Vice President U Myint Swe attends third coordination meeting for 71st Independence Day

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice President who is the chairman of the committee said that in order to hold Independence Day celebrations, at the Union Government Office meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, the meeting was attended by Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Dr. Myint Htwe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Maj-Gen Than Htut, Dr. Tun Naing and U Win Maw Tun, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, senior military officers and officials.

The ceremony will be held in two sessions, the morning session will consist of a ceremony for hoisting the national flag and saluting the national flag followed by a reading of the Independence Day message sent by the President. In the evening session, a State-level dinner party will be hosted. The ten sub-committees are expected to conduct their respective works systematically and successfully. They are to coordinate in relevant sectors so that there are no shortcomings. As the day for the event approaches, sub-committees are urged to openly discuss completed and ongoing works, other requirements and difficulties. Sub-committee wise explanations were then given by each sub-committee to which Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe provided comments and suggestions. The Vice President then provided advice and comments to ensure proper coordination based on the discussions and concluded the meeting with a closing speech.

— MNA / (Translated by ZM)
Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s tenth regular session holds its 15th-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw (MNA)

THE tenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 15th-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the session, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered; announcement, decision and discussion on bills made and a report read.

Q&A session

In the Q&A session education sector questions were raised by U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency 8, U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1, Daw San San Myint of Bago Region constituency 4, U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2, U Nyi Sein of Shan State constituency 5, U Kyaw Kyaw Win of Rakhae State constituency 8 and U Hwei Tin of Chin State constituency 11 and answered by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.

Announcement and decision on bills

After the Q&A session Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khai Tha informed the Hluttaw on the receipt of Trade Mark Copyright Bill approved and sent by Amyotha Hluttaw being returned with amendments by Pyithu Hluttaw. Later Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the bill’s agreement and approval of the bill after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw discuss Cultural Heritage Conservation bill


Amyotha Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee reports read

Finally Amyotha Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee Chairman U Thein Swe read the committee’s report on the motions and questions raised during the Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s first to ninth regular sessions. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

The Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s tenth regular session will hold its 16th-day meeting on 19 December it is learnt.

(Translated by ZM)

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khin Myat. PHOTO: MNA
Bogyoke Aung San’s speech

The main factor is the having to lead together one common life sharing joys and sorrows, developing common interests and one or more common things like racial or linguistic communities, fostering common traditions of having been and being one which give us a consciousness of oneness and necessity of that oneness. Race, religion, and language are thus by themselves not primary factors which go to the making of a nation but the historic necessity of having to lead common life together that is the pivotal principle of nationality and nationalism.

(Excerpt from the speech by Bogyoke Aung San on the Congress at Shwedagon Pagoda on 20 August 1946.)

Senior General receives outgoing Indian Ambassador

The Myanmar delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, attended the Fourth Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR on 17 December 2018. The meeting was convened under the theme of “Enhancing Partnership for Shared Prosperity” and co-chaired by Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR and Mr. Wang Yi, State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China with the participation of Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The meeting featured in-depth discussions and reviewed on progress and future direction of the MLC cooperation including implementation of the MLC projects funded by MLC Special Fund and the outcomes of the MLC Leaders’ meetings. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to moving forward the MLC cooperation in the spirit of friendship, good neighbourliness and equality to achieve national and regional prosperity. Besides, the Ministers endorsed a list of projects to be implemented by the MLC Special Fund. The list includes 19 projects proposed by Myanmar. A joint press communiqué was also issued after the meeting.

In the evening of 16 December, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin accompanied by U Ko Ko Naing, Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR, U Win Zayar Tun, Deputy Director General from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and members of the Myanmar delegation, met Mr. Wang Yi, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China at the Pullman Hotel and Resort. The two Ministers cordially discussed matters related to strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries including China’s support for Myanmar peace process, bilateral economic cooperation, infrastructure projects under the OBOR initiative, increasing the number of Myanmar project proposals under the MLC cooperation. They also exchanged views on continued cooperation at the United Nations fora, and the measures taken by Myanmar to resolve the Rakhine issue. Later, the Myanmar delegation attended a dinner hosted by the Lao Foreign Minister in honour of the visiting delegations from the Mekong-Lancang countries.

The Mekong-Lancang Cooperation was established following the initiative put forward by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the 17th ASEAN-China Summit held in Myanmar in 2014 to foster cooperation for sustainable development of the Mekong region. The MLC is a sub-regional cooperation framework officially launched in 2016 among six Mekong-Lancang countries comprising of Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Initially, it focused on five priority areas namely connectivity, production capacity, cross-border economic cooperation, water resources, agriculture and poverty reduction. It will be expanding cooperation in the areas such as education, culture and health, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends 4th MLC Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Luang Prabang, holds bilateral discussion with Chinese Foreign Minister

THE Myanmar delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, attended the Fourth Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR on 17 December 2018. The meeting was convened under the theme of “Enhancing Partnership for Shared Prosperity” and co-chaired by Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR and Mr. Wang Yi, State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China with the participation of Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

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Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, left, shakes hands with Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi, right, in Luang Prabang, Lao. PHOTO: XINHUA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri in Yangon. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES
Dr. Pe Myint discusses literary, civics with Myanmar Writers Club

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint met with central committee members of the Myanmar Writers Club, Chair U Kaung Thant, Vice-Chairperson 1 Daw Sam Sam Nwae (Tharyawady), Vice-Chairperson 2 Dr. Khin Maung Nyo, Secretary U Htin Lin Oo, and Joint-Secretary 2 Daw Hnin Wai Nyein, at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. They discussed plans to conduct literary and civics-centered public lectures and roundtable discussions in the regions and states. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun and other officials. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets officials from ADPC Myanmar Office

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye, met members of Myanmar Preparedness Task Force, led by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) Myanmar Office, met at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed ongoing disaster management and reduction projects related to the MoU signed between ADPC and the Department of Disaster Management, conducting disaster-related processes in line with the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) revised in 2017, networking governments, regional humanitarian organizations and private banks and building capacity through the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP), pre-emptive disaster prevention projects accomplished with collaboration between the government, private and civil society organizations in accord with the Myanmar Preparedness Partnership (MPP) in 8 districts in Myanmar, and preparations for the 4th APP Regional Steering Committee Meeting to be held in Myanmar next year. —Maung Min Naing

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Joint Monitoring Committee delegation departs for observation trip in China

A Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) delegation consisting of state-level JMC (JMC-S) members departed for Kunming in China yesterday as part of a Chinese embassy facilitated observation trip. The delegation will spend five days in China until 21 December to observe development progress in Yunnan Province and regional development along the China-Myanmar border.

The delegation is led by Shan State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col. Hla Oo, who is also a member of the Shan State JMC-S, and 17 other JMC-S committee members from Shan, Kayin and Mon states and Bago and Taninthayi regions, and staff. This is the first observation trip by the JMC-S to China. —Nyunt Ko Ko

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
Rice exports down $174 mln

THE value of Myanmar’s rice and broken rice exports between 1 April and 30 November has been estimated at US$405.57 million, a decline of $174.3 million from the same period last year, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

During the same period last year, exports of rice and broken rice stood at $569.9 million. Over the last 8 months, the volume of exports has also plummeted to 1.45 million metric tons from 2.18 million metric tons last year.

In the last 8 months, Myanmar has shipped rice worth $413.6 million to 46 countries, earning $81.9 million.

The fall in border trade has greatly contributed to this goal with export volume of over 1 million metric tons. The country has exported over 272,700 metric tons of broken rice to 21 countries, earning $81.9 million.

When it comes to rice, border trade remains relatively high compared to sea trade, accounting for 53.6 per cent of the total export. Rice exports through border checkpoints fetched an estimated $270.5 million, a decrease of $62.96 million from last year.

Meanwhile, maritime exports generated an income of $225 million, plunging sharply by $110 million compared with last year. The fall in border trade has been attributed to China’s tight confiscation of some agro products, including rice, since the second week of October.

The weather condition in the last rainy season and falling prices in the global market have contributed to the drop in maritime trade, a trader said.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar exported 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice, worth $1.13 billion. The MRF did not reach its export target of 2 million tons during the last mini-budget period (April to September).

“The regional government has been focusing on promoting investments in agriculture. Investments are flowing into the manufacturing, hotel services, and other entertainment businesses in the region,” the minister said.

Sayaing govt’ permits 27 local, foreign firms during its term

THE current government of Sayaing Region has permitted a total of 27 businesses, including 8 foreign business and 19 domestic businesses, to invest in the region during its term, said U Soe Oo, Sayaing Region Planning and Finance Minister.

He made the remarks during a workshop on ecotourism, foreign investment, and SMEs in Sayaing Region, held on 15 December at the Win Unity Hotel, Monywa.

“With the changing economic climate, better policies are needed and excessive exploitation of natural resources has to be restricted. Businesses involved in these activities have not received our support,” he said.

“From the 2016-2017 to 2018-2019 fiscal years, 8 foreign enterprises brought in an estimated capital of US$27.76 million to the region. The region saw investments of around K4.96 billion from 19 domestic businesses,” he said.

“Between 1988-89 and 2015-2016 fiscal years, 11 enterprises with investments of $2.75 billion and 23 domestic businesses with investments of Ks124.5 billion were permitted in the region,” he added.

“The regional government has been focusing on promoting investments in agriculture. Investments are flowing into the manufacturing, hotel services, and other entertainment businesses in the region,” the minister said.

The Sayaing Region DIC (branch) office was opened in 2017 to promote trade and investment in the region. The new Myanmar Investment Law authorizes region and state investment committees to approve investment proposals with capital not exceeding $5 million (Ks6,000,000), with the aim of speeding up the verification of projects. —Win Oo (Zeyar Tine) (Translated by Mi Mi Mon)

Exports of animal products up $104 mln in current fiscal

MYANMAR’S exports of animal products between 1 October and 7 November stood at US$113.86 million, rising sharply from less than $10 million for the same period last year.

With trade of livestock permitted in late 2017, cattle exports are expected to rise. Myanmar has exported 200,000 cattle, worth $260 million, since the permission for export of live cattle was granted a year ago. The exported cattle are above 5 years age and were shipped with vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are a total of 11.5 million cattle in the country.

The government is also exploring new markets for export of cattle. An increase in the value of exports of animal products can help reduce the trade deficit. Myanmar primarily exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods. —Ko Htet (Translated by Mi Mi Mon)
ASEAN humanitarian assistance delegation observes repatriation readiness in Maungtaw

ASEAN decided to cooperate in the repatriation of displaced from Rakhine State at the 33rd ASEAN Summit 17th November.

In accordance with the resolution made at the meeting, the Disaster Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement coordinated with ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management-AHA Centre for finding needs and matters to be cooperated by ASEAN.

To observe the progress of the repatriation process of Myanmar, a delegation led by Secretary-General of ASEAN Mr. Lim Jock Hoi, Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN Social and Culture Community and the executive director of the ASEAN coordinator office for disaster management and humanitarian assistance, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, visited Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre, Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre and Shwezar Village.

They observed buildings at the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre and Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre and preparation for immigration works and accommodation. Afterwards, the delegation went to Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre and observed apartments and modular houses for accommodation of returnees, readiness for health care, water supply and sanitation, job opportunities, temporary class rooms, clinics, playgrounds for children and domestic jobs for women.

In the afternoon, the delegation met with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu at the Rakhine State Government Office and discussed matters to be cooperated — MNA (Translated by Tun Tun Naing).

CCDAC’s Public Awareness Committee on drug control mulls digital campaign

THE Public Awareness Committee of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) held its 2nd coordination meeting at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

The Chairman of the Public Awareness Committee and the Deputy Minister for Information, U Aung Hla Tun, said at the first coordination meeting, the outcomes of the meeting included identifying the best ways to control drug abuse, raising awareness, providing treatment and rehabilitation, drafting policies and programmes to raise public awareness, and analyzing the long-term and short-term effects of drug abuse prevention programmes, planning awareness programmes based on the analysis and prevention programmes for the workplace.

The Deputy Minister said since the field of public awareness programmes is diverse and dynamic, discussions for future programmes need to be more comprehensive, while building on past discussions. He emphasized using new ways to raise public awareness through the social media and online platforms.

The participants at the meeting advised on and extensively discussed new methods for and the status of public awareness activities. The Deputy Minister also asked the committee to consider inviting relevant organizations for future meetings and to hold national-level events for raising awareness on drugs.

Officials from the ministries concerned, responsible organizations and Anti-Narcotics Task Force of the Police, attended the meeting. — MNA (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 46/2018
10th Waxing of Nattaw, 1380 ME
(17 December 2018)

Shan State Ministers transferred

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262, Sub-section (6) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 8 (g) of Region or State Government Law, the following Shan State Ministers have been transferred to the Ministries shown against each of their names.

1. U Sai Shan Ta Lon  Ministry of Electricity, Energy and Industry
2. U Soe Nyunt Lwin  Ministry of Planning and Finance

Sd/-
Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 47/2018
10th Waxing of Nattaw, 1380 ME
(17 December 2018)

Appointment of Region Ethnic Affairs Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (f), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 10 (a) Sub-section (2), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, U Sai Pan Saing (a) U Sai Tun Sein (a) U Kyaw Sein, has been appointed as Mandalay Region Government, Shan Ethnic Affairs Minister.

Sd/-
Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Notification No. 97/2018
10th Waxing of Nattaw, 1380 ME
(17 December 2018)

Reorganization of State Ministry

According to the agreement of Shan State Hluttaw, the Ministry of Planning and Economy and the Ministry of Finance under the Shan State Government have been reorganized as the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

Sd/-
Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear (Certiorari) civil cases

CHIEF JUSTICE of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court judges U Myint Aung and U Myo Tint of Special Appellate Bench sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning and passed judgment on five (Certiorari) civil cases and heard eleven other (Certiorari) civil cases. — MNA
YANGON’S FIRST DEDICATED PREMIUM DESSERT STORE

THE CENTRAL SWEETS
YANGON, MYANMAR

GRAND OPENING
18th December 2018

LOCATION
The Central Sweets at The Central Boulevard, Shop 11 & 12, No. 7/A-8/A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon.

ENQUIRY
09 681 471 111 /thecentralsweets/
Selecting good grains to produce high-quality crops

By James Owen, Honolulu

"We don’t have to employ more traffic police; the smart machine will do the job," proclaimed U Ye Myat, director of the Mandalay Traffic Control Room (MDCR). The system, which was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Transport and Communications, U Aye Ko, will allow the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) to adjust traffic conditions on the city's streets in real-time.

The new technology, the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System (SCATS), uses artificial intelligence (AI) to optimize traffic flows across the city. Learning from historical traffic patterns and improving over time, it can answer questions such as, "What maintenance traffic flows, how long should the green light stay on during rush hour?" The system runs daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and generates dynamic traffic-flow visualizations for a handful of key intersections.

This is why millers need to be systematic in their purchasing strategies. Buying good quality products at reasonable prices will encourage farmers to plant more good breeds.

Leapfrogging and Sidestepping: Outliers Spark Municipal Reform in Myanmar crops

The survey data will reveal how different groups, such as the rich and the poor, make use of technologies related to municipal government—for instance, how often they post comments on their municipality’s Facebook page.

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President’s Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tips-off

The full text of the press release will be released at the 19 December issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM

Public Announcement for remanetization

Rakhine State National United Party (RNSUP)'s headquaters at No 91, Room 104, Shway in Thar Yoe Township, Htanway township, Yangon Region, has been permitted to register as a political party in accord with the Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Rules, 2017. It is hereby announced that those who want to remanetize with the RNSUP and are interested to stand as candidates in the 2020 election, can submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days from the issuance of this announcement, to the Union Election Commission.

Shan-ni and Northern Shan Ethics Solidarity Party (SNESP) have also announced their remanetization. The announcement of illegal drug arrests and seizures in the fight against Illicit drug trafficking up till 15 December.

Rakhine State National United Party (RNSUP) has announced the activities of drug traffickers and drug organizations, who are using drug organizations for political purposes, can be complaint for punishment.

The full text of the press release will be released at the 19 December issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM

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**Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet – Aunglan) project starts**

AIMING for the development of transportation, regional development, and socioeconomic development within Magway Region, Construction Group No. 3 under the Department of Bridges of the Ministry of Construction held the stake driving ceremony for Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) at 9.30 am yesterday.

Officials and lawmakers from Magway Region Htuttaw drove the stakes into the ground at their designated spots and sprinkled scented water on them.

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and Chief Minister of Magway Region Dr. Aung Moe Nyco pressed a button to drive Stand Pipe No. 1 into the ground for Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan). The bridge measures 7,456 ft long, 34.5 ft wide and stands 56 ft in height.

Once the bridge is completed, transportation between Aunglan Township on the east bank of the Ayeyawady River and Thayet Township on the west will be much more convenient and economic, educational, healthcare and social development will follow. The bridge will also play an important role in the construction of the Nay Pyi Taw – Kyaukpyu highway as it will link Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone with Maesai, Mindon, Thayet, Aunglan and Nay Pyi Taw all the way to Shweili.—MNA (Translated by Myat Than dar Aung)

**Drugs seized in Maungtaw Township**

AUTHORITIES stopped and searched a Nissan UD car at the 6-mile checkpoint on the Maungtaw-Buthidaung Road in Maungtaw Township on 17 December and found drugs worth Ks 2.28 billion, hidden inside MaMa brand instant noodle boxes.

Nyi Myo Than, Arzi Zaung, and Marmat Seidain have been charged under the the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Maungtaw District IPRD (Translated by Hay Mar)

**Visit to Kawthoung through Thailand**

WITH the development of tourism in Taninthayi Region, a large number of tourists are arriving through Thailand to visit the islands in the Kawthoung District. In 2016, the number of tourist arrivals stood at only 2.8 million compared with 4.68 million in 2015. In 2017, the number of visitors increased to 3.2 million. The number of tourists is expected to exceed 3.2 million in 2018.

“Among the three districts of Taninthay Region, Kawthoung received the most tourists. Last year, over 340,000 people visited Taninthay Region during the tourist season. But this year, Kawthoung District alone welcomed nearly 300,000 tourists,” said an official from the Taninthay Region’s Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

“Tourists visited Kawthoung through arrangements with Victoria Cliff Resort Hotel and Tours Co. Ltd and other travel and tour companies. They visited several places of interest in Kawthoung,” he said.— Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)
Qatar National Day celebrated in Yangon

QATAR National Day was celebrated at Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening, with Union Minister for Planning and Finance, U Soe Win, attending the event.

The anthem of Myanmar and Qatar were first played and the Union Minister and Qatar’s Charges d’Affaires to Myanmar, Mr. Mansoor Mubarak AL-Khayarin, then sliced the celebratory cake, followed next by a documentary photo and dinner with invited guests. Attending the event were ambassadors and chargés d’affaires from foreign embassies stationed in Yangon, and UN department officials.

—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Border guard police ambushed by unidentified attackers

A SECURITY troops patrolling along the border with Bangladesh was ambushed by an unidentified group positioning in other side of border at 3:15 pm yesterday.

The border guard forces were attacked between border post No. 41 and 42 in region-2, Maungtaw Township. The troops were reinforced with more troops to fight back the unidentified attackers. In the fighting, one policeman got a bullet wound and he is not in critical condition, according to the initial report of the Myanmar Police Force. —MNA (Translated by JT)

PROVISIONAL figures for FY 2018-2019 (October to November) shows international trade up

PROVISIONAL figures for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (October to November) shows international trade volume up compared to the same period last fiscal year. International trade during this period shows export at US$ 2,446 million and import at US$ 3,061 million making a total international trade volume of US$ 5,507 million. During the same period in FY 2017-2018 export, import and total international trade volume was US$ 2,184, 2,969 million and 5,153 million respectively.

As such, export and import total international trade volume increases by US$ 262 million, 92 million and 354 million respectively.

Following is the item wise export figure comparison for the last years. Values are in million US$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2018-19 (October-November) Provisional figures</th>
<th>2017-18 (October-November) Provisional figures</th>
<th>Comparison (+/-)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Agriculture products</td>
<td>432.908</td>
<td>436.788</td>
<td>-3.880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Animal products</td>
<td>99.598</td>
<td>8.227</td>
<td>91.371</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Aquatic products</td>
<td>154.219</td>
<td>127.265</td>
<td>26.954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mineral products</td>
<td>317.070</td>
<td>290.103</td>
<td>26.967</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Forest products</td>
<td>29.488</td>
<td>33.418</td>
<td>-3.930</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Finished industrial products</td>
<td>1,357.751</td>
<td>1,066.790</td>
<td>290.953</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Other products</td>
<td>154.935</td>
<td>221.902</td>
<td>-66.967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,445.969</td>
<td>2,184.503</td>
<td>261.466</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following is the item wise import figures comparison for the last years. Values are in million US$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Item</th>
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<th>2017-18 (October-November) Provisional figures</th>
<th>Comparison (+/-)</th>
</tr>
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15th-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session held

FROM PAGE-2

Committee member Dr Sai Hla Thein then table a motion to accept the report and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw’s agreement after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Receipt of a bill and approval of another bill

Next, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the receipt of 2018 Gambling Bill sent with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw and announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to table an amendment motion to register their names. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision and announced the Hluttaw’s agreement on the Industrial Copyright Design Bill confirmed and sent with amendment by Amyotha Hluttaw.

Motion to expand and reorganize the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division into a Department discussed

Finally a motion urging the Union Government to expand and reorganize the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division under the Forest Department into a full separate department in order to conserve world and Asia natural heritage sites as well as natural reserve areas around the country, rare wild animals and species without affecting the rights of the local people tabled by U Aye Naing of Dagon Myothit (South) constituency was discussed by U Min Naung of Pindaya constituency, U Win Myint Oo @ U Nay Myo of Nyaungshwe constituency, U Thet Naung of Lahe constituency, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency, U Aung Naing @ U Naing Kyaw of Mogok constituency, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency, U Yi Mon @ U Maung Tin of Pobbathiri constituency, U Maung Tin of Pobbathiri constituency, U Aung Naing responded to a request for comment from the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and said the motion should be kept on record and the matter kept under observation and will press again if no further follow up action is made. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the motion to be kept on record and keep the matter under observation after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw. The 16th-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session will be held on 19 December it is learnt.

—MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)
Indian politician gets life over 1984 anti-Sikh riots

KUNMING — One hundred and three universities from China, South Asia and Southeast Asia have formed an alliance to enhance regional cooperation on higher education.

The alliance includes 45 elite Chinese universities such as Renmin University of China and Pudan University. Other members of the alliance come from 14 South and Southeast Asian countries including India, Thailand and Singapore.

The alliance will hold presidents’ forums on a regular basis to share their experience in school administration, establish a resource sharing platform, launch joint talent cultivation programs, and set up joint laboratories to promote international cooperation on scientific research.

“The alliance will seek to effectively utilize the available resources to raise the quality and efficiency of higher education. One of the very important strategies for achieving this objective is greater regional cooperation among universities,” said Lakshman Dissanayake, vice-chancellor of the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka, in a keynote speech.

The secretariat will be based in Yunnan University and Lin Wenxun, president of Yunnan University, will serve as the first secretary-general of the alliance, according to a decision adopted by representatives for the 103 universities at a gathering held Monday in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province. — Xinhua

Universities from China, South Asia, Southeast Asia form into alliance

N Korea warns US sanctions may ‘block path to denuclearisation’

SEOUL (South Korea) — North Korea has condemned the United States over its latest sanctions measures, warning the policy could “block the path to denuclearisation on the Korean peninsula forever”.

The warning from the North on Sunday came days after the US said it was imposing sanctions on three senior North Korean officials over human rights abuses.

The sanctioned officials include Choe Ryong Hae, who has been considered a right-hand man to leader Kim Jong Un.

In a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency, the North praised President Donald Trump for his efforts to improve relations with Pyongyang, but said the US State Department was “bent on bringing the DPRK-US relations back to the status of last year which was marked by exchanges of fire”.

The statement by the policy research director of the Institute for American Studies of the foreign ministry accused the US of “deliberate provocation” over the sanctions on the three officials.

If Washington believes the policy of increased sanctions and pressure would force the North to give up its nuclear weapons, “it will count as greatest miscalculation and it will block the path to denuclearisation on the Korean peninsula forever”, the statement added.

At a historic summit in June, US President Donald Trump and Kim signed a vaguely-worded statement on denuclearisation. PHOTO: AFP

Indian political gets life over 1984 anti-Sikh riots

NEW DELHI (India) — A veteran Indian politician was given a life sentence on Monday over anti-Sikh riots in 1984 that killed nearly 3,000 people following the assassination of then-premier Indira Gandhi.

The Delhi High Court found Sajjan Kumar, 73, guilty of instigating mobs during the mass killings triggered by the death of Gandhi at the hands of her Sikh bodyguards.

At the time Kumar was an MP with the then-ruling Congress Party. He was acquitted in 2013 but the High Court reversed the judgement on appeal from federal investigators.

He was found guilty over a case involving the murder of five members of a Sikh family in New Delhi after key testimonies from eye witnesses.

A two-judge bench convicted Kumar for criminal conspiracy, promoting enmity and acting against communal harmony, the Press Trust of India and other local media reported.

“It is important to assure the victims that despite the challenges truth will prevail,” the court said, according to the NDTV news network. “The aftershock of those atrocities is still being felt.”

Kumar, who has been asked to surrender by the end of this month, will have to spend the rest of his life behind bars.

The 1984 carnage erupted just hours after Gandhi was shot dead at her residence in New Delhi. It lasted three days with Sikhs raped and murdered, their homes and businesses torched.

Gandhi was killed over her decision to use military force to expel Sikh separatists from inside the Golden Temple — Sikhism’s holiest shrine in the northern Indian city of Amritsar.

Critics accuse Congress of turning a blind eye to the killings and the role of leaders such as Kumar and Jagdish Tytler.

Last week, Congress named Kamal Nath as the chief minister of the central state of Madhya Pradesh despite allegations that he had led one of the mobs during the riots. Kumar, Tytler and others have always denied any wrongdoing. Kumar last won a parliamentary election in 2004 but was forced to withdraw from the 2009 polls over the rioting allegations.

Last month, another accused, Vishal Singh was sentenced to death for murder and rioting. Sikhs make up some two percent of Hinda-majority India’s population of 1.25 billion. — AFP

Plan to make Australia global power for military exports on track: government

CANBERRA — The Australian government has declared it is on track to achieve its goal of becoming a top 10 military exporter after Western Australia’s Austal won two orders for US Navy ships.

Austal, the leading global producer of aluminium ships, on Monday announced that it would build another two combat ships for the US Navy, adding to the two ships it is currently building and eight it has already delivered.

Australia’s Minister for Defence Industry Steven Ciobo hailed the new deal and announced that the government’s new export credit agency, the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC), would loan CEA technologies, a Canberra-based defence contractor; 90 million Australian dollars (64.5 million US dollars) to boost Australia’s defence exports.

“The Austal order shows how the Defence Export Facility is helping Australian exporters sell more of their Australian products to the world, helping drive economic growth and create new Australian jobs,” Ciobo told reporters.

David Singleton, chief executive of Austal, said the new orders meant the company had a contract for 10 vessels to be built by 2025 and confirmed it was in negotiations with Trinidad and Tobago for two patrol boats.

“This latest order from the US Navy is a tremendous endorsement of Austal’s unique aluminium trimaran and further evidence of the important role Austal plays in building the United States Navy,” Singleton told reporters on Monday.—Xinhua

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At a historic summit in June, US President Donald Trump and Kim signed a vaguely-worded statement on denuclearisation. PHOTO: AFP
Visitors cross a bridge over a pond in the middle of experimental plots of different kinds of reeds, he says he has been able to see the first signs of increasing biodiversity.

“Visitors are required to do any activities within 6.5 km in the western and southwestern parts from the volcano’s summit and within 4 km in other parts of the volcano as lava may flow and hot clouds may go down (along the slopes),” the statement said.

The volcanology centre also warned people living near rivers on the slopes of the 1,784-metre volcano to watch out for overflowing of rivers clogged with lahar; or cold lava, as it is now the rainy season.

“The case of ash rain, people are recommended to wear masks to anticipate respiratory problems,” the centre said.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said there were no immediate reports of casualties.

“The people (living on the slopes) do not need to evacuate,” Sutopo said, adding about 20,000 masks have been distributed to residents.

He also said that Sam Ratulangi international airport in the North Sulawesi provincial capital of Manado has not been affected by ash from the nearby volcano.

Indonesia is located in one of the most active seismic regions in the world, the Pacific Ring of Fire, in which a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.

—Kyodo News

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**Tokyo hotel to trial newly-developed wooden straws, ban plastic**

TOKYO — A hotel operator in Tokyo said on 11 December it will trial from January wooden straws in its restaurant while banning plastic straws in dining facilities and its bar by next April amid global efforts to reduce marine plastic pollution.

The new disposable straws, developed by The Capitol Hotel Tokyo Co and wooden house builder Aquarhome Co, are made by curling thinly sliced domestic plantation timbers obtained after they had been cut down in forest thinning operations.

The straws, the brainchild of environmental journalist Yuri Takeda, will be used in the hotel’s restaurant “ORIGAMI” from 16 January.

The move came as major companies including coffee chain Starbucks Corp and Walt Disney Co are stepping up efforts to ditch plastic straws in an effort to protect the marine environment.

Other similar companies have begun distributing alternatives such as paper straws.

The hotel and the residential construction company said they hope the use of wooden straws will improve people’s understanding of sustainable forestry. Practices like the thinning of plantation forests promote the growth of the remaining trees.

Although the wooden straws cost as much as several dozen yen each, as compared to plastic straws which cost just 1 yen ($0.01), they aim to lower the cost by expanding their use.

—Kyodo News

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**Dutch build artificial islands to bring wildlife back**

LELYSTAD (Netherlands) — Dutch ranger Andre Donker signifies as he looks out at the rippling grey waters of the Markermeer, one of Europe’s largest freshwater lakes. “One upon a time it was teeming with fish here,” he says.

But this vast 700-square-kilometre (270-square-mile) expanse of water, which regulates the level of water in the rest of the Netherlands, had become until recently nothing more than a cloudy mass devoid of aquatic life.

Now the hope is that a new artificial archipelago of five islands will bring nature back to the area via a typically ambitious engineering project for a low-lying country that has battled the sea for centuries.

It is “one of the largest rewilding operations in Europe”, says Donker. Standing on a wooden bridge over a pond in the middle of experimental plots of different kinds of reeds, he says he has been able to see the first signs of combating vulnerability.

“We had to intervene”

The lake was once part of the Zuiderzee, an engineering wonder of the world completed in 1932, which closed off a huge expanse of water to keep out the North Sea and combat flooding.

Vital in a country where 26 per cent of the land is below sea level, the scheme created an inland lake and polders, land reclaimed from the sea, but at a cost to the environment.

Over the subsequent decades, sediment used to create a dyke separating the Markermeer from a neighbouring body of water, the Ijsselmeer, washed away and sunk to the bottom of the lake. That turned the water cloudy, negatively impacting fish and bird populations, plants and molluscs.

“We had to intervene,” says Donker, wearing a wooden hat to brave the storms from the North Sea.

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**Volcano in central Indonesia erupts, sending ash high into sky**

JAKARTA — A volcano in central Indonesia erupted on Sunday, ejecting columns of volcanic ash as high as 7 kilometres into the sky, the authorities have not raised its alert status from the second highest, officials said.

The Centre for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation said in a press statement that the activity of Mt Soputan in Sulawesi Island’s North Sulawesi Province has continued to increase since 5:40 am with thick, grey ash heading southwestward.

“The people are recommended not to do any activities within 6.5 km in the western and southwestern parts from the volcano,” the statement said.

The volcanology centre also warned people living near rivers on the slopes of the 1,784-metre volcano to watch out for overflowing of rivers clogged with lahar; or cold lava, as it is now the rainy season.

“In the case of ash rain, people are recommended to wear masks to anticipate respiratory problems,” the centre said.

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“The people (living on the slopes) do not need to evacuate,” Sutopo said, adding about 20,000 masks have been distributed to residents.

He also said that Sam Ratulangi international airport in the North Sulawesi provincial capital of Manado has not been affected by ash from the nearby volcano.

Indonesia is located in one of the most active seismic regions in the world, the Pacific Ring of Fire, in which a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.

—Kyodo News

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**Disposable straws developed by The Capitol Hotel Tokyo Co and wooden house builder Aquarhome Co. PHOTO: KYODO**
Miss Philippines wins 2018 Miss Universe Crown

BANGKOK (Thailand) — Miss Philippines was crowned Miss Universe on Monday in Bangkok after a trailblazing ceremony praised for featuring its first transgender candidate but marred by gaffes about the English-speaking ability of two Asian contestants.

Catriona Gray, 24, finished first ahead of the South African and Venezuelan finalists in the glittering televised event hosted by American comic turned TV host Steve Harvey and supermodel Ashley Graham.

In the final round, Gray earned applause describing her work in the slums of the Philippine capital Manila and said if she won she would try to find areas “where I could give something, where I could provide something.”

She added she would work for a world “where negativity could not grow and foster and children would have a smile on their face”.

Gray — a student of music theory — beat more than 90 contestants from around the globe in the 67th instalment of Miss Universe, which was held in the Thai capital’s Impact Arena.

During the competition, which was broadcast live, candidates were asked questions on press freedom, legalisation of marijuana, refugees and the #MeToo movement.

This year’s event drew positive feedback for themes of inclusivity and an all-women panel of judges made up of business leaders and former Miss Universe titleholders.

Miss Spain’s Angela Ponce made history as the first transgender candidate in a competition once owned by President Donald Trump, whose administration has attempted to block military recruitment of transgender people. “I always say: having a vagina didn’t transform me into a woman. I am a woman, already before birth, because my identity is here,” Ponce told AFP on Saturday, gesturing to her head.

She added she wanted her appearance to be empowering and that she hoped for a “new generation of human beings who are raised a lot better, more tolerant and respectful.”

But issues of tolerance and respect came centre stage during the competition when Miss USA Sarah Rose Summers appeared to poke fun at Miss Vietnam and Miss Cambodia on social media for not being able to speak English. The comments went viral but Summers later posted an apology on Instagram, saying she did not “intend to hurt” her fellow competitors.—AFP

Latest Spider-Man spin-off scales box office heights

LOS ANGELES (United States) — “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse” snared North American viewers in its web this weekend, earning $35.4 million in ticket sales, industry tracker Exhibitor Relations estimated on Sunday.

Sony’s action-packed animation sees Peter Parker make way for Miles Morales as Spider-Man — a black, Latino character new to theater-goers, but not comic book enthusiasts.

The Spider-Man of his dimension, Morales, voiced by Shameik Moore, joins forces with Spideys from parallel realities to stop a threat menacing all of them.

In at second was Warner Bros’ crime film “The Mule,” which earned $17.2 million. Clint Eastwood both directed and took the lead as a destitute 90-year-old who turns to transporting cocaine through Illinois for a Mexican drug cartel.

“Dr Seuss’ The Grinch” dropped one place to third, earning $11.6 million over the weekend. Benedict Cumberbatch voices the grumpy title character as he plots to steal Christmas.

Fourth place went to “Ralph Breaks the Internet,” which took in $9.6 million after spending three weeks at the top of the box office.

The animated film, a sequel to 2012’s “Wreck It Ralph,” has sold $154 million in domestic tickets since it opened.

In at fifth was Universal’s newly-released “Mortal Engines,” whose ticket sales stalled at $7.5 million.

Vine, HQ Trivia co-founder dead at 34

NEW YORK (United States) — US tech star Colin Kroll, who co-founded Vine and popular gaming app HQ Trivia, was found dead on Sunday in New York of an apparent drug overdose.

Police found Kroll, 34, unconscious and unresponsive in a bedroom of his Manhattan apartment, a New York police spokesman told NBC television.

A drug overdose is the suspected cause of death, police said, and an investigation is underway.

Kroll co-founded Vine, the popular short-form video service acquired in 2012 by Twitter that is now defunct.

In September, he was named the chief executive of HQ Trivia, a smartphone-based trivia platform. HQ Trivia confirmed his death in a statement.

“We learned today of the passing of our friend and founder, Colin Kroll, and it’s with deep sadness that we say goodbye,” it said. “Our thoughts go out to his family, friends and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time.”

HQ Trivia, launched in August 2017, was a blockbuster, hitting a March milestone of two million concurrent players.

But by November, the number of users plunged from millions to hundreds of thousands, according to tech news site Re/code.—AFP
Russia hands over three rocket engines to US

MOSCOW — Three Russian engines RD-181 have been handed over to the Orbital Sciences Corporation, the research and industrial association NPO Energomash said on its website on Friday.

“On 12 December, three RD-181 engines were handed over to the US customer,” the Orbital Sciences Corporation said in the news release.

This is a second consignment of engines delivered to the US company this year. Two RD-181 engines were handed over in June. NPO Energomash provides RD-181 engines for the United States’ space rockets Antares, designed by Orbital Sciences Corporation.

The main design of the launch vehicle’s first stage was developed by Ukraine’s design bureau Yuzhnoye.

The manufacture of the first stage is another Ukrainian enterprise — the AM Makarov Machine Building Plant.

The first stage is equipped with two oxygen-kerosene engines RD-181.—Tass

5G: a revolution not without risks

PARIS (France) — The recent diplomatic dust-up over Chinese telecoms company Huawei, one of the leaders in developing equipment for fifth-generation mobile networks, has demonstrated that this technology which promises to enable an internet of things and self-driving vehicles also poses risks.

What is 5G, what will it be able to do, and what are the risks?

What is 5G?

5G stands for the fifth generation of mobile network technology, which should begin to be rolled out in 2020 in Asia and the United States. Each generation has offered improvements in data transmission speed and capacity, and with 5G the networks are really set to make the transition from telephony to other objects.

What will it be able to do?

The much vaunted internet of things has so far been hobbled by the limitations of mobile networks, both in terms of transmission speeds of handsets and the fact the backbone of networks hadn’t been expanded sufficiently in many cases to handle huge volumes of data. With 5G, transmission speeds should accelerate sufficiently to allow for self-driving cars to take to the roads or for doctors to conduct operations remotely. It will also cut the cord on augmented and virtual reality.

The ability to connect more sensors will help make many services “intelligent”, such as helping manage traffic flow and telling the sanitation department when garbage bins need to be emptied.

Industry is in particular looking forward to 5G to reinvent manufacturing and allow it to monitor all sorts of processes.

Why does 5G pose security risks?

The first reason is that more data and more types of data will be travelling across 5G networks. Much of the data transmitted by sensors could be sensitive, such as information about manufacturing processes that business rivals would be interested in acquiring. Or the data from our homes that could be gleaned to determine all sorts of things about us. The treasure chest of data for hackers is getting much, much bigger.

A second reason is that an increased reliance on the mobile network means its disruption would have even more serious consequences, both in terms of safety and economic activity. A failure during a remotely guided operation could lead to the death of a patient or a crash of a self-driving car. A longer outage could disrupt an economy. This poses national security risks.

While the diplomatic spat over the arrest of Huawei’s chief financial officer was based on accusations the firm violated US sanctions on Iran, the United States has longstanding concerns about Chinese telecommunications equipment being a Trojan horse for Beijing’s intelligence and military.

Huawei is a major manufacturer of equipment used to build 5G networks, and the US defence establishment fears it could enable it to disrupt American military communications or otherwise cause asymmetrical warfare in a confrontation.

The United States has essentially barred use of Huawei equipment in domestic networks, as have Australia and New Zealand, with other countries considering following suit.

“Deliverance or disappointment?” — AFP

Global diets lacking vitamins, minerals: Australian scientists

CANBERRA — Diets all over the world are lacking vitamins and minerals essential for healthy growth, Australia’s peak scientific body found.

An analysis of global diets, released by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) on Monday, revealed that the worldwide intake of calcium, vitamin D, vitamin E and folate is likely to remain inadequate through to 2050.

In poorer countries, the study projected that the intake of zinc, iron, vitamin K and vitamin A would remain inadequate.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), micronutrient deficiencies can impair intellectual development, stunt growth and weaken the immune system.

WHO estimates that more than 2 billion people around the world suffer from micronutrient deficiency.

“Global food security is not just about providing adequate calories,” CSIRO study author Jessica Bogard said in a media release on Monday.

“A person can consume too many calories but still be malnourished.”

The study did find that nearly every country in the world is achieving adequate carbohydrate and protein intake.

Researchers used current diets to create a trajectory of what the average human diet would look like from now through to 2050. They found that the biggest factors affecting food and nutrition security in the near future would be climate change.

“A change in the climate combined with a change in people’s diets, as they begin to earn more, will ultimately impact on our agricultural systems and what gets grown where,” Bogard said.

“Improving farm productivity and economic growth alone is not going to be enough to achieve nutritional security now and into the future. We must refocus our efforts on dietary quality rather than quantity.”—Xinhua

Bees can wear “backpacks” to collect data for farms

NEW YORK — Researchers at the University of Washington have developed a wearable sensing system for bumblebees to collect data.

The data, however, are not about bees themselves. Instead, the device collects data about location, temperature and humidity which can be used to figure out the health of plant life in a certain area.

Actually, farmers can already collect these data with drones. But “these machines need so much power to fly that they can’t get very far without needing a charge,” the university said on its website.

As bees can fly on their own, the wearable device does not need a dynamical system, thus its battery could last for about seven hours while drones could only fly for 10 or 20 minutes, according to the university.

Scientists could recharge the batteries wirelessly and gather the collected data in a hive where bees return every night.

“Having insects carry these sensor systems could be beneficial for farms because bees can sense things that electronic objects, like drones, cannot,” said Shayam Gollakota, associate professor at the University of Washington.

“With a drone, you’re just flying around randomly, while a bee is going to be drawn to specific things, like the plants it prefers to pollinate. And on top of learning about the environment, you can also learn a lot about how the bees behave,” he added.

—Xinhua
Myanmar wins gold in 19th ASEAN University Games’ karate and vovinam

HOST Myanmar won gold medals in karate and vovinam competitions at the tenth day of the 19th ASEAN University Games held in Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Athletes also competed in sepak takraw, archery, petanque, track and field, basketball, karate, table tennis, vovinam and chess contests yesterday where Myanmar secured two gold medals in the karate competition, and three gold medals in the vovinam competition.

In the women’s karate single competition (50kg) Myanmar’s Maung Aung Khin Sit also took the gold medal in the men’s karate single competition (60kg).

Currently, Thailand ranks first place medal-wise, followed by Indonesia and Malaysia with host Myanmar in fourth place—Han Lin Naing (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Mourinho concedes Man Utd incapable of living with Liverpool

LIVERPOOL (United Kingdom) — Jose Mourinho hinted Manchester United’s players are simply not good enough to compete with Liverpool after being brushed aside 3-1 at Anfield on Sunday by the Premier League leaders.

Mourinho claimed ahead of the game that Liverpool have had luck on their side this season, but while there was fortune in substitute Xherdan Shaqiri’s two deflected strikes in the final 17 minutes, the visitors did not deserve anything more than a fifth league defeat of the season.

“The players gave everything and when they give everything I’m never upset with them. I have a good feeling towards them, they play in relation to their qualities, the same way the opponent played in relation to their qualities,” said Mourinho.

“They [Liverpool] are fast, intense, aggressive, physical, they play 200 miles per hour with the ball and without the ball.”

Mourinho also turned on his players’ injury record after having to name a patched up defence with Eric Bailly replacing Chris Smalling at the last minute after the latter picked up an injury in the warm-up.

“We have lots of problems related to physicality,” added Mourinho. “We have lots of players that I could consider injury problems, because some of our players are always injured.”

However, there will be little sympathy for the Portuguese’s protests as he left £50 million signing Paul Pogba on the bench for the full 90 minutes, while £50 summer recruit Fred didn’t even make the squad.

Victory took Liverpool back a point above Manchester City and a mammoth 19 clear of United, who remain in sixth and are now 11 points off the top four.

However, Mourinho insisted United can still qualify for next season’s Champions League.

“I know that we lost some other matches but we played Liverpool, Chelsea and Manchester City away probably the three best teams apart from Tottenham,” he added. “I think we have more possibilities to do more points in the second half of the season than the first.”

**Liverpool lay seige**

The contrasting form showed by both sides this season continued as United strived to keep a rampant Liverpool at bay and were only level for so long thanks to a huge error by home goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

“You [the media] didn’t say too many nice things about them and good things about us. It was made for another result. We wanted to avoid that and we fought really hard,” said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp.

Liverpool laid siege to the visitors’ goal early on with David de Gea stretching to keep out a low drive from Roberto Firmino, Ashley Young clearing off the line and Fabinho firing wide from the edge of the box.

“A brilliant start. One of the best performances we’ve had since I’ve been at Liverpool,” added Klopp. “The first half an hour was outstanding.”

Only City have kept Klopp’s side from scoring in the Premier League this season and a United defence that has kept just one clean sheet in the league since September never looked capable of holding out like they had in their two previous visits to Anfield. Mourinho’s men were finally breached when Mane controlled Fabinho’s chipped ball into the box on his chest and volleyed past the onrushing De Gea on 24 minutes.

However, Liverpool’s momentum was punctuated by an Alisson gift 12 minutes before the break. The Brazilian was Liverpool’s hero with an injury-time save to secure the Reds’ place in the last 16 of the Champions League against Napoli on Tuesday. But he spilled Romelu Lukaku’s simple cross into the path of the grateful Lingard to bundle the ball into an unguarded net.

The second half followed a similar pattern but it wasn’t until Klopp turned to Shaqiri 20 minutes from time that Liverpool found a way through.

Three minutes later De Gea did well to prevent Ander Herrera turning Mane’s cross into his own net, but the ball fell for Shaqiri and his effort cannoned off Young and in off the underside of the bar. Shaqiri got lucky again with 10 minutes to go when, this time on his favoured left foot, his shot flicked off the diving Bailly to leave De Gea helpless. —AFP

Manchester United’s Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho gestures on the touchline during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester United at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on 16 December, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**