State Counsellor returns after attending 33rd ASEAN Summit, nine related events

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi departs from Changi International Airport in Singapore to Myanmar yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar, Bangladesh determined to implement bilateral agreement for return of displaced persons from Rakhine State

THE Government of Myanmar and the Government of Bangladesh have agreed to commence the repatriation of the first batch of verified displaced persons from 15 November 2018.

Although Myanmar had made the necessary preparations to receive some 150 persons as agreed with Bangladesh, the Bangladesh side has not yet repatriated the displaced persons citing the report of UNHCR, that there was no willingness on the part of these displaced persons.

On 16 November 2018, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali of Bangladesh communicated to each other using the hot line established between them. Both Myanmar and Bangladesh reiterated their determination to implement the bilateral agreement “Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State” signed on 23 November 2017 wherein the return will be under safe, voluntary and dignified conditions.

It was understood that the present difficulties stem from the weakness in following the procedures laid down.
Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s 10th regular session holds fourth meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session held its fourth meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday. Asterisk-marked questions were answered, a motion was tabled, and a bill was approved at the meeting.

Asterisk-marked questions

U Aung Soe Min of Ywangan constituency asked whether the government plans to set up a Myinkayo station hospital in Ywangan Township, Union Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Myint Htwe, replied there was a hospital and two station hospitals in Shan State (South) Ywangan Town with a population of over 80,000, while there were four sub-rural health centres under the Myinkayo Rural Health Centre.

“As it is better if there is another station hospital to handle patients that the present hospital cannot handle, and the place itself should have a station hospital, the head of the State Public Health Department will be sent to study aspects such as road connectivity and possible sites for the station hospital. If it is budgeted for in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the necessary procedures will be followed to start work on the hospital,” the Union Minister.

U Sai Kyaw Mo of Mongpan constituency asked about the government’s plans to upgrade a township sports field in Mongpan Town, to include a grand stand, a score board, and a four hundred meter track around it.

The Union Minister replied that money for the works will be allocated under Shan State’s permitted funds in the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year. Once permission is granted, the upgrade work will begin, he said. Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency asked the government if it plans to assign additional medical personnel to Minon Township People’s Hospital to stand in for medical personnel who were attending a training. Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe said the hospital sees 20 in-patients and about 9 out-patients on average per day, so it is adequately staffed despite the absence of staff attending a training. As the hospital is located in a difficult-to-travel area, the situation will be reviewed and discussions will be conducted with the head of the Region Public Health Department, he said. Based on the outcome, necessary action will be taken, he added.

U Aung Theik of Seikpyu constituency, U Shwe Hla @ U Shwe Hla Win of Thingangyun constituency, Dr. Daw Pyone of Indaw constituency, and U Myint Oo of Thanapin constituency also raised questions during the session. They were also answered by Dr. Myint Htwe.

Motion to improve the lives of ethnic nationals in remote, far-off, and backward places

Afterwards, U Ar Moe Si of Khauklangphu constituency tabled a motion urging the Union Government to draw up a plan to improve the lives of ethnic nationals living in remote, far-off, and backward places, where development is lagging. He also explained his reason for tabling the motion.

After obtaining its decision, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myaut announced the Hluttaw’s agreement to accept and discuss the motion. He asked representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

Approval of Traditional Medicine Council Bill and tabling of a motion on the bill

Later, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw’s approval of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council Bill, sent with amendments by the Amyotha Hluttaw. Bill Committee member U Wei Hlaing Tun said the bill was approved with 43 amendments by the Bill Committee, while amendments made by the Amyotha Hluttaw were not approved. As this may lead to a disagreement between the two Hluttaws, he submitted a motion for the bill to be sent to the Pyidaungshu Hluttaw for discussion.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then announced that the disagreements on the Bill would be submitted to the Pyidaungshu Hluttaw for discussion and decision.

The fifth meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session will be held on 20 November.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Amyotha Hluttaw’s 10th regular session holds fourth meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

UNION Ministers answered asterisk-marked questions raised by representatives and the Gambling Bill 2018 was discussed at the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

During the session, Daw Ma Ma Lay of Shan State Constituency and Parme 8 asked the government about its plans to provide electricity to the See Kyain, Myayni (South) villages in Pindaya Township, Danu Self-Administered Zone, Shan State.

Replying to her question, the Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, Dr. Tun Naing, said that 66 / 11 kV of Pindaya will be distributed to three villages, including See Kyain, Myayni (South), and Parmei villages. He said the NEP has been formulated to provide power supply in the first phrase. “A transformer will be built for Htt Nl village, and a 11 kV distribution power line (3.8 miles) and a 11/0.4 KVA transformer will be built for Seekya Inn Village. To provide power to Myayni (South) Village, a transformer will be built using 11 kV power line (0.5 miles), 11/0.4 KVA-100 KVA transformer through the Seekya Inn village. For Parmei village, a 11 kV power line (1.2 miles) and a 11 / 0.4 KV, 100 KVA transformer will be built to get power supply through Myayni (South) Village. Arrangements are currently being made to implement these schemes with KfW loans from Germany,” he said.

No plan to build wind measurement towers in Chin State

U Bawi Khin of Chin State’s Constituency 3 asked if the government planned to construct windmills in Chin State. Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, Dr. Tun Naing, said eight Wind Measurement Towers had been set up in Lort Lan of Chin State, in Yawgawgi of Rackhine State, in Chaungtay of Ayeyawady Region and in Taungtat and Wathinka of Yangon Region by the Chinese Three Gorges Corporation (CTGC). To study wind speed and pressure, the Asia Eco-energy Development and Primus

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, Dr. Tun Naing.

Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Dr. Ye Myint Swe.

Advanced Technologies Ltd. set up six Wind Measurement Towers in An Township of Rackhine State, besides Thanawdaw and Gwa townships, the deputy minister said.

“Based on their findings in Lord Lan of Chin State, it was held that the project is situated too far to be connected with the transmission line, besides it poses transportation barriers. That’s why there is no plan to build Wind Measurement Towers at the moment,” he said.

Entrance fee to Nat Ma Taung National Park

Daw Khin Swe Lwin of Chin State Constituency 9 asked if the government plans to charge an entrance fee from visitors. Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Dr. Ye Myint Swe, said the ministry will seek suggestions from the Union Government in the matter.

“In a move to help conserve the garden, an entrance fee of Ks10,000, or US$10, per tourist was decided upon during a meeting of the Chin State government (27/2014), and the Chin State government will supervise this task, the deputy minister said.

Later, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing answered questions raised by U Zung Hlei Thang of Chin State Constituency 4 and U Soe Thein of Chaungtha of Ayeyawady Region by U Bawi Khing of Chin State’s Constituency 3.

“As it is better if there is an-...
Vice President U Myint Swe opens 7th MSMEs Product Exhibition & Competition in Yangon

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Work Committee (MSMEDWCC) Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe opened the 7th Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Product Exhibition & Competition (Yangon) at the Myanmar Expo Fortune Plaza (Exhibition Hall), Thakayta Township, Yangon yesterday.

First the opening ceremony of the 7th MSME Product Exhibition & Competition (Yangon) was held and Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo and U Maung Maung Win and region government minister for planning and finance U Myint Thaung cut the ceremonial ribbon and posed for a commemorative group photo with attending guests.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Vice President U Myint Swe called on MSMEs in Myanmar to make the best use of digital technology as part of efforts for turning their businesses into a digital economy.

“In each country of the world businesses were conducted in many forms and had been transforming. Now is the time when information technology is used to transform towards a digital economy and MSMEs in our country need to strive towards going along with the transformation and to use digital technology in their manufacturing, service and trading,” said the Vice President.

The aims for holding regional products exhibitions and competitions are to increase import substitute products, connect the manufacturing and trading sectors of the regions, MSMEs transforming from traditional family businesses to innovative businesses and to expand markets and cooperate in the global value chain.

“MSMEs are the driving engine to overcome the challenges faced in conducting the country’s economic development and to have a balanced economic and social development.

MSMEs are the market forces as well as productive forces and are a service link. As such regional products exhibitions and competitions were held to promote MSMEs and create opportunities for further progress,” said the Vice President.

Yangon Region is the most populous in Myanmar and is where most commercial businesses are based and Yangon is a commercial capital that mainly connects with local and foreign businesses. Yangon Region is considered a market where MSMEs’ trade, service and manufacturing were interlinked.

In addition to being strategically placed, Yangon Region is where there is an international airport and a port where sea going ships dock and thus have better transportation, energy, basic infrastructures, have more opportunities to connect with local and foreign businesses and many job opportunities. Arrangements were made for Myanmar MSMEs to participate in foreign trade fairs in order to gain international experience and obtain new markets. Myanmar MSMEs exhibited their products at the 15th China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning and the 13th China International SME Fair (CISMEF) in Guangzhou during October and there were orders from China enabling increase in the manufacturing of products, it is learnt.

In addition to this, ten award winning MSMEs from Myanmar were sent to the Business Matching Meeting and New Value Creation Exhibition 2018 held for businesses of ASEAN countries and Japan in Tokyo, Japan from 11 to 17 November.

Kayin State and Mon State will jointly hold the event in Mawlamyine and in Myeik for Taninthayi Region. Finally a national level products exhibition and competition involving all states and regions will be held in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory where National Awards will be presented. The 6th ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises meeting and related meetings were hosted by Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw from 5 to 9 November.

At those meetings development projects for MSMEs in ASEAN region were proposed, implemented, reviewed, matters relating to increasing production capability, technology and innovation, policies required to expand markets, amendment legal frameworks, development of entrepreneurship and human resources were discussed.

For the development of MSMEs in Yangon Region support services were provided to connect with banks to obtain loans and supports. Today under the leadership of the Yangon Region Chief Minister, MSMEs with potential were selected and endorsed to get loans directly from the banks.

U Myint Swe also urged the Myanmar MSMEs to strive together towards becoming a MSME community that provide good products and services required by the market, support economic and social development and maintain the environment.

Next, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein explained about the status of works conducted for the development of MSMEs in the region.

Afterwards Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo and U Maung Maung Win and region government minister for planning and finance U Myint Thaung accepted donations made by companies to conduct the exhibition and presented certificates of honor to the donors in return.

Later, officials from Kanbawza Bank, Myanmar Citizens Bank, Small & Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB), Asia Green Development Bank, AVA Bank and CB Bank presented bank loans to MSMEs in Yangon Region that had potential.

The 7th MSME Product Exhibition & Competition (Yangon) is being held at the Myanmar Expo Fortune Plaza in Thakayta Township, Yangon for three days from 16 to 18 November.

Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho and officials then attended the opening ceremony of SME Center held at the SMIDB on Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. — MNA  (Translated by Zaw Min)
ASEAN will continue to support Myanmar’s efforts to address the Rakhine Issue

ASEAN welcomes Myanmar’s invitation to the AHA Centre to dispatch a needs assessment team to identify possible areas of cooperation in Rakhine State

In response to the comments about Rakhine issue, the State Counsellor said that Myanmar listens to the voices of concern of some of our ASEAN friends and is grateful for the support to resolve the problem. She informed the meetings of the agreement made between Myanmar and Bangladesh to commence the repatriation of the first batch of verified displaced persons to Myanmar. They expressed their readiness to support the efforts of Myanmar, ASEAN, and international community in addressing the issue.

In response to the comments, the State Counsellor expressed her appreciation for the offer, constructive assistance and understanding towards Myanmar in addressing the issue. She stressed that it is the primary duty of Myanmar to ensure peace, stability, observance of human rights and rule of law in the country and expressed its continued commitment to take the duty seriously and do its best to discharge.

After the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, the Leaders of ASEAN and Dialogue Partners issued, adopted and noted (63) documents which include, among others, the Declaration on the Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States’ Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of Other ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Smart Cities Framework, ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ASEAN Plus Three Leaders’ Statement on Cooperation Against Antimicrobial Resistance, EAS Leaders’ Statement on Combating Marine Plastic Debris, EAS Leaders’ Statement on the Safe and Secure Use, Storage, and Transport of Nuclear and Other Radioactive Materials, EAS Leaders’ Statement on Countering the Threat of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Returnees.

The State Counsellor witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EAC) on Economic Cooperation together with the Heads of State/Government of the ASEAN Member States and the Russian Federation. The MOU will help ASEAN and EEC overcome the economic challenges arising out of protectionism, trade barriers and technological gaps. — Ministry of Foreign Affairs

THE Myanmar delegation led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, arrived back Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday afternoon after attending the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits held in Singapore from 12 to 15 November 2018.

On 12 November 2018, the State Counsellor delivered a key note speech at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit with the theme “Business and Investment in Myanmar and ASEAN”. On 13 November 2018, the State Counsellor attended the Opening Ceremony of the 33rd ASEAN Summit, ASEAN Summit Plenary and Working Dinner hosted by Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore together with other ASEAN Leaders.

On 14 November 2018, the State Counsellor attended the ASEAN-Australia Informal Breakfast Summit, 21st ASEAN-China Summit, 20th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit, Working Lunch hosted by Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong for ASEAN Leaders and Leaders of Guests of the ASEAN Chair, 3rd ASEAN-Russia Summit, 21st ASEAN-Japan Summit and 2nd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Summit. Later in the evening, the State Counsellor attended the Gala Dinner hosted by Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong for ASEAN Leaders, Leaders of non-ASEAN EAS Participating Countries, and Leaders of Guests of the ASEAN Chair.

On 15 November 2018, the State Counsellor attended the ASEAN-India Informal Breakfast Summit, 6th ASEAN-US Summit, 21st ASEAN Plus Three Summit, East Asia Summit Lunch (Retreat) and 13th East Asia Summit Plenary (Plenary). The State Counsellor also attended the Closing Ceremony of the 33rd ASEAN Summits and Related Summits and Handing Over Ceremony of the ASEAN Chairmanship to the Kingdom of Thailand in the evening.

At the 33rd ASEAN Summit, the leaders discussed and exchanged views on matters relating to building a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN, ASEAN’s external relations and future direction, regional and international issues. With regard to Rakhine issue, the ASEAN Leaders highlighted its complexity and noted the agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh to commence the repatriation of the first batch of verified displaced persons to Myanmar. The Leaders recognized the need for ASEAN to play a role in rehabsitation and humanitarian assistance and welcomed the invitation extended by Myanmar to the AHA Centre to dispatch a needs assessment team to identify possible areas of cooperation in Rakhine State to facilitate the repatriation process. The ASEAN Leaders also expressed their continued support for Myanmar in its efforts to bring peace, the rule of law, to promote harmony and reconciliation among the various communities and to ensure sustainable and equitable development in Rakhine State.
State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held bilateral talks with Chinese Premier, New Zealand Prime Minister, American Vice President on the sidelines of the 33rd ASEAN Summit

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held bilateral talks with H.E. Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the People’s Republic of China, the Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand and H.E. Mr. Michael Pence, Vice-President of the United States of America separately on the sidelines of 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Singapore.

During the meeting with the Chinese Premier on 15 November 2018, they exchanged views cordially on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation including provision of assistance for Myanmar’s peace and national reconciliation process, repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons from Rakhine State and continued cooperation between the two countries at the regional and international fora.

During the meeting with the Prime Minister of New Zealand on 14 November 2018, they exchanged views cordially on strengthening of bilateral relations, recent developments in Rakhine State including the preparation for the repatriation of displaced persons and lending support by New Zealand to the ongoing efforts for bringing harmony among the communities in Rakhine State. The two leaders also discussed how New Zealand could help the Government of Myanmar in resolving the humanitarian issue.

During the State Counsellor’s meeting with the Vice President of the United States on 14 November 2018, they frankly exchanged views on Myanmar’s democratization process, media freedom, and recent developments in Rakhine State and some regional issues including the Indo-Pacific Strategy Concept.

The Vice President thanked the State Counsellor for reaching out to the United States and enquired about the steps taken by the Government of Myanmar in addressing the Rakhine issue including repatriation process and accountability of the reported human rights violations.

The State Counsellor informed the Vice President that as there are diverging views on resolving the issue, exchanging views would be useful to understand each other. As the Americans understand their own country better, Myanmar understands her own country better than anyone else. She explained that Myanmar Government has been trying to resolve the Rakhine issue as one of the top priorities, but our approach is different compared with the approach from international community.

State Counsellor explained, inter alia, that the situation in Rakhine State is not a new issue that emerged recently. The present Government, since assuming the office, has been doing its best for peace, stability and rule of law in Rakhine State by forming a Central Committee, and in addressing the issue, the international community is focusing only on the rights of a particular community and they also needs to consider the complexities and the sensitivities of all communities in Rakhine State.

In fact, the populations of native Rakhine and other ethnic peoples are shrinking and they are becoming minority in Rakhine State.

State Counsellor also pointed out that while in the view of many countries, the Myanmar Government is biased for the Rakhine people, the Myanmar people view that the international community is totally biased in favour of the other community. She added that if Myanmar resolved the Rakhine issue in a short sighted approach, it would hurt the stability and the future of the country and that it would be no one else but our own people to suffer the consequences. She apprised him of the measures taken by Myanmar Government to start the repatriation of first batch of displaced persons from Rakhine State and to address the accountability for alleged human rights violations through establishing an Independent Commission of Enquiry by the President.

The Vice President stressed the importance for Myanmar to overcome the challenging issue of Rakhine State and expressed that the United States will continue to support for the success of Myanmar’s democratization process.

— Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PHOTO: MNA
Myanmar, Bangladesh determined to implement bilateral agreement for return of displaced persons from Rakhine State

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in the “Physical Arrangement for Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents” agreed between two countries on 16 January 2018. Under the Physical Arrangement, the forms for the prospective returnees have to be signed by the displaced persons themselves, signifying their willingness to return voluntarily to Rakhine State. This was not done in the case of the 2,260 people whose forms were sent to Myanmar including the 150 people interviewed by UNICEF. It was also understood that the next batch of some 22,000 forms recently sent to Myanmar, have indeed been signed by the displaced persons themselves. It was also confirmed that 440 displaced persons of the Hindu faith have volunteered to come back as soon as possible and that they will be included in the first batch of verified returnees.

During the communications, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh intimated to the Union Minister, that because of the imminent Bangladesh elections, the repatriation could only start after the end of December 2018.—MNA

Union Minister U Win Khaing inspects Thaton electric power plant

The Union Minister for Electricity and Energy, U Win Khaing yesterday inspected a power plant project which is on test-run at Kyayang Village, Thaton Township, to supply electricity to eight townships in Kayin State.

The plant, which has been came into operation since 1985 with a 18.45 MW gas turbine and another two gas turbines which can produce total 16.25 MW supplying power to Mon and Kayin states. Thaton Power Plant is being upgraded and equipped with gas turbine and steam turbine manufactured by the General Electric-GE by the China Engineering Corporation Ltd.

The work on upgrading the plant started in March 2016, and the plant, which is currently under test run, is expected to generate 118.9 MW in February next year. Upon completion of the project, the plan will benefit 399 villages in eight townships in Kayin State. To transport the electricity generated by the plant to Kayin State, nine mile-long 230 KV cables and a 230/66 KV 60 MVA sub-power station are being constructed at Indu Town, Kayin State.

Meanwhile, a 230-KIV transmission line linking Mawlamyine and Myaywady and a 230 KV 100 MVA sub-power station are being constructed in Myaywady; and the construction are expected to be finished in march 2019.—MNA

(Translated by JT)

Rakhine repatriation: Media visit Hla Pho Khaung Reception Centre

A team of journalists from 12 domestic news agencies arrived in Sittway yesterday to observe preparations for the return of displaced people to Rakhine State from Bangladesh.

The journalists travelled to Maungtaw Township in the afternoon and visited the Hla Pho Khaung Reception Centre and the Kanyinchau Economic Zone.

They met with District Administrator U Soe Aung and asked questions on arrangements made by the government to receive the displaced people, the reason for the delay in the repatriation process, Myanmar’s plans for the resettlement and rehabilitation of returnees, the current state of stability in the area, freedom of movement for the returnees, construction of houses, upgrading of transport in Maungtaw District, and the status of development projects in Rakhine State.

Next, the media group visited the Hla Pho Khaung Reception Centre and saw the temporary accommodations set up for returnees there.

The journalists also met with the centre's director U Soe Shwe Aung and questioned him about the centre’s preparations for repatriation.

He told them about the arrangement of facilities such as housing, drinking water, and electricity, and installation of septic tanks at the centre.

He also detailed plans for providing food, assistance, medical centres, temporary schools, and playgrounds, at the reception centre.

The group of journalists then travelled to the Kanyinchau Economic Zone.

Yesterday’s trip marks the media’s 28th news gathering visit to Maungtaw District in Rakhine State. Journalists from Mizzima TV, Irrawaddy, The Daily Eleven, the Myanmar Times, Forever, DVB, Sky Net, Frontier, MRTV, MIV, MNTV, and MNA took part in the trip.

Local and foreign media agencies have been sent to Rakhine State to gather news 6 times during the emergency period, once with arrangements from the Ministry of Defence, 6 times from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, once from the Union government, once from the Myanmar Press Council, and 13 times on the advice of the Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, which recommended two media trips a month to Rakhine State.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Ministers inspect Hla Pho Khaung Reception Centre

UNION MINISTER for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspected Hla Pho Khaung Reception Centre which is ready to conduct repatriation and resettlement of returnees from Bangladesh.

During their tour of inspection, they were also accompanied by deputy ministers who are chairman of committees formed to carry out receiving and resettlement of returnees. The Union Ministers and party inspected readiness for repatriation process, the place for reception, accommodation for returnees, processes to be conducted, the status of completed construction of shelters, health care services and access to safe drinking water, access to electricity, the sufficiency of fly-proof toilets, safety measures against fire, preparation for cleaning around the camp and processes undergo afterward and officials of the camp provided necessary explanations.

The Ministers and party checked Assembly Board Houses donated by the People’s Republic of China, the status of construction of sample rural houses, opening clinics for their health care and schools.

The Ministers and officials also went to the Byinphyu border police outpost and inspected the construction of garage for storing dry rations.—MNA

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

District Administrator U Soe Aung interviewed by journalists at Hla Pho Khaung Reception Centre in Rakhine State. PHOTO: IPRD
China, Middle East demand for striped catfish grows, stokes breeder interest

By May Thet Hnin

WITH the demand for striped catfish witnessing a growth in China and countries from the Middle East, breeders in Myanmar are being urged to increase production, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

Myanmar’s striped catfish has now a great demand from China and the Middle East countries. Starting last month, Myanmar has shipped about 8 containers of striped catfish to China and about 14 containers to countries in the Middle East.

At present, Myanmar is exporting scraped striped catfish meat and ready-to-eat products. Some Chinese companies want to purchase striped catfish skin, oil, and swim bladder.

Striped catfish started to penetrate the export market last year. As demand for the fish has been growing significantly, the MFF has been urging fish farmers to increase area under striped catfish production in the past few months. As a result, the number of striped catfish farmers is estimated to have risen by 40 per cent, said U Zaw Lin.

“China has shown a strong interest in striped catfish. However, we still cannot cater to the size and volume that they want,” said U Zaw Lin, treasurer of the MFF and a breeder.

According to breeders, farmers can harvest striped catfish three times a year, as they grow faster than other species. The fish is also resistant to disease, therefore, farming striped catfish can help farmers reap great profits, said breeders.

“The striped catfish now has a strong market. Only the production needs to satisfy the demand,” said U Win Kyaw, the general secretary of the MFF.

Besides the export market, the demand for striped catfish among local consumers and dried fish processors has also been growing. This being so, the current market price of striped catfish is higher than in the previous years. The export price is Ks200 higher than the domestic market prices.

Breeders primarily farm 65 per cent of rohu, 15 per cent of striped catfish, 7 per cent of freshwater silver, and 4 per cent of white mirgal carp, while the rest 9 per cent constitutes other fish species.

Local breeders are still watching the market as the record export of striped catfish has not been seen before. Exporters are also hesitating to export them while production is still low.

“With the emergence of a strong market, all stakeholders in the supply chain, including exporters, suppliers, and breeders need to be engaged. It will be better if the Fisheries Department conducts tours to raise awareness on striped catfish farming among breeders. Supply chain management - from farming to consumption and export - is required. With the engagement of stakeholders, a stronger market will emerge. At present, stakeholder involvement is still poor,” said U Zaw Lin, a breeder.

Rohu and mirgal carp are the main items on Myanmar’s fish exports. Rohu prices have plunged because of Saudi Arabia’s restriction on rohu importation this year, and breeders are suffering. The fish market is expected to recover once Myanmar begins exporting fishery products to the European Union from 1 December.

To ensure food safety, the European market requires suppliers to have Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practice (GAP) certificates. Myanmar has only a small number of entrepreneurs who hold those certificates, so, fish breeders are prepping for this. An MFF delegation went on a study tour to striped catfish farms in Viet Nam last April.

Myanmar still lags several supplier countries in advanced fish farming technology, said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, the vice president of the MFF. Capital investment in the sector is also insufficient, she said.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar Commerce Fair 2018 to be held at Yangon Convention Center

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanmar Commerce Fair 2018 will be held at the Yangon Convention Center on 1 and 2 December. The fair is being organized jointly by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, the Myanmar Accountancy Council, the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the Commerce Graduates’ Association (Myanmar).

The organizers held a press conference to announce the event at the Novotel hotel on 15 November.

“The fair is being organized to support national socio-economic development, and aims to bring participants from the State, cooperative and private sectors together to build a network and promote the social economic sector,” said Daw Khin Mar Cho, the director of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, Myanmar Accountancy Council.


“When we planned the lectures, we thought of involvement from every sector. We have a limited time of only two days. We have thought of topics which we believe can attract audiences and which are in harmony with the current situation,” said Dr Tin Latt, the vice chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The fair will also have 120 exhibition booths from all business sectors, including 27 stalls from government departments and the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union.

Fishery exports show small increase

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR’s fishery exports in the first month of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year have reached US$99.5 million, up by $18.4 million from the same period in the 2017-2018 FY, according to data released by the Commerce Ministry.

At present, Myanmar exports only raw fish materials. It needs to include value-added products to the export basket to develop the sector.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation is making concerted efforts to adopt advanced farming technologies to develop the fisheries export sector.

At present, fishery products, including prawns, crabs, squid, eels, shrimp, dried shrimp, and dried fish, are being exported to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. However, exports to Western countries are still limited due to high food safety standards.

About 568,273.37 metric tons of fishery products, worth $717.7 million, were exported to Myanmar’s foreign trade partners in the 2017-2018 FY.

The figure is the highest in terms of volume in 20 years, according to a release from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation. During the past mini-budget period (April to September), exports of fishery products topped $297 million.

There are over 408,000 acres of fish and prawn lakes spread across Myanmar, according to the Department of Fisheries. — GNLM
Myanmar’s economic landscape diversifies

The Central Bank of Myanmar has issued a directive on 15 November to ban Myanmar banks from allowing clients to hold US dollars in bank accounts, and to notify the foreign banks which will be allowed to retain US dollars. This is a significant step towards attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), which will help to develop the country’s economic landscape.

In the two-year timeframe of the new government’s administration, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIC) gave approvals to 13 domestic and foreign banks. The MIC also lifted restrictions on foreigners doing business in Myanmar and we must focus on building the financial sector as a whole.

Managing foreign investments flowing into the country requires more skilled banks that are efficient to handle the increased money supply in the country. This is why the state is selecting economic policies that encourage the growth of both domestic and foreign banks.

Not too recently, on 2 November, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) gave approvals to foreign banks to engage in businesses, including education and health services.

The decision is expected to bring in more foreign money into the country and will result in a change to how local people and governments contribute to the increase in money supply.

Between 1984 and 2020, foreign banks invested above US$4.4 billion in the country. In the two-year timeframe of the new government’s administration, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIC) gave approvals to 13 domestic and foreign banks.

UN Soe Thein, Union Minister for the Union Government’s Planning and Investment Commission (MIC), which has been invited to a conference in the country.

Mr. Thaung Tun, the Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, has said that the repatriation process would continue within the two-year timeframe of the new government’s administration.

Mr. U Kyaw Lwin, a former journalist, said that the repatriation process would continue within the two-year timeframe of the new government’s administration.

Meanwhile, the 33rd ASEAN Summit was held in Singapore. The attending leaders issued the ASEAN Chairman Statement. The statement was issued on 12 November and in paragraph 14, it is stated that ASEAN leaders have agreed to a number of proposals for cooperation with Myanmar. The statement was issued on 12 November and in paragraph 14, it is stated that ASEAN leaders have agreed to a number of proposals for cooperation with Myanmar. The statement was issued on 12 November and in paragraph 14, it is stated that ASEAN leaders have agreed to a number of proposals for cooperation with Myanmar.

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10 LOCAL NEWS

106 persons from IDP Camp in Sittway found on boat near Kyauktan

AUTHORITIES seized a boat carrying 106 persons near the mouth of the Yangon River near Thante Village, Kaladan Village-tract, Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region, early yesterday morning.

After local authorities found the boat, it was inspected by a combined team led by the head of the Kyauktan Township’s General Administration Office, and comprising officials of the Kyauktan Township’s Police Force and the Kyauktan Township Immigration and Population Department. Officials found the boat carrying 50 men, 31 women, 13 boys, and 12 girls left the Narzi IDP camp, Rakhine State, on 22 October and was on its way to Thailand and Malaysia when it ran out of fuel. The boat’s passengers were taken to the cyclone shelter at Thante Village and were provided with care. Officials are continuing their investigations in the case. — MNA (Translated by JT)

50 gems lots, 2186 jade lots sold out through open tender

A total of 50 gems lots and 2,186 jade lots have already sold out through tender at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

The yesterday sales of the Gems and Jade Emporium fetched over 17.464 billion kyats from the sale of 1,062 jade lots.

Out of 1,150 jade lots put on sales, 1,124 jade lots found buyers for 16.752 billion kyats on 15 November.

So far, 50 gems lots and 2,186 jade lots found buyers through the open tender system.

On 14 November, 96 gems lots were put on sales through the open tender system and the emporium made 794.90 million kyats from the sales of 1,030 jade lots.

Over 1030 jade lots were set to go on sale through the open tender system till 17 November.

Women arrested with drugs worth Ks150 million in Pathinegyi

DURING a combined operation, members of the Anti-drug Squad and Customs authorities seized drugs worth over Ks150 million from two women travelling on a bus in Pathinegyi Township, Mandalay Region, early on Thursday morning.

The two women were arrested and charged with smuggling under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Around 1 am on Thursday morning, officials raidied a bus at the Kyaukchaw checkpoint in Pathinegyi Township. They found 50,000 yaba pills hidden inside the bags of two women passengers. Ma Aye Nang, of Nantong Village, in Monggy Township, Lashio District, Shan State, was found carrying 30,000 tablets. Ma Na Oo, 18, of Wunlaing Village in Mongshu Township, Loilem District, Shan State, was found with 20,000 tablets. Police are continuing their investigation to find others connected with the drug-trafficking case.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay) (Translated by KTL)

Truck transporting 48 bulls illegally seized in Bamauk

ACTING on a tip, police seized a truck transporting 48 bulls illegally in Bamauk Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region, on Thursday afternoon.

The bulls, worth over Ks24 million, were being taken from Homaun Township to Mohinn Township in Kachin State, said police.

Police found the truck carrying the bulls in the forest near Namnu creek in the area between Bamauk and Homaun townships around 1 pm on Thursday.

They have arrested eight persons, who have been identified as Aik Maw, Win Naing, Maung Ma, Than Hsaung, Win Tun, Hsan Lwin, Naing Tun, and Kyaw Kyaw.

They have been charged with violation of Section 5 of the Essential Supply and Services Law.—Ni Toe (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets GIZ program head

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Mr Armin Hofmann, the Head of Program of Germany-based GIZ, at the guest hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, U T Khun Myat and Mr Armin Hofmann discussed the development of Myanmar’s banking and financial system, the small and medium enterprises in the country, the technology sector, and cooperation between GIZ and the Hluttaw. Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and officials from the Hluttaw office also attended the meeting. —MNA

(Translated by Thanda Aung)

MIC approves seven projects on 16 Nov.

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (19 / 2018) was convened at the meeting room of the MIC in Yangon on 16 November, 2018. The meeting approved seven projects in agriculture, livestock and manufacturing sectors, which will create 5,493 jobs for citizens.

The meeting was attended by U Thaung Tun, Chairman of MIC and nine members.— MNA

53rd ASEAN-COCI delegates tour Nay Pyi Taw

REPRESENTATIVES from the ASEAN Secretary-General’s Office and delegates from ASEAN countries visited the Thatta Thatthaha Pagoda (Buddha Gaya), the Defence Services Museum, the Gem Museum, the National Museum, and the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The delegates came to the city to attend the 53rd ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI) meeting hosted by Myanmar recently. Later, the ASEAN representatives and delegations left for their respective countries. —MNA

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrols

A COORDINATED patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted from border post 48 to 49 yesterday, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

The patrol was led by Police Captain Myint Maung from No. 1 Border Police Force, Area 5, Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, while the Bangladesh side was led by Naib Subedar Md. Mozammel of No. 11 Bhahukhiai outpost.

Similarly, troops led by Police Inspector Thein Tun Myint of Taung Pyo police post in Maungtaw Town, conducted a coordinated patrol with troops led by Naib Subedar Md. Mahbubur Rahman of Baishfari police post of Bangladesh from border post 36 to 38 from 9 am to 11:30 am yesterday.

A troop led by Police Inspector Myo Thein Oo, No. 2 Border Police force, Ywet Nyo Taung police post in area 5, Maungtaw, on two boats met up with its counterpart of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB-2) led by Naib Subedar Sha-Alam on two motor boats. The four boats patrolled on the border of the two countries in the middle of the Naf River, at 11 nautical mile and the two troops held a meeting on boat 005. —GNLM

(Translated by Thandar Aung)
Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung inspects regional development in Southern Shan State, Pa’O Self-Administered Zone

UNION MINISTER for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung accompanied by Shan State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Hla Oo, Minster for the transport and communication U Khun Ye Htwe and Eastern Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Zaw Moe inspected Kyaukgyu-Naung Woe road in Yaksaw Township, Southern Shan State and Pa’O Self-Administered Zone on 14 November.

They inspected the completion status of constructing (3/0) mile gravel road, (15/0) mile gravel road constructed with fund from fiscal year 2017-2018 and two 25 ft. box culverts constructed with first six months fund from fiscal year 2018-2019. The Union Minister coordinated on matters submitted by officials.

The Union Minister and party then went to inspect Nyint Sin-Pan Wut-Kone Sar earth road and the completion of (2/0) mile gravel road constructed with first six months fund of FY 2018-2019. They also inspected (3/0) mile gravel road under construction in FY 2018-2019 and instructed to complete within the specified time and to construct properly. Once the Nyint Sin-Pan Wut-Kone Sar road is completed, travel from Shan State (South) Indaw and Kyaukgyu Area to Shan State (North) Hsipaw and Lushio can be conducted in a short time.

Later in the afternoon the Union Minister and party reached the construction site of Kyaukgyu-Htamin Paung-Kyauk Mhee Khat-Mayin Kone road in Yaksaw Township and inspected the completed (3/0) mile gravel road built with the first six months fund of FY 2018-2019 and (2/0) mile gravel road to be constructed with fund of FY 2018-2019.

On 15 November the Union Minister went to the construction site of (4/0) mile Taunggyi-Pantin-Thettu-Linle-Zaile asphalt road in Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South) built with fund from FY 2016-2017. They then went to inspect to the workplace of the completed (3/0) mile Nantpawhon-Parpant-Thettha-Pone Chaung earth road in Hopong Township, Pa’O Self-Administered Zone built with the first six months fund of FY 2018-2019 and coordinated on the necessities it is learnt. — MNA

(Translated by Myet Thandar Aung)

Seven fishermen brought back from Port Blair

SEVEN fishermen from Myanmar who were detained at Open Distress Camps in India returned home on 15 November after serving their prison terms in India for illegally entering the country’s territorial waters.

The return of the fishermen comes after several rounds of negotiation between the Consular and Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Indian authorities. Authorities welcomed the fishermen at the Yangon International Airport and offered them assistance.

“Of the seven fishermen, one is from Yangon, one is from Rakhine State, and five hail from the Ayeyawady Region. We will send them back to their homes,” said U Tin Hlaing, Head of Yangon Region’s Disaster Management Department.

The fishermen were released after a half years, said Saw Henry Lin, a fisherman from Labutta, Ayeyawady Region. Myanmar’s diplomats in India are making efforts to bring back the remaining fishermen from the camps as soon as possible.—Zaw Gyi (Translated by JT)

Plan for oil refinery zone in Pakokku

THE Magway region’s government is planning to set up a refinery zone on 200 acres of government-owned land west of the industrial training center located 8 miles from Pakokku Town in the region.

“The objective behind establishing the new oil refinery zone is to produce good quality gasoline,” said U Myint Zaw, Magway Region’s Minister for Natural Resources, Environmental, Electricity, and Energy.

Currently, six companies have sought permission from the region’s government to operate oil refineries, said the minister.

“The authorities are planning to allow investors to carry out refining activities on 15 acres of land. The region’s government will give investors access to land and electricity. In addition, investors will also get technical support from the Union government,” he said.

“Everyone is being allowed to apply for setting up oil refineries in the zone. Some companies have applied for the project, while some others, including a Chinese company, have shown an interest in carrying out oil refining in the zone,” he added.—Zeyatu (Magway) (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lucio)
Germany tweaks law to limit diesel car bans

FRANKFURT AM MAIN (Germany) — The German government will ease air pollution laws aimed at sparing cities that only slightly exceed limits on harmful nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from diesel vehicle bans, ministers agreed Thursday, sparking sharp criticism by environmentalists.

Major cities like Hamburg, Frankfurt and Stuttgart have put in place or are preparing exclusion zones for older diesel vehicles in order to bring NO₂ levels under the EU-wide annual average limit of 40 microgrammes per cubic metre, with more towns on the way.

Judges have ordered some of the bans, while politicians in other urban areas moved to preempt the courts.

Underscoring the pressure on the government, a court in North Rhine-Westphalia state ruled Thursday that stretches of a major motorway in Essen must be closed to older diesels.

Such measures have outraged diesel drivers, who complain that affected vehicles are set to lose a massive chunk of their resale value as a result.

The car industry — the heart of the German economy and politically well-connected — has espoused at home the tens of billions in fines it has had to pay out in the United States over diesel emissions cheating.

It has also avoided any binding obligation to retrofit older cars to meet the latest emissions norms.

In measures still to be approved by parliament, Berlin wants to soften the threshold for implementing a ban from 40 to 50 microgrammes per cubic metre. Ministers also want to ally fears among owners in the most-polluted cities still subject to bans.

They will further alter the law to allow cars meeting the older Euro 4 and 5 standards and emitting less than 270 microgrammes of NO₂ per kilometre to enter the zones.

“The government is obviously in panic mode. Otherwise there would be no explanation for its rushing through an update to the law that infringes in several ways EU law,” said Juergen Resch, head of environmental pressure group DUY.

“We will secure the right for clean air in all cities in 2019, the courts will ignore the weakening of the thresholds,” he added. DUY plans to sue the federal government for breaking EU law if it presses ahead with the changes. —AFP

Pakistan goes against the grain with coal power spree

ISLAMKOT (Pakistan) — In Pakistan’s bleak Thar desert, the roar of trucks is constant at a massive Chinese-backed coal power project the government sees as an answer to chronic energy shortages, but which activists warn is an environmental disaster.

Machines are running round the clock to finish the mine and coal power plant, a flagship project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) plan that has seen Beijing provide billions of dollars in financing to its southwestern neighbour.

Much of it is for infrastructure and power in a country where half of the population have infiltrated citizens and hamstrung the economy for years.

And while coal is going out of vogue in most other parts of the world because of its environmental impact, it will fuel nine of the 17 proposed CPEC power plants.

The one in Thar in southern Sindh province sits atop 175 billion tonnes of coal — one of the largest deposits in the world.

Discovered in 1992, it has remained unexploited until now, but is expected to yield 3.8 million tonnes a year when fully operational. A few kilometres away, towering chimneys emerge from the sand dunes as Pakistani and Chinese workers toil away on a 660-megawatt power plant which will burn coal from the mine.

Underground rivers which previously flowed into the mine have been diverted, and residents of Gorano, a small village some 25 kilometres (15 miles) from the coal project, claim their pastures have been transformed into a salt lake due to water diversions and the dumping of waste.

“It’s complete chaos,” said Raja who goes by one name, while another local, Yameen Bhatti, added: “The (diverted) water has attracted mosquitoes, which spread diseases.”

SECMC says it has given 950 million rupees ($7 million) to the community as compensation, but after the floodwaters recede, experts warn the residents will probably continue to struggle as the thirsty power project will consume a huge amount of ground water.

Environmental concerns about Pakistan’s coal spree go beyond the villages of Thar. The UN has warned that the country risks an “absolute” water shortage by 2025, and activists have warned about the impact of such industries on increasingly scarce water supplies.

Officials have said that the country’s new coal plants will use the most efficient technology available to minimise pollution.

Coal vs renewable energy

Pakistan’s push to build coal-fired plants comes amid a global drive to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy like solar and wind. “While the rest of the world is abandoning coal, we are throwing ourselves into this disaster,” said Omar Cheema, an environmental expert.

Some experts and officials have also suggested it would be cheaper to invest in renewables as the price of solar and wind is dropping, and several international studies have also shown that coal is no longer competitive.

But Pakistani authorities argue that using local coal would help cut fuel imports, saving precious billions in foreign exchange, and would also provide reliable power round the clock, unlike fluctuating output from renewable sources.

Some have compared Pakistan with neighbouring India, which has announced ambitious plans to invest in renewable energy. But India is heavily dependent on coal, which provides more than 75 per cent of its electricity.

In Pakistan, it accounts for less than one per cent. —AFP

China is backing nine new coal-fired power plants in Pakistan, but critics are concerned over environmental impacts and how the projects are financed. PHOTO: AFP

The German government is to ease air pollution laws aimed at curbing diesel vehicle use in urban areas. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (186 W/E)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (186 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.T.T/A.I.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

Phone No: 2301185
**Lost Disney film showing Mickey Mouse’s predecessor found in Japan**

TOKYO (Japan) — When Yasushi Watanabe bought a cartoon film decades ago as a high school student in Osaka, he had no idea he was purchasing animation history.

But the modest reel he bought for just ¥500 yen ($4.40 in today’s money) has been revealed as a rare lost cartoon produced by Walt Disney featuring a character that led to the creation of Mickey Mouse. The discovery was reported by Japan’s Asahi Shimbun daily, which Watanabe contacted after reading a book about the history of “Oswald the Lucky Rabbit”, the character Disney created in the 1920s.

While Disney created the character, complete with oversized ears and a button nose, he lost the rights to another company, prompting him to develop a new cartoon figure: Mickey Mouse. The book said seven of the 26 short films featuring Oswald that Walt Disney produced were missing, and Watanabe remembered his childhood reel. It was labelled in Japanese “Mickey Manga Spide” — Mickey Cartoon Speedy in English — and featured a dog policeman on a motorbike chasing Oswald and his girlfriend in a car.

As the trio speed around valleys and along roads, the characters and the vehicles stretched and shrunk, the Asahi reported, using a technique that later featured commonly in Disney works.

The newspaper contacted the author of the book and the Walt Disney Archives and confirmed that the reel was indeed one of the missing films, originally titled “Neck ‘n Neck.”

“We’re absolutely delighted to learn that a copy of the lost film exists,” Beckey Cline, director of the archives, told the newspaper.

“As I’ve been a Disney fan for many years, I’m happy I was able to play a role in the discovery,” added Watanabe, an anime history researcher who is now 84.

His childhood purchase is now housed at the Kobe Planet Film Archive, and another film showing 50 seconds of the same cartoon has also been unearthed at the Toy Film Museum in Kyoto, the newspaper said.—AFP

**Uruguayan poet wins top Spanish literary award**

MADRID — Uruguayan poet Ida Vitale, 95, on Thursday won a prestigious literary award in the Spanish-speaking world, Spain's Culture Minister Jose Guirao announced.

Born in 1923, Vitale is the last surviving member of a Uruguayan art movement known as the “Generation of 45” and currently lives in the United States.

Spain established the Miguel de Cervantes Prize, named after the famous author of ‘Don Quixote’, in 1975. It is considered to be “the most prestigious and remunerative award given for Spanish-language literature” by the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

The jury said Vitale was awarded the prize for her poetry, literary criticisms and translations, adding that her language was “one of the most remarkable and well-known in Spanish poetry, at the same time intellectual and accessible, universal and personal, transparent and profound.”

She is the fifth woman to win the prize. “I never expected to win the prize, it’s absolutely bewildering,” she told AFP. “It’s a surprise... an excess of generosity from Spain.” —AFP

**Bollywood stars Padukone, Singh wed in Italy**

MUMBAI — Bollywood superstars Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh have tied the knot in Italy, Indian media reported Thursday.

The celebrity couple got married in a private ceremony at Lake Como on Wednesday, according to the Press Trust of India news agency.

The pair have yet to comment or release pictures from the event which was closed to the media.

Padukone is arguably Indian cinema’s biggest female star currently, and she has also broken into Hollywood, starring in “xXx: Return of Xander Cage” opposite Vin Diesel.

Indian Bollywood actors Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh have reportedly married in Italy. PHOTO: AFP

**Hockney sells for $90mn, sets living artist record**

NEW YORK — An iconic swimming pool picture painted by British legend David Hockney sold for $90.3 million in New York on Thursday, setting a new auction record for a living artist, Christie’s said.

“Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)”, which sold for an estimated $36.4 million at Christie’s in 2014, was snapped up after more than nine minutes of bidding, dominated by two rival telephone bidders.

The previous record was held by Jeff Koons and his “Balloon Dog (Orange),” which sold for $58.4 million at Christie’s in 2013.

It was standing room only in the packed sales room at Christie’s in New York, where a smattering of applause broke out when the sale concluded, the painting hammering for $80 million.

The buyer’s premium took the final price to $90,312,500, the auction house announced.

Christie’s had estimated the 1972 oil painting at $80 million and called the Hockney “one of the great masterpieces of the modern era.” “We rarely can say, ‘This is the one opportunity to buy the best painting from the artist’,” Ana Maria Celis, vice president of post-war and contemporary art at Christie’s had said before the sale.

“This is it.”

In the picture, a smartly dressed man, standing on the edge of the pool, looks pensive at another figure swimming toward him in glistening waters, with an idyllic mountain view in the background.

The first man depicts Hockney’s former lover and muse, Peter Schlesinger, who was one of his students at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The picture dates back to the year that their great love affair ended, and the swimmer could be Peter’s new lover.—AFP

**Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship concludes with awards ceremony in Ngwe Saung**

THE awarding ceremony of the Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship (OAOC) was held at NgweSaung beach, Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

First, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein delivered the opening speech, followed by Vice Chairman of Myanmar Yachting Federation U Phone Kyaw Moe Myint and Chairman of International Optimist Dinghy Association expressing their gratitude.

Next, the Deputy Minister, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Hla Myat Thway, Chairman of Myanmar Yachting Federation U Moe Myint and officials presented awards to the winners of the OAOC.

Afterwards, a dinner was hosted for the attendees and participants and the closing ceremony was held with the audience enjoying traditional dances.

The U-15 Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship (OAOC) was held from 11 to 16 November and over 130 players from 16 countries participated in the tournament.

Ten men and eight women from Myanmar took part in the Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship.—Min Thit (MNA)
South Africa coding clubs plug township youth into future

MIDRAND (South Africa) — It’s Wednesday 2:30 pm sharp in the densely-populated South African township of Ivory Park on the outskirts of Midrand – time for about 60 11-year-olds to duel at their local coding club.

“armed with basic coding blocks, inventor kits, laptops and inexhaustible imagination, the six primary school teams compete against each other. The coding club kids use electronic boards to make temporary circuits and prototypes to devise solutions for problems they’ve identified in their community.

“We are making an incubator machine that helps children who are born premature and those who are sick,” Sifiso Ngobeni, a pupil at Mikelala Primary School, outside Johannesburg, told AFP.

Rival competitors from nearby Sedi-laka primary are tackling the scourge of missing children.

“The news we always hear about children going missing, so we are making a child tracking device that can be put into children’s clothes and toys,” says one of the chattering crowd.

Coding is the instruction that a robot or computer programme reads and then executes.

At the coding clubs, students learn to design the code to make it happen.

Although access to schooling has increased in South Africa since the end of apartheid, the education system often fails to make the grade.

“The fact that we still have 80 per cent of teachers using chalks and blackboards in this day and age is a serious cause for great concern,” education activist Hendrick Makamaetse said.

“It cannot be correct that the class of 2018 still looks exactly like the class of 1918.”

Studies, including the ‘Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), reveal that the South African public education system is at the bottom of the class when compared with the rest of the world, especially in maths and science. Such subjects are key skill areas, and coding clubs have been rapidly able to create a niche for themselves.

From fun games to employment?

In September, the ministry of education said it would get behind coding clubs, which have also proved popular elsewhere in Africa, including Kenya and Botswana. In South Africa, the clubs are mainly hosted for free by NGOs, such as ORT SA, Code-JIKA and We Think Code.

“The will is there and our schools are open to it, some of them already have it (basic coding training) as part of their formal curriculum in technical schools,” education ministry spokesman Elijah Mhlanga said.

“Pupils will be exposed to it so that as they grow up they are truly aware of what it will require of them.”

In a country where over 50 per cent of young people are unemployed, coding clubs also boost the chances of finding a job.

“The clubs are about teaching learners the basics of coding and programming. We do basic coding using blocks and as they go to high school, we introduce them to more complex programmes,” Chamu Mawire, coding facilitator at ORT SA, told AFP.

But the coding has to be relevant to daily lives to get youngsters to want to learn, he said.

“We want them to identify problems in their areas or in their schools and then they make projects to try and solve those problems within their day-to-day life,” he said.

While most of the Ivory Park pupils are familiar with using smart phones, smart TV and the internet, coding and understanding algorithms is another challenge all together.

A 2018 report by McKinsey highlights that 45 per cent of all current tasks could be automated with present technology — AFP

Denmark creates global research hub for antibiotics resistance

COPENHAGEN (Denmark) — Denmark said Thursday it would create an international research centre focused on the fight against resistance to antibiotics, a scourge affecting almost half a million people worldwide.

Danish Health Minister Ellen Trane Norby signed a memorandum of understanding in Seattle, in the United States, with the international network of research centres CGIAR, to establish the centre, her office told AFP.

Denmark aims to lead “future global work on finding new solutions for the serious challenges with antimicrobial resistance we are facing today,” Norby said in a statement.

The International Centre for Interdisciplinary Solutions on AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance), financed by Denmark and private investors, will open in 2019 and is expected to employ up to 500 people.

In 2016, 490,000 people developed a resistance to antibiotics, according to figures from the World Health Organisation.

The growing problem causes 33,000 deaths in Europe each year; a recent study by the Stockholm-based European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said.

“The burden of these infections is comparable to that of influenza, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS combined,” the ECDC said.

Discovered in the 1920s, antibiotics have saved tens of millions of lives by defeating bacterial diseases such as pneumonia, tuberculosis and meningitis.

But over the decades, bacteria have learned to fight back, building resistance to the same drugs that once reliably vanquished them.

The WHO has repeatedly warned the world is running out of effective antibiotics, and last year urged governments and big pharma companies to create a new generation of drugs to fight ultra-resistant supergerms.

Bacteria can become resistant when patients use antibiotics they do not need, or do not finish a course of treatment, giving the half-defeated bug a chance to recover and build immunity — AFP

Poor weather delays US space cargo launch to Saturday

WASHINGTON (United States) — Windy weather pushed back until Saturday the planned launch of a US cargo ship loaded with supplies for astronauts living at the International Space Station, NASA said Thursday.

The delay to 4:01 am (0901 GMT) on 17 November from Wallops Island, Virginia marks the second time launch managers have postponed the mission from its initial flight plan of Thursday.

“The teams decided to wait another day for launch after assessing continuing unfavorable weather conditions, including high winds and high seas, forecast for Friday morning,” said a statement from Northrop Grumman, which operates the Antares rocket.

“The forecast for a launch Saturday is significantly improved with a less than five percent chance of weather conditions preventing a launch.”

An unmanned Russian Progress supply ship is also scheduled to launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 1814 GMT on Friday.

The Russian ship is scheduled to arrive at the orbiting outpost Sunday.

A NASA spokeswoman told AFP the Cygnus — bearing 7,400 pounds (3,350 kilograms) of supplies — will follow at 5:20 am (0920 GMT) Monday.

They mark the first cargo missions to ISS since a Soyuz rocket carrying three people bound for the space station failed on October 11 just minutes after blast-off — the first such incident in the history of post-Soviet space travel.

The astronauts on board were not hurt. Russia has since blamed the problem on a sensor that was damaged during assembly at the Baikonur cosmodrome.

And Russia has already marked a successful return to flight with its Soyuz rocket on 25 October, launching a satellite for the Russian military.

Three astronauts — one German, one Russian and one American — are currently living at the space station, which has been continually inhabited since 2000.

The next Soyuz launch with astronauts on board — one Russian, one Canadian and one American — is planned for 3 December — AFP
Myanmar beat Laos in AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 group match

Myanmar's striker Aung Thu (left) fights for the ball with a Laos defender at the AFF Suzuki Cup group match at New Laos National Stadium in Vientiane yesterday. PHOTO: MFF

MYANMAR national football team beat Laos 3-1 in the group play of AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 Group (A) at New Laos National Stadium in Vientiane yesterday. Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Htet, Thein Than Win, David Htan, Pyae Phyo Zaw, Zaw Min Tun, Hlaing Bo Bo, Lwin Moe Aung, Maung Maung Lwin, Than Htet Aung, Aee Soe and Aung Thu.

Both teams played well by putting their utmost efforts and showing their dribbling skills from the start.

Laos gained a super chance at the 14 minute mark and was finely finished by Phouthone Inlay.

That goal prodded Myanmar into action and equalized at 45 minute-mark by Myanmar star striker Aung Thu.

The first half was ended with 1-1. In the second half, Myanmar changed their tactic with using the power play.

Taking advantage of Laos' ragged defence line, Pyoe Wai Htet scored the second goal for Myanmar at 72 minute.

The match intensified in the final minutes with Myanmar dominating. Again, Myanmar star Maung Maung Lwin scored the winning third goal for Myanmar by his brilliant efforts.

The win gives Myanmar a total of six points, tops in the table. Myanmar will next play against Viet Nam at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on coming Tuesday.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Second Taolu World Cup 2018 opens in Yangon

THE opening ceremony for the 2nd Taolu World Cup 2018 was held at the Myanmar Sports Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

The Director-General of the Department of Sports and Physical Education, U Myo Hlaing, and Executive Vice President of the International Wushu Federation, Mr. Anthony Goh, delivered the opening speeches at the ceremony. U Myo Hlaing spoke on behalf of the Union Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Myint Htwe.

A total of 143 athletes and coaches from 21 nations will participate in the World Cup Championship.

There will be 11 men's events and 11 women's events, including Taijiquan, Taijijian, Qiangshu, Nandao, and Nangun.

Nyein Chan Ko Ko, Thein Than Oo, Sandi Oo, and Aye Thitsar Myint will represent for Myanmar at the championship.

Nyein Chan Ko Ko will compete in the Taijiquan and Taijijian events. Thein Than Oo will compete in the Nandao and Nangun events, Sandi Oo in the Qiangshu and Nangun events, and Aye Thitsar Myint in the Nandao and Nangun events, respectively.

Myanmar will hold the 2nd Taolu World Cup in the Thuwunna National Indoors Stadium-1 on 17 and 18 November.—A Kay Lin (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

World Billiards and Snooker Championship 2018 continues in Yangon

THE IBSF World Billiards and Snooker Championship 2018 (Long Up) continued at the Mercure Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

Players from Australia, England, India, Ireland, Myanmar, Singapore, Korea, Thailand, and Viet Nam competed in the long-up format yesterday.

A total of nine players are representing Myanmar in the Long Ups, including Aung San Oo, Nay Thwe Oo, Chit Ko Ko, Pauksa, Khin Maung Oo, Aung Htay, San Myint, and Zaw Thaw Htike.

The final matches of the billiard championship will be held on 18 November. The snooker championship will begin on 19 November, and will include men's snooker, women's snooker, and masters snooker.—A Kay Lin (Translated by KZL)

Lethwei Nation Fight 9 to be held in Yangon on Sunday

THE Lethwei Nation Fight 9 will be held at the Thein Phyu Indoor Stadium in Yangon on Sunday, according to the Myanmar Lethwei's social media page.

The bare-knuckle boxing competition will have 7 bouts in different weight classes. It will feature fighters from Myanmar and Thailand.

In the 67 Kg weight class, Myanmar's Saw Soe Lin Oo will fight Sam Kung from Thailand.

In the 75 Kg weight class, Myanmar's Saw Sawar will compete against Richard Si from Thailand. In the 61 Kg weight class, Myanmar's Saw Soe Lin Oo will fight Sam Kung from Thailand.

In the 65 Kg weight class, Myanmar's Saw Soe Lin Oo will fight against Naing Wann from Myanmar.

In the 72 Kg weight class, Myanmar's Saw Soe Lin Oo will fight against Richard Si from Thailand.

In the 57 Kg weight class, Myanmar's Saw Soe Lin Oo will fight against Naing Wann from Myanmar.

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