Despite rain brought by depression over the Deltaic areas these days, the annual festival of the floating of the lamps on the Shwegyin River in eastern Bago Region on Thursday was a complete success.

The 167th traditional light festival occurs one day after the Full Moon of Thadingyut in October marking the end of the Buddhist Rains Retreat and usually takes place during the nine-day long festival.

Thousands of local residents and visitors from afar gathered at the final day of the festival lining the bank of the river to enjoy boat rowing contests and spectacles such as dance performances by troupes on boats. The entertainment is known as the “festival on water”.

Meanwhile, shops and a traditional theatre are set up in town to complete the festival; this half is known as “the festival on land”.

People started to float lamps on the Shwegyin River when the sun sets and a decorated barge, themed in the image of Ashin Uppa Gutta tours along the river for public observance.

Locals believed that the festival began in the Konboung era and have preserved the annual traditional festival, which turns 187th this year. — Yan Aung Tun (Painzalok)
Children Literature Festival to be held in Thandwe

Daw Cho Cho (Middle School Teacher) Branch of Basic Education High School (BEHS) Myoma

U Than Tun Chairman of Thandwe City Development Committee

Ma Phyu Sin Kyel (8th Grade) Branch of BEHS Myoma

U Hla Han (Towns-elder)

Daw Thida (Parent of a student)

The 26th Asia Pacific Scout Conference (26APRSC) and 9th Asia Pacific Region (APR) Scout Youth Forum were held in Manila and Tagaytay, the Philippines from 15 to 20 October and from 9 to 12 October respectively.

The delegation comprised of four representatives and five Scout Youth leaders led by Myanmar Scout Association Chief Commissioner Dr. Tin Nyo.

The Conference was attended by representatives from the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), representatives from 27 Asia Pacific Regional Scout member countries, Myanmar ambassadors and social organizations to prepare for the festival. I want the next generation to have reading habits.

Nowadays internet is popular and anything we want to know can be searched on internet. However, information from the internet alone is not enough as some information can be obtained only from books in the library. But the children don’t want to spend time in searching and reading books in the library. So the intelligent and technical level of children declines.

By holding this festival the children will get to know that knowledge can be gained from reading books, realize the advantages of books while reading habits improves.

This is the first children literature festival in our town and we thank the government. By doing this, the literature knowledge of the children will be increased and other regions would want this festival.

Children Literature Festival to be held in Thandwe

Myanmar scout delegation attends 26APRSC, 9th APR Scout Youth Forum

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The 9th APR Scout Youth Forum held in Tagaytay from 9 to 12 October in Tagaytay, Philippines, was attended by Scout Youth leaders from 29 Asia Pacific regional countries where Myanmar Scouts Association representative Maung Phyo Thura Win was elected as a representative of four sub-regions.

Scout Youth leaders from the countries participating in the forum is making it a priority for participation and leadership of youth in the Asia Pacific Region Scout movement and plans to hold the 10th APR Scout Youth Forum in China-Taipei during 2018-2021 it is learnt.

At the forum, Korea Scout Association donated 10 tents to Myanmar Scouts Association to be used in teaching, training and camping expeditions, according to Myanmar Scout Association. — MNA
Three main work processes

Nation building, establishing a Union and transition to democracy

- Now is the time to reconstruct the nation to make it a peaceful, stable and strong one.
- At the same time, effort is being exerted to build up a Union in which justice, freedom and equality, being the fundamental laws protecting human society (Loka Pala), aspired since attainment of independence, will prevail. The Union we are building ensures equality and justice in the political, economic and social spheres; it is pure in ideology and is owned and cherished by all.
- Additionally, efforts are also being taken to develop our democratic transition into a mature democracy. In fact, these three processes are not to be implemented separately, but all together.

(Excerpted from the report on the current work of the government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho inspects No. 36 Heavy Industry in Kyaukse

WITH the collaboration of Visakha Foundation, a philanthropic group from Yunnan Province of China launched a program yesterday to provide free surgeries to 200 cataract patients.

The program of the Yunnan Province Eye care group began at Sitagu Shwe Pyi Hein Eye Hospital in Yankin Township yesterday with opening remarks by the Madam Wang Xue Hong, wife of the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar.

Afterwards, Visakha Foundation chair Prof. Dr. Win Min Thit explained about the cooperation and General-Secretary from International Friendship of Yunnan Society Mr. Peng Shao Yun also explained the eyes operation and surgeries.

Following the ceremony, two international friendship foundations from China donated Ks 45 million worth of surgery equipment, accessories and medicines to conduct surgeries and Ks 8 million to the hospital. The eye care program was started in 2013 and had conducted successful eye-operations to 2200 patients it is learnt.—MNA

Madam Wang Xue Hong, wife of the Chinese Ambassador, delivers the speech at the event. PHOTO: MNA
Exhibition of watercolour work near Mandalay Hill draws crowd

THE Mandalay Hill Art Gallery located at the base of Mandalay Hill is currently hosting an exhibition of watercolour work, showcasing around 120 works created by watercolorists, who are members of the Mandalay Hill Art Gallery. The 16th show by Mandalay watercolorists opened on 24 October offering visitors the change to look at contemporary and traditional style watercolours. The 16th exhibition was held in conjunction with a ceremony to pay respect to elderly artists by new generation.

On the opening day, the gallery was crowded with students from the National University of Arts and Culture as well as enthusiasts. The art exhibition will last until Sunday 28 October. The Mandalay Hill Art Gallery is located at the base of Mandalay Hill near the prominent lion statues of Aungmyet-hazan Township.

Visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy and purchase the paintings of landscapes, Buddhist temples, stilllife and ethnic culture. The gallery opens between 9 am and 6 pm daily — Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

PHOTO: MAUNGPYITHU (MANDALAY)

Three hurt in mine blasts in Namhsan in one week

THREE civilians sustained injuries in mine blasts happened in Namhsan Township, Palauk Self-Administered Zone, northern Shan State, within a week.

At 10.30 am on Wednesday, 24 October, a 35-year-old Daw Khin Ohn Kyi, a resident of Heiktan Village in Mankan Village-tract, received injuries in her left leg due to mine explosion, when she was passing through Namhsan-Panlong road together with her husband.

She is currently receiving medical treatment at the township hospital.

Two other civilians were also hurt in landmine blasts after they stepped on them in Lontauk Village in Mankan Village-tract on 19 October and in Hochuang Village on 18 October respectively — U Aung Moe (Namsang IPRD)

Yaba, arms, ammunition seized from Thai nationals in Kawthoung

AN anti-narcotic police force seized Yaba tablets, arms and ammunition in a village in Kawthoung Township in their anti-narcotic operations on 24 October, according to the information released by the police force yesterday.

A combined team comprising members of the local anti-narcotic squad No. 34 (Kawthoung) and Maram local police station searched a house in Phaw Thok Village, Kamaukgyi Town, Kawthoung Township where a Thai citizen Naing Aei Ka Phon (alias) Nine S, aged 38, was staying and found ICE weighing 874.8 grams, 1,400 Yaba tablets and marijuana weighing 274 grams. The police also seized a 0.22 rifle with a magazine and 15 bullets, a pistol with a magazine and 7.9 mm bullets and a scales.

In connection with the case, the team searched a house in Phone Gyi Kyuang road, Phaw Thok Village, Kamaukgyi Town, Kawthoung Township, where a Naing Chaik, aged 45, was staying.

In the search, the police found another Thai citizen Kyar Yaseik, aged 38, the house together with a bag contained with 4.3 gm of ICE.

Besides, the team discovered 4,480 WY brand Yaba tablets, about 500 gm of ICE, 0.38 Revolver with 15 bullets and 0.32 Revolver hidden in the house.

The combined team also searched a house in Phaw Thok Village, Kamaukgyi Town where a Myanmar citizen Moe Zaw Oo, aged 42, was staying. The police found 15 Yabapills and ICE weighing 0.5 gm in the search.

Detainees named Naing Aei Ka Phon (alias) Nine S, Kyar Yaseik, Naing Chaik, Soe Pyae Kyaw, Moe Zaw Oo seen together with stimulant drugs. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY MFP

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PHOTO: MAUNGPYITHU (MANDALAY)
Mining sector draws Zero FDIs during incumbent government period

By Nyein Nyein

MINING sector has not attracted new foreign direct investment in the incumbent government period, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

No FDI flows into the mining sector in the 2017-2018 fiscal year and in past interim period from April to September 2018, said Daw Sint Sint Than, an official from the DICA.

“Mining sector shows zero FDI in the past FY and mini-budget period”, she said. Foreign investors show keen interest in mining businesses. Those foreign companies which strictly adhere to rules and regulations will be allowed for mining.

No FDI flows into the mining sector in the 2017-2018 fiscal year and in past interim period from April to September 2018 and in past mini-budget period, according to data of the DCIA.

The FDIs inflow to mining sectors were registered at $1.39 million in the 2010-11 Fiscal Year, $19.69 million in the 2011-2012 FY, $15.3 million in the 2012-13 FY, $32.73 million in the 2013-14 FY, $6.25 million in the 2014-15 FY and $28.9 million in the 2015-16 FY, according to data of the DCIA.

In the incumbent government period, mining sector witnessed only expansion of capital worth $1.3 million from the existing enterprises permitted during the previous government period.

India-Myanmar trade route passing through Lailenpi accessible

TRADE route, which was unable to be accessed between India and Myanmar due to heavy rains starting from 7 October, reopened on 24 October.

As weather condition became better, goods laden trucks from Gangaw, Pakkokka, Mandalay and Saiha Town in India arrived back Lailenpi, according to local authorities.

“The lorries and trucks which went to Gangaw, Pakokku, Mandalay and Sinhr in India arrived back Lailenpi yesterday,” said a local people. “Continuous rains that start from 7 October blocked the trade route but now the condition is becoming better,” he added.

“Roads are better now. We were trapped on Gangaw-Lailenpi road for about 17 days due to heavy rain that blocked the route. After we deliver the goods, we will go to buy more goods in Gangaw,” said a driver.

As goods laden trucks arrives in Lailenpi Town, merchants from the town were also leaving the town for other areas to transport goods.

— Lailenpi IPRD

Myanmar trade with the UK reaches US$233 million in five months of interim period

The value of trade between Myanmar and the United Kingdom (UK) was registered US$233 million from April to August of the past mini-budget period, according to data of the Ministry of Commerce.


The UK listed three enterprises brought $174.7 million into Myanmar.

Myanmar Mines Law was amended on 24 December 2015. According to that law, 247 acres are prescribed as medium scale and more than 247 acres as the large scale.

The related regional government will have authority to manage artisanal and small-scale mining blocks, according to the law.

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We are witnessing the erosion of moral and institutional integrity of the United Nations as a result of the blatant attempt by some members of the Council to hijack human rights issue for their political purpose.

Myanmar Permanent Representative to United Nations U Hau Do Suan delivers rebuttal Statement on briefing by HRC-FFM on Myanmar at the UNSC

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 October

IN response to the request of Council’s 9 Member States, Côte d’Ivoire, France, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, the United States and the United Kingdom, the UN Security Council held a briefing by Mr. Mazuki Darusman, Chair of International Fact-Finding Mission of the Human Rights Council on 24 October 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The briefing was preceded by a procedural vote called after a letter of objection was sent to the Council presidency from the representatives of Bolivia, China, Equatorial Guinea and the Russian Federation. By the vote, however, the briefing was approved to proceed by 9 votes in favour and 3 opposed (Bolivia, China, Russian Federation) and 3 abstaining (Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan).

Myanmar and Bangladesh also participated in the briefing. Myanmar Permanent Representative Ambassador U Hau Do Suan delivered a Statement. The full text of the Statement of the Permanent Representative is mentioned below:

Mr. President,

Today, 24th October marks the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. In Myanmar we celebrate the United Nations Day every year with special ceremony and public activities to promote awareness of the work of the United Nations. This is a day to celebrate, a day to cherish, a day to remember the past and to renew our noble commitment to building peace, development and human rights in the world, the responsibilities the founding fathers of the Organizations had entrusted upon us.

Sadly though, we are gathering here in this august chamber in defiance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of our own organization, against the standing rules and procedures of the Council and against all logical and fairness of human conscience.

We are witnessing the erosion of moral and institutional integrity of the United Nations as a result of the blatant attempt by some members of the Council to hijack human rights issue for their political purpose.

My delegation has joined other Council members in our strong objection to this injustice and abuse of the established practice of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

When the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on Myanmar was established by the Human Rights Council in March 2017, we had objected the Mission because of our serious concerns particularly about the advisability of its establishment and the mandate itself. HRC resolution 34/22 mandated the Mission “to establish the facts and circumstances of the alleged recent human rights violations by military and security forces, and abuses, in Myanmar, in particular in Rakhine State. Likewise, it called for one-sided report of the Mission has confirmed our concerns.

We have also raised previously in this chamber on August 28, our doubt about the sincerity of the FFM. Although the Mission was mandated to submit its report to the Human Rights Council on 18 September, it had released the unedited version of the report in a haste on 27 August 2018, just one day ahead of the UN Security Council’s public debate on the situation of Myanmar. The action called for our legitimate concerns about the objectivity, impartiality and credibility of the Mission.

The methodology of its investigation is also flawed as the report was prepared on results of interview to selected groups of displaced persons in Cox’s Bazaar and information gathered from some NGOs, INGOs and human rights group who have already set their pre-determined agenda on the issue. Therefore, the Mission’s report did not shed new lights on the problem but found to be identical with the reports of certain human rights groups with no accountability for their works.

Mr. President,

We have repeatedly explained the fact that the current humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State was ignited by the unprovoked and premeditated attacks against 30 police outposts and a military battalion headquarters by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) terrorist group in August 2017 and in October 2016. The ARSA terrorists had massacred security personnel and hundreds of innocent civilians including a hundred Hindu villagers, other ethnic minorities and pro-government Muslims. The atrocities perpetrated by ARSA had made thousands of innocent ethnic population fled their villages to the other parts of Rakhine State. Likewise, it created a massive exodus of Muslims to the neighbouring country. It is crucial to bear in mind that the present crisis affected not only the Muslim community. When we talk about human rights, we should look at human rights of both communities.

However, we are dismayed by the fact that the Mission has deliberately and glaringly discredited ARSA terrorist atrocities which could even be interpreted by many as justifying or condoning the act of Muslims extremist terrorists.

The Mission in page 11 of its report (A/HRC/39/64) took a great courage to reluctantly and half-heartedly mention the atrocities committed by ARSA terrorist. In paragraph 54, it listed a few human rights violations including those committed by ARSA terrorists.

"Although the Mission was mandated to submit its report to the Human Rights Council on 18 September, it had released the unedited version of the report in a haste on 27 August 2018, just one day ahead of the UN Security Council’s public debate on the situation of Myanmar. The action called for our legitimate concerns about the objectivity, impartiality and credibility of the Mission."

Permanent Representative to UN
We are willing and able to take on the accountability issues for any alleged human rights violation where there is sufficient evidence.

We need to give time and space to the ICOE:

Permanent Representative to UN

My delegation categorically rejects inference of “genocidal intent” on the legitimate counter terrorist actions by the security forces in Rakhine. The conclusion is made on unverified circumstantial evidences which has no sound legal proof.

Permanent Representative to UN

Therefore, I want to make it clear that we will never accept any calls for referral of Myanmar to the ICC.

Permanent Representative to UN

The situation in Rakhine in no way threatens international peace and security. The accusation is absurd and groundless. The report is full of prejudice, totally unconstrucive.

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Permanent Representative to UN
Solving complex issues need patience, mutual trust

A

DRESSES the issues in Rakhine State is a fundamental part of building peace, national reconciliation, securing social stability and sustainable development. The Government of Myanmar is committed to dispelling any repudiation of the people who had fled to Bangladesh.

We are delighted to note that Foreign Minister Ali that Bangladesh would repatriate the first batch of 10,000 displaced persons in the near future.

We are pleased to note that the Government has started working on long training courses, which could provide them with two weeks short term training course at their own township in order to teach them what they want to learn about. We are providing knowledge on agronomy, marketing, sustainable agriculture, livestock, and religious background and needs to be handled appropriately by them.

The Government highly appreciates the assistance and cooperation of the governments of countries including China, India, Japan and for the resettlement and rehabilitation efforts on the technical knowledge.

In the agricultural sector, the majority of farmers purchased the machinery to use themselves as well as to hire profit rather than working only on a manageable scale. Some farmers acquired more number of machinery and worked closely in a coalition in the same business. We would like to encourage them to move to such a business grouping instead of working in collective means could pave way for the development and strengthening agriculture sector. Therefore, we have always been encouraging farmers’ associations to work for the benefit of Rakhine State.

The Government has repeatedly emphasized the fact that the current humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State was ignited by the 4 November 2016 attack. On that day, the Rakhine State, hundreds of new jobs and opportunities have been created for local people through public-private partnerships in recent years.

The greatest strength of a democratic transition is the unity, determination and active participation of the people.

But, we had objected to the UN Part Finding Mission’s report based on this evidence which would need to bring influences further and hindered the Government’s efforts to create much needed social stability and national reconciliation.

The Government has repeatedly emphasized the fact that the current humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State was ignited by the 4 November 2016 attack. On that day, the Rakhine State, hundreds of new jobs and opportunities have been created for local people through public-private partnerships in recent years. It is crucial to bear in mind that the present crisis affected not only the Rakhine state but also local ethnic groups.

When we talk about human rights, we should look at human rights of both communities.

We are dismayed by the fact that the Mission has deliberately and glaringly discounted ARSA terrorist atrocities, which could even be compared with those of other local extremist terrorists.

Failing accountability also allows without regard to other protections and remedies a vicious attempt that will have irreparable damages.

The recent reports of the FPM and the Special Reporters are not contributing to building peace, harmony, national reconciliation and development in Rakhine State.

Building peace and democratization demands patience and mutual trust.

Let us say again, we need patience and more trust building because this is the way to lead us to realising our ultimate national goal of building a truly democratic federal union.

Continued from Yesterday

U Khun Aye Naing: Upper Myanmar Technical Training Institute is situated in Meiktila, Lower Myanmar Central Technical Training Institute is in Yezin of Mon State, Myeik Technical Training Institute is in Yezin of Mon State, Pyau U Technical Training Institute is in Yezin of Mon State. So, the decision on the new generation youth would be made or for those who want to pursue studies at these three institutes, we could accept them and provide them training. If they could not be trained while the long duration training courses, we could provide them with just two weeks short term training course at their own township in order to teach them what they want to learn about.

We are providing knowledge on agronomy, marketing, sustainable agriculture, livestock, and religious background and needs to be handled appropriately by them.

The importance of training to lead us to realizing our ultimate national goal is an exemplary model of an important aspect in our discourses.

Those farmers that purchased the machinery are not necessarily rich people. They could buy machinery with the money that has been borrowed from others. The key is how to leverage the machinery to other farmers, some hiring people settle in cash, and some others only repay when they harvested the crops. On the part of the owner, the machinery was bought on loan, and it is not getting the cash from the service. Therefore, there is a problem if he could get the money only after the harvest.

The machinery needs fuel for its operation. Moreover, it might also need to spend for the cost of spare parts such as resulted in cash flow deficit for owners. When the financial institutions funded the investments and the inputs are available for the farmers for possible development.

We have to accept the fact that the machinery could be utilized efficiently if the machinery was purchased with agricultural mechanization in lower Myanmar including the townships near the Yangon. We are also encouraging the farmers to access the machinery and immediate repair of the tractors. In the long run, we plan to have 117 repair stations in various townships for the repair of the tractors. The JICA, Two-Step Loan has the incentive and purpose to transform the tractors into nursery beds, and every village.

The biggest difficulty is to move the tractors to the workshop. It is not like motor vehicles as they could be pushed into the workshop by another vehicle. However, the machinery could not move away. We have to move mobile mechanics to solve the problems. In many townships, we have already given training with training certificates issued by our institutions, and when they have missed the chance, we also replenish all the repair and workshops. They could be transformed into practical personnel. These agriculture mechanization stations are also providing their help to the farmers and machinery as well as to do business with the application of the agro-business.

The plan is under way for those who want to establish rice mill and oil mill.

With the JICA Two-Step Loan, we are making to provide loans to buy machinery as well as to other loans or agriculture sector. The JICA, Two-Step Loans are mostly supported by the MEB. On our part, we have already laid down inputs to train out mechanics for the repair of the machinery being used in the agriculture sector. In our Myanmar Central Training Institutes, we have been providing mechanical training, courses on various levels on the repair of machinery such as the prescribed standards of Nissai. We are also providing completion certificate courses on the machine so that we are not in a position to establish the tractor workshops in each and every village.

Moreover, it might also need to repay when they harvested the crops. When they have problem, it is easier for them to submit to us, and we could answer them easily. If there is any problem between the buying farmer, it is easier for them to submit to us, and we could answer them easily. If there is any problem between the buying farmer, it is easier for them to submit to us, and we could answer them easily.

For a fact, the machinery could be utilized efficiently if the machinery was purchased with agricultural mechanization in lower Myanmar including the townships near the Yangon. We are also encouraging the farmers to access the machinery and immediate repair of the tractors. In the long run, we plan to have 117 repair stations in various townships for the repair of the tractors. The JICA, Two-Step Loan has the incentive and purpose to transform the tractors into nursery beds, and every village.

We are also providing completion certificate courses on the machine so that we are not in a position to establish the tractor workshops in each and every village.

If the farm lands are formed in square or rectangular shape, the farmer could access the machinery easily. If the farm lands are formed in square or rectangular shape, the farmer could access the machinery easily.

The government is also fulfilling and complying at the request of the companies to keep the parts and other relevant matters. We have discussed with the companies to keep the parts and other relevant matters. We have discussed with the companies and regulations to enable them to enjoy the possible loans.

Among other things, the most important aspect in our discussions is that you need to be dedicated to work, and work together inclusively. Your level of certainty is (100%).

Your level of certainty is (100%).

The Global New Light of Myanmar

Roundtable Discussions on Financing for the Development of Agricultural Sector and SME Sector in Myanmar (Part-3)

By Shin Min and Hmwe Kyu, Photo: Aye Than

Roundtable Discussions on Financing for the Development of Agricultural Sector and SME Sector in Myanmar (Part-3)
Magway Myathalun Pagoda holds Buddha Puja, 30th 9,000 oil lamp festival

ANNUAL Buddha Puja and 30th 9,000 light festival of historical Magway Myathalun Pagoda was held on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut at the Maha At-ul-a Yanthi hall on the platform of the pagoda.

Maung Aye ceremoniously opened the 9,000 oil lamp festival and the region ministers, region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Zaw Myo Win, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials and invited guests lighted the oil lamps.

Next Dr. Khin Maung Aye and invited guests boarded a boat and observed the oil lamp festival from the Ayeyawady River.

The Buddha Puja festival will be held for 20 days and is expected to draw devotees and visitors alike. —Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe) ■

MRTV band to entertain in Children Literature Festival (Thandwe)

BAND of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) will entertain at the Children Literature Festival, which will be held from 27 to 28 October in Thandwe, Rakhine State.

Singers from the MRTV, winners from the Peace Music Festival, Kyaukse elephant dance and Thar Nge, Mel Madi and Pyae Phyo from Myanmar Idol will entertain the public. The entertainment programs will be started at 5 pm on both days.—Aung Min Han ■

Eight houses burnt after hot air balloon crashes in Pyigyidagun Tsp

EIGHT houses were burnt after a hot air balloon crashed in Pyigyidagun Township. According to the investigation, the hot air balloon crashed onto a house of Daw Ni Ni Aung, between Yadanarbon and Min-galar streets, Hsa ward, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region on 24 October.

The fire quickly got out of control and spread to eight houses nearby. No one was injured in the accident but it took 48 fire engines and over 300 firemen to put out the blaze. At the moment the victims of the fire were staying temporarily at a religious building in the ward.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay) ■

Union Minister
Dr. Win Myat Aye attends 3rd AMMW in Hanoi, Viet Nam

THE third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW) was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 24-25 October. Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye who is also chairman of Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs attended the meeting.

The Union Minister met with Viet Nam Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs Mr. Dao Ngoc Dung at the hall of the ministry on 24 October. During the meeting they shared the appreciation for the friendly cooperation between Myanmar and Viet Nam and friendly meetings between leaders of the two countries, discussion on increasing women's participation in economy and political sectors to be discussed in the third AMMW ASEAN countries implementing social protection works, Viet Nam establishing 8 national aims and working it out.

The Union Minister explained about the ministry's works and departments under it. In promoting gender equality, women's participation in politics is 26 per cent and is striving to upward increasing women's participation in the business sector. During the incumbent government term, three aims were set. The ministry is carrying out social welfare services for unborn child to elderly and redevelopment is being conducted not only for victims of natural disasters as well as for man-made disasters as well. Youth policy was drawn up and is working toward youth development. Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs was formed for women affairs development.

On the policy part there is a national level strategic project and four technical work groups were formed to implement it. For the development of women in Rakhine State, vocational training, social protection and support provided, said the Union Minister.

The two ministers also discussed about sectors in which bilateral cooperation can be discussed.

Afterwards, the Union Minister attended a working dinner with ministers from ASEAN countries.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attended the opening ceremony of 3rd AMMW in Sheraton Hanoi Hotel, Hanoi, Viet Nam yesterday morning.

At the event former Chairman Philippines Minister for women affairs Rhodora T. Masi-lang Bucoy delivered a welcoming speech and incoming Chairman Vietnamese Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs Mr. Dao Ngoc Dung delivered an opening address and then accepted the transfer of Chairmanship. Next, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN H.E. Dr. Kung Phoak and Viet Nam Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc delivered message of honour after which they posed for a commemorative photograph with ASEAN ministers and ambassadors.

The 3rd AMMW was then held where Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye explained Myanmar's work on social protection of women and girls, implementation of national level strategic project for women's development and Myanmar's social protection works. — MNA ■
Migrant caravan resumes trek to US-Mexico border

MAPASTEPEC (Mexico)—Thousands of Central American migrants crossing Mexico toward the United States in a caravan have resumed their long trek, walking about 12 hours to their next destination.

The migrants, who have drawn near daily Twitter tirades from US President Donald Trump, walked and hitched rides from the town of Huixtla, in southern Mexico, to Mapastepec, some 60 kilometers (40 miles) away.

Carrying their few belongings on their backs — many with babies pressed to their chests or holding their children by the hand — they left at dawn after taking a one-day break to rest, bathe and nurse aching and injured feet.

“I miss my country. I’m not doing this because I want to. No one wants to leave their home to go to a place they don’t know. But sometimes necessity pushes us to do this, because of what’s happening in our countries,” said Delmer Martinez, a migrant from El Salvador.

**Determined to reach US border**

Fleeing violent crime, political unrest and poverty at home, the migrants say they are determined to reach the United States — despite Trump’s vows to stop them, and his threats to cut aid to Central American countries, as well as to deploy the military and close the southern US border.

There are now about 7,000 migrants in the caravan, the United Nations estimates — though Mexican authorities put the number much lower Wednesday: 3,630. The vast majority are from Honduras.

In a show of solidarity, Mexicans watching the caravan pass shouted out, “Keep it up, brothers!” and gave them food and water:

“Mexico! Mexico!” the migrants shouted in reply, bathed in sweat under the hot sun of the southern state of Chiapas.

They have so far traveled about 100 kilometers from the Mexico-Guatemala border, where they crashed through a series of border gates Friday.

Halted at the final gate by hundreds of riot police, most of the caravan entered Mexico by swimming or taking rafts across the river that forms the border.— AFP

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**Hurricane Willa weakens after slamming Mexico’s Pacific coast**

ESCUNAPA (Mexico)—Mexico cleared the debris and wreckage Wednesday strewn by powerful Hurricane Willa, but breathed a sigh of relief that damage from the Category 3 storm—now downgraded to a tropical depression—wasn’t worse.

Willa, which had been a maximum Category 5 hurricane on Monday, slammed into Mexico’s Pacific coast on Tuesday night with winds of 195 kilometers (120 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 240 kilometers per hour.

In Escuinapa, the town of 30,000 people where it made landfall, residents got down to work after surveying the wreckage left by the hurricane: roofs torn off homes, a hospital and a church; trees ripped from the ground; roads blocked by debris and flooding; power and water outages. But with no reports of dead or wounded, those in the storm’s path were mainly counting their blessings.

“There were a lot of material damages, but the most important thing is that there was no loss of human life,” said Sinaloa state Governor Quirino Ordaz Víctor Aguilar, a hotel manager in Escuinapa, echoed that sentiment as he tried to figure out how to serve his 200 guests breakfast with no electricity or running water.

“We have a lot of repairs to do, but I’m not worried about that,” Aguilar, 76, told AFP.

“The important thing is that ‘not a hair on anyone’s head was hurt,’” he said.

**Power of nature**

Nearby, members of a Protestant church tried to salvage what they could from its wrecked remains, after the storm ripped off its roof and left the building in ruins: “It was a total loss,” said the church’s pastor, Samuel Vicencio.

“What can we do faced with the power of nature?”

Businesses were slowly reopening in the town, though many still had their windows and doors boarded up with the plywood nailed in place as the storm approached.— AFP

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**UK’s border systems not ready in no-deal Brexit, warns parliament committee**

LONDON—The chair of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee warned Wednesday of the danger border checkpoints will not be ready if Britain crashes out of the European Union with no deal.

Politician Meg Hillier said in a statement issued by UK Parliament: “With continued uncertainty around the negotiations, it is particularly concerning how little information government has provided to businesses so they can prepare for any outcome. The government must urgently work with businesses — time is fast running out.”

Hiller was commenting after the official National Audit Office (NAO) issued a new report on the British border showing slow progress has been made on preparations.

“The NAO’s latest work on the UK border shows the slow progress made on preparations. Infrastructure at our borders will not be in place in the event of a no-deal and there is a real danger that systems will not be ready,” said Hillier.

Britain is confident a deal with the EU will not be in place in the event of a no-deal on March 29, 2019.

“Even with a withdrawal agreement, significant challenges lie ahead to ensure the UK border is fully functioning,” said the NAO in its report.

It added: “Border management is fundamentally important to national security, effective trade, tourism, well-managed migration, healthy communities and the environment. Delivering an effective border after the UK leaves the EU is an enormous challenge, requiring significant coordination across government and with private sector organisations.”

The report said government papers from July 2018 stated that it was already too late to ensure that all traders were properly prepared for “no-deal” outcome.—Xinhua
Malaysia ex-PM and ally charged in $1.6 billion graft case

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia)—Malaysia’s former leader Najib Razak and an ally were Thursday charged with allegedly looting $1.6 billion of public money, the latest accusations against figures from the scandal-plagued old regime. Najib has now been hit with 38 charges since losing power; most of them related to allegations that he and his cronies plundered vast sums from sovereign wealth fund 1MDB.

The scandal played a major part in prompting voters to oust his coalition at elections in May after six decades in power and elect a reformist alliance headed by Mahathir Mohamad.

Najib was jointly charged in a Kuala Lumpur court with ex-senior finance ministry official, Mohamad Irwan Serigar Abdul-lah, with six counts of criminal breach of trust. They denied all the charges. The crimes involved 6.6 billion ringgit ($1.6 billion) of public money and allegedly took place between December, 2016 and December, 2017. Each charge is punishable by up to 20 years in jail. Local media reported that some of the money was used to pay debts owed by 1MDB to Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund IPIC. The Malaysian fund slid into a massive debt hole as huge sums of money were allegedly stolen and used to buy everything from a super-yacht, to high-end real estate and pricey artworks.

Former Malaysia’s prime minister Najib Razak (C) is escorted by police to the courthouse in Kuala Lumpur on October 25, 2018. Malaysia’s former leader Najib Razak and two of his allies will face corruption charges on October 25, as authorities target a growing list of figures linked to the scandal-plagued old regime. PHOTO: AFP

Questions mount over delay after Cathay Pacific admits huge data leak

HONG KONG—Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific came under pressure Friday to explain why it had taken five months to admit it had been hacked and compromised the data of 9.4 million customers, including passport numbers and credit card details.

The airline admitted about 800,000 passport numbers, 245,000 Hong Kong identity card numbers, 403 expired credit card numbers and 27 credit card numbers with no card verification value (CVV) were accessed.

"We have no evidence that any personal data has been misused," chief executive Rupert Hogg said in a statement Thursday. It is for the victim to decide. "Such a statement doesn’t give people absolute confidence that we are completely safe, and it doesn’t mean that some of this data would not be misused later," said IT sector lawmaker Charles Mok.

"We have no evidence that any personal data has been misused. No-one’s travel or loyalty profile needs to know how the company can prove that was the case," said officials wanted to have an accurate grasp on the situation before making an announcement and did not wish to “create unnecessary panic”. News of the leak sent shares in Cathay, which was already under pressure as it struggles for customers, plunging more than six percent to a nine-year low in Hong Kong trading.

The airline admitted about 800,000 passport numbers, 245,000 Hong Kong identity card numbers, 403 expired credit card numbers and 27 credit card numbers with no card verification value (CVV) were accessed.

Other compromised passenger data included nationalities, dates of births, phone numbers, emails, and physical addresses.

"We have no evidence that any personal data has been misused. No-one’s travel or loyalty profile was accessed in full, and no passwords were compromised," chief executive Rupert Hogg said in a statement Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP

Gun battle leaves 9 militants dead in N. Afghanistan

MAIMANA (Afghanistan)—At least nine militants have been killed and three others injured as clash broke out in Dawlat Abad district of Afghanistan’s northern Farah province on Wednesday, spokesman for police in the restive province, Abdul Karim Yurash said on Thursday. The clash, according to the police spokesman, flared up after Taliban militants stormed some security checkpoints in Pul-e-Bazaar Qala area of Dawlat Abad district on Wednesday afternoon and police returned fire triggering gun battle. According to Yurash, nine militants have been killed in the clash and a few more sustained injuries.

The Cathay Pacific passenger data compromised by hackers included passport and ID card numbers, credit card information, phone numbers, emails and physical addresses. PHOTOS: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP
Paradise lost: Tourist spots in danger of being loved to death

MANILA—The Philippines' most famous resort island Boracay re-opens Friday after a six-month clean-up intended to fix the damage done by unrestrained mass tourism. Here are some other global hotspots that authorities have moved to protect:

Bali, Indonesia

Officials on the holiday island, Indonesia's top tourist destination, declared a “garbage emergency" last year after the palm-fringed Kuta beach was swallowed up by mountains of trash. Indonesia, second only to China as the world's biggest contributor to marine debris, deployed 700 cleaners and 35 trucks to remove roughly 100 tonnes of debris each day from Kuta and two other popular beaches to a nearby landfill.

Easter Island, Chile

Known for its 900-odd human figures standing up to 10 metres (32 feet) tall, the isolated Pacific island severely curtailed visitor numbers in August this year due to concerns of forest dwellers in equatorial Africa.

Chopping down the kevazingo tree, its tropical hardwood highly valued in Asia for upmarket furniture, is also held to be sacred by generations of forest dwellers in equatorial Africa.

Tourists 500 euros ($585) for violation if they want to go to the Adriatic port, while authorities plan to cut cruise ship numbers coming into the popular Saint Mark's Square during peak hours.

They are also fining tourists 500 euros ($585) for bathing or having picnics in the city's famous canals. In Florence, officials have resorted to hosing down public spots such as church steps where many visitors congregate to eat picnics. This aims to prevent people from sitting on the wet pavement.—AFP

Easter Island, Chile

Forbes

Easter Island, the tiny Polynesian archipelago in the Pacific Ocean, is the last bastion of the Rapa Nui people. Along with 12th century, were cut to 30 days from 90, after the territory's environmental

Dubrewnik, Croatia

Dubrewnik, which boasts an old walled city, saw cruise ship arrivals shoot through the roof after it was used as a backdrop in the smash television drama series "Game of Thrones", causing congestion as tourists made a beeline for the shoot locales. Mayor Mato Frankovic told AFP the authorities plan to cut cruise ship numbers coming into the Adriatic port, while deploying cameras to count the number of people entering the old town.

Venice and Florence, Italy

Venice authorities are trialling a system that forces visitors to make a reservation if they want to go to the popular Saint Mark's Square during peak hours. They are also fining tourists 500 euros ($585) for bathing or having picnics in the city's famous canals.

In Florence, officials have resorted to hosing down public spots such as church steps where many visitors congregate to eat picnics. This aims to prevent people from sitting on the wet pavement.—AFP

Saving the precious wood of Gabon’s forests from illegal logging

Oyem (Gabon)—In Gabon the majestic kevazingo tree, its tropical hardwood highly valued in Asia for upmarket furniture, is also held to be sacred by generations of forest dwellers in equatorial Africa.

Chopping down the kevazingo tree, which can grow to more than 500 years old, has been outlawed in Gabon since March, but that hasn’t eased environmental fears.

A loophole in the law allows the sale of the prized wood if felled trees were abandoned or seized from illegal loggers which environmentalists say only encourages further exploitation.

The ban on felling the trees is intended to “limit trafficking in this wood”, explains Simplice Nteme, the national director general of waterways and forests, which cover 85 percent of the west African country. But for Martial, a 54-year-old resident of Oyem, capital of the northen Woleu-Ntem region, little has changed.

“They tell us that kevazingo is no longer cut, but we see lorries loaded leaving the forest to go to the capital Libreville,” he told AFP.—AFP

An aerial view shows N'Doki, a special economic zone in Gabon dedicated to the transformation of wood, some 30 kilometres from Libreville. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MLV KOU TAI VOY. NO. (112N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOU TAI VOY. NO. (112N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTY LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MLV EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0264-571 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0264-571 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

ENVIRONMENT
26 OCTOBER 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

EMBASSY OF INDIA, YANGON
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF AGENCIES FOR SUPPLY OF VEHICLES

Embassy of India invites Expression Of Interest (EOI) from vehicle dealers for empanelment of agencies for supply of vehicle whenever Embassy of India, Yangon intends to procure vehicle for the various projects implemented in Myanmar with grant assistance of Government of India.

1. Details of formats can be downloaded from Embassy’s website, www.embassyofindiayangon.gov.in.

(Dr. Muthukumarasamy B.)
First Secretary (Development Cooperation)
Mega Millions US lottery jackpot, identified in a massive $1.5 billion South Carolina town has been
identified with a single winning ticket sold in a tiny store where the ticket was sold, which is about the size of a toilet.

At the back of a courtyard in Bandal, a popular and trendy district of the capital Kinshasa, a DJ called DDT has opened Kinshasound, a recording studio which is about the size of a toilet.

The massive jackpot had been driving drumbeats of Afrobeat and big sounds of the Bronx and the ever-loving stars of only singing of love and other banalities.

The winner however may never be known: unlike most winning tickets, this one was

**One winning ticket in huge $1.5 bn US lottery jackpot**

WASHINGTON (United States)—Single winning ticket sold in a tiny South Carolina town has been identified in a massive $1.5 billion Mega Millions US lottery jackpot, the second largest on record, organizers said Wednesday.

The winning ticket was sold at a convenience store in Simpsonville, a rural town with a population 22,000. “Holy cow,” Simpsonville Mayor Janice Curtis told The Washington Post. “I think it’s wonderful news.” Curtiss described her rural town as a place where there’s a church on every corner. And indeed there were two churches close to the store where the ticket was sold, the Post reported.

The winner may never be known: unlike most other states, in South Carolina a lottery winner can legally remain anonymous. Mega Millions, which initially announced a global record $1.6 billion jackpot, later revised the figure down to $1.537 billion. The new amount makes the prize the second largest, just shy of the $1.586 billion jackpot for a rival Powerball lottery in January 2016, which was shared between three winning tickets. Regardless, it’s the largest single winning ticket ever and it dwarfed the previous Mega Millions record, set in March 2012 at $635 million.

The six winning numbers drawn on Tuesday night were five, 28, 62, 65, 70 and another five as the special “gold Mega Ball.”

The massive jackpot had set off a lottery frenzy across the country, with people lining up at convenience stores, supermarkets and liquor stores to buy a $2 ticket that gave them a roughly one in 300 million chance of winning.—AFP

**Stephen Hawking’s papers, wheelchair for sale**

LONDON—Auctioneer Christie’s announced an online sale of 22 items from the late physicist Stephen Hawking on Monday. The auction will include some of Hawking’s complex scientific papers, one of his iconic wheelchairs and a script from the famous TV comedy show “The Simpsons.” The scientific papers, including one of five existing copies of Hawking’s PhD thesis in 1965 with an estimated price of 100,000 to 150,000 pounds (about 130,000 to 195,000 US dollars), “trace the development of his thought — brilliant, electrifying intelligence,” said Thomas Venning, head of books and manuscripts at Christie’s.

Venning said the PhD thesis, signed by Hawking after British police asked the public to identify a thief with an uncanny resemblance to the Hollywood star.

Police in the seaside resort of Blackpool found their Facebook feed inundated this week with replies and merriment after they posted an image of a man allegedly stealing a crate of beer from a shop. Commenters quickly noticed the wanted man was the spitting image of Schrèmmer, whose most famous and enduring character was the ever-love-lorn Ross in the hit US sitcom “Friends.”

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The one where David Schwimmer had a solid alibi

LONDON—No no-one told him his day was gonna go that way.

“Friends” actor David Schwimmer jokingly protested his innocence with a witty video after police in Britain asked the public to identify a grocery store thief with an uncanny resemblance to the Hollywood star.

Police in the seaside resort of Blackpool found their Facebook feed inundated this week with replies and merriment after they posted an image of a man allegedly stealing a crate of beer from a shop. Commenters quickly noticed the wanted man was the spitting image of Schrèmmer, whose most famous and enduring character was the ever-love-lorn Ross in the hit US sitcom “Friends.”

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**We’ve got the power!’ In DRC, rap moves to take on rumba**

KINSHASA (DR Congo) — It is a conflict at once cultural, generational and political: rap music in DR Congo is staging a frontal assault on rumba, accusing it of being an anachronism and a threat to national unity.

DRC’s growing army of rappers say their urban lyrics reflect a gritty realism edged with angst as one of Africa’s biggest and most unstable nations heads towards a troubled presidential election.

At the back of a courtyard in Bandal, a popular and trendy district of the capital Kinshasa, a DJ called DDT has opened Kinshasound, a recording studio which is about the size of a toilet.

The winner can take $878 million in a lump sum cash payment or paid out in annuities over 30 years. PHOTO: AFP

Congolese hiphop enthusiasts have flocked to Kinshasound, one of Kinshasa’s few local recording studios at the heart of a wave of new rap music. PHOTO: AFP

Alesh and Magneto, who electrified the crowds at last month’s Red One urban music festival in Kinshasa. But Kinshasound has also attracted other visitors — among them officials responsible for music and events at the national censorship board who shut it down in August, DDT explains.

It was eventually reopened after a series of negotiations, which involved handing over some cash.

And their complaint? That DDT was producing “obscene songs which were an offence to common decency” and violated a law on censorship dating back to 1996.

The massive jackpot had been driving drumbeats of Afrobeat and big sounds of the Bronx and the ever-loving stars of only singing of love and other banalities.

The winner however may never be known: unlike most winning tickets, this one was identified with a single winning ticket sold in a tiny store where the ticket was sold, which is about the size of a toilet.

At the back of a courtyard in Bandal, a popular and trendy district of the capital Kinshasa, a DJ called DDT has opened Kinshasound, a recording studio which is about the size of a toilet.

The winner can take $878 million in a lump sum cash payment or paid out in annuities over 30 years. PHOTO: AFP

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After ‘historic’ quarter, Tesla looks to Europe, China

SAN FRANCISCO (United States)—Electric car maker Tesla on Wednesday reported an “historic” quarterly profit driven by demand for its mass market Model 3, as the company looks beyond its US home base to Europe and China. Tesla chief executive Elon Musk said he expects the company to stay profitable from this point forward, and appeared to calm fears about his behavior, company debt, and snags ramping up production line efficiency.

Musk said he expected Tesla to make even more Model 3 vehicles in the current quarter, and to begin delivering the cars in Europe and China early next year.

“I am incredibly excited about what lies ahead,” Musk said in an earnings call with analysts.

Tesla said net income reached $311.5 million on revenue that more than doubled year-on-year to $6.8 billion in the quarter that ended 30 September.

The earnings beat Wall Street expectations that Tesla would take in less money in the quarter and log another loss.

Shares in the company leapt 9.8 per cent to $316.80 in after-market trades that followed release of the earnings figures for its fiscal third quarter. For the same period a year ago the company reported a loss of $6.9 billion. “Q3 2018 was a truly historic quarter for Tesla,” said the flamboyant Musk, who also heads SpaceX. “Model 3 was the best-selling car in the US in terms of revenue and the 5th best-selling car in terms of volume. Tesla’s assembly line produced an average of 4,300 cars weekly in the quarter, nearing a goal set a while back by Musk. Tesla has also improved efficiency, ramping up the gross margin on Model 3 vehicles to more than 20 per cent, according to Musk.

He expressed confidence that Tesla would remain profitable, despite using cash to pay off notes.

Trading up big

“Model 3 is attracting customers of both premium and non-premium brands, making it a truly mainstream product,” Musk said, adding that the company’s “earnings profile has flipped dramatically.”

The vast majority of cars traded in by Model 3 buyers are non-premium models priced new at less than $35,000.—AFP ■

Can eating organic food lower your cancer risk? Hard to prove

WASHINGTON (United States)—A new, much-ballyhooed study showing that the most avid consumers of organic food had fewer cancers than those who never eat such products illustrates the difficulty of establishing cause and effect when evaluating diet and health.

It is effectively impossible to prove beyond a doubt in a laboratory that any given food reduces the risk of developing an illness as complex as cancer.

“Diet is complex,” Nigel Brodton, the director of research at the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR), told AFP.

“We would never make a recommendation based on one study, even though it’s statistically significant.”

Researchers, like the French team behind Monday’s study, must then follow a large test group and wait for cancers to develop in some of the subjects.

They then hope that after the fact, they can isolate a specific behavior among all those who are sick that made the difference.

Thousands of studies on diet and illness have been conducted for decades.

Even the findings of the largest are sometimes disputed, like one in 2013 that purportedly showed the sweeping benefits of the so-called Mediterranean diet in combating heart ailments.

That study was retracted from the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine earlier this year over criticism of the methods used.

Only one major study on the nexus between organic food and cancer had been carried out before the latest effort published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Internal Medicine.

That 2014 research, known as the Million Women Study, used a test group of 600,000 British women. It found no overall difference in cancer risk between those who ate organic food and those who didn’t. It only found that organic food lovers had a reduced risk of developing non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

Questionnaires and self-reporting

So then, how does one approach the new study by the French team?

It is certainly more detailed than the Million Women Study, though it looked at 69,000 women—roughly 10 per cent of the sample size.

The hypothesis is that the organic food enthusiasts consume fewer pesticides in their fruit, vegetables and grains, thus reducing their risk of cancer; as some pesticides are suspected of being carcinogenic.—AFP ■

Facebook simplifies Messenger app

SAN FRANCISCO (United States)—Facebook on Tuesday announced an overhaul of its Messenger smartphone app in an effort to simplify the service for its 1.3 billion monthly global users. The social network began rolling out a redesigned version featuring three tabs instead of nine, saying it was “going back to its roots” seven years after the standalone app’s launch.

“We build one feature after another; they’re piling up,” Messenger chief Stan Chudnovsky said of the service, which has grown from a simple messaging app to one that lets users make video calls, send money and more. The updated tabs allow users to navigate between their conversations under “Chats,” stories and contacts at “People,” and “Discovery,” which is devoted to games and exchanges with businesses.

Facebook has positioned Messenger as a tool for businesses to efficiently handle customer questions or concerns.

Talking to customers via the app is free—but businesses can also pay for Facebook ads that let customers start a conversation or visit their page with one click.—AFP ■

Trump’s ‘Space Force’ to be built in stages by 2020

WASHINGTON (United States)—A new US “Space Force” will soon take shape but will at least initially be a step below the proposed sixth branch of the military envisioned by President Donald Trump, his vice president said on Tuesday.

The White House does not foresee the creation of an independent space force before 2020, said US Vice President Mike Pence, who heads the National Space Council, a government body that was revived last year after a decades-long hiatus.

Pence said the president will soon ask Congress to gather together military and civilians working on space security into a unified command, similar to the military’s special forces. “The National Space Council is making recommendations to the president to essentially begin with establishing a unified Space Command, much in the way that we established a Special Forces command,” Pence said at a space conference organized by the Washington Post.

“Let’s begin by bringing everyone under a unified command,” he said, adding that he’d also like to see a Space Development Agency tasked with new technologies.—AFP ■
AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 trophy on tour in Yangon

A ceremony to introduce Myanmar football enthusiasts to AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 Trophy Tour to Yangon was held at Myanmar Plaza, Yangon.

AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 Trophy Tour kicked off in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in the middle of September and it will head to Manila, Bangkok, Hanoi and Jakarta after Yangon. Now it has been on tour in Yangon. Mr. Asano, Managing Director of Suzuki (Myanmar) Motor Co., Ltd made an opening address on the occasion. U Ko Ko Thein, General Secretary of Myanmar Football Federation, delivered an address, as well.

Afterwards, U Ko Ko Thein gave a gift to the official of Suzuki (Myanmar) Motor Co., Ltd. Then, AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 was conveyed to the stage. The officials of the MFF and former Myanmar selected footballers had a group photo taken together with the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup on the stage.

The 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup will be showcased in Myanmar for three days. It will be on tour in Manila, the Philippines on October 27, in Bangkok, Thailand on October 28, in Hanoi, Vietnam on October 30 and in Jakarta, Indonesia on November 4.

Children Grassroots Football Festival to be held in Pathein

UNDER the supervision of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and Myanmar National League (MNL), sponsored by Myanmar Post and Telecommunication (MPT), a grassroots football festival for children under-14 will be held at Ayeawady United Stadium in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region from 3pm on 26 October (today).

The Grassroots Football Festival will be held under the titles of MFF-MPT Grassroots Football Festival 2018 and MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2018. About 250 children from basic education schools in Pathein Township will participate in the festival, according to the Myanmar Football Federation. Gifts will also be presented to the children after the festival, according to the MFF “It is a wonderful festival for our children, and they all will enjoy the festival. We hope the MFF can hold more such festivals in Pathein”, said a football fan.

Similar festivals were held in other cities in different states and regions including Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Mawlamyine, Monywa and Sittway, according to the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Armstrong manager Bruyneel banned from cycling for life

NEW YORK—Lance Armstrong’s former US Postal team manager Johan Bruyneel has been handed a life ban from cycling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Bruyneel, 54, was the team manager for all of Armstrong’s seven Tour de France victories from 1999-2005—triumphs that were erased in the US superstar’s stunning fall from grace amid revelations of the biggest drugs scandal in cycling history.

“I want to stress that I acknowledge and fully accept that a lot of mistakes have been made in the past,” Belgium’s Bruyneel wrote in an open letter posted on his Twitter account after the Swiss-based CAS rendered its decision on Wednesday. “There are a lot of things I wish I could have done differently, and there are certain actions I now deeply regret. The period I lived through, both as a cyclist and as a team director, was very different than it is today.”

Wednesday’s decision was the culmination of a case that began in 2012, when the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) charged Bruyneel as part of its investigation into Armstrong.

Three team doctors and trainer Michele Ferrari were accused of possessing, trafficking in and administering prohibited substances.

The American Arbitration Association slapped Bruyneel with a 10-year ban in 2014, when the World Anti-Doping Agency responded with a demand that he be banned from the sport for life—as Armstrong was in 2012.

In it’s conclusion to the long-running and complicated case, CAS noted that the AAA panel concluded in 2014 that “the evidence establishes conclusively that Mr Bruyneel was at the apex of a conspiracy to commit widespread doping on the US Postal and Discovery Channel teams spanning many years and many riders.”—AFP ■

Barcelona without Messi as Dortmund pummel Atletico

BARCELONA—overcame the absence of an injured Lionel Messi to defeat Inter Milan 2-0 in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Borussia Dortmund signalled their intent with a 4-0 demolition of Atletico Madrid.

Philippe Coutinho rattled the crossbar in the second half before Jordi Alba sealed the points seven minutes from time to leave Barca on the brink of a spot in the last 16.

Bundesliga leaders Dortmund, who were missing in-form striker Paco Alcacer, delivered the performance of the evening as they handed last season’s Europa League winners Atletico their heaviest defeat under Diego Simone.

Axel Witsel fired Dortmund ahead shortly before half-time at Signal Iduna Park, with substitute Raphael Guerreiro netting twice in the final quarter-hour either side of a goal by teenage England international Jadon Sancho.

Dortmund top Group A with a maximum nine points, although Atletico still remain favourites to progress alongside them after Thierry Henry’s Monaco and Club Brugge drew 1-1 in the other game.—AFP ■

Myanmar Archer ranked sixth in Youth Olympic Games-2018

MYANMAR Archer Ma Pyae Sone Hnin ranked sixth place in the Girl’s Single 60M Archery category of the Youth Olympic Games-2018, held from 6 to 18 October, in Buenos Aries, Argentina. A total of 32 archers from 32 nations took part in the category. After decidedly gaining the sixth place at the Argentina Olympic, Ma Pyae Sone Hnin arrived back in Yangon on Wednesday. On her arrival, she was welcomed by Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Archery Federation U Nywe Oo and officials, students from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon) at the Yangon International Airport.

Evidently, Chairman of the Myanmar Archery Federation Dr. Khin Shwe and U Zay Thiha awarded Ma Pyae Sone Hnin with Ks 2 million, according to the Myanmar Archery Federation. Myanmar participated in the Archery and Sailing categories at the Argentina Olympic.—MNA ■

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lach scored twice as Liverpool stroll past Red Star Belgrade, but Paris Saint-Germain needed a superb stoppage-time equaliser from Angel Di Maria to rescue a point at home to Napoli.

Barca collected a third win from three Group B outings as Rafinha, filling in for Messi after the Argentine star fractured his arm at the weekend, volleyed in the opener on 32 minutes at Camp Nou.

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