**THE SPECIAL MEETING BETWEEN THE UNION GOVERNMENT AND THE ETHNIC ARMED ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUES FOR SECOND DAY**

The special meeting between the Union Government and the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) signatories of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) continued at the Shwe San Ein Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the second day meeting.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr. Tin Myo Win, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Secretary of the Peace Commission Li-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Retd), Representative of Pyithu Hluttaw U Aung Soe, Representative of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aung Kyi Nyunt, responsible officials of the Government and the Tatmadaw, Chairman of the Karen National Union (KNU) Saw Mutu Sae Poe and Vice Chairman Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) U Yawd Serk and Secretary U Sai Ngin, Patron of the PaO National Liberation Organization (PNLO) Khun Okka and Vice Chairman Khun Myint Tun, Chairman of the Chin National Front (CNF) Pu Zing Cung and Vice Chairman Dr. Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong, Vice Chairman of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) Khaing Soe Naing Aung and member of the Central Committee Saw Mya Yar Zar Lin, Chairman of All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) U Than Ge and Vice Chairman U Myo Win.

... peace negotiators discussed issues including self-determination and non-secession from the Union, establishing a unified Tatmadaw...
Vice President: For food sufficiency, food security government will closely cooperate with international organisations

WORLD Food Day 2018 ceremony was held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation meeting hall yesterday morning where Vice President U Henry Van Thio attended and addressed the event.

The Vice President said World Food Day was held to show the importance of everyone’s participation in food sufficiency and eradicating hunger. The Vice President added that we will have a healthy, strong and developed human society in the future only when our children, who are our future, can have safe, nutritious and sufficient amount of food.

According to 2017 FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) report, during 2016 there were more than 815 million amongst global population who were suffering from acute hunger for a long period and that number is an increase of more than 38 million from 2015. About 155 million children under 5 years old were malnourished and have stunted growth, it is learnt.

According to studies conducted on people living in extreme poverty, more than 80 percent were living in rural areas and were earning a living through agriculture. In our country too, more than 70 percent of the population is living in agriculture-based rural areas and thus rural development is very important. Only through eradication of hunger can the socio-economic situation of the rural area develop and our mindset and way of living needs to be changed. For the sustainable development of the environment and socio-economic situation, a good administrative and management system is also required. In addition to this, the government needs to create good opportunities for local and foreign investment to develop the country.

In the world today, global warming and climate change that come together with the changing technologies are adversely affecting people living in the rural area. Due to these adverse effects, rural areas where majority of the people are residing is facing destruction and losses of agriculture products, while products were also not of sufficient quality resulting in declining socio-economic situation, insufficient to supply shortage of safe foods and hunger.

The result is shocking as annual death from hunger is higher than the combined death caused by malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS. Furthermore, 45 percent of infant mortalities are also learnt to be due to lack of nutrition.

This is the reason FAO had designated to commemorate the World Food Day under the theme, “Our Actions are our Future. A #ZeroHunger world by 2030 is possible.” Therefore, in addition to adequately feeding the gradually growing population and to create a healthy and prospective future generation, the important works of rural area development and socio-economic development of rural lives need to be conducted to the utmost using both our physical and mental efforts. This has to be conducted with the support of FAO, correct and effective policy of the government, effective and successful implementation of the departments in cooperation with the people.

It is said that 60 percent of the population experiencing hunger in the world are women. In our country, more than half of the population is women. The role of the women also needs to be emphasized. The productivity of women has a huge effect on the family, nation and world levels.

As such, home manufacturing work need to be upgraded through cooperative process. And as per the saying “the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world,” the development of a healthy, educated and capable future generation is directly related to women. The best way to transform the way a family live and eat is to educate the women folks.

To achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal number two, 2018 World Food Day is held with special emphasis placed on eradicating hunger among the people. While international organisations work together toward sustainable development, we also need to work together toward that. Without food sufficiency, effective and successful rural development, a zero hunger world by 2030 wouldn’t be successful. Similarly, without eradicating hunger, the aims of nutrition, health, education and socio-economic developments are not achievable.

Hunger and deficiency in nutrition was reduced to a certain extent but is now rising again to threaten our world and society. Due to conflicts, climate change, economic downturn and inequality, achieving the aim of eradicating hunger is appearing to be more difficult. However, if the world’s countries and relevant organisations work together with the people, great progress can be reached in food sufficiency and nutrition adequacy. To own a sustainable future, it is the duty of the people of the world to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

In eradicating hunger and nutrition deficiency, it is important for the government to set correct policy and guidelines, have an effective and quick information system, relax rules and regulations, create opportunities for investors and cooperate with the people in the related sectors of socio-economic, sustainable agriculture and livestock breeding, nutrition, health and education.

For food sufficiency, food security and nutrition sectors the government will be cooperating closely with international organisations, like the FAO. In addition to this, in the related sectors such as rural area development, increasing agriculture productivity and socio-economic development, it will cooperate and create opportunity for relevant organisations and enact and amend required law, rules and procedures through relevant ministries.

On behalf of the Myanmar people and the government, FAO is honoured, thanked and recognized for providing technical and financial support in agriculture, livestock and rural development sectors to achieve food sufficiency and sustainable development in Myanmar.

Only when all strive towards preventing food waste, increase food production for the increasing nine billion population of the world and systematically consume food can the aim of zero hunger world in 2030 can be achieved. As such, all are urged to do their part, according to this year’s theme of “Our Actions are our Future. A #ZeroHunger world by 2030 is possible,” said the Vice President.

Next Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu delivered remarks about 2018 World Food Day and FAO Resident Representative Ms. Xiaojie Fan read the message of FAO Director General.

Afterwards, a video commemorating 2018 World Food Day and a video record of Myanmar’s efforts on food sufficiency and agriculture sector development were shown.

After this, the Vice President, together with ceremony attendees, posed for a commemorative group photo and observed the World Food Day exhibits.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Deputy Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council member, representatives of UN organisations, diplomats, FAO representatives, representatives of international and local NGOs, departmental officials and invited guests. — MNA
Special meeting between Union Gov’t, NCA Signatory EAOs continues for second day

FROM PAGE 1

Chairman of the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) Saw Moe Shay, Secretary of the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council (KNU/KNL-PC) Dr. Naw Kapaw Htoo, Vice Chairman of KNU Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win and Director-General of the Office of the State Counsellor U Zaw Htay acted as advocates.

During the meeting, the peace negotiators discussed issues including self-determination and non-secession from the Union, establishing a unified political system as implementing the NCA.

PHOTO: MNA

Announcement for voters

1. Union Election Commission compiled the voters lists at the sub-election commission offices in the vacant constituencies for the by-elections to be held on 3 November 2018, based on the list of the 2015 General Election. The lists were made public for the first time from 9-7-2018 to 22-7-2018 and for the last time from 1-10-2018 to 14-10-2018 at sub-election commission offices and villages in respective constituencies. The eligible voters made necessary demands, amendments and objections after checking the lists.

2. Eligible voters of the 2018-by elections do not lose their voting rights though they have lost necessary documents for voting, such as national citizenship authentication from their ward/village administrator and they can show the recommendation for authentication from their ward/village administrator to the polling station official and cast their votes.

3. Until he or she is not able to show the recommendation, he/she can cast their votes if someone guarantees that he/she is an eligible voter to the polling station official.

4. Hence, eligible voters are urged to go to the polling stations on the by-elections day to cast their votes so that they might not lose their rights of a citizen.

Union Election Commission
(Unofficial Translation)
Senior General conveys Inle Phaungdaw-U Buddha Images for public obeisance in Nyaungshwe

INLE Phaungdaw-U Buddha Images were conveyed for public obeisance in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State, yesterday and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing conveyed the sacred Buddha Images from the royal barge to Dhamma Vihara building in Nyaungshwe.

The ceremony was also attended by Union Ministers Dr. Myint Htwe and wife, U Ohn Maung and wife, Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut and wife, Speaker of Shan State Hlutaw U Sai Lone Hsai, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw and wife, and senior military officers, members of the Shan State Cabinet, MPs and local people.

The congregation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomed the Karaweik Royal Barge carrying Inlay Phaungdaw-U Buddha Images and conveyed them to decorated cars for public obeisance.

Following the ceremony, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and dignitaries enjoyed the traditional boat racing of Intha tribe in the Inle Lake and presented prizes to the winner teams of the competitions.

During the trip, Senior General also met with officials of the Shan State Forest Department and discussed conservation of the lake. At the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing handed over K36 million donated by members of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) to the officials for construction of boats for the 46-oared men events in the lake, according to a news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. — MNA

Applications called for State Pariyatti Sasana University

MONKS and novices under-30 year and 10-vassa can now apply for enrollment in the first year of Sasana Dhammacariya at the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon/Mandalay) for 1380-1381 academic year.

Applicants are required to have passed one of the state Pathama Dhammacariya, Cetiyanga or Sakyathiha courses.

Those under 35-year and 15 vassa who have passed Sasana Takasila Dhammacariya, Cetiyanga Dhammacariya and Sakyathiha Dhammacariya can apply for first year of Sasanadhaja Dhammacariya.

The applicants should submit the form to the registrar office, State Pariyatti Sasana University and should reach no later than 19 November 2019.

For more information, contact 09-5400828, 09-42508728, 09-2035572 for the registrar office in Yangon and 02 66901, 09-2035572 for the registrar office in Mandalay. — MNA

Press conference held on special meeting between Gov’t, NCA Signatory EAOs

Vice Chairman of KNU Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win and Director-General of the Office of the State Counsellor U Zaw Htay answer questions from journalists at the press conference on the special meeting between the Union Government and the EAO signatories of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: PHOEHTAUNG

APRESS conference on the special meeting between the Union Government and the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAO) signatories of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, following the second day meeting.

Asked any progress was made in non-secession from the Union issue, Vice Chairman of KNU Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win said leaders of both sides could adopt a policy which can lead to finding ways for the issue. “Both sides adopted a policy to amend the wording for political dialogue and to overcome the bottleneck of that issue. Both sides agreed to practice a type of choosing a meaningful wording which can cover non-secession and self-determination,” said Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win.

Concerning with the issue of establishing a unified Tatmadaw, he said both sides agreed to negotiate and to prepare for the wording “security re-integration” including the seven-point road map of the NCA.

“We agreed to discuss “security re-integration”. Secondly, we also accept the point that a democratic federal union must have only one Tatmadaw, But, we also agreed to discuss how to form a unified army with different ethnic races,” said Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win.

In the second day meeting, representatives of the Union Government and signatories of NCA also discussed inclusiveness in peace efforts with ethnic armed organizations which have not signed the NCA.

“Regarding the inclusiveness, we discussed what the Union Government is making efforts for it and what the signatories of NCA are also working for it. The representatives of the Tatmadaw and the Peace Commission openly discussed that issue,” said U Zaw Htay, Director-General of the Office of the State Counsellor, who also acted as an advocate at the special meeting together with Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win.

The signatories of NCA submitted a proposal to the Government to hold a summit between signatories and non-signatories of the NCA in the second week of November as part of efforts for inclusiveness in peace making process.

— Ye Khang Nyunt
UEC Chairman receives Regional Director for Asia-Pacific of IFES

UNION Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein and Mr. Vasu Mohan, Regional Director for Asia-Pacific International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), held talks yesterday over the foundation’s assistance to the 2020 General Election in Myanmar. They met at the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. At the meeting, the UEC Chairman explained IFES’s aid to the election trainings, compilation of voters’ lists, observing international elections and drawing strategies under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UEC in 2013. U Hla Thein also explained current cooperation between the UEC and the IFES in preparation for holding the 2020 General Election in Myanmar.

Mr. Vasu Mohan discussed aid to be provided by IFES to UEC in areas such as conducting research for hate speech and disputes during election periods, IFES’s experiences in fighting hate speech and writing election management papers. —MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs, Special Cases Assessment Comm. Chair receives ROK Ambassador to Myanmar

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang-hwa at Hluttaw Affairs Building I-11 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they exchanged views about legal affairs, bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and ROK.—MNA

PHOTO: MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann meets with South Korean Ambassador Mr. Lee Sang-hwa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

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Hitachi Social Innovation
Union Minister attends Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference: London 2018

Union Minister U Ohn Win meets with Special Representative for Climate Change Mr. Nick Bridge at the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in London. PHOTO: MNA

The conference was held under a theme to stop illegal wildlife trade and discussed matters related to increasing collaboration, rule of law, ending related markets, closing wildlife trade routes in transportation and travel sectors, preventing wildlife trades through the Internet, acting against illegal logging and processes for improving knowledge.

Union Minister U Ohn Win discussed about new law enforcement for wildlife in Myanmar. The Union Minister, Ambassador of Myanmar to UK U Kyaw Swa Min and officials next went to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and met with Special Representative for Climate Change Mr. Nick Bridge. They discussed on collaboration of two countries concerned with environmental issues, forestry development section and the Paris agreement on reduction of climate change.

On 14 October, the Union Minister and officials went on an excursion trip to the Zoological Society of London. The Union Minister and delegates then arrived back in Myanmar on 16 October.—MNA

Two fighter jets crash in Sagu, killing three

TWO TATMADAW F-7 fighter jets crashed in Sagu in Minbu Township, Magway Region on 16 October, killing two pilots and a sixth-grade girl on the ground.

According to a statement from the military, four F-7 fighters from Magwe Airbase were taking part in the training exercise when the weather suddenly turned bad at about 6:20 a.m. It said two of the planes landed safely and two crashed, killing Captain Hein Thu Aung and Captain Phyo Maung Maung. On 16 October at 7:40 am, poor visibility caused one F-7 jet to fly into a telecommunications tower near about 500 yards northeast of Sarpwet Chaung Bridge, and the pilot is assumed to have jumped down with the parachute. The body of the pilot was torn asunder, said the Deputy Minbu Township Administrator.

In another incident, a Tatmadaw fighter jet also crashed near Thanatpin village, Saku Township around 7:25 am. Both pilots were killed in the accidents.

Magway Region chief minister and the security minister rushed to the scene of accident while Lt-Col Pyae Phyo from the Air Force inspected around the scene.

Near the accident area, a 10-year-old girl, who was studying at home, was hit by a piece of the plane which struck the tower. She died after arriving at hospital, he added.—IPRD

Myanmar, Japan agree on mutual exemption of visa for diplomatic passport holders

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of Japan, with a view to further strengthen friendly relations between the two governments and peoples, have exchanged notes through diplomatic channel, on the mutual Exemption of Visa for Diplomatic Passport Holders with duration of stay not exceeding ninety days. The mutual visa exemption will come into effect on 1st December 2018.—MNA

UNSG Special Envoy visits Thakelpyin IDP Camp in Sittway

MS. CHRISTINE Schraner Burgener visited Thakelpyin Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp in Sittway, Rakhine State, yesterday.

The special envoy met with displaced people at the camp which was established in 2012 and about 6,000 people from over 1,000 families are sheltering there.

Afterwards, she also met with local community in Aungmingalar Ward in Sittway.

During the trip, the UNSG Special Envoy was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung and Rakhine State Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan.

22,000 foreign jobs, 21,000 domestic jobs secured in September

THE Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population works continuously for national development, increasing the per capita income of capable workers, and creating more job opportunities, and in doing so, sends workers to foreign countries and creates domestic job opportunities as well.

Getting proper job and enough workers for employers, the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population created Labor Exchange Management System in 2017 and created jobs for 505 civil servants and 29,548 private workers.

Concerning creating job opportunities abroad, the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population has respectively sent 3,340 workers to Malaysia, 16 workers to Singapore, 465 workers to South Korea, 18,543 workers to Thailand, 3,340 workers to the UAE, 3,954 workers to Qatar and 17 workers to Jordan in September this year.—MNA

Police arrest three men, seize 117,000 Yaba pills in Maungtaw

SECURITY police arrested three men from U Shae Kya Village in Maungtaw Township and seized 117,000 stimulant tablets worth K234 million yesterday, according to the local police source.

The police searched a suspected boat at 3:45 am yesterday in the Naf River during their patrol and found the drugs and three men, including Shaw Shi Tar Mauk from U Shae Kya Village in Maungtaw Township.

During the interrogation, the suspects confessed that they were arrested on their way to the neighbouring country, said the police. The police charged the three suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—GNLM
Research work aims to solve sucker fish issue

By May Thet Hnin

IN a bid to tackle monster sucker fish posing threat to fish farmers, the Department of Zoology at the Yangon University and Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) have jointly conducting research. Fish breeders are affected by sucker fish’s spawning enormous numbers of eggs in fish lakes in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. To control this, a research is being conducted, said U Win Kyaw, general secretary of MFF.

Sucker fish were initially imported for home aquarium, leading later to reproduction and rapid growth of them in fish ponds, lakes and rivers.

At present, reproduction of tilapia and barbus fish imported from China (Taipei) and sucker fish is rapidly growing. Nevertheless, tilapia and barbus fish are popular as other fish species in domestic market, whereas sucker fish are not eaten. Therefore, it is hard to control the growing reproduction of that fish species.

The fish sample will be taken to Yangon University and teachers from the Department of Zoology will conduct experimentation. Additionally, they will go on a study tour to learn breeding behaviors of sucker fish in spawning grounds. Through research activities, they will try to prevent the spread of sucker fish species in fish ponds.

Yangon Region Fisheries Department has sent a notification to pagoda trustees to monitor whoever sets sucker fish free in lakes near pagodas in Yangon Region, as an effort to control the spread of sucker fish species.

Fish farmers are solving fish problem in their own way. “They deal with it in their own way when sucker fish are caught in fishing nodes. Some kill them and some recklessly dump them into creeks. When drained and replaced with fresh water, those sucker fish are prevented from flowing into the ponds. However, we are still not in touch with how to control them”, said U San Htike, fish breeder.

If we cannot prevent the spread of sucker fish species, it might threaten natural fish resources, fresh water fish farming, rivers, ponds, lakes and aquaculture. Thus, we need to come up with effective management to tackle with this, said breeders and environmental conservationists.

$1.1 million investment in transformational micro-insurance announced

STONESTEP Myanmar and the DaNa Facility, a UK Government for International Development (DFID) funded programme, yesterday announced an investment of over US$ 1.1 million in an innovative new project that plans to develop a pioneering micro-insurance market in Myanmar.

The introduction and expansion of a micro-insurance market in Myanmar will help to build the resilience of households and small business protecting them from financial and other shocks through products such as health, life and asset insurance.

Over the next two years, the project will contribute significantly to developing the micro-insurance market in Myanmar. The project aims to provide over 600,000 people with micro-insurance products to assist them in managing risk, generating personal income, and contributing to Myanmar’s national targets for financial inclusion.

The first phase of the project will use one of Myanmar’s existing microfinance institutions (MFIs), Vision Fund Myanmar, and their Social Welfare Fund (SWF) as a platform to reach disadvantaged groups and those traditionally excluded from the economy.

From the start, Stonestep will improve and augment the micro-insurance services provided to Vision Fund’s clients. During the second phase, Stonestep will expand its product offerings to other MFI partners and alternative distribution channels such as mobile network operators, mobile money platforms and other gateways and enabling the project to increase its scale and reach.

The Head of DFID, Dr Gali Marzetti, speaking at the launch event in Yangon yesterday said: “DFID is excited to be launching this project today with Stonestep because we see how it can offer transformation benefits to so many poor and marginalized people across all areas of the country.”

“As Stonestep works over the next two years to provide over 600,000 people with micro-insurance products, the services provided will be invaluable in helping ordinary people in managing the everyday risks of life, giving families across Myanmar peace of mind, security and protection from debt in times of need.”

Rechel Yu, Director of Programme Quality & Development, at Vision Fund Myanmar also commented: “Vision Fund is excited to partner with Stonestep to improve and expand the social warfare services we provide to our clients.

Micro-insurance is a powerful tool that can empower families to build their resilience against unexpected shocks and plan for a more secure and better future for themselves and their children.”

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol

A COORDINATED patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at the border posts 39 to 40 from 10:30 am to 12:50 pm on 15 October.

The Myanmar patrol was led by Inspector of Police Myat Zaw Oo from No.1 Border Police sub-division (Taung Pyo-Yar), Area 3, Maungtaw Township, and the Bangladesh patrol was led by Naib Subedar Md. Abdul Jalil of No. 34 Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB).

Similarly, on the same day at 10:35 am, a troop of border police led by Police Major Kyaw Win of No.2 Border Police sub-division (Ngakhuya) station conducted a coordinated patrol with two water crafts along the Naf River.

The troop in the two water crafts met with Bangladesh troops led by Subedar Aloy Sious of BGB 2 in two water crafts in the middle of the Naf River, near the mouth of Sabaypinyin creek at the 11 nautical mile post, and patrolled together along the river at 11:00 am between nautical mile 14 and 15 where the troops from the two sides met on boat 004, according to the Police Information Department.—Myanmar Police Force
OPINION

Let us strive for the country’s development by raising exports

By Maung Aung

YANGON is facing revenue problems from global economic changes as our country has been practicing market-oriented economy and foreign-looking policies. At the moment, the United States is waging a trade war, causing a worldwide decline and deteriorating the flow of US dollar, many countries are facing higher exchange rates and wild fluctuations in their interest rates. As the high value US dollar makes price of imports higher, transportation charges have been raised and prices of merchandise have gone higher. If the economy is restored, trade deficit is lower than previous years. But the amount of imports is higher than that of exports, putting our country’s trade balance in deficit. The situation of our country needs to be solved immediately.

General, essential and non-essential imports must be differentiated, limiting the latter ones for the time being. As we are practicing a market-oriented economy, it is suitable to encourage more production and increasing the share of domestic and import goods. As our currency continues to devalue, ways and means of raising exports should be found to create from current fiscal situation a good standing for long-term economic progress.

During Donald Trump Administration, the US is practicing protectionism by putting high taxes and import duties to free trade systems by taking 0-27% on foreign goods, trading countries with US. It is very disturbing. By imposing higher tariffs on imports from US. However, the United States is not stopping the trade war, instead, its curvy will keep on rising against other currencies.

An opportune moment to do business

After the Second World War, Asia is facing political problems through political means. Especially in a common number of players, we were prepared for difficulties and the ethnic armed organizations存在的 today. The peace talks are witnessing a “turning back but moving forward” mode in the national reconciliation and peace efforts, marking an important milestone in the path of peace. The Peon慵th Century Panglong Conference achieved to put an end to the armed struggle that has ravaged Myanmar since its birth as an independent nation. It aims to establish a strong democratic federal union based on lasting unity created out of diversity.

Experiences of other countries have shown that the path of peace processes solid and smooth and unimpeded.

Let us strive for the country’s development by raising exports

Especially in a country like ours where there were historically no political dialogues ever, we will have to take time to resolve the political problems through political means.

There have been difficulties and disappointments as anticipated but inconsistent negotiations, endless patience, the goodwill of participants and the encouragement and help of our people and our friends have enabled us to keep moving forward.

The meeting between the Union Government and the National League for Democracy (NLD) of Aung San Suu Kyi is being held in Nay Pyi Taw. The peace talks are focusing is how to overcome the difficulties facing in implementing the NCA signed between the Union Government and the ethnic armed organizations exists. The peace talks are witnessing a “turning back but moving forward” mode in the national reconciliation and peace efforts, marking an important milestone in the path of peace. The Peace Century Century Panglong Conference achieved to put an end to the armed struggle that has ravaged Myanmar since its birth as an independent nation. It aims to establish a strong democratic federal union based on lasting unity created out of diversity. The Peon慵th Century Panglong Conference achieved to put an end to the armed struggle that has ravaged Myanmar since its birth as an independent nation. It aims to establish a strong democratic federal union based on lasting unity created out of diversity.

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Especially in a country like ours where there were historically no political dialogues ever, we will have to take time to resolve the political problems through political means.
International White Cane Day event uplifts spirit of the disabled

MORE than 1,800 local people, including the blind and the visually impaired, participated in the 27th Mayors’ Cup, observing the International White Cane Day in Yangon on 15 October.

The event started at 6 am when Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe shot up the starter’s gun. A total of 1,821 people, including 1,345 blind and visually impaired people and 476 helpers from 28 groups, including Myanmar Christian Fellowship of the Blind and the School for the Blind (Sagai), participated in the International White Cane Day event.

“People know about us by participating in this kind of activity. So, I am very happy. In the past, people regarded us as pathetic and they would not want to see us. But now, people are encouraging us, regardless of whatever we are. That’s why I want to say thank you to all of you. According to 2014 census, there are about 1,240,000 blind and visually impaired people living in Myanmar. Therefore, I want to urge that if you see blind people, please help them,” said U Saw Thaung Kyi from Khawt Chan School for the Blind.

Beginning from City Hall, over 1,800 participants walked along the Sule Pagoda Road and then turned to Merchant Street, then turned to Mahabandoola Road along which they walked all the way back to the City Hall near Sule Pagoda.

Yangon Region Hluttaw Vice Chairman U Lin Naing Myint, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Yangon Region government ministers and Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) members participated together with the blind and the visually impaired people. YCDC members, religious association members and social association members, company staff and the general public cheered them along the way and presented snowtowels and handkerchiefs.

Then, Yangon Mayor delivered a speech in honor of the participants and presented the trophy and gifts to the schools for the blind. After that, the schools for the blind performed entertainment programs.

The event aims at supporting the disabled and promoting the awareness of the needs of the disabled, particularly those affected with blindness and visual impairments. The event has been held in Yangon annually since 1992.—Zarni Maung

Japan expo to showcase Nippon brands, tech products, services, job agencies

By Nyein Nyein

THE 7th Japan Expo 2018 Yangon will be held in the Tatmadaw Convoy Hall in Yangon from 27 to 29 October, according to Myanmar Promotion Services (MPS) Co., Ltd.

More than 70 companies will participate for three days in the Japan expo. The Japan expo has been celebrated since 2012, and it will be organized by Myanmar Promotion Services Co., Ltd., with the assistance of the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). The Japan expo will also showcase similar expos in Mandalay and Taunggyi annually, besides Yangon.

“The Japan expo will be held with an aim to developing stronger ties between the peoples of Japan and Myanmar through cultural and technological exchanges as well as to developing the economic sector by inviting Japanese investors,” said Dr. Zarni Maung Maung, Managing Director of Myanmar Promotion Services Co., Ltd.

“Aso, Myanmar government should provide assistance to hold similar expos. By supporting the holding of the expos in Myanmar, more foreign direct investments will enter Myanmar and job opportunities can be created for local talents,” he added.

The trade promotion in Myanmar is still very weak. The trade promotion sector also needs support from other sectors. In other countries, related departments provide financial assistance in order to make the event a success. They also provide easier processing of necessary documents. JETRO in Japan and the Department of International Trade Promotion in Thailand are good examples. Our country has just started an organization, like Myanmar Trade Promotion, under the Ministry of Commerce, he added. The Japan expo will exhibit Japanese brands, Japanese technological products, Japanese language center, Japanese technological service provider companies, Japanese job agencies, travel & tours, food, and Japanese cultural and business companies.

There will be over 160 showrooms at the Japan Expo 2018. Moreover, the event will include special agenda such as cosplay and Japanese songs competitions. Those who have bought for above Kyats 50,000 will have the chance to participate in the lucky draw program.
Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.

2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 13 October 2018 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Nature of report</th>
<th>Details on seizure and legal action taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Information received of San Htwe Aung from Bo Tun Kyaw Street, Dawbon Tsp, Yangon Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 11-10-2018, police arrested San Htwe Aung, 34, living at No55-B, Bo Tun Zan Ward, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Dawbon Tsp, together with marijuana. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Dawbon) MaYa(Pa) 45/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Arkar from Ward 4, Kyunsu Tsp, Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 9-10-2018, police arrested Ko Tun Tun Naing, 27, and his wife, Ma Nu Yin Htay (a) Noe Noe, 25 at No 62/B, Bo Tun Zan Ward, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Dawbon Tsp, and Zin Kyaw Myo, 20, and two other people who arrived at their house, together with WY psychotropic tablets. It was found that the drugs were bought from Aung Myaing (a) Kayin, living at No 61/B. Police investigated his house although no drugs were found at his place, a case has been opened against the six suspects with MaMaSa (Dawbon) MaYa(Pa) 42/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Nay Naing from Lae Yin Tel Village, Kawlin Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 7-10-2018, police arrested Tun Naing Myint, 25, and his wife, Ma Nilar Tun, 31, both from Lae Yin Tel Village, Kawlin Tsp, together with a sharp knife. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Kawlin) MaYa(Pa) 83/2018 under Section 16-C/21/22-B of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Arkar from Ward 4, Kyunsu Tsp, Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 11-10-2018, police arrested Ko Arkar (a) Arkar Moe, 32, in his home in Pyinma Myaing 1st Street, Ward 4, Kyunsu Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Kyunsu) MaYa(Pa) 18/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Nay Naing from Lae Yin Tel Village, Kyaukkone Village, Mabein Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 8-10-2018, police arrested 7 people including Myo Lwin, 31, in his home in Kyaukkone Village, Kyunsu Tsp, and Moe Win, 26, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (KamMaw) MaYa(Pa) 33/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Information received of Ma Aye Aye Phyu from Ward 3, Namtu Tsp, Northern Shan State, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 10-10-2018, police arrested Ma Aye Aye Kyu (a) Ma Aye Phyu, 39, in her home in ThaThaLa Ward 3, Namtu Tsp, together with ‘88/1’ psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (NanMyo) MaYo(Pa) 12/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. After further investigations, police arrested Daw Yoe Mar(a) Kalar Ma, 53, in her home in Pan Hike Ward 7, Namtu Tsp, together with ‘88/1’ psychotropic tablets, heroin and ICE. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Namtu) MaYa(Pa) 13/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Kyaw Thin from Laembee Village, Htigyaing Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 11-10-2018, police arrested Kyaw Thin, 45, in his home in Laembee Village, Htigyaing Tsp, together with heroin. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa(Pa) 39/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Information received of Min Aung (a) Zeekwat from Pauk Kone Village, Nyaung Chauk Tsp and Mg Jacky Chan from Kankalay Village, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 7-10-2018, police arrested Min Aung (a) Zeekwat, 34, and together with Mg Jacky Chan, 27, from Kankalay Village, in house of Min Aung in Pauk Kone Village, Nyaung Chauk Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Nyaungchaukay) MaYa(Pa) 3/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Nay Naing, living in Myoma 1 Ward, Mudon Tsp, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 8-10-2018, police arrested Ko Nay Naing, 34, living in No. 208, Mya Malar Street, Myoma 1 Ward together with WY psychotropic tablets. Then it was found that the drugs were bought from Aung Thu Htet (a) Thargyi,26, and Htet Yan Oo (a) Ou,19 and although the suspected things were not found, police arrested them and investigated in their house. A case has been opened against the 3 people with MaMaSa (Mudon) MaYa(Pa) 15/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Information received of U Aung Aung and U Lwin Nyo, living in Shin Nine Village, Homa Lin Tsp, Khamtai District, Sagaing Region, using/selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 13-10-2018, police arrested U Aung Aung, 31 in his home in Shin Nine Village, Homa Lin Tsp, and Tun Wai, 22 who live in the same village, together with opium. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (HtaManThi) MaYa(Pa) 26/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police arrested Lwin Nyo, 33 in his home, together with opium and a case has been opened with NaMaSa (HtaManThi) MaYa(Pa) 27/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Information received from Ouyinpu Village, Ngwe Oh Village-tract, Mabein Tsp, Northern Shan State, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 6-10-2018, police searched in a tent where no one lives and it was found that Aung Thu (a) Haing Phyo Phyu, 34, and Myint Soe Oo, 35, from Ouyinpu Village, Mabein Tsp, together with heroin. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Mabane) MaYa(Pa) 107/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Information received of Maung Pyi Kyaw, living in Room 12, Building No. 5, Bayinnaung Street, Ward 3, Hline Tsp, Yangon Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 7-10-2018, police arrested Pyi Kyaw, 30, in his home in in Room 12, Building No. 5, Bayinnaung Street, Ward 3, Hline Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets and marijuana. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (PadauKangau) MaYa(Pa) 9/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICTPazor honors police for recovering stolen car

A CEREMONY congratulating the People’s Police Force and other relevant people who helped recover the stolen Toyota Caldina (No AA-7757), which was robbed in Dagon (South) Township on 10 September, was held at Strand Square Conference Room A in Yangon on 12 October.

The car was robbed near Yarma noodle factory, Kyansitthar Street, Ward 17, Dagon (South) Township, Yangon on 10 September 2018 at 12:15am.

Deputy Chairman of IKPZ, U Nyo Myint, and senior department officials, East Yangon District People’s Police Force, Dagon (South) People’s Police Force, Yangon Traffic Police, the owner of the car, invited guests and members of the media were present at the ceremony. IKPZ General Manager U Than Zaw (Claims) gave words of gratitude and honored the police force. Deputy Chairman of IKPZ U Nyo Myint granted honors to Dagon Myo Thit (South) Township Police Major Aung Thein Aye. The car owner also thanked the police and everyone involved in recovering their car.

— GNLM
Protecting nature the best way to keep planet cool: report

PARIS (France) — The best — and fairest — way to cap global warming is to empower indigenous forest peoples, reduce food waste and slash meat consumption, an alliance of 38 NGOs said on Monday.

Restoring natural forest ecosystems, securing the land rights of local communities and revamping the global food system could cut greenhouse emissions 40 per cent by mid-century and help humanity avoid climate catastrophe, they argued in a 50-page report based on recent science.

Approximately half of the reduced emissions would come from boosting the capacity of forests and wetlands to absorb CO₂, and the other half from curtailing carbon-intensive forms of agriculture.

On current trends, the Earth is on track to warm up an unliveable three or four degrees Celsius (5.4 to 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels, far about the 1.5°C climate-safe threshold endorsed last week by the UN in a major climate change assessment.

In the wake of the UN report, two starkly different visions are emerging on how to beat back the existential threat of global warming.

One calls for geoengineering and the aggressive use of technology to draw excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, especially by burning biofuels and capturing the emitted CO₂, a process known by its acronym, BECCS.

Deforestation — responsible for about a fifth of greenhouse gas emissions — intensifies global warming in two ways, reducing Earth’s capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, and releasing huge amounts of the planet-warming gas into the air.

The report highlights research showing that native forest communities should play a key role.

“People who live in, and with, forests protect those lands,” lead author Kate Dooley, a political scientist at the University of Melbourne, told AFP.

“Recognizing this is the greatest forest conservation success story in the last decade.”

“We have to give these peoples not just land rights, but the resources to protect those lands,” she added.

The report also tackles head-on the political hot potato of how to change human behaviour in ways that will reduce our carbon footprint — cutting back on travel, using public transportation, switching to electric vehicles.

Too much beef

But it is revamping our diets that would have the biggest impact of all.

“Even bigger emissions can come from producing and consuming less meat,” especially beef, said Teresa Anderson, climate change policy officer for ActionAid International.

A study published in Nature last week calculated that rich nations would need to cut 30 per cent of total emissions. It could also help feed some of the billion people who go to bed hungry every night, the report notes. But hitting that target remains a deceptively difficult, especially in the developing world, experts say.—AFP

Pesticides Distributor Changing

We, AGRO GREEN LAND CHEMICAL CO., LTD, would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by HEBEI VEYONG BIO-CHEMICAL CO., LTD (China) to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributor GOLDEN PLAIN CO., LTD if any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gygone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

Sr   Trade Name   Active Ingredient   Registration Number   Registration Type
1   Golden Plain Pyremetrozine 50% WG   Pymetrozine 50% WG   E2018-4160   Experiment
2   Golden Plain Fosthiazate 10 % GR   Fosthiazate 10 % GR  E2018-4159   Experiment

Deforestation — responsible for about a fifth of greenhouse gas emissions — intensifies global warming. PHOTO: AFP

Guatemala’s Fuego eruption is over: officials

GUATEMALA CITY — The eruption of Guatemalan Fuego volcano ended on Saturday, an official source said, with locals escaping a repeat of June’s eruption that killed 190.

However, mild to moderate explosions sent smoke swirling up to 940 meters above the crater, while a lava flow measuring 1.200 metres continued.

“All of this activity is expected to disappear in the coming hours,” said a bulletin from Guatemalan government agency for seismology (Insivumeh), without ruling out that it could pick up again in coming days.

The latest eruption began in the early hours of Friday, with 62 people evacuated and a highway near the 3,783 metre volcano, 35 kilometres (22 miles) from Guatemala City, closed.

Guatemala’s disaster management agency CONRED said two other volcanoes are also being monitored. The Pacaya volcano, located 20 kilometres south of the capital, and the Santiaguito volcano, 117 kilometres west of Guatemala City, have both showed increased activity.

A powerful 3 June eruption of the Fuego volcano — located 35 kilometres southwest of the capital — rained rocks, ash and toxic gases on several villages and left 190 people dead and 235 missing.

—AFP

ENVIRONMENT

INVIATION FOR OPEN TENDER

No.2/2018

(1) Ministry of Natural Resources And Environmental Conservation, No.1 (1) Mining Enterprise Invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender in the United State Dollars.

(a) Cathode Copper (5000)M/T (15) Lot

Group (1) (1)Lot 100 Tonnes each, 5 Lot Moneys, Mine Site

Group (2) (1)Lot 500 Tonnes each, 5 Lot

Group (3) (1)Lot 1000 Tonnes each, 2 Lot

(b) Base price of Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.

(c) Portland Wood Fossil 1.22 M/T Mandalay, Lashio

(d) Lead Ore and other mixed 1.44 M/T Lashio

(e) Lead Ore and other mixed 1.55 M/T Heho

(f) Silicon Ore and other mixed 1.20 M/T Muse

(g) Antimony Ore and other mixed 10 M/T Taungoo

(h) Coal (Myanmar Kyats) 30 M/T Thazi

(2) Tender Closing Date and Time is 30th November, 2018 (14:00)hrs and Opening Tender (15:00)PM.

(3) Tender document are available from the Procurement Department, No.1 (1) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources And Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw and Details Can be asked to +95(097)-400922 and 4009162 within the office hours.

Tender Committee

No (1) Mining Enterprise

The eruption of Guatemala’s deadly Fuego volcano saw 62 people evacuated. PHOTO: AFP
Top US opera company reaches deal with striking musicians

CHICAGO (United States) — The show will go on again this week at the Lyric Opera of Chicago after striking orchestra musicians reached a deal with one of America’s premiere arts institutions.

A one-week strike had threatened the company’s performance season just as it had been getting under way, after musicians complained of cost-cutting efforts that they said would reduce quality on stage.

Performances of Puccini’s La Bohème and Mozart’s Idomeneo were canceled last week, but will resume this week after the company reached a deal with musicians preserving the key components of the company’s demands.

The agreement, which was ratified on Sunday, calls for the full-time orchestra to be pared down by four players, instead of the initially-proposed five, according to the Chicago Tribune.

The company also preserved a reduction of the operatic performance calendar from 24 weeks to 22.

Orchestra musicians said they managed to limit the cuts in their salaries and believed a longer strike would have been destructive to the company and its workers, according to the Tribune.

“These agreements will protect the artistic brilliance on our stage while also helping to ensure Lyric’s long-term financial security,” the 65-year-old institution said in an emailed announcement.

The company has reduced its number of opera performances over the last decade and added musical theater to its repertoire to generate audience interest. —AFP

Around half of hip hop videos feature smoking, researchers say

WASHINGTON (United States) — Almost half of the music clips made for hip hop’s biggest hits in the past five years have featured scenes of smoking or vaping, researchers said on Monday.

“Music videos offer largely unregulated opportunities for exposure to, and brand advertising of, combustible and electronic tobacco and marijuana products,” said a report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The report warned that product placement for particular brands of smoking gear was on the rise in videos for hip hop music, which is the most popular genre in the United States.

Kristin Kmetz, a researcher in public health at Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy, and two of her colleagues logged smoking in music clips that made Billboard magazine’s hip hop charts between 2013 and 2017.

They tallied the number of portrayals of smoking, be it joints, cigarettes or e-cigarettes.

Of the 1,250 songs that made the Billboard “Top 50” hip hop and R&B chart, between 40 to 50 per cent had clips that featured some form of smoking, depending on the year.

The music videos were collectively viewed some 49 billion times.

The smoking included joints (pure cannabis rolled in cigarette paper), spliffs (weed and tobacco), blunts (marijuana rolled in cigar leaves, which are popular with rappers) as well as pipes, cigarettes and vaping devices, which are often used to inhale cannabis products.

The researcher also logged every instance of smoke or vapor appearing on screen. Brand mark placement also increased over the same period, the study showed, from zero per cent for “combustible” (non-electronic) products in 2013 to almost 10 per cent of clips in 2017. —AFP

Kanye West gifts white sneakers to Uganda’s president

KAMPALA (Uganda) — Kanye West and his wife Kim Kardashian on Monday paid a visit to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, giving the 74-year-old leader a pair of white sneakers.

Rap megastar West is in the east African nation to finish recording his ninth studio album “Yandhi”, which was meant to drop two weeks ago, until his surprise decision to go and record in Africa to “feel the energy”.

The serial Grammy-winning artist — who recently announced he was changing his name to Ye — arrived in Uganda on Saturday.

The country seizing the opportunity to market itself as a tourist destination, with the couple pictured visiting its natural sites.

Museveni welcomed them to the country on his Twitter account.

“I held fruitful discussions with the duo on how to promote Uganda’s tourism and the arts. I thank Kanye for the gift of white sneakers. Enjoy your time in Uganda. It is the true Pearl of Africa,” he wrote.

It is West’s second audience with a president in under a week after his eyebrow-raising meeting with a president in under a week.

“Yandhi,” which was meant to be West’s first solo album since 2016, was released March 8.

“West is on the hunt for a cultural sector that allows him to take advantage of the energy he feels when he is recording,” said a research assistant.

His lecture included everything from Trump’s protectionist trade policies to replacing Air Force One with a hydrogen plane, black gun crime and “infinite amounts of universe,” was met with bemusement and concern.

“We have to go to what is known as Africa, I have to go and find out what it is really called and just grab the soil and cook five meals a day so the metabolism stays up and… have the mic in the open so you can hear nature while we are recording,” West told entertainment site TMZ. —AFP

DJ Khaled, whose 2017 hit “I’m The One” featured smoking and brand mark placement for e-cigarettes. PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP
Hawking’s final book offers brief answers to big questions

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Stephen Hawking’s final work, which tackles issues from the existence of God to the potential for time travel, was launched on Monday by his children, who helped complete the book after the British astrophysics giant’s death.

Hawking was forever being asked the same things and started work on “Brief Answers to the Big Questions” last year — but did not finish it before he died in March, aged 76. It has been completed by the theoretical physicist’s family and academic colleagues, with material drawn from his vast personal archive.

“He was regularly asked a set of questions,” his daughter Lucy Hawking said at the Science Museum in London.

The book was an attempt to “bring together the most definitive, clearest, most authentic answers that he gave.

“We all just wish he has here to see it.” Hawking, who was wheelchair bound due to motor neurone disease, dedicated his life’s work to unravelling the mysteries of the universe.

The cosmologist was propelled to stardom by his 1988 book “A Brief History of Time”, an unlikely worldwide bestseller.

The book was an attempt to answer them in the clearest way.

The big questions

The 10 questions Hawking tackles are:

— Is there a God?
— How did it all begin?
— What is inside a black hole?
— Can we predict the future?
— Is time travel possible?
— Will we survive on Earth?
— Is there other intelligent life in the universe?
— Should we colonise space?
— Will artificial intelligence out-smart us?
— How do we shape the future?

Multiple challenges

In his book, Hawking says humans have no option but to leave Earth, risking being “annihilated” if they do not. He says computers will overtake humans in intelligence during the next 100 years, but “we will need to ensure that the computers have goals aligned with ours”.

Hawking says the human race had to improve its mental and physical qualities, but a genetically-modified race of super-humans, say with greater memory and disease resistance, would imperil the others.

He says that by the time people realise what is happening with climate change, it may be too late.

Hawking says the simplest explanation is that God does not exist and there is no reliable evidence for an afterlife, though people could live on through their influence and genes.

He says that in the next 50 years, we will come to understand how life began and possibly discover whether life exists elsewhere in the universe.

“He was deeply worried that at a time when the challenges are global, we were becoming increasingly local in our thinking,” Lucy Hawking said.

“It’s a call to unity, to humanity, to bring ourselves back together and really face up to the challenges in front of us.”

In his final academic paper, Hawking shed new light on black holes and the information paradox, with new work calculating the entropy of black holes.

MIT unveils new $1 bn college for artificial intelligence

WASHINGTON (United States) — The Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced plans Monday to create a new college of artificial intelligence with an initial $1 billion commitment for the program focusing on “responsible and ethical” uses of the technology.

The prestigious university said it would add 50 new faculty members and create an interdisciplinary hub for work in computer science, AI, data science, and related fields.

A large part of the new funds will come from a gift from Stephen Schwarzman, chairman and co-founder of the financial giant Blackstone, after whom the new college will be named.

“As computing reshapes our world, MIT intends to help make sure it does so for the good of all,” said MIT President Rafael Reif.

An MIT statement said the initiative represents the single largest investment in computing and AI by an American academic institution. The initiative comes amid growing concerns about the impacts of artificial intelligence on global institutions, and fears that China is overtaking the United States in this field.

“There is no more important opportunity or challenge facing our nation than to responsibly harness the power of artificial intelligence so that we remain competitive globally and achieve breakthroughs that will improve our entire society,” Schwarzman said. “We face fundamental questions about how to ensure that technological advancements benefit all — especially those most vulnerable to the radical changes AI will inevitably bring to the nature of the workforce.”

The new college is slated to open in September 2019, with a new building scheduled to be completed in 2022. —AFP

Norway makes rare discovery of Viking ship traces

OSLO (Norway) — Archaeologists said on Monday they have found what they believe are traces of a Viking ship buried in southeast Norway, a rare discovery that could shed light on the skilled navigators’ expeditions in the Middle Ages. The boatlike shape was detected about 50 centimetres underground in a tumulus, a burial mound, with the use of a ground-penetrating radar in Halden, a municipality located southeast of Oslo.

“In the middle of the mound, we discovered what is called an anomaly, something that is different from the rest and clearly has the shapes and dimensions of a Viking ship,” Knut Paasche, an archaeologist at the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU), told AFP.

“What we cannot say for sure is the condition of the conservation. Yes there was a boat there, but it’s hard to say how much wood is left,” Paasche said. —AFP

Hawking’s daughter Lucy said the scientist was regularly asked a set of questions and the book was an attempt to answer them in the clearest way. PHOTO: AFP

The boatlike shape was discovered in Norway inside a Viking burial mound using radar. PHOTO: AFP

MIT unveiled new $1 bn college for artificial intelligence.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology said it would create a new college to study the responsible and ethical uses of artificial intelligence. PHOTO: AFP

The boatlike shape was discovered in Norway inside a Viking burial mound using radar. PHOTO: AFP
Hosts and groups appear for 2019 ASEAN football tournaments

THE Tournament Committee Meeting of the AFF Suzuki Cup and AFF Competition Meeting & Fixture Drawing Ceremony of the AFF Competition 2019 were held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on October 15, attended by U Ko Ko Thein, General Secretary of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The ceremony released the list of host countries and groups for ASEAN football tournaments to be held during 2019.


QFA invites MFF to play friendly against Myanmar U-23

QATAR Football Association (QFA) invited Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) to play a friendly match against Myanmar national U-23 men’s football squad as part of preparation for taking part in the 2020 Asian U-23 football tournament.

At the invitation of the QFA, Myanmar U-23 and Qatar U-23 will play a test match in Doha, Qatar on 10 January 2019.

Both national U-23 teams will participate in the 2020 Asian U-23 qualification. Myanmar U-23 is in the Pot-2 East Asian Zone together with China, Australia, Hong Kong and Thailand. Qatar U-23 is in the Pot-1 West Asian Zone together with Uzbekistan, Iran, Palestine, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Myanmar’s friendly match will also be part of preparation for taking part in the 2019 SEA Games. Qatar is one of the countries in Middle East region that will host the 2022 World Cup.

Under-pressure Loew insists he can handle the criticism

BERLIN — Two days after the latest humiliating defeat, Germany coach Joachim Loew seemed to have regained his poise as he faced the media Monday ahead of a match against France.

“I can handle criticism very well,” Loew said at a press conference ahead of Tuesday’s Nations League game against the world champions at the Stade de France.

After his team lost 3-0 to the Netherlands on Saturday, Loew had seemed irritated and flustered as he refused to answer questions from German media about his future.

That loss left Germany bottom of their Nations League group, fueling questions about whether he should have retained his job after the humiliating early exit from the World Cup.

“Of course, the defeat in the Netherlands has done a lot of damage, to the staff, the players and most of all the fans,” Loew said on Monday.

“It’s not really surprising to me. After the World Cup, it is a process we have to manage. There will be setbacks or defeats. I am not too surprised about that.”

“It’s normal for me to be criticised, but I can handle criticism very well. I’ve spoken with the president (of the federation), it’s clear that we have to stick together.

“Criticism from the outside does not bother me. It is important that I motivate my players against France. I can easily forget the criticism and remain 100 percent focused.”

Loew has stayed loyal to players who won the 2014 World Cup even though the likes of Thomas Mueller, Jerome Boateng and Mats Hummels are in nowhere near the form they showed in Brazil.

At 32, and after twice fracturing his foot last year, Manuel Neuer seems no longer a world-class goalkeeper.

Against the Dutch, Boateng and Hummels often left gaps. At the other end, Germany have only scored 10 goals in the last twelve games.

“For the first 30 minutes against the Netherlands we played well. In attack, we had a lot of goal attempts but we lacked the organisation we have had in the past. We have to change things tactically.”

Defeat on Tuesday would leave Germany on the verge of relegation to the B division of the Nations League.

It would also be a sixth in 2018, a German record in a calendar year.

“We have nothing to lose against the world champions,” Loew said. “We are here to take the three points.”

“We want to play boldly against the world champions. As for the players, of course, if you suffer a 3-0 defeat, you have to make changes. One thing I can tell you is that Neuer will be in goal… — AFP