Peace Process

With the peace process at the centre, national reconciliation can be also achieved, and this, shall lead to a democratic transition and the establishment of the Union.

The main goal of the current peace process is to reach political agreements, to sign the Union Accord, and to implement steps for establishing a Union based on democracy and federalism.

In doing so, common approaches will be agreed through the process of holding political dialogue. The role of the military in the peace process is also very crucial. We need to overcome many challenges harmoniously during the peace process.

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

Ministry torches ivory, seized illegal wildlife parts

AN ESTIMATED US$1.3 million worth of confiscated ivory and other parts of endangered wildlife were incinerated in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the first ever public event of this kind against the illicit trade, authorities set fire to pyres stacked with 277 ivory, 227 bones of elephant and other wildlife, 45 pieces of different wildlife skins, 1,544 different horns, 45.5 kilogram of pangolin scales, and 128 varieties of other wildlife parts, with a total weight of approximately 849.26 kilogram.

“Poaching and the illegal trade of wild animals in Myanmar have been increasing year by year,” said Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win.

He also noted that Myanmar is losing its iconic national treasures — elephants, tigers, bears, pangolins and birds, in the name of profit and greed.

The objective of the country’s first ever public event is to send the message that trade in illegal wildlife parts, including illegal bush meat, is not acceptable.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation stated that the confiscated items of wildlife were destroyed to raise public awareness for law enforcement on illegal trade of wild fauna and flora, for legal actions taken against illegal wildlife trading and poaching and for promoting international cooperation with Myanmar in fighting the illegal trade in wildlife.

Globally, the illegal wildlife trade is estimated to be worth over US$40 billion a year, run by crime syndicates involved in other organized crimes, including drugs, human and arms trafficking.

SEE PAGE-3
School textbook quality requisites discussed

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended and addressed an event held at the Ministry of Information yesterday morning, where the quality of the school textbooks was discussed.

At the event, the Union Minister said the Ministry of Information is working together with the Ministry of Education to print and distribute school textbooks for academic year 2019-2020. The textbooks will be jointly printed by Ministry of Information’s Printing and Publishing Department (PPD), private businesses and companies, and the two ministries were working together, starting from tender works to purchase and import raw materials. JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and CREATE (Curriculum Reform at Primary Level of Basic Education) are much appreciated for coming to explain about the quality required in school textbooks said the Union Minister.

Next JICA CREATE Project Coordinator Ms. Hikari Miyahara explained about JICA work process and CREATE project matters. This was followed by CREATE Project printing technician Mr. Fumitaka Sato explaining in detail about the printing quality and sturdiness in publishing school textbooks, findings from surveying schools, paper and ink quality and quality control.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said the quality of printing press is important in school textbook quality and this need to be discussed and officials from CREATE discussed and explained about this matter. Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun then explained about calling tenders to purchase and import raw materials and discussed on explaining and sharing printing technology with printers participating in the printing works.

Following this, Myanmar Printers & Publishers Association members, PPD Director General U Aung Myo Myint and Ministry of Education Director General U Ko Lay Win discussed on general matters and Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivered a closing speech. CREATE project is jointly implemented by Ministry of Education and JICA, starting from May 2014 and the project duration is up to 2023 March, it is learnt.—MNA

Union Minister meets UN High Commissioner for Refugees

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, who is also Vice-Chairman of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD), is in Geneva, Switzerland, to attend the 69th session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Programme. The Union Minister met with Mr. Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, at the UN office at 9.30pm local standard time yesterday. During the meeting, the Union Minister explained about the assistance given to the displaced people in sheltered camps in Kachin and Shan states, assistance provided to the IDP camps in Rakhine State, and the drafting of a master strategic plan to close down the various displaced people camps, set up for people fleeing from armed conflicts or battles all across Myanmar, that are no longer needed.

The Union Minister said Myanmar is endeavoring for rule of law, development, peace and reconciliation, and establishing a federal democratic union. Although we are facing negative consequences of the long-term internal conflicts, we are working with an authentic outlook for peace, development and reconciliation, he said.

He highlighted the implementation of the recommendations from Advisory Commission of Rakhine State to work with the existing laws and bylaws in repatriating the displaced people who fled from Rakhine State.

The Union Minister also discussed Myanmar’s readiness to follow the agreements signed with the neighboring country, and how assistance is necessary from the associated countries and international organizations for long-term rehabilitation.

He said it is important for assistance for the displaced people to be distributed proportionately to the country that has accepted them and of the country of origin, in line with international agreements. He said the discussions for repatriation conducted between Bangladesh and Myanmar is vital importance and that all corresponding matters need to be honest and transparent.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, in turn, said they understand that the nature of reunification is diverse and carries multiple challenges. He said they will continue providing support concerning Myanmar and acknowledged Myanmar’s step-by-step adherence to the repatriation process in Rakhine State, as well as its support and collaborations.

He said the UNHCR understands the importance of inclusive development and that the ‘Solidarity Approach for the people of Rakhine State’ has been compiled to strengthen the support form donor countries and international organizations for the displaced people between Myanmar and Bangladesh. It will be implemented after discussions with Myanmar and other relevant entities, he said. He urged representatives from Myanmar to attend a meeting on 22 October for the aforementioned approach, which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand.—MNA

Myanmar Gazette

Permanent Secretary appointed

THE Union Government has appointed Director-General U Kyaw Min Oo from the Union Minister’s Office, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, to assume the duties of Permanent Secretary.

Independent Commission of Enquiry chairperson, member arrive

CHAIRPERSON of the Independent Commission of Enquiry, former Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines, former Chair and current Representative of the Philippines to CEDAW, Ambassador Rosario Manalo and member of the commission, former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, former Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Ambassador Kenzo Oshima arrived in Myanmar by air for the third time yesterday afternoon.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department, Daw Kay Thi Soe, Deputy director-general of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Zaw Tun Oo and responsible officials. —MNA

Independent Commission of Enquiry chairperson Ambassador Rosario Manalo and member Kenzo Oshima welcomed by officials at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA
A CEREMONY to commemorate the National Day and Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Korea (ROK) was held at Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. Union Election Commission Chairperson U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida attended the ceremony.

The ceremony commenced with the playing of the national anthems of Myanmar and South Korea.

Afterwards, ROK Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang-hwa and Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun delivered messages of greetings and honors.

Next, Union Minister U Thaung Tun, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein from the Commander-in-Chief (Army) office, Ambassador Lee Sang-hwa and Colonel Hwang Sandeok cut a cake commemorating the National and Armed Forces Day of ROK.

The attendees then watched cultural dances performed by Myanmar and Korean artists.

Afterwards, ROK Ambassador and wife hosted dinner for the attendees. Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, U Ohn Win, Dr. Than Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, U Han Zaw, Nai Thet Lwin, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw and their wives, Deputy Ministers, high ranking Tatmadaw officers, departmental officials, foreign Ambassadors to Myanmar and diplomats, representatives from United Nations and other invited guests also attended the ceremony.—MNA
Disciplinary committee formed to regulate vehicles, drivers

By Nyein Nyein

A Disciplinary Maintaining Committee will be formed to regulate not only trucks but all vehicles and drivers, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport, in response to a question raised by U Wai Phyo Han of Insein Township constituency 2 at the 16th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of Second Yangon Region Hluttaw, held on 4 October.

U Wai Phyo Han asked whether the earlier announcement of designating an operation time for trucks, trailers and containers is still in place; and if so, why no action is being taken for operating outside the designated hours, and to state the reason why if the announcement is revoked and operation time is no longer designated.

Yangon Region minister said arrangements are made to form a Disciplinary Maintaining Committee township wise not only to regulate trucks and drivers but all vehicles and drivers. To reduce traffic congestion in Yangon Region, containers and cargo trucks were permitted on the roads from 9 pm to 6 am starting from 7 December 2016. To increase the flow of export/import cargoes, containers and cargo trucks were permitted on certain roads between 1 pm and 3 pm starting from 15 March 2017.

Since there were difficulties in flow of traded goods, a convoy system of container and cargo trucks were used at designated times on designated routes, as per the report submitted by Myanmar Container Carriers Association. This was conducted in coordination among officials of the association and traffic police while actions were taken against any container and cargo trucks operating outside of the designated times and routes.

Restricting the operating hours of containers and cargo trucks to night time only creates a lot of problems for import/export, and thus a new schedule and a convoy system was implemented, said Daw Nilar Kyaw.

Adding further to his question, U Wai Phyo Han said a stricter enforcement is needed to ensure that the container and cargo trucks are operating properly at designated times and routes. He also added that careless driving and parking by containers and cargo trucks are also increasing the traffic congestion and dangerous conditions on the road.

Daw Nilar Kyaw said Myanmar Container Carriers Association is planning to construct a car park for containers and cargo trucks near Thilawa Port, in cooperation with Yangon Region government.

Strict regulations enforced for rooftop internet tower installations

By Nyein Nyein

ROFFTOP internet towers are installed only under the permission of Directorate of Telecommunications, said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

He was responding to a question raised by Mayangon Township Hluttaw representative U Yan Shin at the 13th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of Second Yangon Region Hluttaw on 3 October. The question asked which department permits the installation of telephone lines, internet lines and internet towers of MPT, Ooredoo, Telenor and Mytel, the average weights and which organisation inspects the buildings and the towers.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe said the Directorate of Telecommunications grants permission to construct the antenna tower. When installing internet towers to improve the telecommunications network, applications must first be submitted to the Directorate of Telecommunications. The directorate then coordinates with Yangon Region government for the relevant companies to install the internet towers.

Systematic assessment of notification letters sent to relevant districts and townships are coordinated by communications network extension co-ordination committee under the instruction of the regional government.

Only after assessments were made that there are no objections from the administrative viewpoint, will the Directorate of Telecommunications issue the work permit for internet tower installation.

Buildings on which the internet tower will be installed are also checked by the Myanmar Engineering Council certified engineer on whether it could withstand the weight of the tower. Application then had to be submitted to the Directorate of Telecommunications with supporting documents endorsed by the certified engineer. The Directorate of Telecommunications also checks whether the proposed internet tower meets the 15-point requirement for internet tower, published by the directorate, said the Yangon mayor.

Hluttw representative U Yan Shin also pointed out that even though the 15-point requirement said that the consent of all occupants of the top floor of the building is required for the tower to be installed, there had been complaints of this being done with one or two occupants’ consent only, and thus assessments need to be made.

The average weight of an internet tower on rooftops ranges from 352 kg to 945 kg, depending on the installed accessories, it is learnt.
DWIR, JICA sign grant agreement for Mandalay port development project

THE Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed an agreement to provide grant aid of up to 6.034 billion yen for Mandalay port development project.

Signing ceremony of Grant Agreement for Japan-funded Mandalay Port Development Project was held at DWIR office in Yangon yesterday. Officials from the DWIR and JICA Myanmar office were present at the signing event and officials concerned signed the grant agreement.

“We will implement this project in line with JICA’s guidelines and the procedures of the Environmental Conservation Department. This port plays a vital role in development of Mandalay Region. I would like to express appreciation towards the development donor JICA”, said U Tun Lwin Oo, director-general of the DWIR. Feasibility studies were carried out between August 2013 and February 2014 near Mandalay Gawain jetty and Shwehlanbo monastery. The port location was confirmed near Shwehlanbo monastery.

To implement this project, compensation for land owners in the project area will be paid out within two weeks.

The project includes facilities for equipment procurement pier, such as container yard, cargo handling equipment and recreation area.—Myint Maung Soe

Rice export to China through Muse gate drops last month

RICE and broken rice exports to China through the Muse border gate in September drastically plunged from August’s export volume, according to Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (Myantrade).

Last month saw exports of over 69,400 tons of rice and over 3,440 tons of broken rice. In August, over 87,640 tons of rice and over 3,510 tons of broken rice were exported to China through Muse gate.

Local rice price this year hit the highest record, compared to the past four years. Therefore, the export rice price also went up. Additionally, Chinese merchants are observing the market to purchase the rice at the right time. On 3 October, about 45 trucks loaded with over 850 tons of rice entered the Muse market. It fetched 2,420 Yuan per ton minimum and 2,740 Yuan maximum, according to news released by Myantrade.

Some 75 per cent of the trade between China and Myanmar is carried out through Muse which performed the largest trade among border checkpoints. It also witnessed the majority of the country’s rice exports.

The volumes of rice exports through the Muse gate were registered at over 1.2 million tons in the 2014-2015 FY, over 1.03 million tons in the 2015-2016 FY, over 627,400 tons in the 2016-2017 FY and over 1 million tons in the 2017-2018 FY. China has set import quotas on some agro products, including rice. Tax is exorbitantly high for merchants when the import volume exceeds the quota limit, resulting in illegal rice flow to China.

Therefore, China’s confiscation rice in the border areas often occurs.

Border trade surpassed sea trade in rice export, accounting for 56.7 per cent of the total export. Myanmar’s rice is shipped to 40 countries while broken rice is exported to 15 countries.—GNLM

Untaxed bottles of alcohol destroyed in Dawei

UNTAXED special goods, locally produced bottles of alcohol were seized in Dawei and Myeik townships in Taninthayi Region and destroyed at regional Internal Revenue Department at 8 am yesterday. The event U Phyo Win Tun, regional minister for planning and finance, delivered opening remarks. Various alcohol products are included on special goods list. Those liquor bottles are locally produced, but the tax duty labels on them are fraud. A total of 792 bottles were found affixed with fake excise stamp. When calculating the payable tax under the Special Goods Tax Law, owners of special goods should pay according to the sales price. Sellers should affix tax seal issued by the Internal Revenue Department.

At the event, U Kyaw Ye Tun, director of regional Internal Revenue Department, explained how to differentiate between the real and fraud stamp.—U Kyaw Kyaw Lat (IPRD)
28,500 Yaba tablets seized in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State

SECURITY forces arrested two Bangladesh nationals and a local from Maungtaw Township on a boat in Naf River, Rakhine State, with Ks 57 million worth of 28,500 Yaba tablets yesterday morning.

Security forces were patrolling along the Naf River in two motorboats when they found a boat being rowed towards Bangladesh.

The boat was stopped and searched and Ali Sulihaman, 20, from Maungtaw Township, Abdul Seidi, 27, and Luban, 18, from a village south of Teknaf, Bangladesh, were found with the Yaba tablets.

Upon investigation, the Yaba tablets were found to be owned by Eliyet in Maungtaw and were being sent to Norbi Husson in Musoni camp, Bangladesh. Ali Sulihaman was paid Ks 200,000, while Abdul Seidi and Luban each received 20,000 for transporting the Yaba tablets.

Ali Sulihaman first carried the tablets from Thayet Oat village to the mouth of Ywet Nyo Taung creek where he met up with the two Bangladesh nationals on a boat.

They were caught while transporting the Yaba tablets by boat. The police are continuing the investigation to apprehend other suspects related to the case.—MNA

12 injured in train derailment in Pyawbwe

TWELVE passengers have been injured after a train carrying 84 people derailed near Pyawbwe, Mandalay Region, yesterday.

The Utrain-3 came off the tracks yesterday morning near Yengan Village after leaving Lebu station in Natmauk Township for Pyawbwe, according to a local police source. Police, rescue teams and railway officials reached the spot after the accident, which occurred at 9.55 am, and transported the injured to Pyawbwe Township People’s Hospital and remaining passengers to Pyawbwe Station.—GNLM

Warning issued to workers possessing fake documents

THE Department of Labour only sends Myanmar workers to work in Thailand through licensed overseas employment agencies, operating in line with the MoU system.

Employers in Thailand submit their call for employment vacancies to their respective local labour office, which relays it to the Thailand Employment Department. Once the department gives approval, the list is sent to employment agencies in Thailand who send it over to their counterpart agencies in Myanmar. From there, the lists are taken by the labour agent to be submitted at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

At this part of the process, the Committee for the Development of Education, Health and Human Resources scrutinizes the list and once approval is received, the employer from Thailand, or a representative agent, travels to Myanmar to sign an employer-employee contract, make an overseas worker identification card provided that an entry-visa is obtained from Thailand, and then accompanying together with the representative of the labour exchange office in Myanmar to send the workers to their place of employment.

There is a large proportion of Myanmar workers contacting labour brokers and then migrate into Thailand to work illegally. This resulted in recurring arrests of Myanmar migrant workers in possession of fake documents.

All Myanmar workers need to be aware that a passport alone is not sufficient to work in Thailand. A visa is required to stay in Thailand and a letter of employment is required to legally work in the country.

There have also been instances where a Myanmar worker possessing all three required documents decides to change jobs but has not sought or received a letter of employment from the new employer, which has resulted in arrests.

Possession of fake documents is punishable by Thailand’s existing Law 269/13, which can sentence an imprison-ment term from 1 to 10 years and a fine from Baht 10,000 to Baht 200,000.

Myanmar workers seeking employment in Thailand are notified to follow the bilateral MoU agreement between Myanmar and Thailand and enter the country legally.—Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population
YCDC new compensation policy covers wage labourers

By Nyein Nyein

RESPONDING to a question raised by U Hla Thein of Tamway township constituency 1 at the 14th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of Second Yangon Region Hluttaw, held on 2 October, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe said Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has drawn up a new policy that provides compensation to worksite fatalities and injuries for wage labourers. U Hla Thein was asking if there were plans to pay compensation to wage workers for occupational hazards.

YCDC wage workers were not compensated when they are involved in fatal worksite accidents, injured or suffer chronic illnesses and only receive compassionate grant, added U Hla Thein in his question.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe said wage workers working in YCDC departments are not covered by social security law and rules. Therefore, YCDC implemented a new policy on 16 March 2015 to provide compensation to wage workers who are involved in fatal accidents or are injured in work sites or are chronically ill and are unable to work.

Compensatory payments are made after individual cases are scrutinized under the new policy of YCDC. Under the new policy, compensations for wage workers involved in accident will depend on the length of their service, said Yangon mayor. “A wage worker who had worked in YCDC for a minimum of three months will receive compensation if the wage worker is involved in a work site accident. If the wage worker’s service in YCDC is less than three months, the wage worker involved in a work site accident will be given a compassionate grant,” said U Maung Maung Soe.

From fiscal year 2015-2016 to date, YCDC has provided compensation to a total of 18 wage labourers. Ks 4,083,600 was provided to 11 wage workers who were hurt in work site accidents, while families of seven wage workers involved in fatal work site accidents were provided with Ks 142,84,000.

Human resource: biggest challenge for private health sector

By May Thet Hnin

LACK of human resources is the biggest challenge for private health care sector, said Dr. Aye Aye San, general secretary of Myanmar Private Hospitals’ Association.

“The biggest challenge we face is the lack of human resources. Currently, there are shortage of doctors, nurses and expert workers. If foreign direct investments (FDIs) flow into this sector, the challenges will even become bigger. As there are insufficient human resources for local health care services, entry of FDIs will mean sharing of the scarce human resources.”

Private hospitals and clinics are facing the issues of competency in human resources as well as in technology and facility, said Dr. Aye Aye San. “At the moment, there is no investment of international standard medical equipment in private health care sector. Around 100,000 patients went abroad to receive health care. We need to attract them back”, she added.

Health care standard is not the only reason of medical tourism. The world has become a village and there is also smooth transportation. Some people were travelling for a medical checkup. “We need to build trust with such patients and attract them back. In this case, competencies are very important. We can develop medical tourism through promotion”, she added further.

Patients also complain about the waiting time for doctors in the private health care sector. “Whenever we went to a specialist in a private hospital or clinic there is a long waiting time for us to receive treatment. At least getting treated after a long wait is bearable, because in some cases, the specialist calls the hospital or clinic to see how many patients there are and will not show up if there are only one or two patients.”

Sometimes they show up to treat a single patient, but then the treatment charge increases from the usual Ks 7,000 to Ks 10,000,” said a patient.

On this matter, Dr. Aye Aye San said 95 percent of specialist doctors went on to provide their service in a private clinic and/or hospital after completing their day’s work at government hospitals. Sometimes they could not reach the clinic on time because of traffic.

Therefore, clinics appoint retired doctors at private clinics and hospitals. Private clinics and hospitals cannot appoint a foreign doctor because their salaries are high.

There are over 4,900 clinics, 655 special clinics, 225 private hospitals and 1,134 government hospitals in Myanmar. Myanmar Private Health Care Service Law was enacted in 2007 and rules were issued in 2014. ■

Norwegian, Myanmar artists showcase sculptures

Sonny Nyein, left, and Merete Sejersted Bodtiker, right.

Merete Sejersted Bodtiker has showcased her work of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi portrait sculpture, prints of her mixed-media works and prints of her sculpture works from Norway.

She showcased her work of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s bust, which she had donated to the National League for Democracy office since last year:

“I exhibited my works outside Norway. But, this is the first time in Myanmar and I am happy,” said Merete Sejersted Bodtiker.

Merete Sejersted Bodtiker was born in Oslo, Norway, in 1956. Her public works can be found in Norway and Sweden, as well as in private collections in the US, Switzerland, Germany, Sri Lanka, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Sonny Nyein has displayed five abstract sculptures. Sonny Nyein was born in 1949 in Mandalay. He received his graduation from the Yangon State School of Fine Arts in 1971, majoring in Sculpture.

While showing an enthusiasm to his works of two forms: one is made of used recycled cans and another one is empty iron square, Sonny Nyein translated his works, “rich and poor”.

He also studied Form and Space concepts in both sculpture and painting from Baji Aung Soe, icon of the Myanmar Modern Art and former lecturer at Rangoon Institute of Technology.

His early works were made from scrap metal, with the subjects ranging from pieces inspired by traditional myths to social commentaries. The multimedia sculptures were of various sizes.

Beikthano Gallery is located at 113/3, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, in Yangon. — GNLM ■
To promote education standards, raise quality of teachers

TODAY is World Teachers’ Day — a UNESCO initiative that celebrates teachers around the world. Every October 5, the United Nations recognizes the importance of honoring and appreciating teachers' contributions. Myanmar celebrates World Teachers Day every year to remember the role of teachers in the lives of students.

Today is the day to appreciate teachers and the extraordinary job they do to teach, support and inspire our children. Every time we say prayer, we begin with respecting and acknowledging the teachers who are guiding us, teaching us, and guiding us.

The teacher who teaches (1) is your eyes, your seeing agent. (2) is your ear, your hearing agent. (3) is your mouth, your speaking agent. (4) is your body, your doing agent. (5) is your mind, your thinking agent.

Today, we want to acknowledge and thank all our teachers. We would like to urge our teachers to continue learning and developing themselves and not to give up on the future of our country.

Today’s weather is partly cloudy in Kachin State, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Chin State. In Lower Sagaing, Sagaing, and Tenin districts, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, and Ayeyarwady regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 5 October 2018: Rain or thunderstorms will be isolated in Kachin and Chin States, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi regions. Kanye and Mon states and will be isolated in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, and Ayeyarwady regions. Degree of certainty is (90%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Swell will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Height will be about 0.5 – 1.0 feet in Southeastern Myanmar.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS FOR 5 October 2018: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS FOR 5 October 2018: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (100%).

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.2 (Richter Scale) with its epicenter inside Myanmar’s land (10 miles west of Salin latitude 20.08 N, longitude 94.49 E, depth 9 kilometers about 115 miles southeast of Nongkol) seismological observatory was recorded at 0315 hrs (07:15) on 5 October 2018.
Merkel, Netanyahu seek to brush past differences for Israel talks

JERUSALEM — German Chancellor Angela Merkel holds talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday as they seek to publicly brush past their list of differences and promote cooperation between their countries.

The visit by Merkel and members of her cabinet comes as part of German-Israeli government consultations held regularly, though the last one in 2017 was postponed, with scheduling conflicts cited as the official reason.

There were reports however that the cabinet was unhappy with a law passed then related to Israeli settlement building in the occupied West Bank.

There has been no shortage of controversy ahead of this week’s visit.

Last week at the UN General Assembly, Netanyahu accused Europe of “appeasement” of Iran, a word evoking European capitals’ reluctance to stand up to Adolf Hitler in the run-up to World War II.

Netanyahu has been seeking to convince European countries to follow US President Donald Trump’s lead and withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal.

Germany, like the other signatories to the hard-fought deal, has sought to keep it alive, saying it is preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons for now.

Netanyahu has also hit out at what he calls the EU’s “absolutely crazy” demands of Israel, such as those related to his country’s occupation of Palestinian territory.

As a counterweight, he has sought sympathetic ears within the EU among countries whose leaders’ nationalist stances have been a thorn in Brussels’ side, including Hungary.

Despite those issues and others, both sides seem determined to have the visit run smoothly.

Germany says the discussions will focus on economic ties, innovation and technology, while noting that the government-to-government consultations have been in place for 10 years.

—AFP

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Dated 5th October 2018
lmm@kcyangon.com

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Dated 5th October 2018
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US, China look on as Putin seeks India arms deals

NEW DELHI — Russian President Vladimir Putin arrives in India on Thursday looking to tie up billions of dollars in arms deals with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, likely irking the US, China and Pakistan in one fell swoop.

The Kremlin said before the two-day visit that the “key feature” would be the signing of a $5-billion deal for the advanced S-400 air defence system, despite US sanctions against countries buying Russian defence hardware.

India will ask the US for a special waiver for the purchase — as discussed by their defence and foreign ministers in New Delhi last month — but Washington has signalled there is no guarantee it will accede.

The US is in a difficult position as it seeks to contain China through better ties with India, which like Washington has been unnerved by Beijing’s growing assertiveness.

Washington and New Delhi announced plans last month for joint military drills in 2019, and agreed on the exchange of sensitive military information.

But Russia remains India’s main arms supplier, and a string of new deals with the Asian giant would be a major win for Moscow — and a big snub to the US.

Putin and Modi, who appear to enjoy a personal rapport, are also likely to discuss a deal for four Kri-vak-class frigates worth $2 billion and 200 light utility Ka-226 helicopters pegged at $1 billion.

India and Russia have already concluded an Inter-Governmental Agreement for the choppers, 60 of which would be built in Russia and the rest in India.

“Russia is a time-tested friend. I am really glad some spine has finally been shown by India,” R.R. Subramanian, a Delhi-based strategic affairs analyst, told AFP.

“It’s about time we... showed that we are not going to be pushed around by Washington.”

Experts say India needs the sophisticated S-400 system to fill critical gaps in its defence capabilities, in view of China’s rise and perceived threats from Pakistan, against whom India has fought three wars.

Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa said on Wednesday that the S-400 and the 36 Rafale fighter jets purchased from France — a 2016 deal mired in political controversy — represent a “booster dose” for the country.— AFP ★

Pentagon says castor seeds, not ricin, in suspect packages

WASHINGTON (United States) — Suspicious packages sent to the Pentagon this week contained castor seeds, from which ricin can be derived, but not the deadly poison itself, an official said on Wednesday.

The Pentagon's mail screening facility on Monday had intercepted at least two packages — addressed to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Navy chief Adm. John Richardson — that authorities suspected to have contained ricin.

“According to our preliminary analysis, the substance was castor seeds, from which ricin is derived,” Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said, noting that the matter remained under FBI investigation. All mail at the Pentagon was briefly quarantined when the packages were uncovered. No one was hurt. — AFP ★

TRADEMARK CAUTION

General Mills, Inc., a company incorporated in the State of Delaware and having its registered office at Number One General Mills Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55426, United States of America is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

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In respect of “Fruit-based snack foods” in Class 29.

BISQUICK
Reg. No. 4/6104/2015 (13.5.2015)
In respect of “Baking mixes, pancake mix, waffle mix, and biscuit mix” in Class 30.

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Daw La Min May, H.G.P
For General Mills, Inc.,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabanda Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botataung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
llmm@kcyangon.com
Dated 5th October 2018

Turkey parliament extends mandate for troop deployment in Syria, Iraq

ANKARA (Turkey) — Turkish parliament on Wednesday approved a motion to extend the deployment of troops in neighbouring Syria and Iraq for another year, the official Anadolu news agency reported.

The mandate, first approved by parliament in October 2014, has been renewed every year since then. It allows military action in Turkey’s two southern neighbours against Islamic State (IS) extremists and other groups deemed by Ankara to be terror organisations.

The approved motion said it was “essential for Turkey’s national security to take all necessary measures ... in the face of any threats.”

Ismet Yilmaz, head of parliament’s defence committee, said there would be no let-off in Turkey’s fight against terror. “We will not allow terror groups to shelter or be trained in our country’s southern borders, or stage attacks against our country utilising the unstable political situation in Iraq and Syria,” Yilmaz was quoted as saying by Anadolu.

— AFP ★
Japan to host Mekong summit on Tuesday

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will chair a summit next Tuesday attended by the leaders of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam with enhanced connectivity in the region topping the agenda, the top government spokesman said Thursday.

Tokyo will promote quality infrastructure development in the Southeast Asian countries along the Mekong River to realize a “free and open” Indo-Pacific region based on a rules-based order and free trade, Japanese officials said.

“We will adopt new guidelines on Japan-Mekong cooperation and hope to strengthen relations with the region even further,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a press conference. Deepening cooperation and promoting the integration of the Mekong region has been a priority for Japan as the area located between India and China, and facing the South China Sea, is strategically important when Beijing is increasing its clout in the region, the officials said.

Following up on the current strategy adopted in 2015, the leaders are expected to adopt a new one aimed at improving connectivity in the region through infrastructure building.

Demand for infrastructure investment in developing Asia is estimated at $26 trillion between 2016 and 2030, or $1.7 trillion per year, according to the Asian Development Bank. To meet the growing needs, policymakers and experts have called for more private-sector investment.

The region is seen as a promising market for Japanese companies and economic growth in the five countries from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has made development needs more complex and diversified.

Tokyo’s official development assistance has been intended to enhance connectivity by building roads and other infrastructure to facilitate flows of goods, services and people. Technical training and human resources development are also part of its assistance.

In Viet Nam and Myanmar, the introduction of customs systems has helped shorten the time required for customs clearance to a few seconds from 15 minutes, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

A project is also under way to develop a facility for containers at an international port in Cambodia’s Sihanoukville. When completed, the volume of containers handled at the port is expected to double from 2015.

Before Tokyo takes over the Group of 20 presidency next year, it also hopes to highlight its resolution at the Japan-Mekong summit to help achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals, which cover 17 objectives to be achieved by 2030 in areas such as climate change, disaster prevention and education, the Japanese officials said.

On the sidelines of the summit, a series of bilateral meetings between Abe and the Mekong leaders are being arranged, according to the ministry.—Kyodo News

Wife of ex-Malaysian leader charged with money laundering

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia) — Rosmah Mansor, the luxury-loving wife of Malaysia’s former prime minister was Thursday charged with money laundering linked to a multi-bilion-dollar scandal that helped bring down his government.

The 66-year-old pleaded not guilty to 17 charges of money laundering at a court complex where her husband Najib Razak was also making a separate appearance in connection with the alleged plunder of state funds.

Rosmah was allowed to post bail of two million ringgit ($483,365) and ordered to surrender her passport. She was also barred from contacting any witness.

Prosecutors had sought 10 million ringgit in bail, citing the seriousness of the charges, which could result in Rosmah having to spend the rest of her life in prison.

Lead prosecutor Gopal Sri Ram told the court that Rosmah “had approached a witness with a request to give a statement in her favour”.

In the first charge sheet, prosecutors said “you engaged directly in a transaction that involves proceeds of unlawful activity” in violation of laws against money laundering.

Prosecutor Gopal told court Rosmah’s alleged offences were “very serious” as he justified the high bail amount sought. Defence lawyers sought bail of 250,000 ringgit.

Rosmah, wearing an orange dress and scarf, arrived under heavy security at the court complex after being arrested Wednesday and held overnight at the headquarters of the country’s anti-corruption agency, which had subjected her to three rounds of questioning.

At court on Thursday, she sat quietly in the dock and did not look at the gallery, where her family members were seated.—AFP

Indonesia quake kids traumatised as rescuers race against clock

PALU (Indonesia) — Many children have been separated from their families and are “in shock and traumatised” following Indonesia’s devastating quake-tsunami, aid workers said Thursday, as much-needed supplies trickled in to shattered communities.

A total of 1,411 people have been confirmed dead and over 2,500 injured after the monster earthquake struck Friday sending destructive waves barrelling into Sulawesi island.

The disaster reduced buildings in the seaside city of Palu to rubble but, with transport links badly affected, aid has been slow to arrive and looting has broken out.

While rescuers continue to comb through the ruins of destroyed buildings, hope is fading that anyone will be found alive under the rubble. Authorities say over 100 people are still unaccounted for.

As officials scrambled to deal with survivors’ basic needs and foreign aid groups rushed to reach the disaster zone, attention focused on the huge number of children left orphaned or separated from their families. Save the Children said many youngsters were sleeping on the streets among ruins in Palu, and authorities urgently needed to identify and reunite them with their relatives.

“It’s hard to imagine a more frightening situation for a child,” said Zubedy Koteng, the group’s child protection adviser, who is in the city.—AFP
Europe fires to worsen even if climate goals met

PARIS — Even reaching the most optimistic goals in the Paris climate treaty will still increase the area of southern Europe devastated by forest fires each year by at least 40 percent, researchers warned on Tuesday.

Following two years of often deadly blazes across Portugal, Spain, southern France and Greece, scientists at the University of Barcelona said more woodland areas could be lost to the flames if the targets laid out in the 2015 climate deal were missed.

The agreement aims to limit global temperature increases to “well below” 2 degrees Celsius — and to 1.5°C if at all possible.

In the first study of its kind, the team tested computer models of how much worse fires would get if global temperatures were to rise 1.5°C, 2°C, or 3°C by the end of the century.

“It’s relevant because there are a lot of fires in this area, for instance, in Greece this year or last summer in Portugal,” Marco Turco, from the university’s Department of Applied Physics and lead study author told AFP. “These are examples of things to come in the future.”

Turco and the team found that the area of southern Europe lost each year to fire would increase between 40-54 per cent, even if temperature rises were limited to 1.5°C — the most ambitious goal in all climate change mitigation efforts. “1.5°C is really ambitious... but it’s not physically impossible,” said Turco. Were temperatures to climb 2°C above the preindustrial benchmark, the area destroyed by fire was projected to increase to 62-87 percent, and for 3°C it could grow by as much as 187 percent as climate change-induced droughts produce more combustible material.

Southern Europe currently loses around 4,500 square kilometres — three times the area of Greater London — each year to fire, AFP said.

PHOTO: AFP

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V. EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0261-570W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0261-570W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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.S. EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V. BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1821NS)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1821NS) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M.S. BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

TRADMARK CAUTION

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Trix

Reg. No. 4/484/2012 (25.5.2012)

In respect of “fruit based snack foods” in Class 29.

FRAUDULENT OR UNAUTHORISED USE, OR ACTUAL OR COLOURABLE IMITATION OF THE SAID MARK SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE A VIOLATION OF LAW.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For General Mills, Inc.

C/O Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,

Botataung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 5th October 2018

Immc@kcyangon.com

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: 05th October, 2018

Invitation for Bids

ID: Credit No: 5727-MM

Contract Title: Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Bago (West) and Ayeyarwaddy for National Electrification Project

Reference No: MOEE-NEP/C1-W7/18 & MOEE-NEP/C1-W8/18

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W7/18 for Bago (West) and MOEE-NEP/C1-W8/18 for Ayeyarwaddy.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W7/18 for Bago (West) and MOEE-NEP/C1-W8/18 for Ayeyarwaddy in the following locations.

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding

MOEE-NEP/C1-W7/18 process for Bago (West) is:

Lot 1: Pyay District - 44 villages

Lot 2: Pyay District - 95 villages

Lot 3: Thayarwady District - 83 villages

Lot 4: Thayarwady District - 47 villages

Lot 5: Thayarwady District - 57 villages

Lot 6: Thayarwady District - 69 villages

Lot 7: Thayarwady District - 69 villages

Lot 8: Thayarwady District - 41 villages

Lot 9: Thayarwady District - 70 villages

Lot 10: Pyapon/ Labutta District - 71 villages

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding

MOEE-NEP/C1-W8/18 process for Ayeyarwaddy is:

Lot 1: Pathien District - 89 villages

Lot 2: Pathien District - 72 villages

Lot 3: Pathien District - 72 villages

Lot 4: Hinthada District - 49 villages

Lot 5: Hinthada District - 42 villages

Lot 7: Maungpin District - 48 villages

Lot 8: Maungpin District - 73 villages

Lot 9: Myaungmya District - 52 villages

Lot 10: Pyapon/ Labutta District - 75 villages

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank’s Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consultant Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by Bank Borrowers (“Procurement Guidelines”), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraph 17 setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and nep.pmomoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [09:30 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 7th November, 2018, (10:00 AM) - Myanmar Time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below.

7. All bids must be accompanied by “Bid-Security”

8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: Project Manager

Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)

Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy

City: Nay Pyi Taw ZIP Code: 15011

Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telephone: +95 67 3431175

Fax number: +95 67 3431176

Electronic mail address: nep.pmomoep@gmail.com

H.G.P

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Date: 05th October 2018

Immc@kcyangon.com

IV/06/18

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR 13

ENVIRONMENT
Cell networks disrupted after first presidential alert message test in US

WASHINGTON — For several hours, subscribers of several cell networks were unable to access their network after receiving the first ever presidential alert on Wednesday, local reports said.

The unexpected outage began at around 11:21 am Pacific Time (1821 GMT), about two minutes after the inaugural test of the National Wireless Emergency Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, which is run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“The presidential alert went out and after that I lost all Internet, Gmail, apps. Everything stopped working,” Sarah Mendivel, a medical researcher at Seattle Children’s Hospital, told the Seattle Times Wednesday afternoon.

Soon after the outage, an AT&T spokesperson told the Seattle Times that the problem had been addressed and that it had not been related to the presidential text.

It is the first nationwide test of the system built by the federal government and cell phone carriers to warn Americans of an emergency, like a terror attack or a widespread disaster.

“The test will assess the operational readiness of the infrastructure for distribution of a national message and determine whether improvements are needed,” read a statement from FEMA ahead of the alert test.

“The alert went out to nearly every smart phone in the United States that was turned on and there was no opt-out.”

Originally scheduled for 20 September, the test was postponed due to ongoing response efforts to Hurricane Florence.

—Xinhua

Einstein’s ‘God letter’ to go on sale for $1mn

NEW YORK (United States)—A handwritten letter from Albert Einstein about his thoughts on God, religion and his search for meaning is to go on sale in New York, valued at up to $1.5 million, Christie’s said Wednesday.

Written a year before the legendary physicist died in 1955, his name synonymous with genius, Einstein writes in German from Princeton, New Jersey to German philosopher Eric Gutkind.

“The word God is for me nothing but the expression and product of human weaknesses, the Bible a collection of venerable but still rather primitive legends,” writes the physicist, best known for his theory of relativity.

“No interpretation, no matter how subtle, can (for me) change anything about this.”

The one-and-a-half-page letter will go on sale on December 4, estimated by Christie’s to fetch between $1 million and $1.5 million.

The letter was previously offered at auction in 2008, bought by a private collector for $404,000, Christie’s said.

“It is one of the definitive statements in the religion vs science debate,” says Peter Klarner, senior specialist in books and manuscripts at the auction house.

The son of secular Ashkenazi Jews and forced to flee Germany after Adolf Hitler took power, Einstein did not exclude Judaism from his critique.

“For me the unadulterated Jewish religion is, like all other religions, an incarnation of primitive superstition,” he writes to Gutkind.

“And the Jewish people to whom I gladly belong, and in whose mentality I feel profoundly anchored, still for me does not have any different kind of dignity from all other peoples.

“As far as my experience goes, they are in fact no better than other human groups, even if they are protected from the worst excesses by a lack of power. Otherwise I cannot perceive anything ‘chosen’ about them.”

Last October, a note that Einstein had given a courier in Tokyo briefly describing his theory on happy living sold at auction in Jerusalem for $1.56 million, Winner’s auction house said.

“When Einstein letters and manuscripts appear with some frequency at auction, those of great importance and significance do not,” said Klarner.

“In the broadest sense, it is similar to Einstein’s 1939 letter to (US president) F.D.R. warning of German efforts to build the bomb that we sold for $2 million in 2002,” he added.

The letter, already been known in Shanghai, goes on public view in New York from 30 November to 3 December, Christie’s said.—AFP

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The letter, already been known in Shanghai, goes on public view in New York from 30 November to 3 December, Christie’s said.—AFP
NASA skeptical on sabotage theory after mystery ISS leak

WASHINGTON (United States)—NASA expressed doubts Wednesday over a theory floated in Russia that a tiny hole that caused an air leak on the International Space Station was the result of sabotage.

The breach detected on August 29-30 in a Russian space craft docked at the orbiting station was not the result of a manufacturing defect, according to the Russian space agency, which says it is investigating the possibility that it was drilled maliciously.

But NASA, the US space agency, countered in a statement that ruling out defects “does not necessarily mean the hole was created intentionally or with mal-intent.”

The Russian space agency Roscosmos immediately launched an investigation into the hole, and its chief official Dmitry Rogozin went on television days later to say it could have been the result of foul play either back on Earth or by astronauts in space.

“The 2018 Nobel Laureates in Chemistry have taken control of evolution and used it for purposes that bring the greatest benefit to humanity,” the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences said.

Life on Earth exists because over the past 3.7 billion years organisms have adapted to their environment, with evolution solving complex chemical problems: fish can for example swim in polar oceans because they have antifreeze proteins in their blood.

The trio used the principles of evolution—genetic change and selection—to develop proteins now used in a range of fields, in what is known as directed evolution. “They have applied the principles of Darwin in test tubes. They have used the molecular understanding of the evolutionary process and recreated the process in their labs,” the head of the Academy’s Nobel Chemistry committee, Claes Gustafsson, told reporters.

“They have been able to make evolution many 1000s of times faster and redirect it to create new proteins.”

Bouncing off the walls

Arnold, 62, who has survived breast cancer and is a single mother to three sons, is a professor of chemical engineering at the California Institute of Technology.

“I’m bouncing off the walls but I’m trying to pretend to sound calm and collected,” she told the Foundation. “I was so angry I couldn’t reach her sons to give them the news. ‘They never answer the phone when Mom calls.’

Her method of rewriting DNA to mimic evolution has helped solve problems such as replacing toxic chemicals like fossil fuels. As a result, renewable resources like sugar cane are being converted into biofuels. More environmentally friendly chemical substances are being developed, improving everyday products such as laundry and dishwashing detergents to enhance their performance in cold temperatures.

“Nature is solving all sorts of problems that we throw at her such as how to degrade plastic bottles, how to degrade pesticiges and herbicides and antibiotics... she creates new enzymes in response to that all the time, in real time.”—AFP

STOCKHOLM (Sweden)—US scientists Frances Arnold and George Smith and British researcher Gregory Winter won the 2018 Nobel Chemistry Prize on Wednesday for applying the principles of evolution to develop proteins used in everything from new biofuels to medical use.

Arnold, just the fifth woman to clinch chemistry’s most prestigious honour since Marie Curie was honoured in 1911, won one half of the nine million Swedish kronor (about $1.01 million or 870,000 euros) award, while Smith and Winter shared the other half.

“Where it was made will be a lemma for authorities in the US, has brought a public health dilemma for manufacturers in the US, and elsewhere.”

On the one hand, e-cigarettes expose users to significantly lower levels of potentially toxic substances, except for nicotine, the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine said this year.

Converting conventional cigarette smokers to vaping would therefore reduce the number of cancer cases.

At the same time, numerous parents and high schools say teenagers are using JUUL, raising fears that a new generation is being exposed to nicotine, which is addictive but not cancerous.

The US Food and Drug Administration has denounced “an epidemic of regular nicotine use among teens,” and confirmed to AFP that its agents made a surprise inspection Friday of JUUL's San Francisco headquarters, seizing more than a thousand pages of documents on its marketing practices.

The startup wasn’t the first on the market, but it quickly dominated the American market with its vapors, which markets e-cigarettes using a different technology.

JUUL has soared from a two percent market share in 2016 to 29 percent in December 2017, according to data published Tuesday in JAMA, the Journal of the American Medical Association.

By September of this year, JUUL had reached almost 73 percent of the market, according to Nielsen data provided to AFP by JUUL. The e-cigarette market remains a fraction of overall tobacco sales but is growing fast.

“Like many Silicon Valley technology startups, our growth is the result of a superior product disrupting an archaic industry —in this case, one whose products are the number one cause of preventable death,” JUUL told AFP in a statement.

It added that the company “has helped more than one million Americans switch from cigarettes.” CEO Kevin Burns said the company is cooperating with the FDA to “keep JUUL out of the hands of young people,” and has turned over 50,000 pages of documents to the federal health regulator since April.

JUUL is also available in Britain, Canada and Israel, although the latter country has forbidden sale of the strongest doses of nicotine.

Others, including Australia and Japan, have limited sales of the product to medical use only.—AFP

NASA and its Russian counterpart Roscosmos “are both investigating the incident to determine the cause” of a small hole found on a Russian spacecraft attached to the International Space Station.
MFF, MNL officials, referees hold discussions

OFFICIALS from Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and Myanmar National League (MNL) and referees who were in-charge of the football matches throughout the 2018 football season held a meeting at the Thuwunna Gymnasium on October 3.

Present on the occasion were U Ko Ko Thein, general secretary of MFF, U Soe Moe Kyaw, CEO of MNL, U Hsu Aung, chief of management of MNL, director U Tun Hla Aung of Refereeing Department, U Win Cho, chairman of Referee Committee, adviser U Tin Aung (goalie) of Refereeing Department of MFF, referees and refereeing supervisors who discharged their duties in various football tournaments organized by the MNL during the 2018 football season.

At the start of the meeting, U Soe Moe Kyaw highlighted the flaws of the referees discovered throughout the football season, but praised them for their correct decisions and performance. He also urged responsible persons of the refereeing department to put more efforts into the improvement of the referees’ ability and producing more new generation qualified referees.

“The MFF has planned to improve the role of the referees before the upcoming football season. The referees need to correct their mistakes and prepare to show off their best performance in the upcoming football season,” said U Ko Ko Thein.

After that U Hsu Aung said, “Referees should make decisive actions on foul plays during football matches. They must follow rules and regulations. They should make fair decisions on violations and mete out punishment. The capability of junior referees must be enhanced to enable them to handle first-class tournaments.”

Next, U Tin Aung (goalie) gave words of advice to the referees and the refereeing supervisors. Afterwards, U Tun Hla Aung and U Win Cho cross-questioned the referees.—Hut Htt (Twantay)

U-19 women’s football squad to play two matches against Thailand U-19

AS part of preparations for taking part in the 2019 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-19 Women’s Championship Qualification, Myanmar U-19 women’s football squad will demonstrate two warm-up matches against Thailand U-19 women’s football team. The friendly matches will be held at Thuwunna Youth Training Center at 3.30 pm on October 5 and at 6 pm on October 7. Football enthusiasts can watch the warm-up matches free of charge.

Daw Thet Thet Win will take charge of Myanmar U-19 women’s football team as the head coach. The Myanmar team is comprised of 40 members, including 31 players, and 9 managers and coaches. Myanmar U-19 women’s football team hammered Singapore U-19 women’s football team with a wide margin of 7-0 in a friendly match at Thuwunna Youth Training Center on September 6.—Htute Htt (Twantay)

Mourinho and Manchester United longing for past glories

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho again pointed the finger at his players’ failings rather than his own shortcomings after a 0-0 Championship League draw with Valencia. Jose Mourinho’s United have made their worst start to a league campaign in 29 years after an embarrassing 3-1 loss at West Ham and are already out of the League Cup.

Tuesday’s stalemate at Old Trafford was their fourth consecutive match without a win.

Many players avoided the post-match mixed zone interview area after the game to avoid awkward questions.

Pogba was among those to go through but told reporters “I’ve been told I’m not allowed (to talk).”

The French World Cup winner, who was last week told he would not captain the side again, appeared to get under Mourinho’s skin after their recent draw with Wolves by saying United should attack more.

Captain Antonio Valencia and midfielder Marouane Fellaini have both backed the manager despite the growing crisis at the club.

Valencia insisted he is “fully supportive” of Mourinho after appearing to back calls for the under-fire manager.—AFP

Pogba says ‘not allowed’ to talk after Manchester United stalemate

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Paul Pogba said he was not allowed to talk after Manchester United failed to arrest their recent slump with a drab 0-0 Champions League draw against Valencia. Jose Mourinho’s United have made their worst start to a league campaign in 29 years after an embarrassing 3-1 loss at West Ham and are already out of the League Cup.

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Valencia insisted he is “fully supportive” of Mourinho after appearing to back calls for the under-fire manager.—AFP

Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba has been stripped of the vice-captaincy of the club by Jose Mourinho. PHOTO: AFP