Message from His Excellency U Win Myint President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the United Nations Day 24 October 2018

ON THIS occasion of the 73rd Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, I have a great pleasure of extending, on behalf of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, our best wishes for greater successes in all UN efforts to create a peaceful, justice and prosperous world through common actions.

The United Nations officially came into existence with the adoption of the Charter of the Organization on 24 October 1945, following the end of the Second World War. This great international organization was established as a solemn pledge of the peace-loving nations to work together to maintain world peace and security; to develop friendly relations amongst nations and to improve the lives of their peoples; and to foster mutual respect for each other’s rights and freedoms.

Golden umbrella hoisted atop Thabyay Nyinaung Aung Zeya Muni Pagoda in Nawnghkio Township

DEFENCE Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended the golden umbrella hoisting and consecration ceremony at Thabyay Nyinaung Aung Zeya Muni Pagoda near Ngoke Kalay Village, Nawnghkio Township, Shan State (North) yesterday morning.

Members of the Sanghas led by State Ovadacariya (Patron) Nawnghkio Township, Bant Bwe Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadaja Bhaddanta Ottara graced the event with Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw and wife, Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo and senior officers from Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), North East Command Commander Maj-Gen Aung Zaw Aye, departmental officials, invited guests and the local people in attendance.

At first, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief and attendees took the five precepts from Lashio Town, A T Tat Oo Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ottama and listened to the recitation of the metta sutta paritta.

Next, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief and wife donated the diamond bud, vane and other offertories to Bant Bwe Monastery Sayadaw. They also offered Ks 5 million donated by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) families for maintenance of the Thabyay Nyinaung Aung Zeya Muni Pagoda to Ngoke Kalay Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sandima.

Afterwards Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife, high ranking Tatmadaw officers and North East Command Commander donated tiers of umbrella and other offertories to the Sanghas.

The attendees then listened to the sermon of Bant Bwe Monastery Sayadaw and shared merit for the donations made.
Candlelight shines at Shwedagon

THE Buddhist devotees held a candlelight ceremony at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon on eve of the end of four-month Buddhist Rain Retreat yesterday.

The pagoda was crowded with pilgrims yesterday, the first day of the three-day holiday for Thadingyut festival to mark the end of the Rain Retreat. The devotees offered flowers, fruit, water and oil lamps before images of the Buddha.

In Yangon, Buddhist devotees packed into the Sirimangala Kaba Aye Ceti (World Peace Pagoda) where candlelight offering ceremony was held, to observe the auspicious day by performing merit-making rituals.

At pagodas in Yangon yesterday, wellwishers donated charity food and water to the visitors. Religious associations chanted religious verses at the pagodas, and office buildings and parks were illuminated with multi-coloured lightings at night. People will hold candlelight offering ceremony at pagodas nationwide to mark the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut. — MNA

SWRR Ministry hands over aid to strong wind victims in Bago Region

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye encouraged and helped local people living in Kawo and Thanatpin Township, Bago Region, who had their houses damaged and roofs blown off due to strong winds on 21 October.

The Union Minister met and discussed with Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, the Deputy Speaker of the regional Hluttaw and members of the Regional Cabinet at the Bago Regional Government Office.

While meeting with the affected local people at the hall of the General Administration Department in Kawo Township, the Union Minister said they are providing assistance for any manmade or natural disasters and are collaborating with respective ministries, societies, international organizations and the local people to reduce losses, perform prompt help and to quickly implement restoration processes.

He said that he wants cooperation on reduction of disasters because side effect of disasters can be deterrent to the development of the socio-economy.

The Regional Chief Minister also encouraged the local people and the Union Minister supported Ks 3,481,800 for rice ration, Ks 72,570,000 for construction materials for 1,586 affected households in Kawo Township and Ks 165,900 for rice ration and Ks 9,690,000 for construction materials for 274 affected households in Thanatpin Township. The donations were received by relevant officials.

The Union Minister then supported Ks 500,000 to a household with triplets in Thet Ka La Village and one of the residents expressed words of thanks. The Union Minister and his entourage then met with the affected people and gave encouragement. It was reported that the Union Minister provided Ks 86,407,700 to the victims during his trip to Bago Region. — MNA

ASEAN+Japan SOMS meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw

ASEAN+Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (SOMS) hosted by Myanmar was held in Kempinski Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The meeting was chaired by Myanmar Olympic Committee Vice Chairman Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein where she also delivered a welcoming speech. The meeting was attended by Myanmar Olympic Committee Secretary Department of Sports and Physical Education Director General U Myo Hlaing, Japan Sports Agency Specialist, International Affairs Division Mr. Kume kawa Hirokazu and senior officials on sports from ASEAN countries.

First, meeting attendees saluted the ASEAN flag and then posed for a commemorative group photo.

In her welcoming speech, the Deputy Minister said the current ASEAN+Japan SOMS includes many agendas. Mr. Kumekawa Hirokazu was invited as a spokesperson of Japan for ASEAN sports matter. Through cooperation in sports matters, Japan-ASEAN friendly relationship is strengthened. If more people from ASEAN participate in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic competitions, people in the region could enjoy a healthier life. 2016-2020 work processes were set in detail with an aim toward 2025 in line with ASSC policy when implementing sports works between Japan and ASEAN.

The work processes of Physical Education Teachers and Coaches, increasing participation of women in sports sector, technical support in sports for the handicapped and restricted drug usages were being conducted. These were the partial implementation of the decisions made at the AMMS meeting last year, said the Deputy Minister.

Next, Mr. Kumekawa Hirokazu said that increasing cooperation in the sports sector establishes a friendlier Japan-ASEAN community. Japan is ready to increase assistance for ASEAN sports sector development. Japan compliments Indonesia for successfully holding the 18th Asian Games recently. In 2019, Philippines will host the 30 SEA Games.

It is the wish of Japan that more countries from ASEAN region participate in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic, he said. Next, an official from ASEAN secretariat office proposed for all to discuss and prioritize the four work processes implemented between ASEAN and Japan during the period 2016-2020.

The participants of the meeting also discussed cooperation work process of Japan, future works and other matters. Later in the afternoon session, meeting attendees held discussion under the title of increasing participation of women in sports sector. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein attends ASEAN+Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (SOMS) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Buddhist devotees take part in a religious ceremony at the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday. PHOTO: MNA
All members, big or small, should observe the principles of the Charter of the United Nations in the spirit in which these were laid down, to promote equality and mutual respect among nations.

FROM PAGE-1

The world has changed significantly since the time of founding of the United Nations, but the values of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter are timeless and still stand today as a guide for healthy international relations. The Organization will be more effective, if its structure and working methods could be reformed in accordance with the changing realities of today’s world.

Despite its limitations and imperfections, the United Nations has provided the best forum for addressing issues related to the forces transforming our world, and it has made commendable contributions to global efforts for making the world a better and more peaceful habitat for all of us.

The United Nations has made an outstanding contribution to the economic and social advancement of all peoples through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for UN Sustainable Development Goals. In Myanmar, the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) has already placed as a roadmap for our path towards national reconciliation and peace, inclusive and transformational economic growth and social development.

This year’s theme of the United Nations General Assembly is “Making the United Nations relevant to all people: global leadership and shared responsibilities for peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies”. To make the world body relevant to all people, all members, big or small, should observe the principles of the Charter of the United Nations in the spirit in which these were laid down, to promote equality and mutual respect among nations.

The value of the United Nations is decided by how the organization and its member States, utilize the instruments at their disposal to promote peace, stability and harmony, and to mitigate harm and enmity. Objectivity, impartiality, professionalism, respect for national sovereignty are some of the keys to the success of the United Nations’ mission.

In the face of today’s growing trend in anti-globalization, we reaffirm our faith in multilateralism and a rule-based order. Cooperation with the United Nations will be more effective, if its structure and working method could be reformed in accordance with the will of all member States or societies, to be able to view each issue from different angles. Reconciling differences should be the main aim of those who truly want to promote peace and harmony in the world.

On this auspicious occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the birth of the United Nations, I wish to reaffirm Myanmar’s commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and to work together constructively with other member States to support the efforts of the United Nations aiming with the realization of its noble goals.

Golden umbrella hoisted atop Thabyay Nyinaung Aung Zeya Muni Pagoda in Nawngkhio Township

FROM PAGE-1

Following this, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief, wife and party carried the diamond bud, vane and various levels of the pagoda golden umbrella around the pagoda in a clockwise direction three times and then hoisted it on top of the pagoda with a ceremonial flying chariot.

After this, the Members of the Sanghas in attendance conducted the consecration process for the pagoda.

After the event, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and attendees offered “soon” (a day meal) to the Sayadaws and members of Sangha, according to a news release from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

Agricultural Master Plan to be implemented in Yangon Region

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said an Agricultural Master Plan that was drawn up will soon be implemented in Yangon Region with the aim of developing the agriculture sector.

The Chief Minister made the remark during a meeting with the media while attending a Flower Festival held in Yangon yesterday morning at People’s Park, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-Nether- lands diplomatic relationship.

“Agriculture sector in Yangon needs to be developed. Yangon is well placed with airports and ports to export its agricultural products internationally. Although agriculture and animal breeding zones were established during the past three years, technical cooperation and support is still weak. More will be done to develop this sector,” said the Yangon Region Chief Minister.

He continued to say that, “In developing the agriculture sector, we need to reach a stage where our fruits and flowers reach the international level. Raising the technology level as well as acquiring a market is important.”

“That is why it is expected that there’ll be more cooperation with other countries in this.”

The Agriculture Master Plan to be implemented in Yangon Region was drawn up by agriculture organisations and experts and it was already discussed and approved by the Yangon Region Hluttaw. The project duration is three years said Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. — Min Thit (MNA)
Dala ferry runs regularly during Thadingyut holiday; many passengers seen

PANSODAN-DALA ferries are running regularly during Thadingyut holiday with taking safety measures as the weather bureau has alerted them to strong winds due to a depression in the Deltaic areas.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) warned the ships and fishing vessels along Myanmar coastal regions of the possible dangers from the depression. As a result of this, Yangon is experiencing continuous rainfall.

“Life-jackets are on. Cherry ferries. The ships are warned not to leave the terminal during high wind conditions. Heavy rain at 11:40 am yesterday caused five-minute delay for ferry service. Usually, ferry service run 46 times a day yet it depends on weather condition. Three Cherry ferries are running in turn. Cherry ferry staff ensures passenger comfort and safety. Additionally, they manage for the passengers to get on and off safely”, she continued. U Kyaw Nyein, chair of Dala Township motorboats supervision committee told that motorboats are warned during high wind conditions. With the depression warning, the number of passengers on board are seen lesser for motorboat services. Due to unusual high-tide in Yangon River between 10 and 16 August, floods occurred in low-lying wards and jetties in Dala Township. —Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala) ■

Fire started from candlelight destroys home, motorbike in Phakant

AN unattended candle is being blamed for fire occurred in Phakant, a township in Kachin State of the northernmost part of the country, on Tuesday morning, damaging a house and a motorbike, according to the township Fire Services Department.

It happened at around 1 am on 23 October. However, no persons or animals were hurt in the fire. The loss due to the fire is estimated to reach approximately Ks425 million.

Investigators say that the flame was caused by an unattended candle that was used for light at the holy place in the house in Lonkhin Village in the township. On that day, the family living in the home went to a village event while the candle was being used in the home.

With the support of residents, firefighters controlled the flame within 50 minutes.

Action has been taken against the person responsible for fire-related negligence and recklessness according to the existing law.—Township IPRD■
**DICA targets $220 billion FDI in 20 years**

By Nyein Nyein

AFTER Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan was formulated, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) expects to attract foreign direct investments of US$220 billion in 20 years, said U Than Aung Kyaw, Deputy Director-General of the DICA.

"We target to attain over $220 billion FDI in next 20 years," said U Than Aung Kyaw.

According to DICA, non-oil and non-gas investments reached US$383 million using the ITC in 2017, whereas import value worth of goods a day using an ITC was US$987 million.

Myanmar’s bilateral trade with Germany exceeds $320 million from April to August

Myanmar’s trade with Germany from April to August in the past inter period amounted to US$321.7 million, comprising $245 million worth of export and $76.67 million valued import, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Germany was ranked first among EU countries having the largest trade value with Myanmar, followed by the UK with US$233 million. France was listed at the third place with trade values of about $191 million.

Beyond regional trade regime, Myanmar has established trade links with EU member countries.

The country mainly exported rice, pulses, tea leaf, coffee, apparel from garment sector on Cut-Make-Pack basis and fisher products, rattan finished products, forestry products, apparels and finished industrial goods.

Trade values with Germany were about US$584 million in the 2017-2018 FY, $342 million in the 2016-2017 FY, $153 million in the 2015-16 FY, $147 million in the 2014-2015 FY, $123 million in the 2013-2014 FY, $187 million in the 2012-2013 FY and $137 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

EU member countries put investments in petroleum and natural gas enterprises, manufacturing, transportation, hotels and tourism and livestock businesses.

Five-day individual trade registered at $987 million in border areas

The value of border trade with the Individual Trading Card (ITC) was US$987 million in the five days of the current fiscal year 2018-2019, according to data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Export of the individual traders was worth Ks277 million, whereas import value with ITC was Ks79 million.

Myawady border gate witnessed the largest trade worth $383 million using the ITC.

Five-day trade of ITC holders is worth Ks134 million at Tamu border gate, Ks27 million at Kanpaikti, over Ks225,200 at Tachilek, Ks85 million at Kawthoung, Ks345 million at Mawtaung and Ks10.9 million at Kengtung respectively.

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The Trade Department issued a total of 1,060 individual trading cards; with 292 cards from 21 Nov 2012 to 31 March 2013, 261 cards in the 2013-2014 FY, 317 cards in the 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in the 2015-2016 FY and 248 cards in the 2016-2017 FY, 92 cards in the past mini-budget period and six cards during the first five days of the current FY, according to an announcement released by the aforementioned ministry.

The Trade Department issues the ITC with an aim to boosting border trade. A businessman can trade Ks3 million worth of goods a day using an ITC and then, the Trade Department granted trade values of up to Ks15 million per day, which is a five-day-trade-value.

**Myanmar-Thailand border trade increase by $17 million this FY**

BILATERAL border trade between Myanmar and Thailand in the current fiscal year exceeds US$435 million which was an increase in value $17.3 million, matched against the same period in the last FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

At this time last year, the bilateral border trade totalled $28.3 million.

Myanmar delivers goods to Thailand through sea routes as well as cross-border gates. Seven border trade camps are currently opened between the two nations, consisting of Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htiikhee, Mawtaung and Maese. Despite a slight decrease in value of Tachilek border, the bilateral trade value from all Myanmar-Thailand border gates increased in comparison with this time last year.

During the period, Myanmar exported domestic products worth over $18 million to Thailand, importing a wide variety of goods valued at $27 million.

The country exports fruits such as watermelon, pineapple and avocado, kitchen crops including onion, garlic and others, dried tea leaves, manganese dioxide, and other miscellaneous products to the neighbouring Thailand. Its import comprises cement, construction equipment, leather and iron steel products, soaps, medicines, cosmetics, food and beverages, stationery, footwear, clothing, machinery and other commodities.

The trade value from all border crossings between 1 and 12 October this year topped $226.5 million, up by over $100 million over the same period in the last FY. During the period, Mawgya-China border town, handled the largest volume and value of border trade with over $155 million.

To implement this plan, by outlining five strategies, state-level leading committee and task forces will be formed regarding investment promotion and facilitation, institutional development for investment promotion, investment policy, infrastructure development and domestic businesses and human resource development.

MIPP was jointly formulated by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to implement the objectives of MIPP by adopting strategies and setting up the Task Force.

In the incumbent government period, the MIPP was revised from the old version of Foreign Direct Investment Promotion Plan (FDIPP) formulated in the previous government’s period in 2014.
### 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 20 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 numerous opium/illegal tablet users and sellers in Panhike Ward 8, Namtu Tsp, Shan State.</td>
<td>On 19-10-2018, police arrested Aung La, 53, and his son Aung Moe, 25, together with WY psychotropic tablets and heroin in their home near the old cemetery in Panhike Ward 8, Namtu Tsp. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Namtu) MaYa(Pa) 14/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Information received of sales of illegal drugs and youths addicted to drugs in Kyatchaung Village, Kyunsu Tsp, Taninthayi Region.</td>
<td>On 18-10-2018, police investigating Kyatchaung Village, Kyunsu Tsp, arrested Naing Zaw, 23, and his older brother Nyi Zaw, 26, attempting to sail out to sea with opium powder. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Kamnaw) MaYa(Pa) 41/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Tin Tun from Kyatchaung Village, Kyunsu Tsp, Taninthayi Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 18-10-2018, police searched Tin Tun’s house in Kyatchaung Village, Kyunsu Tsp, but could not find him. Police discovered Tin Tun’s wife, Daw Mya Win, 46, in the kitchen. She threw a sack containing WY psychotropic tablets through the back door and escaped on a motorboat. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Kamnaw) MaYa(Pa) 40/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Information received of Ashin Aseinna residing in Chan Mya Aungsi retreat in Chan Mya Thar-yar Ward, Pyigyidagun Tsp, Mandalay Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 14-10-2018, police arrested Ashin Aseinna (u) Aye Kyaw, 32, Vassa 13, in Chan Mya Aungsi retreat in Chan Mya Thar-yar Ward, Pyigyidagun Tsp, Mandalay City together with BB/1 psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Pyigydagun) MaYa(Pa) 29/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Nay Myo Aung from Ward 6, Setawgyi Village, Madaya Tsp, Mandalay Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 13-10-2018, police arrested Nay Myo Aung, 47, in Ward 6, Setawgyi Village, Madaya Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Kamnaw) MaYa(Pa) 5/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Shine Shine Thu and Ko Shine Shine Oo from Kambau Village, Htiingaung Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 14-10-2018, police arrested Shine Shine Thu, 23, in Kambau Village, Htiingaung Tsp, together with heroin and a homemade gun. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Htiingaung) MaYa(Pa) 33/2018 under Section 16-C/2/2 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police arrested Shine Shine Oo, 26, from the same village with heroin and WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Htiingaung) MaYa(Pa) 34/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Chan Thar from Myauk Village, Taze Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 16-10-2018, police arrested Chan Thar, 26, from Myauk Village, Taze Tsp, together with opium. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Taze) MaYa(Pa) 17/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Zaw Min from Lamphokan Village, Pyigymianshing Tsp, Taninthayi Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 18-10-2018, police arrested Zaw Min (a) Zaw Min Lwin, 31, and Yan Naing Kyaw, 27, in Lamphokan Village, Pyigymianshing Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Pyigymianshing) MaYa(Pa) 20/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Information received of U Ar Baung and his wife Ma Aye Mi from Mahmimin Village, Area 4, Ward 5, Lashio Tsp, Shan State, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 20-10-2018, police arrested Aik Kyaw, 19, after searching him as he walked along Natsin Road, Area 4, Ward 5, Lashio Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets and one knife. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa(Pa) 20/2018 under Section 19-A/22-B of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigations led to the arrest of Ar Baung (a) Aik Puang, 25, his wife Ma Aye Mi, 27, and Zaw Myo Htet (a) Min Hkike, 23, together with WY psychotropic tablets in Mahmimin Village, Area 4, Ward 5, Lashio Tsp. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa(Pa) 20/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Myo Zaw living on 6th floor-B in Building No. 37, 133th Street, Pomnagone Ward, Tamway Tsp, Yangon Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 16-10-2018, police arrested Myo Zaw, 36, living on 6th floor-B in Building No. 37, 133th Street, Pomnagone Ward, Tamway Tsp, together with psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Tamway) MaYa(Pa) 45/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Information received of Maung Maung Soe (a) Ka Ne Gyi from Building No. 700, Ngu Wah Road, Ward 50, Dagon Myothit (North) Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Dagon North) MaYa(Pa) 50/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
<td>On 18-10-2018, police arrested Maung Maung Soe (a) Ka Ne Gyi, 47, in from Building No. 700, Ngu Wah Road, Ward 50, Dagon Myothit (North) Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Dagon North) MaYa(Pa) 50/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Information received of Naung Naung from the eastward in Insein Tsp, Yangon Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 20-10-2018, police investigating the east ward (Strand Road) in Insein Tsp arrested Naung Naung, 39, and Thae Su Mon, 39, both from the same ward, together with marijuana in their possession as they walked along Padamyar dockyard. Police discovered the two suspects had obtained the marijuana from Myo Min (a) Myint Oo, 37, who had previously been arrested under MaMaSa (Hlegu) MaYa(Pa) 28/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. A case has been opened against all three with MaMaSa (Insein) MaYa(Pa) 138/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 350 cases have been exposed as of 20-10-2018, and 467 men and 90 women have been arrested with seizures of 5,047.59 g of heroin, 22.01 g of ICE, 38,387.01 g of opium, 329 g of low-quality opium, 1180 g of powder opium, 3,973.99 g of speciosa, 166,588 stimulant tablets, 3,693.78 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 217.4 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 1.65 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 13 firearms, 194 different bullets, and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>In addition to investigations and arrests conducted on drug-related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information. During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates. In Kachin State, Mansi Tsp, Monsin Village, 2 men were arrested with 4680 stimulant tablets. In Shan State, Loilim Tsp, on the Loilim-Thaungyi highway, near Hotin Village, a Scania 22-wheeled truck was stopped and 2 men were arrested with 14220 liters of sulfuric acid. In Monhsat Tsp, Hpahta Village, a man was arrested with 4000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle.</td>
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Kyaukse holds traditional elephant dance festival

TRADITIONAL elephant dance festival commences in Kyaukse, Mandalay Region, yesterday and 20 dance troupes are participating in the competition. The opening ceremony was held at the Central Stadium at the foot of Shwetharlyaung. The authorities also provided parking places for cars and motorcycles, so it is very convenient. A troupe participates in traditional dance festival in Kyaukse. PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKHTILA)

Rules of Law

It is understood that for nations going through a transition, it takes an average of 10 years for the rule of law to take firm hold. It is a long-term investment, where dynamic and unrelenting motivation is required, if the nation is to live in harmony, peace and security under a strong and firm rule of law.

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

FROM PAGE-6

In Kehsi Tsp, on the Kehsi-Mongye-Lashio highway, a man driving a six-wheeled Nissan Paseo was arrested with 150000 g of caffeine. In Pinlaung Tsp, Naungtaya Village, Nyanpin Village, two men were arrested with 1100 g of opium blocks and one motorcycle. In Nawranghla Tsp, oriental toll gate entrance, two men were arrested with 3900 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle and another man was arrested with a Nissan Wingroad car and 24000 stimulant tablets. In Taunggyi Town, Sakhe Village entrance, two men and two women were arrested with 3970 stimulant tablets. In Payarpyu Ward, two men and a woman were arrested with 8638 stimulant tablets. In Tachileik Tsp, Ayedin Village, a man was arrested with 13000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Hsihseng Tsp, on the Taunggyi-Hsihseng highway, Banyainlwe Village, a man was arrested with 9500 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Rakhine State, Sittway Town, there were three cases. Four men and a woman were arrested with 454 stimulant tablets. In Kyaukpyu Town, there were two cases. Four men were arrested with 91 stimulant tablets. In Minbya Town, Okkarpyan Ward, a man was arrested with 107 stimulant tablets. In Maungtaw Tsp, Maungpi (Lower) Village, a man was arrested with 129 stimulant tablets. In Myeena Kanyintan Village-tract, Sitila Village, a man was arrested with 8 stimulant tablets. On the two countries’ border along the NaF River, three men were arrested attempting to sail from U Saw Hla island to the other side together with 171000 stimulant tablets. In Sagaing Region, Namnave Village, Khamti Tsp, a man was arrested with 450 stimulant tablets and 272 g of heroin. In Bamauk Tsp, Nanzar Village, two miles north in Kanpauktar Forest, two men were arrested with 8167 g of raw opium. In Mandalay Region, Mogok Tsp, Monglong-Mogok highway, two motorcycles were flagged down but drove away on the two countries’ border along the NaF River, three men were arrested attempting to sail from U Saw Hla island to the other side together with 171000 stimulant tablets. In Sagaing Region, Namnave Village, Khamti Tsp, a man was arrested with 450 stimulant tablets and 272 g of heroin. In Bamauk Tsp, Nanzar Village, two miles north in Kanpauktar Forest, two men were arrested with 8167 g of raw opium. In Mandalay Region, Mogok Tsp, Monglong-Mogok highway, two motorcycles were flagged down but drove away from officials. Officials arrested one of the men together with two motorcycles and 10108.5 g of heroin in Nyaunggone Village. On the Monglong-Mogok highway, Legyi Village, an ownerless Alphard car was abandoned containing 390000 stimulant tablets and 1202.5 g of heroin. In Patheingyi Tsp, 16 miles checkpoint, a man driving Mitsubishi Pick Up driven from Pansan, Shan State, was arrested with 30000 g of ICE. Further investigations revealed the car was heading for Yangon. Officials cooperated with the Drug Enforcement Division and drove the car to Yangon and contacted the phone number given to the driver. The call receiver asked to meet up on Thitsar Street, South Okkalapa Tsp, Yangon Region. A man arrived in a Suzuki Ertiga Saloon car and was arrested. Further investigation led to another receiver on Waizayandar Road, Thin-gangyun Tsp where a man arriving in a Mini Cooper Saloon was arrested 21 ecstasy tablets and 0.2 g of ICE. A search of their house led officials to confiscate 20 ecstasy tablets and 15590 stimulant tablets. There were two cases involving foreigners. In Shan State, Muse Town, an illegal Chinese migrant man was arrested with 30 g of heroin. In Kayin State, Myawady Town, Ward 1, an illegal Thai migrant man was arrested with 57 stimulant tablets. There have been 278 cases being opened between 14-10-2018 and 20-10-2018, and 391 men and 28 women have been arrested. Seizures of 183631.12 g of heroin, 30065.23 g of ICE, 8858.06 g of opium, 1817.66 g of powder opium, 591595 stimulant tablets, 9540.34 g of marijuana, 3184 g of opium blocks, 3.2 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 150500 g of caffeine, 14220 liters of sulphuric acid, 420 liters of hydrochloric acid, 2560 liters of acetone, 1216 liters of ethyl ether, 1680 liters of lizol, and 41 ecstasy tablets.

To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts
Auto telephone No. — 067-590200
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm
The numbers of young adults who are becoming entrepreneurs to make their own fortune by putting up their own businesses are growing.

Thadinkyut Traditional Festival bears relevance in modern times.

By Ma Ba Saddlemmu Jja

KACHINE State is rich in natural resources. It has rivers, lakes, ponds and is connected to the ocean.

The Kachine State Government is emphasizing on investment and trade in order to benefit from producing agricultural products as well as manufacturing and to increase job opportunities in order to improve local trade but also external trade with foreign countries.

Today, in the state, we have witnessed trade infrastructures like the industrial zone, Kalay Economic corridor from Sittway to Mizoram, India-Myanmar-Thailand tri-lateral highway, Southeast Economic zone, salt water tiger prawn agriculture and livestock zones, Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and Deep Sea Port Project, trade zones in towns, hotel sector, investment by foreign companies and marble extraction etc.

Meanwhile, the numbers of young adults who are becoming entrepreneurs to make their own fortune by putting up their own businesses are growing.

The Kachine State Gov- ernment conducted a forum last Sunday in Sittway to discuss the aspects of starting a business and its require- ments in Kachine State.

The event is an oppor- tunity for the various govern- ment departments to present their programs for job creation and small and medium en- trepreneurs.

The event came after the Kachine State Gov- ernment noticed that producing young entrepreneurs in the State will bring regional ben- efits including job and invest- ment opportunities through the utilization of infrastruc- tures and an abundant array of natural resources in the most easy way.

The Kachine State Chief Minister U Nyu Pu also pledged the government’s full support to the SMEs while the Union Government has been rendering much assist- ance for the emergence of a number of young Myanmar entrepreneurs.

With an increasing number of young entrepreneurs nowa- days, this event is timely as it aimed at generating opportunities for youths and businesses and developing them to know how to become pioneers in the business sector in Kachine State.

Industry updates were also great topics as these will give entrepreneurs a glimpse of how they are getting into new territories and enable them to gain knowledge on how to be an effective entrepreneur and employer in the State.

We thank young entrepreneurs for taking a hard task of socio-economic development of the state and hope that the trials will not be in vain.

The future of Kachine State economy lies in their hands.

OPINION

MESSAGE

The Secretary-General Message on the United Nations Day

24 October 2018

UNUNITED NATIONS DAY marks the birth of our founding Charter – the landmark document that embodies the hopes, dreams and aspirations of the United Nations.

Every day, the women and men of the United Nations work to give practical meaning to that Charter. It would be hard to imagine our world today if we never gave up.

Extreme poverty is being reduced but we see inequity growing.

Yet we don’t give up because we know by reducing inequity we increase hope and opportunity and peace around the world.

Colleagues, friends and neighbors, let’s bear in mind the purpose we gave us because that climate change is the only path. Neither do we jump on many phases. But we don’t give up because we know respect for human rights and human dignity is a basic condition for peace.

Conflicts are multiplying: people are suffering. But we don’t give up because we know every man, woman and child deserves a life of peace.

On United Nations Day, let us reaffirm our commitment. To bring it all home, let us remember.

To work for peace. To work for justice. To save the next child, the following one. To save all.

To uphold dignity for one and all, as united nations.

Forecast for Mandalay and Neighboring Areas

For 24 October 2018

Rains or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagain Region, Kayin and Chins States, scattered in Magway and Taninthayi regions and Banglay State, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining regions of the country. Winds will be light on days and moderate to strong on nights. Surface wind speed in speeds may reach 20mph. Wave height will be about 3 feet along Mooy Moun Mon State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA

For 24 October 2018

For 24 October 2018: Rain or thundershowers.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA

For 24 October 2018

Published (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 23rd October, 2018)

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Israel says Hezbollah set up Lebanon post under NGO guise

JERUSALEM — The Israeli army on Monday accused the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah of setting up a new observation point in south Lebanon near the border under the guise of an environmental NGO.

The terrorist group Jaish al-Adl, formed in 2012, is a successor to the Sunni extremist group Jundallah which conducted near Lulakdan, a village 150 kilometres (90 miles) southeast of Zahedan, the capital of Sistan-Baluchistan.

The photos show seven members of the elite Revolutionary Guards force and five police commandos, all in combat gear, according to state news agency IRNA.

The Iranians, including intelligence offices, were abducted near Lulakdan, a village 150 kilometres (90 miles) southeast of Zahedan, the capital of Sistan-Baluchistan.

They were “made unconscious” by a “single infiltrator” and then kidnapped and taken to bases inside Pakistan, said Guards commander Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, quoted by IRNA.

The photos also show a haul of automatic weapons and sniper rifles, rocket launchers, machine-guns, grenades and ammunition, apparently seized from the Iranian forces.

Sistan-Baluchistan has long been a flashpoint, with Pakistan-based Baluchi separatists and jihadists carrying out regular cross-border raids against Iran.

The province has a large, mainly Sunni Muslim ethnic Baluchi community which straddles the border.

A delegation led by the Guards’ ground forces commander Mohammad Palpour visited Pakistan on Monday to follow up on efforts to free the Iranians, the force said on its website.

Pakistan said last Wednesday that it has launched “active” efforts to locate the missing men.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has blamed the kidnapping on “our common enemies unhappy with the existing close, friendly relations between Pakistan and Iran”.—AFP

Jihadists claim responsibility for Iran troops abduction

TEHRAN (Iran) — A jihadist group has claimed responsibility for the abduction of 12 Iranian security personnel near the border with Pakistan, Iran’s semi-official news agency ISNA reported on Monday.

“The terrorist group Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice in Arabic) has posted two photos... claiming that those in it are the forces abducted” on 16 October, ISNA said.

Jaish al-Adl, formed in 2012, is a successor to the Sunni extremist group Jundallah (Soldiers of God) which has carried out a spate of attacks on Iranian security forces in recent years in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan.

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Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has blamed the kidnapping on “our common enemies unhappy with the existing close, friendly relations between Pakistan and Iran”.—AFP

Ethiopia inks peace deal with separatist group

ADDIS ABABA (Ethiopia) — Ethiopia said on Monday it had signed a peace deal with the separatist Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), formally ending more than three decades of insurgency in the eastern Somali regional state.

The ONLF, which has been fighting for the rights of ethnic Somalis living in eastern Ethiopia to self-determination, signed the deal with the ONLF on Monday, the vice-president of the Somali regional state Mustafa Omer travelled to the Eritrean capital Asmara to hammer out the peace deal with the ONLF. “The Ethiopian government and ONLF delegation held productive discussions and reached a historic deal that allows the ONLF to undertake a peaceful political struggle in Ethiopia,” the foreign ministry said. Since taking office in April, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has released imprisoned dissidents and prioritised reconciling with the country’s various opposition groups. The peace talks took place after the Ethiopian parliament in July removed the ONLF from a terror list, which prompted the group to decline an indefinite unilateral ceasefire in August.

Ethiopia’s breakneck diplomatic thaw with former rival Eritrea since July, also helped turn Asmara from a chief sponsor of ONLF to one that is mediating between the two sides.

The ONLF made international headlines on 24 April, 2007, when it launched a deadly raid on a Chinese run oil field in Somali regional state. The attack left 65 Ethiopians and nine Chinese dead. After the attack, the Ethiopian government undertook a large scale counterinsurgency campaign, with rights groups accusing Addis Ababa of widespread abuses including torture, rape and murder.—AFP

NATO says foreign soldier killed in Afghan insider attack

KABUL (Afghanistan) — A foreign soldier was killed and two others wounded in an insider attack in Afghanistan on Monday, NATO said, days after a gunman wounded a US general at a high-level security meeting.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in Afghanistan on Monday accused the Afghan security forces uniform opened fire on a gathering of security chiefs, including General Scott Miller, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan. Miller was not hurt in the shooting in the southern city of Kandahar that killed three people, including a powerful Afghan police chief.

US Brigadier General Jeffrey Smiley was among 13 wounded. —AFP

PHOTO: AFP

UN Resolution 1701 prohibits Hezbollah to conduct military activity in south Lebanon near the Israeli border. PHOTO: AFP
Trump says US to start cutting aid as migrant caravan rolls on

TAPACHULA (Mexico) — President Donald Trump said on Monday the US will start cutting aid to Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador as a caravan of thousands of mostly Honduran migrants rolled on regardless toward the US border.

Trump kept up his almost daily Twitter attacks on the approaching caravan, calling it a national emergency and said he had alerted the US border patrol and military.

“We will now begin cutting off, or substantially reducing, the massive foreign aid” that the United States provides to the three Central American countries, he said.

Mexican authorities had managed to block the “caravan” of migrants on a border bridge between Mexico and Guatemala, but many later crossed the river below in makeshift rafts before marching north.

The caravan of around 3,000 migrants was heading on Monday to the town of Huixtla, around 40 kilometres further on from Tapachula in Chiapas State where they slept Sunday night.

Sadly, it looks like Mexico’s Police and Military are unable to stop the Caravan heading to the Southern Border of the United States. Criminals and unknown Middle Easterners are mixed in, Trump said in one tweet.

“I have alerted Border Patrol and Military that this is a National Emergency (sic). Must change laws!”

Activists say the journey through of at least 3,000 kilometres (1,800 miles) through Mexico to the US border could take a month.

“We are well aware that this country (Mexico) didn’t receive us as we expected, and they can return us to Honduras, and we also know there are drug traffickers who kidnap and kill migrants,” Juan Flores, one of those migrants, told AFP.

But we live with more fear in our country, so we carry on forward,” he added.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also warned that the migrants “may be victimized by human smugglers or others who would exploit them.”

“We also are deeply concerned by the violence provoked by some members of the group, as well as the apparent political motivation of some organizers of the caravan,” Pompeo said in a statement.

About a thousand migrants, including women and children, were still stranded on a border bridge hoping to enter Mexico legally via Guatemala.

Mexican authorities insisted those on the bridge would have to file asylum claims one at a time in order to enter the country.

And another separate group of about 1,000 Honduras started their own march across Guatemala, headed for Mexico and then the United States. The group of men, women and children gathered in Esquipulas before setting out on foot. — AFP

China, other countries should join INF Treaty, Russian senator says

MOSCOW — The Russian-US Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty should become universal and involve China and also other countries, including the United Kingdom and France, Chairman of the Russian Federation Council’s upper house (parliament) Foreign Affairs Committee Konstantin Kosachev said on Tuesday.

“The criticism of the INF Treaty that it imposes restrictions only on the United States and Russia is justified in general and our country has also voiced a similar position many times in the past. The treaty should become universal and the Russian initiative put forward back in 2007 is on the table,” Kosachev wrote on his Facebook page.

The Russian senator has rejected the call by US President Donald Trump on China to join the treaty as “political cynicism of the highest degree.” Kosachev noted that the UK and France, as well as India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel possess short- and intermediate-range missiles.

“The suggestion that the problem will be solved by eliminating missiles of this type belonging only to Washington’s hypothetical enemies means an attempt to reshape the world and ‘create privileged security conditions for the West,’ the senator said. Meanwhile, others will depend on the West: “the security umbrella” will be given only to those who will behave in “a right way,” he noted, voicing hope that this won’t happen under any circumstances.

“If the US withdraws from it unilaterally, there still won’t be any guarantees that a new multilateral document will be drawn up, while the US (and certainly, Russia) will have a free hand with all that it implies,” he stressed.

INF Treaty and Trump’s announcement

On 29 October, US President Donald Trump said that Washington would withdraw from the INF Treaty because Russia was allegedly violating the terms of the agreement.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov branded this as a dangerous move, while Berlin and Beijing also criticized the US plans.

Meanwhile, London voiced support for the US, while NATO held Russia responsible for Trump’s decision saying that “allies believe that the most plausible assessment would be that Russia is in violation of the INF Treaty.”

The INF Treaty was signed between the Soviet Union and the United States on 8 December, 1987 in Washington, DC and took effect on 1 June, 1988. The INF Treaty eliminated operational and non-operational medium range (1,000-5,500 kilometres) and shorter range (500-1,000 kilometres) ground-launched missiles.

In 2014, the United States accused Russia of developing a missile with an operational range of 500 to 5,500 km. US media outlets reported that the missile was codenamed 9M729 (NATO reporting name: SSC-8). Since then, the US has repeated this claim more than once.

Russia strongly dismissed it and struck back at the US with counterclaims that America had violated the deal. Moscow accused Washington of developing missiles, which are tested at a range prohibited by the treaty and deploying missile defense elements, which may be used for launching short- and intermediate-range missiles. — Tass
The Global New Light of Myanmar wishes to our valued readers, distributors, customers, media agencies and all the people of Myanmar to have a Happy Thadingyut Festival.
Giant mice threaten rare seabirds on remote British island

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Mice brought to a remote South Atlantic island by sailors in the 19th century are threatening seabirds including the critically endangered Tristan albatross, a British charity said on Monday.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said the rodents have proliferated on uninhabited Gough Island, part of a British overseas territory, and are killing two million birds every year.

“We knew there were large numbers of chicks and eggs being eaten each year but the actual number being taken by the mice is just staggering,” Alex Bond, a researcher for the Natural History Museum in London, said in a statement released by the RSPB.

The predatory mice have evolved to become “twice as big” as those on other islands and are now eating and eggs being beaten from the nests of millions of seabirds, the RSPB said.

Other threatened species endangered by the mice include the Gough bunting and Atlantic petrel, the RSPB said.

Gough Island is part of the same territory as Tristan da Cunha and Saint Helena, the island where Napoleon was exiled and died in 1821.

The RSPB and Tristan da Cunha government are teaming up with international partners to eradicate mice from Gough Island in 2020, using two helicopters laden with poisonous pellets.

“Resettling the island to a more natural state will prevent the deaths of millions of seabirds,” said John Kelly, RSPB manager for the Gough Island mouse eradication programme.

The RSPB said the operation would be “logistically complex” because staff and equipment would have to be shipped to the island, located 1,550 miles (2,800 kilometres from South Africa.

The project is inspired by a successful eradication programme on the British overseas territory of South Georgia, where rats were introduced by sealing and whaling ships in the 19th century.

6.0-magnitude quake hits Hualien, Taiwan: CENC

BEIJING — A 6.0-magnitude earthquake jolted the waters off Taiwan’s Hualien County at 12:34 pm Tuesday (Beijing Time), according to the China Earthquake Networks Center.

The epicenter was monitored at about 24.01 degrees north latitude and 122.65 degrees east longitude. The quake struck at a depth of 30 km, the center said in a statement.

— Xinhua

Hurricane Willa upgraded to Category 5 storm off Mexico

MEXICO CITY (Mexico) — Hurricane Willa was upgraded to a “potentially catastrophic” Category 5 storm on Monday off Mexico’s Pacific coast, where it was expected to produce life-threatening wind and flooding, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

The powerful hurricane was on course to slam into Mexico somewhere around the resort town of Mazatlan on Tuesday afternoon or evening, the NHC said in its 1500 GMT advisory.

“It now has maximum sustained winds of 260 kilometres (160 miles) per hour making it a maximum Category 5 hurricane,” it said. “Slight weakening is forecast to begin on Tuesday, but Willa is expected to be an extremely dangerous major hurricane when it reaches the coast of Mexico,” it said.

Willa is expected to dump 15 to 30 centimetres (six to 12 inches) of rain on parts of Jalisco, Nayarit and Sinaloa states, with some areas getting up to 45 centimetres (18 inches), it said.

“This rainfall will cause life-threatening flash flooding and landslides,” it warned. Large storm swells off the coast are also “likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions,” it said.

The storm was located about 215 kilometres (135 miles) southwest of Cabo Corrientes, churning north at 11 kilometres (seven miles) per hour.

Mexico’s government has put various parts of the coast on alert. Elsewhere, ‘Tropical Storm Vicente’ — with maximum sustained winds of 75 kilometres per hour — was expected to bring “heavy rainfall and flooding” over Mexico’s south and southwest.

Mexico’s Pacific coast has already been hit by deadly storms and rains this hurricane season.

In September, at least 15 people were killed when flash floods hit the states of Sinaloa and Michoacan, and last week 11 more died in Oaxaca, including seven children. — AFP
Prince Harry goes solo on royal tour as pregnant Meghan rests

Prince Harry was greeted with a traditional Aboriginal ceremony from the local Butchulla people on the peaceful shores of Lake McKenzie. PHOTO: AFP

FRASER ISLAND (Australia) — Prince Harry greeted an Aboriginal community on the stunning World Heritage-listed Fraser Island on Monday as his pregnant wife Meghan took a break from official duties during the royal couple’s Australian tour.

The pair have already travelled to Sydney, Melbourne and the regional town of Dubbo since touching down in Australia last Monday, drawing thousands of screaming fans to their events.

The visit to Fraser Island off the coast of Queensland state took on a different tone, as the Duke of Sussex was greeted with a traditional Aboriginal ceremony from the local Butchulla people on the peaceful shores of Lake McKenzie.

Harry later walked barefoot on the soft white sands of the lake, a source of drinking water for the Butchulla people, and splashed water on his face.

Fraser is the world's largest sand island and the prince was due to unveil a plaque to dedicate the holiday site's acres of rainforests to the Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy project.

His visit will also touch on other environmental issues, a cause close to his father Prince Charles’ heart, when he meets with park rangers to learn more about the island’s plants and animals.

Later, he will meet with two Hervey Bay paramedics, who are being recognised for granting a dying woman’s final wish by taking her to the beach.

A photo of a paramedic beside a stretcher facing the ocean was posted on Facebook last year and went viral around the world.

The royal couple had earlier arrived in Queensland by plane before travelling to the island separately.

Harry boarded a barge, a route used by tourists to travel to the island, while the Duchess of Sussex took a different vessel and then retreated to a private residence.

Her choice of dress, a maroon number with white polka dots, sparked excitement in Queensland, as the deep brownish-red happens to also be the official colour of the state.

The pair are due to visit Fiji and Tonga after Fraser Island. — AFP

Inaugural China Now Music Festival under way in New York

NEW YORK — The inaugural season of the China Now Music Festival is under way in New York, presenting seven world premieres by some of the well-known Chinese composers in the 21st century.

The 2018 China Now Music Festival is presented by the US-China Music Institute of Bard College Conservatory of Music in collaboration with Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM) in Beijing, and it is dedicated to promoting an understanding and appreciation of music from contemporary China through an annual series of concerts and academic activities, according to the institute director Jindong Cai.

The festival for its debut run has as its theme “Facing the Past, Looking to the Future: Chinese Composers in the 21st Century.” All concerts feature the Bard college’s renowned The Orchestra Now conducted by Jindong Cai, also artistic director of the festival, and Chen Lin, a professor in CCOM’s Music Conducting Department.

“Western classical music is developing in China at phenomenal speed, but just as exciting is the freshness that Chinese composers bring to the Western world,” said Cai. “With the China Now Music Festival as our looking glass, we hope to bring people and cultures from East and West together through music.”

The opening concert, at 8:00 pm on Friday at the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York State, includes world premiere of one work by a composer from CCOM. The concert also premieres Chen Yi and Zhou Long’s Humen 1839 and Ye Xiaogang’s My Faraway Nanjing for cello and orchestra in the United States.

The second concert, which will be held at 3:00 pm on Sunday in the Lincoln Centre, focuses on how Chinese composers have looked into the past. The programme confronts three significant events in Chinese history: the first Opium War of 1839-42, the Nanjing Massacre of 1937, and what is now known as the “sent-down youth” movement during the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76.

The Carnegie Hall concert, at 7:30 pm on Monday, will look to the future, with a program consisting entirely of world-premiere compositions by CCOM’s composition faculty.

DJ super group Swedish House Mafia reunite

STOCKHOLM (Sweden) — Electronic DJ supergroup Swedish House Mafia on Monday announced they will reunite for a concert in Stockholm next year, hinting a tour with new music would follow.

The trio of Axwell, Steve Angello and Sebastian Ingrosso have announced they are getting the band back together. PHOTO: AFP

The group also indicated that more touring would follow and hinted that they have recorded new music.

Swedish House Mafia began performing in 2008 and saw international success with a number of hits, including “One (Your Name)”, “Save the World” and “Don’t You Worry Child”.

After making a surprise appearance at a US festival in March, rumours of the EDM group getting back together grew until a clock appeared on their website last week counting down to a live-streamed press conference on Monday.

“We are coming home,” Angello said in the announcement, which was entirely in Swedish.

“We start in Stockholm and are going to play the Tele2 Arena on 4 May, 2019.”

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—AFP
Mars likely to have enough oxygen to support life: study

PARIS (France) — Salty water just below the surface of Mars could hold enough oxygen to support the kind of microbial life that emerged and flourished on Earth billions of years ago, researchers reported on Monday.

In some locations, the amount of oxygen available could even keep alive a primitive, multicellular animal such as a sponge, they reported in the journal Nature Geosciences.

“We discovered that brines — water with high concentrations of salt — on Mars can contain enough oxygen for microbes to breathe,” said lead author Vlada Stamenkovic, a theoretical physicist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California.

“This fully revolutionises our understanding of the potential for life on Mars, today and in the past,” he told AFP.

Up to now, it had been assumed that the trace amounts of oxygen on Mars were insufficient to sustain even microbial life.

“We never thought that oxygen could play a role for life on Mars due to its rarity in the atmosphere, about 0.14 per cent,” Stamenkovic said.

By comparison, the life-giving gas makes up 21 per cent of the air we breathe.

On Earth, aerobic — that is, oxygen breathing — life forms evolved together with photosynthesis, which converts CO₂ into O₂. The gas played a critical role in the emergence of complex life, notable after the so-called Great Oxygenation Event some 2.35 billion years ago.

But our planet also harbours microbes — at the bottom of the ocean, in boiling hot springs — that subsist in environments deprived of oxygen.

“That’s why — whenever we thought of life on Mars — we studied the potential for anaerobic life,” Stamenkovic.

Life on Mars?

The new study began with the discovery by NASA’s Curiosity Mars rover of manganese oxides, which are chemical compounds that can only be produced with a lot of oxygen.

Curiosity, along with Mars orbiters, also established the presence of brine deposits, with notable variations in the elements they contained.

A high salt content allows for water to remain liquid — a necessary condition for oxygen to be dissolved — at much lower temperatures, making brines a happy place for microbes.

Depending on the region, season and time of day, temperatures on the Red Planet can vary between minus 195 and 20 degrees Celsius (minus 319 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit).

The study looked at two models of dissolved oxygen. The researchers devised a first model to describe how oxygen dissolves in salty water at temperatures below freezing.

A second model estimated climate changes on Mars over the last 20 million years, and over the next 10 million years.

Taken together, the calculations showed which regions on the Red Planet are most likely to produce brine-based oxygen, data that could help determine the placement of future probes.

“Oxygen concentrations [on Mars] are orders of magnitude” — several hundred times — “greater than needed by aerobic, or oxygen-breathing — microbes,” the study concluded.

“Our results do not imply that there is life on Mars,” Stamenkovic cautioned. “But they show that the Martian habitability is affected by the potential of dissolved oxygen.” —AFP

Eye disorder may have helped Da Vinci’s art: journal

LONDON (United Kingdom) — A common eye disorder may help explain Leonardo Da Vinci’s talent for three-dimensional representation and the sense of perspective in his mountain landscapes, according to research published in an academic journal.

The study looked at two sculptures, two oil paintings and two drawings by the Renaissance master which it said showed “a consistent exotropie strabismus angle of -10.3 degrees.”

Exotropie strabismus is a form of eye misalignment and is the opposite of crossed eyes, or esotropia. A misalignment of 10.3 degrees would be considered a medium level.

People with strabismus often have monocular instead of binocular vision, meaning that both eyes are used separately thereby increasing the field of view and depth perception.

“The presence of exotropia, particularly if it was intermittent, may have contributed to da Vinci’s exceptional ability to capture space on the flat canvas,” according to the research published in the JAMA Ophthalmology journal this month.

The journal said da Vinci’s condition would be particularly helpful “for depicting the 3-dimensional solidity of faces and objects in the world and the distant depth-recession of mountain scenes.” —AFP

Musk says LA Hyperloop tunnel to be unveiled 10 December

NEW YORK (United States) — Elon Musk’s Hyperloop ultra high-speed transport system will be unveiled in Los Angeles in early December with free test rides to the public, the entrepreneur announced.

The first tunnel is almost done,” Musk said on Twitter late on Sunday night. “Opens Dec 10.0 Decem-

Responding to comments on Twitter, Musk said there would be an opening event that night and “free rides for the public next day.”

Musk’s venture, “The Boring Company,” has been pushing the underground system as a futuristic concept that could radically speed transport within and between cities.

In another tweeted response, Musk said the test tunnel has a top speed of 155 miles per hour (250 kilometers).

Supporters of the technology have discussed a vision where a trip between Los Angeles might take 30 minutes instead of five or six hours.

A hyperloop is a shuttle that travels on magnetic rails, somewhat like a train, but which runs in a tube with little or no air. In theory, hyperloops could allow travel faster than the speed of sound.

In a presentation in Los Angeles in May, Musk said vehicles could reach downtown LA from its international airport in under 10 minutes, with a long-term objective of reaching over 300 miles an hour.

Hyperloop is one of Musk’s envelope-pushing ventures, along with SpaceX and Tesla Motors. Shares of Tesla have fallen more than 30 per cent since 7 August, when he infamously tweeted that he had funding lined up to take Tesla private.

He subsequently paid a $20 million fine to settle after the US Securities and Exchange Commission accused the entrepreneur of fraud.

Another visionary entrepreneur, Richard Branson, who like Musk also is involved in space travel, is backing a Virgin Hyperloop One which has been testing in Nevada and opened a research center in southern Spain.

And Canadian company Transpod is working to begin testing the system in France.

—AFP

The new research was made possible by the discovery by NASA’s Curiosity Mars rover of manganese oxides.

PHOTO: AFP

A study in the JAMA Ophthalmology journal suggests a common eye disorder may have helped Leonardo Da Vinci’s art.

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP
Japan wins Myanmar 2-1 in MFF U-14 Youth Football Tournament

JAPAN Fukushima U-14 Academy won Myanmar Mandalay U-14 Academy with a narrow margin of 2-1. Myanmar Football Federation Academy with a narrow margin of 2-1. Myanmar Football Federation Academy are participating in the invitational football tournament inviting Thailand U-14 and Japan U-14.

Garcia delights in ‘dream’ Valderrama treble

SOTOGRANDE (Spain) — Sergio Garcia said it was a “dream come true” to win a third Valderrama Masters title on Monday, as the Spaniard continued his strong end to an otherwise difficult year.

The 38-year-old has been revitalised since being named as a wildcard pick for Europe’s triumphant Ryder Cup team, posting his first top-10 finish since July in Portugal before winning three matches against the United States in Paris. He was at his very best during the weather-hit tournament in Andalusia, holding off a Shane Lowry charge with a two-under 69 in the third and final round to win by four shots on 12-under-par overall.

“To be able to win three times here in Valderrama is a dream come true,” said Garcia, who has won the event the last three times it has been played, after victories in 2011 and 2017. “It’s so difficult, this golf course is so challenging. For me to be able to shoot three rounds under par with the positions we played all week, all the rain we had... I’m very proud of that.”

The former Masters champion went into Monday’s re-play with a three-shot lead over Lee Westwood after seven holes of his round. But while former world number one Westwood fell away, Irishman Lowry stormed out of the pack with three birdies in a row to get to nine-under for the tournament and only one stroke off the lead. A double-bogey on the par-three 15th ended his challenge, though, and Garcia made two birdies in the final five holes to secure a 13th European Tour title and seventh on home soil in Spain.

“I knew the guys would attack, they would be going after me,” Garcia said. “Obviously Shane was playing well, he got close to me, then unfortunately he doubled 15.”

Finland’s Mikko Korhonen finished third on six-under, one shot behind the Spaniard, with an eagle and six birdies in his final round. — AFP

Myanmar to host 19th ASEAN University Games from 8 to 19 December

THE 2018 ASEAN University Games, also known as the 19th ASEAN University Games, a Southeast Asian university multi-sports event, will be held in Myanmar from 8 to 19 December in 2018.

The Ministry of Health and Sports organized the 19th AUGC Organization Committee, which was led by Chairperson Vice-President U Myint Swe and other ten working committees. They selected the athletes from all of the universities and trained them. This is the first time Myanmar will host the ASEAN University Games.

The showcase of the 19th ASEAN University Games will feature 17 sports. There will be 13 venues for the games. The athletes’ village is in Zabuthiri Township with two Cluster, Myitkyina Cluster and Monywa Cluster.

Myanmar will take part in all sporting games as it has to host the 19th ASEAN University Games for the first time. There will be 215 sporting events and a total of 215 gold medals will be awarded. Myanmar secured only a silver medal in 2016 and a gold medal, for silver medals and 14 bronze medals in 2004. — Htut Htut (Twantay)

AFC ‘C’ coaching certificate course concludes

A ceremony to close AFC ‘C’ coaching certificate course was held at Tatmadaw Self-Defence and Sports Institute in Yenon on 21 October.

The course was opened with the aim of improving Myanmar football sport and enhancing capacity of Tatmadaw football coaches from 9 to 21 October and AFC Instructor U Tin Myint Aung gave lecture to the trainee officers.

Present on the occasion were Colonel Than Hlaing, Principal of Tatmadaw Self-Defence and Sports Institute, Chairman of Tatmadaw Football Committee, Lt-Col Thet Zaw, Deputy Principal of Tatmadaw Self-Defence and Sports Institute, U Ko Ko Thein, General Secretary of Myanmar Football Federation, U Soe Moe Kyaw, CEO of Myanmar National League, U Tin Myint Aung, Joint General Secretary of MFF and AFC Instructor, officials and trainee officers.

A total of 24 military officers attended the course and it was the third time to open the AFC-recognized course for Tatmadaw football coaches. — Htut Htut (Twantay)