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47-member leading committee of 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds 2nd meeting



The 47-member leading committee of the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds its 2nd meeting at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon.

PHOTO: MNA

THE 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held its second meeting at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The first-day meeting was chaired by Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and Joint Secretary Sayadaw of the committee Agga Maha Gantha Vasaka Panditta Bhaddanta Dhamma

Sara acted as the master of the ceremonies.

Also present at the meeting was also attended by member sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Deputy Minister U Kyi Min, departmental officials and staff of the ministry.

In his opening address at the meeting, the Bhamo Sayadaw called on members of the 8th committee formed on 16 March for making efforts for strengthening and propagation of the

Buddha Sasana.

The chairman Sayadaw also urged them to learn the rules for arbitration, related laws and rules and manual related with the Members of the Sangha and directives so that they can make right decisions when they handled the cases related with the Members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko supplicated the matters relating to religious affairs, suggesting the country's highest Buddhist regulatory committee to conduct refresher courses on works of the com-

mittee. The Union Minister also informed the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee that the ministry was making a count of Buddhist monks and nuns in the coming period of the Buddhist Monsoon Retreat with the use of a digital system.

The work would be helpful for purification and uplifting of the Buddha Sasana, he added.

There are 526,373 Members of the Sangha and novices and 67,521 nuns, according to the census for 2018 Buddhist Rain Retreat.

Following his supplication,

the meeting commenced and the Joint Secretary Sayadaw submitted a report on works done during the first period of duty assignment.

At the meeting, the members of the committee also discussed the religious affairs including arbitration in accordance with the rules, learning and teaching of Buddha's teachings.

Nearly 90 per cent of Myanmar's population practices Theravada Buddhism, the more conservative of the two major branches of the religion. — MNA (Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein addresses Meeting 22/2019 of the Joint Committee on amending 2008 Constitution in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 22/2019

MEETING 22/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the Joint Committee, the Deputy Speaker of both the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Commit-

tee Anyohta Hluttaw, Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Secretary U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho, committee members including Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives, and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Architectural Design Presentation on Diplomatic Academy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Honorary Awarding Ceremony held in Yangon



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin poses for the photo with Advisory Board for the establishment of the Diplomatic Academy, Jury Members for Architectural Design Assessment in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The ceremony of Architectural Design Presentation on the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon and Honorary Awarding Ceremony was held at Wyndham Grand Hotel, Yangon at 10:30 am yesterday, followed by lunch jointly hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). The ceremony was attended by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for the Ministry of International Cooperation.

At the ceremony, Union Minister handed over certificate of honour and memorable gifts to Jury Panel of Architectural Design Assessment and U Denzil Abel, Director (Rtd) and the re-

tired officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Denzil Abel also awarded honorarium prizes to five Architect teams who were shortlisted at the preliminary stage.

Present at the occasion were responsible officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Advisory Board for the establishment of the Diplomatic Academy, Jury Members for Architectural Design Assessment, representatives from Association of Myanmar Architects, the retired officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and responsible persons from Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). —MNA ■

Commerce Dy Minister attends trade meetings in Geneva, Switzerland

A MYANMAR delegation led by Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo attended fifty-third annual meeting of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) on the International Trade Centre (ITC) on 2 July and 7th Global Review of Aid for Trade 2019 meeting and related meetings from 3 to 5 July in Geneva, Switzerland.

On 3 July the Deputy Minister and party attended the opening ceremony of 7th Global Review of Aid for Trade 2019 meeting and related meeting “Seeing impact and looking future on EIF Past and Future” conducted by World Trade Organization (WTO) and a discussion on implementation

of Cultural Community Tourism sector in Kayah State conducted with the support of the Netherlands.

On 4 July the Deputy Minister participated as a panelist in the “Economic diversification and blue economy program” and discussed with international leaders on Myanmar’s participation according to Fisheries Subsidies Agreement and preventive work process on excessive catch and utilization of fish resources.

While attending the meetings the Deputy Minister met and discussed separately with WTO Trade Policy Review (TPR) Division Director Mr Willy Alfaro on

technical support for Myanmar’s Second Trade Policy Review work process, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Director General Mr Francis Gurry on technical support for establishing IP Office in Myanmar, Switzerland Embassy Head of Trade Promotion Unit Ms Monica Rabiolo and ITC Executive Director Ms Arancha Gonzalez on Myanmar Tourism Sector. In addition to this the Deputy Minister also met with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) ITC Division Director Ms Shamika Sirimanne and discussed works related to e-commerce strategy formulation



Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo meets with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) ITC Division Director Ms Shamika Sirimanne in Geneva, Switzerland. **PHOTO: MNA**

in Myanmar.

At the meetings the Myanmar delegation was accompanied by the Permanent Representa-

tive/Ambassador and officials of Myanmar Permanent Representative Office to WTO. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

UEC, IRI sign MoU on promoting inclusiveness in 2020 general elections

UNION Election Commission-UEC and International Republican Institute-IRI signed an MoU on promoting inclusiveness in the 2020 general elections yesterday at the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The signing ceremony was attended by Chairman U Hla Thein and members of the commission and officials from the UEC office.

Speaking at the event, the UEC Chairman said Union Election Commission cooperated with International Republican Institute in the past, conducting trainings for political parties and increasing women and youths participation in the elections.

He added that all political parties are needed to equally participate in the trainings, stressing the need to conduct trainings focusing ethical codes, laws and bylaws for political parties and representatives.

The UEC is committed to conducting the 2020 general elections in accordance with the five norms of free, fair, transparent, credible and reflecting the will of the people in cooperation with political parties, civil society organizations and international organizations.

Afterwards, Mr Jeremy Liebowitz, the Resident Program Director of IRI expressed thanks to the cooperation of the



U Khin Maung Oo, Director-General of the UEC (left) and Mr Jeremy Liebowitz, Resident Program Director of IRI (right) sign the MoU in the presence of UEC Chairman U Hla Thein in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UEC for the IRI's achievements in the past. He pledged to promote the inclusiveness especially participation of women and youths in the 2020 general elec-

tions. He also thanked the UEC for signing the MoU with the IRI.

Next, U Khin Maung Oo, the Director-General of the Union Election Commission, and Mr

Jeremy Liebowitz, the Resident Program Director of IRI signed the MoU, and the ceremony concluded. — MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Discussion held on China-Myanmar Sustainable Development Cooperation

A discussion on China-Myanmar Sustainable Development Cooperation under the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor jointly organized by Yunnan University Myanmar Studies Institute and Myanmar Affairs Study Group was held at Lotte Hotel, Yangon yesterday morning.

The three part discussion on bilateral sustainable development and cooperation was jointly organized by Myanmar

Affairs Study Group at the Information and Public Relations Department of Ministry of Information, and Yunnan University Myanmar Studies Institute with five experts from Yunnan University and 13 experts from Myanmar side.

In the first part under the title of Green Energy Technologies and Sustainable Development, architect and urban expert Dr Kyaw Latt discussed

year wise development in export, forest and agriculture sectors related to Myanmar's urban development, gap in development between states and regions and basic infrastructure and energy requirements, Chinese expert Dr Zanzin Wang discussed China's green energy development policies, successes and effects, Naymin Energy System Managing Director U Thein Maw discussed Myan-

mar's current development in green energy and energy usages and Chinese expert Dr Jingjing Song discussed effects of ethnic nationals' conflicts on development in Myanmar.

In the second part under the title of Governance: Problems and Challenges, U Khaing Win of Sandi Governance Institute, Chinese expert Dr Mei Li, Dr Tin Maung Than (MDRI-CESD) and Yunnan University Southeast Asia Study Department Assistant Professor Mr. Lyu Xing discussed administrative matters related to successful bilateral cooperation; interconnected works between central and regional governments and supports provided to regional governments with collected taxes; government problems and challenges in implementing projects and development; views of the people on China-Myanmar bilateral cooperation and challenges faced by Myanmar media, status of Myanmar government and media and section where media is responsible respectively.

In the third part under the title of developments of China-Myanmar economic corridors U Zaw Aung discussed

Challenges related to Establishing China-Myanmar economic corridor; bilateral memorandum of understandings signed during the term of the new government, cooperation frames, sustainable development program and multi-level connectivity. Chinese expert Dr Yang Xiangzhang and Dr Myint Hsan discussed special economic zone development works under the title of China-Myanmar economic corridor.

Myanmar Affairs Study Group at Information and Public Relations Department in Yangon was formed in July 2016 under the guidance of Union Minister for Information and was conducting research works, redevelopment and publishing of research papers.

Yunnan University Myanmar Studies Institute was established in December 2015. It was first established as Myanmar Studies Centre in 2011. It was the second centre on Myanmar studies to be established after Center for Myanmar Studies of Northern Illinois University, USA was established in 1986. It is China's only Myanmar Studies Institute. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Assistant Professor Mr. Lyu Xing from Yunnan University Southeast Asia Study Department delivers the speech at the discussion on China-Myanmar Sustainable Development Cooperation in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Correction

Please read "Myanmar Association for Prevention, Care and Protection of Abandoned" in the news story "Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Win Myat Aye attend school soy milk feeding programme in Kyaukpadaung" on page-3, 7 July, 2019 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. The GNLM regrets the error.— GNLM

Correction

Please read "Chairman of Central Executive Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Maj-Gen Mya Win (Retd)" in the news story "C-in-C of Defence Services honours students of Tatmadaw families, war veterans, service men" on the front page of 8 July, 2019 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. The GNLM regrets the error.— GNLM

MoI holds Media and Information Literacy course in Nay Pyi Taw



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of Media and Information Literacy Course No 1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

AN opening ceremony of Media and Information Literacy course No 1 conducted by, Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) of the Ministry of Information was held at IPRD head office training school (Dekhinathiri), Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his opening speech, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said the three objectives of Ministry of Information were to inform, educate and entertain. The word

inform is very wide and diverse and for our department to inform and educate the people, we need to be fully informed and knowledgeable.

In addition to news writing and releasing the course with expert trainers will teach Media and Information Literacy (MIL), Electoral Literacy and Digital Literacy.

The experience and knowledge gained from the course must be used in the trainees' daily works and must be shared

with colleagues who were unable to attend the course through multiplier courses for the best benefits of the country, said the Deputy Minister.

The MIL course No 1 will be held from 8 to 18 July.

The opening ceremony was attended by IPRD Director General, Deputy Director General, trainers, trainees from state/region IPRD offices and officials. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar exports over \$1.6 mln metric tons of rice as of 14 June



Workers carrying rice bags at the Botahtaung Jetty in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

OVER 1.68 million metric tons of rice and broken rice were exported to foreign countries in the eight and half months of current fiscal year, earning US\$512.47 million, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Between 1 October, 2018 and 14 June, 2019, over 548,552 tons worth \$165.3 million are exported through border gates while maritime trade export is registered over 1 million tons valued \$347 million, the data of

the Commerce Ministry showed.

Myanmar's rice is shipped to 58 countries and China is the main buyer of Myanmar's rice, followed by the Philippines and Cameroon in the second and third places respectively. Additionally, Côte d'Ivoire is ranked at the fourth place while Guinea is the fifth largest buyer of Myanmar rice. European Union countries accounts for over 20 per cent of export, while 25 per cent of Myanmar's rice export goes to African countries.

Myanmar's broken rice are mostly exported to Belgium, followed by Indonesia, China, the Netherlands and the UK. It is placed on 28 foreign markets.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tons of rice to foreign countries in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, which is the all-time highest record of rice export. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of service organizations confirmed, appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Chan Aye	Director-General International Organizations and Economic Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(2) U Than Zaw Htay	Managing Director No 2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise Ministry of Industry
(3) U Thein Han	Managing Director No 3 Heavy Industrial Enterprise Ministry of Industry
(4) U Myint Lwin	Director-General Consumer Affairs Department Ministry of Commerce

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Aung Kyaw Tun Deputy Director-General Department of Civil Aviation Ministry of Transport and Communications	Director-General Department of Civil Aviation Ministry of Transport and Communications
(2) Dr. Zaw Win Pro-rector Sagaing University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Sagaing University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 109/2019

7th Waxing of Waso, 1381ME
(8 July, 2019)

Three Defence Services Personnel
representatives substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law to substitute three Defence Services Personnel Representatives who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission has scrutinized and substituted the following three Pyithu Hluttaw representatives shown on the left column under the Notification 1/2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016, and the Notification 24/2017 of the commission dated 30-10-2017 with those shown on the right column.

The Defence Services Personnel Representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second Multi-party General Election held on 8 November 2015.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| (1) BC 24912 | BC 18856 |
| Lt-Col Moe Kyaw Oo | Brig-Gen Tin San Naing |
| (2) BC 32343 | BC 31376 |
| Lt-Col Ye Min Oo | Lt-Col Htain Lin |
| (3) BC 29777 | BC 32260 |
| Major Soe Thu | Lt-Col Zaw Min Oo |

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 110/2019

7th Waxing of Waso, 1381ME
(8 July, 2019)

Defence Services Personnel
representative substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law to substitute one Defence Services Personnel Representative who is parliamentarian, the Union Election Commission has scrutinized and substituted the following one Amyotha Hluttaw representative shown on the left column under the Notification 55/2019 of the commission dated 22-4-2019 with this shown on the right column.

The Defence Services Personnel Representative of Amyotha Hluttaw to be substituted was nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second Multi-party General Election held on 8 November 2015.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Navy 4084 | Navy 4328 |
| Lt-Cmdr Tin Htut | Lt-Cmdr Soe Ko Ko |

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 111/2019

7th Waxing of Waso, 1381ME
(8 July, 2019)

Thirteen Defence Services
Personnel representatives from
Region and State Hluttaws
substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute thirteen Defence Services Personnel Representatives who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission has scrutinized and substituted the following thirteen Region Hluttaw and State Hluttaw representatives shown on the left column under the Notification 3/2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016, the Notification 28/2016 of the commission dated 14.11.2016, the Notification 31/2017 of the commission dated 14.11.2017, the Notification 63/2018 of the commission dated 15.5.2018 and the Notification 169/2018 of the commission dated 6.11.2018 with those shown on the right column.

The Defence Services Personnel Representatives of Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second Multi-party General Election held on 8 November 2015.

Kachin State Hluttaw

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| (1) BC 32364 | BC 34736 |
| Major Myo Thu Aung | Major Htin Lin Tun |
| (2) BC 38170 | BC 30764 |
| Major San Kyaw Thu | Major Kyaw Thu Myo |

Kayin State Hluttaw

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| (3) BC 34866 | BC 60471 |
| Major Lin Tun | Captain Hein Htet Naing |

Sagaing Region Hluttaw

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| (4) BC 30419 | BC 20235 |
| Lt-Col Thet Naing Oo | Lt-Col Khin Maung Lwin |

Mandalay Region Hluttaw

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| (5) BC 26097 | BC 32528 |
| Col Kyaw Naing Soe | Major Kyaw Lwin Moe |
| (6) BC 27897 | BC 32834 |
| Major Nay Lin Shein | Major Naing Lin Aung |

Rakhine State Hluttaw

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| (7) BC 22005 | BC 38042 |
| Major Thein Tun | Major Kyaw Myo Htet |

Yangon Region Hluttaw

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (8) BC 29690 | BC 30985 |
| Lt-Col Than Lwin | Lt-Col Nay Thway |
| (9) BC 38083 | BC 40232 |
| Major Thurain | Major Myo Htet Kyaw |
| (10) N 721 | N 748 |
| Major Daw Maw Maw Than | Major Daw Khin Min Min Myat |

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| (11) BC 28783 | BC 29109 |
| Major Min Khaung | Major Min Htut |
| (12) Navy 4247 | Navy 3782 |
| Lt-Cmdr Phyo Thu Tun | Lt-Cmdr Aung Zaw Thin |
| (13) BC 29770 | BC 56391 |
| Captain Aung Kyi Soe | Captain Min Aung |

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Issuing more quarry licenses will help
govt increase revenue: trade body

THE Sagaing Region government will generate more income for development work if it starts issuing more permits to businesses engaged in quarry industry for construction purposes, said U Kyaw Tin, the chairman of the Construction Stone Sellers' Association, Sagaing Region.

"Although the association has been registered since 2018, only 20 per cent of the entrepreneurs are operating with an official license. Therefore, the regional government is losing revenue and thus, earning much less than it should be. So, the government must issue business licenses to those who have already applied for it," said U Kyaw Tin.

There are 319 businesses carrying out quarry on 691 acres in Monywa, Sagaing, Yinmabin, Kalay, Kanbalu, Katha,



A quarry in Sagaing. PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

Shwebo, Tamu, Mawlaik, and Khamti districts in Sagaing Region. Of them, only 72 have obtained official licenses, while the remaining have submitted their applications.

"If we are granted official licenses, we will

have to follow environment conservation rules and regulations, and we would be able to create job opportunities for local people officially," said U Kyaw Tin.

The Sagaing Region Construction Stone

Sellers' Association received a license from the regional Directorate of Investment and Company Administration on 27 April, 2018. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Awareness campaign on pedestrian crossings held in Yangon; jaywalkers to face action

By Nyein Nyein

AN awareness campaign on ensuring road safety at pedestrian crossings is being conducted, and pedestrians found violating traffic rules while crossing the road will face legal action after the campaign ends, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, the Minister for Electricity, Industry, and Transport for Yangon Region.

She made the remarks in response to a question raised by U Yan Shin of Mayangon Township Constituency 1 on the 11th day of the ninth regular

session of the 2nd Yangon Region Hluttaw, held yesterday. U Yan Shin had asked whether the authorities are planning to take action against pedestrians found crossing the road instead of using the pedestrian bridge, as it poses a risk to road safety.

"At present, awareness is being raised among pedestrians concerning road safety. Action will be strictly taken against those found flouting traffic rules after the awareness drive ends," said Daw Nilar Kyaw.

There are 14 pedestrian bridges in Yangon and most of

them are equipped with guard rails so that pedestrians only have the option of using the bridge, thereby, not endangering themselves or the traffic. But, some pedestrians have been found violating the rules. Therefore, the No 7 Traffic Police Force have been conducting awareness drives near crowded pedestrian bridges through mobile vehicles every week in Kyauktada and Lathar townships since 7 May, 2019. So far, they have covered 4,000 pedestrians and 200 trishaw drivers.

In addition, people in other

townships will also be warned against crossing any road, if there is a pedestrian bridge nearby. Traffic police have been assigned to monitor pedestrians, and they are distributing pamphlets to them.

Under Section 178 of the 1989 Motor Vehicle Rule, pedestrians are allowed to cross roads only via, pedestrian crossings, pedestrian bridges, or designated routes. They are also required to stop at traffic islands and check for oncoming traffic.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Over 30% of population suffering from hypertension: medical body

OVER 30 per cent of people above the age of 18 in Myanmar are suffering from hypertension, and the condition can be remedied by leading a healthy lifestyle and eating healthy food, according to an official who attended a ceremony held to form the Myanmar Society of Hypertension Team.

The ceremony was held at the Melia hotel in Yangon on Sunday.

"Roughly, over 40 out of 100 people over the age of 50 are suffering from hypertension across the world. In Myanmar, over 30 per cent of the population above the age of 18 has hypertension. That is a very high percentage," said Prof Dr. Nay Win, the patron of the Myanmar Society of Hypertension and the

chairman of the Myanmar Medical Practitioner Association.

Hypertension is caused by an unhealthy lifestyle, and the MMSH has been formed to build awareness about high blood pressure, bring down the causes of hypertension, provide effective treatment, and reduce other consequences of hypertension, he said.

"Hypertension therapy can be changed annually. Doctors will get the guidelines and make the public aware of the signs and symptoms of hypertension. They will also cooperate with international organizations," said Prof Dr. Nay Win.

Hypertension is the medical term for high blood pressure, which is described as an increase in the level of force



A launching ceremony of Myanmar Society of Hypertension (MMSH) held in Yangon on 7 July. **PHOTO: THI THI MIN**

exerted by the blood on the walls of blood vessels. The signs and symptoms of hypertension are headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, nose-bleeds, heart palpi-

tations, blurred vision, blood in urine, and sudden loss of consciousness. —Thi Thi Min

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Hpa-an hospital to offer free ear surgeries

AN Ear Surgery Mobile Unit, jointly operated by the Rajavithi Hospital and the Rural Ear Nose Throat Foundation under Thailand's Ministry of Public Health, will offer free medical services from 8 to 10 July at the Hpa-an General Hospital in Hpa-an Township of Kayin State.

At the launch of the mobile unit, U Than Naing, the Minister of Planning, Finance, and Development Affairs for Kayin State, said that he was proud of the venture and grateful to the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and members of health-care groups involved in the Ear Surgery Mobile Unit, who will

offer free services in the rural regions of Kayin State.

Afterwards, U Saw Chit Khin, the Speaker of the Kayin State Hluttaw, presented gifts to Thailand's Ambassador to Myanmar, and U Bo Bo Wai Maung, the Minister of Social Affairs for Kayin State, gave presents to the leader of the team of ear specialists.

The ear specialists will be available from 8 to 10 July from 9 am at the Hpa-an General Hospital, and surgeries and services will be offered at the hospital free of charge.

—Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)

(Translated by La Wonn)



Kayin State Minister U Bo Bo Wai Maung presents gift to the representative of medical team at the Hpa-an General Hospital in Hpa-an. **PHOTO: NAY MYO LWIN (IPRD)**

Local gold price to remain above K1,100,000: YGEA

By Nyein Nyein

THE price of the yellow metal in the domestic market is likely to remain above K1,100,000 per tical (0.578 ounces or 0.016 kilograms), said U Myo Myint, the chair of the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

The price of domestic gold is currently ranging between K1,118,000 and K1,120,000, while the global gold price has touched US\$1,398 per ounce, according to gold traders.

“At present, the domestic gold price is between K1,118,000 and K1,120,000. There is strong possibility of gold remaining strong, and the price is not likely to drop currently. Investments tend to flow into gold when the global economy sees any volatility,” said U Myo Myint.

There are more sellers than buyers in the market, he added.

“People sell gold when the price is gaining in the local market, and more sellers than buyers are seen,” said U Myo Myint.

Gold is likely to continue making strong gains in the global market on the back of an escalating trade war between the US and China.

Domestic gold price is positively linked to the global price. With global gold price fluctuating, the domestic gold price is expected to remain above K1,100,000, he said.

The price of gold in the domestic market hit fresh peaks this year, spurred by gains in the global market, reaching

K1,050,000 per tical in the period from 17 to 29 January, remaining above K1,060,000 from 30 January to 7 February, above K1,070,000 from 8 to 18 February, and above K1,080,000 from 19 to 21 February. Then, it hit a new peak of K1,110,000 per tical on 21 June.

According to gold traders, in the month of January, the domestic gold price reached its lowest level of K1,043,400 on 1 January and the highest level of K1,061,000 on 31 January. It hit a low of K1,058,400 on 2 February and a

high of K1,087,300 on 20 February. In March, the lowest price recorded was K1,048,600 (30 March) and the highest was K1,069,000 (21 March). In April, gold price touched a low of K1,037,200 on 24 April and a high of K1,054,700 on 11 April. The lowest price for gold in May was K1,035,200 (2 May) and the highest was K1,059,200 (14 May). Last month, gold price touched a low of K1,055,000 on 1 June and a high of K1,125,500 on 25 June

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

South Korea to employ over one hundred Myanmar aquaculture workers annually

SOUTH KOREAN aquaculture businesses are planning to employ over 100 Myanmar workers annually, according to the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agency.

The Shwe Phyto Thar Myanmar overseas employment agency and South Korea's Labour Acceptance Agency signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Yangon on Saturday for sending Myanmar workers to South Korea.

“South Korea plans to call over 150 Myanmar workers annually. For this year, over 30 workers have already received demand letters,” said an official with the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agency.

At the end of 2018, the Edu-

cation, Health, and Human Resources Development Committee had permitted private overseas employment agencies to send aquaculture workers to South Korea.

Those wishing to work in South Korea have to pay an agency fee of about US\$1,000. Then, they can earn as much as K2.1 million per month.

Earlier, the Myanmar government had permitted only state overseas employment agencies to recruit workers and send them to South Korea. Now, the government has permitted private overseas employment agencies to send Myanmar workers to South Korea, for the first time, for aquatic businesses.—Aye Cho
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar thanakha products to be exhibited at Thai expo

THE Myanmar Thanakha Planters, Producers, and Exporters' Association will display and sell thanakha products (paste, logs, stumps) at the Thailand Natural Product expo in Bangkok, according to U Kyaw Moe, the president of the association.

The exhibition will be held from 10 to 13 July, and only organic products will be showcased and sold at the expo.

“The association aims to promote Myanmar thanakha (traditional yellowish-white cosmetic paste made from the ground bark of the thanakha tree) in the foreign market, along with the various types of powders produced naturally from the thanakha root and



Myanma Thanakha wood. PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

cortex. In addition, the Shwesin, Shwebo Thitsar, and Shwe Pyi Nan brands are jointly participating at the expo,” said U Kyaw Moe.

Earlier, thanakha cosmetics

companies had exhibited products at the international expo. This is the first time the association is participating in the event.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Traditional gold foil businesses still thriving in Mandalay



Workers make gold foil traditionally in Mandalay. PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

BUSINESSES producing gold foils are still thriving in Mandalay, where the traditional craft originated. There are several gold foil businesses at Myet Parr ward in Mahar Aungmye Township, Mandalay Region, and they are doing good business.

Mandalay City, the last royal capital of Myanmar, has several ancient temples, pagodas, and traditional crafts businesses, which form our intangible cultural heritage.

There are 200 gold foil-makers in Mandalay, and they are earning well. The art was developed under the rule of King Anawrahtar, and has been passed down through the Mon ethnic people, according to gold foil craftsmen.

Gold foils are used to gild

pagodas and temples, and are widely sold at pagodas. It is customary for craftsmen to pay homage to their predecessors, with offerings of green banana and coconut baskets, before making gold foils.

There are eight processes involved in producing gold foils. First, gold is heated and moulded into sheets. The gold sheets are trimmed into six pieces of the desired size. Finally, bamboo paper is placed between the gold sheets. It takes about five hours to produce each packet of gold foil by beating gold sheets to make them thin.

The traditional craft can be observed in Mandalay City, located in northern Myanmar.—Than Zaw Min (IPRD)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Thoughts come from Bagan, our national heritage

THE UNESCO's inclusion of Bagan on the World Heritage List at its 43rd Session has made the people of Myanmar proud. Besides Bagan, there are several sites which hold great cultural and historical importance for the country. The Students' Union Building at the Yangon University is one of them.

Built around 57 years ago, the building was the centre of the revolution that helped us gain our independence from colonial rule. The building produced several leaders and vanguards of the anti-colonial and the anti-fascist movements. The building stood testimony to the heroes who sacrificed their lives for truth, human rights, and democracy over successive eras.

Therefore, we can say our independence was intrinsically tied up with the developments in the Student's Union Building.

Just as Myanmar accelerated efforts post independence to rebuild itself and work towards stability and development, while balancing the political, economic, social, and cultural sectors, there was a military coup. After the coup d'état, the country's parliamentary system was abolished.

From then, the democratic rights of the people declined, and thus, the military coup was the beginning of the dark age of democracy in Myanmar.

Again, it was the students who launched protests against military rule. The then government cracked down on student protests at the Yangon University, and its uncommonly strong reaction against the students produced some undesired results.

The Students' Union Building, which had played an important role in the independence struggle and was considered our country's historic and national heritage, was blown up to suppress protests, and many students were arrested. These actions created bitter enmity between the students and the then government.

The Students' Union was the vanguard of the revolution against the colonialists and the struggle for independence. The Students' Union Building was the right place for calls of a revolution to emerge. We can say that the building was enshrined with historic values and the essence of independence. But, such an important national heritage has vanished from the scene. There are similar examples in Myanmar.

Buildings with cultural and historical significance still remain in the country. In fact, they are our cultural, historic, and cultural heritage.

The country's people must conserve the heritage buildings and sites in our country. Our cultural heritage must not be allowed to disappear due to lack of understanding about our cultural values and out of self-interest.

The time has come to enforce laws which can guarantee our heritage thrives.

The Rights of Children: A Roundtable Discussion

The current Child's Right Law has 19 chapters -we are expanding it to 30. The new chapters are added as lawmakers try to cover more ground and see what else the children need.

Dr San San Aye

By Shin Min

THE roundtable on the drafting of the laws regarding protecting the rights of children with Professor Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Director General of Social Welfare Department Dr. San San Aye, Deputy Director General of the Attorney General's Office Dr. Thida San, Yangon Region constituency 10, Amyohta Hluttaw Representative Naw Hla Hla Soe and Consultants U Myo Myint Tun and U Ko Ko, was filmed and released by MRTV.



Issuing a birth certificate does not imply citizenship.

dren, with by-laws were enacted in 2001. Currently, the World is tasked with child protection across the world.

U Ko Ko: Why is another law being drafted regarding the same issue?

Dr. San San Aye: I'd like to compare the two. The current Child Law has 19 chapters -we are expanding it to 30. The new chapters are added as lawmakers try to cover more ground and see what else the children need.

U Ko Ko: Dr. Aung Tun Thet, you have worked at the UN Staff College as a principal and has been involved in issues regarding children's rights. What are your thoughts on this new law?

Dr. Aung Tun Thet: That was a time when I was working with the Ministry of Health to get Myanmar to be a signatory of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Of course there were a lot of obstacles considering the

Citizenship is decided in accordance with the 1982 Citizenship Law.

U Ko Ko: Naw Hla Hla Soe, as a parliament representative, can you tell us a little bit about how the process and debate was like in the legislation?

Naw Hla Hla Soe: A lot of ministries were involved for this drafting. It was submitted to Hluttaw in 2017 and that July was when there were press releases

and announcements from the parliament that the government was looking at ways to draft this law. This attracted NGOs and INGOs from across Myanmar and internationally that wanted to cooperate with us. We also tried to get as much feedback from the Community Service Organizations (CSOs).

U Ko Ko: Naw Hla Hla Soe mentioned the role of CSOs in the new draft law. Can you explain more about that for us U Myo Myint Tun?

U Myo Myint Tun: The new government came in office with a new constitution in 2011. There have been suggestions made

since then to improve the lives of children in Myanmar, especially in the form of preventing crimes against them whether it'd be physical, domestic and/or sexual abuse. You can see a lot of CSO's suggestions being put into place in the new law including instances like kidnapping and forced labor. The sentencing has also been increased so that perpetrators won't get off with just a slap on the wrist. The process is also further streamlined.

Birth registration and citizenship are mutually exclusive.

U Ko Ko: What about from a legal perspective? Where is the law at in this stage?

Dr. Thida San: You can call it a draft of a law since it's in the parliament up for debate. When its been written, we invited the relevant ministries for further consultation. Then after further debate -perhaps maybe 6- we put the document up to the cabinet which will then go on to the parliament. Currently, it is currently awaiting the signature of the president.

The new law defines a minor for anyone under the age of 18. This is 2 year increase from the convention's 16. A lot of factors played into this decision such as what our neighboring countries have done and what really is the universal standard.

(To be continued)
(Translated by Myat Thu)

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 26/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 6 July.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 6 July.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 10 July issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM

Announcement on road closure on Martyrs' Day

Some Yangon roads will be closed on 19 July, 2019, during the 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township, from 4 am to a completion of the ceremony.

While roads are closed, bypass routes will be used passing through West Shwegondine Road to the Link Junction, Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road junction, Dhammazedi Road and U Wisara Junction, West Shwegondaing Road and U Wisara Junction.

Arzarni Road, the eastern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the western archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the southern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Arzarni Street, the northern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwaysaykan Road) will be closed on that day.

The Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

Announcement on closure of Bogoyoke Aung San Museum Road on Martyrs' Day

For the convenience of visitors to the Bogoyoke Aung San Museum on the Martyrs' Day which falls on 19 July, the Bogoyoke Aung San Museum Road will be closed on that day starting at 5 am until the closing time. Road users are advised to use other routes while the road temporarily closed.

Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee



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Britain hunts for leaker of cables calling Trump 'inept'

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Britain scrambled on Monday to stem the damage to its relations with Washington by finding the leaker of diplomatic cables in which the UK ambassador called US President Donald Trump “inept”.

The confidential telegrams from ambassador Kim Darroch created a political firestorm in London after their publication in the Mail on Sunday newspaper.

One of them called Trump’s White House “uniquely dysfunctional” while another characterised the US leader as “incompetent” and “insecure”.

Their release came just a month after Trump visibly enjoyed himself during a state visit that included a 41-gun salute welcome at Buckingham Palace and a banquet dinner with the queen.

They also threatened to complicate London’s efforts to strike a new US trade agreement that could mitigate potential damage from Britain’s withdrawal from the European Union.

Trump fired back by saying that people in his administration were “not big fans” of London’s man in Washington.

“We are not big fans of that man and he has not served the UK well. So I can understand it, and I can say things about him but I won’t bother,” Trump told reporters.



The row comes just a month after Trump’s state visit to Britain. PHOTO: AFP

‘Very serious consequences’

UK officials defended Darroch as a professional who was carrying out his duties by providing “frank” assessments of the latest developments in Washington.

“Our ambassadors provide honest, unvarnished assessments of politics in their country,” a Downing Street spokesman said. “As you’d expect, contact has been made with the Trump administration setting out our view that we believe the leak is unacceptable.”

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said the culprit would face “very serious consequences if and when we find out who was

responsible”.

His US affairs deputy Alan Duncan later told parliament that the police could launch their own investigation “if evidence of criminality is found.”

“The most important focus is to establish who is responsible for this despicable leak,” Duncan said. The Daily Telegraph newspaper said such memos are seen by up to 100 people working in the Foreign Office and other government departments.

“But it would require a single official or minister to have access to the whole cache, inevitably casting the spotlight on senior ministers,” it wrote.

The immediate suspicion of the London papers fell on Brexit-backing players in a power struggle within the governing Conservative Party.

Coveted job

British politics are in for a major revamp once Prime Minister Theresa May ends her three-year spell in power later this month.

Brexit-supporting former foreign minister Boris Johnson is the favourite to replace her in a leadership contest against Hunt. The winner will get to appoint his own US envoy by the time Darroch’s term expires in January.—AFP ■

World’s largest container ship sets sail from Tianjin

TIANJIN — MSC Gulsun, the world’s largest container vessel by carrying capacity, set sail from north China’s port city of Tianjin on Monday, heading for northwestern Europe.

With a maximum load of 224,986.4 tonnes, MSC Gulsun is capable of transporting 23,756 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), according to Jonathan Zhu, managing director of Greater China for the MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company, the operator of the ship.

The vessel, 399.9 meters long and 61.5 meters wide, is scheduled to arrive in northwestern Europe after visiting various ports including Qingdao, Shanghai, Algeiras, Gdansk, Kaliningrad and Rotterdam. Its cargo during the maiden voyage include steel, furniture and chemicals, said Yu Lei, general manager of China Ocean Shipping Agency Tianjin Co. Ltd.

Zhu said the ship chose to start its maiden voyage at Tianjin Port, as it is an important gateway port of northern China that boasts broad waterways and good berthing condition.

With trade links with over 180 countries and regions, the port now plays an important role in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.—Xinhua ■

Put off by US, Chinese students eye other universities

BEIJING (China) — Caught in the crossfire of the US-China trade war, Chinese students are looking for alternative study destinations — threatening to turn off an important source of revenue for American universities.

China accounts for nearly a third of foreign students on US campuses who pour billions of dollars into the economy, but in March their numbers dropped for the first time in a decade.

Visa delays, concerns over being shut out of research projects and safety fears have turned off Chinese students, according to several admissions consultancies and nearly a dozen parents and students interviewed by AFP.

Rival education powerhouses such as Britain, Australia and Canada are the biggest beneficiaries, a survey by New Oriental

China’s biggest private education provider said.

Japan and South Korea—traditional study abroad destinations for the Chinese elite—and parts of Europe, especially Germany and Scandinavian countries with strong engineering programmes, have also seen an uptick in applications, the survey found.

The chilling effect started mid-last year, after President Donald Trump’s administration slashed the visa duration of students in science and technology fields from five years to one in some cases.

“Now there’s a lot of uncertainty on whether they can even finish their studies,” said Gu Hui, founder of boutique college consultancy Zoom In.

Over one third of the roughly 360,000 Chinese students in

the US study in “STEM fields”—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—according to the Institute of International Education in New York.

But the number of Chinese students in the US dipped by two percent in March compared to the previous year, the first drop since 2009, data from the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement shows.

Melissa Zhang, a high school senior in Beijing, said she has abandoned plans to go to the US and was instead taking German lessons, in the hope of getting into a robotics programme in Dresden.

“I’ve already wasted a year preparing for my SATs,” the 17-year-old said, referring to the standardised test needed to enter a US university.

“But what’s the point in go-



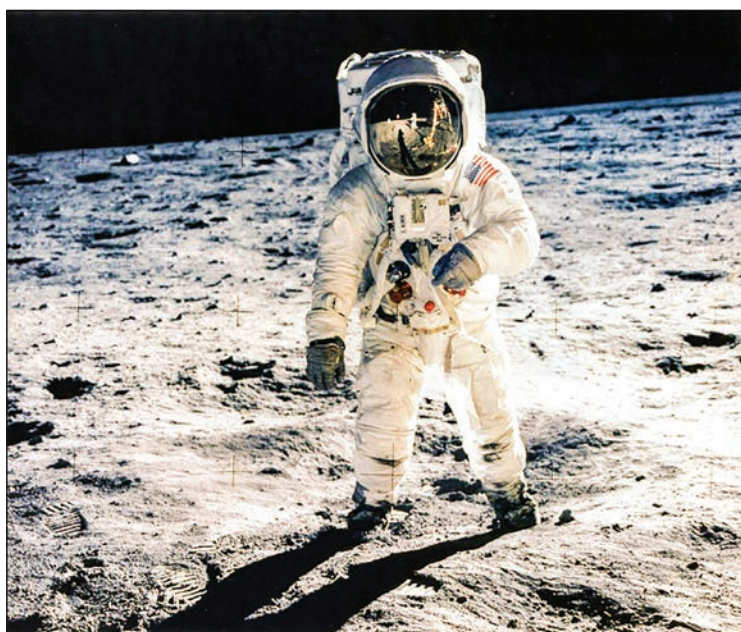
Besides the trade war, a travel warning by Beijing citing ‘gun violence and robberies’ in the US has also given Chinese students cold feet. PHOTO: AFP

ing to the US if I might be shut out of a research lab, just because I am Chinese.”

Her mother, Mingyue, said “the American dream is losing its shine” to many Chinese stu-

dents.

“If America makes them feel unwelcome, they’ll go elsewhere... this generation feels the whole world is open to them.” — AFP



More than half of Russians still refuse to believe that the US landed on the moon before they were able to. **PHOTO: AFP**

How conspiracy theories followed man to the Moon

PARIS (France) — It was the biggest piece of supposed fake news before the term “fake news” was even invented.

Millions of people across the world still believe that no one has ever walked on the Moon, and that the images that NASA broadcast in July 1969 were shot in a Hollywood studio.

Thousands of Internet sites are devoted to “proving” that the landing never happened, or calling into question the whole Apollo 11 mission.

Some claim that NASA did not have the technological know-how to pull off such a coup, or that if it did that it wasn't done with a human crew — who would surely have been fried alive by cosmic rays.

Others tout possible alien involvement, which of course has been covered up — as has the lunar civilisation the astronauts discovered...

But almost all the conspiracy theories focus on supposed anomalies in the grainy photos and videos which NASA sent back to Earth.

Shadows in the footage show they were suspect, as is the absence of stars in the sky in some images — theories which have long since been refuted by scientists.

Yet theories live on regardless of proof from the Lunar Orbiter in 2009 which showed the abandoned modules from Apollo 11, 14, 15, 16 and 17 still on the Moon's surface.

Six in 10 Russians sceptical

When Apollo 11's lunar mod-

ule touched down on the Sea of Tranquility in 1969, less than one in 20 Americans doubted what they were seeing on their television screens.

By the turn of the century a Gallup poll found scepticism has only spread to six percent of the population.

In contrast, more than half of Russians — the old Cold War enemy — still refuse to believe that the Americans got there first.

But surprisingly serious doubt is also rampant among some of Washington's closest allies, with a 2009 TNS survey showing a quarter of British people did not believe the landings happened, while nine percent of French people were also unconvinced, according to pollsters Ifop.

Academic Didier Desormeaux, who has written widely on conspiracy theories, said the more important an event the more likely it is to attract outrageous counter narratives.

“Conquering space was a major event for humanity. Undermining that can shake the very foundations of science and man's mastery of nature,” he told AFP, making it a huge target for conspiracists.

While earlier conspiracy theories also involved images — such as the assassination of US president John F Kennedy in 1963, and the so-called Roswell UFO incident — “what is new about these rumours is that they are based on a minute deconstruction of the images sent back by NASA,” the French specialist insisted.—AFP ■

Researchers say ancient Philistine town located in Israel

QIRYAT GAT (Israel) — Researchers in Israel said Monday they believe they have pinpointed the site of an ancient Philistine town mentioned in the biblical tale of David seeking refuge from the Israelite king Saul.

Ziklag was a town under the rule of a Philistine king in nearby Gath after the ancient “sea peoples” began arriving in the region in the 12th century BC, the researchers say. A biblical tale says the town became the unlikely seat of David before his

anointment as king in Hebron following Saul's death.

“It is not 100 per cent sure, but I think it's 90 per cent that this was biblical Ziklag,” said Yosef Garfinkel, head of the institute of archaeology at Jerusalem's Hebrew University. The excavation began in 2015 and the researchers plan to continue with further digs. “I hope it will be enough to clarify all the important aspects of the site,” Garfinkel said at the site on a hilltop near the city of Qiryat Gat in central Israel.

Today known as Khirbet al-Rai, the site faces surrounding hills and overlooks wheat fields below. Ziklag's location has been the subject of scientific debate, with 12 possible locations named in southern Israel.

None of the sites, however, had the necessary evidence of consecutive Philistine and Israelite settlement to fit what is believed to be the historical narrative, the Israeli Antiquities Authority said in a statement.—AFP ■

China's tracking ship Yuanwang-3 wraps up monitoring mission

NANJING — China's spacecraft tracking ship Yuanwang-3 wrapped up its mission of monitoring the 46th satellite of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) and arrived at a port in east China's Jiangsu Province Monday.

The tracking ship has trav-

eled more than 30,000 nautical miles in the one-month monitoring mission. China sent the 46th satellite of the BDS into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province on 25 June and Yuanwang-3 completed the maritime monitoring mission of the satellite launch

from the southern Pacific Ocean.

Yuanwang-3, China's second-generation space tracking ship, has completed 83 monitoring missions from the sea, including maritime tracking of the Shenzhou spacecraft, the Chang'e lunar probe and BeiDou satellites.—Xinhua ■



Aerial photo shows China's spacecraft tracking ship Yuanwang-3 sailing in the sea, on 26 June 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Aussie blood flow device becomes potential game changer for baby heart surgery

CANBERRA — Australian researchers have developed a new device that they say could save lives during open heart surgeries, especially for babies.

The tiny fiber-optic sensor, invented by a team from Flinders University in South Australia (SA), monitors the amount of blood flowing through the aorta during prolonged and dangerous surgery.

John Arkwright, the leader of the research team, said that the device could be a game changer for babies who are vulnerable to drops in blood pressure during surgery. “The minimally invasive

device is suitable for neonates right through to adults,” he said in a media release. “It's a far more responsive measurement compared to traditional blood flow monitoring - and without life-threatening delays in the period ‘snapshot’ provided by current blood flow practices using ultrasound or thermo-dilution.”

Traditional methods to measure blood flow during surgery usually only measure the average flow every 30 minutes.

Flinders University had filed a patent for the device and is now seeking industry partners to investigate how it will behave in dif-

ferent conditions. “The proof-of-concept prototype is potentially a low-cost device which has passed initial testing in a heart-lung machine,” chief investigator Albert Ruiz-Vargas said.

“It can be inserted through a small keyhole aperture in the skin into the femoral artery in individuals where heart function is compromised and is so small it can even measure small changes in flow in the tiny blood vessels of infants. “It's a simple design, which can give readouts similar to a pulsating heartbeat response on a laptop or nearby screen.”—Xinhua ■

Stock markets retreat as pressure eases to slash US rates



The Turkish lira sank more than three percent against the dollar after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan fired the head of the central bank, fuelling speculation that borrowing costs will be cut soon. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Stock markets retreated Monday following strong US jobs data that reduced pressure on the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates sharply.

Losses on Asian markets were far steeper than in Europe, because investors there

had already gone home for the day on Friday when the employment data from the world's biggest economy were released and were only catching up on Monday.

The dollar was steady against its main rivals, while oil prices flattened.

However, the greenback surged more than three percent against the Turkish lira after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sacked the head of the country's central bank following months of tensions over high borrowing costs.

Erdogan, who is battling

to boost Turkey's struggling economy, has repeatedly railed against high interest rates and called for them to be lowered to stimulate growth.

The removal of Murat Cetinkaya at the weekend fuelled speculation that the Turkish central bank would slash borrowing costs.

On the corporate front, shares in Deutsche Bank eased 0.3 per cent to 7.15 euros, a day after Germany's biggest lender said it would cut 18,000 jobs by 2022.

The bank said the layoffs would reduce annual costs by six billion euros (\$6.7 billion) over the same period, adding that it would stop almost all activity in shares trading.

In the US meanwhile, Labor Department data Friday showed that despite recent disappointing indicators, the world's top economy remains resilient as it created far more posts than expected in June.

The news took traders by surprise and sent Wall Street falling ahead of the weekend, having hit record highs last week ahead of the jobs num-

bers.

Investors had been hoping that the Fed would cut US borrowing costs by as much as half a percentage point at its next policy meeting later this month, but the report on Friday reduced those chances.

"Markets remain convinced the Fed will cut rates at the end of the month," said OANDA senior market analyst Edward Moya.

"But the strong labour market has many questioning whether we will see just two rate cuts in 2019 and not what some call the required three to see US stocks make another... push higher into uncharted territory."

Moya said that the focus would now turn to the congressional testimony of Fed boss Jerome Powell this week, with investors hoping he will provide some forward guidance on the bank's plans.

Also up this week is the release of minutes from the Fed's June meeting, while US and Chinese officials are working to schedule top-level trade talks. —AFP ■

Iran set to exceed nuclear deal uranium enrichment cap

TEHRAN (Iran) — Iran said Sunday it was set to breach the uranium enrichment cap set by an endangered nuclear deal within hours as it seeks to press other parties into keeping their side of the bargain.

The Islamic republic also threatened to abandon more commitments unless a solution is found with the remaining parties to the landmark 2015 agreement after Washington unilaterally pulled out. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted Sunday that Iran would face "further isolation and sanctions", adding to a raft of biting economic measures imposed by Washington, and President Donald Trump warned that Iran "better be careful."

The 2015 deal was reached between Iran and six world powers — Britain, China, France, Germany, the United States and Russia — and saw Tehran agree to drastically scale down its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

Washington began reimposing sanctions in August 2018 and has targeted crucial sectors

including oil exports and the banking system, fuelling a deep recession. Even after the US pull-out, experts said Iran had been complying with the agreement, until early this month when it exceeded a limit on its enriched uranium reserves.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tehran could further scale back its commitments to the deal, but "all such steps are reversible" if European partners deliver on their part. The move to start enriching uranium above the agreed maximum purification level of 3.67 per

cent comes despite opposition from countries backing the nuclear deal.

Britain said Iran had "broken the terms" of the accord, and along with Germany urged Tehran to "stop and reverse all activities inconsistent with its commitments."

President Hassan Rouhani's order to exceed the threshold would be implemented "in a few hours" after the last technical details were sorted, Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said live on state television. —AFP ■



Iran has threatened to abandon more nuclear commitments. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japanese journalist was "desperate to protect" herself from rape

TOKYO — Japanese journalist Shiori Ito, who has accused an older male political writer of rape, said in a damages lawsuit Monday that she tried to stop him and was "desperate to protect" herself.

Ito, 30, is seeking 11 million yen (\$101,500) in compensation from Noriyuki Yamaguchi, a former Washington bureau chief for Tokyo Broadcasting System Television Inc., known as TBS, who later published a best-selling book on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Yamaguchi has denied any unlawful act. "I felt dizzy when I was dining together (with Yamaguchi), and when I woke up at a hotel I was being raped," Ito said in a hearing at the Tokyo District Court. "I was desperate to protect my body, telling him to 'stop.'"

Ito claims she was raped at a hotel in 2015 following a dinner in Tokyo with Yamaguchi, who had promised assistance in getting her a job. "Even now I have flashbacks," she told the hearing, adding that the stress has

led to some physical ailments. Following the incident, she filed a complaint with police, but prosecutors dropped the case in July 2016 citing insufficient evidence.

Ito later filed a complaint with the Committee for the Inquiry of Prosecution, but it also judged in September 2017 that the prosecutors' decision was "appropriate," saying there was no reason to overturn it.

Yamaguchi told the hearing his act was consensual. "Ito, who got drunk, threw up at the hotel and I showed displeasure as my belongings got dirty," said Yamaguchi, who is in his 50s and quit TBS in 2016 to become a freelance journalist. "Maybe she was trying to ease the awkward atmosphere. She was the one who initiated things by pulling me by the hand."

The trial also includes a counter-lawsuit filed by Yamaguchi, who is seeking 130 million yen in compensation from Ito, claiming his social reputation has been damaged by her remarks. —Kyodo News ■

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Models present wedding dresses at the Lotte Wedding Show titled "Feel the Pure & Elegant Style on the opening day on 6th July, 2019. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Hong Kong protesters moot Bank of China 'stress test' after latest clashes

HONG KONG (China) — Anti-government protesters in Hong Kong began circulating plans on Monday to "stress test" the Bank of China in their bid to keep pressure on the city's pro-Beijing leaders, after five people were arrested in the latest clashes with police.

The finance hub has been plunged into its worst crisis in recent history following a month of huge marches as well as separate violent confrontations with police involving a minority of hardcore protesters.

The rallies were sparked by a now-suspended law that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China, but have since morphed into a wider movement calling for democratic reforms and a halt to sliding freedoms in the semi-autonomous territory.

Sunday night saw fresh political violence break out in the district of Mongkok as police baton-charged small

groups of masked, largely young protesters who were walking along roads and refused to disperse following another massive, peaceful rally earlier in the day. Police said the group were taking part in an "unlawful assembly" and had been warned that officers would take action. "Some protesters resisted and police arrested five persons for assaulting a police officer and obstructing a police officer in the execution of duties," a statement said. Another protester was arrested earlier in the day for failing to provide identification during a stop and search.

'Excessive force'

Activists hit out at the police tactics, saying the protesters had remained peaceful as they made their way home, and that violence was started by a shield wall of riot officers that had blocked the crowd's path. "HKers joined rally peacefully... against extradition bill result in being beaten and assaulted by HK Police," de-

mocracy activist Joshua Wong wrote in a tweet accompanying pictures of at least two protesters with bleeding head wounds. "Just another example of excessive force used by the police," he added in another tweet.

By Monday morning, online groups were already planning more protests on encrypted messenger apps and chat forums that have been successfully used by demonstrators to bring out huge crowds. One proposal going viral was a call to collectively withdraw funds from the Bank of China this Saturday to "stress test" the organisation's liquidity. Shares in the bank were down about one percent Monday in line with the broader market.

The state-owned Bank of China's towering Hong Kong headquarters is one of the most recognisable buildings in the territory's famous skyline and the organisation is one of three banks licensed to issue its own notes.—AFP ■

Mitsotakis becomes Greece's new PM on vow to end economic crisis

ATHENS (Greece) — Greece's new conservative prime minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis was sworn in Monday after a sweeping election victory put him in charge of the EU's most indebted member with promises to end a decade of economic crisis.

"The Greek people gave us a strong mandate to change Greece. We will honour it to the full," Mitsotakis said after taking his oath of office in a televised ceremony.

"Hard work begins today. I am completely confident that we will prove equal to the challenge."

The cabinet will be sworn in on Tuesday and will meet on Wednesday, he said.

The 51-year-old Harvard graduate and former McKinsey consultant took the oath of office in the presidential mansion in the presence of his wife and three children.

He then walked next door to the prime minister's office, where he had a brief discussion with defeated leftist premier Alexis Tsipras.

The US-educated conservative faces a hefty challenge as he takes over from Tsipras, who

imposed austerity measures required under a bailout to keep Greece in the eurozone.

The country's public debt last year stood at 335 billion euros (\$376 billion), or 180 percent of GDP.

The debt load is forecast to fall to 168 percent of GDP this year, but only under belt-tightening brought in under Tsipras's Syriza party — something that Mitsotakis's New Democracy party says is stifling growth.

The tricky job of keeping Greece's international creditors onside while easing the hardship on Greeks — by lowering taxes and renegotiating fiscal targets — could result in a short honeymoon phase for Mitsotakis.

A Eurogroup finance meeting on Monday will convene to discuss the state of Greece's economy after tax cuts rolled out by Tsipras in a last-ditch attempt to win over voters May.

'Message for change'

The former banker has pledged to create jobs and "steamroller" obstacles to business.

Those pledges wooed

Greek voters, who handed him 40 percent of the votes in Sunday's election, well ahead of the 31.5 percent given to Tsipras.

"It's a strong message for change in Greece," Mitsotakis told reporters on Sunday.

Last week he told AFP that he saw it as his mission "to make sure we restart the economy" with "ambitious growth driven by private investments, exports and innovation".

He predicted that he could persuade Greece's creditors to accept the easing of tight fiscal targets if "a comprehensive reforms package" was presented. Tsipras, for his part, warned that Mitsotakis would do away with the social spending he brought in to help Greece's vulnerable groups.

He portrayed the Mitsotakis family — one of Greece's leading political dynasties — as part of a failed system that bankrupted the country in 2010, which he blamed for the humiliating bailout.

Son of a PM

Mitsotakis is the son of former prime minister Constantine Mitsotakis, one of the country's



Kyriakos Mitsotakis has promised to lead Greece out of the era of economic crisis. PHOTO: AFP

longest-serving parliamentarians. His sister Dora Bakoyannis is a former minister and Athens's first female mayor.

And in a first even for a country accustomed to family links in politics, the new mayor of Athens is the incoming PM's nephew.

Mitsotakis took charge of the New Democrats three years ago. Following the election, his party will have a majority of 158 seats in the 300-member parliament.

New Democracy was last in power in 2014, in coalition with the Greek socialists.

Syriza's parliamentary presence will shrink from 144

seats to 86. Tsipras has promised to remain an "active" voice in opposition. Sunday's election was Greece's third in as many months.

In May, New Democracy beat Syriza by nearly 9.5 points in European parliament elections. A week later, it completed a near-sweep of Greek regions in local elections. After that, Tsipras was forced to call an early general election.

"A painful cycle has closed," Mitsotakis said in a televised address immediately following his electoral victory, adding that Greece would "proudly raise its head again" on his watch.—AFP ■

29 die as bus plunges off India's 'highway to hell'

AGRA (India) — At least 29 people were killed and 18 others injured when a bus careered off a notorious Indian highway after the driver apparently fell asleep at the wheel, officials said Monday.

The bus was carrying more than 50 people along the Yamuna expressway — known as the “highway to hell” because of the number of fatal accidents — when it crashed through a concrete barrier and plunged more than 12 metres (40 feet) into a drainage canal.

“It appears that the driver was drowsy,” said Agra district magistrate N.G. Ravi Kumar, who provided the number of dead and injured. The bus was travelling from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi when the accident happened just before dawn, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) near Agra, home of the Taj Mahal.

More than 150,000 people a year are killed on India's roads, which are notorious for design flaws and speeding drivers.

The 165-kilometre (100-mile) Yamuna expressway was India's longest and most modern six-

lane highway when it opened in 2012, but about 900 people have been killed on the road since, according to authorities.

Indian media have dubbed it the “highway to hell”.

Local residents said they were woken by the crash and found the mangled bus submerged in blackish-grey water.

Most passengers were asleep

Police said it landed on its roof in a drain, where running water complicated rescue efforts.

“We rushed out of our homes and saw people screaming for help,” one witness told reporters.

“We got into the drain and tried to save some of them. Soon police arrived and quickly brought cranes.”

Officials believe most of the passengers were asleep when the driver lost control of the vehicle, which had the Taj Mahal painted on its white exterior.

State Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered an investigation, as well as cash compensation of 500,000 rupees (\$7,289) for the families of those killed.

“The committee will give a

report on the cause of the accident and also suggest long-term measures to avoid such mishaps,” government official Awanish Awasthi said.

The Yamuna expressway was intended to be a symbol of modernity when it was opened — speeding up journey times from Delhi to the key region — but authorities admit there are key safety concerns.

In 2017 alone some 763 crashes were reported on the highway resulting in 145 deaths, authorities told the Save Life Foundation, a road safety campaign group.

“The crashes may be due to human or a car error, but most of the deaths are because the road infrastructure is not good enough,” said Piyush Tiwari, the group's founder. Fatalities on Indian roads are often blamed on speeding and drunk driving, but experts say many highways are poorly constructed and surfaced, making journeys risky.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh offered condolences to those affected and promised assistance to the injured.—AFP ■



The driver was suspected to have fallen asleep before the bus crashed into a railing and fell between two flyovers on the Yamuna expressway which connects New Delhi with Agra. PHOTO: AFP



Former Congolese warlord Bosco Ntaganda arrives for the verdict. PHOTO: AFP

‘Terminator’ warlord guilty of Congo atrocities

THE HAGUE (Netherlands) — International Criminal Court judges on Monday convicted a Congolese rebel chief nicknamed “Terminator” of war crimes including massacring civilians and sexual enslavement, in a badly-needed victory for prosecutors in The Hague.

Bosco Ntaganda's forces carried out horrific attacks including one in a banana field that left babies and children disembowelled or with their heads smashed in, judges said.

The 45-year-old was a “key leader” who recruited child soldiers and gave “direct orders to target and kill” non-combatants in Democratic Republic of Congo's Ituri region in 2002 and 2003.

Ntaganda was found guilty of 18 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, directing attacks against civilians, displacing civilians, rape, sexual slavery and enlisting children under the age of 15.

“Mr Ntaganda rallied the troops prior to battle, he gave direct orders to the troops during operations, and he debriefed them afterwards,” head judge Robert Fremr said.

Rwandan-born Ntaganda will be sentenced at a later date

after judges hear submissions from victims. Judges can give a life sentence.

Human Rights Watch director Kenneth Roth hailed the verdict as “big win for the survivors”, while the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) said it was a “day of joy for Ituri victims.”

Ntaganda — known for his pencil moustache and a penchant for fine dining — proclaimed his innocence throughout the trial, insisting that he was “soldier not a criminal” and that the “Terminator” nickname did not apply to him.

Prosecutors portrayed him as the ruthless leader of ethnic Tutsi revolts amid the civil wars that wracked the DRC after the 1994 genocide of Tutsis in neighbouring Rwanda.

Judges said Ntaganda “fulfilled a very important military function” as a leader of the Union of Congolese Patriots rebels and its military wing, the Patriotic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (FPLC).

The FPLC killed at least 800 people as it fought rival militias in Ituri for control of valuable minerals. More than 60,000 people have been killed since violence erupted there in 1999.—AFP ■

Brazil justice minister considered leak to harm Maduro: report

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil)—Brazilian justice minister Sergio Moro considered releasing construction giant Odebrecht's confession to paying bribes in Venezuela to harm the country's president Nicolas Maduro, The Intercept investigative website reported on Sunday.

The report came after The Intercept last month began pub-

lishing excerpts from leaked chats with Moro, causing a scandal for the former anti-corruption judge who became attorney general under far-right president Jair Bolsonaro. The Intercept's most explosive report purportedly showed Moro conspiring with prosecutors in a sprawling corruption probe known as Car Wash to keep popular leftist

ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva out of the 2018 presidential race. On Sunday, The Intercept published chats in which Moro considers whether to use information gathered about Odebrecht during the Car Wash investigation against socialist leader Maduro, who has presided over a political and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. “Maybe we should

reveal Odebrecht's confessions about bribes in Venezuela?” Moro said to chief prosecutor Deltan Dallagnol via the encrypted Telegram messaging app in August 2017. Earlier in the conversation, Dallagnol had told Moro, “There will be criticism and a price (to be paid), but it's worth exposing oneself to help the Venezuelans.”

It remains unclear if the

confessions were ever leaked, but Odebrecht has admitted to paying bribes across Latin America, including \$98 million in Venezuela — its biggest payoff outside Brazil. In a statement, the prosecutor's office in the city of Curitiba, which handled some of the most publicized aspects of the probe, rejected The Intercept's report.—AFP ■

MPT U-14 football tourney: Mandalay Zone semifinals to be held on 11 July

THE semifinal matches of the MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2019 (Mandalay Zone) will be held on 11 July at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

The match between the Kyaukse Youth team and the Mandalay (A) team has been scheduled for 8a.m., while the match between the Social Welfare team and a team from Group D will be played at 3p.m.

At present, the Kyaukse Youth team from Group A, Mandalay (A) team from Group

B, and the Social Welfare team from Group C have advanced to the semifinal.

The match to decide which team in Group D will enter the semifinal will take place between Mandalay (B) and Myingyan (A) on 9 July.

Currently, the Meiktila (A) team from Group D is at the top of the standing table with 4 points from 2 matches. The Mandalay (B) team can also hope to advance to the semifinals as it has obtained one point. — Kyaw Khin

USA hold back rising European tide to maintain World Cup dominance

LYON (France)— The United States underlined their status as the dominant force in international women's football by winning a fourth World Cup in eight editions on Sunday, but the tournament has also highlighted the growing threat to them coming from Europe.

In their third consecutive final, the USA were too strong for the Netherlands as they won 2-0 in Lyon to retain their title with Megan Rapinoe and Rose Lavelle scoring. It means a European nation has not won since Germany in 2007, while the USA's four World Cups stand alongside their record four Olympic golds.

Their triumph came after they topped their group ahead of Sweden and then beat Spain, hosts France and England en route to the final, where they defeated the European champions.

While the USA started their campaign with a World Cup re-

cord 13-0 win over Thailand, their encounters with European opposition were closer affairs.

'Makes our job hard'

"I think the level around the world is growing exponentially every year, so four years on, this was incredibly difficult because the opponent is better and the teams we had to come through were some of the best in the world," said USA coach Jill Ellis when asked to compare this World Cup win with 2015.

"I don't know if it's us getting older or the game just evolving and becoming more challenging but it has been so emotionally exhausting this time," admitted Alex Morgan, 30, a survivor from the US team that lost the 2011 final to Japan.

The USA were the only nation from outside Europe to reach the quarter-finals in France.—AFP ■



Sealed with a kiss: USA players kiss the trophy after their World Cup final win. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar U-18 national team to play friendly matches in Japan

THE Myanmar U-18 national team will be travelling to Japan to undergo training from 16 to 25 July as preparation for the ASEAN Football Federation's U-19 Youth Championship and the Asian Football Confederation's U-19 Championship, according

to the Myanmar Football Federation.

During the tour, the Myanmar U-18 will also play friendly matches against the Cerezo Osaka U-18 team on 18 July, the Osaka Sangyo University team on 21 July, and the Hannan Uni-

versity team on 24 July at the J-Green Sakai Training Centre in Osaka, Japan.

Led by Chief Coach U Soe Myat Min, 25 players of the Myanmar U-18 team will leave from the Yangon International Airport for Japan on 15 July.—Kyaw Khin



Coaches and players of Myanmar U-18 national team during their training session. PHOTO: MFF

'Mad Marko' an eye-catching addition to Chinese football

LONDON (United Kingdom)— Marko Arnautovic might not have the superstar status of China's biggest football imports, but the volatile Austrian will provide goals and drama in equal measure after he completed a move from West Ham to Shanghai SIPG on Monday.

The Premier League club announced the deal for an undisclosed fee, but reports suggest the Hammers will get just £22 million (\$28 million) for the 30-year-old after turning down a £35 million bid just six months ago when interest from China first arose.

Arnautovic was keen to go then and it showed in the diminishing returns towards the end of his time at West Ham with just three of his 22 goals for the club coming after the January transfer window closed.

Rather than hold onto an unhappy player with a reputation for sulking when he does not get what he wants, West Ham have cut their losses to allow Arnautovic to continue a nomadic career that had already taken him to the Nether-

lands, Germany and Italy before a six-year stint in England.

Arnautovic will join forces with former Brazilian internationals Oscar and Hulk at the Chinese champions and while he may lack their global appeal, the man labelled 'Mad Marko' for his explosive antics, brings quite the reputation.

Jose Mourinho once described Arnautovic as having the attitude of a child, while Steve McClaren, his boss at FC Twente, reportedly told friends he was the craziest player he had ever managed.

A close pal of former Manchester City star Mario Balotelli, another player happy to embrace a bad-boy tag, Arnautovic infuriated Mourinho when he briefly played on loan at Inter Milan.

'Keep my mouth shut'

While in Italy, Arnautovic borrowed team-mate Samuel Eto'o's Bentley and it was stolen while in his possession.

"I drove it for two weeks to check whether I liked it. I was at a restaurant with friends when

it was stolen. This incident affected me so badly I was unable to train," Arnautovic said at the time.

He has also cycled into a golf cart, tore a knee ligament while playing with his dog and reportedly insulted a Vienna policeman by saying: "Shut up, I earn so much I can buy your life".

While playing for Werder Bremen, he was suspended after he was pulled over in his sports car by police for speeding in the early hours of the morning before a match.

He had already got off to a bad start by turning up to training with 'Champions League winner 2010' printed on his boots, even though he was left out of the Inter squad for the final.

Arnautovic vowed to turn over a new leaf after the birth of his baby daughter, just before his £2 million transfer to Stoke in 2013. "I must keep myself under control. I have a big responsibility as a father. That helps me to be more sensible," he said.—AFP ■