of the people, human rights matters without gender discrimination, service oriented courses on police works, crime investigation courses, process on taking responsibility, cooperating with media, effective management and monitoring processes are being conducted.

The Myanmar Police Force is educating the people on legal and crime matters and expects to resolve and prevent crimes through increasing direct and indirect cooperation of the people.

The Myanmar Police Force was expanded and upgraded as it plays an important role in changes in the country, and the expanding relations with external police organizations, such as the International Police Force and ASEAN Police Force, also demanded the upgrading of the MPF, he added.

The Union Government has modernized the arms of the Myanmar Police Force due to the new forms of crimes and bought the MPF with modern technology, new laboratory kits for DNA test, communications equipment, Mobile X-Ray vehicles and other vehicles.

Outstanding members of the MPF are honoured every year, while those who fell while doing their duties for the country are posthumously honoured and the diligence of those who lost their limbs in action should also be acknowledged, he said.

The Vice President also stressed the need to ensuring transparency of the MPF in providing security services to the people, in accordance with the law, and sending correct information to the people as part of efforts for reducing the fears of the people.

“I would like to urge you to ensure transparency, accountability and responsibility in your works to become good members of the Myanmar Police Force and to do your duties in the interests of the people with honesty and impartiality,” said the Vice President.

Following his speech, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe presented awards to two policemen for their excellent performance with bravery and to one DNA expert.

Outstanding police were also honored at this event.—MNA
Fixed pilot station under construction at sea 20 miles from Yangon River

UNION MINISTER for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung inspected the construction process of a fixed pilot station, located 20 nautical miles from the mouth of Yangon River to the sea, on 30 September.

During the visit, the Union Minister and heads of departments, followed by Managing Director (Myanmar Branch) from China Harbour Engineering Co. Ltd, and officials checked the situation of waterline of the Yangon River; dredging sandbanks at the mouth of Yangon River; and the construction progress of harbors in Thilawa Port and of the fixed pilot station, with the Union Minister giving necessary instructions. Two pilot vessels will be anchored at the pilot station located 20 nautical miles from the mouth of Yangon River, according to the ministry.

He said marine pilots will be stationed at these pilot vessels and are tasked with driving moored ships to Yangon Port. When the weather is bad, pilot vessels have to move to a safe place, they are unable to get enough rest, there is an increase vessel maintenance costs and a decline in security, consequently increasing the number of vessels in traffic and of staffs, meaning more space is required for a smooth operation, said the union minister.

He added that the pilots and staff will be able to successfully perform their duties after the pilot station is completed. During the inspection, the Union Minister expressed his thanks to China Harbour Engineering Co. Ltd for their high-quality construction service, and that the construction need to be completed within the designated period.

The total value of the project is US$ 29.9 million and it includes constructions of one three-storey reinforce concrete building (33.2mx30.4m), a harbour large enough for a GRT1500-sized vessel, a generator, a water treatment plant, a wastewater treatment plant, marine communication equipment, radar machinery and 3 pilot boats. The pilot station will accommodate 36 staff and the current construction is already 63 per cent completed. — GNLM

Daw Khin Myo Kyi sworn in as Yangon Region Advocate General

By Nyein Nyein

DAW KHIN MYO KYI, who was nominated as Yangon Region Advocate General by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, was sworn in at the Second Yangon Region Hluttaw seventh regular session 13th day meeting, held yesterday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein nominated her to the vacant post of Yangon Region Advocate General at the Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting held on 26 September, and on 27 September, Hluttaw approved her appointment.

At her nomination, the Hluttaw announced for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to object to her appointment to do so with supporting evidences, but there were no objection.

Daw Khin Myo Kyi who was appointed as Yangon Region Advocate General had served as a law office for 34 years, starting from 1984, and had retired from the service last June. She is now 61 years old, it is learnt. — GNLM

PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: Y ANGON REGION GOVERNMENT
Rubber export target raised this fiscal year

By May Thet Hnin

ABOUT 170,000 tons of rubber are to be exported this fiscal year 2018-2019, said U Khaing Myint, secretary of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA).

We have increased export target, as latex production is likely to increase in the coming rubber season, he added.

“Currently, most of the local rubber producers are still stuck in traditional methods, resulting in lack of quality. They are far removed from advanced technology,” said rubber producers.

“I attended a rubber workshop, but I still cannot reach advanced rubber technology. If there are rubber education training courses and technology programmes, we will attend and follow them”, said Daw Lin Lin Tun, a rubber farm owner from Hlaingthwe Township, Kayin State. RUBBED Smoked Sheet rubber RSS3 fetched US$1,300 per ton in global market, while local rubber was worth Ks820 per pound yesterday.

At present, rubber law (draft) is being developed and it will be revealed to entrepreneurs in early 2019 for a review.

“The government and rubber associations are endeavouring to set up a rubber central market after the rubber law comes into effect,”

Consumer goods import up by $379 million as of last week

IMPORT of consumer goods from 1 April to 29 September was worth US$182.52 billion, which is up by $379 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Consumer products such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and palm oil are imported. The private sector showed an income increase of $437.69 million against last FY, whereas the public sector saw a decrease of $58.68 million.

Meanwhile, import of capital goods such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel and airplane parts, amounted to $32.7 billion, which was an increase of $138.7 million, compared to that in similar period of last FY 2017-2018.

Intermediate goods make up most of the imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items.

The import value of raw materials is up by $202.9 million against last FY.

Total import was valued at $93.5 billion, whereas in the similar period during last FY, $8.63 billion worth of import was seen.

—GNLM

Myanmar to negotiate with Saudi Arabia on fish import ban

By May Thet Hnin

MYANMAR will negotiate again with Saudi Arabia concerning the latter’s suspension of fish imports from Myanmar, starting from 1 April, according to Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

A delegation led by officials of the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is planning to leave for Dubai to join a seafood show, which will be held at the end of October, and they are also arranging for a negotiation meeting again, said U Win Kyaing, secretary of MFF.

“The government officials have agreed MFF’s request for negotiations with Saudi Arabia. We hope this will happen. The government will lead the delegation, accompanying our representatives”, he continued.

Saudi Arabia has temporarily suspended fish and prawn imports from Myanmar, following the detection of prawn disease.

At the beginning of 2017, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) detected white tail disease in freshwater prawns, bred in Myanmar.

This prawn disease occurred in the beginning of 2017.

It has been already reported to OIE that the disease was not found in freshwater prawns this year. But, Saudi Arabia keeps imposing ban on fish and prawn imports from Myanmar.

Thereafter, officials from the two countries conducted a series of discussions. Saudi Arabia committed to an inspection tour to Myanmar. However, they have not made it until now.

Preparations are being made to negotiate with them again in order for local suppliers not to suffer for a long term.

Rohu farming ponds are primarily found in Twantay, Dedaye, Maubin, Kyunzit, Pantanaw, Nyaungdon, Hlegu, Htantabin, Taikkyi, Letpadan, Kayan townships. Domestic consumption accounts for only 25 per cent of production, whereas the remaining 75 per cent is mainly dependent on Saudi Arabia and Dubai.

A small portion of export also goes to Bangladesh. Forty per cent of Myanmar’s rohu export places on Saudi market while 30 per cent of other farmed fish are also exported to Saudi Arabia.

“High aqua feed hikes up production cost and fish price has been brought down to production cost.

Fish price in August, this year, dropped by Ks500-700 per viss (3.4 lb) compared to similar period of last year. Some farm fish only on a manageable scale”, said U San Htike from Manhith fish depot.

There are some 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the county, and Myanmar has earned US$717 million through its fishery products as of March.
Mawlamyine University faculty, law students visit Union Election Commission

THE Chairman of the Union Election Commission (UEC), U Hla Thein delivered an address at the meeting hall, and first explained that the UEC is formed with 7 members, including the chairman, and that the main task of the UEC is to facilitate elections. He said a by-election to elect Hluttaw representatives vacant constituents is held, once the general election is completed. He said the election timeline can be divided into three parts: the pre-election period, the election period, and the post-election period.

The chairman said the pre-election period is a time for amending laws and by-laws, strategic planning, providing legal training and operational training to the staff and the relevant sub-commissions. He said the election period is for ensuring voters can exercise their voting rights, a peaceful transaction of the election, and for announcing the results of the election. He said the post-election period is for forming tribunals to review and respond to notes of protest concerning the election.

The UEC successfully carried out the 2017 byelections after 2015, and will carry out the 2018 byelections on 3 November, said the chairman.

The chairman said all countries that adhere to a democratic system holds elections. He said elections allow citizens to elect and appoint Hluttaw representatives whom they trust will implement the three branches of government, them being the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. He said the UEC carries out these responsibilities while maintaining their five policies of freedom, equality, transparency, mutual trust, and results that conform with the will of the nation's citizens.

The chairman said that since the observation group present is made up of law students, they would have to observe and discover about election laws and bylaws, electoral process and procedures, the importance of an election for a nation, and the responsibility of the citizens, so that they disseminate this information to the public and be involved in the national establishment process, no matter how small the role may seem.

Next, the UEC officials gave explanations about their respective department’s processes. This was followed by a Q&A session between the students and UEC officials, after which the UEC Chairman delivered the closing speech and concluded the event. — MNA

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (41/2018) commences

THE inauguration ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (41/2018), conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at Wunniminyazaz Hall of the Ministry in Yangon at 10.00 am yesterday, with opening remarks delivered by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present on the occasion were retired Myanmar Ambassadors, Directors-General and responsible officials of the departments under the ministry, senior diplomats, professors and instructors, as well as trainees.

The 13-week long course comprises the subjects relating to diplomacy, negotiation skills, international law, international conferencing, international relations and economics. Basic Diplomatic Skills (BDS) Course runs annually for those who have to engage in international relations, from private and public sectors, young graduates and those who want to learn more on those subjects.

The BDS Course was first introduced in 2000 and run twice a year. — MNA

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear civil cases

CHIEF JUSTICE of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court judges U Myint Aung and U Khin Maung Kyi of Special Appellate Bench sat at Union Supreme Court Room number 1 yesterday morning and heard four (Certiorari) civil cases and passed judgment on six (Certiorari) civil cases. — MNA


The ministry made the arrests, acting on information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 29 September.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 3 October issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. — GNLM

GAC Motor, showcased its signature vehicle models in Myanmar Plaza promotion area starting from 28 to 30 September. Models include the GS7, GM8, GS8, GS4, GS3 and GA4. — GNLM
Ordinary passport holders from Japan, ROK, China, Hong Kong, Macau welcomed at Ygn airport

A CEREMONY was held yesterday at Level 3 of Terminal 1 at the Yangon International Airport to welcome 131 Japanese tourists arriving by flight. The ceremony also welcomed the aforementioned tourists.

Attending the ceremony were Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, South Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang-jae, the consul from the Chinese Embassy, the deputy director-general from the Department of Civil Aviation, the deputy director-general from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the administrative director from Aerodrome Co. Ltd, departmental officials, and invited guests.

Union Minister U Ohn Maung first delivered the opening speech and then took a documentary photo before touring inside Terminal 1.

Afterwards, the Union Minister, together with the Chinese military attache, and other officials greeted and welcomed the 110 Chinese tourists from Air China (CA-415) flight and gave them gifts. The tourists were entertained with Kyauksee elephant dance, Thu Nge Taw dance, and U Shwe Yoe-Daw Moe dance. Similarly, in the evening, the Union Minister, together with the Japanese Ambassador and the administrative director from Aerodrome Co. Ltd, greeted and welcomed 131 Japanese tourists from All Nippon Airways (NH-813) flight and gave them gifts and souvenir cards.

The Partners Co. Ltd. and East Field Co. Ltd. from Japan also gifted a specially made mascot figure to the Union Minister.

Later at night, South Korean tourists from Korean Air (KE-471) flight were also welcomed with gifts and entertained with Kyauksee elephant dance, Thu Nge Taw dance, and U Shwe Yoe-Daw Moe dance.

JMC-U delegation observes peace process in Nepal

A CEREMONY was held yesterday at Level 3 of Terminal 1 at the Yangon International Airport that introduced visa-free arrangements to Myanmar for ordinary passport holders from Japan, South Korea, and from the special administrative regions of China — Macau and Hong Kong, and visa-on-arrival services for Chinese tourists arriving by flight. The ceremony also welcomed the aforementioned tourists.

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Uplifting country’s economy by promoting tourism

By Shin Min

A roundtable business discussion was held at MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw recently during which matters relating to tourism were explored. Following are discussions by U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, U Khin Zaw, Advisor at Myanmar Tourism Federation, Daw Khin Than Win, Deputy Director General for Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Daw May Myat Win, Chairperson of Myanmar Tourism Promotion Board, U Thet Lwin Toe, Chairperson of Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association, and U Aung Myo Min Din, Chairperson of Myanmar Hotelier Association.

Q: What would be the major efforts for the development of Myanmar tourism?

U Ohn Maung, Union Minister: The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has laid down three priorities to promote tourism development. We have drawn up a new tourism law, with the state statutory departments, ministries, UNCTAD, businesspersons and expatriates. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has submitted the new Hotels and Tourism Law draft to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. After approval, the regional and state governments will have the authority to grant tourism license, currently managed by the ministry, thereby enabling hoteliers and tour operators to apply for work license in their own regions.

Daw Khin Than Win, Deputy Director General: The Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Law was signed by the President and is still using it. As the Union Minister mentioned in an interview, this new law will include three commissions. The new Central Development Committee of the Myanmar Tourism Industry has been formed in line with the government. The new Tourism Order No 10/2017 for the development of tourism, including hotel and tourism, will deal with respective commissions and regions for the development of the tourism sector. The Ministry of Tourism is tasked with promoting tourism development in rural areas and is expected to speed up the socio-economic development of the people.

Q: Can the Union Minister distribute the benefits to the tourism industry for the remaining tenure of the government?

U Ohn Maung, Union Minister: The Ministry of Tourism has provided some 19 hotelier associations to the country in major tourist destinations, running under six main committees.

Q: What would be the major efforts for the development of Myanmar tourism?

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Iran fires missiles against ‘terrorist’ camp in Syria

TEHRAN — Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said on Monday they had launched a missile attack against a “terrorist” headquarters in Syria in retaliation for a September attack on the Iranian city of Ahvaz.

“The headquarters of those responsible for the terrorist crime in Ahvaz was attacked a few minutes ago east of the Euphrates by several ballistic missiles fired by the aerospace branch of the Guardians of the Revolution,” the Guards said on their official website.

“Based on preliminary reports, many talakfi [terrorists] and the leaders responsible for the terrorist crime in Ahvaz have been killed or wounded in this missile attack,” the Guards added.

The term “talakfi”, derived from the Arabic word for anathema, is used by the Iranian authorities to refer to Sunni jihadis.

The Guards did not say where the missiles were launched from.

According to Iran’s Fars news agency, the Guards fired Zolfaghar and Qiam missiles, with a range of 750 kilometres and 800 kilometres (465 and 500 miles), respectively.

On 22 September, 24 people were shot dead in an attack at a military parade in Ahvaz in southwest Iran. The Islamic State group, which Iran and its Damascus allies are fighting in Syria, has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani had vowed a “crushing” response to the attack.

For the attack.

Israel says ready for UN crossing with Syria to reopen

JERUSALEM (Undefined) — Israel is prepared to open its side of the crossing point with Syria following the return of UN peacekeepers to the Golan Heights following a four-year absence, the army said.

Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman “authorised the reopening of the Alpha gate of the Quneitra crossing between Israel and Syria, allowing the UN to resume activity via the crossing pending Syria’s reopening their side,” it said in a statement Saturday.

The UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) resumed its patrols in the area of the crossing point in August, after withdrawing in 2014 when Al-Qaeda-linked rebels overran the area, three years into Syria’s devastating civil war.

The return of UNDOF was made possible after Syrian government forces, backed by Russia, recaptured territory near the Golan, driving out rebel groups from a “de-escalation zone” agreed by Jordan, Russia and the United States.

Quneitra crossing is “an operational crossing for UNDOF in the implementation of its mandate,” according to Nick Birnback, a spokesman for UN Peacekeeping in New York.

UNDOF is working to “complete the rehabilitation of the Quneitra crossing” which is expected to be reopened soon, Birnback said in an email on Friday.

Israel seized much of the Golan Heights from Syria in the Six-Day War of 1967 and later annexed it in a move not recognised by the international community.

Established in 1974, UNDOF monitors a ceasefire line separating Israeli-occupied parts of the Golan Heights from Syria.

The Quneitra crossing was used by Druze living on the Israeli-occupied part of the Golan Heights from Syria to travel to their families in Syria.

“The ball is now in the Syrian government’s court,” Lieberman said Saturday.

Syrian government forces recaptured the crossing’s use) according to Syrian authorities would have expected to be reopened soon, Birnback said.

A tour of the Israeli side of the crossing on Thursday, Lieberman said that once Quneitra was open, authorities would have to “consider each possibility (for the crossing’s use) according to the security situation”.

“We’re in different times now,” he said.

Israel was “ready to open the crossing as it had been in the past”, Lieberman told journalists accompanying him at the site.

“The ball is now in the Syrian government’s court.”

Israel’s transport ministry also said Saturday its main border crossing with Jordan would reopen to trade next month for the first time in three years, although Amman had said consultations were still ongoing.

Syrian government troops retook the Syrian side of the crossing in July under a deal with rebel fighters brokered in Moscow.

It had been sealed completely since rebels overran it in April 2015, choking off one of the most important trade routes for the government. —AFP

Nigeria’s main unions suspend national strike

ABUJA (Nigeria) — Nigeria’s main labour unions on Sunday suspended a national strike and announced further talks with the government about raising the minimum wage.

The blue collar Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and its white collar counterpart the Trade Union Congress (TUC) launched the strike on Wednesday.

The unions have proposed a new monthly minimum wage of between 45,000 naira and 65,000 naira ($125-$180, 107-154 euros) against the current 18,000 naira.

NLC president Ayuba Wabba told reporters an invitation had been received to resume talks with the government and private sector representatives on 4 and 5 October.

“We demand that this shall be the final session of the committee and a final report will be submitted to Mr President immediately,” Wabba said in Nigeria’s capital of Abuja. “In order to avoid the committee of the necessary conducive environment to hold this crucial meeting and conclude it’s work, organised labour has... decided to suspend the strike action with effect from today, Sunday 30 September, 2018,” Wabba said. —AFP

Boko Haram commander killed over ‘planned surrender’

KANO (Nigeria) — A Boko Haram commander was killed by his comrades over his alleged plan to surrender and handover hundreds of hostages to the Nigerian military, two sources told AFP on Sunday.

Ali Gashaa was shot and killed on Thursday by other commanders in the IS-affiliated faction of Boko Haram after they uncovered his plan to surrender to Nigerian troops fighting the jihadist group in the Lake Chad region.

Gashaa had been trying to rescue 300 hostages being held by the Islamists and hand them over to troops before turning himself in.

His death comes after the group’s de facto leader Mamsan Nur was killed by radical lieutenants who accused him of betrayal and back channel peace talks with authorities, sparking fears of a hardline takeover in Boko Haram.

“The new leadership of the faction got to know of his plans and executed him,” said one source about Gashaa, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Gashaa was forced to join the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in 2015 after the group seized his herd of cattle, the source said. After joining the group he was trained in weapons handling and valued because of his mastery of the difficult terrain as a herder. He was in touch with some mediators and had concluded arrangements to switch sides and “take along around 300 hostages with him when the group found out”, said a second source.

“Once they found out he was declared a traitor and killed.”

The Nigerian military has in recent weeks intensified aerial bombings in the Lake Chad region where ISWAP is based, military sources told AFP. —AFP
US, Japanese pair win Nobel Medicine Prize for cancer therapy

STOCKHOLM (Sweden) — Two immunologists, James Allison of the US and Tasuku Honjo of Japan, won the 2018 Nobel Medicine Prize for research into how the body’s natural defences can fight cancer, the jury said on Monday.

Unlike more traditional forms of cancer treatment that directly target cancer cells, Allison and Honjo figured out how to help the patient’s own immune system tackle the cancer more quickly.

The award-winning discovery led to treatments targeting proteins made by some immune system cells that act as “brakes” on the body’s natural defences killing cancer cells.

The Nobel Assembly said after announcing the prize in Stockholm that the therapy “has now revolutionised cancer treatment and has fundamentally changed the way we view how cancer can be managed.”

In 1995, Allison was one of two scientists to identify the ligand CTLA-4 as an inhibitory receptor on T-cells.

T-cells are a type of white blood cell that play a central role in the body’s natural immunity to disease.

Allison, 70, “realised the potential of releasing the brake and thereby unleashing our immune cells to attack tumours,” the Nobel jury said on Monday’s prize announcement in Stockholm.

Around the same time, Honjo discovered a protein on immune cells, the ligand PD-1, and eventually realised that it also worked a brake, but it acted differently.

Writing on his cancer centre’s website, Allison said he was “honoured and humbled to receive this prestigious recognition.”

Antibodies against PD-1 have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration as an investigational new drug and developed for the treatment of cancer.

Research by Allison’s team has meanwhile led to the development of a monoclonal antibody drug, which was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2011 for the treatment of melanoma.

“For more than 100 years, scientists attempted to engage the immune system in the fight against cancer. Until the seminal discoveries by the two laureates, progress into clinical development was modest,” the Nobel jury said.

Allison, a professor at the University of Texas, and Honjo, a professor at Kyoto University, were in 2014 awarded the Tang Prize, touted as Asia’s version of the Nobels, for their research.

New therapies ‘desperately needed’

Other cancer treatments have previously been awarded Nobel prizes, including methods for hormone treatment for prostate cancer in 1996, chemotherapy in 1988 and bone marrow transplantation for leukaemia in 1990.

“However, advanced cancer remains immensely difficult to treat, and novel therapeutic strategies are desperately needed,” the Nobel Assembly said.

The duo will share the Nobel prize sum of nine million Swedish kronor (about $1.01 million or 870,000 euros).

They will receive their prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on 10 December, the anniversary of the 1896 death of Alfred Nobel.

Who created the prizes in his last will and testament. — AFP

London (United Kingdom) — The Nobel Assembly announced on Monday the winners of the 2018 Nobel Prizes.

The Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine said the prize would be awarded to James P. Allison and Tasuku Honjo “for their cancer immunotherapy strategies.”

The committee added that the two scientists had “revolutionised the treatment of cancer.”

“While Prime Minister Theresa May’s government is split between those who want May to ditch her plan for a clean break with the EU, and those who want May to stand firm on the Brexit negotiations, the public is clearly finding May’s plan unpalatable,” the committee said.

Many eurosceptic Tories have joined the EU in rejecting May’s Brexit plan.

BIRMINGHAM (United Kingdom) — While Prime Minister Theresa May is doggedly defending her Brexit plan, delegates at her party’s annual conference have joined the EU in writing it off — and suggest her own time in office is numbered.

Conservative party members queued for two hours on Sunday to see leading Brexiteer Jacob Rees-Mogg denounce May’s “Chequers plan” for close economic ties with the EU, one of a half-dozen events he is addressing in Birmingham.

Across town, several Tory Eurosceptic MPs joined former UK Independence Party (UKIP) leader Nigel Farage in demanding a clean break with the EU, at a rally attended by around 500 people waving British flags.

Similar crowds are expected at a conference event on Tuesday with former minister Boris Johnson, a rival for May’s job who has condemned her plan as “deranged.”

“The prime minister is completely out of touch with the majority of party members,” Michael Wilkins, 53, told AFP at the rally, seated near a giant poster saying “Save Brexit.”

Many eurosceptic Tories want May to ditch her plan for Britain to follow EU rules for goods, and instead secure a looser free trade agreement for after Brexit in March next year.

May insists her way is the only one that protects manufacturing supply lines and keeps open the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

After EU leaders in Salzburg last month rejected the plan, she demanded they show her “respect” in a defiant statement that went down well with party members.

“Brexit is the sort of vigour we have been wanting to see from her,” said Alexandra Phillips, a conservative MP who now chairs the Greens in the House of Commons.

Pro-independence protesters in Catalonia block roads, railway line: TV

BARCELONA (Spain) — Pro-independence protesters obstructed major roads and a high-speed railway line in Spain’s Catalonia region on Monday, one year after a banned referendum on secession that was marred by police violence.

Hundreds of activists occupied the high-speed railway tracks in Girona, north of Barcelona, where the central streets in Barcelona and Lleida were blocked, as was the AP-7 motorway which leads to the French border.

Images on Catalan TV showed.

Three killed in rare US car blast

WASHINGTON (United States) — Autopsies are expected on Monday on the bodies of three men killed in a US car blast, a rare event which tight-lipped police called a criminal case.

The explosion in Allentown, Pennsylvania late Saturday, killed at least two men and injured a third, police said.

“Brexit burst into flames while it was still going,” Anthony Sealy, a witness, told WAGL TV. Coroner Scott Grim confirmed three men had been killed, but police said the victims were still being identified.

A German court said Monday it gave the green light for an Iranian diplomat linked to an alleged bomb plot against an Iranian opposition rally to be handed over to Belgium. The superior regional court in Bambang said in a statement that it had on 27 September approved the extradition of the Iranian diplomat based in Vienna who has been named as Assadollah Assadi.

“His wanted man cannot cite diplomatic immunity because he was on a several day holiday trip outside his host state Austria and not travelling between his host country and the state that dispatched him,” the court said. — AFP
North and South Korea start land mine removal in DMZ

SEOUL — North and South Korea began work on Monday to remove land mines buried in the demilitarized zone dividing the two countries, the South’s Defence Ministry said.

The mine removal work, which started at the Joint Security Area at the Panmunjeom border village, is part of an agreement between the two Koreas reached last month to reduce military tension on the border. It is expected to last until 30 October at the JSA and until 30 November at a former major battleground where they plan to conduct a joint excavation of remains from the 1950-53 Korean War.

At a summit in Pyongyang last month between South Korean President Moon Jae In and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the two Koreas signed a military agreement pledging to cease all hostile acts against each other.

The ministry sees the land mine removal work as the first step toward preventing armed conflicts between the Koreas, a goal stipulated in the side agreement.

The DMZ is a 4-kilometre wide, 250-km long stretch of land. The JSA is patrolled by South Korean and US troops, on one side, and North Korean soldiers, on the other.

—Kyodo News

Death toll from Indonesia’s quakes, tsunami soars to over 1,200

JAKARTA — Death toll of earthquakes and tsunami in Central Sulawesi province of central Indonesia has climbed to 1,203 on Monday.

Reports released by Disaster Management Institute of Indonesia, Care for Humanity and Humanity Data Center revealed that the data was counted in the provincial capital of Palu and Donggala district, not including figures from two other affected districts of Parigi Moutong and North Mamuju.

The data was obtained from four hospitals and three villages, one sub-district and one police station, as well as one mosque in Palu city and Donggala district.

Powerful and shallow under-earth quakes of measuring 6.0, 7.4 and 6.1 magnitude and a tsunami devastated the province on Friday, with the hardest-hit area being provincial capital Palu and Donggala district.

A total of 215 aftershocks have stricken the province so far. The tsunami with the height of 0.5 to 3 metres devastated coastal areas near Talise beach in Palu city and Donggala district, the meteorology and geophysics agency revealed.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes as it sits on a vulnerable quake-affected area called the Pacific Ring of Fire.—Xinhua

India believes in peace but not at cost of self respect

NEW DELHI — India staunchly believes in peace and is committed to taking it forward, but it would not be at the cost of compromising its self-respect and sovereignty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday as he asserted that the armed forces will give a befitting reply to any attempt to destroy the atmosphere of peace in the country.

Recalling the 2016 surgical strikes, he said Indian troops gave a befitting reply to the “audacity of a proxy war” under the “garb of terrorism.”

In his monthly ‘Mann ki Baat’ radio address, Modi said, “It has now been decided that our soldiers will give a befitting reply to whoever makes an attempt to destroy the atmosphere of peace and progress in our nation.”

He said India staunchly believe in peace and is committed to taking it forward, “but not at the cost of compromising our self-respect and sovereignty of our nation. India has always been resolutely committed to peace.”

India has never eyed someone else’s territory maliciously. “This in itself was our commitment and dedication towards peace,” the PM said.

His remarks came days after India called off the planned meeting of foreign ministers in New York, citing the brutal killings of three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Ministry of External Affairs had said talks in the current circumstances would be futile and also cited stamps issued by Pakistan in July to “glorify” Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani as a reason for the cancellation.

Modi pointed out that India is one of the largest contributors to various United NationsPeace Keeping Forces in terms of sending its personnel.

“For decades, our brave soldiers wearing blue helmets have played a stellar role in ensuring maintenance of world peace,” he said to drive home his point. He said yesterday Indians celebrated ‘Pakradram Parva’ to mark the second anniversary of the surgical strikes. “We remembered that surgical strike carried out in 2016, where our soldiers gave a befitting reply to the audacity of a proxy war under the garb of terrorism,” he said. He said such celebrations remind the youth of the glorious heritage of the army. “It also inspires us to maintain the unity & integrity of the country,” he said.

Days before Air Force Day is celebrated on 8 October to mark its birth in 1932, Modi said “air warriors” have proved themselves to be the cynosure of every citizen’s eye through display of sheer might in the skies.

He also recalled the contribution of the IAF in transporting men and material to Srinagar in 1947 when Pakistani attackers had tried to capture Jamnu and Kashmir.

He said IAF paid a key role in 1965, 1971 and the Kargil war. He said it be the relief and rescue work or disaster management, the country is indebted to the IAF for its commendable efforts.

He pointed out that the Air Force has set an example in ensuring gender equality and has opened its doors for women.—PTI
UN report on ‘mission impossible’ climate target

PARIS (France) — An executive summary of the UN special report on limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will be vetted in South Korea this week, line-by-line, by diplomats under the 195-nation Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

A draft version of this “Summary for Policymakers” obtained by AFP underscores how quickly global warming has stripped humanity’s attempts to tame it, and outlines stark options — all of them requiring a makeover of the global economy — for avoiding the worst ravages of climate change.

Here are key findings, grounded in some 6,000 peer-reviewed scientific studies:

**Topline finding**

The report lays out what it will take to prevent Earth’s average surface temperature from rising beyond 1.5°C above preindustrial levels.

Given an increase to date of a full degree Celsius, and our current trajectory toward an unlivable plus 3°C or 4°C world, the already narrow pathway to a 1.5°C cap has become a tightrope.

At current levels of greenhouse gas emissions, the IPCC report finds with “high confidence”, we will zoom past the 1.5°C marker around 2040.

To have at least a 50/50 chance of a 1.5°C world, the global economy must, by 2050, become “carbon neutral,” with no additional CO₂ going into the atmosphere.

Carbon dioxide emissions, meanwhile, should peak not later than 2020, and curve sharply downward thereafter.

To date, we are still moving the wrong way: after remaining stable for three years — raising hopes the peak had come — emissions rose in 2017 toward historic levels.

The 22-page Summary also details humanity’s “carbon budget”, the amount of carbon dioxide — the main greenhouse gas — we can emit into the atmosphere and still stay under the 1.5°C threshold.

The allowance, for a two-thirds chance, is 350 billion tonnes, an amount we will emit on current trends within 14 years.

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Electricity and Energy** **Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)** **(19/2018)**

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

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<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<td>DMP/L-121(18-19)</td>
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<td>(g)</td>
<td>DMP/L-122(18-19)</td>
<td>Spares of Drill String, Reaming String and Break Out Unit of HDD Rig (16) Items</td>
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<td>Electrical Spares for ZJ 50 DSR Rigs (16) Items</td>
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2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moee.gov.mm) as from 1 October 2018. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed by Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tenders Box of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 14:00 pm on 29 October 2018.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time- 29-10-2018, 14:00 pm Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise Ph. +95 67 - 411206

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TOKYO — A powerful typhoon swept through Japan’s largest main island on Sunday through early Monday, leaving at least two people dead and over 150 others injured, while widely disrupting morning-hour commuter traffic in Tokyo.

Typhoon Trami passed over northeastern Japan to reach the Pacific on Monday, leaving at least 800,000 households in central Japan and 57,000 households in northeastern Japan and Niigata Prefecture were left without power as well.

As of 10 am on Monday, the typhoon was traveling northeast around 138 km east of Cape Erimo in Hokkaido at a speed of some 95 km with an atmospheric pressure of 970 hectopascals at its centre and packing winds of up to 180 kph, according to the agency.

Japan has been hit by a series of typhoons this year, including Typhoon Prapiroon, which brought downpours and caused floods and mudslides in western Japan.

On 4 September, Typhoon Jebi flooded a terminal and a runway at Kansai airport, built on an artificial island, and caused a tanker to smash into and damage a bridge connecting the airport with the mainland, stranding thousands of people at the airport at one point.

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Two dead, over 150 injured as powerful typhoon wreaks havoc in Japan

Work is underway to clear a tree knocked down by Typhoon Trami from a street in Tokyo on 1 October, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

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‘Night School’ passes the test in North American theaters

HOLLYWOOD (United States) — For once it was a comedy, not a superhero or horror flick, that topped North American box offices this weekend as Universal’s raucous new release “Night School” pulled in an estimated $28 million, industry tracker Exhibitor Relations reported on Sunday. Kevin Hart stars as one of a group of misfits attending night school to earn their high school diplomas, under the firm tutelage of Tiffany Haddish. The film nearly paid off its $29 million production costs over the three-day weekend, Variety reported.

In second was another new release, family animation “Smallfoot” from Warner Bros, which netted $23 million. The comic tale about a group of Yeti who run into a human — to the amazement and consternation of both sides — features the voices of Channing Tatum, LeBron James, James Corden, Zendaya and Danny DeVito. Last weekend’s top attraction, Universal’s family film “The House With a Clock in Its Walls,” slipped to third spot, pulling in $12.5 million. Jack Black and Cate Blanchett star alongside young Owen Vaccaro as Lewis Barnavelt, an orphan sent to live with his warlock uncle.

In fourth was “A Simple Favor,” Lionsgate’s drama about a mommy blogger (Anna Kendrick) who investigates the mysterious disappearance of her friend (Blake Lively). It earned $6.6 million. And fifth place went to horror film “The Nun” from Warner Bros, the latest fright fest in the popular “Conjuring” series. The story of a young nun, an exorcist and a guide stumbling onto a dark secret in Dracula country netted $5.4 million.

Overall, the month brought smiles to Hollywood, ending as the second best September ever, trailing only last year’s record grosses, according to the Box OfficeMojo website.

Rounding out this weekend’s top 10 were:

- “Hell Fest” ($8.1 million)
- “Crazy Rich Asians” ($42 million)
- “The Predator” ($3.7 million)
- “White Boy Rick” ($2.4 million)
- “Peppermint” ($1.8 million)

-Gal Gadot in talks for ‘Death on the Nile’

LOS ANGELES — “Wonder Woman” star Gal Gadot is in negotiations to star in the “Death on the Nile”, Twentieth Century Fox’s follow-up to “Murder on the Orient Express”.

If the talks are finalised, the 33-year-old actor will portray socialite Linnet Doyle, recently married to the former fiance of a past friend, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Kenneth Branagh is expected to come back as the director and reprise his role of the mustachioed Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, though a deal is yet to be signed. Based on celebrated author Agatha Christies novel of the same name, the follow-up will chronicle Poirots vacation in Egypt where he discovers a murder on the banks the Nile as a love triangle goes bad.

The book has been previously adapted into a 1978 film, with Peter Ustinov as Poirot along with Bette Davis, Mia Farrow, Maggie Smith, among others. —PTI

Abstract Zao Wou-Ki painting fetches $65m: Sotheby’s

HONG KONG — A ten-metre-long triptych by Zao Wou-Ki — one of the 20th century’s most prominent Chinese painters — fetched $65 million (HK$510 million) at auction on Sunday, Sotheby’s Hong Kong said.

Entitled “Juin-Octobre 1985”, the abstract artwork was commissioned personally by the world-renowned Chinese-American architect IM Pei.

Zao and Pei were both born to affluent bankers during the Chinese Republican era. They first met in Paris in 1952 and began a long-running friendship, according to the auction house.

The triptych — Zao’s largest work — set a world auction record for the late Chinese-French artist, surpassing the $26 million paid at Christie’s last year for the painting “29-01-64”.

The painting represents a period of Zao’s career which marks “a perfect example of how he merged Eastern and Western techniques and philosophy into the painting,” said Vinci Chang, head of modern Asian art at Sotheby’s.

Born in China in 1920, Zao moved to Paris in 1948. He was influenced by Western modernism and moved towards abstraction before also returning to Chinese brush-and-ink techniques by the early 1970s, according to Christie’s. He died in 2013.

Hong Kong auction houses have seen frenzied bidding among Asian buyers in recent years, with sales of diamonds, paintings and ancient ceramics shattering world records.

A nearly 1,000-year-old ink-on-paper handscroll entitled “Wood and Rock”, by one of China’s greatest literary masters Su Shi, is expected to fetch $51 million at Christie’s Hong Kong in November. —AFP

Kanye West is now Ye, but unchanged on backing Trump

NEW YORK (United States) — Kanye West has decided that he now wants to be called Ye. But on political matters, nothing has changed for the pro-Donald Trump rapper.

“The being formally (sic) known as Kanye West. I am Ye,” he wrote on Twitter.

Ye has long been a nickname for West, along with Yeezy, and he chose “Ye” as the title of his last album.

He has previously said that he found a spiritual significance to “Ye” — the plural or formal version of the second-person pronoun in Middle English — as he so frequently read it in the Bible.

West — or, rather, Ye — announced the name change shortly before he appeared on “Saturday Night Live,” the widely watched television skit show.

He performed with fellow rapper Lil Pump dressed as water bottles, drawing an overwhelmingly negative reaction on social media where a number of professes fans questioned his creative direction.

West closed the show by singing a track off “Ye” while wearing one of President Donald Trump’s signature red “Make America Great Again” caps. —AFP

Now known as Ye, the artist Kanye West, shown performing at the 2014 Bonnario Music & Arts Festival in Manchester, Tennessee, is one of the few celebrities — and one of the only prominent African Americans — to support President Donald Trump. —PHOTO: AFP
Fewer biofuels, more green space may benefit environment: study

CHICAGO — Growing and harvesting bioenergy crops, say corn for ethanol or trees to fuel power plants, is a poor use of land, which is a precious resource in the fight against climate change, said University of Michigan (UM) Energy Institute professor John DeCicco.

DeCicco’s new opinion was an expansion of his earlier findings that biofuels are not inherently carbon-neutral, as they are widely purported to be. The assumption that bioenergy simply recycles carbon is a major accounting error; DeCicco and William Schlesinger, president emeritus of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, held.

The core of the assumption is the idea that producing a biofuel and then burning it for energy moves a given amount of carbon from the biosphere to the atmosphere, and back again in an unending and stable cycle. That’s in contrast to the current one-way flow of fossil-fuel carbon from the Earth to the atmosphere.

But DeCicco said he saw a problem here: For bioenergy to be actually carbon neutral, harvesting the biomass to produce it would have to greatly speed up the net flow of carbon from the atmosphere back into vegetation. Otherwise, many decades can pass before the “carbon debt” of excess carbon dioxide in the air is repaid by future plant growth.

“All currently commercial forms of bioenergy require land and risk carbon debts that last decades into the future. Given the urgency of the climate problem, it is puzzling why some parties find these excess near-term CO2 emissions acceptable,” the researchers noted.

In 2016, DeCicco published a study finding that just 37 percent, rather than 100 percent, of the carbon dioxide released from burning biofuels was balanced out by increased carbon uptake in crops over the first eight years of the U.S. biofuel mandate.

To reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere requires increasing the rate at which trees and other plants remove it from the air, DeCicco and Schlesinger pointed out.

“By avoiding deforestation and reforesting harvested areas, up to one-third of current carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels could be sequestered in the biosphere,” the researchers wrote. “Terrestrial carbon management can keep carbon out of the atmosphere for many decades.”

The new opinion was published in the latest edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

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Russia may build first manned base on Moon’s surface in 2030 — scientist

MOSCOW — Russia may build the first manned base on the surface of the Moon in 2030, the chief of the nuclear planetology department at the Russian Academy of Sciences’ Space Research Institute, Igor Mitrofanov, told TASS on Friday.

On Monday, Roscosmos corporation said Russia had plans for building its own base for space crews on the surface of the Moon. The possibility of cooperation with NASA or BRICS countries is being considered, the corporation said.

“I believe that Russia’s first inhabitable module on the surface of the Moon will emerge around 2030 or a little later. It will be the first forepost. Not a full-scale base yet, but a kind of guest house for visiting expeditions,” Mitrofanov said. He believes that Russia is capable of carrying out such a program on its own both technologically and financially.

The first module of such a base will be equivalent in size to the module of the International Space Station. It will be planted firmly on the Moon’s surface and covered with a one-meter thick layer of lunar soil, which would protect it even from the effects of strong solar flares.

Mitrofanov said Russian cosmonauts would be able to move to the module from landing capsules, which are relatively small in size. The module would be equipped with a life support system using lunar resources, including water ice, which might be used to make fresh water and oxygen and, in the longer term, hydrogen that might serve as propellant in space rockets. — Tass

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Nikon targets younger, net-savvy Thais to sell high-end cameras

BANGKOK — Japanese camera maker Nikon Corp. has shifted its Asian sales target to a photo-uploading younger generation from professionals, offering handier models and opening its first showroom in Thailand. “The new full-frame mirrorless Z series is designed in response to demand from many customers for a camera that has the great quality of DSLR (digital single-lens reflex) cameras but is lighter and easy to carry around,” Toru Matsubara, president and managing director of Nikon Sales (Thailand) Co., told a recent news briefing.

Last month, Nikon launched its first full-frame mirrorless cameras. Its Sendai factory in northeastern Japan is producing the Z series at full capacity to meet strong demand. The company is targeting young trendsetters, women with high purchasing power and avid users of social media who regularly upload images.

Matsubara said the Thai market is solid, with constant demand for full-frame mirrorless and DSLR models.

Nikon, ranked fourth in Thailand in terms of camera market share, is trying to refresh its corporate image. “According to our survey, people perceived Nikon as a brand for a very skilled 40-year-old man who is difficult to communicate with,” Veera Chalieopi-Moon, chief executive of Lens Media Co., told reporters. — Kyodo News

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Hungarian scientific paper warns of extreme heatwaves’ effects on human health

BUDAPEST — A Hungarian scientific paper published on Sunday warns people of the extreme heatwaves’ effects on human health.

According to the paper, entitled “The effects of climate change on our health and health system,” the research by experts of Hungarian National Public Health Institute reveals “significant associations between daily mean temperature and mortality.” A three-level heat health warning system based on the daily mortality and meteorological data of Budapest was introduced in 2005.

“In 2007, the strongest heat wave ever hit Hungary was recorded,” the paper recalls. “Based on real time mortality data an excess mortality of 36 percent was recorded in the Central Hungarian Region.”

The study notes that in the summer periods of 2003-2012, besides 2007, there were two more extreme hot summers: 2003 and 2012. The excess mortality was greater during the heat waves in June-July than in August. The association of emergency ambulance calls and daily mean temperatures was also studied using the data of Budapest. The increase of temperature significantly increased the calls due to cardiovascular diseases, while the greatest impact was revealed in the calls due to malaise, according to the paper.

The paper calls for more effective preventive measures to be in place to decrease vulnerability and enhance adaptive capacity to adverse health impacts of climate change.— Xinhua
YANGON United took hold of the championship shield, winning 2-1 with a narrow margin over Hanthawady United, in the final showdown of the General Aung San Shield Knock-out Football Tournament at Yangon Aung San Stadium on 30 September.

The shield presentation ceremony came after the see-saw battle between Yangon United and Hanthawady United, attended by Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Adjutant General Lt-Gen Hsan Oo who presented the shield to the winning team of Yangon United.

First, the players of the two finalists and those who presenting the medals took positions outside the pitch and the prize presentation ceremony took place. Then, U Tin Maung Tun, Speaker of Yangon Region Parliament, gave away special prizes to the runners-up from the more open football played at Barca and Arsenal. "When you play a long time with another team and you play different football in that other team you have some kind of adaptation that you have to have," said the Frenchman. — AFP

Discarded Sanchez a window into Manchester United wasted millions

LONDON — Manchester United believed they were closing the gap on "noisy neighbours" Manchester City when they beat the Premier League champions to the signature of Alexis Sanchez just nine months ago. But as the Red Devils slumped to a third defeat just seven games into the new league season at West Ham on Saturday to already fall nine points adrift of City, Sanchez was nowhere to be seen.

That the Chilean was deemed not good enough to make Jose Mourinho’s 18-man squad for such a shambolic display at the London Stadium speaks volumes for Sanchez’s slide since joining United in January.

Prolific in four years at Arsenal and three seasons with Barcelona before then, Sanchez has scored just three times in 23 appearances under Mourinho — none of which have come this season.

Mourinho’s power battle with £89 million (€116 million) midfielder Paul Pogba has drawn the spotlight from Sanchez. But Mourinho’s patience with the other marquee signing of his time in charge at Old Trafford ran out this week.

Sanchez was hauled off during a 1-1 draw with Wolves last weekend. He was then reportedly admonished by Mourinho in front of his teammates for his poor form and was the only outfield player who travelled to London for the West Ham debacle left out of the matchday squad.

“Look for how many months people are asking for (Anthony) Martial, Martial, Martial and saying how Alexis isn’t playing well enough," said Mourinho justifying his decision. “This week it was time to agree and leave Alexis out.”

Sanchez wouldn't be the first creative player Mourinho has failed to get the best out of. United’s fiercest rivals City and Liverpool have benefited from Mohamed Salah and Kevin De Bruyne being discarded by the Portuguese during his time at Chelsea. When imposing Mourinho to attack more after being held by Wolves, Pogba defended Sanchez’s struggles to adapt the more open football played at Barca and Arsenal. “When you play a long time with another team and you play different football in that other team you have some kind of adaptation that you have to have," said the Frenchman. — AFP

Homecoming offers Man City’s Sane chance to show Germany what they missed

LONDON — Manchester City travel to Hoffenheim on Tuesday desperately needing a win to kickstart a Champions League campaign that began with a shock 2-1 defeat to Lyon for the competition favourites.

There should therefore be no shortage of motivation for Pep Guardiola’s men, but one member of the City squad will be especially keen to make a big impression back on German soil.

Leroy Sane was one of the stars of City’s romp to a record 100 Premier League points and now it has become the first-ever championship in General Aung San Shield Knock-out Football Tournament. Present among the audience were Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and ministers, Yangon Region Parliament Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Chief of Bureau of Special Operations Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein, Adjutant General Lt-Gen Hsan Oo, deputy commander of Yangon Command and military officers, President of MFF U Zaw Zaw, Vice-President of MFF and Vice-President of MNL Dr Sai Sam Tun, Yangon United owner U Pyae Phyo Tun, Hanthawady United owner U Aung Moe Kyaw, Shan United owner U Khun Naung Myint Wai, Ayeawady United owner U Min Hlaing, officials of MFF, sponsorships companies, and MNL, Myanmar national men’s football team, invited guests and football enthusiasts from Yangon and Bago regions. — Htet Htet (Twante)