State Counsellor receives United States Ambassador

Discussions on peace, reconciliation, democracy

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters related to the peace and national reconciliation process, Myanmar’s democratic transition, English language proficiency program for elementary school teachers conducted by volunteers from US Peace Corps and continued provision of assistance to development programs including agriculture, rehabilitation and reintegration programs for drug users. —MNA

State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (center), holds talks with the Ambassador of the United States of America to Myanmar, Mr. Scot Marciel, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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Myanmar celebrates 70th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Eighth-day meeting of tenth regular session of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held

The Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw tenth regular session held its eighth-day meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw put on record reorganizing of wards, village tracts and villages

At the meeting Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw putting on record the reorganizing of wards, village tracts and villages in Magway Region after the matter was submitted to the Hluttaw.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee read and submits reports

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee members U Thein Lwin and U Stephen read and submit the committee reports on 2017 Myanmar Gemstone Bill and Myanmar Mines Rule in which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill and rule to register their names.

Euro 70 million AFD Loan recommended to be put on hold

Afterwards, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Public Accounts Committee Vice Chairman U Aung Min read the findings and comments report of the committee on Euro 70 million loan from French Development Agency (AFD) or Agence Française de Développement to conduct project works in the Yangon Region. The committee recommended the matter to be put on hold as recommended by the Hluttaw.

Accession to Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic, Signs and Signals

Following this the Hluttaw was explained by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung on accession to Vienna Convention on Road Traffic 1968 and Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals 1968. The Union Minister explained that accession to the conventions would results in mutual recognition, support and speeding up of vehicles from convention member countries crossing from one country to another, reduce road and traffic hazards and ease international travel of vehicles.

As the traffic regulations in ASEAN Framework Agreement on the facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAGIT) is based on Vienna Convention on Road Traffic 1968 and Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals 1968, accession to the conventions will smoothen the implementation of ASEAN agreements said the Union Minister.

Furthermore, accession to the conventions will bring immediate recognition to International Driving Permit (IDP) issued by Road Transportation Administration Department that is not recognized internationally now. Due to this the Union Minister submitted to the Hluttaw to agree on accession to the conventions.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to enroll their names.

Union level respond to Report 11/2018 and comments of Hluttaw representatives

Later members of Union level organisations responded to the Joint Public Accounts Committee Report (11/2018) on the findings of Fiscal Year 2017-2018 second six month tax collection and the discussion by the Hluttaw representatives on the report.

Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho explained that the ministry is using modern methods to control tax evasion by liquor distilleries while instructions were issued to take action up to the level of closing the distilleries if it is damaging the natural environment.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu explained that tax payers and the right of the public is protected and revenue for the government is collected through alcohol and tobacco taxes or sin taxes levied on goods deemed harmful to society and individuals. A Task Forces are set up at central, state/region, district and township levels to prevent unauthorized/unlicensed production, transports, trade and sale of tobacco/cigarettes and alcohols.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the Hluttaw’s approval and putting on record the Report 11/2018 after the Hluttaw agreed to accept the report.

Hluttaw approves bill on second amendment of farmers’ rights

Finally Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member U Nay Myo Tun tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to decide on the second amendment bill of Protection of the Farmers’ Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits Law. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives discussed the motion and obtained the decision of the Hluttaw to approve the bill paragraph by paragraph.

The ninth-day meeting of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 13 December it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting over the Tax Administration Bill at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were Joint Bill Committee deputy chairman U Zaw Min, Secretaries, Joint Secretary committee members from the Bill committee, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Hluttaw representatives and officials from the Internal Revenue Department and the Union Attorney-General Office. — MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill and rule to register their names.
The aim of holding the 19th ASEAN University Games was to achieve friendship and unity among ASEAN youths through ASEAN University Games, giving birth to outstanding sports personnel in the ASEAN region by creating an opportunity to show capabilities in sports and sharing information on universities and cultures of respective universities through the competing sports personnel and that the games were hosted under the theme “Youth and Friendship.”
President of India, wife arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

AT the invitation of President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho, the President of the Republic of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, and his wife, Smt. Savita Kovind, arrived on a friendly official visit in Nay Pyi Taw by special flight at 8:20 pm yesterday.

U Thant Sin, the Director-General of the Protocol Department, and Mr. Vikram Misri, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, boarded the Indian President’s airplane to welcome him and his wife.

Afterwards, they were greeted by the Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, and his wife; the Union Minister for International Cooperation, U Kyaw Tin, and his wife; Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and his wife; Myanmar Ambassador to India, U Moe Kyaw Aung, and his wife; officials from the Indian embassy in Myanmar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and guards of honor.

The President of India and his wife went in a motorcade to the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, where they will stay for the duration of their visit. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

VP U Myint Swe attends 19th ASEAN University Games Opening Ceremony

The 19th ASEAN University Games will see a total of 2,078 sports personnel, coaches, and managers from 11 countries including Myanmar participating in 17 sports in 201 competitions.

To successfully host the games, the Games Organizing Steering Committee, organizing committees and officials were putting in their best efforts while volunteer liaison youths will also provide close support, assistance and show Myanmar’s hospitality, affability and friendliness.

In concluding his speech the Vice President thanked all for being present and announced the opening of the 19th ASEAN University Games.

Next Wushu sports player Ma Sandi Oo and Karatedo judge Daw Olivia Yin Wha Htaung Lwe stepped up onto a designated podium circled by flags of ASEAN countries to take a sports oath on behalf of the sports personnel and judges.

Afterwards torch relay runners consisting of former medal winners in ASEAN University Games Ma Thi Thi Mon (track and field) and Ma Thazin Aye (Karatedo) relayed the torch into the sports ground after which the cauldron was lit by Maung Wai Lin Aung (Sepak Takraw).

The assembled sports teams from the ASEAN countries assembled on the sports ground then marched out of the sports stadium. The opening ceremony then came to a successful conclusion after students from the National University of Arts and Culture from Yangon and Mandalay provided songs and musical entertainments. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Workshop on water resource management, flood forecasting held in Yangon

WORKSHOP on water resource management and flood forecasting organized by the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management and United States Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) and Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC) was held yesterday morning at the office of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department (head office) in Yangon.

At the conference, Director-General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing of the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management and Commander Jeremy D. Crestetto, US Navy representative from the US Embassy delivered the opening speeches.

The conference is being held from 10 to 14 December, and participants from the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management, the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, the Department of Hydropower Implementation Yangon Technological Universities and Mandalay Technological University will take part in the five-day long conference.

During the conference, experts from USACE will conduct the lectures on water resource management and flood forecasting. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)
Credit Bureau Service to start within a year

By Nyein Nyein

THE Credit Bureau Service will be implemented within one year, said U Zaw Lin Aung, the executive director of the Kan-bawza bank and the chairman of the Myanmar Credit Bureau Limited.

“The credit bureau service will meet the international standard and help develop Myanmar’s financial sector. We will try to begin the service in 2019,” said U Zaw Lin Aung.

“Once the credit bureau service starts, businesspersons or small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which have proven their accountability, will receive loans easily, quickly and comfortably. Local loans will be easily accessible and the service will enable better access to credit,” according to the Myanmar Credit Bureau Limited.

Moreover, the Central Bank of Myanmar and the bank’s supervision department will be able to formulate better policies for supervision by gaining knowledge of the financial sector’s activities in time.

Through implementation of the credit bureau, doing business will be easier and getting credit will be significantly easier. By building a stable financial sector, there will be an increase in investment, job opportunities for local people, and local consumption. Then, the country’s economy will also develop, according to the Myanmar Credit Bureau Limited. The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) issued a license to the Myanmar Credit Bureau Limited on 17 May 2018, allowing it to establish a credit bureau in the country.

The Myanmar Credit Bureau will collect information on loan repayment histories and other information about borrowers and distribute the profiles to lenders, such as banks and other non-banking financial institutions. The move makes a step away from strict collateral requirements for loans.

“With the credit profiles, lenders will be better able to evaluate the credit worthiness of potential borrowers and improve risk assessment procedures. It will enable many entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to qualify for loans,” said U Soe Thin, the Deputy Governor of the CBM.

To implement the first loan information department, the Myanmar Credit Bureau Limited signed agreements with U.S.-based Equifax New Zealand Services and Solutions Limited for credit bureau software license, installation, consultancy, and support at the Zaburit Shwe Sin hall at the Myanmar Banks Association building, Yangon, on 10 December.

The Myanmar Credit Bureau Limited was formed with 60 per cent funding from MB Investment Limited, formed by Myanmar Banks Association’s member banks, and 40 per cent investment from the Asia Credit Bureau Holding Company from Singapore.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar-Thailand trade dips only at Tachilek gate in current FY

Workers selecting shrimps in Kyauktan Township outside Yangon. PHOTO: POE KHWAR

Myanmar-Thailand trade dips only at Tachilek gate in current FY

OF the seven border trade points between Myanmar and Thailand, only the Tachilek gate witnessed a small decrease in trade in the current financial year 2018-2019. Trade at the Hteekhee border gate picked up dramatically, boosting the total trade figure.

Between 1 October and 30 November, border trade between Myanmar and Thailand totaled US$621.2 million. The figure has tripled from $206 million registered in the same period last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Normally, the Myawady gate sees the largest trade among the Myanmar-Thailand checkpoints. This year, trade at the Hteekhee gate rose tremendously, boosting the total Myanmar-Thailand border trade value.

The value of trade stood at $9 million at Tachilek, $389.9 million at Hteekhee, $137.9 million at Myeik, $39.36 million at Kawthoung, $8.4 million at Maese, and $4.2 million at Mawtaung.

Myanmar primarily exports fishery products such as crab, fish, and shrimp, as well as onions, sesame, dry tea leaves, coconut, and turmeric to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, consumer goods such as cosmetics, and food products. — Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar Economic Bank extends online phone billing system to household fiber internet

MYANMAR Economic Bank and Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications are now accepting payments for fiber to the home (FTTH) systems in addition to postpaid phone bills. MB and MPT upload information on postpaid cord phones and mobile phone bills for Yangon and Mandalay regions via their Webportal.

Customers can now pay their FTTH bills in addition to their phone bills at 7 MEB branches in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon (1),(2),(5) Saving (3), Mandalay (1), and at licensed agents in external organizations, private banks, phone and technological service centers, shopping malls such as City Mart Holding, Victoria, Asia Light, and United Living Mall, etc., by providing their phone number and invoice number, now via online as well. —GNLM

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
Aviation watchdog ICAO in Myanmar for safety audit

THE International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is conducting a safety audit in Myanmar from 10 to 21 December, under the ICAO’s Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP).

The audit began at the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), with the Department of Civil Aviation’s Director-General U Min Lwin and the ICAO team’s leader, Mr. Junjiana Nio, delivering the opening speeches. Afterwards, U Kyaw Myo, the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications met the ICAO team at the Department for Civil Aviation’s hall.

The USOAP is being implemented to check whether the DCA is abiding by the recommended practices and standards for airline safety. The ICAO has sent a five-member team, led by Mr. Junjiana.

The ICAO’s 32nd General Assembly in 1998 adopted the resolution to begin implementing the USOAP from 1999. The programme was verified under the comprehensive systems approach for audit (CSA) in 2010. That same year, the ICAO conducted checks at airlines of member countries under the continuous monitoring approach (CMA) for the development of capacity and safety of the airlines.

Myanmar passed the verification of the ICAO’s Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme in 2010. At the time, the ICAO team had asked the DCA to take some actions. In 2013, the team visited Myanmar to follow-up on the action taken on suggestions made by the ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (CVM). Myanmar passed with effective implementation (EI) of 65.92 per cent.

The current visit will be the third time an ICAO team conducts a verification under the CMA in Myanmar. — GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 300 people undergo free eye surgery at Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital

OVER 300 people underwent free eye surgery at the Sitagu Eye Hospital (Cakkhudana) in Pakokku Township from 5 to 8 December.

A team of eye specialists, led by retired professor Dr Mya Aung and Sagaing Township's Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital's assistant medical superintendent, Dr. Mi Mi Khin, operated on 329 patients during the program. The surgeries were conducted in cooperation with retired ophthalmology professors from Yangon and Mandalay, and local eye specialists. The team also provided free treatment to 1,680 patients at the hospital. This was the third time free surgeries were organized at Pakokku Town's Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital. Doctors had provided free eye treatment to 1,501 patients and free surgery to 306 patients in the first time, and treated 2,183 patients and operated on 405 patients in the second time.

LNG power plant to be set up at Ahlon power station

TO meet the demand for electricity and to support Myanmar’s power sector, a liquefied natural gas (LNG) power plant which can generate 388 MW of electricity will be set up at the Ahlon power station in Yangon region, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

A project to build an LNG jetty and a natural gas line will be implemented in mid 2019 to supply LNG to the new plant. The new power plant will be constructed on an 8.16-acre plot of land in the compound of the Ahlon Township’s power station, which is currently generating 120 MW of electricity. The LNG power plant will be constructed by Toyo Thai Power Myanmar Co. Ltd. (TPMC).

The LNG for the plant will be imported on special ships. It will be supplied to the Ahlon power station through an LNG jetty, which will be constructed on a 15-acre plot of land on the Yangon River in the southern part of Dala Township.

Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation’s (YESC) Deputy General Manager U Yin Tun Lwin said that the project, once it is completed, will help stabilize the supply of electric power in the Yangon region.

“We will also be able to distribute more power to the region. The YESC is distributing 1,550 MW of electric power in Yangon. In the summer, we usually distribute 1,650 MW of power in the region. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has planned to construct more power plants in other states and regions. So, we are planning to distribute 3,000 MW coming summer,” he said.

The construction of the new plant will start in mid 2019, and the unit is expected to begin generating power within 28 months. Currently the company is assessing the environmental impact and socio-economic impact of the project. Once the assessment is finished, it will submit its report to the Environmental Conservation Department to seek its permission for the project. — Pwint Thitsa

(Translated by Hay Mar)
Myanmar celebrates 70th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

THE 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was celebrated at Yangon’s International Business Center in Hline Township yesterday. The celebrations were facilitated by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC).

The event was attended by the Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein, the Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker, U Tin Maung Tun, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Naing Ngn Linn, ambassadors and diplomats from foreign embassies in Myanmar, Hlut- taw representatives, officials from government departments, NGOs, CSOs, and teachers and students from various institutions.

First, the MNHRC Chair, U Win Mra, read a message of greeting from President U Win Myint. Afterwards, Union Minis- ter Dr. Win Myat Aye delivered a speech. The Union Minister said human rights are every human being’s birthright and entail the people’s duty to support and promote human rights. He said the government has been setting policies, laws, and by- laws to realize individual rights and to ensure rule of law. He added that every nation has laws that adhere to their set national pol- icies, while also being in accord- ance with international laws.

Later, the MNHRC Chair delivered a speech, saying his commission has been responding to complaints on human rights violations in accordance with rules and regulations.

U Win Mra said the commis- sion has undertaken inspection visits to prisons, labour camps, police lock-ups, and court lock- ups and reported their findings to the relevant departments for further action. He said they have also travelled to areas of ongoing conflicts to promote and protect human rights. He said peace and stability are key components of ensuring access to human rights. He said the people have become more aware and informed on what constitutes human rights, and pledged that the commission will continue furthering education pro- grammes and promoting human rights.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and UN Resident Representative and Humanitar- ian Coordinator, Mr. Knut Ostby, also delivered speeches at the event.

“The Universal Declaration on Human Rights proclaimed, ‘All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights’. It stated that human rights apply to everyone, everywhere. As the UN Secretary-General said, it brought hope to dark places. But we can’t take human rights for granted. People are being denied rights in different parts of the world. We are, therefore, standing up today for human rights for everyone in the world and for everyone in Myanmar,” said Mr. Knut Ostby.

Afterwards, Ma Thida (Sangyaung) spoke on the UDHR and women’s rights, the Myanmar Press Council Chairman, Hanthawaddy U Ohn Kyaing, spoke on the rights of the media, and the Myanmar Writers Association Vice-Chair Dr. Chit Naing (Psychology), spoke on the history of human rights.

Later, a video documenting the UDHR was played, followed by officials conferring awards to students who entered in the composition and painting con- tests for the 70th anniversary of the UDHR. Officials then toured the photo exhibition at the event.

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe holds talks with Independent Commission of Enquiry

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe meets with chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry Ambassador Rosario Manalo and members in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UNITY MINISTER for the Of- fice of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe received with Independent Commissions of Enquiry at the meeting hall of his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe hold talks with Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry Ambassador Rosario Manalo and commission mem- bers U Mya Thein, Ambassa- dor Kenzo Oshima and Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet at the meeting.

Also present at the meet- ing were U Chan Aye, Direc- tor-General of International Organizations and Economic Department under the Minis- try of Foreign Affairs and other officials. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Independent Commission of Enquiry holds its fourth meeting

THE Independent Commiss- ion of Enquiry (ICOE) held their fourth meeting at 10 a.m. yesterday at the National Reconcili- ation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the meet- ing were Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry Ambassador Rosario Manalo and its members; Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, U Mya Thein and Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet. The fourth meeting of the ICOE will be held until 14 December. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)
"As our locally produced products are on par with international products, we can vouch for the quality of our goods."

By Thun Htike Lwin, Managing Director of Proven Group of Co.

It is incumbent on us to continue the task of building a nation founded on laws and institutions that will guarantee each and everyone in our country justice, freedom, and human rights.

Similarly, the medicines items from the pharmaceutical factories of Dr. Aung Zaw also have international quality. As our locally produced goods are on par with imported items, we can vouch for the quality of our goods.

With a view to curbing and containing the illegal trade in the long-term plan, we are prepared to establish an information system to detect and prevent re-establishment of leprosy in Myanmar. This system would help reduce the illegal trade in the country.

With a view to deter the unlawful imports, the method of levying the brokerage tax is being paid. Next, the items being taken out from the bonded ware-house. It is said that it would be easier to identify the legal goods and illegal goods. The system would be operated through the e-Lock Electronic Lock combination.

According to the regulations of the local trade, our Customs Department is taking up action to address the matter. The Deputy Director-General would discuss in detail.

Director-General: With regards to the illegal trade, our Customs Department is taking up action to address the matter. The Deputy Director-General would discuss in detail.

Roundtable Discussions on ways and means for the economic development of the nation

Another plan is about the Bonded Warehouse System which is the norm of international prac-tices. The scheme of bonded ware-house means that the approved commodities are allowed to import in advance without the permits and keep them in the bonded ware-house.

When it is needed for local consumption or distribution, the government tax is being paid. Next, the items are being taken out from the bond-....

With a view to curbing and containing the illegal trade in the long-term plan, we are prepared to establish an information system to detect and prevent re-establishment of leprosy in Myanmar. This system would help reduce the illegal trade in the country.

The most rampant illegal border trade that need to take action and curb the flow. The system would be operated through the e-Lock (Electronic Lock) combination.

With the legalization of the trade, our Customs Department is taking up action to address the matter. The Deputy Director-General would discuss in detail.

Director-General: With regards to the illegal trade, our Customs Department is taking up action to address the matter. The Deputy Director-General would discuss in detail.
Deputy Minister for Information inspects Toungoo IPRD, transmission station

The deputy minister then proceeded to the Toungoo District’s Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD). He visited the children’s reading room, and presented gifts and offered encouragement to children coloring in the room. He also toured the department’s public library and mini-museum and met with the district staff.

The deputy minister advised staff members to connect with local people so they can better access the community centers. He told them to work with department officials, NGOs, local residents, and writers to create an authentic community center, and to expand networking with students and youth. He said it is important to compile authentic news that the people are interested in and to disseminate it in a timely and systematic manner.

He said we need to adapt to the changes of the modern digital age and its technologies. —Zaw Htet (District IPRD) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrols at border

MYANMAR and Bangladeshi border guard troops conducted two coordinated patrols along the border on Sunday, according to the information released by the Myanmar Police Force yesterday.

In the first patrol, the troops of the border guard forces patrolled between the border posts No. 44 and 45 from 8:30 am to 11:50 am. In the patrol, the Myanmar side was led by Police Major Myo Myint of No. 1 Border Guard Force in area-2, Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, while the Bangladeshi side was led by Subedar Md. Jakir Hossain of Chakdhala Outpost under the No.11 unit of Border Guard Force.

Similarly, another troops of the two countries conducted the coordinated patrol between the border post No. 38 and 39 from 8:30 to 11:50 am on the same day.

In the patrol, the Myanmar troops was led by Police Capt. Aung Myo Zaw Lwin of Taunggyo Police Station in area-3 in Maungtaw Township.

Leprosy is an unfinished agenda in Myanmar

FROM PAGE-9

Leprosy New Case Detection and Disability

From 2004 to 2017, the 43,535 new leprosy cases were detected, where some new cases were found as pocket in some areas. Among new 43,535 cases, 5714 had grade-II disability and 2286 cases were under 15 year (Child Cases) indicating that transmission is still present in Myanmar.

Conclusion

With appreciations to MDT, Myanmar could eliminate the public health problem of leprosy since 2003 but new cases, including child cases are still coming out along with grade-II disability cases in some areas up till now. So, we should not neglect the leprosy disease. Evidently, leprosy is remaining as an unfinished agenda in Myanmar and all the partners and every citizen need to actively participate in leprosy awareness activities for early case detection and prevention of disability as well as prevention of transmission. The beautiful finished agenda should be “Zero new cases, Zero disability among new cases and the affected persons becoming inclusive contributory members of the society.

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- Report of the Leprosy Commission in India 1890-91, Calcutta
- Progress towards leprosy elimination in Myanmar, 50 years journey,1952-2002
Russia’s advanced MiG-35 fighter jet may get active phased array radar

LUKHOTITSY (Moscow Region) — Russia’s advanced MiG-35 fighter jet may be furnished with an active phased array radar in the future, MiG Aircraft Corporation CEO Ilya Tarasenko said recently.

The active phased array technologies are already widely used for creating modern fighter jets’ onboard radars. Such radars allow simultaneously tracking a large number of targets through the beam’s electronic steering. The radar is capable of detecting and engaging an enemy on the water, on the ground and in the air; identify its class, type and size; accomplish navigational tasks and guide precision weapons.

“We understand that this is a world trend for the use of radars with an active phased array on this type of aircraft. Naturally, we have already made a prototype for holding trials,” Tarasenko said.

The MiG Aircraft Corporation will be offering such radar as an option after its tests jointly with the aircraft, he said.

The contract for the delivery of the first batch of six MiG-35 multirole fighter jets for Russia’s Aerospace Force was signed at the Army-2018 forum on August 22.

The MiG-35 is a 4++ generation multirole fighter jet developed on the basis of the serial-produced MiG-29K/KUB and MiG-29M/M2 aircraft.

The flight tests of MiG-35 fighter aircraft began on 26 January and the plane’s international presentation was held in the Moscow Region on the following day. Russia’s state armament programme through 2020 stipulates the deliveries of MiG-35 fighter jets to Russia’s Aerospace Force.—Tass

‘I can’t breathe’ were Khashoggi’s final words, report says

WASHINGTON (United States) — Jamal Khashoggi’s final words were “I can’t breathe,” CNN said on Sunday, citing a source who has read the transcript of an audio tape of the final moments before the journalist’s murder.

The source told the US network the transcript made clear the killing was premeditated, and suggests several phone calls were made to give briefings on the progress.

CNN said Turkish officials believe those calls were made to top officials in Riyadh.

Khashoggi, a Saudi contributor to The Washington Post, was killed shortly after entering the kingdom’s consulate in Istanbul on October 2. The transcript of the gruesome recording includes descriptions of Khashoggi struggling against his murderers, CNN said, and references sounds of the dissident journalist’s body “being dismembered by a saw.”

The original transcript was prepared by Turkish intelligence services, and CNN said its source read a translation version and was briefed on the probe into the journalist’s death.

Saudi Arabia’s foreign minister on Sunday meanwhile rejected demands to extradite suspects connected to the murder of Khashoggi as sought by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Erdogan has repeatedly called on Saudi Arabia to hand over suspects in the killing. According to Turkey, a 15-member Saudi team was sent to Istanbul to kill Khashoggi.

Saudi Arabia, however, holds that it was a “rogue” operation gone wrong — a claim undercut by the reported transcript.

For his part US President Donald Trump has refrained from blaming Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, even though the CIA reportedly concluded that he ordered the assassination.—AFP

US Marine accident off Japan categorized as severest “Class A”

WASHINGTON — The US military said on Sunday it has categorized the fatal crash involving a fighter jet and a tanker plane off Japan’s western coast last week as a “Class A” mishap, the severest category on its scale of four.

The accident occurred when an FA-18 fighter jet and KC-130 tanker plane based in Japan collided in midair when conducting training including refueling early Thursday. A conclusion has not been reached on the details of the situation, according to the US Third Marine Expeditionary Force. Japan’s Self-Defense Forces rescued the two crew members of the FA-18, but one of them, Captain Jahmar Resilard, 28, died. Searches for the remaining five Marines, who are believed to have been on board the KC-130, are still under way in an area of the Pacific Ocean, about 100 kilometers south of Cape Muroto in Kochi Prefecture, by Japanese authorities and US forces.

The two aircraft belonged to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in Yamaguchi Prefecture. They might have been undertaking nighttime midair refueling, a highly difficult maneuver, in order to adapt themselves to tasks required for long-range flights. In December 2016, a US Marine Osprey aircraft was wrecked during a nighttime air-to-air refueling exercise in the southern Japan prefecture of Okinawa. A Class A mishap is classified as an accident resulting in loss of life or permanent total disability, destruction of an aircraft or damage worth $2 million or more.

—Kyodo News

Violent French protests are economic ‘catastrophe’: finance minister

PARIS, (France) — Violence linked to the “yellow vest” protests sweeping France are a “catastrophe” for the nation’s economy, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire warned on Sunday.

“It’s a catastrophe for commerce, it’s a catastrophe for our economy,” Le Maire told reporters as he visited shops in Paris hit by looting during anti-government riots a day earlier.—AFP

Germany braces for train turmoil as workers strike Monday

FRANKFURT AM MAIN, (Germany) — Germany’s state train operator Deutsche Bahn is bracing for severe disruptions on Monday due to a nationwide railworkers’ strike over pay.

National, regional, and local train traffic will be affected even after the end of the stoppage scheduled to last from 5:00 am to 9:00 am (0400 GMT to 0800 GMT), Deutsche Bahn said on Sunday. It did not specify how many trains would be cancelled, or how many passengers are likely to be inconvenienced. Pay negotiations between Deutsche Bahn and the EVG railworkers’ union, demanding a 7.5-per cent salary rise for 160,000 employees, ended without agreement on Saturday.—AFP

May defers planned Brexit vote

LONDON—British Prime Minister Theresa May on Monday delayed a planned parliamentary vote on her agreement to leave the European Union.

“If we went ahead and held the vote tomorrow the deal would be rejected by a significant margin,” she told parliament, though she said she is confident it is the right deal.

“We will therefore defer the vote schedule for tomorrow and not proceed to divide the house at this time.”—Kyodo News
Targeted poverty alleviation drives county’s development in China’s Yunnan

Kindergarten children take music lesson in Bamu Village of Wa Autonomous County of Ximeng, southwest China’s Yunnan Province on 7 December, 2018. Ximeng County in southwest China’s Yunnan Province used to be a national-level poor region. Inspired by the country’s targeted poverty alleviation drive, the county has developed cattle farming and tourism over the past five years, bringing poverty rate drastically down. PHOTO: XINHUA

Gamer charged by Australia police after ‘livestreaming assault’

SYDNEY, (Australia) — A Sydney gamer heard on a livestream allegedly hitting a woman was charged with assault by Australian police Monday, after the incident went viral on social media.

The 26-year-old was using the Twitch video platform to broadcast himself playing the popular shoot-'em-up survival game Fortnite when the alleged assault happened on Sunday night.

Footage shared on Twitter showed the man, who was not named, shouting to someone offscreen “I said I’ll be out soon” before moving away from the computer monitor.

A woman’s voice is later heard saying “woman basher” and yells “you hit me in the face, don’t you dare touch my face, you hear that, all you people there?”

The argument continues, with further yelling and crying offscreen as the man moves to and from his monitor and shouts “leave me alone”.

In a second video, more yelling is heard between the pair as a child nearby cries.

Both videos were retweeted thousands of times on Twitter.

New South Wales state police said someone watching the live feed called officers, who arrested the man at his home in the southwest Sydney suburb of Oran Park on Sunday.

He was charged with common assault and bailed to appear in court on Thursday.

Police also served him with an order which prohibits him from harassing, threatening and intimidating behaviour.

Police added that two girls — aged three and 20 months — were in the home at the time.

The 21-year-old woman was “not seriously injured” but was “distressed and shaken by the incident”, they added in a statement. Local media reported that she was either his partner or wife.

—AFP

S Korean delegation leaves for DPRK for forestry cooperation talks

SEOUL — A South Korean delegation, composed of 10 government officials and forest experts, departed on Monday for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) to hold talks on forestry cooperation.

The delegation departed for Beijing earlier in the day from an international airport in South Korea’s eastern port city of Incheon.

From Beijing, the delegation was scheduled to fly to Pyongyang on Tuesday for a three-day stay.

During the stay, the South Korean delegates planned to tour a tree nursery and a factory, which produces forestry tools and materials, in Pyongyang.

while reviewing the distribution of the pesticides that South Korea sent last month to help the DPRK fight forest diseases and pests.

The delegation will also hold working-level talks with DPRK counterpart about ways to push for the inter-Korean forestry cooperation, such as fostering tree nurseries and preventing forest diseases and pests.

The Pyongyang visit by the South Korean delegation was a part of efforts to implement the agreement, reached in October after the second round of the inter-Korean working-level dialogue on forestry cooperation.—Xinhua

China summons US ambassador over Huawei arrest

BEIJING (China) — China summoned the US ambassador on Sunday to protest the “extremely bad” arrest of telecom giant Huawei’s chief financial officer in Canada and demand that the United States drop its extradition request.

The arrest of Meng Wanzhou, who faces US fraud charges related to sanctions-breaking dealings with Iran, has infuriated Beijing, threatening to disrupt a trade war truce between China and the United States.

Meng — the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, a former engineer in China’s People’s Liberation Army — is in custody as she awaits a Canadian court’s decision on bail on Monday. Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng summoned US ambassador Terry Branstad one day after he called in Canadian envoy John McCallum to voice China’s displeasure.

“Le Yucheng pointed out that the US side has seriously violated the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens, and the nature of the violation is extremely bad,” the foreign ministry said in a statement.

“The Chinese side firmly opposes this and strongly urges the United States to ‘take immediate measures to correct wrong practices, and revoke the arrest warrant against the Chinese citizen’,” it said.

China also urged the United States to “take immediate measures to correct wrong practices, and revoke the arrest warrant against the Chinese citizen”.

The statement warned that Beijing would make an unspecified “further response” in light of the US actions.—AFP

Indian gov’t convenes all-party meeting ahead of winter session of parliament

NEW DELHI — The Indian government convened an all-party meeting on Monday to hold discussions with leaders of various political parties, officials said.

The meeting was aimed to seek the opposition’s support for the smooth conduct of proceedings in both the houses of the parliament.

The winter session of parliament will begin on Tuesday and will continue until 8 January, 2019.

Officials said Chairman of upper house of parliament (locally called Rajya Sabha) M Venkaiah Naidu has called an all-party meet to build consensus.

Likewise, Speaker of Lok Sabha (lower house of Indian parliament) Sumitra Mahajan will also hold discussions with the leaders of opposition parties to ensure the passing of various pending bills.

“The session will have 20 sittings, during which eight important bills will be tabled in the Rajya Sabha and 15 in the Lok Sabha,” an official said.

Meanwhile, leaders of opposition parties will also hold meetings to formulate a joint strategy to corner the government on various issues during the upcoming session.

The previous session of the parliament in July witnessed some disruptions and adjournments over various issues.—Xinhua
In Mauritius, sugar cane means money, renewable energy

LA BARAQUE (Mauri-
tius) — Far out into the Indian Ocean where it is forced to be self-reliant, the island nation of Mauritius is weaning itself off fossil fuels by turning to its main cash-crop sugar cane, for electricity.

The leftover, crushed sugar cane stalks and tips — dry fibrous material known as “bagasse” — is burned to help power Mauritius and reduce its reliance on coal and oil.

Electricity from sug-
ar cane now accounts for 14 per cent of the island’s needs and, when combined with other renewable sources such as solar, wind and hydro, provides nearly a quarter of daily consumption.

“The government’s goal is to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix to 35 per cent by 2025,” said deputy prime minister Ivan Collen-
daveloo who is also energy minister.

“The 35 per cent is not far off, we will have 11 so-
lar parks by next year and at least two wind farms,” he said. “Independent producers in the sugar industry will continue to provide the largest share of renewable electricity from bagasse,” he added.

In Mauritius, around 60 per cent of the island’s electricity is generated by four sugar companies, each running its own thermal power station.

The plants run on coal for part of the year then switch to sugar cane byproducts when harvest season comes.

Power 24/7

At the end of November, the harvest is in full swing in the fields sur-
rounding the Omnicane company, in the south of the island.

Heavy trucks pulling huge trailers are lined up next to an immense ware-
house to unload their carg-
goes of fresh-cut sugarcane.

During the harvest, 8,500 tonnes are sent daily to this facility — a total of around 900,000 tonnes for the year.

The cane stalks are crushed to extract juice for sugarcane production. They are then soaked to extract the last juice and then heated to dry. Finally, squashed and dried, the stalks are fed into a thermal power station where they burn at 500 degrees Celsius, fuel-
ing turbines that produce electricity for the plant and the national grid. “Electricity is available 24 hours a day; on demand, without having to wait for the wind or the sun, since we can store bagasse as we would oil and coal,” said Jacques D’Unienville, Omnicane’s manager. And the carbon dioxide greenhouse gas produced by the burning? It is captured, according to D’Unienville, and used to add the fizz to soft drinks.

Clouds on horizon

However there are clouds on the horizon in the form of a drop in Europe-
price since the European Union ended quotas in 2017, and increases in pro-
duction in Thailand, Brazil and India, which together have put pressure on the island’s farmers. Jacqueline Sauzier, secretary general of the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture said falling sugar prices were “a fatal blow to the local sugar in-
dustry.”

“The number of small farmers has fallen from 26,000 in 2010 to 13,000 in 2018,” said Agriculture Minister Mahen Kumar Seeruttun. The question is whether Mauritius will be able to produce enough sugar cane to meet its target for renewable, ba-
gasse-based electricity. Some sugar producers are hoping that preferential treatment might provide an answer.

“Mauritius is a small, vulnerable island. We do not have the capacity of Thailand, Brazil and In-
dia, but we are an efficient producer because we value the entire sugar production chain,” said D’Unienville.

A photo taken on 22 November, 2018, shows a worker supervising sugarcane’s milling process at Omnicane Savannah Sugar Factory in Eflatier, Mauritius. PHOTO: AFP

Aussie bird species hit by bushfires thrives after major relocation drive

SYDNEY — A small Aus-
tralian bird species hit by bush fires in South Austral-
ia has surprised ecologists by quickly breeding after an unprecedented effort to relocate the birds, local me-
dia reported on Saturday.

The Malee emu-wren is found in only two core locations in Victoria and South Australia states, but severe bush fires four years ago destroyed their southern habitat, reported the ABC news channel.

“We could never of-
officially say they were ex-
tinct because there’s so-
much habitat out there,” local government eco-
ologist Chris Hedges told the channel.

“But we were very confident that if there were any individuals left, it was functionally extinct and would not be able to survive in the long term.”

Earlier this year, wild-
life groups and authorities relocated about 80 of the birds from their Victoria habitats to a conservation park in South Australia to help boost their numbers.

A recent survey showed that the birds, known for their distinctive reddish-brown heads, sky blue chests and long tails, are thriving in their habi-
itals with significant num-
bers breeding, reported the channel. “Certainly the fact they are breeding is a good indicator of what we might expect,” said Hedges.

“No one has ever moved this species, and if they have moved a similar species, it certainly wasn’t in the numbers we’re talk-
ning about.”

The next phase of the conservation project includes moving another 200 of the birds to the park, added Hedges. “They might move to different locations, but the idea is to get a re-
ally strong, prosperous community of emu-wren there ... they can go forth and prosper in the decades to come.” —Xinhua

ENVIRONMENT

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Claim’s Day Notice

M.V. HAI DUONG 36
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HAI DUONG 36 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 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.

Claim’s Day Notice

M.V. ANARITA
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANARITA are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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.
Myanmar opens 1st Japanese-language teacher training course

YANGON — Myanmar’s first-ever training course for Japanese-language teachers is opening as part of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s plan to invite more Asian youths to work in Japan.

The initial phase of the training programme starts this month at the Yangon University of Foreign Languages for students majoring in Japanese and for teachers from private Japanese-language schools, the Japan Foundation said.

The foundation, a government-backed institution carrying out international cultural exchange programmes, picked Myanmar as the third country to offer such training courses after India and Viet Nam to follow up Abe’s speech at an international conference in Tokyo in 2017 in which he said Japan would choose three locations in Asia to nurture Japanese-language teachers.

 Noriyuki Matsukawa, executive director of the Japan Foundation Centre for Japanese Language Testing, said the yearlong program aims to support Myanmar’s human resources through Japanese-language learning, recruit a new breed of teacher and improve current teachers’ skills.

“MYANMAR HAS HIGH DEMAND FOR JAPANESE-LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY,” he said, adding that the number of people in Myanmar taking the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test nearly tripled from 15,099 in 2016 to 37,786 in 2018.

Myanmar was ranked fifth worldwide in terms of the number of examinees this year and came second after Viet Nam in Southeast Asia. “In the past, we teachers had to go to Japan to continue further study,” said Zin Mar Ohn, a former head of the Japanese Language Department at the Myanmar college, popularly known as YUFL.

The training programme opens doors to teachers from the private sector, which plays a major role for Myanmar students learning Japanese, said Zin Mar Ohn, one of three local lecturers on the training team.

“The Japan Foundation also plans to conduct similar Japanese-language training at the Mandalay University of Foreign Languages, Matsukawa said.

The number of private Japanese-language schools in Myanmar increased from 44 in 2012 to 132 in 2015, with the number of teachers rising from 194 to 524 over the same period, according to the Ministry of Education.

Myanmar’s modern history of formal foreign-language education began in 1964 through its first Foreign Language Institute, which became YUFL in 1997. The Yangon school started offering a bachelor’s degree in Japanese in 2009.

—Kyodo News

“Ralph Breaks the Internet” tops North American box office for third weekend in a row

LOS ANGELES — With the lack of competition, Disney’s blockbuster “Ralph Breaks the Internet” continued to lead North American box office with an estimated 16.14 million US dollars for a third weekend in a row.

There was new wide release this weekend in North America as Hollywood major studios are aiming at the Christmas crush.

But a series of new notable openers will join the Christmas season race in coming weekends, such as “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse,” “Aquaman,” and “Bumblebee.”

“AS THE INDUSTRY HITS THE HOME STRETCH OF AN AMAZING BOX OFFICE YEAR, THIS WEEKEND IS A TALE OF THE HOLDOVERS,” wrote movie analyst Paul Dergarabedian at comScore in an email to Xinhua. There was no change at the top five of the box office this weekend.

“Ralph Breaks the Internet” has earned a massive 140.9 million dollars through Sunday in North America since it opened over Thanksgiving for a global total of 252.2 million dollars, according to the studio figures collected by comScore.

The animated comedy film is the sequel to the 2012’s “Wreck-It Ralph.” Directed by Rich Moore and Phil Johnston, the film features the voice of John C Reilly as Ralph.

The plot follows video game bad guy Ralph and fellow misfit Vanellope von Schweetz who navigate the vast and dynamic world wide web in search of a replacement part to save Vanellope’s game, Sugar Rush.

Universal and Illumination Entertainment’s holiday tale “Dr Seuss’ The Grinch” came in second again in its fifth weekend with an estimated 15.17 million dollars, pushing its North American total to 223.46 million dollars.

Based on the 1957 Dr Seuss book with the title “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” the animated remake is the third screen adaptation of the story. Directed by Yarrow Cheney and Scott Mosier, the film features the voice of English actor Benedict Cumberbatch as the Grinch.

The plot follows the Grinch as he plans to ruin Christmas holiday in Whoville by stealing all the town’s decorations and gifts.

In third place, MGM’s sports drama film “Creed II” took in an estimated 10.32 million dollars in its third weekend for a North American total of 96.47 million dollars. The film is the follow up to the 2015’s “Creed.”

Directed by Steven Caple Jr, “Creed II” stars Michael B. Jordan, Sylvester Stallone and Tessa Thompson among others. The plot follows a US light heavyweight contender Adonis Creed who faces off against a powerful adversary, Viktor Drago, son of Russian boxer Ivan Drago. Ivan killed Adonis’ father Apollo Creed in a tragic match many years before.

—Xinhua

Paris Hilton to showcase her artwork

LOS ANGELES — Reality TV star Paris Hilton is planning to hold an exhibition where she will be showcasing her “futuristic” artwork.

Hilton said he artwork is full of neon lights, crystals and collages. “I’m putting my art exhibit together now. My art is very futuristic and pop, with neon lights and crystals and collages and painting. I draw animals. It’s really inspired by pop culture, it’s really different,” Hilton told New York Post’s Page Six.

The DJ and socialite, who recently ended her engagement to “Leftovers” star Chris Zylka, said she is too busy to date.

“I am so happy. I just love my life. My advice is to always be happy and feel good about yourself — because life is truly too short,” she said.—PTI

Students from the Japanese Language Department at the Yangon University of Foreign Languages perform Japanese dance during an opening ceremony for a training programme for Japanese language teachers on 7 December, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The recent Hollywood premiere of Disney’s “Ralph Breaks the Internet” brought together (L to R) director/screenwriter Phil Johnston, voices Sarah Silverman and John C. Reilly, and director Rich Moore. PHOTO: AFP

The DJ and socialite, who recently ended her engagement to “Leftovers” star Chris Zylka, said she is too busy to date.

“I am so happy. I just love my life. My advice is to always be happy and feel good about yourself — because life is truly too short,” she said.—PTI

“I am literally so busy. I hardly have time to see my own family, let alone do that. I am so happy. I just love my life. My advice is to always be happy and feel good about yourself — because life is truly too short,” she said.—PTI

“I am so happy. I just love my life. My advice is to always be happy and feel good about yourself — because life is truly too short,” she said.—PTI

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“I am so happy. I just love my life. My advice is to always be happy and feel good about yourself — because life is truly too short,” she said.—PTI
Australian scientists develop 10-minute cancer test

SYDNEY — Worried you may have cancer? One day you could take a 10-minute test with a 90 percent success rate, thanks to a new cancer-detection approach that can uncover traces of the disease in a patient’s bloodstream.

The cheap and simple test uses a colour-changing fluid to reveal the presence of malignant cells anywhere in the body and provides results in less than 10 minutes, according to a new study published in the journal Nature Communications.

“The test was made possible by the Queensland team’s discovery that cancer DNA and normal DNA stick to metal surfaces in markedly different ways. This allowed them to develop a test that distinguishes between healthy cells and cancerous ones, even from the tiny traces of DNA that find their way into the bloodstream.”

The DNA sample is added to water containing gold nanoparticles. DNA from cancer cells sticks to the nanoparticles, making the water’s color stay pink; DNA from healthy cells binds to the particles differently and turns the water blue.

The researchers have run the test on 200 human cancer samples and healthy DNA with 90 percent accuracy.

The test has only been used to detect breast, prostate, bowel and lymphoma cancers so far, but researchers are confident that the results can be replicated with other types of the disease.

“We certainly don’t know yet whether it’s the holy grail for all cancer diagnostics, but it looks really interesting as an incredibly simple universal marker of cancer, and as an accessible and inexpensive technology that doesn’t require complicated lab-based equipment like DNA sequencing,” Trau said.

The test has yet to be used on humans and large clinical trials are needed before it can be used on prospective patients.

Heavy screen time appears to impact children’s brains: study

WASHINGTON (United States) — Researchers have found “different patterns” in brain scans among children who record heavy smart device and video game use, according to initial data from a major ongoing US study.

The first wave of information from the $300 million National Institute of Health (NIH) study is showing that those nine and 10-year-old kids spending more than seven hours a day using such devices show signs of pre-mature thinning of the cortex, the brain’s outermost layer that processes sensory information.

“What we can say is that this is what the brains look like of kids who spend a lot of time on screens. And it’s not just one pattern,” Dowling said.

The NIH data reported on CBS also showed that kids who spend more than two hours a day on screens score worse on language and reasoning tests.

The study — which involves scanning the brains of 4,500 children — eventually aims to show whether screen time is addictive, but researchers need several years to understand such long-term effects.

“In many ways, the concern that investigators like I have is, that we’re sort of in the midst of a natural kind of uncontrolled experiment on the next generation of children,” Dimitri Christakis, a lead author of the American Academy of Pediatrics’ most recent guidelines on screen time, told 60 Minutes.

Initial data from the study will begin to be released in early 2019.

The academy now recommends parents “avoid digital media use — except video chatting — in children younger than 18 to 24 months.” —AFP
ASEAN University Games: Myanmar grabs three gold, one silver, one bronze medals

MYANMAR clinched three gold, one silver, and one bronze medals yesterday, taking its total tally to 8 medals at the 19th ASEAN University Games.

ASEAN University students participated in yesterday’s Wushu event at the Wann Theik Kili Stadium (A) in Nay Pyi Taw. In the men’s Wushu Taijijian and Taijijian event of Sanso and Taolu, Myanmar’s Nyein Chan Ko Ko secured the first place with 19.22 points and Khant Min Htet came second with 19.10 points. Indonesia’s Bobie Valentinus Gunawan, secured the third place with 19.09 points.

The Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, and officials awarded medals to the winners of the competition.

In the Men’s Taijijian competition of Sanso (56 kg weight category), Myanmar’s Nine Tan won a gold medal. In the women’s Taijijian competition of Taolu, Myanmar’s Myat Noe Eain stood first with 9.60 points, Malaysia’s Chan Lu Yi came second with 9.54 points, and Singapore’s Vera Tan Yan Ning took the third place with 9.53 points. Officials presented the prizes to the winners.

In the traditional cane ball (chinlone) competition, Thailand secured the first place with 300 points, Malaysia came second with 209 points, and Myanmar placed third with 204 points. Up till now, Myanmar has secured five gold medals, two silver medals, and one bronze medal at the Games.—MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Bale snaps drought as Real edge past struggling Huesca

MADRID (Spain) — Gareth Bale ended a run of 802 minutes without a goal in La Liga as Real Madrid won 1-0 at bottom side Huesca on Sunday to climb back to within five points of leaders Barcelona.

The Welshman struck his first goal in the league since the start of September to lift Real to a fourth win in five matches and move the European champions up to fourth place. “He (Bale) and the rest of the team were all fantastic. He scored a great goal and it was enough to get the win,” said Real coach Santiago Solari.

“It wasn’t a game to remember; but if you want to win La Liga, you have to win these matches,” the Argentine added.

Bale put a halt to his longest spell without scoring in the league since joining Real as he expertly cushioned in a volley from an arcing cross by Alvaro Odriozola on eight minutes. Huesca winger Ezequiel Avila forced a brilliant stop from Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, the Belgium international punching the ball to safety midway through the first half.

Bale nearly added to his haul on 23 minutes when his fierce drive from the edge of the area was tipped over by a scrambling Aleksandar Jovanovic. Gonzalo Melero should have levelled for Huesca right after the break only to nod wide of the goal despite having the whole target at which to aim.

A swerving David Ferreira shot drew another smart save from Courtois as Real withstood a spirited fightback from the hosts, but Bale continued to threaten and forced two further saves from Jovanovic.

Courtois turned over a late Moi Gomez free-kick and Huesca, who slumped to a 10th defeat in 15 games this season, were denied a point when Dani Carvajal headed off the line from Christian Rivera.

Elsewhere, Borja Mayoral salvaged a point for Levante with a stoppage-time equaliser in a thrilling 4-4 draw away to Elbar.

Elbar, who beat Madrid 3-0 in their last home game, led 4-2 with 15 minutes to play after a quick-fire brace by Charles added to goals from Sergi Enrich and Gonzalo Escalante. But Levante snatched a draw as Tono halved the deficit before Mayoral struck at the death.

Real Valladolid won for the first time in six games as ‘Toni’ Suarez and Antonio found the net in a 2-1 victory at Real Sociedad.—AFP