Gov’t affirms readiness to repatriate displaced people from Rakhine State

The Committee on Repatriation and Resettlement of Displaced People from Rakhine State has expressed its readiness to allow the return of people displaced from Rakhine, at a rate of 150 people per day.

“We are ready to receive displaced people back at the rate of 150 people per day. As we have made arrangements to accept people coming by road or waterways, we can accept up to 300 persons every day,” said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye, at a press conference in Yangon yesterday. He is also the chairman of the Committee on Repatriation and Resettlement of Displaced People from Rakhine State.

In keeping with agreements reached with Bangladesh, the Myanmar government has been making efforts for repatriating displaced people by completing reception centers by 23 January, 2018. It has kept things in readiness for repatriation since then.

“We have worked out the repatriation process in accordance with the bilateral agreement. We are working to repatriate displaced people now in accordance with that agreement,” said the Union Minister. He said that at a recent bilateral meeting in Bangladesh, Dhaka agreed to send the first batch of 2,260 people to Myanmar in mid-November.

Divided into five groups, the officials are ready to carry out the scrutinizing process, and the processes for the application of citizenship will also be facilitated in accordance with existing laws, said the Union Minister. Returnees are free to move everywhere in Maungtaw Township, if they hold a National Verification Card.

“We held the press conference today to tell you that Bangladesh will be sending people back through waterways to the Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre,” he said.

“We have to be ready on our side. We have made strenuous efforts over several months to reach this development today,” said the Union Minister.

We have to be ready on our side. We have made strenuous efforts over several months to reach this development today.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye

From L to R: Director-General U Zaw Htay, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu and Director-General U Htay Hlaing are seen at the press conference on repatriation of returnees. PHOTO: MNA
Gov’t affirms readiness to repatriate displaced …

FROM PAGE 1

Officials said Sunday that returnees can receive an ID, called the National Verification Card, that will allow them to travel anywhere in the Maungtaw area of Rakhine State. They can then begin to apply for citizenship.

Arrangements are under way to provide clothes to returnees arriving at the camps. The Ministry of Health and Sports is ready with preventive measures against the spread of infectious diseases and other health measures.

“Returnees will be allowed to stay at each camp for two days and a night. Arrangements have been made for their food and accommodation,” the minister said.

The government is making arrangements to provide a month’s ration of food to returnees at the Hla Phoe Khaung Camp, where they will arrive via the reception camp, he said.

“Returnees will be allowed to stay at each camp for two days and a night. Arrangements have been made for their food and accommodation,” the minister said.

“There will also be monthly mobile clinics for people aged 85 and above. Teachers have also been assigned at a temporary school at the Hla Phoe Khaung Camp,” he said.

While staying at Hla Phoe Khaung Camp, persons holding NVCs will be allowed to move freely in Maungtaw area. Their stated addresses will be scrutinized, and if found correct, they will be allowed to return to them,” he added.

“We are going to come but they didn’t; authorities response to remarks from international organizations and human rights groups that say Myanmar is not ready to accept returnees and that there is no security yet, to what degree have you prepared for the ID/returnees’ safety; and how many houses and villages have been prepared.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye replied to the questions. He said the most recent meeting they conducted in Bangladesh came out with the result that the IDPs/returnees would start returning in mid-November. They also sent a list containing the number of returnees coming back, from which officials were able to see which villages are included in the list, he said. He said Myanmar’s side requested sending about a hundred to forty-five people from the same area to be repatriated first. The Bangladesh side replied that they will send back returnees on 15 November. Whether they sent them or not depends on them. We are ready to accept them from our side, he said.

Displaced people’s return depends on Bangladesh, Myanmar is ready to accept them.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye

Security. Kofi Annan recommendations emphasized

Concerning the question on security, the Union Minister said they have done everything required of them to do. He said they are implementing the necessary processes concerning sustainability, security, pre-planning, and the recommendations from Kofi Annan’s commission. He said they have already known about the 42 villages the returnees will be returning to and they plan to resettle the returnees exactly in those areas.

The Union Minister said their processes are clear because they have done what they need to do with honesty. He added that since Myanmar is an ASEAN member country, it has received cooperation from other member countries too. There has also been international aid offered to them, he said. He said there is trust from the international community which has led to gaining support from them. He added this can be seen as both encouraging and the beginning of accomplishments.

First batch of returnees coming through Nga Khu Ya center

Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu said the Home Affairs Minister held a meeting in Yangon in February this year. It was at that meeting the list for 8,052 was received and 5,000 of those people were carefully reviewed, he said.

Q and A session of Press Conference in Yangon for repatriation readiness in Rakhine State

A press conference on the repatriation of returnees was held where officials replied to questions from local and foreign journalists regarding the process.

Among the questions asked by journalists included questions asking whether the 2,260 returnees are really returning on 15 November since there have been cases like these where returnees were going to come but they didn’t; authorities response to remarks from international organizations and human rights groups that say Myanmar is not ready to accept returnees and that there is no security yet, to what degree have you prepared for the ID/returnees’ safety; and how many houses and villages have been prepared.

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SEE PAGE 3
Displaced people are eager to come back to Myanmar: Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu

FROM PAGE-2

He said Myanmar had sent back the scrutinized list of the 5,000 people and from those numbers, 2,260 people will be accepted as the first large batch of returnees through Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre in November.

He said the second batch of 2,095 returnees will be accepted through Taung Pyo Let Wae transit center. He said the special third force has been formed on the Bangladesh side and is led by the refugee commissioner based in Cox’s Bazar.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu denied news of suspicious activity occurring along the border fence on the other side.

As regards Myanmar’s response to the statement, saying that it is not ready yet, U Zaw Htay said the first point is that a committee was formed with the Union Minister. As the exact number of returnees cannot be known, 42 places were selected. Homes were built for resettlement of the returnees. An appropriate strength of security was stationed as the number of returnees is unknown. The 2260 returnees will be appropriately grouped and resettled at appropriate villages. Only then security measures can be taken. Then there will be health and education undertakings and care for women and children. Myanmar side is ready for all those measures. It will depend on the situation. The returnees have a plan to engage in their original occupation. There are persons who want the process to be a failure. NGOs are releasing negative statements, saying that those people should not be sent back as the situation is not ready yet. But work has been done under the agreement between the two countries. Myanmar is doing its part and making arrangements to accept the returnees as soon as they come back. The State Counsellor has instructed to get ready for the reception at any time. The volume of requirements can be known only at the time the reception process really starts. So, work is being carried out step by step. Myanmar Government is trying to be ready for the matter.

A citizen cannot lose his citizenship. A person who has firm evidence of his citizenship will be granted citizenship.

Director-General U Htay Hlaing

As regards the question on the length of time the process which will begin with the arrivals from sea will take, U Myint Thu said he had visited the Main village-tracts and met with representatives. He said he had explained in detailed the transit centre and matters relating to health and education with the help of required documents. They were distributed by the Ministry of Immigration and Population. The distribution process is still going on in Rakhine State. The main aim is to distribute information in their language. Those were the documents they would surely understand.

As regards the cooperation with the UN for repatriation of returnees from the neighboring country, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myint Thu said that when the Myanmar delegation visited the Putapalong camp, the displaced people were eager to meet with them.

“And I also mentioned earlier that we met with the Hindu communities there. All in all, they have 438 Hindu communities currently residing on the Bangladesh side. They are also very eager to come back to Myanmar,” said U Myint Thu.

“And for those who we met at the Putapalong camp, they also mentioned about their livelihood, education, health. So they are very much willing to come back,” he added. “We have a bilateral agreement with Bangladesh, Bangladesh will help to make sure that these people will come back voluntarily. And on our part, we have to receive them back with dignified manners. So we have to work together with Bangladesh,” said U Myit Thu.

He also assured the journalist that UNDP, UNHCR would be helping Myanmar in three phases: repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, saying “it is all on the pipeline at this moment.”

As regards the duration and daily reception rate, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye said it will take 14 or 15 days at a reception rate of 150 persons per day. A reception list including over 20,000 persons was received. The process will continue without any interruption.

In response to the question on the permitted movement area for NVC holders and arrangements in case the NRC is destroyed by fire, Director-General of Immigration and Population Department U Htay Hlaing said he had records. A citizen cannot lose his citizenship. A person who has firm evidence of his citizenship will be granted citizenship. NVC allows free movement in a township. An appropriate application must be filled for cross-township, districted or state movement. NVC will not mention or need to mention the word “Rohingya”.

As regards the citizenship program for returnees, Director-General of the Office of the State Counsellor U Zaw Htay said citizenship will be granted in accord with the citizenship law. Although it was slow in the initial period, the process has been facilitated. After the township, district and state level processes have been completed, the case was sent to the Board of Ministers. The whole process will be facilitated. Arrangements are underway to grant all the NVC rights to NVC holders.
If there any issue arises regarding to repatriation, we will resolve it through diplomatic channel: Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu

FROM PAGE-3

In connection with the work of gathering information, the Ministry of Information has made arrangements to provide the media with information as soon as the reception process starts. Information will also include scrutinization and reception methods.

As regards the fear of Buddhist Rakhines, the Union Minister has already explained the issue at the Hluttaw for three times. Each time there was a meeting with social organizations. There were meetings with leaders of grassroots in Nay Pyi Taw and CSO leaders, said U Zaw Htay.

Meetings were held frequently with party leaders. Moreover, the matter was also consulted with the Sayadaws. There were also informal meetings with political forces.

Myanmar sent the list of 51 terrorists to Bangladesh and the neighbouring country is obliged to transfer back them to Myanmar in accordance with the law.

Director-General U Zaw Htay

Especially, groups from both sides are partaking in the Diversity Management conducted by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. There are many on-going processes. Informal discussions were held with leaders of Buddhist Rakhines and other ethnics including Mro, Thet, Khami. Frank discussion were held with them how long will they stay, it depends on the information that we can receive from them. They have to provide their original village of residence; otherwise we cannot verify their original place. So that’s why I explained to the people, the representatives at the Putalapon camp, to please provide detailed information of your village, your village-tract, your township, so that our immigration officer can easily verify,” said Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu.

So at this moment we are planning to relocate them back to 42 village-tracts.

“We will receive the 8032 from the Bangladesh side and then the minister himself visited the camp and explained to them about the voluntary return. And I also explained to them about voluntary and dignified return. So we try our best and Bangladesh also need to promote awareness among the people at the camp. So it’s the responsibility of both sides,” said Myint Thu.

Regarding the different number of returnees, U Soe Aung, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, said it is found that some names are repeatedly mentioned in the list sent back by Bangladesh to Myanmar. Rakhine State Government, Ministry of Immigration and Population and Ministry of Foreign Affairs found the errors during the check, and that is why the total number of returnees reached 2,251.

Director-General U Zaw Htay said Myanmar sent the list of 51 terrorists to Bangladesh and the neighbouring country is obliged to transfer back them to Myanmar in accordance with the law, saying that that is a new procedure. Myanmar will act in accordance with the procedures if they are included in the returnees.

Director-General U Zaw Htay Hlaing said NVC will not state the words Rohingya and Bengali. Citizenship application will be under the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law. The law categorizes three types – citizen, foreigner registration certificate holder and citizenship granted persons. Returnees will be granted with the relevant types depending on the documents and evidence they hold.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has adopted a smartcard project for the people living in Myanmar. Each person will get a number that is supportive to all his personal affairs including health, education and social sectors and the e-government. The ministry is implementing citizenship system by using the smartcard system which would be supportive to an e-government. Director-General U Zaw Htay said the work will start in 2019. In the project, each person will have his own identity. It will not be folded. But it will state the name, date of birth, and ID No of the holder. As it will have no detailed facts, there cannot be any disputes.—MNA

Hindus celebrate Deepavali Festival in Yangon

THE DEEPAVALI Celebration 2018 was held at Yangon City Hall yesterday evening. The ceremony was held by Embassy of India, Hindu people, Myanmar-India international business cooperation and Myanmar-India Commonwealth Association.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Ministers, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Ministers for the Yangon Region, Ambassadors from Foreign Embassies in Yangon, Chairpersons from respective associations and Hindu representatives.

During the ceremony, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker and attendees opened the ceremony by cutting the ceremonial ribbon followed by lighting the oil lamps. This was followed by welcoming speeches by the Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Thereafter, Chairperson of the ceremony organizing committee U Zaw Zaw Naing expressed his thanks. Hindu traditional dances and Indian songs and dances were also performed at the ceremony.—Ye Htut

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)
New Yangon dry port to transport cargo to Myitnge port on Sundays

By May Thet Hnin

KM Terminal and Logistics Ltd launched a dry port in Ywathagyi Township in Yangon on 11 November to transport cargo to the Myitnge dry port in the Mandalay Region. The service will run once a week.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by U Thant Sin Maung, the Union Minister for Transport and Communications, deputy ministers and officials from the Yangon Region government, the Singaporean Ambassador, and businesspersons.

On the day of the launch, the 19th freight train was operated from the Yangon dry port to the Myitnge dry port. Freight trains were operated between the Myitnge dry port and the Wardan jetty on a trial basis before the official launch of Yangon dry port.

The two dry ports were built at a cost of US$55 million. The ports were constructed under a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) system, with Singapore-based Kerry Logistics Network Ltd., investing 70% investment and Myanmar-based Mother Logistics Co. Ltd., investing the remaining 30%.

The Yangon dry port was built at a cost of $40 million, while the Myitnge dry port cost $15 million.

The two dry ports will cater for export and import businesses, round-the-clock services. For export and import businesses, the ports will offer services such as loading, discharge, and delivery as well as cargo storage, door-to-door. Additional services will cover clearing and maintenance of containers, IT tracking and tracing of cargo, and on-site weighing. Cargo insurance and import-export duty exemption are also provided at the ports.

The ports will collect freight charges and taxes as per rates set by Myanma Railways. Depending on the services offered, service fees will be levied. The port operators will allow between 15 and 27 carriages to run between the two dry ports. One carriage can carry 33 tons of goods.

“We need at least 15 carriages of cargo to run the service. For the time being, the company will allow a freight train to run one round trip each week. The train will leave Ywathagyi dry port every Sunday. From next year, the train will run twice a week. Depending on the demand, freight trains are expected to operate daily in the future,” said U Nyi Htut.

The project is expected to generate a profit in the next six years.

The dry ports have been constructed with the aim supporting freight traffic between upper and lower Myanmar. Freight trains are expected to run through the Myawady, Maesout, and Muse routes in the future. Myanmar also intends to create a trade network with neighbouring India, China, and Thailand. Preparations are underway to provide transit services between the countries.

The Yangon dry port has been constructed on 26 acres of land of the total 40 acres set aside for it in Ywathagyi Township. Based on the growth of business, the remaining 14 acres will be used for the project over the next six years. At the port launch yesterday, Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung said that the existing railway roads will be upgraded for freight transport. He urged called for increased cooperation between the government and private businesses to develop the transport services business.

At present, the Ministry of Transport and Communications is making a feasibility study in Monywa to develop a dry port in partnership with a Korean Company.

Agro exports increase 12% this FY

The export value of agricultural products in the current financial year topped US$213 million, up by $25.9 million, or 12 per cent, compared with the same period last year, according to a report from the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period last year, the country sold $187 million worth of agricultural commodities.

This year, there were no exports of agro products from the public sector between 1 October and 2 November. Only private companies continued to export to their international trade partners.

Myanmar exports a wide range of agro products, including rice, beans, and pulses; onion, garlic, ginger; and other kitchen crops; watermelons, mangoes, avocados, cucumbers, and other fruits and vegetables; and rubber and other raw materials.

During the first 33 days of this FY, the country exported $41.9 million worth of animal products, $82.3 million worth of marine products, $102 million worth of minerals, $18.6 million worth of forest products, over $700 billion worth of manufactured goods, and other miscellaneous products valued at $108.6 million.

While there was a decrease in the value of minerals and forest-based products, the export of remaining products increased by nearly $262 million.—Shwe Khine (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)
Myanmar hosts int’l yachting event

MYANMAR opened the U-15 Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship (AOAC) at Ngwesaung beach over 150 miles west of Yangon yesterday with the participation of over 130 sailors from 16 countries.

Host Myanmar also fielded an 18-member team — 10 boys and eight girls — in the sailing event whose goal includes the development of country’s tourism industry and sailing sports.

After the team-wise introduction process, President of Myanmar Yachting Federation U Hpone Kyaw Moe Myint and Vice-Chair of International Optimist Dinghy Association gave speeches.

A public area is set up at Ngwe Saung Yacht Club and Resort for spectators of the six-day event from 11 to 16 November.

Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship is a yachting event recognized by International Optimist Dinghy Association.

Myanmar Yachting Federation hopes that the yachting event at a famous beach resort in Ayeyawady Region will arouse public interest in the sports, strengthen youth development programs and develop yachting infrastructure and facilities and tourism.—MNA ■ (Translated by TMT)

Yangon-Mandalay railroad upgrading project launched

THE first phase of Yangon-Mandalay railroad upgrading project covering a 166-mile session mostly lying in Bago Region south of Yangon was launched yesterday.

The four-year project will be implemented under Japanese ODA loan, and when completed travelling time between Yangon and Bago will take only an hour and between Bago and Mandalay, seven hours.

Seventy-two per cent of the 166-mile section is in Bago Region as it includes 46.25-mile Bago-Nyaunglaybin section and the 166-mile section is in Ayeyawady Region as it includes 73.25 Nyaunglaybin-Toungoo section totaling 119.5 miles.

At the launching ceremony held at Nyaunglaybin, Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Ichoro Maruyama and special envoy of Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA Mr Masayuki Karasawa gave speeches. Also present were MPs, officials of Myanmar Railways and the contractor company and local people.—Hein Htet (IPRD) ■

Cattle-laden lorry seized in Katha Township, Sagaing Region

POLICE seized a lorry transporting cattle illegally near Nyaungpingwin Village, Katha Township, Sagaing Region on 10 November and arrested two men.

Acting on a tip-off, police organized a search on the Mandalay-Bhamo road at 10 pm on 10 November and intercepted a 12-wheel lorry carrying 15 buffalos and eight cows.

The lorry’s driver, Tun Win Naing, and another man, Win Ko, were arrested by the township police and charged for not having legal documents for exporting animals.

The cattle were while being transported to China, said Sub-Inspector Soe Thu Lwin.—Lu Aung (Katha) ■ (Translated by KTL)
Union Minister invites suggestions from young generation

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint invited suggestions and general thoughts from young people regarding a wide variety of reform issues, during a meeting yesterday.

At his meeting with a new generation of youths involved in the political, legislative, economic, health and education sectors in Yangon, the Union Minister said, “Youths at this meeting may have many ideas for the country, as these youths include foreign-trained scholars involved in international organizations and business companies.”

He also expressed his belief that the meeting would identify appropriate areas of cooperation and produce valuable opinions and views, as he encouraged free and open discussions from all participants.

Eleven youths from the political, legislative, economic, health and education sectors discussed a wide range of ideas, including the rights and difficulties of the on-going democratic transition process, programs for health care, enacting proper legislative steps, and offering information about Myanmar through the distribution of films.

In response, the Union Minister called for ardent participation from youths with international knowledge in the political affairs of the country, as their involvement would help in the nation’s development, along with improving their own abilities.

Movie views
After taking part in the meeting held at the Motion Picture Development Sub-Department of Information and Public Relations Department, the Union Minister delivered an address regarding the views of youths about film and the development of Myanmar’s animation films for children, at the Myanmar Film Development Centre.

At a follow-up workshop, the speaker and three youths took part in discussions about international film schools and how Movie views

Myanmar consumer goods imports touch $410 million

MYANMAR’S consumer goods imports rose by 12.5 per cent to touch US$411.6 million during the first 33 days of the present fiscal year 2018-2019 compared with the same period last year, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 27 October and 2 November this year, Myanmar imported consumer goods worth over $110 million. The country also imported other goods worth $1.2 billion, including capital goods worth $546.5 million and semi-finished goods worth $685.4 million, via land and sea.

During this period, the government imported commodities worth $144 million, while private sector imports stood at nearly $1.5 billion.

The country’s total imports reached $9.8 billion, an increase of 8.1% compared with the same period last year. According to the ministry’s monthly statistical report, the country’s total imports reached a peak of $18.7 billion in the last 2017-2018 FY. Myanmar’s imports were valued at $9 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, $13.8 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $16.6 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $16.5 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, and $17.2 billion in the 2016-2017 FY—Swe Nyein (Translated by Khang Thanda Lawin)

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Media must ensure accuracy, protect sentiment

Rape trials and restoulement are important responsibilities for committees working to resolve the Rohingya issue, which has continued for years and is related to Myanmar’s politics and security. The first group of over 20,000 displaced people are to be accepted back, 150 persons per day, beginning 15 November. We have been preparing to receive them since January 21.

Ten days ahead of the repatriation, the Daily Star newspaper published an article in which a spokesperson from the Bangladesh Border Guard Police claimed that shots were fired 17 times from a police outpost near the Myanmar-Bangladesh Border Guard Police claimed that shots were fired 17 times from a police outpost near the Myanmar-Bangladesh border and as a result, a fifteen-year-old cocker spaniel named Nandu had died. At a time when Myanmar is getting ready to accept the returnees, such incorrect reporting has caused anxiety among communities, harmed Myanmar’s image and the performance of the country’s leaders, who have improved constructively and systematically working on the repatriation.

The credibility of the media is lost when there is a tendency to fall in line with the false information, which can only mislead the public, and their hardline attitude has created unreasonable demands leading to stopping several week-long demonstrations. Such demonstrations caused harm to basic rights of the employees, and for the part of employee, there are a drop in productivity, issue and consumer’s confidence, protecting their rights. If the situation is not resolved, it may be no more orders thereby resulting in closing of the factories. Moreover, these workers are involved in the demonstration may be dismissed by the demonstrators. It is time to tackle these problems.

The Current Situation of CMP

Bangladesh is the largest importer of garment industries are the main players in CMP in 1999, there was only 25 garment factories in Yangon. The numbers reached 200 in 1999. In 2011, over 3000 employees are working at 630 factories in Yangon. In 2016, there are 290 factories with 100 per cent FDI contributing 38.28 per cent in exports. Under Joint Venture constituting 64.21 per cent and 109 factories with 40 per cent FDI contributing 25.79 per cent. Such factories with strong FDI and FVIE which can provide many jobs to local people and are now facing closure as follows due to demonstrations resulting in drops in orders –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factories</th>
<th>Number of Employees</th>
<th>Closing Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Apparel Manufacturer</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Dongseong Garments</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Dongsheng International Co Ltd</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Ferrari Garment</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Far East Garment</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table below shows that Myanmar workers’ wages are very low in comparison with wages of other CMP garment factories workers in other countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Wages Per Hour (Mm)</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above-mentioned table shows that it is beyond our ability concerning the distance. So we should put our focus on not to take too much time periods and to reduce the production time. If it will take too much time at the part, the production time will be shortened. At such a time, overtime works are to be loaded on workers and there may work 10 to 12 hours per day. The workers are manipulating and due to such long hours, the quality may be low. This will really cause customers’ dissatisfaction leading to factory closure. To be continued!

Reasons Why Wages are Low in CMP Industries

In the world why wages are low in Myanmar’s CMP industries, It is found that the wages provided to domestic garment factory owners by customers abroad who make orders by providing new raw materials are not related to real costs but based on the norms of international markets. According to geographical conditions, Myanmar has to import raw materials from the neighboring countries. Therefore, the situation the consigners subtract the logistic fees from the fees of making garments. Thus, the garment factory owners always get the amount of money lesser than the actual cost of the neighborhood countries. The general expenditure includes logistic fees, domestic supporting fees, logistic fees and power and fuel cost are higher than China and other ASIAN countries. This can be found in the paper written by researcher Mr. Toshihiro Kudo of Japan Institute of Development Economies – Location Advantages and Disadvantages in Myanmar. The Carpenters Industry, May 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Process</th>
<th>To Europe Market</th>
<th>To Japan Market</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Raw materials</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sewing machine</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cutting</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sewing</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Inspection</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table shows that Japan topped the list of top-five countries exporting raw materials in 2018 and that Germany and China shared the second place. But, in 2019, Japan leads the table and maintains the largest shares of the market. The export value of CMP Garment and Textile Exported to Europe and Japan in 2018 (in million US dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Export Value</th>
<th>European Countries</th>
<th>Japanese Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>132 million</td>
<td>45 million</td>
<td>87 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: According to the nature of CMP garment industries, the exchange rate of raw materials for the country which makes orders is not guided in our country and the export values are not really come into our country but just very low amount of loss.

If it takes more time to export materials to Myanmar from Korea, Shanghai, Chinese, Vietnam and Hong Kong than the same industries to Viet Nam and Cambodia. Although the consignee does not want to make orders they do so as the wages are low. The table below shows comparison of duration of exporting materials to Japan and other countries.

Source: MOC

Clarification: According to the Belt and Road Policy practised by China, these factories are to be imported through inland ports, it can be carried out within seven days and 10 days in maximum, Therefore, it is hoped that the duration problems can be solved soon. The price of shipping goods through inland ports is comparatively low. If it is not so, the companies have to reconsider their strategy. If we can ship goods through rail route as agreed recently for Economic Corridors is sure that we can overcome these difficulties.

It is the tradition of consanguinity that only they make an order if they get the finished goods within 90 days after they have started making orders. From the information of Leader of China to the present period, it takes 20 to 30 days. The shipment of materials takes 17 to 24 days depending on the distance. The clearance at the port takes 3 to 7 day. And it takes 14 to 45 days to manufacture goods. Importing these goods, it takes 20 to 30 days in Europe, and 18 to 21 days in Japan. These industries show the time taking orders to get the time to expect to Europe and Japan markets.

Cyclonic Storm

According to the observations at 12:38 hours M.S. Yesterday, the Cyclonic Storm over the East Central Bay and adjoining West Central Bay and South East Bay of Bengal has moved West Northwestward. It is centred at about 208km Northwest of Port Blair, about 110km East of Chennai (ocean) and about 286km Southwest of Cochin Island (Myanmar).

It is moving towards Myanmar coast, the present stage of the Cyclonic Storm is over yellow stage. Position of Cyclonic Storm, center pressure and wind speed

Cyclonic Storm is located at Latitude: 12.33 degrees North, and Longitude: 80.90 degrees East. Centre pressure of depression in (1001.58 mB and maximum wind speed near the center is 80 m per hour at 10:34 hours M.S.T today.

During next 12 hours Forecast

 mau-mau in the West NorthEastwards and it may further intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm during next 12 hours. General caution

Due to the Cyclonic Storm, rain or thunderstorms will be scattered to fairly widespread in Nalpur, Lower Sajagin, Mandalay, Magwe, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Irrawaddy, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States within next 06 hours commencing afternoon today.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed over squalls may reach 40-45 m.p.h. Gale force winds will hit 15 feet and beyond off Myanmar Coasts. Advisory

People should be advised to avoid vessels, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.
World leaders mark 100 years since WWI Armistice in Paris

PARIS (France) — World leaders gathered in Paris will lead global commemorations on Sunday to mark 100 years since the end of World War I at a time of growing nationalism and diplomatic tensions.

Around 70 leaders including US and Russian Presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin will mark the centenary of the 1918 Armistice in the French capital.

Ceremonies in New Zealand and Australia marked the start of the 11 November memorial events across the world, and huge crowds paid tribute to the more than 80,000 servicemen and women who gave their lives in the Great War.

“For our tomorrows, they gave their today,” Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said people gathered at the Remembrance Day national ceremony in Canberra.

The Paris commemorations, centred on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier beneath the Arc de Triomphe, are set to feature warnings about the modern-day danger of nationalism.

“This day is not just about remembering, but should be about a call to action,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday after visiting the forest clearing in eastern France where the Armistice was signed.

Merkel will give the opening address alongside UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at a conference called the Paris Peace Forum which will take place after a memorial service on the Champs-Elysees on Sunday morning.

Conceived by French President Emmanuel Macron, the Forum is intended to highlight the importance of international institutions in helping resolve conflicts, avert wars and spread prosperity.

British Prime Minister Theresa May and Queen Elizabeth will attend a separate event in London.

Tensions lurk

Despite the show of unity at the Arc de Triomphe, where school children will read out messages written by soldiers in eight languages, tensions are expected to lurk beneath the surface.

US President Donald Trump, whose hardline nationalism has badly shaken the Western alliance, arrived in Paris on Friday criticising host Macron for being “insulting.”

Trump took umbrage at a recent interview in which Macron talked about the need for a European army and listed the US along with Russia and China as a threat to national security.

The “America First” leader, who faced criticism on Saturday for cancelling a trip to an American cemetery because of the rainy weather, will snub the Paris Peace Forum.

Other attendees of the memorial service and Forum include Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Canadian premier Justin Trudeau and Israel’s Benjamin Netanyahu.

With far-right nationalist politicians coming to power from Brazil to Italy to Austria, 40-year-old centrist Macron is set to invoke the war to make the case for international cooperation.

“We want to make these commemorations a time to reflect on the present, not just the past, so that they have a meaning for us today,” an aide to Macron said earlier this week.

He will deliver a short speech during Sunday’s ceremony, which organizers have made deliberately international and cross-cultural.

The French-born Chinese-American cellist Yo-yo Ma will perform, as will West African singer Angélique Kidjo, and a European youth orchestra with a Russian conductor.

Some 10,000 police have been drafted in to ensure maximum security in a city repeatedly targeted by jihadists since 2015.

Macron is also set to speak later at UN cultural body UNESCO and at the Peace Forum.

The Forum is part of the “fightback” against nationalism worldwide, chief organizer Justin Vasse told AFP as he played down the significance of Trump’s decision not to attend.

“The aim of the forum is to show that there are lots of forces in the international system — states, NGOs, foundations, intellectuals, companies — who believe we need a world of rules, an open world and a multilateral world,” he said.

Other ceremonies

About 70 current-day nations were involved in the conflict that had six empires and colonial powers at its heart: Austria-Hungary, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the Ottoman Empire.

Around 10 million soldiers are generally estimated to have been killed during the fighting and more than double that number wounded overall.

Between five and 10 million civilians are estimated to have been killed.

In Britain, church bells are set to ring out across the country at 11 am, at the same time as a national remembrance service at the Cenotaph in London. — AFP

Saint-Cyr students (c) pose with West Point students ahead of a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on 11 November, 2018 as part of commemorations marking the 100th anniversary of the 11 November 1918 armistice, ending World War I. PHOTO: AFP

Heads of State and Government attend a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on 11 November, 2018 as part of commemorations marking the 100th anniversary of the 11 November 1918 armistice, ending World War I. PHOTO: AFP

Florida orders recount in Senate, governor races

MIAMI (United States) — Florida authorities on Saturday ordered a recount in the contentious races for US Senate and governor, amid tit-for-tat accusations of fraud from the candidates — plunging the state once again into election uncertainty.

Eigheteen years after the Sunshine State found itself at the heart of a battle for the US presidency, it was once again in the spotlight after Tuesday's vote, which left the contests for statewide offices undecided.

Florida’s 67 counties had been given until midnight (0700 GMT) on Saturday to submit unofficial totals. State law triggers a machine recount if the difference in a race is within 0.5 per cent. — AFP

Turkey gives US, other nations Khoshoggi killing-related recordings

ISTANBUL — Turkey has provided recordings related to the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi to the United States, Britain, France and Germany, the country’s Anadolu Agency and other media reported on Saturday.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters before departing for Paris to attend World War I commemorations that the recordings were also given to Saudi Arabia, but did not elaborate on contents of the recordings, the reports said.

The Saudi government initially asserted Khashoggi had left the consulate alive on 2 October, but later said a group of rogue operators killed him that day. — Kyodo News

Police stop protesters approaching Trump motorcade in Paris

PARIS (France) — French police stopped two topless protesters who approached the motorcade of US President Donald Trump as he made his way up the Champs-Elysees to a ceremony marking 100 years since the end of World War One.

One of the protesters got within metres of the rear of the motorcade before being grabbed by a police officer, while a second could be seen being hauled away by security services on the edge of the famous avenue, live television pictures showed. — AFP
BESTOWAL OF EXTRAORDINARY HONOURS

We are filled with profound Delight and Pride to congratulate the FIRST NATIONAL INSURANCE PUBLIC CO., LTD. a member unit of the HTOO Conglomerate on becoming the First Ever Insurance Company of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to be awarded the ISO 9001:2015 (Provision of Life and Non-Life Insurance) certificate.

We most sincerely wish the same to be crowned with unparalleled success in protecting and looking after the insuring public.
Singapore summit: Pence and Modi to discuss bilateral, defence cooperation, says WH

WASHINGTON—US Vice President Mike Pence and Prime Minister Narendra Modi would discuss India-US defence cooperation and bilateral relationship during their meeting in Singapore next week, the White House said on Saturday, asserting that “sky is the limit” for New Delhi’s role in the Indo-Pacific region.

“They would be talking about the bilateral relationship and a defence cooperation in the kind of larger context. I can’t really say if they’ll get into trade (ties) specifically at this time,” a senior administration official told foreign journalists during a conference call Saturday. Modi and Pence are scheduled to meet during the ASEAN and East Asia Summit in Singapore next week. Pence leaves on a four-nation Asia trip over the weekend, that would take him to Japan, Australia, Singapore and Papua New Guinea.

He will be representing President Donald Trump at the ASEAN and East Asia Summit in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Papua New Guinea.

Responding to a question, the official said the two leaders would be talking about “a common vision” for maintaining what the US refers to a free and open Indo-Pacific as India has talked about the Act East policy and their “enormous convergence” in these two approaches.

In some respect, these are different names for common approach and talking about some of those common principles that “we share, seeks to promote and sustain including a freedom of navigation and overflight, sustainable development for the region; the importance of ASEAN and the role that they play, as well as a major democracy in the region that we have very good relations in common with like Japan,” the senior administration official said. “Really the role for India on Indo-Pacific region, the sky’s the limit,” he said, when asked about what role the US sees for India in the region and President Trump’s Indo-Pacific policy.

Noting that India is “such a huge component” of the Indo-Pacific region, the official said, “It is the second largest population, the world’s largest democracy, while the United States is the world’s second largest democracy.”—PTI

Australia terror attacker ‘inspired by Islamic State’

SYDNEY (Australia)—A Somali-born Australian who went on a deadly knife rampage in the country’s second-largest city Melbourne was inspired by Islamic State but did not have a direct link to the jihadist group, the government said on Sunday.

Hassan Khalif Shire Ali stabbed to death well-known local cafe co-owner Sisto Malaspina and injured two other men in Bourke Street in the heart of Melbourne on Friday afternoon before he was shot and killed by police. The 30-year-old had gone to the bustling city in a utility vehicle filled with gas cylinders before setting it alight. Islamic State (IS) said via its propaganda arm that Shire Ali was an “Islamic State fighter and carried out the operation”, but provided no evidence to back its claim.

“In relation to his connections with ISIL (another name for IS) or with any terrorist group... there’s not, as I’m advised, a membership of an organisation or a definite link to ISIL,” Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton told reporters in Brisbane.

“The working theory is at the moment a case where this person has been downloading information or receiving messages in his own mind about what he should be doing. It’s inspired as opposed to affiliation or membership.” Shire Ali, known to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), had his passport revoked in 2015 on fears he was trying to travel to Syria to join IS. But he was also assessed by authorities as not being a domestic threat. Dutton defended the actions of ASIO, saying they had more than 400 investigations and people of interest to monitor: “Police did not have intelligence in relation to this person that he was about to commit an act,” he added.—AFP

Woman arrested over Australia strawberry needle scare

SYDNEY (Australia)—A woman has been arrested after a “complex” investigation into an Australian strawberry scare where needles were found stuck into the fruit, police said on Sunday, in a crisis that sparked nationwide panic.

Queensland state authorities offered a large reward and the national government raised jail terms for such crimes after sewing needles were found in plastic boxes of the fruit sold in supermarkets in September.

Since the first case came to light when a man was taken to hospital with stomach pains after consuming strawberries, more than 100 alleged incidents of pins and needles found in fruit, mostly strawberries, were reported in September around the country.

One incident was also reported in neighbouring New Zealand. Police said a 50-year-old woman was arrested on Sunday afternoon “following a complex... and extensive investigation” into the contamination case. “The (Queensland Police Service) co-ordinated a national investigative response with multiple government, law enforcement and intelligence agencies,” they added in a statement. The woman was set to be charged Sunday evening and appear in court in Brisbane on Monday. Police did not reveal any further details, including what the charges would be or the reasons and motives behind her alleged involvement.

The sabotage crisis led supermarkets to pull the fruit from the shelves and saw farmers dump tonnes of the unwanted berry. The government raised the maximum prison sentence for fruit tampering from 10 to 15 years.—AFP

Japan, US to help Pacific island nations counter illegal fishing

Japan, also an island nation, has dispatched Japan Coast Guard officials to some Pacific island nations for assistance.—Kyodo News

Tokyo was willing to assist them in beefing up maritime capability as illegal fishing by foreign ships in their EEZs was on the rise.

The training program from 25 November, which will include some US experts, is part of that initiative. Protecting maritime resources is a major challenge for Pacific island nations with EEZs far greater in size than their land. Foreign ships from such countries as China and the Philippines have been spotted fishing illegally. Japan, also an island nation, has dispatched Japan Coast Guard officials to some Pacific island nations for assistance.—Kyodo News

Fukushima Prefecture in May, 2018. (Japan Times Photo/Hideaki Tomiyama)

Japan’s Coast Guard vessel and helicopter conduct a rescue drill at a port in Yokkaichi, Mie Prefecture, central Japan on 3 November, 2018, based on the assumption that a massive earthquake originating in the Nankai Trough in the Pacific hit the region. PHOTO: Kyodo News
California fire death toll rises to 23

PARADISE (California) — The death toll from the most destructive fire to hit California rose to 23 on Saturday, as rescue workers recovered more bodies of people killed by the devastating blaze.

Firefighters are battling raging fires at both ends of the state, but there is little hope of containing the flames anytime soon. ”Today, 14 additional bodies were located, which brings our total number to 23,” Sheriff Kory Honea told a news conference.

Ten of the bodies were found in the town of Paradise while four were discovered in the Concow area, both in Butte County, Honea said.

Rescuers could be seen removing remains over a period of several hours in Paradise and placing them in a black hearse. Pieces of bodies were transported by bucket, while intact remains were carried in body bags.

So far, a total of 19 of the people killed in what authorities have dubbed the “Camp Fire” have been reported in Paradise, where more than 6,700 buildings — most of them residences — have been consumed by the late-season inferno.

From miles around, acrid smoke could be seen in the sky around Paradise, the sun barely visible. On the ground, cars were reduced to metal carcasses, while power lines were also gnawed by the flames.

Locals fled the danger, but police told AFP some farmers returned to check on their cattle.

“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 Gullahorn, the director of the California Office of Emergency Services. Governor-elect Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency to provide assistance to the hardest-hit areas in the fire-prone state.

The fast-moving Camp Fire blaze in the north broke out early Thursday.

Fanned by strong winds, it has so far scorched 100,000 acres (40,500 hectares) and is 20 per cent contained, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) said on Saturday. So far, three of the more than 3,200 firefighters deployed have been injured.

They estimate they will need three weeks to fully contain the blaze.

Local power authorities have told state officials an outage occurred near the spot where the fire erupted, The Sacramento Bee reported, but there is still no official cause of the Camp Fire blaze.

Trump, who was in France for World War I commemorations, drew criticism online for his somewhat unsympathetic reaction to the devastation earlier on Saturday.

“There is no reason for these massive, deadly and costly forest fires in California except that forest management is so poor,” Trump tweeted.

“Billions of dollars are given each year with so many lives lost, all because of gross mismanagement of the forests. Remedy now, or no more Fed payments!” —AFP

Lions suspected in drowning of 400 buffaloes in Botswana

GABORONE (Botswana) — More than 400 buffaloes believed to have been chased by lions drowned in a river in northern Botswana this week, the government said.

The mass drowning occurred in Chobe River near the border with Namibia.

Early investigations by authorities in both countries “suggest that an exceptionally large buffalo herd was grazing in Namibia when they stampeded into the Chobe River,” Botswana’s Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism said in a statement late Wednesday.

“Initial indications are that they were being chased by a pride of lions,” the ministry said. “It is estimated that more than 400 animals drowned due to the massive movement of buffalo trampling, and falling from steep river banks.”

Mass drownings are not uncommon, the ministry added. Namibian media reported that the incident occurred on Tuesday night. —AFP

Snow to hit parts of northwest China, smog to hit north

BEIJING — Parts of northwest China will be swept by snow, and Beijing and neighboring areas are expected to see smog in the coming week, the country’s top observatory said Sunday.

The National Meteorological Center (NMC) forecasts mild to moderate snow in the northern part of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, with some mountain areas hit by heavy snow from Sunday to Monday.

A strong cold front will arrive at Xinjiang from Monday, bringing strong winds and causing the temperatures to drop by 6 to 8 degrees Celsius, the NMC said.

Smog will envelop Beijing and surrounding regions from Sunday to Wednesday and gradually weaken due to rainfall and a cold front from late Wednesday to Thursday, according to the NMC.

Rain will be seen in parts of southern China including Jiangxi Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the center added. —Xinhua

CLAIR’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSING VOY. NO. (1093 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSING VOY. NO. (1093 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIR’S DAY NOTICE

M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (1831-1832)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (1831-1832) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T/T/MIP 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185
Spice Girls add new tour dates as fans snap up tickets

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Best-selling 90s girl band the Spice Girls added extra dates to their UK tour on Saturday after fans from around the world raced to buy tickets when they went on sale.

The band—minus “Posh Spice” Victoria Beckham, now a fashion designer—originally announced six dates in 2019, including a finale at Wembley Stadium in London.

But after a flood of interest when tickets went on sale online, they added several more dates, including more at Wembley, Britain’s biggest venue.

“Thank you everyone for such an amazing reaction, so excited to see you,” the official @SpiceGirls twitter account said.

On social media, many fans shared their joy at being able to see once again a band they loved in childhood, with one typical Twitter user posting: “My 12-year-old self is freaking out.”

But others expressed frustration after spending hours online without getting through, and at seeing tickets at inflated prices swiftly appear on resale sites.

Chinese artist’s cello concerto to make US premiere

NEW YORK—Renowned Chinese artist Tan Dun’s Cello Concerto: Intercourse of Fire and Water will make its US premiere at Lincoln Center’s Frederick P. Rose Hall in New York City on Sunday.

The works of the Grammy and Academy Award-winning composer and conductor will be performed by Chinese soloist Jing Zhao when The Orchestra Now, conducted by Tan, begins its third Rose Theater season at Jazz on Sunday. The concert also includes another Tan Dun work: Passacaglia Secret of Wind and Birds, commissioned by Carnegie Hall in 2015 for the National Youth Orchestra of the United States. The music draws on forms from East and West, ancient and modern, and incorporates birdsong produced by smartphone.

The orchestra is a group of more than 60 vibrant young musicians from countries including the United States and China, who share a mission to make orchestral music relevant to 21st-century audiences. It was founded by conductor, educator, and music historian Leon Botstein in 2015 as a master’s degree program at the Bard College in New York.—Xinhua

Elvis, Babe Ruth, Scalia to receive US Presidential Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON—Music legend Elvis Presley, baseball great Babe Ruth and late Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia are among seven people who will be honoured with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the White House said on Saturday.

The award is the country’s highest civilian honor, and recognizes “meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors,” the White House said in a statement.

Three of this year’s recipients will receive the award posthumously—Presley, Ruth and Scalia.

The other honorees are; longtime Republican Senator Orrin Hatch; philanthropist and heavyweight political donor Miriam Adelson, the wife of billionaire casino mogul Sheldon Adelson; and two NFL Hall of Famers: quarterback Roger Staubach and defensive tackle Alan Page, who went on to serve as a state supreme court justice in Minnesota.

The medals will be handed out in a ceremony at the White House on 16 November.—AFP

“Disney+” service a year away from streaming shows

SAN FRANCISCO (United States)—The Walt Disney Company will launch a “Disney+” streaming service in the United States late next year, boosting it with live-action shows spun from hit “Star Wars” and Marvel hero films. Disney chief executive Bob Iger revealed the name of the previously announced streaming service during a quarterly earnings call on Thursday, promising an impressive slate of films and series.

Plans for the service come as traditional television and film studios strive to adapt to a trend of people turning to streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime to watch shows on-demand from internet-linked devices of their choice.—AFP


PHOTO: AFP

The Spice Girls stormed to worldwide fame in 1996 after the release of their first single “Wannabe”, spreading their message of girl power.

They went on to sell 85 million albums worldwide.

Only two of their 11 singles failed to reach number one on the British charts, while their first three singles all hit the US top five. The five-piece split in 2000 but reunited for a world tour in 2007. They got together again to perform at the London 2012 Olympics closing ceremony and also collaborated then for the launch of the Spice Girls musical “Viva Forever!”—AFP
CAIRO (Egypt) — Seven sarcophagi, some dating back more than 6,000 years, have been discovered at a site on the edge of the pyramid complex in Saqara, south of the Egyptian capital, archaeology officials announced on Saturday.

Antiquities Minister Khaled el-Enany said the discovery was made by an Egyptian archaeological mission through excavation work at an area located on the stony edge of King Userkaf pyramid complex in Saqara Necropolis, south of the capital Cairo, on 10 November. PHOTO: AFP

Russian hi-tech hub creates ‘breakthrough’ composite material for space industry

MOSCOW — Specialists of the Reshetnev Information Satellite Systems Company and scientists of the Skolkovo Science and Technology Institute (Skoltech) have developed a new technology of making composite materials that will allow designing light and firm panels for the space industry, the Skoltech press office reported on Friday.

“The joint experimental design work carried out by specialists of Skoltech and Information Satellite Systems has yielded a new technology of making composite materials that will allow designing light and firm panels for the space industry, the Skoltech press office reported on Friday.

The work on making the composite material using the new technology was carried out on order from Russia’s State Space Agency Roscosmos.

The honeycomb core made of aluminum foil is referred to the category of composite materials that are very firm and light at the same time: the foil is just 23 micrometers thick while the honeycomb cell edge is 2.5 mm long. Skoltech engineers have developed equipment for making this honeycomb filler using laser technologies, the vision processing technology and modern automated systems. Overall, two types of the honeycomb filler have been developed under the project: for flat panels and for curvilinear (cylindrical, parabolic and other) load-carrying structures.

“The technical concept that has been developed and implemented is universal as it allows obtaining various types of the filler using the same equipment: with a flexible and hexagonal shape of the honeycomb cell (for curvilinear and flat structures, respectively). In actual fact, the production of a new material has been created today, which opens new possibilities for implementing designers’ ideas for designing light and firm structures with the surface of the curve of the second order,” the statement says.

The conveyor for producing aluminum honeycombs has been launched at the Applied Mechanics Small Design Bureau (part of the Reshetnev Information Satellite Systems Company). Its production capacities will eventually suffice both to meet the Company’s requirements and provide other Roscosmos organizations with the high-quality material.

“A possibility is being considered to deliver the honeycomb filler with altered characteristics to aircraft- and ship-building, the furniture, automobile and other industries,” the Skoltech press office said in a statement.

The vessel departed from the space station on Thursday and released the capsule on Sunday morning before burning up with waste from the ISS when re-entering the Earth’s atmosphere, JAXA said. —Kyodo News

Managing cholesterol, triglycerides may reduce Alzheimer’s risk: study

CHICAGO — Studying DNA from more than 1.5 million people, an international team of researchers has identified points of DNA that increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and also heighten the risk for Alzheimer’s disease.

The researchers, from Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis and the University of California in San Francisco, looked at the differences in the DNA of people with factors that contribute to heart disease or Alzheimer’s disease and identified 90 points across the genome that were associated with risk for both diseases.

Their analysis confirmed that six of the 90 regions had very strong effects on Alzheimer’s and heightened blood lipid levels, including several within genes that had not previously been linked to dementia risk. These included several points within the CELF1/MITCH2/SP11 region on chromosome 11 that had previously been linked to the immune system.

The researchers confirmed their most promising findings in a large genetic study of healthy adults by showing that these same risk factors were more common in people with a family history of Alzheimer’s, even though they had not themselves developed dementia or other symptoms such as memory loss. —Xinhua
The Myanmar women’s national football team ended its second match of Round-1 Qualifiers for the Women’s Olympic Football Tournament Tokyo 2020 with a 1-1 draw against the Nepal team, at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper Zar Zar Myint, Ei Yadnam Phyu, Khin Than Wai, Khin Thazin, Wai Wai Aung, Win Theingi Tun, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Captain Khin Malar Tun, Khin Moe Wai, Nu Nu, and May Sali Phyo. Both teams competed well in the first half, with speedy play and spirited counter-attack.

Nepal, the visiting team, made the opening goal at the 3-minute mark on a penalty shot. The penalty shot was scored successfully by Sabitra Bandari. After giving up the opening goal, Myanmar doubled its attack and was rewarded with an equalizer at 13 minutes, scored by Myanmar star Khin Moe Wai.

The remaining minutes of the first half expired after cautious play by both teams. Both teams made substitutions and changed tactics in the second half, resulting in more action on the field and an increase in scoring chances.

Myanmar got several opportunities to score, but lost out due to some postponements by the strikers. With both teams motivated to score and emerge victorious, the latter part of the match was thrilling, with Myanmar and Nepal both creating scoring opportunities. However, neither team managed to score, and the match ended 1-1.

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**Liverpool continue title push against fading Fulham**

**LIVERPOOL** — Liverpool returned to the top of the Premier League table — temporarily at least — with a 2-0 win at home to basement club Fulham at Anfield on Sunday. Jurgen Klopp’s side continued their unbeaten start to the Premier League season as Mohamed Salah’s eighth goal to the Premier League season continued their unbeaten start on Sunday. Jurgen Klopp’s side will only have been heightened when replays suggested Mitrovic’s effort could well have been allowed to stand, with the London club seemingly on the wrong end of the kind of decision that often goes against teams at the bottom of the table.

Liverpool, however, might suggest they were due some luck after an incorrect flag had denied them a possible victory over Arsenal a week earlier. — AFP

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**Second Yangon 100PLUS Active Run to be held on 2 December**

WITH the support of Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) and the Ministry of Health and Sports, 100PLUS is going to host the Second Yangon 100PLUS Active Run marathon event in Yangon on 2 December.

The Second Yangon 100PLUS Active Run marathon event will feature two different categories — 10km Challenge and 3.5km Fun Run/Walk. The First Yangon 100PLUS Active Run marathon event saw 5,000 runners participating in both categories. The 100PLUS has continued to support the growth of the local running community and to promote the importance of healthy lifestyle to people in the country. This year, 100PLUS is challenging runners to achieve their personal best times by training well and remembering the importance of hydration.

“We received positive feedback from many of our runners after the First Yangon 100PLUS Active Run last year and we’re excited to be bringing the running community together again for our second marathon event in Yangon! We hope to make the Yangon 100PLUS Active Run one of the country’s most recognised and anticipated annual sporting events, bringing together runners, supporters, volunteers, corporates and the community. This year, we wish to challenge our participants to prepare for their races well and to achieve their personal best times. We are also going to contribute part of the ticket sales to the Yankin Children Hospital, to do our part to support those in need”, said Mr. Freddy Oh, Country Manager of F&N Myanmar.

The participating tickets are now available at the Customer Service Counters of City Mart, Market Place and Ocean supermarkets until 25 November and tickets are priced K 10,000 for both the 10km and 3.5km categories. 100PLUS will donate MMK 2,000 from each ticket sale to the Yankin Children Hospital. The prizes will go to the first three male and female finishers of the 10km Challenge. The first prize will be K 1 million, the second K 800,000 and the third K 500,000.

— Htut Htut (Twantay)

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**MFF sidelines two players from Myanmar national men’s squad**

TWO players—defender Htike Htike Aung and midfielder Myo Ko Tun were ruled out from Myanmar national men’s football squad, said a source of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

Defender Htike Htike Aung is sustaining an injury to his thigh. Midfielder Myo Ko Tun has an injury to his knee. These two players were decided not to be inserted into a lineup for AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 and they will be out of action. Following the Qatar friendly tour, the pair was sent back to their mother clubs.

Myanmar national men’s football squad arrived back Yangon from Qatar on 5 November. Myanmar national men’s football squad will play a home match against Cambodia in Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on 12 November.

— Htut Htut (Twantay)