We are now continuing our work to provide 24 hours electricity to Maungtaw Township and nearby villages during December 2018: President U Win Myint

Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the occasion of the 44th Anniversary of Rakhine State Day. (15 December 2018)

Dear esteemed ethnic brothers and sisters of Rakhine State,

Today 15th December marks the auspicious occasion of the 44th Anniversary of Rakhine State Day for the ethnic brothers and sisters and citizens of Rakhine State. I am very happy to have this opportunity to send this Message of Greetings on this auspicious occasion. Furthermore, I send these good wishes for the prosperity and auspiciousness not only for the ethnic Rakhine nationals in Rakhine State but also other ethnic nationals living in other parts of the Union.

President U Win Myint meets administrative, legislative, judiciary sectors in Mon State

State Counsellor addresses 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit - 2018

President U Win Myint greeted officials and representatives at the meeting with officials from administrative, legislative and judiciary sectors in Mon State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Chairman of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Min Thu, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Thaung Tun, U Kyaw Tin, and officials left Yangon by Tatmadaw special flight and arrived in Mawlamyine, Mon State yesterday morning. SEE PAGE-3

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observed ANT booth displayed at 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit – 2018 organized by Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 (MICC – 2) at 9 a.m. yesterday. SEE PAGE-4

Chairman of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Min Thu, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Thaung Tun, U Kyaw Tin,

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Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session holds its 14th-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE 14th-day meeting of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered; reports read, discussed and approved; a bill approved and a motion discussed.

Asterisk-marked questions
The first question of the day was raised by U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri constituency on plan to pay compensation to farmers whose land were in the basin area of Yan Aung Myin reservoir in Dekkhinathiri Township. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aye Maung Sein replied that assessment will be made on type of lands submerged by the reservoir water to calculate compensation amount and then a report will be made to Central Committee.

Regarding this query, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that necessary questions were asked and answered, and a report was read.

Q & A session
During the Q & A session, U Hwi Tin of Chin State constituency 11 asked the Union Government if it plans to construct a two-storey reinforced concrete school - 120 x 30 ft., in Chin Doke village, Paletwa Township, Chin State in the 2019-2020 fiscal years.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that the Union Government if it plans to upgrade a middle school branch to middle school in Ti Cir village, Paletwa Township, Chin State. Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that there are twelve subjects that the students can pursue their learning and a total of 118 teachers together with 90 office staff had been appointed at the Taungup Degree College.

With regard to upgrading the status of university-level, many classes such as undergraduate classes, honours classes, master (qualify) courses, Diploma courses, MPhil and Masters Degrees would be needed to open at the university campus.

Thus the authority concerned has placed greater emphasis on fulfilling the requirements such as research works, sufficient numbers of teachers, classroom facilities, libraries, boarding schools, etc.

Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s Tenth Regular Session holds its 14th-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

THE tenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 14th-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the session, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, and a report was read.

A motion on some points of disagreement
U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region constituency 8 tabled a motion to discuss some points of disagreement between the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Following this, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khair Thun announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khair Thun announced that some points of disagreement that contained in the second amendment of the Labour Dispute Bill should be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The second Amyotha Hluttaw’s tenth regular session will hold its fifteenth-day meeting on 17 December. (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)
We are now continuing our work to provide 24 hours electricity to Maungtaw Township and nearby villages during December 2018: President U Win Myint

FROM PAGE-1

After establishing the Rakhine State in accordance with the 1974 constitution, 15th of December; the date on which the people’s referendum was started to confirm the constitution, was designated as Rakhine State Day. Beginning from 1975, we have been celebrating Rakhine State Day and today we are in the 44th year.

Rakhine State is blessed with a long coastline and fertile farmlands and because of its natural geographic location is rich in natural mineral resources, rice, water, paddy, livestock and fisheries. In addition it is rich with many priceless ancient heritage sites.

During 2018, Rakhine State has been free from disastrous natural disasters and Maungtaw region has witnessed good, peaceful and stable conditions. Thus we can say that 2018 has been an auspicious year. To ensure there is sustainable peace, security and development in Rakhine State, our Union Government has been working to implement the following three goals:

(a) Rule of law and raise the socio-economic standard of the people.
(b) National Reconciliation and internal peace.
(c) To amend the constitution, which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Union.

For peace, stability and development in Rakhine State, the Union Government has been working strenuously by establishing the Central Committee for Peace, and Development in Rakhine State with four working committees. Furthermore the UEHRD - Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine has been formed with 9 members with the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as Chairperson and has been carrying out its tasks accordingly.

Just as we have been working on the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone which is very important for the development of Rakhine State, we are working on the Kanyin Chaung Economic Zone and the Kaladan River Multi-modal Development Project which can bring stability to the region and also promote and develop imports and exports.

At the same time, we have been working on the Ponnagyun - Yathedaung - Butheedaung - Maungtaw power line to give 24 hours electricity from the 66 KV power line to the Maungtaw region. Thus we were able to give 24 hours electricity on 31 March 2018 to Rathedaung Township and to Buthidaung Township. We are now continuing our work to provide 24 hours electricity to Maungtaw township and nearby villages during December 2018.

We are working in collaboration with UNESCO for Mrauk U to be designated as a world heritage site because Mrauk U Town is a place where Buddhism has flourished and where many holy Buddha relics can be found.

Regarding those displaced persons who have gone over to the Bangladesh side, to accept those who wish to return to Myanmar voluntarily, we have made arrangements for repatriation in accordance with the agreements reached between Myanmar and Bangladesh, and as a result of agreements reached resulting from bilateral discussions between the two countries, we have been able to build 2 reception Centres and one transit Centre before 23 January 2018. We are undertaking coordination efforts beginning from 23 January 2018 after drawing up the Repatriation Programme in accordance with the agreement reached between the two countries.

As I send this Message of Greetings with respect and friendship on the auspicious occasion of Rakhine State Day, I wish to urge all Rakhine ethnic nationals and citizens to participate with united collective strength and with great vision and farsight, for the peace and stability of Rakhine State, rule of law, social cohesion among societies, transformation of Rakhine State into a beautiful and happy state and establishment of the future Democratic Federal Union.

(Sd/-)
Win Myint
President

President U Win Myint meets administrative, legislative, judiciary sectors in Mon State

FROM PAGE-1

The President and party were welcomed at Mawlamyine airport by Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, State Hluttaw Speaker Daw Tin Ei, State Chief Justice U Khan Maung Gyi, State Advocate General Daw Aye Aye Mo, State Auditor Daw Thein Thein Oo, state ministers, Hluttaw representatives and officials.

The President then met and gave guidance to officials from Mon State government; (Pyithu, Amyotha, State) Hluttaw representatives; State High Court; state, districts, townships departmental officials at the state hall in Mawlamyine, Mon State.

Speaking at the meeting President U Win Myint first explained about the aim of visiting Mon State. The essence of his inaugural speech delivered during the swearing in as the President in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was the requirement of change and the need for a new mindset and habits of the people, government servants and public servants for a successful transformation process in the democracy transition period. Departmental organizations slow in reforming were to be given tighter management. The Judicial sector needed to be true and correct. Corruption needed to be eradicated. Human rights violations were to be prevented. Drugs were to be eliminated. Wastage and loss of public funds were to be managed. Farmlands confiscated unlawfully needed to be returned or compensation paid according to the law.

That was why explanations and briefings were made at states and regions so that our country’s democracy transition would be successfully implemented. Change is the law of nature that is always correct and true. Without timely changes our country wouldn’t develop. Only when we go along with change can our country develop quickly. Leading authorities of the country have already decided to reform and make a transition towards democracy. In a democracy every citizen and everyone will be free, safe and happy.

The country will be peaceful only when democracy is established. Democratic reform is not an enemy. It is a good friend. Democratic transition is not a threat. It is an opportunity. Democratic reform and transition is not to be forced upon but all must take it up as a must-do thing. As such, all are responsible for democratic reform and transition.

In administration, we would like to change and establish political, economic and social fairness. At the same time there should be equal opportunity, equality and equal in the face of the law. Administration must be such that it supports rule of law. It must not be a machine that oppresses the people. It should be a service that serves the people and do what the people asked to do. For this to happen, the state government is to implement and follow the Union Government’s policies and instructions. Implementation should not be in any other way. It is the duty and responsibility of the state government to implement the policies of the Union Government. Departments and organizations in the state are to be practically managed. Departments and organizations are to be checked and monitored so that they are doing what they are assigned to do. Only when this is done can there be an increase in the momentum of the administrative machinery reform. It is to be noted that if the governments of the states and regions are bad in management and wrong in administration, democracy will fail.
State Counsellor delivers addresses at Third Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit - 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Following is an unofficial translation of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's address at the Third Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018 held at Myanmar International Conference Center II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

“I would first like to say it is important for businesses to look out for the benefit of other people and for them. They need to ensure their business succeeds, is sustainable and beneficial, and benefits their community as well. You can look out just for your own profit but since our country is a developing nation, it will only develop if everyone looks out for the benefit of the majority. It’s not enough for our country just to be rich with a lot of money. Why are we working for our businesses to succeed? It’s for our physical security, but even that is not enough.”

“Every citizen in our country needs mental security too. Mental security cannot be brought about with just economic success. Healthcare and education are equally important. A person will feel mentally secure if their health is in good condition and if they have valid reasons to face their challenges, which is related to education.

“I want the young entrepreneurs in our country to develop the nation in a way that is unique and different from other countries. I have to say I admire the dance performance from the group of youths from earlier. Basically, it is our Myanmar culture and dance but modern and relevant to the world. We need to encourage them. We have to maintain our culture and tradition and at the same time find ways to make it relevant to modern times. The world is more interconnected than before, young people in our country will have similarities with youths from other countries. It would be improper of us to dissuade them nor do we have a reason to do so. The world is always changing.”

“I want to highlight two points to our young entrepreneurs. First, they need to have a creative mindset and be able to see things from a new perspective. Second, I want our country to be self-reliant. When our country was endeavoring for independence our forefathers told us to create our own destiny. We cannot achieve this with politics alone, it depends on economic success as well. We can hold our own destiny firmly within our hands if our economy is strong. I want our young entrepreneurs to make that become a reality.”

“In a way, our path to independence is in tandem with the path to democracy. We wish for democracy because we want our country to be stronger; to stand proudly and independently on the global platform, to create our own future, so I implore our young entrepreneurs to think of things we haven’t thought of before. Do things that other countries haven’t attempted yet. Businesspeople in other countries only focus on business endeavours because they think it is the main drive for economic development. That is why I want our young entrepreneurs to adopt a different mindset that thinks ‘I am working not only for my benefit but also for the economic development of my country.’ Don’t think that this is not relevant to our times. Think of it as something ahead of our time. It is certainly not old-fashioned.”

“Here, I want to tell you not to think of something as impossible without attempting it. Just because someone hasn’t done it doesn’t mean it can’t be achieved. Try to have a mindset that encourages attempting things no one else has done before and the will to see it through. On my way here I asked a question at the entrance; the number of young women entrepreneurs increases steadily year after year so how does it fare this year? At the first summit the number was 49 per cent, and it was 52 per cent last year. This year that number is at 58 per cent. I even feel a little worried for the male entrepreneurs. If the current trend continues then maybe all our entrepreneurs will be females. We honor this but we want both men and women to develop at the same pace.”

“I won’t go into too much detail about the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP). I believe our young entrepreneurs will work in accord with it. When we work for development along this path I want everyone to envision what sort of country they wish to live in the future. I have been to most of the wealthiest countries in the world and I always think to myself whether I want our country to be as wealthy as this, and do I want to live in a country like this for the rest of my life. I always think of these things and I want our young entrepreneurs to ponder the same thing too.”
VP U Myint Swe, businesspersons hold 22nd regular meeting to promote private sector

Vice President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee (PSDC), and businesspersons held the 22nd regular meeting in Yangon yesterday to promote the private sector.

The 22nd regular meeting between the PSDC and Myanmar businesspersons was held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) office in Yangon.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of PSDC and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Yangon Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Energy U Han Tun, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, UMFCCI President, Vice Presidents and members, officials from Myanmar Cosmetics Association (MCA), Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporter Association (MFVPA), Hotel and Travel Work Group and Trade and Investment Work Group of Myanmar Business Initiatives.

In his address to the meeting the Vice President said PSDC was formed in 24 October 2016 to effectively carry out the tasks of the private sector development framework. Regular meetings were held since 2016 December to resolve sector and group wise difficulties faced by businesspersons and overcome the challenges they faced when efforts were made toward developing the country’s economy. This is the 22nd meeting and suggestions and faced up to the 21st meeting had been resolved and the government’s responses were sent to the relevant businesses through the UMFCCI.

PSDC has been responding to suggestions and resolving difficulties faced by businesspersons. For example, the matter of making two applications to obtain a Phyto sanitary Certificate has been reduced to one application.

To tackle illegal imports through the border that was threatening the existence of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) the Government has formed illegal trade control and prevention special groups in nine regions and states and up to end November 2018 there were a total of 240 detentions of illegal goods worth Ks 5.13 billion were made.

As some matters need time to resolve, officials from five work committees conducted meetings between private business persons and relevant ministerial departments to resolve the matters in stages.

The Trade sector plays an important role in the development of a country’s economy. Private and public sectors were cooperating hand-in-hand for the annual trade volume to increase and had achieved a trade volume of US$ 33.53 billion for fiscal year 2017-2018. During the Mini Budget period of 2018 April to September the trade volume was more than US$ 18.3 billion. The trade volume was US$ 5.506 billion during fiscal year 2018-2019 October to end November and this is US$ 0.353 billion more than the same period of last year.

Of this two months trade figure private sector participation was US$ 4.720 billion or 86% which is an increase. However, import was more than export so there was a trade deficit. All need to strive towards increasing export and conduct import substitution so that there is no deficit.

Investments of foreign investors depend upon World Bank’s Doing Business Report. In the Doing Business 2019 Report published by World Bank in 31 October 2018, Myanmar’s ranking was unchanged but more marks were achieved. To achieve a ranking increase in Ease of Doing Business there should be reforms in each indicator and there need to be reforms and progresses in at least three.

At the 8th coordination meeting of PSDC held on 6 December 2018 a decision was made to systematically draw up Action Plans to achieve the targeted aims. Reforms and changes were being implemented and conducted as there is only five months left to increase ranking in the Dong Business 2020 Report.

To support ease and smoothness of doing business, requirement of supporting documents, time and expenses required are to be reduced. Arrangements are made to have a Single Window system in place.

Associations and entities participating in today’s meeting were also urged to discuss openly the difficulties they face with relevant Union ministries, deputy ministers and officials who were present, said the Vice President.

Next, Vice Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint explained about works conducted by the Government for private sector development.

Afterwards Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win explained about businesses keeping proper records and accounts of their businesses and arrangements made to provide loan to MSMEs.

Following this, UMFCCI President U Zaw Win Min explained about public (government)-private discussions to be held for private sector development and sector wise works conducted for increasing export.

Later MCA Chairman U Kyaw Min, MFVPA Vice Chairman Mr. Myint Sein, Myanmar Business Initiatives Hotel and Travel Work Group Chairman U Kyaw Min Hlaing and Trade and Investment Work Group Chairman U Min Tun Myint explained about sector wise difficulties encountered and made some suggestions. The Vice President, the Union Minister and officials gave advice and comments to ensure proper coordination based of suggestions made.

The meeting came to a close after the closing speech of the Vice President — MNA
Severe action will be taken against public servants who are connected in any way to drug production and trade.

In the legislative sector, Hluttaw Speakers and representatives are to be well versed in Hluttaw law and rules. Questions and motions that benefit the people are to be raised and tabled. Questions and motions are to be raised and tabled according to set rules and procedures.

Our aim in the judiciary sector is to have an un-biased judiciary. It should be free from the influence and manipulation of those who have power and rights. The Judiciary should be free from the influence of both the administrative and legislative sectors. Apart from ensuring the administrative and legislative and procedures. Public servants enjoy the salary and benefits provided by the country. When conducting the democratic transition that the people desire, public servants are to face the people. They must bear in mind to perform their duties and serve the people. The right to do things is not to be taken as a power because this would veer away from the democracy path. Those in attendance today need to reform and straighten the mindsets and morals of those who are working under them. All need to be managed and administered so that all participate in the reform and transition work process.

More is being done towards eradication of drugs. Drugs are a huge menace to the future generation of the country. The country will be at peace only when drug is eradicated. Severe action will be taken against public servants who are connected in any way to drug production and trade. All need to partake in the drug eradication work.

Anti-corruption works are conducted effectively in the country. It is also being conducted in some states and regions too. Arrangements are made to form ministry wise Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs). The Union Government has conducted many programs to eradicate drugs. The country will develop and investments will come only when corruption is eradicated. Here too, all need to take part.

The momentum to protect human rights need to be increased. Human rights is a birth right. Myanmar is one of the earliest signatories of the human rights declaration. Democracy, human rights and judiciary are interlinked. As human rights are raised, democracy and judiciary will rise. That is why State High Court judges are to inspect detention centres in police stations and courts and prisons to ensure that there are no human rights violations.

Returning of confiscated farm lands should be in accordance with polices set by the Union Government. State government must not interpret the policies set by the Union Government in the way they wanted. Lands must be returned to the original owners as quickly as possible.

We all must not be smug and arrogant with the titles, salaries, powers granted to us to do our jobs. The future generation will assess whether we have done our duties properly so let us perform our historical duties well, said the President.

Next, Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, Mon State Speaker Daw Tin Ei and State Chief Justice U Khin Maung Gyi explained about state government’s regional development works, legislative works and judiciary works respectively.

Afterwards President U Win Myint explained about the strengths and weaknesses of the administrative, legislative and judicial sectors, his understanding of the difficulties public servants are facing, arrangements being made for livelihoods of the public servants when they become pensioners and works conducted toward increasing pensions.

After the meeting the President cordially met with meeting attendees.

Later in the evening the President and party paid homage to Kyaukthanlan Pagoda, donated Ks 3 million and signed the visitors’ book. The President then inspected the pagoda platform maintenance work and also inspected along the Mawlamyine port area. — MNA

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Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman receives Czech Ambassador

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi and party received Ambassador of the Czech Republic Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek at Anti-Corruption Commission Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting they discussed matters related to anti-corruption works conducted in 2018 and difficulties encountered, organizing Corruption Prevention Units (CPU) in the ministries, technologies and expertise required to conduct effective anti-corruption works. Ambassador of the Czech Republic shared Czech Republic’s anti-corruption experiences and the transition to democracy it is learnt. — MNA

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

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UEC Chairman receives Czech Ambassador in Nay Pyi Taw

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein meeting with Ambassador of the Czech Republic Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek. PHOTO: MNA

UNION ELECTION Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein received Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Myanmar, Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the UEC chairman discussed the successful holding of the previous 2017 and 2018 by-election, holding elections under the five norms of free, fair, transparent, credible and reflecting the will of the people and betterment of coming elections.

The ambassador Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek also discussed over challenges faced in the previous 2017 and 2018 by-elections followed by inquired about preparations for 2020 general election and the UEC chairman also explained back to the ambassador.

Then the two of them cordially discussed over experiences achieved in holding the general elections in both countries. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)
State Counsellor delivers addresses at Third Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018

FROM PAGE-4

“Truthfully, no matter how poor our country may be, I feel the most at home in my own country. I repeatedly request our business community to make every citizen feel the same way at home by providing them with mental and physical security.”

“Please, make our country more secure by making the economy stronger. If our country is secure it will be more peaceful. An insecure person will have no peace of mind. Likewise, an insecure country will have no peace and tranquility.”

Businesses cannot stand by themselves. They depend on government policy to succeed as well. Similarly, the success of a government administration is connected to the businesses in its country. This is why we need to work hand in hand with each other. The Union government and the business community need to work together for national development and the security and peace of mind of every citizen. This is why I want our business society to envision what form they want our country to develop into. This is especially important for the younger generation since they will be here longer than the older generation who will be leaving this world before them.”

“Most of our business people are at that age where they are just having a family. I want them to consider what kind of country they want their children to grow up in and what kind of mindsets do they want them to adopt. Young people these days know more things than their parents due in part to modern technological advances. This has both positive and negative associations. They don’t stop at the teachings of their parents as the teachings from their mobile phones have a significant effect on their lives as well. Again, this is both good and bad. What I’ve noticed is that the children are learning English faster through the internet and by using Facebook. But they are also learning other things along with English. In my generation, I had no language barriers. I had to reason if this is proper or not. Technology can be both beneficial and negative so we have to continuously gauge it. Development in itself has positive and negative connotations as with each other. We are more focused on individual accomplishments and developments. This may be due to influence from our parents and from the past decades of education. When our system allows only those with the highest marks to pursue what they want then it will encourage people to only think of their own development.”

“We need to change the perception of our people and improve their mental capacities so that they will cooperate more. This is essential in both the education sphere and the business community.”


Outstanding young entrepreneurs honoured at 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018

A dinner in honour of 3rd Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2018 and an award presentation ceremony was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre II, Nay Pyi Taw at 6pm yesterday.

Speaking at the event, U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, called for the collaborative efforts of private sectors to implement the aims of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP which was already drawn by the Union Government for the social improvements, environmental conservation and peace and tranquility besides business development.

“Today young entrepreneurs are future leaders of Myanmar economy. The development of entrepreneurship is the dynamic forces of economy. Young entrepreneurs who want to grab new opportunities are workforce for the country,” said U Thaung Tun.

He also expressed hope that development of entrepreneurship will contribute towards business, society, and innovation advantages and it also will create job opportunities that can fulfill the needs of the local community.

“If entrepreneurs emerge everywhere, the new business will develop and more jobs will be created in that region,” said the Union Minister.

He also called on the award-winning youth entrepreneurs to retain their success and expressed his appreciation to them.

“I praise and honor you, youth entrepreneurs who get awards at ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Singapore. I hope as youth entrepreneurs, you can make in harmony benefits of your own interests and the country,” said Union Minister U Thaung Tun.

Next, Vice Chairman of MYEA, U Zaw Naing Thein, explained the objectives of the summit and expressed word of thanks.

Awards, Union Minister U Thaung Tun awarded youth entrepreneurs who achieved awards in international events and took documentary photos with them.

Following this, Chairman of MYEA and Vice Chairman U Zaw Naing Thein gave certificates of honour to the sponsor companies.

Chairman of Award Selection Committee U Win Htet Maung then explained about award selection of entrepreneur, terms, and types of awards.

Attendees were hosted with an honourable dinner and artists performed with modern music and dance. Next, a video about the award winners was shown.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

(Translated by Myat Than Dar Aung)
Social security basic norms covered in the 2012 Social Security Law are mostly adequate and meet the present requirement”:

- **ILO National Project Coordinator Dr. Thetin Than Htay**

Roundtable Discussions on the reform program in connection with social security benefits

By Khin Yadana, Photo Myo Min

Myanmar Times

People-to-people contact strengthens this country’s relations with Myanmar’s neighbors.

The achievements show that consistent and joint efforts by the founding fathers and the successive leaders of both countries throughout history have helped bring the bilateral relationship to its apex.

India has consistently put priority to its relations with Myanmar in its foreign relations based on an independent and active foreign policy and India’s pragmatic ‘Act and security’ bear testimony to the synergies between Myanmar’s relations with India.

In yet another bilateral achievement, the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project has reached its final stages of completion.

To increase and promote contact between the people of Myanmar and India, the two countries are also planning to launch bus services from Imphal to Moreh and from Mandalay to Tinsu in the near future.

During Indian President Ram Nath Kovind’s recent visit to the country, starting 1 December.

During next (12) hrs forecast

- **Deep Depression**
  - **Position of deep-depression, centre pressure and wind**
  - **Max depression centre located around 240 degrees East and Location and Kachin and Chin states, scattered in Taninthayi Region, and Kachin and Chin states, scattered in Taninthayi Region, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.**
  - **Weather outlook for weekend: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Yangon Region and widespread in Nyaung-U Region.**

Correction

Please read “2.09 pm” in the first paragraph of the story with the headline “State Counsellor receives Foreign Minister of Commonwealth of Australia” on Page 4 of the 14 December Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar—Ed
**President of India, First Lady conclude State Visit**

**PHOTO: MNA**

Indian President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, First Lady Smt. Savita Kovind are seen off by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.


**Myitkyina to host Children’s Literature Festival in Jan. 2019**

**PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and Chief Minister of Kachin State, Dr. Khet Aung, visited Myitkyina University yesterday in preparation for the Children’s Literary Festival in Myitkyina. Later, they held a coordination meeting at the Kachin State Government Office to hold the festival in January. Children’s Literature Festival will be jointly held by the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education, and the Kachin State Government from 20 to 22 January, 2019.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint explained matters related tasks of informing, entertaining and educating the people through state-owned media such as television, radio and newspapers, opening of district and township libraries and community centres of Information and Public Relations Departments (IPRD), tasks of the Printing Publishing Department publishing Myanmar Gazette and printing works for the government.

The Union Minister explained about the objective of the Children’s Literature Festival and All-Round Youth Development Festival, previous festivals, the role of the university, basic education schools and private schools in holding the festivals and entertainments, collaboration with relevant departments for transportation and accommodation during the festival in Myitkyina, cooperation and supporting for the needs to hold Children’s Literature Festival successfully.

Afterwards, Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung said respective sectors are needed to collaborate to hold the festival successfully, stressing the importance of reading habits of children so that they can take a right path and become good leaders of the country in the future.

IPRD Director-General U Ye Naing explained the coordination meeting to hold Children’s Literature Festival in Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA**


**U Thaung Tun receives Viet Nam-Myanmar Friendship Assoc. President**

**PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun received President for Viet Nam - Myanmar Friendship Association Ambassador Mr. Chu Cong Phung and delegation yesterday at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Matters related to Myanmar-Vietnam bilateral investment and economic cooperation were discussed at the meeting. The meeting was attended by officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Myanmar – Vietnam Friendship Association President U Tint Swai, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Luang Thuy Duong and representatives from Vietnam business community in Myanmar.—MNA

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.
FDI tops $789 mln in first two months of 2018-2019 FY

The total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Myanmar between 1 October and 7 December reached over US$789 million, an increase of over US$430 million from the same period last year, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

“During the same period last year, FDI totalled US$355.074 million. But this year, the FDI has almost doubled to US$789.893 million,” said U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of the MIC.

Between 1 October and 7 December, MIC permits and endorsements were approved for 38 foreign enterprises, with investments amounting to US$660.811 million.

In the current fiscal year, the value of investments has also increased, with total FDI inflows of US$474.353 million. Additionally, a total investment of US$148 million flowed into the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in the 2018-2019 FY, according to the MIC.

“The service, communication, and industrial sectors have seen FDI inflows this year. Foreign fund flows into the service sector have increased significantly to US$148 million this fiscal from US$15 million in the same period last year. FDI inflows in the communication sector have also registered an increase, with investments totalling US$45 million compared with US$29 million in the same period last year. In the industrial sector, FDI has increased to US$135 million from US$81 million in the same period last year,” said U Aung Naing Oo.

Myanmar’s organic veggies make their way to Singapore’s NTUC Fair Price

Organic vegetables from Myanmar have made it to the shelves of Singapore-based supermarket chain NTUC FairPrice, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFPV).

Myanmar’s vegetables began entering cold storages in Singapore in 2017 and now, their sale has been allowed in the NTUC supermarket chain. During the trial stage, vegetables weighing half a ton were exported twice a week. The volume of exports is expected to increase with time.

The organic vegetables that will be sold in Singapore are being produced by the Nyaunghnapi Seinlan Production and General Trading Cooperative.

The cooperative produces over 10 tons of vegetables daily.

The organic farming cooperative began with 14 growers. Although they suffered losses initially due to a pest attack, they have now been operational for five years and their sales have increased.

Myanmar exports organic vegetables to Singapore and Russia.

Growers in Myanmar have shown a great interest in organic farming in the past four years. They are supplying vegetables to fresh markets in Yangon. When they observed the market condition, they realized people prefer chemical-free vegetables.

A weekly sale of organic products kicked off on 31 October in front of the Agriculture Department’s office in Gyozone, Insein Township.

The Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MOGPA) is the main organizer of the sale. The organic trade fair is held every Wednesday.

Officials from Agriculture Department visit organic vegetable plantations in Ottarathiri Township. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

The MIC is expecting FDI inflows of US$5.8 billion in the 2018-2019 FY. The MIC and the Japon International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have jointly formulated the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan 2018 (MIPP) to promote future investment.

The MIPP was an update of the long-term foreign direct investment plan formulated in 2014. The MIPP has four strategic periods with investment inflow targets of US$5.8 billion every FY in the first four-year phase starting from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021, US$4.5 billion every FY in the second phase (2021-22 to 2025-26), US$2.3 billion every FY in the third phase (2026-27 to 2030-31), and US$1.6 billion every FY in the fourth phase (2031-32 to 2035-36).—Nyein Nyein

(Translated by Hay Mar)

UK’s DFID to finance £4 mln for Myanmar capital market

By Nyein Nyein

To support the development of capital markets in Myanmar, the UK Government’s Department for International Development (DFID) will contribute £4 million.

“By investing in developing capital markets here in Myanmar, we are focusing on the foundation of the economy and the private sector, and investing in the future success and prosperity of individuals, companies, and the whole country,” said Dan Chugg, the British Ambassador to Myanmar.

The Capital Markets Development project will be implemented by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The three-year project will focus on developing a domestic currency capital market in Myanmar and a well-functioning government bonds market.

The project will be implemented in three phases. The first phase will be a diagnostic phase, which will include assessments of the legal framework underlying capital market development, financial infrastructure such as the clearing and settlement system, accounting standards, and the capacity of regulators and policymakers.

After the assessment phase, in close consultation with other relevant development partners, the ADB and the DFID will work with the government to form a working group of experts and officials which will draft a new capital markets development plan. In the final phase, the ADB will support the implementation of the capital market development plan, which will be structured on the legal and regulatory framework, the financial infrastructure, the operational and governance framework and capacity development.

The project will be funded through the DFID’s £5 million Business for Shared Prosperity (BSP) Programme, which aims to provide a sustainable route out of poverty for people in Myanmar by supporting inclusive economic growth, improving incomes, and generating more jobs. —Nyein Nyein

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Bago Region attracts more foreign investments

A total of 124 companies have received permission for investing in the Bago Region and a majority of the businesses are foreign-owned, according to the Bago Region’s Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The Myanmar Investment Commission and the Bago Region Investment Committee have allowed 85 foreign businesses to invest an estimated US$1.8 billion in the region. A total of 29 domestic businesses have invested about K46 billion in the region.

Companies from China, Japan, Singapore, and Thailand are investing in the region. FDIs are flowing into the power, oil and natural gas, transport, manufacturing, hotels and tourism, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, industrial estate, real estate development, and construction sectors.

Of the total foreign investment, the manufacturing sector has absorbed FDIs of K6.4 billion, onshore petroleum enterprises K200 million, and the agriculture sector K60 million.

The Bago Region’s DICA (branch) office opened in January 2017. The new Myanmar Investment Law authorizes region and state investment committees to approve investment proposals with a capital not exceeding $5 million (K6,000 million), with the aim of facilitating the verification process of investment projects. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session holds its 14th-day meeting

FROM PAGE 2
After the Committee Chairman’s response, Committee member Dr. Tin Hi metal tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to accept and agree to the report. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the Hluttaw’s acceptance and approval of the report will be held after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw. Amendment bill to Myanmar Engineering Council Law approved

Afterwards, an amendment motion to the amendment bill of Myanmar Engineering Council Law was explained by committee member U Zaw Win. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the Hluttaw’s approval of the bill after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw. Hluttaw discuss motion to achieve better result with NRSC

As a final agenda of the day, Hluttaw representatives discussed a motion tabled by U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency urging the government to achieve better result from National Road Safety Council (NRSC) through more effective and practical works that fulfill the requirements of road safety. U Saw Thalyaw Saw of Shwegyin constituency, Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency, Tmatawo Pyithu Hluttaw representative Maj. Naing Lin, Dr. Daw Kyi Moh Moh Lwin of Singaing constituency, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency, U Htay Min Thein of Gyobingauk constituency, Dr. U San Shwe Win of Yeli constituency, U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency, U Sit Aye of Taungtha constituency and U Kyaw Min of Kamayut constituency discussed the motion.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo confirmed that expected targets were yet to be achieved and all have the responsibility to do more. It is a matter that could not be done single-handedly or by a single entity and thus not only the NRSC, sub-committees, state/region traffic and road safety councils and related departments but also everyone must participate in order to reach the required results. NRSC on its part will increase its work to inform, educate, inspect and take action said the Deputy Minister. As the Hluttaw representative who tabled the motion still sought the approval of the Hluttaw, the decision of the Hluttaw was obtained and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw’s approval of the motion. The 15th-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session is scheduled for 17 December it is learnt. (Translated by Zaw Min)

Invitation for Bids

THE Indawgyi Environmental Education Centre was inaugurated yesterday in Mohin Township, Kachin State.

Kachin State Minister for Natural Resources and Conservation delivered the opening remarks at the ceremony. Afterwards, the Director-General of the Forest Department explained the objectives for opening the centre.

Later, Dr. Katharina Spiesz, the Development Counselor of the German Embassy, gave a speech, following which Mr. Frank Momborg from Fauna and Flora International (FFI) handed over the centre to the Director-General of the Forest Department.

Officials from related departments and the German Embassy then toured the centre.

Kachin Government ministers, officials from the Forest Department, German Embassy and FFI, township administrators, and locals attended the ceremony yesterday.

The centre aims to improve human-biosphere interaction. It has been funded by conservation network chances for Nature Germany, which gave 6,599 euros in funding. The centre, which is spread over 3,240 square feet, houses an exhibition room and a meeting area.

“Educative talks will be held at the centre, in collaboration with the zoology, botany, and geography departments of the Myitkyina University and the Mohinnye Degree College,” said U Maung Win, the wildlife park’s warden.

The history of the wildlife park and the Indawgyi Lake, the biosphere map, Wetland and Fly network site, forest ecosystems, the Ramsar site, the mudfly delta, eco-tourism in Indawgyi Lake, the traditions and culture of locals, and fish conservation in the Indawgyi Lake will be featured at the centre. —Salai Mang Ngai (Translated by Ei Myat Mom)

Heroin, yaba pills, opium seized in Hopin, Kachin State

AUTHORITIES seized heroin, yaba pills and opium on Hopin-Luntung-Kungthar-Nyanunggyinlai road near Zegone Village, Hopin Township, Kachin State, yesterday, according to the information released by the Myanmar Police Force.

During the inspection for a truck stopping near the Mile Post No.8/2, police discovered heroin weighing 5720 g worth over K 400 million, 666,900 yaba pills worth over K 2 billion and opium weighing 14370 g worth over K 64 million hidden in 572 soap boxes. This case has been opened under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

—GNLM (Translated by JT)
UN climate talks ‘deadlocked’ on key issues: top China diplomat

KATOWICE (Poland) — UN negotiations aimed at preventing runaway global warming remain deadlocked less than 24 hours before the 12-day talks are set to end, China’s top climate diplomat said Thursday.

Ministers working overnight along parallel negotiating tracks struggled to weave dozens of strands into a “rule book” that would bring to life the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The 2015 treaty vows to cap the rise in Earth’s temperature at “well under” 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), and 1.5°C if possible.

“We are seeing deadlocks in certain areas,” China’s Xie Zhenhua told journalists in Katowice, Poland.

“We need to avoid straying from the principles and spirit of the Paris Agreement...We cannot accept any backsliding,” Xie said through a translator.

The 196-nation Paris pact promises hundreds of billions of dollars in aid to poor nations already coping with extreme weather made worse by climate change, and, more broadly, to orient financial flows towards greenening the global economy.

The treaty, already ratified, goes into effect in 2020. Among the more nettlesome issues is how nations report progress in implementing voluntary national plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Wealthy nations are pushing for the rapid adoption of a unified and “transparent” set of rules that apply to all nations.

Developing countries favour a generous interpretation of the “flexibility” they are assured in the treaty.

“Only the person wearing shoes knows whether they are comfortable,” Xie said, citing an “old Chinese saying”.

“It should be up to each country to decide when, how frequently, and what content to provide.”

“Developing countries are not comfortable at this stage of the negotiations,” he added. Nor are they likely to be reassured by the most recent attempt by Poland, which is presiding over the complex talks, to strike a middle ground.

Current climate pledges, even if fulfilled, would still see Earth’s temperature rise well above 3°C, a recipe for widespread human misery, scientists say.

Loss and damage

A draft of the decisions, for example, to be adopted at the consensus talks — released late Thursday night by the host nation — gave short shrift to another red-line issue for poor countries exposed to the ravages brought on by global warming: so-called “loss and damage”.

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions and helping nations prepare for a climate-addled future have long been the twin pillars of the UN climate forum.

But more recently, a third plank of the regime was added to help nations cope with deadly heatwaves, drought and floods — amplified by climate change — happening today.

“Only the United States has been an important player in the process,” he added. “We would welcome them back to the climate change arena.” —AFP

Research shows dramatic impact of Australian shark culls

SYDNEY (Australia) — Australian researchers believe they have detected a dramatic decline in shark numbers over the last half century; findings that could challenge the use of culls as a way of responding to attacks.

The number of some shark species caught in nets off the state of Queensland have fallen between 74-92 per cent in the last 55 years, according to a study published in Communications Biology on Thursday.

Researchers led by George Roff of the University of Queensland studied the catch from government-installed mesh nets and drum lines designed to prevent attacks on humans near the Great Barrier Reef.

An estimated 50,000 sharks have been caught by the programme.

The team found that in 1962, an average of 9.5 hammerheads were found per year, declining to 0.8 by 2016. Hammerheads are more likely to get caught in nets because of their shape.

They also identified a decrease in the number of tiger sharks, which are considered natural apex predators like sharks could have a wide-ranging and as-yet-unknown impacts on marine ecosystems, the researchers warned.

“Although many of the declines in apex predators in the marine environment are less well understood” than the decline of those on land, the study said. —AFP

MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY

HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouse and chellal Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 25th DECEMBER 2018 (Christmas Day) and 31st DECEMBER 2018 to 1st JANUARY 2019 (New Year Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

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M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1095 S/N)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1095 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY

HOLIDAY NOTICE

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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 INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (187 W/E)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (187 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.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 SHIPPING
Phone No: 2301185
Museum devoted to magic of cinema to open in LA

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Nearly a century after the idea was first floated, a museum dedicated to the magic of cinema is finally set to open in Los Angeles, with the first temporary exhibition devoted to Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki. The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, slated to open by the end of 2019, will be devoted to the animation master Miyazaki, whose animation masterpiece “To Kill a Mockingbird,” the doors to Rick’s Café American from “Casablanca” or the type-writer used by Joseph Stefano to write the screenplay to Alfred Hitchcock’s “Psycho” are among a trove of objects that will be on display.

Animation master Miyazaki

Designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano, the near $400 million museum will be housed in a historic building — the Sahah Building formerly home to the May Company department store — and will feature six floors that include exhibition spaces, a café, a store, plus a 1,000-seat theatre. The Academy Museum of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the institution behind the Academy of Picture Arts and Sciences, “Like the experience of watching a movie, a trip to the museum will be a kind of wak-ering place for film lovers and deepening our collective love of this art form, accessible to all,” said Dawn Hudson, CEO of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. “It’s going to be a combination of the Louvre, the Museum of Modern Art and the Hermitage,” said Brougher said that apart from paying tribute to the genius of Miyazaki, whose animation masterpieces include “Princess Mononoke” and the Oscar-winning “Spirited Away.” Brougher said that apart from paying tribute to the genius of Miyazaki, the exhibition was also intended to reflect the global scope of the museum.

Young Russian fashion designers take inspiration from history

MOSCOW (Russia)—In her workshop in a Moscow attic, Maria Andrianova is using a sewing technique she learnt from elderly women in the forested Karelia region of northwestern Russia. “For me, sewing is a way to learn about my origins,” said the 31-year-old designer. She describes her “Ma-sha Andrianova” fashion line as “for the modern world” but uses some sewing techniques dating back to the USSR. “Her flow-ing dresses, high-necked blouses and pleated skirts are made of natural materials in pale or autumnal colours.

“In Karelia, the locals showed me a way of sewing that I didn’t know about. They had learned it from their mothers, it was like a family secret,” she said, lightly braiding two threads together. More and more young Russian fashion designers like Andrianova are finding inspiration in traditional sewing methods that have fallen into disuse, seeing them as a way to stand out from the Western brands that poured into the country after the fall of the USSR. “We don’t want to look any more at what the others are doing in the West,” she said. “We want to find our own methods, because we also have many traditions and a very rich culture. Learning about such traditions could be a way for young Russians to explore further back into their country’s past than the relatively familiar Bolshevik revolution, she said.”

In her workshop in a Moscow attic, Maria Andrianova is using a sewing technique she learnt from elderly women in the forested Karelia region of northwestern Russia. “For me, sewing is a way to learn about my origins,” said the 31-year-old designer.

China continues to promote compulsory education equality

BEIJING—The Ministry of Education (MOE) will continue to promote enrolment equality and enhance the quality of education at schools with weak resources, an official said Thursday.

Over 98 per cent of students from 24 major Chinese cities live in their respective school zones and are enrolled in their nine-year compulsory education —which does not require an entrance exam, said the MOE.

Lyu Yugang, head of the MOE’s basic education department, said over 80 per cent of students who migrate with their parents enter public schools while the compulsory education enrolment rate for blind, deaf and mentally-hand-icapped students has reached 90 per cent.

The MOE strictly bans middle and primary schools from organizing exams or competitions aiming to selectively recruit students. A total of 446 people have been punished for such violations, according to Lyu. —Xinhua

View of the fully restored building facade of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures’ future home. PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP
Virgin Galactic reaches space for first time

MOJAVE (United States)—Virgin Galactic’s SpaceShipTwo, VSS Unity, flew higher than it ever has before on Thursday, surpassing what the US Air Force considers the boundary of space, and marking the first manned flight to space from US soil since 2011.

The brief, suborbital flight—with two pilots on board—was a key milestone for the company headed by British tycoon Richard Branson, who is striving to send tourists to space at a cost of $250,000 per seat. No spacecraft with people on board has taken off from US soil since the American space shuttle program ended, as scheduled, seven years ago. Since then, the world’s space agencies have relied on Russian Soyuz rockets to ferry astronauts to the International Space Station. In the meantime, a burgeoning commercial space industry is pushing to close the gap, as companies hurry to complete spacecraft that can carry astronauts and tourists into microgravity. “Today, for the first time in history, a crewed spaceship, built to carry private passengers, reached space,” Branson said in a statement afterward. “This is a momentous day and I could not be more proud of our teams who together have opened a new chapter of space exploration.”

Virgin Galactic’s spaceships did not launch on a rocket but took off attached to an airplane from Mojave, California. After reaching a certain altitude, higher than 43,000 feet (13,100 meters), it fired its rocket motors for 60 seconds and made it to a peak height, or apogee, of 31.4 miles (50.6 kilometers). “We made it to space,” the company said on Twitter. “The commonly accepted international definition of space is 62 miles high (100 kilometers), but the US Air Force considers the space boundary to be a bit lower, at 50 miles. Virgin Galactic has said it would use the US Air Force’s definition of space as its standard. “What we witnessed today is more compelling evidence that commercial space is set to become one of the 21st century’s defining industries,” said George Whitesides, CEO of Virgin Galactic and The Spaceship Company.

“Reusable vehicles built and operated by private companies are about to transform our business and personal lives in ways which are as yet hard to imagine.”

NASA payload

The US space agency paid $250,000 per seat. No spacecraft with people on board has taken off from US soil since the American space shuttle program ended, as scheduled, seven years ago. Since then, the world’s space agencies have relied on Russian Soyuz rockets to ferry astronauts to the International Space Station. In the meantime, a burgeoning commercial space industry is pushing to close the gap, as companies hurry to complete spacecraft that can carry astronauts and tourists into microgravity. “Today, for the first time in history, a crewed spaceship, built to carry private passengers, reached space,” Branson said in a statement afterward. “This is a momentous day and I could not be more proud of our teams who together have opened a new chapter of space exploration.”

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“Reusable vehicles built and operated by private companies are about to transform our business and personal lives in ways which are as yet hard to imagine.”

Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo takes off for a suborbital test flight of the VSS Unity on 13 December 2018, in Mojave, California. PHOTO: AFP

Rwitnaten comet coming to Russia’s night skies in mid-December

MOSCOW—Residents of Russia will be able to observe the Wirtanen comet expected to draw near the Earth and the Sun quite close in mid-December, the Moscow Planetarium said on its website on Thursday. The comet will be seen in the form of a green small cloud in the sky in the evenings and at nights in clear weather both using binoculars and to the naked eye, the planetarium said.

“A comet is flying towards us! This is the comet, towards which the Rosetta space probe was supposed to have flown to in 2004. The Wirtanen comet became the brightest comet of 2018. In mid-December, it will come closer to the Sun and the Earth, nearer than ever,” the Moscow Planetarium said in a statement.

Astronomers say that on 16 December, the comet will be just 38 times farther from the Earth than the Moon.

The comet can be noticed moving in the starry sky when the celestial body is observed at least for 10 minutes with the naked eye and can be seen almost in real time through the telescope. On 13 December, 2018, the comet will come as close as possible to the Sun and thus increase its brilliance, and on December 16, it will fly at a distance of 11.5 million km from the Earth. In the 21st century, only four comets have approached the Earth in closer range. The Wirtanen comet can be observed during the month immediately after sunset in the evenings and at nights over the southern horizon.

“In its maximum luster, the Wirtanen comet is expected to reach the brightness of 3-tu, which will make it the brightest comet over the past five years,” the Moscow Planetarium said.

The celestial body has turned emerald due to the evaporations of diatomic carbon whose green glow stems from the ultraviolet solar irradiation of a gas in the space vacuum. In January 2019, the Wirtanen comet will become inaccessible for observations with the naked eye and later it won’t be possible to see it through binoculars either. The comet will be seen through a telescope only in 2029 and 2035. Later, this celestial body won’t be observed from the Earth. The Wirtanen comet (46P/Wirtanen) with a 1.2-km nucleus discovered on 17 January, 1948 by American Carl Wirtanen. — Tass

Robot shown on Russian TV revealed to be man in costume

MOSCOW (Russia)—A “state-of-the-art” robot that appeared in a report on Russia’s main TV news channel was revealed by internet users on Wednesday to be a man in a costume. The Rossiya 24 rolling news channel on Tuesday broadcast footage of what it presented as a dancing, singing robot at a technology forum for school pupils. “At the forum there’s the opportunity to see state-of-the-art robots,” the presenter said as the apparent automaton danced on stage.

But images shared online from backstage at the event clearly showed a human inside a robot outfit, through a gap between a bodysuit and a headpiece. “I’m good at maths but now I want to study art and musical composition,” the robot said in a metallic voice as lights on its face flash different colours, the report showed.

“Boris the Robot has already learned to dance, and not badly at that,” the reporter said.— AFP
SPORT

MYANMAR secured the gold medal in the 1000-meter women's traditional boat race and took the bronze medal in men's volleyball at the 19th ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

On the second day of the traditional boat race, Myanmar women's team grabbed the gold medal by a record of 5 minutes and 4.84 seconds. Thailand won the silver medal, finishing the race in 5 minutes and 9.50 seconds. Singapore took the bronze medal, finishing in 5 minutes and 15.92 seconds.

Initially, the Thai team led in the boat race. But near the final point, team Myanmar managed to overtake them to finish with a lead of 5 seconds.

With the win, Myanmar has secured two gold medals and two silver medals in the traditional boat race in the Games. On 15 December, one traditional boat race will be held along with five events of the international boat race.

In the match for the third place in men's volleyball yesterday, Myanmar played against Indonesia. Myanmar secured the bronze medal by beating Indonesia 3-1, scoring 25-19, 25-21, 22-25 and 25-21.

In the final match of the men's volleyball, the Philippines team won the gold medal by beating the Thailand team 3-1.

In women's volleyball, the Thailand team trounced the Singapore team by 3-0. —Nyi Myat Thawdar (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

‘Majority’ back 48-team Qatar World Cup, says Infantino

DOHA (Qatar) — A “majority” of football federations support increasing the number of teams playing at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar from 32 to 48, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in Doha on Thursday. Speaking at a press conference after a three-day FIFA summit in the Qatari capital, Infantino said the idea had widespread backing from associations across the globe. “We will see,” he said. “So far, of course the majority is in favour because 16 more teams to participate, not only means 16 more countries with World Cup fever but also 50 or 60 more countries being able to dream. “Is it feasible or not, that’s the question?” FIFA has said it will make its final decision in March, at its next council meeting, after the completion of a feasibility study. It has backed a 48-team tournament to become the norm from 2026, when the World Cup will take place in the USA, Mexico and Canada. And he said that Qatar would consider the idea of a 48-team World Cup in four years’ time.

“There is an openness on the part of Qatar and that is something that I really appreciate,” said Infantino. About any final decision, he added: “Of course, the first partner with whom we are speaking about is the Qatars, the Qatar federation, the Qatar authorities.” Any decision to extend the tournament would be faced by logistical and political problems. The 2022 World Cup, the first in the Middle East, will take place over 28 days not the usual 32, as in Russia earlier this year. — AFP

MFF ends contract with head coach Antoine Hey

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and head coach Antoine Hey reached a mutual agreement to terminate his contract with the national football team on Thursday, according to a source with the MFF.

Members of the MFF’s Technical Committee held a special meeting on Wednesday during which they reached an agreement to end Hey’s contract. Over the last seven months, Hey has helped the national team achieve some success in the group phase of the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup and international football matches. However, the national team failed to reach the semi-final stage in the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup.

“I would like to thank my team, players, officials, and members of the Myanmar Football Federation. It was an honor and privilege to work with you. My best wishes for the future for you all. May all your targets be achieved one day. A special thanks to our supporters, you have been fantastic!” said Antoine Hey.

At Wednesday’s meeting, an official with the MFF highlighted the challenges to the development of the sport in the country. “For the better development of Myanmar football, we need to consider the lack of various resources such as the standards of stadium and playgrounds, players, financial assistance, and youth competitions,” he said.— Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar wins gold in traditional boat race, bronze in volleyball at 19th ASEAN University Games

19th ASEAN University Games 2018

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Total | 99 | 94 | 89 | 282

Thailand and Singapore compete in the final of women's volleyball competition. PHOTO: KO HTAIN

Myanmar women's traditional boat race team seen with gold medals. PHOTO: KO KO SOE NYUNT