State Counsellor visits Kokoron business group

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited Kokoron business group at Izumizaki village, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, yesterday.

The State Counsellor is currently in Japan to attend the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit and hold bilateral talks.

Accompanied by Union Ministers U Thaung Tun and U Kyaw Tin, deputy ministers U Min Thu and U Htet Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Thurein Thant Zin, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama and officials, the State Counsellor arrived at Shinshirakawa Station by bullet train at 10.52 am local standard time.

On arrival at Kokoron business group by car, the State Counsellor and delegation were welcomed by Vice Governor Mr Masaki Suzuki of Fukushima Prefecture and Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Yoshinori Suzuki, followed by a bilateral introductory session.

The Director General extended words of greetings. The Vice Governor presented a report on the progress in rebuilding the region, after it was hit by an earthquake in 2011, Mr Kuboki of Izumizaki village on salient points of the village, and Mr Seki and Ms Kumada of Kokoron business group on the structure of the group and its business operations and business partners.

After having a taste of the farm food produced by the group, the State Counsellor and delegation asked information about the group. The Director General, the Vice Governor and officials gave answers.

After posing for documentary photo together with the Vice Governor, the Director General and officials, the State Counsellor and delegation visited the crop fields there.

Located in the south of Fukushima Prefecture, Izumizaki village has an area of 35.43 square kilometers. It is 200 kilometers from Tokyo. A total of 6,338 people – 3,122 males and 3,216 females – of 2,140 households are living in it. The main crops of the agro-based village are rice and vegetables. Thanks to the bullet trains and highways, the village is also carrying out production business.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observing crop fields at Kokoron business group, Izumizaki village. **PHOTO: MNA**

President to visit Indonesia in the near future

AT the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, President U Win Myint of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will visit Indonesia in the near future to attend the ASEAN Leaders’ gathering to be held in Bali. — MNA
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker arrives back from Germany

AT THE invitation of Hanns Seidel Foundation, a Myanmar delegation led by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein visited Germany and arrived back at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

The delegation was welcomed back by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint and officials.

Members of the delegation Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Aung Kyi Nyunt, Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr. Daw Than Ngwe and officials from Hluttaw office also arrived back on the same flight.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein being welcomed back by officials. PHOTO: MNA

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and party visited Kanaung Gyi Village in Yathedaung Township and met with local people at a monastery in the village.

During the meeting, the Rakhine State Chief Minister focused on socio-economic developments of the local people and peace and law enforcement, along with the region’s development in education, health, agriculture and livestock and breeding sectors.

Afterwards, attendees stated some necessities of the region and responsible officials sought solutions to the issues, followed by the Chief Minister’s coordination.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister and party also met with local people in Ywarthit Kay Village and Hteeswel Village. During the meeting, necessities of the local people were discussed, and the Chief Minister and party donated Ks 3 million for a temporary school building in Hteeswel Village, it is learnt.—IPRD (Yathedaung)

Rakhine State Chief Minister meets local people in Yathedaung Tsp

US group visits Maungtaw Township

Chair, member of Independent Commission of Enquiry depart from Myanmar

Ambassador Rosario Manalo (center right) being seen off by officials at Yangon International Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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 Mr. Kenzo Oshima departed from Yangon yesterday at 5:30 pm.

The Chairperson and member were seen off by Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department Daw Kay Thi Soe and responsible officials at Yangon International Airport.

—MNA

Mr Heizman Richard Charles and group visiting a monastery in Taung Pyo Letwe town yesterday. PHOTO: TAUNG PYO IPRD

MR Heizman Richard Charles and group from the United States, gathering information in Taung Pyo Letwe town, arrived at a monastery in the afternoon and documented the monastery, classrooms and other buildings that were damaged during the terrorist attacks in Rakhine State. They also documented burnt-out villages and interviewed the local ethnic people. They left at 3.30 pm.

Mr Heizman Richard Charles and group will also collect information at Mingyi and Tulaturi villages in Maungtaw Township.—Taungpyo IPRD

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu meeting with local people in Yathedaung Township yesterday. PHOTO: IPRD (YATHEDAUNG)
We are capable of handling our national affairs not only by utilising our sovereign power, but also by being able and willing to do so.

Myanmar respects the sovereignty and dignity of each individual nation, and therefore it will continuously work towards fostering closer friendships that will contribute towards global peace and the improvement of international relations. In this regard, it is also crucial to follow international laws and agreements.

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

State Counsellor visits Kokoron business group

FROM PAGE-3

The village has a healthcare program for elder people beginning from sexagenarians, free medical treatment for juveniles up to age 18, and backpacks and dinner provision program for primary students.

Moreover, the village has complete healthcare services for people age 75 and above and disabled persons age 65 and over. As for the healthcare of the people age 74 and below, 40 percent of the cash assistance comes from age-wise healthcare funds, 50 percent from the government and 10 percent from health insurance.

Regional business attractions, accommodation programs and public health and enjoyment programs are being carried out as prevention against population decrease.

More people are migrating to the village, thanks to environmental conservation activities and the transport links.

Kokoron was set up in 2002 as a non-profit organization. Its goals include generation of job opportunities for people with disabilities and provision of social needs, including housing, food and clothing. The village is running the Living Support Center: Kokoron and the Kokoron-Ya coffee shop as a means of creating occupational opportunities for the disabled persons.

State Counsellor discussing special matters with Kokoron business group officials in Japan yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor and party pose for a documentary photo together with officials from Kokoron business group in front of the Kokoron business group office. PHOTO: MNA

Press Release: Independent Commission of Enquiry holds third meeting

THE Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) held their third meeting from 5 to 7 October 2018, in Myanmar.

The Commission met with U Tun Myat, former member of Maungdaw Investigation Commission in Rakhine State and member of Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendation on Rakhine State.

During these dialogues, ICOE learned about the experiences and work of the Maungdaw Investigation Commission 2016 which may have relevance to the work of ICOE. ICOE had a working session with U Tun Myat, former member of Maungdaw Investigation Commission in Rakhine State and member of Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendation on Rakhine State.

The Members of ICOE discussed and agreed on their proposed methodology for investigating the allegations of human rights violation and related issues following the terrorist attacks in Rakhine State. They exchanged views on the key points and issues that ought to be examined. ICOE will start initial steps to gather and analyse information and evidence by setting up a sub-committee.

They also discussed the need for external experts in such areas as information and communication, legal, forensic and criminal investigation.

The fourth meeting of ICOE is scheduled for December 2018. The website of ICOE will be launched on 12 October 2018.

Office of Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE)
Nay Pyi Taw
7 October 2018
MANDALAY Business Forum 2018 to be held on 9 November at Mandalay Convention Center, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The forum is jointly organized by Myanmar Investment Management, Mandalay Region government and Mandalay Region Investment Committee (MRIC), supported by New Starlight Group of Companies.

It aims to promote trade and investment for the development of Mandalay Region, showcase business opportunities in Mandalay Region, familiarize new business law and regulations and the investment environment of Mandalay Region with wide network between foreign investors and local business communities.

At the event, high-level speakers, officials from the government side and the leading people from the private sector will deliver keynote speeches.

Additionally, there will be site visit tours on 10 November to Myotha Industrial Zone, New Mandalay Resort City Project, Pyin Oo Lwin, Kandawgyi National Park and some potential investment areas.

Mandalay, a trading and logistics hub in Upper Myanmar and the second largest city with a population of over 1.2 million people, has set its sight on further industrialization and enhancement of its economic condition as the country is a member country of Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS). It can bring many investment opportunities in the region as it is centrally located and a trade hub in Myanmar.

DICA is holding investment fairs in order to spur development more evenly among all states and regions.

Business opportunities in Mandalay Region will be introduced to local and foreign investors which do not exceed an initial investment of Ks6 billion or US$ 5 million. — GNLM

Ks25 billion estimated for building transport facilities in Myeik

AUTHORITIES will spend roughly Ks25 billion budget, constructing transport facilities throughout Myeik District in Taninthayi Region within the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Under the organization of the Ministry of Construction, 89 roads and 60 bridges will be built across the district through its Road Management Department and Rural Road Development Department.

According to the plan, the Ministry’s Road Management Department will implement 18 road construction projects and 11 bridge projects with the use of about Ks4.96 billion, whereas about Ks11 billion budgets will go to the Rural Road Development Department to construct 49 roads and 17 bridges.

Special team No. 24 of the Rural Road Management Department will carry out 22 road construction projects plus 32 bridge projects with the use of around Ks9.5 billion budget. For the sake of transparency, in the presence of MPs, departmental officials, invited guests and tenderers, the first tender was opened on 5 October at the Rural Road Management Department to purchase diesel, tar and gravel, cement, iron rod, wood, sand and other construction materials for the whole project.—Khine Htoo (Myeik IPRD)

Illegal handgun, bullets found in Tachilek

TWO men have been arrested on Saturday night after police found a handgun and bullets from them during security operations in Tachilek Town in eastern Shan State.

During the operations, local police stopped and searched a suspected vehicle driven by a 18-year-old Aike Wun Lee with Aike Than, 45, sitting in the front passenger seat, near traffic light in Haungleik Junction at around 11.20pm on 6 October, which resulted in one Glock pistol and seven bullets being found on Aike Than’s body.

Police said both men are residents of Wunpon Village in Tachilek. Action has been taken against the two suspects by the town’s police, according to Shan State Arms Order 12 (a). — Maung Yin Kye

Men in Pinlebu charged for possession of opium powder

TWO men have been arrested on Saturday night after police found a cache of some packages of white opium powder from them, according to a police report.

Acting on a tip-off, town police stopped two suspected motorbikes by mile posts No. 40/1 and 40/2 on Pinlewu-Kawlin road near Tomphala Village at around 11.30pm on 6 October.

They found 660 grams of white opium powder with an estimated value of Ks66 million hidden in the motorbike driven by one Sein Myint Aung and Ks76,000 from another motorcyclist Myo Myint.

Police are still investigating the case in an attempt to uncover those in connection with drug smuggling.

The two suspects have been charged under the existing Narcotics and Psychotropic Drugs Law. — Lu Aung (Katha)
MAMDA suggests car import criteria

By May Thet Hnin

DR. Soe Tun, chair of Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association (MAMDA), put forward nine points regarding automobile import at the 29th meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee, led by Vice President U Myint Swe, and entrepreneurs, held on 6 October.

He requested that authorities reissue Yangon car registration license, which has been suspended, for newly imported cars and vehicles at sales centers and showrooms, as people have to purchase Yangon slip (import permit to register in Yangon Region) at an exorbitant price for family-used cars, in return for deregistration of old vehicles.

“It’s been a year now, since October of last year, that we stated our concern for delays in Yangon registration system, which is known as the Yangon Vehicle Quota Certificate (YVQC), and we are now putting forward the issue again. Yangon Region government has responded that they still do not have an exact answer, but that the regional government is discussing with the Ministry of Commerce”, explained Dr. Soe Tun. Prices of imported cars are high, as the prices are set only after they are shipped and the dealers have to wait for the car’s estimated value. The government should cut red tape, such as a car’s estimated value and double-check the value when they are claimed at the port. Therefore, he requested authorities to set the car price, according to purchase agreement and invoice.

Additionally even though online Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) for import/export businesses is already being practiced, paper work is still rampant, causing delays. He suggested that only online MACCS be used for processing. Some motor cars are found to have installed new auto parts when accidents happen, consuming time and money to be inspected again by the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD). As a result of this, it would be better if the RTAD collects fines for changing body parts like before, and issue certificate or markings to vehicles that they have examined.

Moreover, he also asked authorities to consider deduction in deposit for sales centers and the prescribed dimension and warehouse criteria. Additionally, some car sales centers that have already paid their tax have requested permission to close down their operations as they do not receive any information of those vehicles that they are in the process of importing under the consignment system and yet they still have to remit money to foreign dealers.

There are many consignment cars which were imported in 2017 under previous car import policy and they are facing difficulties to get licenses due to high price of slips. Therefore, Dr Soe Tun requested that a new system be practiced to replace the slip system. Finally, he also asked authorities to reduce the fines for those who are late in claiming the containers at the port.

Onion price soars as export plunges

ONION export plunged down in September due to high price, compared to August’s export volume, according to Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (Myantrade).

The export price of onion climbed up at Muse border gate with the onion price in domestic market soaring. Onion export fetched 1,950 Yuan in August, whereas the price peaked to a high of 3,500 Yuan in September.

In September, over 3,750 tons of onions were exported through Muse, which decreased from August’s export volume of over 5,720 tons. On 4 October, six trucks loaded with 96 tons of onion entered the Muse trade zone, with a minimum price of 3,100 Yuan and the highest at 3,350 Yuan.

The onion price hike in the domestic market was attributed to low supply in September; as unseasonal rains this year caused flooding in the onion plantations.

— GNLM

Border trade value exceeds $4.2 billion

THE value of Myanmar’s border trade conducted over a time-span from 1 April to 30 September, the six-month interim period prior to this 2018-2019 financial year (FY), reached US$4.2 billion, recording an increase of $451 million, compared to the figure in the same period of last FY, according to the statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The total border trade value included a sum of $2.7 billion in exports and $1.5 billion in imports. Compared with the last FY, export earnings went up by more than $394 million, while the import value increased by $66 million.

This time last year, border trade was valued at $3.8 billion. Myanmar conducts border trade with China through the border points of Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Chinsawhaw and Kengtung. The country engages in border trade with Thailand through the gateways of Tachileik, Myawaddy, Kawthong, Myeik, Hiseekhe and Mawtaung border gates. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtaw, whereas the country trades directly with India through the Tamu and Reed border gates.

Among all the gateways, the Muse border gate sees the largest volume and value of total border trade, with an estimated value of more than $2.96 billion during the six-month interim period, followed by Myawaddy with $143 million and Chinsawhaw with $153 million.

The value of border trade at the Lwejel, Chinsawhaw, Tachileik, Myawaddy, Kawthong, Maungtaw and Reed stations decreased during the six-month interim period.

Myanmar primarily exports agricultural products, animal products, forest products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods and other products, while capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer products are imported into the country. Currently, some 80 per cent of the country’s external trade is carried out through sea routes.—Zwe

Sesame seeds export increase, price remains stable last month

EXPORT of various sesame seeds at Muse border gate last month surpassed August’s volume, with the price remaining stable, according to Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (Myantrade). Export to China of various sesame seeds through Muse border gate was registered at 222 tons in September, while Muse gate witnessed 36 tons in August. Meanwhile, the prices remained stable during the past two months, with an estimated value of 10,000 Yuan per ton.

China buys 90 per cent of domestic sesame seeds, mainly black sesame seeds which are highly produced in the first week of October. Sesame crops are cultivated throughout the year. Magway Region, gaining a reputation as oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds which are also cultivated in Mandalay and Sagaing regions. —GNLM

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Global manufacturing PMI drops in September

BEIJING — The world’s manufacturing sector expanded at a slower pace in September mainly due to dropping global investment and trade, a Chinese association said Saturday.

The global manufacturing purchasing managers’ index (PMI) came in at 54.3 in September, down 0.7 points from August and down 1.6 points from a year ago, the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing said in a statement.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below reflects contraction.

“The world’s manufacturing sector continued to see relatively fast growth, but the pace of growth has slowed quarter by quarter,” the federation said.

In the third quarter of 2018, global manufacturing PMI averaged at 54.3, down from 54.7 in Q2 and 55.7 in Q1, the statement said.

—Xinhua

Global stocks fall as US bond yields continue to surge

Global stocks tumbled as US Treasury bond yields continue to surge.

Photo: AFP

How good is the economy?

US economy booms as elections near, but who gets credit?

WASHINGTON — Control of the US Congress hangs in the balance in hard-fought midterm elections next month. And, even with a booming economy, the party in power does not have the wind at its back.

The lowest unemployment level in nearly 50 years has also not substantially lifted President Donald Trump's standing in opinion polls, and he remains among the least popular US leaders of the last 70 years.

Forecasts point to solid chances that Democrats could wrest control of the House of Representatives away from Republicans, drastically shifting the political landscape in Washington.

Below are some facts on the recent run of the world's largest economy.

Credit to Trump or Obama?

Economists caution against attributing economic performance, good or bad, solely to presidents.

Trump has forcefully claimed ownership for the current economy but it was former President Barack Obama who presided over most of the recovery.

“There’s no question that there’s a mixture of credit involved. President Obama took office during the worst downturn since the Great Depression,” Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a Republican former director of the Congressional Budget Office, told AFP.

But Trump has slashed taxes and regulations to energize businesses, Holtz-Eakin said.

Following December’s tax cuts and a big spending package enacted in February, the US economy does appear to be growing faster than it did in the prior two years — for now — and business investment picked up.—AFP

Oil giant Aramco IPO by 2021: Saudi crown prince to Bloomberg

RIYADH (Saudi Arabia) — Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said that oil giant Aramco’s initial public offering will go ahead by early 2021 after reports emerged the plan had been scrapped, Bloomberg reported.

“I believe late 2020, early 2021,” Prince Mohammed told Bloomberg in an interview published late Friday when asked when he believed the IPO could be launched. “The investor will decide the price on the day. I believe it will be above $2 trillion. Because it will be huge.” The crown prince denied that the kingdom had halted the plan after a media report said that financial advisors working on it had been disband ed. “Everyone heard about the rumours of Saudi Arabia cancelling the IPO of Aramco, delaying that, and that this is delaying Vision 2030,” he said. “This is not right.” The plan to float around five percent of Aramco — expected to be the world’s largest stock sale — forms the cornerstone of a reform programme envisaged by Prince Mohammed to wean the Saudi economy off its reliance on oil.—AFP

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IMF gathers in Indonesia to focus on global economic tremors

BALI (Indonesia) — Rising protectionism, vulnerable emerging markets and record debt levels: The IMF holds its annual meeting this week in earthquake-stricken Indonesia, as it shines a light on tremors in the global economy.

Finance ministers and central bankers from 180 nations will be among 32,000 attendees in Bali for the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which takes place every three years outside of Washington. The gathering will be held from Tuesday to Sunday.

The resort island of Bali is 1,123 kilometers (700 miles) from Paha, the city on Sulawesi that was wrecked by an earthquake and tsunami on September 28 that left more than 1,500 dead and 1,000 missing.

Despite the distance, security is a major concern for Indonesian organizers.

Bali experienced a series of volcanic eruptions over the summer while the neighboring island of Lombok was struck by a string of deadly earthquakes.

If there is an earthquake, Jakarta recommends participants stay in the conference center, which, like many hotels in Bali, is built to withstand such seismic events.

In case of tsunami risk, attendees would be evacuated to a nearby building. But the focus of the meeting is averting economic rather than natural disasters.

The trade war launched by US President Donald Trump against China, along with disputes with allies like the European Union, Mexico and Canada, is a key source of concern.

The dispute caused a proliferation of protectionist measures in recent months that is weighing more and more on international trade.

—AFP

Sayonara Tsukiji! Relocation of Tokyo’s famed fish market begins

TOKYO — Hundreds of fishmongers on forklifts and trucks rose before dawn in Tokyo to join a mammoth exodus of vendors as the world-famous Tsukiji market relocates to a new site.

In small vehicles and the market’s famed “turret trucks” — one-man flatbeds with a barrel-shaped steering column at the front — they drove out of the Tsukiji site one last time, headed for Toyosu, the market’s new home.

The main bridge out from the market was closed to traffic for the move, with security guards in place to wave along the leaving wholesalers who drove in orderly lines between safety cones topped with flashing red and green lights.

Hundreds of the 900 businesses that once handled 480 kinds of seafood worth $14 million daily — as well as 270 types of fruits and vegetables — are relocating. A total of 2,600 turret trucks and forklifts will drive about 2.3 kilometres (1.4 miles) from Tsukiji to the new site over a period of five days, according to the Tokyo metropolitan government.

The move began a day after the last tuna auction at the market, a pre-dawn ritual for Tokyo’s food world that also once drew crowds of tourists hoping for one of just 120 spots to watch.

The 83-year-old market’s move has been in the works for decades, prompted by its rundown state, but it has been a lengthy and controversial process, hindered by pollution rows and construction delays.

The discovery of soil contamination at Toyosu, formerly home to a gas plant, sparked safety fears about the new site and forced local authorities to spend millions of dollars to clean up the area. After experts declared Toyosu safe, the Tokyo governor took the final decision to move the market there in late 2017, ending years of delays. But while the new site promises state-of-the-art refrigeration and will keep gawping tourists away from the business of the market in a gallery behind glass, the move has still left a bitter taste for some. “I feel nostalgic as Tsukiji has been my home ground for 15 years. We are sad to lose the Tsukiji brand,” vegetable wholesaler Tsukasa Kujiiri told AFP on Saturday.

Opened in 1935, Tsukiji was for many years known only to its vendors and the food industry, but it gained international reknown in recent decades and its tuna auctions even hit the headlines, with one fish going for a record $1.8 million at the market’s New Year’s auction in 2012.—AFP


Integrity shapes a person. This is an attribute that everyone, irrespective of profession or success, must possess, but I doubt whether some people do. A person of integrity is always respected, trusted and relied upon.

River since I joined the service in my early twenties, our superiors frequently guided us to observe integrity in those we encounter. In this day I think that integrity is an attribute of officers or leaders, because one of my mentors used to say that as officers we must have integrity. And OLQ is an abbreviation of “officer-like qualities”. When we asked him what are those OLQs, he said there are nine and but don’t that of officers must observe. In general, any behavior, manner, conduct or action that could lead to “unbecoming an officer” must be avoided, he said. Although he didn’t go into detail to explain what ‘integrity’ is, I thought I understood what he meant.

Later in life, as I gained more experience and knowledge, I came to realize that the word ‘integrity’ has a wide range of meanings and implications representing every aspect of human behavior; manner, man and character. It’s not the attribute of the officers only but that of any officer of walk of life.

Definition of integrity

So, let us see what this word means. The Oxford Dictionary defines it as: “1. Having integrity is being honest and sincere; having strong moral principles. Its synonymous phrases are to honestly, uprightness, probity, rectitude, honour, unswervingly, good character, principles, ethics, morals, righteousness, morality, nobility, high-mindedness, truthfulness, virtuousness, high-mindedness, virtuousness, moral responsibility, integrity. The quality of integrity is the quality of being honest and sincere; having strong moral principles. Integrity is the quality of being honest and sincere; having strong moral principles.”

Integrity and leadership

To realise the importance of integrity, I will mention some useful quotes regarding integrity, made by some famous people.

“Integrity is in a person’s heart, the one who is honest and in touch with themselves can always find the strength to do what is right.” - Nelson Mandela

“Integrity is the glue that holds all relationships.” - Steve Jobs

“Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.” - C.S. Lewis

Integrity and success

According to the words of President Abraham Lincoln: “Nearly all men can manage to lead successful lives if they choose to. But few ever choose to lead successful lives.”

Integrity and character

Before concluding I would like to highlight the quality of leadership by mentioning what the great leader Sri Lanka Orange said: “The quality of leadership is not only a matter of confidence but it is also a question of integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter how much skill or other qualities a leader may have.”

Integrity and success

To conclude, integrity is the foundation of any successful relationship. It is the quality of integrity that is the key to success, and it is the quality that makes us the best. Without integrity, we cannot be successful in our personal or professional lives.
ANKARA—Turkish police have concluded that prominent Saudi journalist and critic Jamal Khashoggi was murdered inside the Saudi mission in Istanbul after going missing Tuesday, according to an unnamed government official.

“Based on their initial findings, the police believe that the journalist was killed by a team especially sent to Istanbul and who left the same day,” the official told AFP on Saturday.

It came hours after police confirmed that around 15 Saudis, including officials, arrived in Istanbul on two flights on Tuesday and were at the consulate at the same time as the journalist.

Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor, had gone there on an administrative errand but “did not come back out” of the building, police had told the state-run Anadolu news agency.

On the back of the preliminary police investigation, Ankara announced Saturday it had opened an official probe into his disappearance. The state-run Saudi Press Agency, quoting an unnamed official at the Istanbul consulate, denied the reports of Khashoggi’s murder.

“The official strongly denounced these baseless allegations,” the agency wrote, adding that “we will allow them to enter and search and do whatever they want to do... We have nothing to hide”. In the interview published Friday, the Saudi crown prince also said he understood that Khashoggi had entered the consulate “and he got out after a few minutes or one hour”.

“I’m not sure. We are investigating this through the foreign ministry to see exactly what happened at that time,” he added.

According to his fiancee Cengiz, Khashoggi had visited the consulate to receive an official document for his marriage.

Turkey’s foreign ministry on Wednesday summoned Saudi Arabia’s ambassador over the issue.

Syria rebels say shifting heavy arms from Idlib buffer zone

BEIRUT—Syrian rebels said Saturday they have begun withdrawing heavy arms from a planned buffer zone in northwestern Idlib province, ahead of a deadline to set up the demilitarised area.

The Turkey-backed National Liberation Front (NLF) “has started pulling out its heavy weapons from the zone”, the rebel coalition’s spokesman Naji Mustafa told AFP.

The buffer zone, agreed last month between rebel backer Ankara and government ally Moscow, aims to separate regime and jihadist forces of the Idlib region.

The accord, reached on September 17, aims to stave off a massive regime assault on the last major rebel bastion by creating a 15 to 20-kilometre (nine to 12-mile) buffer zone ringing the area.

All rebels in the demilitarised zone must withdraw heavy arms by October 16, and radical groups must leave by October 15.

NLF spokesman Mustafa said the rebel coalition was “maintaining its positions and headquarters with medium and light weapons” inside the buffer zone.

The NLF is the main Turkish-backed rebel alliance in the Idlib region, but jihadist heavyweight Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) holds most of the province.

The HTS has yet to announce its stance on the buffer zone deal. —AFP

Syrian rebels in a Turkey-backed National Liberation Front (similar to the ones pictured September 2018) have started removing heavy weapons from the buffer zone in northwestern Idlib province. PHOTO: AFP
Kavanaugh sworn into Supreme Court after divisive fight

WASHINGTON—Brett Kavanaugh was sworn in Saturday as US Supreme Court justice following the closest Senate confirmation vote in more than a century, marking a major win for President Donald Trump’s drive to move the country’s political institutions to the right.

The Senate voted 50-48 to approve Kavanaugh as protesters rallied across the country against a nominee who has been plagued by allegations of sexual misconduct as a young man and had questions raised over his candor and partisan rhetoric.

The prolonged nomination battle has roiled American politics and passions—the vote was disrupted on several occasions by protests from the gallery—but handed Trump one of the biggest victories of his presidency.

It drew the line under a bruising nomination process defined by harrowing testimony from a woman who says Kavanaugh tried to rape her when they were teenagers—and by his fiery rebuttal.

The two-vote margin of victory made it the closest Supreme Court confirmation vote since 1881—and by far the most contentious since Clarence Thomas in 1991. As Chief Justice John Roberts swore in Kavanaugh during a private Supreme Court ceremony, protesters demonstrated loudly outside, at one point rushing the steps of the court and banging on its ornate bronze doors while some sat on a Contemplation of Justice statue.

“I am here because President Trump mocked sexual assault victims,” said North Carolina native Karin Harrington, 50. “It unleashed something inside me. I was assaulted when I was younger and I didn’t tell anybody.” The confirmation means Trump has succeeded in having his two picks seated on the court—tilting it decidedly to the right in a major coup for the Republican leader less than halfway through his term.

Trump triumphant

During an evening rally in Topeka, Kansas, Trump was greeted by prolonged cheers on what he called a “truly historic night.” “I stand before you today on the heels of a tremendous victory for our nation, our people and our beloved Constitution,” he told supporters after signing Kavanaugh’s commission aboard Air Force One.

Bosnians vote for leaders of fragmented nation

SARAJEVO—Bosnia and Herzegovina Bosnians head to the polls on Sunday to elect leaders who will steer the future of the poor Balkan nation splintered by ethnic divides that fueled its 1990s war. The country remains a patchwork of enclaves, with power formally divided among its three main groups: Bosnian Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

While the list of economic woes facing the country is long, many voters say they have lost faith in a political class accused of stoking nationalism to stay in power.

“As the nationalists will win once again and nothing will change,” said Armin Bukaric, a 45-year-old businessman in Sarajevo, echoing a common view among its three main groups: Bosnian Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

Bosnia remains a patchwork of enclaves, with power formally divided among its three main groups: Bosnian Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

“The fight is ongoing, displaced million and wrecked the country’s economy and infrastructure. A quarter of a century later, Bosnia is still governed by the peace accord that stopped the war and sliced the country in two—home to Muslims and Croats.

Depressing

On top sits a tripartite presidency that rotates between a Serb, Croat and Muslim member. One leading candidate for the Serb seat, Milorad Dodik, is a pro-Russian nationalist who regularly dangles the idea of holding a vote on the secession of the country’s Serb-dominated half.

Dodik has led that entity— Republika Srpska—since 2006 and rarely sets foot in Bosnia’s capital Sarajevo, which he terms a hostile “foreign territory”.

If the wins, one of his partners in the presidency could be Croat incumbent Dragan Covic, who also advocates drawing deeper communal divisions.

Covic’s right-wing HDZ party would like to see the creation of a third entity just for Croats, who currently live in a region with majority Bosnian Muslims (Bosniaks).

Tanja Topic, a political analyst, says the purpose of these “ethno-nationalist” policies is to “maintain the status quo and stagnation” that helps keep such leaders in control. Ranlo Mavrank, a prominent Sarajevo journalist, described the country’s political outlook as “depressing”.

“We don’t see anything on the horizon that would offer some change to the systems and stereotypes that have governed this country for 25 years since the war,” he said in a TV interview.

United by corruption

While nationalists are trying to widen the gulf between different communities, a shared frustration with government corruption has brought some Bosnians together. kf

A separate, public swearing-in ceremony is planned for 7:00 pm (2300 GMT) Monday in the White House’s East Room.—AFP

Brazil’s electoral court verifies digital signatures prior to Sunday election

BRASILIA—The Superior Electoral Court (TSE) held a ceremony on Saturday to verify digital signatures on the electronic ballot boxes filing system, the final technical procedure prior to the general elections.

The verification ensures systems installed at polling stations are the same ones that had been digitally signed by the Federal Public Ministry, the Federal Police and the TSE when the ballot boxes were sealed on Sept. 6. “We conduct this ceremony to certify the authenticity and originality of the systems distributed to the Regional Electoral Courts,” said TSE president Rosa Weber, claiming it is fundamental for the transparency and reliability of the electoral process.

“This guarantees the vote is secret and the election results are secure,” she added.—Xinhua
**Indonesia mulls leaving quake-flattened villages as mass graves**

PALU (Indonesia) — More bodies were unearthed from the earthquake-and-tsunami-ravaged Indonesian city of Palu on Saturday, as authorities move closer to calling off the search for the dead trapped under flattened communities and declaring them mass graves.

Officials said Saturday the death toll had climbed to 1,649, with more than a thousand feared still missing in the seaside city on Sulawesi island.

More than 82,000 military and civilian personnel, as well as volunteers, have descended on the devastated city, where relief groups say clean water and medical supplies are in short supply.

After days of delays, international aid has slowly begun trickling into the disaster zone where the UN says almost 200,000 people need humanitarian assistance. But hopes of finding anyone alive a full eight days later have all but faded, as the search for survivors morphs into a grim gathering of the dead.

At the massive Balaroa government housing complex, where the sheer force of the quake turned the earth temporarily to mush, soldiers wearing masks turned the earth temporarily to mush, soldiers wearing masks to ward off the stench of death, while crosses were placed over hundreds of graves.

“Tens of thousands of decomposing bodies could still be buried beneath this once-thriving neighbourhood, the search and rescue agency said.

Two soldiers who are part of the search emerged from a ditch with a body bag sagging in the middle but looking too light to be a corpse — they said they had found the heads of two adults and one child.

“There are no survivors here. We just find bodies, every day,” said army sergeant Syarifuddin, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

**Health fears**

At the flattened Hotel Roa-Roa — where early optimism that survivors might be found faded as the days wore on — rescuers reviewed CCTV footage to get a sense of where the doomed guests could be buried.

In Petobo — another village all but wiped off the map — teams struggled to extract bodies from the muck, often dislodging limbs loosened by decomposition after more than a week exposed to the elements.

The search for survivors has not officially been called off.

But security minister Wiranto said the government had been discussing with local leaders and religious figures as to when the worst-hit areas would be declared mass graves, and left untouched.

“We have to make a decision as to when the search for the dead will end. Then, we later must decide when the area will be designated a mass grave,” he told reporters late Friday.

Concerns are growing that decomposing bodies could turn into a serious health hazard.

“Most of the bodies we have found are not intact, and that poses a danger for the rescuers. We have to be very careful to avoid contamination,” Yusuf Latif, a spokesman for Indonesia’s search and rescue agency, told AFP from Palu.

“We have vaccinated our guests, but we need to be extra cautious.”

While the World Health Organization says there is no evidence to suggest bodies in such disaster situations could spark an epidemic, it has warned that those handling corpses are at a risk of contracting diseases like tuberculosis, cholera, and bloodborne viruses.

Thousands of survivors continued to stream out of Palu to nearby cities in the aftermath of the disaster. Hospitals remain overstretched and short on staff and supplies.

In Karawana village, nurse Ilyang Latamota can offer little more than antibiotics and painkillers to treat those flocking to a makeshift clinic with badly-injured patients.

“Palu’s ordeal is grief for all of us and that’s why everyone is lending a hand to help,” he said.

The United Nations said Friday it was seeking $90.5 million “for immediate relief” to help victims.

Getting vital supplies to the affected areas has proved hugely challenging, with the number of flights able to land at Palu’s small airport still limited, leaving aid workers facing gruelling overland journeys.

Oxfam had sent water treatment units and purification kits to Palu and Swiss aid teams on the ground were providing drinking water and emergency shelter, both said in statements Saturday.

Indonesia sits along the world’s most tectonically active region, and its 260 million people are vulnerable to earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. —AFP

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**Two dead, one missing as Typhoon Kong-Rey hits S. Korea**

SEOUL — Two people died and one person is missing in South Korea as powerful typhoon Kong-Rey hit the country on Saturday, the government said.

A 66-year-old man died while crossing a bridge in the city of Gwangju, south of Seoul, the national disaster management agency said without elaborating on the cause of the death.

Another man, aged 83, was found dead after being washed away by a river in a southern county of Yeongdeok, while a 76-year-old went missing after falling into a river in the southern port of Pohang.

The powerful typhoon dumped heavy rain across the country from Friday before moving away from the peninsula Saturday afternoon. —AFP

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**DPRK praises friendship with China on anniversary of ties**

PYONGYANG — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Saturday spoke highly of the friendly relations between the DPRK and China on the 69th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

China and the DPRK established diplomatic relations on Oct. 6, 1949, and it is a meaningful day for both the DPRK people and the Chinese people, said the official Rodong Sinmun.

The official daily of the ruling Workers’ Party of Korea said in a commentary that the establishment of diplomatic ties served as an epochal occasion to develop the friendly relations between the two peoples. Created and nurtured by the older generations of leaders of both countries, the DPRK-China friendship is the valuable treasure of the two peoples, the newspaper said, adding that the friendship has been developed and strengthened through generations without wavering in any trials and storms. By analogy to a deep-rooted tree that could brave any weather, the traditional friendship between the DPRK and Chinese peoples was hailed by the newspaper as “impregnable.” —Xinhua
Avoiding climate chaos means ‘unprecedented’ change: UN report

INcheon (South Korea) — The UN’s 195-nation climate science body plunged deep into overtime Saturday to finalise a report outlining stark options — all requiring a global makeover of unprecedented scale — for avoiding climate chaos.

Working through the night, the closed-door huddle in rain-soaked Incheon, South Korea, was to convene a plenary later in the day to hammer through a “Summary for Policymakers.”

“Can humanity cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit)? What will it take and how much will it cost? Would climate impacts be significantly less severe than in a 2˚C world?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was tasked with these questions by the framers of the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement, which calls for halting the rise in temperatures to “well below” 2˚C — and 1.5˚C if possible.

That aspirational goal — tackled on to the treaty at the last minute — caught climate scientists off-guard.

“Our understanding of 1.5˚C was very limited, all but two or three of the models we had then were based on a 2˚C target,” said Henri Waisman, a senior scientist.

“This is the first time we get a new scenario that’s based on 1.5˚C,” he said.

The report said the pathway to a climate-safe world involves wrenching economic and social change “unprecedented in terms of scale,” the report said.

“The excessive consumption of water, especially from ground-water is a threat and could have terrible social consequences,” he warned. If the situation is not brought under control, then “we would lose about 70 percent of our cultivated land in a maximum of 20 to 30 years.”

Adding to the dire situation, “we currently use about 80 percent of our renewable water... according to global standards this figure should not be higher than 40 percent,” said Kalantari, vice president and head of Iran’s Environment Department, in an exclusive interview in Tehran.

The excessive consumption of water, especially from ground-water is a threat and could have terrible social consequences,” he warned. If the situation is not brought under control, then “we would lose about 70 percent of our cultivated land in a maximum of 20 to 30 years.”

“The south of Alborz and east of Zagros, if we don’t take swift action, will become unusable for agriculture,” Kalantari added.

Alborz and Zagros are mountain ranges in the north and west of Iran respectively. The majority of Iran’s mostly arid land mass and population centres are located to the south and east of them.

According to the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization, Iran, a country of some 80 million people, predominantly relies on agriculture.

Past errors
Kalantari said there had been many years of mismanagement of water resources, and mistaken decisions forced by political and economic concerns such as the US sanctions and climate change.

“We basically thought that environment was not that important,” he said. Other countries had also failed to address climate issues introducing policy errors in the 1960s and 1970s. “We made these mistakes in the 1980s. Then we came to realise that in places that we’d built dams, we shouldn’t have built any, and in places where we should have built dams, we didn’t build any,” he said. The pressure on the country’s resources has also been exacerbated by population growth, with Iranians encouraged to have large families in the years following its 1979 Islamic revolution. —AFP
Honduras zoo struggles to replace the drug money that built it

SANTA CRUZ DE YOJOA (Honduras) — An impossibly tall giraffe, powerful African lions and proud Bengal tigers are among the many highlights of a zoo — created by wealthy drug traffickers — that is like a Garden of Eden in the green mountains of Honduras.

But the Joya Grande animal park is now languishing because of a shortage of funds.

The zoo was allegedly modeled after the Hacienda Nápoles — the vast estate of the late Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar — by a violent Honduran cartel known as the Cachiros, which was sanctioned by the United States in 2013.

“The eco-park was very profitable, it was new, we had a lot of investment, but now we lack the capital that the owners had” since their arrests, biologist and zoo manager Maria Diaz told AFP.

Diaz, who is Guatemalan, is desperately hoping for government economic assistance to keep the park going.

Four months of demonstrations against the re-election last November of President Juan Orlando Hernández blocked the main access road to the zoo, sharply curtailing the number of visitors.

The facility sits atop a hill 150 kilometers (95 miles) north of the capital city Tegucigalpa. A sign formed of white stones set on a grassy hillside welcomes tourists with the words “Great Jewel Zoo.”

The giraffe stretches out its neck to greet visitors, while zebras leisurely munch on hay in a nearby corral. Further down a steep slope are enclosures for deer, camels and big, pig-like tapirs — including a newborn — as well as the pools in which hippopotamuses wallow.

Next come cages and enclosures containing powerful members of the cat family — African lions, Bengal tigers, jaguars and pumas — followed by bison, llamas, wildebeest, ostriches, peacocks and other exotic animals.

Visitors can rent water bicycles, ride horses or enjoy the zoo’s cafeterias, pools and restaurants, as well as the 15 cabins for tourists — who are sorely lacking.

Honduras’s Office of Seized Assets (OABI) confiscated the facility from the drug cartel in April 2014, at which point the biologist Diaz — who had been in charge of caring for the animals — managed to obtain a government concession to operate the place for $7,400 a month. — AFP

Composer Sakamoto fulfills childhood dream with animation

BUSAN (South Korea) — Oscar-winning composer Ryuichi Sakamoto has spent a career steeped in high drama but on Saturday the Japanese star revealed he had now realised a childhood dream by working for the first time in animation.

“I grew up watching Astro Boy,” said Sakamoto, referring to the cartoon crime fighter: “So I have a great respect for this world.”

The 66-year-old Sakamoto first won widespread acclaim for his seminal work on the score for the gritty David Bowie-starring drama “Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence” (1983) before he won an Oscar for the Bernardo Bertolucci-directed period epic “The Last Emperor” in 1987. — AFP

Banksy shocks art world by shredding £1 mn work at auction

LONDON — British street artist Banksy has stunned the art world with arguably his most audacious prank yet, self-destructing one of his best-known works moments after it fetched more than a million pounds at auction in London.

“Girl with Balloon” had just sold at Sotheby’s Friday for £1,042,000 ($1.4 million, 1.2 million euros) — a joint record for the maverick artist — when it unexpectedly passed through a shredder hidden in the frame.

Banksy posted a video Saturday on his Instagram page accompanied by a quote attributed to Pablo Picasso — “the urge to destroy is also a creative urge” — showing the stunt unfolding and how he pulled it off.

“A few years ago I secretly built a shredder into a painting, in case it was ever put up for auction,” read captions displayed over footage of a man crafting the device into a faux-gilt frame.

The video later shows scenes from Sotheby’s, where onlookers are left aghast as an alarm sounds and most of the image drops down through the frame and is left shredded.

“It appears we just got Banksy-ed,” said Alex Branczik, Sotheby’s head of contemporary art, according to The Art Newspaper.

“We are busy figuring out what this means in an auction context,” he reportedly added.

“The shredding is now part of the integral art work.”

Banksy’s did not release details on the buyer, but reports suggested the winning bid was made by telephone.

“We have talked with the successful purchaser who was surprised by the story,” the auctioneers said in a statement to The Financial Times.

“We are in discussion about next steps.” Banksy, a mysterious artist from Bristol, southwest England, has never confirmed his real identity. — AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

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Chinese American scientist wins Genius Grant

LOS ANGELES — Neuroscientist Doris Tsao from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) was awarded the Genius Grant for her creativity and talent in neuroscience, it was announced here on Thursday. The Genius Grant, also known as the MacArthur Fellowship, is a no-strings-attached award with $625,000 U.S. dollars to people of “outstanding talent,” for their “originality, insight and potential,” according to the MacArthur Foundation.

Tsao is a systems neuroscientist studying the neural mechanisms underlying primate vision. She and her group aim to discover how the brain “stitches together” individual pixels of light, the photons hitting retinas, to create the visual experience of discrete and recognizable objects in space.

In 2017, Tsao and her team discovered the neural mechanism for face recognition. Even though an infinite number of different possible faces exist, they found that the brain needs only about 200 neurons to uniquely encode any face, with each neuron encoding a specific dimension of facial variability.

Tsao is widely recognized for pioneering the use of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to target electrodes for studying visual processing in monkeys. She also demonstrated the existence of “face patches” in the macaque brain.

“I’ve been lucky to be on this journey with incredible mentors, colleagues, students and postdocs. This award is every bit a recognition of their hard work and brilliance,” said Tsao.

She said her lab is taking some completely new directions right now, venturing into new parts of the brain and a new species. —Xinhua

First compelling evidence for a moon outside solar system found

WASHINGTON — American astronomers offered first compelling evidence for the existence of a moon orbiting a gas-giant planet 8,000 light-years away.

The study published on Wednesday in the journal Science Advances reported the detection of a candidate exomoon, or moons orbiting planets in other star systems. The exomoon, a satellite of planet Kepler 1625b, is large, comparable to the diameter of Neptune. “This would be the first case of detecting a moon outside our solar system,” said David Kipping, an assistant professor of astronomy at Columbia University, who, together with Alex Teachey at Columbia University, used NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope and Kepler Space Telescope to reveal the object. “If confirmed by follow-up Hubble observations, the finding could provide vital clues about the development of planetary systems and may cause experts to revisit theories of how moons form around planets,” said Kipping.

The moon is estimated to be only 1.5 percent the mass of its companion planet, which itself estimated to be several times the mass of Jupiter.

This value is close to the mass-ratio between the Earth and its moon. But in the case of the Earth-Moon system, an early collision with a larger body is hypothesized to have blasted off material that later coalesced into a moon. However, both Kepler 1625b and its satellite are gaseous rather than rocky, so such a collision may not lead to the condensation of a satellite.

The researchers measured the momentary dimming of starlight as 284 Kepler-discovered planets passed in front of their stars, called a transit and found Kepler 1625b had anomalies.

Then, they used Hubble to scrutinize the planet during its 19-hour-long transit across the face of the star and then detected a second and much smaller decrease in the star’s brightness 3.5 hours later. It was consistent with “a moon trailing the planet like a dog following its owner on a leash,” according to Kipping.

Flaw found in launch pad casing at Vostochny Cosmodrome partially fixed, says operator

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Flaw found in launch pad casing at Vostochny Cosmodrome partially fixed, says operator

In early September, specialists from the Center for the Operation of Ground-Based Space Infrastructure uncovered poor-quality concrete under a section of the launch pad’s casing at the Vostochny spaceport in the Amur Region. However, according to the Center, the defect is not critical.

The Vostochny Cosmodrome is Russia’s first civilian spaceport. In April 2016, the first successful launch was carried out from the space center with the delivery of three satellites into orbit. The Vostochny spaceport will ensure Russia’s full access to outer space and reduce its dependence on Kazakhstan’s Baikonur. —Tass

China’s AC311A light utility helicopter completes plateau flight tests

BEIJING — China’s newly-developed AC311A light utility helicopter has completed its plateau flight tests, according to its developer Saturday.

The two-tonne light helicopter model has conducted 41 hours of tests at three plateau airports over northwestern Gansu Province and Qinghai Province, and Yuzhong Airport in northwestern Gansu Province.

These plateau airports are located at altitudes ranging from 2,000 to 4,000 meters. The AC311A has conducted multiple flight tests, such as near-ground-maneuvering and hovering, targeting to test its capacities of anti-cross wind and sand-prevention at various altitudes in plateau environments.

The model is equipped with the Turbomeca ARRIEL 2B1A heli-engine and an integrated avionics system, with a maximum take-off weight of 2.25 tonnes and a climb limit of 8,000 meters. The model meets China’s surging demands in the general aviation sector for aircraft manufacturers with more than 50 models in 12 series. —Xinhua

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Australia ease pressure on Cheika with remarkable win

MANCHESTER CITY — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho revealed he had received a text message of support from the English giants’ board ahead of his team’s thrilling 3-2 win over Newcastle at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Speculation over Mourinho’s position mounted before kick-off following United’s poor start to the season and, with his team trailing 2-0 inside 10 minutes, the Portuguese boss looked like he could be on his way out.

But Alexis Sanchez capped United’s incredible second-half comeback when he rose to meet Ashley Young’s cross and head in the winning goal in the final minute of the game. Afterwards Mourinho admitted he needed an unofficial “vote of confidence” from a board member believed to be executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward, before the game to know he could discount a newspaper report that he would be sacked this weekend, regardless of the result against Premier League strugglers Newcastle.

“Those are the papers that are connected with social media, they thought maybe I had gone,” said Mourinho.

“If I hadn’t had an SMS from my board not to read (the papers) I would have been convinced too,” he added.

But 10 minutes into the visit of lowly Newcastle perhaps even Woodward was re-thinking his position.

The visitors’ goals resulted from appalling defending from a United side that has looked weak in that department all season, both coming from Newcastle throw-ins which would have been dealt with by an organised defence.

In the seventh minute, Ayoze Perez played a routine through-ball inside full-back Young and Kennedy easily beat him, for skill and pace, before finishing ruthlessly. — AFP

PHOTO: AFP

Argentina suffered a serious blow after 29 minutes when star full-back Nicolas Sanchez had to retire injured and was replaced by Santiago Gonzalez Iglesias.

Brilliant solo try
It took the Pumas just 105 seconds to go in front as Pablo Matera ran a brilliant angled line to take the ball and burst down the middle for a try that Sanchez converted.

A bad start for the Wallabies got worse on four minutes when Reece Hodge was dispossessed and two passes set up Emiliano Boffelli for a run to the line with Sanchez converting again.

Australia skipper Michael Hooper powered over from close range after clever running from a lineout and Foley converted to leave his team seven points adrift. But that was as good as it got for the visiting side in the opening half as Argentina scored two more tries and a penalty before a near-capacity crowd in the 20,000-seat stadium.

Patience and powerful running ended with Matias Orlando going over between the posts on 27 minutes and Sanchez converted before being forced off.

Iglesias had been on the field less than two minutes when he scored a brilliant solo try, including a swerve that left Foley for dead. Iglesias converted his try and slotted an angled penalty to give the South Americans a 24-point advantage by the break. — AFP

Taolu World Cup 2018 to be held in Yangon

UNDER the supervision of International Wushu Federation (IWUF), Taolu World Cup 2018 will be held at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon, on 17 and 18 October.

The Taolu World Cup (TWC) is the official world cup event that is hosted by the IWUF.

The TWC takes place biennially and features the top placing Taolu athletes from the previous world wushu championships.

The 1st TWC took place in Fuzhou, China, in 2016 and Myanmar Wushu Federation is in charge for the organization of the 2nd TWC, under the auspices of the IWUF. Only four athletes from each nation will be allowed to compete in the championship and 22 gold medals will be awarded in total. Myanmar wushu athletes to compete are Nyein Chan Ko Ko, Thein Than Oo, Sandi Oo and Aye Thitsar Myint.

As for Myanmar, it will be the first time that it is holding the world level Taolu championship. —Shine Htet Zaw

International Billiards & Snooker Championship to be held in Myanmar

MYANMAR Billiards & Snooker Federation (MBSF) will hold the 2018 International Championships from 12 to 18 November at Grand Mercure Hotel, Yangon.

About 250 players from 40 countries will compete in the championship.

A total of five categories will be included in the international championship: 150 UP, Long Point, Master, Men and Ladies.

150 UP and Long Point events will be held from 12 to 18 November, while Master, Men and Ladies events will be held from 19 to 27 November. —Pwint Thitsar