Union Ministers inspect Yadana Gas Field in Andaman Sea, environmental conservation

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, and Union Minister for Electric and Energy U Win Khaing, inspected the Yadana Offshore gas field in the Andaman Sea yesterday, and called for operating the gas field without damaging the environment.

Also, the two union ministers heard a report about distribution of gas and environmental conservation by officials of the offshore gas field project, as well as from the Managing Director of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise U Myo Myint Oo.

Located in the M5 and M6 blocks in the Andaman sea, the Yadana gas field is some 60km offshore from the nearest landfall in Myanmar.

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise-MOGE of the Ministry of Electric and Energy, Total E&P Myanmar, Unocal Co Ltd and PT-TEP entered into a Production Sharing Contract to develop the field in 1992.

Production of gas from Yadana to Thailand began in 1998.

Production

The 15 wells at the field are currently producing some 700 million cubic feet per day. Out of this total output, 515 million cubic feet are being supplied to Thailand through a 216 ft long 36 inch-in-diameter pipe, while the remaining 185 million cubic feet are delivered to Myanmar.

In 2018-2019, a 4-Dimension Seismic survey was carried out in the 227.77 square feet area, while a 3-Dimension Seismic survey will be carried out in the M5 block.

On 16 November 2016, Existing Yadana Facilities Environmental management Plan-EMP was submitted by TEPM to the Ministry of National Resources and Environmental Conservation, and the ministry approved the report on 6 August, 2018. The EIa revised report on Aung Yadana Well in the M-6 Block was submitted to the ministry’s Environmental Conservation Department on 28 June, 2017 and Exploration Drilling in M-6.

TEPM also submitted the 2D Seismic Survey IIE (revised) report to the department on 22 May, 2018, and ECD approved the report on 10 August 2018.

The gas field project is following the requirements of the International Sewage Pollution Prevention –ISP certification in disposing of its sewage and grey water.

The project has also disposed of food waste and bilge water, and discharged deck drainage, solid and hazardous waste, following international guidelines.

— MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)
Paper reading session on Research Development held in Yangon

WITH the aim of developing research in Myanmar and finding ways of re-establishing Myanmar research organisations, a paper reading session on Research Development was held at the assembly hall of the Printing and Publishing Department’s Central Press Building on Theinbyu Road in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the reading session, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said this session was held under the title “Research Development.” The Union Minister noted that he had been attending many reading sessions since he was young, and considers research paper reading to be a place where knowledge is distributed. Attending such events results in obtaining knowledge, and much benefit is also gained from listening to discussions by other experts. It is priceless to listen to the assessments and discussions of experts, based on their thoughts, assumptions and expertise.

Paper reading sessions are also seen as allowing researchers to display their efforts before the people, and can be seen as sharing information among the public. When the writer of the paper reads and discusses his paper at the session, it is also very valuable. The discussion process that follows is seen as verifying whether the paper is well written or not, strong or weak, valuable or not. The reason why paper reading sessions are held is to develop the habit of reading papers after conducting research.

The reason why paper reading sessions are held is to develop the habit of reading papers after conducting research.

Another aim is for associations and experts, who are conducting the research work, to share their findings through the sessions. What I want to emphasise here is that China is a trustworthy and reliable country for Myanmar.

PRC donates peace fund to JMC, seeks signing NCA by northern EAOs

THE People’s Republic of China (PRC) donated US$ 300,000 to a peace fund for the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) at a ceremony held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At the gathering, Union-level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae explained about the work processes undertaken at all levels of JMC, and future JMC works.

Regarding their tasks, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said, “JMC’s work is to monitor, so there are no armed conflicts between armed organisations. In doing this, civilians are included at all levels of JMC, and it is through the monitoring by these civilians that JMC operates. In order to speed up the monitoring work, Local Civilian Monitors are ready to be formed in respective areas so that widespread monitoring can be conducted. People’s participation is very important in our peace process, and providing information about JMC works for people’s participation had been conducted in relevant areas through public meetings.”

The PRC, Norway and UN organisations were providing technical assistance and funds for JMC mechanism to run smoothly, and some US$ 44 million is required to conduct JMC works at all levels in 2018-2019, said officials.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC said, “China has given prominence to Myanmar’s peace process. Our aim is clear. Our hope is for Myanmar to be stable and peaceful and become more developed. China will do its best on the matters of northern ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) who have yet to sign the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement). China supports Myanmar politically, as well as providing financial assistance to the Myanmar peace process and organisations like the JMC-U. The present donation is part of the US$ 3 million donation project. What I want to emphasize here is that China is a trustworthy and reliable country for Myanmar.”

Afterwards, JMC-U Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae accepted the US$ 300,000 donated from the PRC for Myanmar’s peace fund, presented by Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC Mr. Sun Guoxiang.

The ceremony was attended by JMC-U committee members, led by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, the delegation and officials from the People’s Republic of China pose for a documentary photo. PHOTO: MNA

JMC-U committee members, led by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, the delegation and officials from the People’s Republic of China pose for a documentary photo. PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA
UNESCO-listed Mya Ga Naing movie handed over to MOI

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended the 6th edition of MEMORY! International Film Heritage Festival held in Maha Bandula Park in Yangon and a ceremony to transfer Mya Ga Naing movie inscribed by UNESCO at regional level to Ministry of Information yesterday.

First, Memory Cinema Group Chairman and founder Severine Wemaere and Gilles Davern, MEMORY! International Film Heritage Festival patron Daw Swe Zin Htaik explained about the reason for holding the 6th edition of MEMORY! International Film Heritage Festival.

Next, Union Minister delivered a speech saying the restored and to be transferred Mya Ga Naing movie was produced by A1 Film director Maung Tin Maung in 1934. In 1970, the film was stored and maintained in the film archive and a new copy made in 1999 to continue maintaining it. It is the most oldest and the last remaining silent movie that was stored by the Motion Picture Development Sub-Department and was not stored in A1 Film as well as any other place.

Similarly, the next movie to be restored and returned is Pyo Chit Lin movie, another legendary Myanmar movie produced by Yangon Movie Production director U Tin Myint.

Pyo Chit Lin movie was not kept in the film archive but was kept by movie expert U Kyi Soe Tun.

It is learnt that France embassy in Myanmar and Memory Film Festival Group cooperated to restore Mya Ga Naing movie in 2015-2016 and Pyo Chit Lin movie in 2016-2017.

At the Memory of the World Register for Asia/Pacific meeting held in Gwangju, the Republic of Korea, Mya Ga Naing movie was inscribed by UNESCO at regional level. Mya Ga Naing movie is an honorable cultural heritage of Myanmar, said the Union Minister.

Memory Film Festival held every year since 2014 enter its fifth year this 2018. At the same time movies shown at the festival was increasing year by year and this is the indication of cooperation between Memory Cinema Group and Ministry of Information.

Myanmar audience were interested and enjoyed viewing Myanmar’s historical heritage movies that were restored and shown at the festival.

The lifespan of Myanmar movie will reach 100 years in 2020.

As the Motion Picture Development Sub-Department was working to maintain movies owned privately, an increase in donating movies were seen.

The documentary films division of the former Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise was systematically storing news reels and movies in the store but as years passed with increasing numbers of movies it became difficult to store. Construction of a film archive was requested and permission granted so construction was started in fiscal year 1974-75 and was completed and transferred in 1981. The building had since been used as film archive.

Furthermore, for the long term existence of films stored in the film archive, international technical support and assistance is required and work towards obtaining this support and assistance had been done, said the Union Minister.

Afterwards Ambassador of France to Myanmar Christian Lechery and special guest to the 6th edition of MEMORY! International Film Heritage Festival French movie actress Clotilde Courau delivered speeches.

The Myanmar movie restored by Memory Cinema Group were then transferred to the Film Archive of the Ministry of Information through Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and officials.

Following this, film director Academy U Kyi Soe Tun explained about maintaining Pyo Chit Lin movie.

The 6th edition of MEMORY! International Film Heritage Festival is held in Yangon from 9 to 18 November. During the festival period more than 70 Myanmar and international movies will be shown free and movies were shown indoor in Waziya Cinema and movies were shown outdoor in Maha Bandula Park. Mya Ga Naing movie was shown in Maha Bandula Park. — MNA

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attends meeting to resettle displaced people

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Chairman of the Displaced Persons Accepting and Resettlement Committee, attended the coordination meeting of the committee yesterday in preparing for receiving the returnees from Bangladesh.

At the meeting held at Rakhine State government office in Sittway yesterday, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said arrangements have been made to accept returnees from Bangladesh.

He also stressed the need to evaluate those displaced people in accordance with the rules, regulations and procedures, as well as bilateral agreements, which were ready to be accepted within two months of signing the bilateral agreement.

“Transparency and trust is required in this, and an agreement has been signed with UNHCR/UNDP for UNHCR/UNDP to assist in the accepting and resettlement process,” he said.

As a first batch, as per agreement with Bangladesh, 2,251 displaced people will be accepted. There remaining work that is to be done and, thus, must be carried out successfully. All involved need to coordinate in performing their duties according to the agreed upon procedures, noted the Union Minister.

At the meeting, state ministers and officials discussed the requirements, including accepting and resettlement matters.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Disaster Management Department Director-General U Ko Ko Naing and officials.

After the meeting, the Union Minister went to the Smart garment factory and Khaing Pyi Soe garment factory in Sittway to observe the the work being carried out to create job opportunities and coordinate on the requirements. Similarly, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung met with IFRC, ICRC and MRCS members and discussed work processes needed in cooperating, accepting and resettlement works. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)
China’s Deputy Minister for SEAC visits Union National Races Village, National Museum (Yangon)

MR. Li Chingping, Deputy Minister of the State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC) of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), visited the Union National Races Village in Thakayta Township, Yangon, yesterday.

The delegation led by Mr. Li Chingping was entertained there with “The Strength of the Union” song and traditional cultural dances by the ethnic performing troupes.

Deputy Director U Kyaw Lin Han, in-charge of the Union National Races Village, gifted a gemstone painting depicted the Myanmar national races. The Deputy Minister then had the documentary photos taken together with national races, and signed the guest book.

During the visit to the Union National Races Village, officials conducted the delegation around the village.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister and party also visited the National Museum (Yangon) and enjoyed the Buddhist arts, cultural artefacts of the national facts and paintings displayed at the museum.

Heroin, Yaba tablets seized in Shan State

A combined team, including officials from Pin Phyt police station, intercepted and searched men on two motorbikes, driven by Khun Maung and Hein Htet Aung, at Sin Thay village in Yak Sauk township at 5 am yesterday and seized 2,156 Yaba tablets.

Similarly, the Anti-Narcotic Squad 240 in Laoshio searched a house, inhabited by Zaw Aung at Nat Sin road in Tani at 7 am yesterday, and found 99.1g of heroin, 1,230 pills of stimulants and Ks 150,000. Also, a security force from Thibaw Mya Ma police station searched the house owned by Daw Nine Eian at Kun Hine Village, Pan Make Village-Track in Thibaw Township at 7 am yesterday, and seized 8,305 Yaba pills, Ks 15 millions, as well as gold. They further searched Aung Kyaw Myint’s house in the same village at 8 am and discovered 69.2g of heroin, 58,235 Yaba tablets, Ks 128,400 and gold.

An Anti-Narcotic Squad 30 in Tachilek searched the motorbike, driven by Aung Mo Hein and his partner Ma Buu Do at Lwalseeton village, Wann Lone village track in Tachilek Township at 5 pm yesterday; and seized 4,000 Yaba tablets hidden in the vehicle. The local police have filed charges against the suspects, based upon their violating the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—GNM (Translated by Thanda Aung)

Forestry officials seize three tons of hardwood timber in Pinlebu

THE Pinlebu Township Department of Forestry confiscated over three tons of hardwood, believed to be an attempt to smuggle, and arrested the truck driver transporting the wood, according to forestry authorities.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising police and forestry officials seized a suspected six-wheel truck bearing driven by Aung Zaw Latt near a bridge in Inkhon Village, Katha District, Sagaing Region, at about 7.30 a.m. on 10 November. The seized wood included 13 Tamalan hardwood logs, estimated to weigh nearly 3.3 tons. Authorities said the suspect admitted that he was transporting the wood to Mandalay through Pinlebu Township.

The suspect is now facing legal charges, based upon violations of the Forest Law.

An ongoing investigation is being conducted by the local police, to take action against other suspects in connection with the case.—Lu Aung (Katha) (Translated by Khing Thanda Lwin)

Yaba tablets seized in Maungtaw

YABA tablets were seized in Maungtaw Town, Rakhine State, on 10 November. Acting on a tip-off, a combined team of officials and staff from the Anti-Narcotic Police Force No. 46 searched the house of Abdul in Shwe Zar (North) Village, Maungtaw Town, and found 227 Yaba tablets weighing 22.7 grams and worth Ks 454,000, along with Ks 22,000 which was earned through the sale of drugs. Police filed charges against Abdul under the Anti-Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Law.—District (IPRD)
Edible oil price falls in Yangon market in three months

Prices of imported edible oil have declined in the domestic market due to a decrease in edible oil prices in the global market, according to the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association.

In Yangon’s wholesale market, imported edible oil is now priced below Ks1,600 per viss (0.6 lbs), while a viss of palm oil was sold for Ks1,550 on 9 November, according to the market.

The prices for edible oil were Ks1,595 per viss on 6 August. The market saw an increase in prices of edible oil for three consecutive days, at Ks1,700 on 7 August and Ks1,820 on 8 August.

On 9 August, the selling prices of a viss of edible oil was Ks1,600, while the buying prices was Ks1,566 per viss.

Ko Nay Lin, a local merchant, said importers increased edible oil prices, noting that they have to wait for a number of days for the arrival of edible oil by ship. Edible oil prices usually increase when there are difficulties in obtaining oil from storage tanks, while traders store their remaining oil stock in order to increase their sales and boost profit.

Currently, oil price remains high.

Since mid-September, the price of edible oil has returned to normal in Yangon market, narrowing the gap between supply and demand.—Maung Say Aung (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Border trade value stands at $705 million this FY

Border trade between Myanmar and its four neighbouring countries has reached US$705 million between 1 October to 2 November this fiscal year, up by $96 million against the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of the total border trade stood at $491 million in exports and $214 million in imports. Compared with last FY, export earnings went up by $75.7 million, while the value of imports increased by $20.4 million. Last year, from 1 October through 2 November, the value of trade at the borders calculated at $609 million.

Myanmar is trading at its borders with neighboring countries China, India, Bangladesh and Thailand. Sino-Myanmar border trade is carried out through the Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chin Shwe Haw and Kengtung gates, while Myanmar is conducting border trade with India via the Tamu and Reeld gates.

The country’s border trade gates with Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtaw, while the gates used to trade with Thailand are Fachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Mawtaung and Maese.

Among all the gates, the Muse border gate sees the largest volume and value of total border trade, with an estimated value of over $345 million, followed by Htee Khee with $161 million and Myawady with $75 million.

Myanmar primarily exports agricultural products, animal products, as well as forest products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods and other products, while capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer products are imported into the country.

Currently, some 80 per cent of the country’s external trade is carried out via sea routes.—Zwe (Translated by Hlay Mar)

Myanmar’s external trade up 10.7% this FY

The Ministry of Commerce reported on Friday that Myanmar’s overseas trade with partner internationalities in the current fiscal year 2018-2019 went up by US$283 million, a 10.7-per-cent increase compared with this time last year.

Between 1 October to 2 November this year, the country’s exports were valued at nearly $1.3 billion, while imports exceeded $1.6 billion. Also, the trade deficit this year was $369 million, down almost $37 million, or a 10-per-cent decline, in comparison with $406 million during the same period last year.

When compared with the same time last year, the current export value rose by 14.36 per cent, whereas its imports also increased by eight per cent.

Over the first 33 days of this FY, Myanmar’s maritime exports hit $618 million, while its imports from the normal trade route exceeded $1 billion, totalling nearly $1.7 billion. During the period, the country exported domestic goods worth $329 million via land border points of entry, and imported products worth $1.3 billion from its neighbouring countries.

The ministry’s data indicated that the country’s external trade from 27 October through 2 November totalled $728.8 million—$325.9 million in exports and $412.7 million in imports.—Swe Nyein (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Mineral exports down almost 50% in current FY

Myanmar’s export of minerals over the first two months of the financial year dropped by US$102 million, a 49.91-per-cent decline against the corresponding period last year, when mineral exports were $204 million, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

This year saw a decline in exports of mineral products from both the private and public sectors. From 1 October through 2 November this year, the private sector exported minerals amounting to $102.354 million, which was a slight decrease in value by $15.6 million. However, the public sector’s export of minerals significantly declined to $0.049 million from $86.6 million compared to the same period last year.

Other products, which saw downward trends in export growth in the current FY, include forest products. The country’s export of forest products declined slightly by $0.234 million, a 1.24-per-cent decline, as against the same time last year.

According to the ministry, the country earned $1.171 billion from exports of its seven major groups of commodities, covering agricultural, mineral, marine, animal and forest products, manufactured goods and other miscellaneous items. At this time last year, the country earned $909.5 million from the export sector.

During the six-month mini budget period between April to September this year, the country’s mineral exports were valued at $1.034 billion. According to the ministry’s yearly trade report, the value of mineral exports was $897 million in the 2011-2012 FY, $319 million in the 2012-2013 FY, $1.339 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $1.496 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $968 million in the 2015-2016 FY, and $1.010 billion in the 2016-2017 FY.—Khine Khant (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)
A CEREMONY to hand over the responsibility of the Myanmar Press Council to new members was held at the office of the council in Yangon yesterday.

The ceremony began with opening remarks by Chairman of the MPC U Ohn Kyaw (Hanthawady) and Vice Chairman-1 Dr. Myo Thant Tin.

On behalf of the outgoing members of the MPC, Dr. Myo Thant Tin, Daw Thin Thin Thar and U Min Han delivered those documents detailing the works and financial matters of the first three-year term of the council to incoming members U Kyaw Naing, U Kyaw Swa Min and U Thein Soe. Afterwards, U Ohn Kyaw (Hanthawady) presented the badges of the council to the incoming members.

U Kyaw Swa Min, Secretary of the council, reported on the work done in the first three-year term, as well as the future work to be performed by the second three-year term of the council.

The ceremony came to an end with concluding remarks by U Kyaw Naing, Vice Chairman-2 of the council. The Myanmar Press Council was established on 11 November 2015, in accordance with Section 13 of the News Media Law and with presidential notification No. 68/2015.

The council elected new members and formed the council for the second three-year term on 30 October, 2018, based upon Presidential notification 82/2018. — MNA

Chairman of the Myanmar Press Council U Ohn Kyaw (Hanthawady) delivers the opening remarks at the ceremony to hand over the responsibility of the Myanmar Press Council. PHOTO: MNA

WASHINGTON (United States) — The United States embarked Friday on a policy of automatically rejecting asylum claims of people who cross the Mexican border illegally in a bid to deter Central American migrants and force Mexico to handle them.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at halting the flow of immigrants seeking to cross into the United States without authorization, most of them requesting asylum due to violence in their home countries.

“The continuing and threatened mass migration of aliens with no basis for admission into the United States through our southern border has precipitated a crisis and undermines the integrity of our borders,” Trump said in the order.

Trump used his emergency powers for the order, which critics said violates international law protecting asylum seekers.

UNHCR, the UN human rights body, criticized Washington for not meeting obligations to help refugees.

“UNHCR expects all countries, including the United States, to make sure any person in need of refugee protection and humanitarian assistance is able to receive both promptly and without obstruction,” it said.

The Geneva-based agency said that the United States was forcing migrants to turn to human smugglers to cross borders illegally.

“Many asylum-seeking families making this desperate choice are not trying to evade border authorities,” they said.

The American Civil Liberties Union, Southern Poverty Law Center, and Center for Constitutional Rights together immediately filed a lawsuit challenging the order. — AFP

Asylum seekers turn themselves in to a US Border Patrol agent after crossing from Mexico into the United States on November 7, 2018 in Mission, Texas. PHOTO: AFP
UK economy picks up but slowdown looms before Brexit

LONDON — Britain’s economy has grown at the fastest pace in nearly two years as strong exports and solid household spending offset slumping business investment, data showed Friday awaiting a Brexit deal.

Gross domestic product climbed 0.6 percent in the third quarter, in line with analysts’ expectations and up on growth of 0.4 percent in the second quarter, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in an initial estimate. At 0.6 percent growth for July-September, GDP was the strongest reading since the fourth quarter of 2016.

Analysts meanwhile expect the economy to cool ahead of Britain’s departure from the European Union in March.

“It seems unlikely that the economy will be able to keep up this pace with Brexit uncertainty hanging over it,” noted Thomas Pugh, UK economist at Capital Economics research group.

The ONS also revealed Friday that growth had already turned flat in August and September, after July registered solid expansion.

“Taken together, we think UK growth has clearly lost some momentum,” concluded HSBC economist Chris Hare.

“The summer spending spree is over, global tailwinds have waned and Brexit uncertainty continues to bite.”

Nevertheless, the ONS said third-quarter growth was driven by an expansion of 0.3 percent in July, “which stemmed from strong retail sales boosted by warm weather and the World Cup, as well as a low base reflecting the weaker start to the year.”

It added: “The recent subdued business investment environment is consistent with external surveys of investment intentions, which attribute much of the weakness to Brexit-related economic and political uncertainty.”

Business investment slid 1.2 percent in the third quarter, while exports jumped 2.7 percent and household spending increased 0.5 percent.

“The export growth... reflects an increase in both goods and services exports, with goods exports to non-EU countries growing more robustly than to the EU,” the ONS noted.

**Brakes on growth**

Britain could be about to finally seal an all-important deal to smooth its departure from the European Union, although reports this week of an imminent announcement have cooled somewhat heading into the weekend.

And despite stronger growth for the UK economy in the third quarter overall, the Bank of England last week trimmed its own GDP forecasts as Brexit approaches.

The BoE predicted that Britain’s economy would grow by 1.7 percent in 2019, down from a forecast of 1.8 percent.

The new estimate is based on the assumption of a smooth transition period, but there is unease on markets about a chaotic no-deal Brexit.

And before then, “growth in the fourth quarter is expected to be limited by more restrained consumer spending... while business investment is expected to slow, after seemingly accepting an EU-backed Brexit solution they fervently oppose.”

At issue is the vexing problem of how to avoid border checks between Northern Ireland, a UK province, and the eurozone-member Republic of Ireland. —AFP

Mexico’s industrial activity grows 1 pct in September

MEXICO CITY — Industrial activity in Mexico grew 1 percent in September compared to August, its largest increase in nine months, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Inegi) said on Friday.

The growth was in direct contrast to the decline observed in September 2017 when it fell 1.2 percent, according to data from Inegi.

The growth was spurred largely by manufacturing production which grew 1.1 percent.

In respect to the annual comparison, industrial activity grew 1.8 percent in September year-on-year for an accumulated growth of 0.5 percent in the first nine months of the year compared with the same period of time last year, according to Inegi.

Mexico’s industrial activity depends in large part on the activity in the United States, the main Mexican business partner:...—Xinhua

Oil prices, stock markets slide; dollar higher

NEW YORK — Global equities sank deeper into the red on Friday following dour economic news from China while a slump in oil prices deepened.

US investor appetite was dampened by economic data that suggested the central bank may continue raising interest rates, further eroding gains from a relief rally after Tuesday’s midterm elections.

Higher US energy stockpiles drove benchmark WTI crude to its longest losing streak in more than 30 years, with the tenth straight lower finish, while the dollar gained against the pound and the euro.

In equities, Frankfurt was the lone standout posting gains, while London, New York, Paris and Tokyo and Shanghai all crumbled, but New York indices were still higher for the week.

Hong Kong lost 2.4 percent on the day.

Chinese wholesale inflation numbers released Friday came in weaker than expected, possibly pointing to slackening demand, while auto sales were also lower.

Gregori Volokhine of Mee-schaert Financial Services told AFP there were “clear signs” of slowing in the Chinese economy amid the tariff battle between Washington and Beijing.

“But, while a trade war can be resolved through negotiation, an economic slowdown is a much more serious problem,” he said.

“Slowing growth in China represents a risk for everyone.”

Meanwhile, US wholesale inflation, also released Friday, was hotter than forecasts, diminishing chances the Federal Reserve will slow the pace of interest rate increases.

**Oil majors tank**

David Madden, analyst at CMC Markets, told AFP that “rising US stockpiles, rising US production -- which is now at a record-high -- and talk of Iraq and Indonesia raising output next year are all factors as to why oil is lower.”

Ongoing concerns about China slowing down is a factor too.”

Madden added that the “price needs to strike a balance, of being cheap enough to keep demand strong, and keep (US President Donald) Trump happy, but not so low that their oil revenue drops drastically.”

Capital Economics meanwhile warned that as the global economy slows into 2019 the US market would take a buffet.

“We think that the global economy will slow next year,” said the consultancy, which forecast the US stock market “will fall by nearly 15 percent in 2019.” —AFP
Let’s continue the fight against tuberculosis

Tuberculosis has been with us since prehistoric times, and accounts for thousands of years of war between humans and the TB bacillus, as well as for millions of deaths on the male side. The outdated state of controlling tuberculosis among the public is the “clandestine rotation of infections to desired and defined levels by specific interventions”. The public health professionals, policy planners and implementers are working on a united battlefield. Beginning with schools, public education on TB and its prevention must replace ignorance and complacency.

A lack of knowledge about transmitting TB and immunizations is blamed for causing the spread of the disease among the public. If people desist from spitting in public places, and if members of the public practice proper coughing and sneezing etiquettes, including covering one’s mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, the rates of TB will also fall in line. It is important for people to be able to spot early symptoms, report them to the nearest health department, and take prescribed medications.

The First Step

As Myanmar is rich in cultural and natural heritage, the first step must be taken for its heritage to be well-known worldwide and to be well protected. Prehistoric urban civilizations in Myanmar include Haung, Bhalan, and Sri Kestra and have already been recognized as World Heritage Sites. A line of writing covering one’s mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, the public practice proper coughing and sneezing etiquettes, including covering one’s mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, the rates of TB will also fall in line.

By Mhan Thit Nyein (Archeology)

National should have knowledge about Myanmar’s World Heritage sites

Our national heritage of culture can be one of the World Heritage Sites which happen to have an opportunity to be more famous under better protections.

By Mhan Thit Nyein (Archeology)

Our national heritage of culture can be one of the World Heritage Sites which happen to have an opportunity to be more famous under better protections.
Syria regime attack kills 23 rebels in truce zone

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — Syrian government forces killed 23 rebels near Idlib province on Friday, the deadliest clash to rock a buffer zone where a Russian-Turkish truce is to be enforced.

The attack on a position held by the Jaish al-Izza rebel group took place on the edge of the northwestern province of Idlib, in an area due to be de-militarised.

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, government forces moved in to take a high building held by the rebels in a rural area of neighbouring Hama province.

Idlib and some surrounding areas are the last major rebel bastion in Syria, where the Russian-backed government has in recent months retaken much of the territory it had lost since the civil war erupted in 2011.

It had threatened an assault on rebel territory, home to around three million people, but a deal for a de-militarised buffer zone around it was reached in September between Moscow and rebel backer Ankara.

Several deadly skirmishes have occurred since the deal but 23 is the highest number of known fatalities in a single incident inside the planned buffer zone, the Observatory said.

Gun battle kills 15 including 3 security personnel in West Afghanistan

QALA-E-NAW (Afghanistan) — Three security personnel and 12 militants have been killed as clashes erupted in Qadis district of the western Badghis province on Friday, head of provincial council Abdul Aziz Big said on Saturday.

The clashes, according to the official, flared up after Taliban militants stormed checkpoints in Langar area of Qadis district late Friday night, and the security forces returned fire which lasted for several hours, leaving 12 militants and three security personnel dead.

In the fighting, eight militants and 11 security personnel have been injured, the official said.

Neither police, nor Taliban have made comments on the report. — Xinhua

44 illegal immigrants rescued off western Libyan coast

TRIPOLI — The Libyan coast guards on Friday rescued 44 illegal immigrants off the coastal city of Zuwara, some 120 km west of the capital Tripoli.

The Security Directorate of Zuwara said in a statement that a coast guards patrol rescued the immigrants as their rubber boat broke down en route to Europe.

Four women and one child among the rescued immigrants are from different African nationalities, the statement said, adding that they have been provided with necessary humanitarian assistance upon arrival to Zuwara.

Thousands of illegal immigrants choose to cross the Mediterranean towards European shores from Libya due to insecurity and chaos following the 2011 uprising.

A total of 22,000 illegal immigrants have reached Europe from Libya since the beginning of the year, while 1,267 others drowned en route, according to the International Organization for Migration. — Xinhua

Saudi Arabia said it supported Saudi Arabia’s decision after the official Saudi Press Agency said the coalition asked for the “cessation of in-flight refueling support” from the United States.

Pentagon chief Jim Mattis said he supported Saudi Arabia’s “decision” after the official Saudi Press Agency said the coalition asked for the “cessation of in-flight refueling support” from the United States.

Riyadh’s grinding war in Yemen as caused growing international outcry, particularly after a string of high-profile coalition strikes that have killed scores of civilians, many of them children.

“Recently the Kingdom and the coalition has increased its capability to independently conduct in-flight refueling in Yemen,” the SPA said. “As a result, in consultation with the United States, the coalition has requested cessation of in-flight refueling support for its operations in Yemen.”

Mattis said: “We support the decision by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.”

In August the defense secretary warned that US support for the coalition was “not unconditional,” noting it must do “everything humanly possible to avoid any innocent loss of life.”

The Pentagon had provided refueling capabilities for about 20 percent of coalition planes flying sorties over Yemen.

Fresh offensive

Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened in the conflict between embattled Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, whose government is recognized by the United Nations, and the Huthis in 2015.

The Shiite Huthis rebels on Friday launched fierce barrages of mortar fire as they battled to slow an advance by pro-government forces deeper into the port city of Hodeida, military sources said. Their chief has vowed his troops would never surrender despite being vastly outnumbered, shelled government positions in the south of the Red Sea city, loyalist officials said.—AFP

Gun battle kills 15 including 3 security personnel in West Afghanistan

QALA-E-NAW (Afghanistan) — Three security personnel and 12 militants have been killed as clashes erupted in Qadis district of the western Badghis province on Friday, head of provincial council Abdul Aziz Big said on Saturday.

The clashes, according to the official, flared up after Taliban militants stormed checkpoints in Langar area of Qadis district late Friday night, and the security forces returned fire which lasted for several hours, leaving 12 militants and three security personnel dead.

In the fighting, eight militants and 11 security personnel have been injured, the official said.

Neither police, nor Taliban have made comments on the report. — Xinhua

44 illegal immigrants rescued off western Libyan coast

TRIPOLI — The Libyan coast guards on Friday rescued 44 illegal immigrants off the coastal city of Zuwara, some 120 km west of the capital Tripoli.

The Security Directorate of Zuwara said in a statement that a coast guards patrol rescued the immigrants as their rubber boat broke down en route to Europe.

Four women and one child among the rescued immigrants are from different African nationalities, the statement said, adding that they have been provided with necessary humanitarian assistance upon arrival to Zuwara.

Thousands of illegal immigrants choose to cross the Mediterranean towards European shores from Libya due to insecurity and chaos following the 2011 uprising.

A total of 22,000 illegal immigrants have reached Europe from Libya since the beginning of the year, while 1,267 others drowned en route, according to the International Organization for Migration. — Xinhua
Trump slaps down journalist for ‘stupid’ question

WASHINGTON (United States)—President Donald Trump instructed journalists on Friday to show more respect in the “sacred” White House and moments later angrily refused to answer a reporter’s question because it was “stupid.”

The latest clash between the president and the press corps assigned to cover him followed a meltdown on Wednesday when Trump lashed out at a star CNN reporter as a “terrible person” and had him barred from the White House.

In Friday’s incident, Abby Phillip, also from CNN, asked Trump whether he wanted his new attorney general to hold back an explosive probe into allegations that the president’s 2016 election campaign colluded with Russian agents.

The topic has been one of the main headlines in Washington since Wednesday when Trump abruptly fired Jeff Sessions as attorney general and named Matthew Whitaker, who has strongly criticized the Russia probe, to replace him. Critics have accused Trump of placing an ally who will try to muzzle special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation.

Trump, speaking just before leaving for an international gathering in Paris to commemorate World War I, refused to answer Phillip. “What a stupid question that is, what a stupid question. But I watch you a lot. You ask a lot of stupid questions,” he said, shaking a finger at the journalist, then walking away. Moments earlier he’d defended his decision to bar CNN reporter Jim Acosta following their exchange at Wednesday’s press conference, saying that Acosta “is a very unprofessional guy.” Asked how long Acosta could be denied the credential allowing him to work inside the White House, Trump said he hadn’t decided and seemed to indicate that the extremely unusual sanction could be applied to more journalists. “It could be others also,” he said.

Trump went on to refer to another reporter, April Ryan, who works for American Urban Radio Networks and CNN, as “a loser” and “very nasty.”

The president said that the bad blood between him and the media was the fault of journalists showing insufficient deference. “When you’re in the White House, this is a very sacred place to me. It’s a very special place. You have to treat the White House with respect. You have to treat the presidency with respect,” he said.—AFP

US mail bomb suspect indicted on 30 counts in New York

NEW YORK (United States)—US prosecutors in New York on Friday indicted the Florida man accused of sending pipe bombs to critics of Donald Trump with crimes that carry a maximum sentence of life in prison.

The 56-year-old, who lived in a van plastered with pro-Trump and anti-Democrat stickers before his 26 October arrest, was previously hit with a five-count complaint in the sunshine state. The registered Republican, who has a criminal history and reported past as a stripper, was subsequently flown to New York and appeared in a Manhattan court earlier this week, before the 30-count indictment was unveiled. Sayoc now stands accused of mailing 16 explosive devices, despite law enforcement officials previously alleging that he sent 11 critics of the US president a total of 13 different devices.—AFP

Turkey: 25 soldiers hurt after artillery ‘accident’

DIYARBAKIR (Turkey)—At least 25 Turkish soldiers were injured and seven were reported missing on Friday after an artillery shell exploded “accidentally” at a military base in the country’s southeast, authorities said.

Turkey’s defence ministry said the explosion occurred “while firing heavy weapon ammunition” at the base in Surugu Tepke in the Hakkari province near Turkey’s borders with Iraq and Iran. Twenty-five soldiers were hospitalised, but officials did not give details on the severity of their injuries. Seven soldiers were missing, the ministry said. The government has launched an investigation.

The provincial government of Hakkari said in a statement that “defective” ammunition exploded during artillery fire. It was not clear whether this happened during a combat mission, or an exercise.

Turkey’s predominantly Kurdish southeast has seen years of violent fighting between the Turkish army and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), classified a “terrorist” group by Ankara and its Western allies. Turkey also regularly bombs PKK bases in northern Iraq.

After a brief truce, fighting resumed in 2015, shattering hopes for a peaceful resolution to a conflict that has claimed more than 40,000 lives since 1984.—AFP

YANGON REGION REAL ESTATE SERVICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Yangon Region Real Estate Services Association incorporated has been established by company registration No.106276781 of investment and companies administration.

Above Association was organized by the following executive committees.

1. U Hu Myi Min	Chairman
2. Daw Myint Mo Mo	Vice Chairman
3. U Myo Myint Aung	Secretary
4. U Kyi Min Swe	Joint Secretary (1)
5. U Sai Aung Myint	Joint Secretary (2)
6. Daw Theingi Han	Joint Secretary (3)
7. Daw Than Than Htay	Treasurer
8. Daw Khin Khin Thaw	Joint Treasurer
9. U Thet Maung Oo	Audit
10. U Aung Kyaw Win	Executive Committee
11. Daw Mi Mi Naing	Executive Committee
12. Daw December Win	Executive Committee
13. Daw Su Sandar Maw	Executive Committee
14. U Aung Win	Executive Committee
15. Daw May Thu Khing	Executive Committee
16. Daw Myo Thuzaw Lwin	Executive Committee

Nyaung Pin Lay Plaza, (C) block, 3rd floor / financial quarter, corner of Strand Road and Lannawaddy Road, Lannadow Township, Yangon. Ph: 09 501 3589, 09 2543 12058, 09 5018 076, 09 4049 19945 Email: yresa2018@gmail.com
Xi-Trump scheduled meeting at G20 has great significance, says senior Chinese official

WASHINGTON — The scheduled meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump during the G20 summit in Argentina had great significance, said a senior Chinese official here on Friday.

Yang Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and also director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks at a press conference following the second China-US Diplomatic and Security Dialogue in Washington DC on 9 November, 2018.

PHOTO: XINHUA

Philippines announces charges against critical news site

MANILA (Philippines) — Philippine prosecutors said on Friday they will file tax evasion charges against a news website that has clashed with President Rodrigo Duterte, a case the outlet branded as an “intimidation” effort.

Rappler, which denies the allegations, is one of few Philippine media outlets openly critical of Duterte’s leadership, in particular his deadly anti-narcotics crackdown.

The government accuses Rappler Holdings Corp, the site’s CEO Maria Ressa and its president of tax crimes. —AFP

Sri Lanka’s president dissolves parliament, deepening crisis

Sri Lanka was plunged into the political crisis after Sirisena sacked Wickremesinghe on Oct. 26 and appointed China-friendly strongman Rajapaksa to replace him.

The following day, Sirisena suspended parliament until 16 November to prevent Wickremesinghe from proving his majority. — Kyodo News

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

BANGKOK — Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena late Friday dissolved parliament and announced a snap general election for 5 January, further deepening the country’s political crisis, Press Trust of India reported.

Sirisena, who last month abruptly sacked Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and replaced him with former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, signed a gazette notification dissolving the parliament with effect from Friday midnight, the report said.

Observers said he made the decision after it became evident that Rajapaksa did not have majority support in parliament, which was due to reconvene next week.

Wickremesinghe’s United National Party said in a statement that it “vehemently” rejects the dissolution of parliament. PTI quoted analysts as saying the dissolution was unconstitutional.

Wickremesinghe insists he is still the lawful prime minister according to the Constitution, claiming that the president violated parliamentary processes and the Constitution. He has refused to vacate his official residence.

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Police officers who apprehended the suspect are being treated for cuts and scrapes and are not thought to be in a serious condition.

Ashton said the authorities do not see any ongoing threat related to the attack. —AFP

PHOTO: AFP

Police work at the crime scene following a stabbing incident in Melbourne on 9 November, 2018.

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena (front) in Colombo.
Nine die in California wildfires, tens of thousands forced to flee

PARADISE (United States) — Nine people were declared dead and tens of thousands evacuated on Friday as fierce wildfires raged across the western US state of California, with one rapidly spreading blaze threatening the famed resort of Malibu.

All of the fatalities were reported in a massive late-season inferno in the town of Paradise, in Butte County north of the state capital Sacramento, where the entire population of 26,000 was ordered to leave, officials said.

The fast moving blaze, known as the “Camp Fire,” began on Thursday morning. Fanned by strong winds, it has scorched 70,000 acres (28,300 hectares) and has not been contained, the California Fire Department (Cal Fire) said.

Two other fires broke out in southern California, one in Ventura County near Thousand Oaks, where a Marine Corps veteran shot dead 12 people in a country music bar on Wednesday night.

“The magnitude of destruction we have seen is really unbelievable and heartbreaking and our hearts go to everybody who has been affected by this,” said Mark Ghilardeci, the director of the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services.

Late Friday Butte County Sheriff Korey Honea updated the Camp Fire death toll.

“It’s my sad duty to confirm that we now have a total of nine fatalities,” he said, four more fatalities beyond the five reported earlier.

Details were limited, and Honea did not release names of the victims.

“I don’t have all of the details because we have investigators out on the field attempting to get to those locations” where the casualties were reported, Honea said at a press conference.

But he did say that four people were found inside a vehicle in the Paradise area, while another was found nearby outside the vehicle. Three more were found outside a residence, and one inside a house.

Dozens of other people were reported missing. —AFP

Protests at Joburg zoo over widowed elephant

JOHANNESBURG — Johannesburg Zoo is under mounting pressure to send a lonely elephant to an animal sanctuary after her male companion died last month. Protestors dressed in elephant costumes have been demonstrated at the zoo entrance, while online petitions have garnered over 100,000 signatories, clamouring for 39-year-old Lammie to start a new life in the company of other elephants. She is the only elephant remaining at the zoo after Kinkel, her companion of 35 years, died from a long-standing colic problem. The zoo said it was standing firm in the face of the campaign.

“Lammie, after many weeks of being monitored, has been found to be coping extremely well and will therefore remain at the Joburg Zoo,” spokeswomman Jenny Moodley told AFP.

“Please allow us the latitude to continue to monitor her coping abilities stemming from the recent loss of her partner.”

Elephants are known for their intelligence and social nature. Animal rights activists have called for her to be moved to a sanctuary where she can roam free with other elephants.

“Lammie being kept in isolation is an immediate threat to her health and physiological, social and mental well-being,” Audrey Delsink, director at Humane Society International (HSI) Africa, told AFP. —AFP

African elephants, the largest land animals on Earth, sometimes live into their seventies. They are famously social animals, living in complex communities and forging relationships that can last a lifetime. PHOTO: AFP

Amphibians are known to breathe air and are known to be able to adapt to different environments. They can survive in both land and water. They are known to be able to adapt to different environments. They can survive in both land and water. PHOTO: AFP
Rare pink diamond aims to make $50 million

GENEVA (Switzerland)—The Pink Legacy, an exceptionally large pink diamond, is set to go under the hammer at Christie’s in Geneva next week, when it is expected to bring in up to $50 million. At nearly 19 carats, the vividly coloured gem is extraordinary. Jean-Marc Lunel, an international jewellery specialist at Christie’s, told AFP: “If you consider that most pink diamonds weigh less than a carat, it is really something,” he said. The gem, which on November 13 will be offered at auction for the first time, has been estimated at between $30 million and $50 million (26.5-44.1 million euros), and Lunel suggested it could hit the high end of that range. “It is probably the most beautiful (specimen) ever presented at public auction,” he said, insisting there was good reason to expect the rock to snatch an extraordinary price. The rectangular-cut diamond has been graded “fancy vivid”—the highest possible grade of colour intensity. Christie’s pointed out that in the salesroom, fancy vivid pink diamonds over 10 carats are “virtually unheard of” and that only four vivid pink diamonds or over 10 carats have ever been offered for sale at auction.

One of them, the nearly 15-carat Pink Promise, was sold last November at Christie’s auction in Hong Kong for $32.5 million. That amounts to $2.176 million per carat, which remains the world auction record price per carat for any pink diamond. — AFP

Hockney, Hopper chase headlines at NY art sales

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Rapper Ice Cube takes aim at Trump with new song

NEW YORK—Rapper Ice Cube on Friday released a new politically charged song with President Donald Trump squarely in the crosshairs.

A cut from the gangsta rap pioneer’s album set for a 7 December release, the song “Arrest the President” does not explicitly mention Trump but touches on some of his administration’s scandals including its controversial immigration policies and the probe into collusion with Russia. “Arrest the president, you got the evidence/That n***a is Russian intelligence/When it rains it pours,” Ice Cube raps.

“Did you know the new white was orange? Boy, you’re showing your horns,” the rapper continues, referring to Trump’s oft-mocked skin tone.

Mic drop: Alicia Keys left voiceless at Thai mall launch

NEW YORK—A year after the art market was changed forever by the eye-watering $450.3 million sale of a Leonardo da Vinci, fall auction season is back, looking to crack new records for artists, albeit from less illustrious heights.

The headliners next week in New York, the capital of the international art market, are an Edward Hopper, America’s most popular modernist, valued at $100 million, and British living legend David Hockney, whose iconic swimming pool picture painted in 1966—has remained a rallying cry for activists protesting police brutality and racism.—AFP

BANGKOK (Thailand)—A three day, $30 million launch party for Bangkok’s biggest and flashiest mall got off to a rocky start on Friday night when its star guest Alicia Keys was briefly left voiceless by a dodgy sound system. The 15-time Grammy Award winning artist was the main event late Friday at the $1.6 billion IconSiam, the latest massive mall development to compete in the Thai capital’s lucrative yet crowded shopping scene. Bangkok’s elite and international celebrities—including US actress Naomi Watts and K-Pop star Choi Si-won—attended the opening on the banks of the city’s Chao Phraya river in the historic section of the capital. Costs of putting on the inaugural events that last through the weekend were pegged at 1 billion baht, around $30 million. Keys emerged on stage in a black and white gown accompanied by helpers who carried the dress tail behind her. She bowed, waved to the audience and started performing. But the sound system didn’t play along, and the audience stood in confused silence, according to AFP reporters at the scene.

“We cannot hear you!” one man shouted helpfully. After realising what was happening Keys rolled with the punches and saluted the crowd as she waited a few minutes for the audio to be fixed. “I was wondering why y’all weren’t responding to my questions!” she said to waves of laughter and cheering as the concert commenced. Bangkok has seen exponential growth in its malls in recent years—fuelled by a small luxury-loving local elite and some 35 million annual tourists, a third from China, who flock to the country for sun, sand and shopping.

The malls have proved enormously profitable for the small coterie of politically connected family conglomerates that own them. But critics say they have also become a visible symbol of the huge inequality that pervades Thailand.—AFP
Russia may use RD-180 engine for super-heavy carrier rocket

ZHUHAI (China) — The RD-180 engine may be mounted on Russia’s super-heavy carrier rocket and modernized Soyuz-2 launchers, Energomash CEO Igor Arbuzov told TASS at the Airshow China exhibition on Friday.

“As part of the work to develop a concept of the super-heavy carrier rocket, the option of using the RD-180 engine on the second stage of the carrier rocket is being considered,” the chief executive said.

“Also, in view of its reliability and indisputable leadership in its class, the possibility of using it on newly-created and modernized domestic launchers is being considered. In particular, its use for modernizing Soyuz-2 rockets may be considered,” he added. As Energomash Chief Designer Pyotr Lavochkin explained, “This is consonant with the concept, which suggests that all the parts of the super-heavy rocket should be flight elements featuring their serial production and the statistics of launches.”

RD-180 engines are used on the first stages of US Atlas space launch vehicles and have never been mounted on domestic rockets. An engine variant was planned for its use in the project of the Russian Rus-M carrier but the program was halted.

Contracts signed by Energomash for the delivery of RD-180 engines to the United States are valid through 2020, however. The first RD-180 engines delivered to NASA would be transferred to the US side. Energomash may also exercise an option on the delivery of RD-180 engines to the United States in 2021. In 2014, the US Congress imposed a ban on the use of RD-180 engines amid a deterioration of relations with Russia but lifted it in 2015 when it became clear that the United States would be unable to manufacture rocket engines of its own in the next few years. However, as NASA Chief Jim Bridenstine said in August, the United States will continue developing alternatives to RD-180 engines.

Hawking auction raises astronomical sum

LONDON (United Kingdom) — A copy of Stephen Hawking’s doctorate thesis signed in a shaky hand was the highlight of an auction of the British physicist’s personal items in London, which raised nearly £1.4 million ($1.8 million, 1.6 million euros).

The copy, one of only five original manuscripts of the thesis entitled “Properties of expanding universes,” smashed pre-sale expectations four times over to sell for £584,750 at the Christie’s sale, which ended on Thursday.

A red leather wheelchair that Hawking used from the late 1980s to the mid-1990s, driving himself using a joystick, sold for £296,750 while an early edition of his best-selling book “A Brief History of Time” marked with a thumbprint, fetched £68,750.

A script from one of his appearances on the television series “The Simpsons” was one of the 22 lots under the hammer, selling for £6,250.

The collection highlighted the brilliance, determination and sense of humour of Hawking, who died in March aged 76 after a lifetime spent trying to unlock the secrets of the universe.

Hawking published his thesis in 1965, two years after being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a form of motor-neurone disease that would eventually leave him paralysed.

His first wife Jane typed out the 117 pages but he added two hand-written signatures and the words “This dissertation is my original work” at the front, as well as several mathematical equations inside.

When the document was made available online last year by Cambridge University, where Hawking spent his career, it was so popular that it crashed the website.

American, Chinese scientists make heat-rejecting film into air-conditioner

WASHINGTON — American and Chinese researchers developed a heat-rejecting film that could reflect 70 per cent of the sun’s incoming heat in a building’s windows.

The study published on Thursday in the journal Joule described the material that remained highly transparent below 32 degrees Celsius but could act as an “autonomous system” to reject heat above that temperature.

If every exterior-facing window in a building were covered in this film, the building’s air conditioning and energy costs could drop by 10 per cent, according to researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of Hong Kong.

The film is embedded with tiny micro-particles, made from a type of phase-changing material that shrinks when exposed to high temperature, turning into a more translucent or frosted look.

It can cool a building while still letting in a good amount of light, offering an affordable and energy-efficient alternative to existing smart window technologies, according to Nicholas Fang, a professor of mechanical engineering at MIT.

The researchers created a 12-by-12 inch film-coated window. The window turned frosty in response to heat from a solar simulator.

They measured the solar irradiance transmitted through the other side of the window, and found the film was able to reject 70 per cent of the heat produced by the lamp.

They also lined a small chamber with the film and measured the temperature inside. Without the film, the inner temperature heated to about 39 degrees Celsius, while with the film the inner chamber stayed at a more tolerable 34 degrees.

“That’s a big difference,” said Fang. “You could make a big distinction in comfort.”

— Xinhua
MFF to release Myanmar lineup for AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 on 11 November

MYANMAR Football Federation will release a new lineup of Myanmar national men’s football squad intended for AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 on 11 November.

Myanmar tentatively selected squad has been doing an intensive training since 8 November when they arrived in Mandalay. Myanmar’s head coach Mr Antoine Hey brought 25 preliminarily selected players to the rigorous training after ruling out two players—Htike Htike Aung and Myo Ko Tun due to their injuries.

Myanmar will play its debut home match against Cambodia in Mandalay Thiri Stadium at 6 pm on 12 November. Myanmar-Cambodia tickets are now available at Bahtoo Sports Ground, Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay) and Central Point Shopping Mall.

MFF-ANA Football Clinic opens

MFF-ANA Football Clinic organized by Official Airline ANA of Myanmar Football Federation was opened at the office of the MFF on 10 November.

At the outset, U Phone Naing Saw, CEO of MFF, said, “ANA, the official airline sponsor to the MFF organizes the Football Clinic. It will make its children make progress in the soccer play by assigning to Japanese coaches to give teaching to those participating in Football Clinic. Japan and Myanmar have had excellent football relations. The children from Football Clinic should try to become the ones on whom the country can rely.” General Manager Mr Suzuki Yasuyuki of ANA extended greetings on the occasion and MFF-ANA Football Clinic was open with the officials kicking balls into the pitch.

Present on the occasion were U Phone Naing Zaw, CEO of the MFF, U Ko Ko Thein, General Secretary of the MFF, U Hsu Aung, COO of Myanmar National League, U Tin Myint Aung, Joint Secretary of the MFF (Technical), Director U Tun Tun Aung of the MFF and the officials, General Manager Mr. Suzuki Yasuyuki of ANA and officials, the children from Football Clinic, their parents and coaches.

Coordination meeting on MPT MNL 2019 football season takes place

A COORDINATION meeting on MPT Myanmar National League 2019 for the new football season was held at the meeting hall of the first floor of Thuwunna Stadium on 9 November.

The coord meeting focused on negotiations over draft of fixtures for MNL-I and MNL-II and regulations on MNL football season for 2019. Some paragraphs described in the MNL regulations were supplemented and the professional football clubs entered in the discussion round of supplemented provisions.

The first legs of MPT MNL-I 2019 will commence on 12 January and end on 12 May.

The second leg will resume on 15 June and end on 15 September. Similarly, MPT MNL II 2019 will kick off on 8 February and end on 27 July.

Present on the coordination meeting were U Phone Naing Zaw, CEO of Myanmar Football Federation, U Soe Moe Kyaw, CEO of Myanmar National League, U Hsu Aung, COO of MNL and officials, director U Tun Hla Aung of Refereeing Department of the MFF, Director U Kyaw Lin Htwe of MFF, CEOs, managers and coaches from the football clubs and the official concerned.
LOTs of people are being alive in this human world by working in their respective workplaces. Some people may work in rough and tough workplaces. Some people may work in smooth and affluent workplaces. Among them, I would like to evince about some people who are working in an ordinary exceptional workplace. They are not the businessmen. They are not the doctors. They are not the engineers. They are just persons who are working in a garden of colorful flowers. They can create the world to be colorful with beautiful flowers. Moreover, they can give birth to many honorable people. They are “TEACHERS”.

Teachers are like gardeners of colorful flowers because they water the flowers he or she is growing with their love and knowledge. They pull out and cut the unnecessary things for growing their lovely flowers. They sacrifice most of their time for their sons and daughters who were born by their heart. So, they are like the gardeners of the beautiful flowers which can beautify the world. Not only can they are the gardeners of the beautiful flowers but they also are the shady trees for their pupils. They protect their pupils from the hotness by their love.

Moreover, teachers are like potters who make earthenware pots. Potters strike strongly to become good and durable pots. Like them, teachers sometimes scold and strike their pupils to become good and not to do inappropriate things for them. By doing so, some of the students may hate the teachers. But teachers can accept their hate if their pupils get goodness. Every teacher loves their students but sometimes they have to sacrifice their love for them.

Light candles give people lightness to see clearly. In much the same way, teachers give the light of knowledge to their pupils to see their future bright. Not only do they give the knowledge of curriculum but they also give their students the knowledge of their experiences as examples of life. Teachers probably were fallible in the past. They, however, give those faults to their students not to make the similar faults as they did. They always make their pupils decide to choose the right way for their lives. Thusly, they are the guides for our lives.

Some students may misunderstand teachers for scolding them or striking them. However, only when they achieve the greatness did they realize the teacher’s love. Teachers’ love and spirit are very great and we cannot fulfill the debt of teachers’ gratitude easily. We should not be the wrong sin against teachers’ love even if we cannot owe the gratitude of the teachers. Therefore, I would like to express the greatness by writing out the strings of the above words.
(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

**Answer**

1. The girl said that she wanted to be a teacher.
2. Ko Ko said that he did not know how to swim.
3. Mother said that there would be a film show there that night.
4. She told Ko Ko that she had been waiting for him since morning.
5. He asked Khin Khin if he had ever been to Moulmein.
6. She told Maha Swe that she did not know what she wanted.
7. The captain ordered the soldiers to wait there.
8. She exclaimed that the girl was very tall.
9. Khin Khin asked the boy what he was doing there.
10. She told me not to be angry with her.
11. He saw a policeman coming towards him.
12. This is a book written by Maha Swe.
13. He asked her whether she was pleased with her life.
15. She told Ko Ko where her daughter was.
16. He asked her when she would leave for Mandalay.
17. I heard the girl playing the piano.
18. She asked her why she had sold the car.
19. He asked her if she had been waiting for him.
20. Ko Ko said that he did not know how to swim.
21. She told Ko Ko that she had been waiting for him.

**Participles**

*Present Participle* (Subject) *Present Participle* 

1. Intending to buy a car, he came down to Yangon.
2. The box being very heavy, Ko Ko could not carry it.
3. I saw a boy swimming across the lake.
4. The girl standing under the tree is my daughter.
5. Being an obedient son, he never argues with his parents.
6. This is a book written by Maha Swe.
7. The doctor sat beside the elderly lady on the bed.
8. The children playing in the garden are from our school.
9. The children are playing in the garden.
10. He is serving in the Air Force.
11. He saw a policeman.
12. This is a house.
13. She noticed a tall man standing near her car.
14. They found their son sleeping under a tree.
15. They sat under the palm-trees enjoying the sea breeze.
16. They enjoyed the sea breeze.
17. There is a man waiting for you near the gate.
18. She was signing a classical song.
19. He heard the girl singing a classical song.

**Present Participle**

1. The rising sun
2. a fishing boat
3. a speaking class
4. a training school

(b) *Present Participle* 

1. I am writing a short story at the moment.
2. She is making tea now.
3. They are looking for jobs at present.
4. I came out while she was singing.

(c) **Present Participle**

1. Ko Ko opened the door.
2. Ma Ma opened the door.
3. She called out my name.
4. They sat under the palm-trees.

**Present participle adjective**

1. The girls are pretty.
2. The girls working in this factory are pretty.
3. The girls in this factory.
Today is a propitious day for our family. We are going to accept our mother’s footprints. My brothers and sisters including myself are happy and active for this mini family ceremony. We all get up early in the morning and prepare to wait for the Sayardaw who is a venerable monk we invited ahead of time. Sayardaw will get home at 5 a.m. sharp. We will offer alms-food and other things for donation. Then, the Sayardaw will make a sermon about the accepting of mother’s footprints and we will have to listen to it with excitement and much interest.

Accepting mother’s footprints is one of the traditional customs of Myanmar people mostly Buddhists. Moreover, every Myanmar family should practice it since it is never heard in the other countries. If a family has both father and mother, the children can accept the footprints of their father and mother. However, if the father or the mother passes away, the children just accept the footprints of the one who is alive.

For our family, we address the Sayardaw and he chooses an auspiciously suitable date on which all the children can be present and the weather will be fine to accept my mother’s footprints. Some of such mini ceremonies are held in the monastery but we did it in our own house. We will make traditional snacks to share to my intimate neighbours after the Sayardaw will have returned to the monastery. It will be our negligible donation but it is full of goodwill and loving kindness of our family.

Just before the Sayardaw arrives at home, we make our mother have a good bath with scented water and also make her get dressed with fine clothes. After that, we are waiting for the arrival of the Sayardaw. When the Sayardaw gets home, we observe five precepts from Sayardaw and listen to the sermon and the admonition of the Sayardaw. Then we offer alms-food. The Sayardaw has the proper amount of it. After having the meal, before the Sayardaw, all the children including me pay respectful homage to our mother and deeply requested her, “Please, Mom, leave behind your footprints which comprise of your peaceful love and kindness to us in order that we are able to worship them for our whole life.”

Tears well up in our mother’s eyes but a smile is worn on her lips gracefully. We can feel mother’s sadness and delightfulness at the same time. She set her feet into the paste of Thanaka mixed with various kinds of fragrance and then onto the clean and white cloth. Her footprints get stained on the cloth vividly and distinctly.

Then, mother gently contributed some words of admonition to each of us. “I’ve already given you all not only my footprints but the responsibilities to preserve our hereditary ancestry and to walk the road along which our ancestors including me have ever walked. Those who accept the foot prints of their parents have to understand that they are going to perform the responsibilities in maintaining the honour of our heredity and that of our fatherland. May my sons and daughters realize the deepest essence of accepting the foot prints of the parents.”

There is a brief silence among us. The Sayardaw leaves for the monastery already but we cannot speak one another for a while. I think we have got a definite subject to be seriously thought which comes from our mother’s words.
Myanmar’s sea turtles fight against the odds

Myanmar’s waters boast five of the world’s seven sea turtle species, including the critically endangered hawksbill, the endangered green turtle and the olive ridley, leatherback and loggerhead turtles – all listed as vulnerable. Peril plagues the lives of Myanmar’s baby turtles: if crabs don’t get them before they scramble from beach to sea, then poachers or fishing trawlers might finish them off instead.

“If we don’t conserve the turtles properly, they will all disappear in the near future,” head ranger Phone Maw tells AFP on Thameehla Island in the Ayeyarwady Delta. The 56-year-old has devoted most of the last two decades to the creatures, scouring the island’s 1.5-mile (2.5-kilometre) long coastline three times a night for nesting females.

The reptiles, which can grow to more than a metre in length and weigh as much as a large piano, lay around 100 eggs in a hole dug with their hind flippers before covering the clutch with sand and returning to the water. Poachers are the first danger, even at this conservation site dedicated to the marine reptiles. Turtle eggs can sell for a dollar each, around 10 times the price of a chicken egg.

An army of red crabs scuttled to drag away some hatchlings while more fortunate siblings floundered in the frothy waters, the first hurdle of their existence complete.

But trawler nets are the biggest culprit in the turtles’ dwindling population, entangling the creatures which must surface to breathe. Illegal dynamite fishing and sand dredging are also lethal and the effect of marine pollution has been devastating.

Southeast Asia’s waters are choked with plastic and more than half of the eight million tonnes dumped into the world’s oceans each year comes from just five countries: China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand.

In June, a dead green turtle washed up on a Thai beach, its stomach jammed with plastic shreds, rubber bands and other debris. Days before, an autopsy of a pilot whale revealed 80 plastic bags inside.

At the end of October a WWF report warned that unbridled human consumption had destroyed much wildlife worldwide, wiping out 60 percent of all fish, birds, amphibians, mammals and reptiles in the last half century.

Just two out of every 1,000 turtle hatchlings used to survive until adulthood, Phone Maw says. “Now it’s even lower because of all the pollution,” he adds sadly.
I've just come back from a highschool reunion. Did you meet your old lover who left you?

Yes, I did.

Back then you were head over heels in love. How do you feel now that you’ve seen her?

I feel rather relieved. How come?

Because now she’s overweight. Ahh!

You two have decided to get married out of love. You will now walk together on life’s journey. You will face many difficulties.

But you will overcome them with unity. Don’t you worry about that, dad. We’re both pretty united in that area. We drink together, play cards together and have fun together, he he.

Haaa!
Honouring Women Nobel Laureates, 
A Brief History of Time and The First Three Minutes (Briefly) Juxtaposed

By Dr. Myint Zan

The 2018 Nobel prize in Peace has been awarded to Dr. Denis Mukwege and Ms. Nadia Murad in recognition of their selfless dedication and work to stem sexual violence against women especially but not limited to times of war. All fair-minded persons the world over would or at least should recognize their contributions and rejoice (in Buddhist terms ملاب ‘sympathetic joy’ in the awards given to Dr. Mukwe and Ms. Murad.

The 2018 Nobel prize in Physics could also rightly be regarded as a landmark. It is only the third time in the 117 year ‘Nobel history’ that Professor Dr. Donna Strickland, a female scientist, is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics albeit she shares with two other distinguished (male) Professors of Physics. One of them Professor Dr. Arthur Ashkin (born 2 September 1922) is 96 years old. He is the oldest person to receive any Nobel prize since the first ‘ Nobels’ were awarded in the year 1901.

The 2018 Nobel physics awards leads me to write about two books, both in English, one of them written by perhaps the world’s best known contemporary physicist (born after 1940) in the late 20th century. While he was alive that scientist was not awarded the Nobel prize in physics or any other Nobel awards. He is of course the late Stephen Hawking and the book—probably his best-selling work is A Brief History of Time(first published 1988). The second book is written by a Nobel physics laureate (of 1979 jointly with the late Abdus Salam of Pakistan, the first Muslim scientist to be awarded a Nobel Prize in the sciences) Steven Weinberg. He is, among others, the author of The First Three Minutes: A Modern View of the Origins of the Universe first published in 1977.

I mainly and initially learn my layperson’s knowledge of astrophysics and cosmology from the ‘popular’ (in the complimentary sense of the word) science works from the books by the late Carl Sagan (1934-1996). Subsequent to that I have also read three books written by Stephen Hawking the first one being Black Holes and Baby Universes(a collection of Stephen Hawking’s essays from ‘Is the End in Sight for Theoretical Physics?’ to ‘Is Everything Determined?’) which was first published in 1993. I read it soon after its first publication and I published a review of it in May 1994 issue of Malaysian Business.

The second book that I have read is written jointly by Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow The Grand Design (first published in 2010). I also read it several months after it was published. My understanding is that Professor Hawking first ‘outed’ himself as an atheist in that book notwithstanding his ‘tease’ so to speak in the last phrase of the last sentence of A Brief History of Time (in all its editions): ‘we would know the mind of God’. Stephen wrote that he considered ‘cutting’ that last phrase from the book but decided to retain it. Stephen writes that if he had ‘cut it’ sales of his books ‘would have been halved’ (Stephen Hawking’s book was on the New York Times best seller list for 217 weeks and in a subsequent edition he claims that one out of 750 men, women and children in the world had—supposedly—bought the book.)

My late mother Professor Dr. Daw Myint Myint Khin was one among the tens of millions of persons who bought the book (in New Delhi, India) when it was first issued in 1988. I noticed her jottings (some times in Burmese language) in the margins in her copy of the book. I am not sure though whether or not my late mother finished reading Stephen Hawking’s best seller.

I did buy another copy and a later edition of Stephen Hawking’s A Brief History of Time in January 2012 and (by ‘design albeit not A Grand Design’) I finished reading it on 8 January 2012 - Stephen Hawking’s 70th birthday. At that time I was teaching at the Faculty of Law at Multidisciplinary University, Malacca, Malaysia. I can sincerely say that I understand the ‘drift’ of at least 70% (some times after reading certain passages several times) but no more than 90% of what is written in Stephen Hawking’s masterpiece or best seller (the two terms are not necessarily identical or synonymous).

I do have more difficulty in understanding at times even perfunctorily The First Three Minutes perhaps less well-known than A Brief History of Time. As stated earlier The First Three Minutes was written by the 1979 Nobel Physics laureate Steven Weinberg (born 3 May 1933) and it was first published in 1977. I first learned about the book while studying for my Master of Laws degree at the University of Michigan Law School. I noticed Weinberg’s book on the reading list for the course ‘The One, the Many and the Good’ in Professor Don Regan’s class. (Professor Regan has taught in Michigan Law School since 1968 and is still teaching as of 2018.)

William Shakespeare’s King Lear, the late Stephen Jay Gould’s Ever Since Darwin, Thomas Nagel’s (born 4 July 1937) The Possibility of Altruism among those in Professor Regan’s reading list! I did not attend that particular course of Professor Regan but I did buy and read both Gould’s and Nagel’s book. I also bought, in 1982, Steven

SEE PAGE S-8
On Her Behalf

Piano,
Poetry,
and Painting

Could have been a part
Of the peaceful family life of this old Lady.
Yet these things she renounced;
For the sake of her people, she’s flung herself into the Flames of Life
For how long?

On her behalf, I’d request you all,
Once again, for the sake of our people,
To bring without fail
Piano,
Poetry,
and Painting
To the oncoming Peace Talks.

By Zaw Tun

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information:

1. Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.),
2. Own name and (if different) your penname,
3. Your level of education,
4. Name of your School/College/University,
5. A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses,
6. A color photo of the submitter,
7. Copy of your NRC card,
8. Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).

Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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Weinberg’s The First Three Minutes. Perhaps, I read it for about three hours before ‘giving up’. At least at that time it was quite difficult for me to fully comprehend it.

More than 30 years later I re-bought another copy of the book. In 2013 I read it in entirety about a year after I finished reading A Brief History of Time. I can (again) sincerely state that I understood at least about 60% but no more than 80% of what Steven Weinberg wrote. Hence based on my readings and recall I understood Weinberg’s work less than I understood Hawking’s. (I might add that my incomplete understanding of both books especially The First Three Minutes is due not only to the communication skills of these scientists which are excellent but due to my ‘small’ understanding.)

A Brief History of Timewas translated into the Myanmar language around 1998 by the late (U) Kyaw Zaw Yar (Pathein). I have not read the translated version.

Both Stevens (Stephens) starts the opening passage of their books which were first published 11 years apart (in 1977 and 1988 respectively) with reference to folklores regarding the ‘beginnings’ of the ‘world’. Weinberg opens his book with a Viking ‘creation myth’ with the caveat that one should be careful ‘not to offend religious sensibilities even Viking religious sensibilities’. Hawking introduces his readers to a more well-known folk lore namely the ‘world sits on a tortoise and … it turtles all the way down’.

Stephen Hawking’s ‘know(ing) the mind of God’ phrase in his best-seller is well-known but Steven Weinberg’s last sentence in his work is indeed inspiring. He writes: QuoteThe effort to understand the universe is one of the very few things that lifts human life a little above the level of farce, and gives it some of the grace of tragedy. Unquote.

The 2018 Nobel peace laureates have tried to alleviate and remedy the ‘tragedy’ (though such outrages do not have any ‘grace’ at all), cruelty and callousness of sexual violence against women. The other laureates, in their own disciplines, have indeed made great efforts to understand the Universe. The writer humbly congratulates them and also pays his tributes to them for their endeavours.

My Apology

I bow deeply and offer my apology to the newspaper’s esteemed readers after I accidentally copied the text entitled, ‘A Long Walk Home’, which is an excerpt from the book Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul, without giving credit to the original writer. It was published in the Sunday Special section on Sunday, 4 November, 2018.

By Khant Nyo Hein
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