**WEATHER**

Depression expected to cross Deltaic areas in next 18 hrs

**NATIONAL**

Fundamental principles for businesses to develop code of ethics, establish control measures to prevent corruption

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**THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

Vol. V, No. 189, 13th Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME

Monday, 22 October 2018

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**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office

Notification 5/2018

12th Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME

21 October 2018

Summoning Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw tenth regular session

In accord with Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 13 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw tenth regular session is summoned at 1:30 pm on the 5th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1380 ME (12 November 2018) (Monday).

Sd/ T Khun Myat
Speaker
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

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**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Pyithu Hluttaw

Notification 3/2018

12th Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME

21 October 2018

Summoning Second Pyithu Hluttaw tenth regular session

In accord with Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the 2012 Pyithu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2013 Pyithu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyithu Hluttaw tenth regular session is summoned at 10 am on the 5th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1380 ME (12 November 2018) (Monday).

Sd/ T Khun Myat
Speaker
Pyithu Hluttaw

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**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Amyotha Hluttaw

Notification 3/2018

12th Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME

21 October 2018

Summoning Second Amyotha Hluttaw tenth regular session

In accord with Section 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the 2012 Amyotha Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Amyotha Hluttaw tenth regular session is summoned at 10 am on the 5th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1380 ME (12 November 2018) (Monday).

Sd/ Mahn Win Khaing Than
Speaker
Amyotha Hluttaw

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**Centennial religious festival begins in Pyinmana**

The Centenary of the conveyance of the 28 Buddha Images for public obeisance began with the illuminations for the coming light festival in Pyinmana in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area yesterday.

In the evening, visitors crowded Shankan, the venue of the Centenary Celebrations, that was decorated with multi-colour lights.

“We have over 50 booths showing the biography of the Buddha, the paintings, the photos of the prominent persons and local agricultural products apart from skill demonstrations of Myanmar traditional cane ball and Myanmar traditional martial arts that make are festivity more attractive and livelier, said secretary of the Centenary Organization Committee U Thein Than Oo.

On 25 October evening, the final day of the Centenary, the ceremonial conveyance of Buddha Images begins with the accompaniment of on-the-car entertainments provided by famous artists of the country.

“We have a prize-presentation program for the decorated Buddha Images conveying vehicles,” said U Thein Than Oo, who assured comprehensive preparations for the greater uniqueness and perfectness of the Centenary than the previous anniversaries.

SEE PAGE 2
Republic of the Union of Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission Notification No. 14 /2018
10th Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME
19 October 2018

Fundamental principles for businesses to develop a strong code of ethics and establish appropriate internal control measures to prevent corruption

The Anti-Corruption Commission issues the following Notification under Section 72 Sub-section (b) of the 2013 Anti-Corruption Law.

1. Section 16(g) of the 2013 Anti-Corruption Law provides for the Anti-Corruption Commission to issue a Notification concerning the need for all business to establish a strong business code of ethics to prevent corruption.

2. The following fundamental principles have therefore been identified for private sector organisations to develop a strong business code of ethics as well as to establish appropriate internal control measures to prevent corruption:

(a) Strong, effective policy and support from top-level management to fight corruption;

(b) Risk assessment to effectively identify and evaluate exposure to corruption;

(c) Enhanced and detailed measures for high-risk and vulnerable areas;

(d) Application of anti-corruption measures to business partners;

(e) Accurate books and accounting records;

(f) Human resource management policies complementary to anti-corruption measures;

(g) Establish trust worthy reporting mechanisms to report suspected corrupt behaviours;

(h) Periodic review and evaluation of anti-corruption prevention measures.

Sd./ Aung Kyi
Chairman
Anti-Corruption Commission

SMID Bank plans to provide loans for government staff in Oct

SMALL and Medium Industrial Development (SMID) Bank plans to provide loans to government officials and employees in October, according to Dr Zay Yar Nyunt, CEO of SMID Bank at its 23rd annual meeting in Melia Hotel, Yangon yesterday.

Dr Zay Yar Nyunt said five times the salary of government officials and three times the salary of government employees will be provided if they are eligible for the loans under the rules.

During the meeting, SMID Bank’s Patron Dr. Khin Shwe extended greetings, and President Daw San San Yi delivered an opening speech.

Then, SMID Bank donated Ks 3 million each to Theravada Myanmar Buddhist Federation and Buddhist Association for the Promotion of Theravada Buddhism in Border Regions, Hla Tun (U) Myitta Yeik Mon Cancer Foundation and Yangon General Hospital. Officials received the donated cash and presented certificates of honor in return. SMID Bank started its loan programme for the government staff with a one-year repayment term in June 2017.

The government officials and employees, who fully re-paid their previous loans during term, will be provided with new loans in groups department wise.

For more information contact the Head Office of the SMID Bank, Tel: (01) 230 2339, 230 2340, 230 2385 and 230 2390.

— Yi Yi Myint

9 Myanmar migrant workers killed after ferry crashes into tree, catches fire in Thailand

THREE migrant workers from Myanmar were killed and a driver and one male worker were in critical condition when the ferry they were on board struck a tree and caught fire on the Bangkok-Mae Sot Road yesterday.

The transport vehicle carrying eight male and six female migrant workers from Myanmar crashed into a tree about 6.30 am due to drowsy driving by Thai driver.

Three men and six women died at the scene and the rest including the driver were taken to hospital.

“Labour diplomat U Aung Min is cooperating with local authorities to help Myanmar victims,” said U San Maung, who is also a labour diplomat in Mae Sot.

The deadly accident for Myanmar workers on the Bangkok-Mae Sot road is the third in 2018. Thailand’s roads have been ranked as the deadliest in the world after Libya’s, according to the World Health Organization’s most recent study. — Nanda Kyaw Swa

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives informed to attend parliamentary session

The Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, either they receive the invitation letters or not are urged to contact Pyithu Hluttaw Hall (I-12) not earlier than 10 November (Saturday) and not later than 11 November (Sunday) along with their identity cards. — MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives informed to attend parliamentary session

The Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, either they receive the invitation letters or not are urged to contact Amyotha Hluttaw Hall (I-19) not earlier than 10 November and not later than 11 November along with their identity cards. — MNA

Centennial religious festival begins in Pyinmana

FROM PAGE-1

“The special illuminations of the venue highlight the uniqueness of the Centenary,” he added.

Annually we convey the Buddha Images by decorated floats around Pyinmana. This year we decorated the venue with colorful lights.

Aside from educative booths, we also stage Myanmar traditional orchestra and traditional circling dance performances in honour of our town Pyinmana,” said a local. The Centenary illustrates the value of Myanmar culture, whereas, it serves a platform where local food products are displayed as a means for emergence of Myanmar food culture.

It is also a festival that will help enliven Myanmar crafting techniques and traditional hot-air balloons, and develop tourism.

The Centenary will also give locals of Pyinmana the habit of doing things in a collective and harmonious way, while serving as a showcase where children can gain knowledge and understand the value of Myanmar culture.

— Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing
Legal aid

Legal aid for people who cannot afford legal representation has been established. Legal aid is given to citizens who are poor and unable to defend for themselves, such as children, women, the elderly, disabled, and people suffering from communicable diseases.

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

Yangon expects grander lighting festival

THE area in front of City Hall will be the venue of the grand Thadingyut festival (the lighting festival) of Yangon, said Daw May May Thwe, a member of Yangon City Development Committee.

The Maha Bandoola Park will be lighted up with oil lamps and colorful lanterns during the three-day Thadingyut festival between 23 and 25 October by BMB Entertainment Group. The City Hall will be embellished fully with multi-colour light bulbs.

“This year, Yangon Thadingyut festival may be more crowded, as less Yangonites may travel under the storm warning of U Tun Lwin, prominent weather expert. Our family’s holiday plan includes an evening round trip of the city, especially the places like Maha Bandoola Park, People’s Square, Yekyaw lights festival and Kandawgyi will be our target, said Daw Yin Nwe who was taking a vacation at Kandawgyi.

The annual Yekyaw lights festival will be held for five days from 21 to 25 October with the involvement of traditional orchestra performances, comedy shows, songs with the accompaniment of modern music bands, and traditional dancer and comedian shows.

There will be a tight security for the safety visitors to the festival, said a local administrative official.

During the three-day festival, roads in townships of Yangon will be illuminated with multi-colour lights, especially, the Sule Square and the area in front of Bogolye Market will be spectacularly decorated. — Zarni Maung /Aye Min Thu

Pyithu Hluttaw Dy Speaker meets locals

DEPUTY Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein met departmental personnel and local people in Nawangkhio Township yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with departmental personnel and local people in Nawangkhio Township yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Young entrepreneurs will bring benefits: Rakhine Chief Minister

“APPEARANCE of darling young entrepreneurs in Rakhine State will produce regional benefits including job and investment opportunities through the utilization of infrastructures and an abundant array of natural resources in the most effective way,” said Chief Minister U Nyi Pu in Sittway yesterday.

At the talks on the business pioneering in Rakhine State, the Chief Minister said, “The Union government has been rendering much assistance for the emergence of a number of young Myanmar entrepreneurs,” promising, “Ardent support of the local government.”

The Chief Minister thanked young entrepreneurs for their involvement in the socio-economic development of the state, expressing hope that the talks would bring future prospects.

He also explained the undertakings of the local government for social and economic progress of Rakhine State, expressing hope that the talks would help produce young entrepreneurs.

In conclusion, the Chief Minister called for all-inclusive efforts towards the progress of Rakhine State.

Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet gave talk under the theme “Promoting Entrepreneurship in Rakhine” joined in by the participants.

After the educative talks given by U Tun Tun Naing, Chair of Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association -MYEA, roundtable discussions followed. Jointly held by MYEA and Rakhine State Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Sittway the capital of Rakhine State, the talks aimed at generating opportunities for youths and businesses and developing SMEs. — Tin Tun (IPRD)
Construction of Zalon Taung bus terminal begins

WITH the growing interest of the pilgrims, construction of Zalon Taung bus terminal has begun from 8 October on 31.54 acres wide land to facilitate the visitors.

The Zalon Taung Pagoda is located in Bamauk, Sagaing Region.

“Land development is expected to finish in the end of October under the current weather condition”, he added.

A beautiful scene of Zalon Taung in Sagaing Region. PHOTO: WIN TUN (MONYWA)

Three wild elephants successfully driven into forest reserve

A team comprising Myanmar Timber Enterprise’s Elephant Emergency Response Units leader Lin Lin Tun, Vet Maung Soe, manohutt and team, local authorities and some villagers managed to successfully send three wild elephants to forest reserve after three-hour of tracing works.

They started to trace the elephants at 11 a.m. of 20 October in the forest in the north of Mayangon village, Chialme village-tract, Laymyatnar Township.

Shwe, Hlutaww representative from Bamauk constituency: “Land preparation works started and it is likely to end in November, said in-charge of Zalon Taung bus association.

Middle-aged man arrested on drug charges in Maungtaw

A middle-aged man has been arrested on a charge of possession of stimulant tablets on Saturday night in Maungtaw, a town in Rakhine State.

Acting on a tip-off, a anti-drug squad together with local authorities raided the home of Marmad Arliyam, who works at car workshop in Sitala Village, Myomakanayintan Village-tract, Maungtaw Township, around 8 p.m. on 20 October. Police discovered eight WY brand yaba pills weighing 0.8 grams and related materials hidden in his bedroom.

Action has been taken against the suspect according to the existing Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

20 troupes register to take part in Kyaukse elephant dance competition

THE Kyaukse traditional elephant dance competition is due to take place on 23 October this year in a small town of Kyaukse, a short drive south of Mandalay, with the organisers planning to hold elephant donation festival on the following day.

The unique elephant dance festival is annually held in October.

The contest is categorized into three groups, including traditional elephant dance competition, sequined costume elephant dance competition and children’s elephant dance competition this year. Over 20 troupes have registered to take part in the contest.

This year’s competition will be held at the elephant competition grounds at the foot of Shwethalyaung Hill in the town.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)
BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and India reached nearly US$659 million within the five months between April and August this year, down by $112 million from this time last year, according to the monthly trade report released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The total bilateral trade included $239 million in exports and $410 million in imports. During the period, Myanmar’s imports outdid its exports in external trade with India, the world’s second largest most populous country.

At the same period in the last year, the Myanmar-India topped $782 million, with exports worth $431 million and imports worth $350 million.

India largely exports medicines, oil cakes, electronic products, motorcycles, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials to Myanmar. Its imports from Myanmar include areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other fruits and vegetables, fishery, forest products and human hair.

Myanmar’s trade with the Republic of India reached its peak of $1.9 billion in the fiscal year 2016-2017. The figures decrease to $1.47 billion in the following 2017-2018 FY.

The ministry’s data showed that the bilateral was $1.4 billion in the 2011-2012 FY, $1.3 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, $1.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $1.3 billion in the 2014-2015 FY and $1.7 billion in the 2015-2016 FY. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), India’s new investment in Myanmar at the end of September this year reached $119.9 million. Myanmar received a total of $109.9 million in the last 2017-2018.

— Swe Nyein

Myanmar welcome FDIs from Hong Kong at Myanmar Investment Promotion Seminar

MYANMAR showed keen interest in strengthening economic ties between Myanmar and Hong Kong through its second Myanmar Investment Promotion Seminar held recently in Hong Kong.

“Given the close and friendly relations between Myanmar and Hong Kong, I am confident that the majority of the participants of this event will bring with them a deep understanding of Myanmar. I am equally certain that business executives and investors here in Hong Kong have been following with keen interest the positive changes in Myanmar,” said U Thaung Tun, Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission.

MIC delegation led by Chairman U Thaung Tun of Myanmar included Daw Nilar Kyaw, Minister for Electricity, Industry, and Roads and Communications of the Yangon Regional Government, U Aung Naing Oo, Director-General of the Ministry of Planning and Finance and Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission and Director U Myo Thu of Ministry of Commerce visited Hong Kong on 16 and 17 October 2018.

Hong Kong is one of the world’s leading financial centers, logistic hub, international legal and dispute services center for Asia, and has positioned to play a prominent role in facilitating trade and investment flows and closer links to the economic integration between Hong Kong and ASEAN including Myanmar.

The economic interactions between Myanmar and Hong Kong have been increasing rapidly. Hong Kong has emerged as the third largest investor in Myanmar, following the first and second largest investors — Singapore and Myanmar. Since 1988, Hong Kong has brought foreign direct investments of $7.76 billion with 152 enterprises as of August 2018, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration’s figures of the existing enterprises.

The seminar was attended by Mr. Edward Yau, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and Officials of Hong Kong SAR Government, Members of legislative council, Members of Hong Kong Development Council and Hong Kong Productivity council and representatives of over 130 Hong Kong firms and Hong Kong based foreign businesses.

According to McKinsey and Company, Myanmar needs 320 billion US$ investment for infrastructure by 2030. Additionally, Belt and Road Initiative has also come into importance in the current country’s economic outlook.

The implementation of those projects requires large investment. Thus, it is crucial to persuade the private sector to participate in the form of public-private partnership (PPP).

A number of important reforms have been made with regard to the legal framework as well as rules and regulations for investment. The new Myanmar Investment Law (MIL) and the new Myanmar Companies Law are the regulatory foundation that engenders confidence and transparency in Myanmar as a place in which to invest. The World Bank recognized the positive changes of Myanmar’s investment environment and consequently awarded the Star Reformer Award to Myanmar last year.

Next, Myanmar has granted visa exemption to the Hong Kong and Macau SAR passport holders from October 1st of this year. Myanmar’s major items exported to Hong Kong includes precious stones, agricultural products, fishery products and garments, while its import comprises mainly telecommunication equipment and optical goods.

Bilateral trades were worth $385.63 million in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, $324.46 million in the 2016-2017 FY, $316 million in the 2015-2016 FY, $143.8 million in the 2014-2015 FY, $302.7 million in the 2013-2014 FY, $27.28 million in the 2012-2013 FY and $51 million in the 2011-2012 FY, respectively. — GNLM
Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin attends 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Brussels

THE MYANMAR Delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, arrived back this evening after attending the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 12) Summit held in Brussels from 18 to 19 October 2018, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of International Cooperation yesterday.

On 18 October, the Union Minister attended the Opening Ceremony of the ASEM 12 Summit and the Gala Dinner hosted by European Council President H.E. Mr. Donald Tusk, to the Heads of Delegation of the ASEM partners at the Europa Building in Brussels.

**Refrain from use of trade sanctions**

On 19 October, the Union Minister attended the Plenary Sessions of the ASEM Summit held at the Europa Building and delivered a statement at the First Session under the theme of “Building the future together: Promoting inclusive growth and sustainable connectivity”. In his statement, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin stressed that ASEM will be able to serve as a bridge in bringing Asia and Europe closer by striving to enhance connectivity between the two regions.

He also recalled that some tangible progress in connectivity has been achieved since the striking of agreement on the definition of connectivity at the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting successfully hosted by Myanmar in November 2017.

Myanmar has indicated keen interest in promoting connectivity in three focus areas between Asia and Europe, namely Telecommunication and digitalization, Tourism, Trade and investment. In talking about promoting trade connectivity, the Union Minister also stressed the importance of free trade and rules-based multilateral trading system as well as the need for the ASEM partners to refrain from use of trade sanctions and any other measures that could impede or disrupt the free flow of trade between Asia and Europe.

**Retreat Session of the ASEM 12 Summit**

The Union Minister attended the Retreat Session of the ASEM 12 Summit. At the Retreat, ASEM leaders exchanged views on international and regional issues including Sustainable Development Goals, climate change, migration, cyber security, world trade and Women Rights issues.

**Terrorism reached to Myanmar’s door step last year, as ARSA’s terror attacks took place twice in Rakhine State**

As some leaders made reference to the issue of Rakhine State in their discussions, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin responded to their remarks and briefed the meeting on the issue of Rakhine. The Union Minister voiced his agreement on the need for ASEM partners to enhance cooperation in the fight against the growing threat of terrorism. The Minister highlighted that terrorism reached to Myanmar’s door step last year, as ARSA’s terror attacks took place twice in Rakhine State.

The first time was one month after the establishment of the Kofi Annan Commission, and the second time within a few hours after the release of the Final Report of the Commission. He stated that the issue of Rakhine is a complicated and multi-faceted one involving migration, poverty, rule of law and national security.

Resolving the Rakhine issue was one of the priorities of the Government, as it is an important component of its democratization process. The Union Minister pointed out that there is no quick fix or solution to the long standing problem between the communities with deep mistrust, as we cannot make law or give orders to love each other.

The Union Minister stated that the attacks in 2017 was targeted not only the security forces but also the other innocent civilian communities in Rakhine State. Such attacks caused fears, insecurity and instability among the communities and triggered mass movements to the Bangladeshi side. International community didn’t pay much attention on the threats of the ARSA terrorist group.

The Government of Myanmar has been making necessary preparations in accordance with the bilateral agreement reached with Bangladesh and stands ready to receive the verified returnees as and when Bangladesh starts sending them back. The Government of Myanmar has also signed a MoU with the UNDP and the UNHCR for assisting the speedy and efficient resettlement and rehabilitation of returnees, and the UN team has finished the first phase of assessments and has been accorded permission to start second phase of assessment in the potential project areas.

The Union Minister also reiterated the Government’s commitment to addressing accountability based on evidence of human rights violations and informed the meeting about the establishment of an Independent Commission of Enquiry which includes two eminent diplomats from the Philippines and Japan. He concluded by appealing the leaders to try to understand the issue based on objective, impartial and accurate information and reports before making any important policy decision.

**At the conclusion of the Summit, the Chair’s Statement of the 12 ASEM Summit was issued under the theme of “Global Partners for Global Challenges”. In the Chair’s Statement, future cooperation areas between Asia and Europe were outlined under Political and Security pillar; Economic and Financial pillar; and Social and Cultural pillar. With regard to the issue of Rakhine State, the Chair’s statement mentioned that ASEM partners looked forward to the implementation of the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed among Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR and highlighted the importance of accountability, and expressed their continued support for the stability, rule of law, national reconciliation and sustainable development in Rakhine State.**

While attending the ASEM Summit in Brussels, the Union Minister held separate bilateral meetings with H.E. Mr. Alain Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation, H.E. Ms. Federica Mogherini, Vice-President of the European Commission / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, H.E. Ms. Margot Wallstrom, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden and H.E. Ms. Marise Payne, Ministr of Foreign Affairs of Australia on the sideline of the Summit and discussed issues of mutual interests and promotion of bilateral relations and recent developments with regard to the issue of Rakhine State. During the meeting with the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Commission, the Union Minister U Kyaw Tin exchanged views with the former on bilateral relations, the issue of access to Generalised Scheme of Preferences as well as recent developments surrounding the issue of Rakhine State.

If EU withdraws its GSP, it would harm livelihood of 400,000 workers and their families

The Union Minister explained that the EU’s Generalised Scheme of Preference (GSP) has provided benefits and job opportunities to the people of Myanmar especially to those 400,000 workers in the garment sector 90% of which are women. It would potentially harm the livelihoods of those vulnerable people, affecting estimated 2 million people including their families, if the EU decides to withdraw GSP on Myanmar. In addition, Union Minister informed her that Myanmar Government stands ready to receive the proposed visit of the EU trade delegation and is making arrangements to hold discussion about the issue.

ASEM was founded in 1996 with the objective of promoting cooperation between Asia and Europe.

Today, ASEM has 51 members, 21 countries from Asia, 20 countries from Europe and two organizations, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEM Summits were held every two years alternately in Asia and Europe. The 13th ASEM Summit will be hosted by Cambodia in 2020, according to the Ministry of International Cooperation.—MNA
The challenge is how can we effectively help the users not to return to drug after they stopped usage of drug.

By Shin Min and Hmwe Kyu, Photo: Aye Than

PhD addiction is an ugly that ruins life. It is not a new problem. Sometimes, people who have lived their lives destroyed by drug are taken care of by their communities. So once a person is addicted to drug, it is not only he and his family but also his society.

It is our duty to help them back on their feet and to provide support. It is something everyone can collaborate in. It doesn’t matter what race you are, what religion you follow or what political stance you’ve taken. It concerns humanity and compassion and the stabilization of our community and environment.

Drug addiction is not our country’s problem only. It is a problem for the whole world. For a developing country like Myanmar, it may seem that the problem is much more serious and painful but due to our people’s enthusiasm of spirit of development, we have some advantages.

Mental and physical trauma due to drug addiction is not the only consequence, it also affects the country and socio-economic development and thus is one of the important factors that prevent the development of the people.

Drug rehabilitation is the key to drug-free communities but also the country.”

The Ministry of Planning and Finance is financing through the MEB Two Step Loan for the development of Agricultural sector and SME in Myanmar.

The State has been overseeing the development of private sector as well as SME sector in Myanmar. In supporting these tasks, SME Development Bank is generally known to the public as a bank with the purpose of facilitating cultivation loans. Our bank is serving two main functions. The first part is a banking and the second part is a customer service. On the part of banking, there are loans to which we have three main features. These three laws are the Law on Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank, the Law on Land Allotment, and the Law on Farmers’ Interest Protection and Promotion.

The main aims and objectives of the three laws are to aid and finance the farmers and the business people who are working in the agricultural sector and animal husbandry sector. Our bank is fulfilling these duties and objectives is multi-faceted ways on the part of the banking sector.

Another sector is about consumer sector and has been communicating with the customers in order to manage the business for the farmers and business people.

Moderator: Kindly explain the aims, objectives and plans on the loan and financing to the farmers from the Myanma Agriculture Development Bank.

U Min Tho, Myanma Agricultural Development Bank is generally known to the public as a bank with the purpose of facilitating cultivation loans. Our bank is serving two main functions. The first part is a banking and the second part is a customer service.

On the part of banking, there are loans to which we have three main features. These three laws are the Law on Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank, the Law on Land Allotment, and the Law on Farmers’ Interest Protection and Promotion.

The main aims and objectives of the three laws are to aid and finance the farmers and the business people who are working in the agricultural sector and animal husbandry sector. Our bank is fulfilling these duties and objectives in multi-faceted ways on the part of the banking sector.

Public participation is the key to drug-free future for our communities.

The rehabilitation of drug addicts supports the rule of law in the country and socio-economic development and thus is one of the important factors that prevent the development of the people.

Due to the Low Pressure Area, rain will be fairly widespread over the Arakan Coast, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, and very widespread in Deltaic, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (90%).

Financing policies have been laid down and the loans would be provided for the farmers and business people with three types of interest rate, a low interest rate, medium interest rate and high interest rate.

As the Key Driver of the economic development, the SMEs are reformed as the Key Driver of the economic development. Therefore, the govern- ment in many developed countries provides research and development assistance, extending assistance in many ways for the development of SMEs. There are many factors in the de- velopment of the SMEs, and that the most important one is financial investment and the second one is the financial guarantee. It is found that the majority of developing countries are encountering in achieving financial investment as well as the conventional banks.

It is due to the reason that the SMEs are mostly new businesses and they have no guarantees. As they could not put up adequate guarantees to the banks, they can only get financial investments. As they could not get enough investment, they have to seek some other side- sources with high interest rates. The SMEs are in need of loans with medium term repayment such as minimum three years or five years so they could not afford short term loan within one year.

When such long-term loans is not hand out by the conventional banks, then the SMEs might not get the Two-Step Loan.

Majority of the SMEs are farmer-oriented, and their products are goods in rural areas. The SMEs are supportive in helping the small scale farmers, agro-related business people with three types of loans namely the cultivation loan, the JICA Two-Step Loan and the MEB Two-Step Loan.

Moderator: Kindly elaborate the policy and objectives for the SME sector development.

U Win Naing Oo: Our Myanma Economic Bank is handing out the loans as the Key Driver of the economic development.

FINANCING Agricultural Sector and SME Sector in Myanmar

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Israel reopens people, goods crossings to Gaza: statement

JERUSALEM — Israel ordered the country’s goods and people border crossings with Gaza to be opened on Sunday, just four days after shuttering them following a Palestinian rocket attack that sparked retaliatory strikes.

“The decision comes after a decrease in the violent events in Gaza over the weekend and efforts (militant Islamist Gaza rulers) Hamas made to restrain demonstrators,” a statement from Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman office read.

On Wednesday, Lieberman ordered the closure of the Kerem Shalom goods crossing and the Erez crossing for people, after a rocket from the Palestinian territory hit a home in southern Israel, prompting the Jewish state to strike 20 Hamas targets in Gaza.

Hamas disavowed the launch and said it was investigating the incident, as fears of a new war rose.

Hundreds of Afghan polling centres open for second day of voting

KABUL (Afghanistan) — Hundreds of Afghan polling centres opened on Sunday for a second day of voting in a chaotic legislative election marred by deadly violence and technical glitches that have eroded its credibility.

Around three million people defied the threat of militant attacks to cast their ballot in the country’s goods and people border territ hitting a home in southern Israel.

PHOTO: AFP

A truck carrying goods to Palestinians arrives at Kerem Shalom crossing in the southern Gaza Strip on 15 August, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Near daily protests along the border since 30 March against Israel’s crippling 11-year blockade of the impoverished enclave have sparked repeated clashes with the army.

On Friday, thousands again gathered for protests in northern Gaza, but demonstrators largely remained at least 100 metres (yards) from the border.

Hamas officials were seen discouraging protesters from nearing the fence.

Israel had on Wednesday also suspended the delivery of fuel for the Palestinian territory’s power plant that had been trucked daily into Gaza under a deal brokered by the United Nations.

“The decision on the renewal of the fuel from Qatar has been put off as for the time being, and will be examined in a number of days based on the events,” the Sunday statement from Lieberman said.—AFP

US-backed Syria offensive kills 35 IS fighters: monitor

BEIRUT — An offensive by US-backed forces against the Islamic State group’s last redoubt in eastern Syria killed 35 jihadists on Saturday, a Britain-based war monitor said.

Twenty-eight IS members were killed in air strikes by the US-led coalition around the town of Hajin, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Another seven jihadists were killed in ground fighting with the Syrian Democratic Forces, who launched a coalition-backed offensive against the IS-held pocket in the Euphrates Valley last month.

Fighting has killed 414 jihadists and 227 SDF fighters in total since the assault began on 10 September; the Observatory said.

Coalition air strikes on IS targets in another part of the pocket on Thursday and Friday killed at least 41 civilians, 10 of them children, the monitor said.

IS overran large swathes of Syria and neighbouring Iraq in 2014, proclaiming a “caliphate” across the land it controlled.

But the jihadist group has since lost most of its territory to various offensives in both countries. In Syria, its presence has been reduced to parts of the vast Badia desert and the Hajin pocket in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor near the Iraqi border.

Syria’s war has killed more than 360,000 people since it erupted in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests. —AFP

Haunted by its ‘Davos in the desert’ despite outcry over slain journalist

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia will host a key investment summit on Tuesday, overshadowed by the killing of critic Jamal Khashoggi that has prompted a wave of policymakers and corporate giants to withdraw.

Just ahead of the three-day Future Investment Initiative (FII), dubbed “Davos in the desert”, the kingdom sought to defuse the crisis with an about-face admission on Saturday that the journalist died in its consulate in Istanbul.

But that has failed to stem an exodus from the summit, whose organisers have taken down a list of speakers from its website.

Dozens of executives — from bankers to carmaker Ford and ride-hailing app Uber — scrapped plans to attend.

Media powerhouses like Bloomberg, CNN and the Financial Times have also pulled out and on Saturday, Australia withdrew its representatives, saying it was “no longer appropriate” to attend, due to the Khashoggi affair.

On Saturday, organisers said more than 120 speakers and moderators will participate. Last Monday, they had listed more than 150 speakers.

The event seeks to project the historically insular kingdom as a lucrative business destination, in a bid to diversify its oil-reliant economy and set the stage for new ventures and multi-billion dollar contracts.

At last year’s inaugural FII — a star-studded event at Riyadh’s glittering Ritz-Carlton hotel — Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was lionised as a visionary as he wowed investors with talking robots and plans for a futuristic mega-city called NEOM.

Billed last year as an economic coming-out party for the conservative petro-state, the FII has now come to symbolise global outrage over the silencing of critics.

The prince, widely known as MBS, faces what the risk consultancy Eurasia Group calls “an acute public relations crisis”.

Khashoggi, who had criticised Prince Mohammed, was last seen walking into the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October. —AFP
Advanced long-range missile for S-400 system accepted for service in Russia

MOSCOW — The 40N6 long-range surface-to-air missile of the S-400 ‘Triumph’ system has been accepted for service in the Russian Army, a source in the domestic defence industry told TASS on 18 October.

“The 40N6 long-range missile [the 40N6E as its export version] has been accepted for service.

All the necessary documents were signed in September, after which the Defence Ministry started the purchases of these missiles,” the source said.

“Overall, more than a thousand of 40N6 missiles are planned to be purchased under the state armament programme through 2027 to provide newly formed and rearm existing S400 regiments to be established in the Aerospace Force under this programme.

In July, another source in the Russian defence industry told TASS about the successful completion of state joint trials of the 40N6 missile.

Peru court to decide on long Keiko Fujimori detention

LIMA (Peru) — A Peruvian court will decide on Sunday whether to grant a prosecutor’s request to place opposition leader Keiko Fujimori in preventive detention for 36 months, which would likely scupper her 2021 presidential hopes.

Anti-corruption prosecutor Jose Domingo Perez has asked the court to hold Fujimori and 11 others for the lengthy period as his team investigates who benefited from millions of dollars to buy politicians’ favor and their legal woes have chipped away at her support for several former presidents.

They say former presidents Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, Alan Garcia and Alejandro Toledo all took undeclared campaign contributions in exchange for pledges to have the Brazilian construction giant win local tenders.

Their key witness, former Odebrecht Peru chief Jorge Barata, said he doled out millions of dollars to Peruvian presidential candidates between 2001 and 2016.

Prosecutor Perez believes Fujimori — leader of the main opposition Popular Force party — received more than $1.2 million from Odebrecht for her 2011 presidential campaign.

She denies all wrongdoing.

Odebrecht has admitted spending hundreds of millions of dollars to buy politicians’ favor in governments all across Latin America.

The appeal court’s decision is the recusal,” she told reporters. The case could drag on, as her legal team can appeal.

The fortunes of the Fujimori family have dominated Peru’s politics for the past year.

Though Keiko’s Popular Force party is the biggest in Congress, her public feud with her younger brother Kenji — who leads a rival wing of the party — and their legal woes have chipped away at her popularity.

Kenji is facing trial for bribery.

Meanwhile, the 80-year-old patriarch, former president Alberto Fujimori, had his humanitarian pardon for crimes against humanity revoked by a court last month and is once again in hospital.

Icelandair jet in Canada emergency landing as window ‘shattered’

MONTREAL (Canada) — An Icelandair flight made an emergency landing in Canada after a cockpit window shattered during flight, a passenger said on Twitter. On its website, the airline said only that Flight 688 was diverted to Bagotville, Quebec “due to a technical issue.”

A passenger, Harrison Hove, tweeted that the “captain says his left window shattered and had to bring us down rapidly.” Hove, a news manager at the University of Florida, said all passengers appeared to be safe.

He reported that an airline employee estimated the crack at 20 centimetres (eight inches).

The Boeing 757 aircraft was flying from Orlando, Florida to Keflavik, Iceland with 155 passengers and seven crew, the local Le Quotidien newspaper reported.

Mexico opens border to women and children from migrant caravan

CIUDAD HIDALGO (Mexico) — Mexican authorities on Saturday lifted restrictions on women and children from the Honduran migrant caravan to pass into its territory, the country’s ambassador to Guatemala said. Luis Manuel Lopez told AFP the women and children would be processed by immigration authorities and taken to a shelter in the city of Tapachula, 40 kilometres (25 miles) away.

Withdrawal from nuclear arms deal ‘dangerous step’ for US: Moscow

MOSCOW (Russia) — Withdrawing from a Cold War-era nuclear weapons treaty with Russia as President Donald Trump has announced he plans to do is a dangerous step, Russia’s deputy foreign minister said on Sunday.

“This would be a very dangerous step that, I’m sure, not only will not be comprehended by the international community but will provoke serious condemnation,” deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov told TASS state news agency. — AFP

Brief in News

PHOTO: TASS

The 43-year-old daughter of Keiko Fujimori, who is not obliged to attend Sunday’s hearing, has petitioned the court to remove Judge Concepcion Carhuancho from the case.

“The first thing we have to resolve is the recusal,” she told reporters. The case could drag on, as her legal team can appeal.

The 40N6 is a surface-to-air very long-range missile designed to strike early warning and electronic warfare aircraft, airborne command posts, strategic bombers and hypersonic cruise and ballistic missiles.

According to official data, the missile’s destruction range is up to 380 km for aerodynamic targets and up to 15km for ballistic weapons at an altitude ranging from 10 m to 35 km. The average flight speed is 1,190 m/s.

Thanks to its new homing head, the missile can destroy aircraft beyond the boundaries of the radio visibility of ground-based radars.

The missile was developed by the Fakel machine-building design bureau and is being serial-produced by the Avangard Moscow Machine-Building Enterprise.

The missiles that were previously in service with the S-400 system (9M96, 48N6 and 48N6DM) were capable of striking targets at a distance of up to 250 km.

The Patriot PAC-3, the US longest-range surface-to-air system, is capable of striking targets at a distance of up to 80-100 km. — Tass

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SE Asia boosts fight against ‘real and present’ militant threat

SINGAPORE — Southeast Asian nations seeking to combat the threat of militancy have agreed to share intelligence, Singapore’s defence minister said on Saturday, as he warned of a “real and present” danger to the region.

“Unfortunately even as the situation in Iraq and Syria improves, we are expecting more foreign fighters to come this way,” he added.

Ng said all 11 ministers at the gathering in Singapore, from Southeast Asia and key partners outside the region, viewed “terrorism as a real and present threat”.

The Southeast Asian delegates adopted an information-sharing platform called “Our Eyes” that will be used to share real-time intelligence that can immediately be acted upon, the minister added.

This came after the countries realised that they had underestimated the threat before the attack on Marawi, where the rebuilding effort could cost around $1 billion, he said.

Proposed by Indonesia, the platform is based on an intelligence-sharing alliance set up by the United States, Britain and three other countries after World War II to monitor the former Soviet Union.

The weekend security meeting was attended by the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis and their counterparts from countries including China, Australia, India and Russia.

In last year’s assault on Marawi, hundreds of armed militants backed by foreign IS fighters attacked and took control of the largely Muslim city in a bid to establish a base in Southeast Asia.

Philippine troops, supported by sophisticated surveillance planes from the United States, dislodged the militants after five months of heavy fighting that left more than 1,000 people dead and the city in ruins.

Militants from other Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia and Malaysia, were involved in the fighting.

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polarispartners@polaris.com.mm
Dated 22nd October 2018
Lower water levels on Germany’s Rhine river have caused problems from exposing an old WWII bomb to forcing ship operators to halt services. PHOTO: AFP

Water woes as drought leaves Germany’s Rhine shallow

BERLIN (Germany) — Months of drought have left water levels on Germany’s Rhine river at a record low, exposing a World War II bomb and forcing ship operators to halt services to prevent vessels from running aground.

The water level on the Rhine on Friday reached just 77 centimetres (30 inches), 4 cm below a previous record low of 81 cm recorded in 2003, Cologne’s waterworks authorities said.

Although rainfall is expected next week, forecasters said it would not suffice to bring up water levels in Germany’s most important waterway and a key shipping route for the Netherlands and France. Freight ships have had to reduce the volume of cargo carried in the shallow waters. Passenger liners plying Cologne and Mainz have been halted since Monday because of the low water level, operator KD said.

Meanwhile the dried out riverbed has exposed all kinds of objects, including a 50-kilo (110-pound) World War II bomb that would have to be defused in the coming days.

Ahead of the operation, water traffic around the site in Cologne has been halted.

Germany, like much of Europe, has enjoyed a prolonged period of warm and sunny weather. But farmers have long complained that the persistent drought was wreaking havoc on crops, with annual production expected to be down by a fifth.

Fourteen of Germany’s 16 states have applied to benefit from a federal aid programme for farmers. — AFP

CO₂ emissions to rise in 2018, says IEA chief

PARIS (France) — Energy sector carbon emissions will rise in 2018 after hitting record levels the year before, dimming prospects for meeting Paris climate treaty goals, the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Wednesday.

The energy sector accounts for 80 per cent of global CO₂ emissions, with most of the rest caused by deforestation and agriculture, so its performance is key to efforts to rein in rising world temperatures.

“I’m sorry, I have very bad news for you,” IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol told guests at a diplomatic function hosted by the Polish embassy in Paris.

“Emissions this year will increase once again, and we’re going to have the COP meeting when global emissions reach a record high,” he said, referring to the December UN climate summit in Katowice, Poland. After remaining flat for three years, total global CO₂ emissions in 2017 rose by 1.4 per cent, dashing hopes that they had peaked. The meeting in Katowice is tasked with finalising the “operating manual” for the 195-nation Paris Agreement, which enters into force in 2020 and calls for capping global warming at “well below” 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), and at 1.5 °C if possible.

“arable),” he added.

“The chances of meeting such ambitious targets, in my view, are becoming weaker and weaker every year, every month,” Birol told invitees, including former French prime minister Laurent Fabius, who shepherded the 2015 treaty to a successful conclusion, and Poland’s junior minister Michal Kurytyk, who will preside over the December summit. — AFP

Albatrosses to spy out illegal fishing

CHIZE (France) — Fishermen illegally tawling the Indian Ocean might soon find they have more to worry about than the proverbial albatross around their neck — real bad luck might now lurk in the form of one of the birds spying on them from the sky.

A scientific programme, designed to study the feathered giants of the air, might also help identify poaching fishing vessels, according to the Chize Biological Study Centre, a French research body which seeks to help preserve the endangered bird species.

Between November and March, 150 albatrosses, from the remote French southern Indian Ocean islands of Crozet, Kerguelen and Amsterdam, will be equipped with tiny beacons which will automatically detect radar signals put out by ships they meet at sea.

The programme known as “Ocean sentinel” and funded by the Council of Europe was first tested in South Africa early this year.

One of the main threats to the birds comes from commercial longline fishing as albatrosses seeking fish get hooked on the lines and drown, according to Henry Weimerskirch, director of research at the French centre.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature says 18 of the 22 albatross species are threatened, some with extinction.

The beacons, weighing 70 grams (2.4 ounces) and built in cooperation with New Zealand, will be fitted to the back of the birds, thereby allowing researchers to follow them and analyse their feeding habits.

But they will also pick up radar emissions as they pass over ships.

Vessels intent on illegal fishing turn off their automatic identification system (AIS) when entering off-limit fishing grounds, so cutting themselves off from automatic satellite tracking.

But they still rely on low-level radar emissions for safety reasons and it is these that the airborne equipment will be able to pick up.

“Half the boats we detected (during tests) did not have their AIS switched on,” said Weimerskirch.

With an albatross picking up signals from five kilometres (3 miles) away “we can localise a boat within half an hour of contact”, and if its seeking to avoid detection pass the information on to authorities “for possible interception,” he added.

Ocean Sentinel is also expected to be test ed next year in New Zealand and in the Hawaiian islands. —AFP

Early Bird Sale: Refilling Station, Restaurant

A licensed refilling station with four 3,600-gallon tanks owned by a guarantor, with a concrete-floor structure type car parking for seven Express buses, a daily sales between K4.5 million and K4 million, and a restaurant of a two-story BC type building annex and scenic view which can attract foreigners, located at a strategic place on four-acre land on the Sekhitala-Kyaukpadaung Road. Price K400 million, payment is negotiable.

Contact: 09-49266711, 09-76503109

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO. (1817-1818)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO. (1817-1818) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SCHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (SP’ORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (1829-1830)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (1829-1830) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Phone No: 2301185

MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
**Prince Harry opens Invictus Games after storm delays**

SYDNEY—Britain’s Prince Harry on Saturday opened the Olympic-style Invictus Games for disabled and wounded soldiers at a moving ceremony on the forecourt of Sydney’s Opera House, after an intense thunderstorm forced an hour-long delay.

The Duke of Sussex, who climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge on Friday to help raise money for the Games, opened an extension to a war memorial in the city before handing on the first Invictus medals in a driving challenge, where France won gold.—AFP

**Banksy admits shredding stunt didn’t go as planned**

LONDON—Banksy has admitted that one of his biggest pranks yet didn’t really go according to plan.

The British street artist created an art world sensation by sending one of his paintings through a shredder hidden in a frame moments after it sold at auction for £1,042,000 ($1.4 million, 1.2 million euros).

Experts say the “Girl with Balloon” is now probably worth even more because the stunt created a media stir that made many reassess their understanding of performance art.

But there was always a nagging question: Why did only half the painting slip through the frame? Was there a deeper meaning? Did Banksy—whose identity is known only to a select group of loyal friends—try to tell us something we were still failing to grasp?

The secretive artist admitted on a video posted on his Instagram account this week that the real answer was much simpler: The painting got stuck.

“In rehearsal it worked every time,” he wrote at the end of a three-minute clip showing how he practised sending an identical painting through a shredder in a frame. “The entire thing sailed straight through.”

**Chinese film, actress win awards at Chicago festival**

CHICAGO—Chinese filmmaker Jia Zhangke’s latest film “Ash Is Purest White” won the Silver Hugo for Best Director at the ongoing 54th Chicago International Film Festival (CIFF) at AMC River East 21 in the US state of Illinois on Friday.

The film “was shot with masterfully crafted mise-en-scene that allows us to observe the complexity of its characters and the evolution of a country,” the international competition jury stated. Actress Zhao Tao who plays the role of QiaoQiao in the film received Silver Hugo for Best Actress. Zhao’s performance covered a journey of 20 years in a fast changing era in China. “Tao burns with brilliance, wit, and ferociousness as a woman whose steps are haunted by her history and what may come next,” said the jury.

Categories of awards presented Friday night include International Documentary Competition; New Directors Competition; International Feature Film Competition; Out-Look Competition; and Short Film Competition. The Chicago Award and the Founder’s Award were also presented.

Alice Rohrwacher’s “Happy as Lazzaro” wins the Gold Hugo for its poetic cinematic language. Films from Vietnam, Australia, Peru, Britain, the Netherlands, Mexico and the United States are among the major winners across the festival’s other competitions.—Xinhua

**Having children taught me what real love is: Chris Hemsworth**

LONDON—Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth says he did not expect parenting to be so difficult but it has taught him the real meaning of love. The “Thor” star, who has six-year-old daughter India and four-year-old twin sons Sacha and Tristan with wife Elsa Pataky, said having kids changed his outlook towards life, reported Contactmusic. “Having children is much more difficult than you think it’s going to be. You have to change your thinking and be completely there for them. But they have also taught me what real love is and what true responsibility means. Your life becomes more focused and you don’t have time to get distracted by unimportant things any more. You become a lot less selfish. “But I don’t feel as though I’m giving up anything or making any sacrifices. I had my share of wild times when I was younger and that kind of stuff was never that interesting to me anyway. When I met Elsa, I was very comfortable with the idea that she was someone I wanted to share my life with and build something for the future,” Hemsworth said.—PTI
Report on Soyuz-FG malfunction to be approved on 30 October

MOSCOW—A final report and list of recommendations will be approved on 30 October, following the probe into the incident with the Soyuz-FG launch vehicle carrying Soyuz MS-10 manned spacecraft, the Russian space agency Roscosmos said after a meeting of the emergency commission.

"Having listened to reports of the experts investigating causes of the emergency, members of the emergency commission have approved, after a detailed examination, a draft report on causes of the incident and begun drawing up recommendations to prevent similar situations in the future," the statement says.

"The final report and list of recommendations for the space industry enterprises will be approved on 30 October, 2018 and will be submitted to chairperson of the State Commission for Flight Tests of Manned Space Complexes," it says.

A Soyuz-FG carrier rocket with a manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft blasted off from Kazakhstan’s Baikonur Cosmodrome to the International Space Station (ISS) on 11 October. On board the spacecraft were Russian cosmonaut Alexei Ovchinin (the commander of the Soyuz MS-10) and NASA astronaut Nick Hague.

Following a smooth liftoff, the Soyuz’s booster malfunctioned between the first and second stages of separating, whereupon the crew was forced to abort the flight and switch to ballistic descent. The manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft ended up landing in the Kazakh steppe. The Soyuz MS-10 crew were not hurt. This is the first emergency landing with this type of carrier rocket over the past 35 years.—Tass

Mercury mission to explore origin of Solar System

PARIS (France)—Is Mercury’s core liquid or solid, and why—on the smallest planet in our solar system—is it so big? What can the planet closest to the Sun tell us about how our solar system came into being? An unmanned European-Japanese space mission set for launch early Saturday morning from French Guiana, dubbed BepiColombo, will probe these and other mysteries.

"BepiColombo is coming like a white knight with better and more precise data," said Alain Doressoundiram, an astronomer at the Paris Observatory.

"To understand how Earth was formed, we need to understand how all rocky planets formed," including Venus and Mars, he told AFP. “Mercury stands apart and we don’t know why.” First, however, the suite of instruments on board the Ariane 5 rocket will have to travel seven years and nine million kilometres (5.6 million miles) to reach their destination. According to Pierre Bousquet, an engineer at France’s National Centre for Space Research and head of the French team contributing to the mission, Mercury is “abnormally small,” leading to speculation that it survived a massive collision in its youth. “A huge crater visible on its surface could be the scar left over from that encounter,” Bousquet told AFP. Finding out if this is true is on BepiColombo’s “to do” list.

Going hot and cold

This scenario would explain why Mercury’s core accounts for a whopping 55 percent of its mass, compared to 30 percent for Earth. Mercury also is the only rocky planet orbiting the Sun beside our own to have a magnetic field. Magnetic fields are generated by a liquid core but given its size, Mercury’s inner sanctum should have grown cold and solid by now, as did Mars. This anomaly might be due to some feature of the core’s composition, something BepiColombo’s instruments will measure with much greater precision than has been possible so far.

On its surface, Mercury is a planet of extremes, vacillating between hot days of about 430 degrees Celsius (more than 800 degrees Fahrenheit) to super-frosty nights of minus 180°C (minus 290°F). Those days and nights last nearly three Earth months each. Earlier missions have detected evidence of ice in the deepest recesses of the planet’s polar craters. Scientists speculate that this may have accumulated from comets crashing onto Mercury’s surface. “If the presence of ice is confirmed, it means that some of those water samples date back nearly to the origin of the solar system,” Doressoundiram said.

Lashed by solar winds

Mercury is 58 million kilometres (36 million miles) from the Sun, nearly three times closer than Earth. “The planet is whipped by solar winds,” a constant torrent of ionised particles bombarding the surface at 500 kilometres per second, said Bousquet.—AFP

Glitzy ‘Science Oscars’ to make stars of researchers

WASHINGTON (United States)—Nine scientists who won prizes in the life sciences included Frank Bennett and Adrian Krainer, from companies in Carlsbad, California and Long Island, New York. They were recognized for their discovery of a DNA-linked process that led to a treatment for a rare infantile disorder, spinal amyotrophy.

They were joined by Chinese-born scientists Xiaowei Zhuang (Harvard), who developed a new tool for super-resolution molecular imagery, and Zhijian “James” Chen (University of Texas), for his discovery of a DNA-sensing enzyme that could be associated with auto-immune disorders.—AFP

Brazil recovers ancient human fossil fragments from burnt Rio museum

RIO DE JANEIRO—Brazilian officials said on Friday they have recovered pieces of a 12,000-year-old fossil of a neolithic woman that was among the prized artifacts in Rio de Janeiro’s burnt down National Museum.

“We found almost all of the skull and 80 percent of its fragments have been identified,” museum director Alexander Kellner said, adding that fragments of a femur were also uncovered from the ashes.

The fossil, nicknamed “Luzia,” was discovered in 1970 in the southeastern state of Minas Gerais by a French-led expedition. A Manchester University team later did a digital face reconstruction based on the skull, which was used to model a sculpture of the ancient woman.

That sculpture went up in flames on September 2 along with most of the museum’s 20 million artifacts. But the original skull fragments, kept in a metal urn in a closet, were found a few days ago.—AFP

Mercury has barely been explored. PHOTO: AFP
Traditional boat race to be held in Mandalay on 27, 28 Oct

WITH the aim of emerging talented boat race athletes for 30th SEA Games in the Philippines, a traditional boat race will be held in the western moat of Mandalay on 27 and 28 October according to Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federation (MRCF).

“We will select under-23 years old boat rowers for national athletes level from this tournament,” said U Thaung Htike Min, chairman of Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federation.

A total of 356 athletes from 13 male teams and 7 female teams will compete in the tournament.

The race’s categories for both male and female include: 5-person crew, 7-person crew and 10-person crew for 200/500 M long distance.

Prices are also categorized into winner prize, first runners up and second runners up for both genders, said an official.

Similarly, former boat race athletes were also held at the same place in Mandalay in 1989, 1990, 2016 according to the Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federation.

Isotonic sport drink, official hydration partner of AFF Suzuki Cup 2018

100PLUS, one of the best isotonic sport drinks in Myanmar, has been named the Official Hydration Partner of the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 according to an announcement of the sports drink website on Thursday.

This is the first time the isotonic drink brand is partnering Southeast Asia’s most watched football tournament as an official regional supporter. Under the agreement, 100 PLUS will be able to use the AFF Suzuki Cup event mark across its marketing platforms and market co-branded isotonic drinks at the tournament. Evidently, pictures of Myanmar football stars striker Aung Thu, midfielder Si Thu Aung and goalkeeper San Satt Naing will be printed on the cans of the isotonic drinks.

In addition, 100PLUS will be prominently featured on official tournament collateral as well as pitch-side advertising boards across the match venues located in ASEAN countries including Myanmar.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Ronaldo celebrates landmark goal but Juve’s perfect run broken

ROME (Italy)—Cristiano Ronaldo scored but wasteful Juventus had to settle for a 1-1 stalemate at home to Genoa to end the Italian champions’ perfect start to the season on Saturday.

Juventus were made to pay for failing to convert a hatful of chances when Daniel Bessa headed in a second-half equaliser.

Juventus retain control of the Serie A summit, but Napoli can reduce the gap to four points if they beat Udinese later Saturday. Ronaldo, despite the turmoil of explosive rape allegations that surfaced before the international break, notched up his fifth goal for his new employers making him the first player to five leagues, Europe’s top five leagues, making him the first player to reach that tally. Lionel Messi is next best on 389.

Ronaldo, who returns to Old Trafford on Tuesday to face his old club Manchester United, would have bagged a double shortly after but his low shot was denied by Genoa keeper Ionzut Radu’s diving save.

With Genoa struggling to contain the lively Canelo down the right Juve were firmly in control, their only regret at the break being they weren’t further in front.

Genoa had to wait until the 53rd minute for their first shot on target, and unsurprisingly it fell to Piątek, but his hopes of swelling his nine-goal Serie A haul were dashed when Juve keeper Wążek Szczęsny tipped his shot around the post.

Energised, the 23-year-old should have levelled seconds later, outjumping Leonardo Bonucci but his header went wide.

In an attempt to stifle Genoa as they scented an equaliser Allegri replaced Juan Cuadrado with Douglas Costa, the Brazilian winger making his first appearance since a four-game ban for spitting.—AFP
UK PM reassures business leaders over Brexit

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Prime Minister Theresa May took pains on Friday to reassure more than 130 British business leaders that her government would deliver frictionless trade with the European Union after Brexit.

May’s conference call with representatives of firms ranging from the accounting firm EY to the retailer Tesco came after a summit in Brussels this week produced no tangible progress.

Her office said May acknowledged in her call that there were “a few significant issues that were still outstanding” in the Brexit talks.

London and Brussels cannot agree how to keep the border between British-ruled Northern Ireland and EU-member Ireland open after Britain leaves the bloc in March.

The Downing Street statement said May “recognised the importance of these discussions for businesses, their supply chains and clients”.

May “urged businesses not to lose sight of the prize” that of a smooth trading relationship with the EU alongside the ability to seek new opportunities and open up new markets with trading partners around the world”, her office said.—AFP

China crude oil production down 2.4 pct in September

BEIJING — China’s crude oil production dropped slightly in September, as output in some typhoon-hit areas fell.

Total crude oil production slipped 2.4 percent year on year to 15.18 million tonnes last month, as compared with a 0.2 percent increase in August, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed.

Some oil fields in south China’s Guangdong Province were affected by Typhoon Mangkhut, which hit the province on Sept. 16.

In the first nine months of this year, crude oil production stood at 141.13 million tonnes, down 1.9 percent year on year.

Imports of crude oil increased 0.5 percent in September, decelerating by 13 percentage points from the pace recorded in August, NBS data showed.—Xinhua

China’s yuan funds outstanding for foreign exchange drop in September

BEIJING — China’s yuan funds outstanding for foreign exchange dropped slightly in September, with officials attributing the fall to increased liquidity. As a similar measure to capital flows and domestic yuan liquidity, such funds are an important indicator of cross-border foreign capital flows and domestic yuan liquidity. As a similar measure of capital flows, China’s foreign exchange reserves stood at 3.087 trillion U.S. dollars by the end of September, down 0.7 percent from a month ago.

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange said that although the external environment still shows lots of uncertainties, the stable fundamentals of China’s economy will provide a solid foundation for the steady operation of China’s forex market.

CBOT futures decline weekly over falling export sales

CHICAGO — Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) agricultural futures closed lower in the past trading week which ended Oct. 19, due to less-than-expected export sales.

The most active contract for December corn fell 6.75 cents, or 0.48 percent weekly, to 1.3675 dollars per bushel. December wheat delivery went down 2.5 cents, or 0.48 percent weekly, to 5.1475 dollars per bushel. November soybeans suffered a 10.75-cent decline, or 1.24 percent, to 8.5675 dollars per bushel.

Long lasting rains in the US Midwest had led to harvest delays, which in turn supported the prices of corn and soybeans in the past two weeks. However, as dry weather gradually came back and prevailed in the area, pressure started to build up upon their futures.

On Thursday, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) released its weekly export sales report for the period of Oct. 5-11, showing corn and soybean exports were far less than trade estimates, with corn sales hitting an early marketing year low.

US exporters reported sales of 382,500 metric tons of corn, compared with the trade’s expectations of between 800,000-1,250,000 metric tons.

Soybean sales only reached 293,600 metric tons, versus the trade’s expectations of between 900,000-1,000,000 metric tons.

Oliver Sloup, with Blueline Futures, described the export sales as “absolutely pathetic” for both corn and soybeans.

The bearish U.S. ethanol data gave additional pressure on corn, its raw material.

Official data pegged the ethanol production through the week ending Oct. 12 at 297 million gallons, down 9 million from previous week. Meanwhile, ethanol inventories totaled a near-record 1,014 million gallons, up 5 million on the prior week.

As for CBOT soybeans, the futures rallied on Monday and spent the rest of the week correcting the early gains, said analysts with AgResource, a Chicago-based agricultural research firm.

Harvest delays and even losses and crop quality concerns triggered funds short-covering for the initial rally. But disappointing export sales dragged down the prices.

Export sale cancellations to unknown destinations were noted in the USDA weekly sales report, followed by additional cancellations at the end of the week. Cancellations to China are not a surprise given the 25 percent tariff and more can be expected in the year ahead, said market watchers. CBOT wheat futures saw a dull week, while the world wheat trade simply lacked enthusiasm. USDA’s weekly export sales report showed that a total of 476,000 metric tons of US wheat was exported, fulfilling the trade’s expectations of between 250,000-600,000 metric tons.—Xinhua