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Int'l Literacy Day observed in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the ceremony to mark the 2019 International Literacy Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A CEREMONY to mark the 2019 International Literacy Day was organized yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw with the objective of creating more opportunities for people amidst global change, and to support the teaching of ethnic languages without discrimination on the basis of race, faith, and colour to ensure equal benefit to people.

The campaign theme for this year is 'Literacy and Multilingualism' to integrate literacy movement and the role of ethnic languages for equal access to learning opportunities at present time.

Union Minister for Educa-

tion Dr Myo Thein Gyi presided over the event which was opened with a song performed by the pupils from No 2 Basic Education High School of Pyinmana.

The Union Minister, as a patron of the organizing committee, made a keynote speech, with saying that Myanmar scored two international awards, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Award in 1971 and Noma Literacy Prize in 1983, presented by UNESCO for the country's remarkable milestones in literacy movements through successive eras.

The Union Minister also referred to the 2014 Myanmar

3.5 million Myanmar citizens aged 15 and above are illiterate, and the figure poses a huge challenge to realizing the nation's development goals: Union Minister for Education

Population and Housing Census and its supplementary report that showed 3.5 million Myan-

mar citizens aged 15 and above are illiterate, and the figure poses a huge challenge to realizing the nation's development goals. The literacy movement plays a key role for increasing the development indicator, he added.

The Ministry of Education is working together with the state/region governments, the associations of ethnic literature and culture and the ethnic affairs ministries to conduct ethnic language courses at 12,488 schools at basic education level for 766,731 pupils by 20,199 ethnic language teachers and 11,718 teaching assistants.

In his conclusion remark, the Union Minister urged to do

more in generating healthy and intelligent human resources in accordance with the theme of this year's International Literacy Day.

Then, the documentary video of literacy movement was showed and Rector of Yangon University of Foreign Languages and the Secretary General of Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO Dr Kyi Shwin read out the message sent by the Director-General of UNESCO for the 2019 International Literacy Day, and its excerpted concept notes were read in ethnic languages.

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Myanmar Unicode Migration introduced to artist associations



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung delivers the speech at the ceremony to mark Myanmar Unicode Migration in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ARTISTS from movie, music and Thabin (artiste) were introduced yesterday with Myanmar Unicode Migration process, which has been scheduled to

fully implement on 1st October this year.

The promotion ceremony was held at the Conference Hall of MICT Park in Hline Town-

ship, Yangon.

Chairman of the Computer Technology Development Council and Union Minister for Transport and Communications

U Thant Sin Maung made an opening remark at the ceremony.

The Union Minister explained about the fully migration of Myanmar Unicode commencing 1st October, with the aims for developing an e-government system and for creating a common system at the government organizations, the private sector and the departments in sharing information to the public.

He also assured the Myanmar Unicode will help in exchanging information and technologies with international communities as it involves the international font system.

The Union Minister requested all the artists to convey message about the advantages of Myanmar Unicode Migration to the public.

President of Myanmar Computer Federation U Min Zeyar Hlaing extended greetings, Vice-President Dr Tun Thura Thet explained about Myanmar Unicode computing

industry standard and Secretary General U Thaung Su Nye-in talked on the public campaign programmes.

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization's Chairman for Supporting Artists Group U Win Myaing, Myanmar Music Association Chairman U Tin Oo Lay, and Chairman of Myanmar Thabin Association U Moe Win discussed their supports in Myanmar Unicode Migration plan.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun remarked on the important role of media in Myanmar Unicode Migration, and expressed a plan to organize a press conference on it.

He also appreciated the participation of artists and offered assistance to them.

The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, the artists from motion picture, music and artiste associations, the partner associations and the invited guests.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

E&E Minister returns home from ASEAN Energy Ministers Meeting

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing returned on 7th October after attending the 37th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and related meetings (AMEM), which were held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 4 to 6 September.

During these meetings, the Union Minister discussed improvement of ASEAN's energy and electricity sector, en-

ergy sufficiency, development of renewable energy and selling electricity through cross-border power lines among ASEAN countries.

He also held talks with the energy ministers from ASEAN countries, ASEAN plus three countries and the East Asia countries.

The Union Minister made separate discussions with Assis-

tant Secretary of State for Energy Resources, from the United States Mr Francis Fannon, and Senior Vice President for the US-ASEAN Business Council Michael Walter Michalak on cooperation and promotion of investments in the development of Myanmar energy sector. —MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister U Win Khaing holds talk with the energy ministers from ASEAN countries, ASEAN plus three countries and the East Asia countries in Bangkok, Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**



Int'l Literacy Day observed in Nay Pyi Taw

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Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Dr Win Myat Aye, MPs from Pyithu Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Director-General of Department of Alternative Education Dr Zaw Win presented certificates and cash awards to 322 students who passed the 2019 matriculation exam after

completing the alternative education programmes.

The ceremony was concluded with the song of pupils from No. 5 Basic Education High School in Pyinmana.

The Union Ministers then looked around the exhibition booths to mark the International Literacy Day.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister Dr Than Myint attends 88th Izmir International Trade Fair in Turkey

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint arrived back in Yangon after attending the 88th Izmir International Trade Fair held in Izmir, Turkey.

He attended Izmir Business days in Izmir on 5th September.

On the same day, the Union Minister met with Izmir Chamber of Commerce, AEGEAN Chamber of Industry and AEGEAN Exporters' Association and discussed collaboration in the matters related to private sector, trade and investment between two countries.

He, then, attended the dinner hosted by the Turkish Ministry of Trade in the evening.

In the morning of Septem-

ber 6th, he attended China-Turkey Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum.

The Union Minister also separately met with Chairman of Turkey – China Business Development and Support Association and the members and Turkish Minister of Trade, Mr Ruhsar Pekcan. They discussed promoting Myanmar – Turkey – China trade and collaboration between two countries in the matters of commerce promotion. The Union Minister attended opening ceremony of the 88th Izmir International Trade Fair held at Izmir Culture Park in Izmir, Turkey in the evening. — MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Union Minister Dr Than Myint meets with members of Izmir Chamber of Commerce, AEGEAN Chamber of Industry and AEGEAN Exporters' Association in Izmir, Turkey on 5 September. PHOTO: MNA

Gote Twin Bailey bridge opens for 48-ton trucks

A temporary Bailey bridge constructed to replace the Gote Twin bridge which was damaged in a mine explosion on 15 August, began allowing 48-ton trucks yesterday morning.

The Ministry of Construction gave the green light for 48-ton trucks traveling on the bridge, 30 days after it allowed 36-ton trucks.

The Gote Twin bridge was located between Mile Posts 83/7 and 84 on the Lashio-Muse border trade route at the road section of PyinOoLwin and Nawngkhio. Over 5,000 vehicles passed through the bridge every day, carrying

goods worth US\$15 million between Myanmar and China. It was also a major bridge for the Muse-Ruili and Chin Shwe Haw-Mein Tain border trade posts. The temporary bridge was opened to 48-ton vehicles after engineers from the Road Management Department, the Bridge Management Department under the Ministry of Construction, and the Road Management Department of northern Shan State underpinned the bridge with top chords, H beams, and reinforced beams, and deflection tests were performed on it. — Khayan Soe Myint ■



Officials witness the first traffic of 48-ton trucks over the Gote Twin Bailey Bridge in Nawngkhio. PHOTO: KHAYAN SOE MYINT

Deceptive ads offering lucky draws comparable to gambling: MCC vice chair

By Nyein Nyein

MISLEADING advertisements that offer highly appealing lucky draw prizes can be classified as deceptive, and they are more akin to gambling than a good deal, said U Than Maung, the vice chair of the Myanmar Competition Commission (MCC).

“Advertising is a subset of marketing. It offers sales incentives such as lucky draw prizes. However, some ads are designed to deceive. For example, a product may be worth a paltry sum, but advertisements may induce customers to buy it by offering appealing, expensive lucky draw prizes, such as a viss of gold (a viss equals to 1.6 kg). Such ads can be clubbed under unfair competition. False advertising hurts competition and honest sellers. Now, lottery tickets are on sale, and the prices cannot be fixed. However, some offer lucky prizes to lure customers. Misleading ads are comparable to gambling,” he said.

“Selling lucky draw prizes rather than products amounts to unfair conduct, which must not be resorted to. Prevention measures for unfair competition can benefit the people,” he said.

“Some false advertisements are highlighting lucky draw prizes to attract the attention of customers, and people tend to disregard the products or services offered when they fall for lucky draws. This is unfair competition. Pre-

vention of unfair competition will benefit us,” said U Than Maung.

“Therefore, the MCC is committed to making sure businesses abide by the Competition Law,” he added.

“Sure, advertising is legal, but, under Section 18 of the Competition Law, businessmen are not allowed to mislead consumers using deceptive information about the legally registered name of goods, business slogans, logos, packaging, geographical indicators, and other elements. For example, advertising using misleading information on social networking sites, such as Facebook and YouTube, to impress people is in violation of the Competition Law. We need to protect honest traders in line with fair competition rules, under the law. Deceptive ads can harm end-users, consumers, and the whole market system. This is why legal action against unfair practices is a must,” U Than Maung added.

Fair competition can boost economic activity and guarantee consumers choose products at a fair price, according to the MCC.

Therefore, truth in advertising is essential, said U Thuta Aung, an economist and a member of the MCC. “I would like to ask entrepreneurs not to bend the truth in advertisements,” said U Thuta Aung.

“So far, four complaints have been filed with the inspection committee, since the founding of the MCC on 31 October, 2018,”

said U Ko Ko Lay, the director of the MCC.

“Entrepreneurs play a pivotal role in the economic development of a country. And, fair competition among businesses is also crucial to the economy,” said U Than Maung.

The Competition Law prohibits unfair coordination such as price fixing; restricting production; collusive tendering or auctioning; driving out rivals from the market; sharing insider information; abusing market dominance; discrimination among businessmen; refusal to supply and provide products or services to other businesses; fixing unfair prices; and, anti-competitive mergers. Those who violate the competition law can be imprisoned for three months to three years, and/or face a fine of up to K15 million. The Union Government established the Myanmar Competition Commission on 31 October last year, through notification no. 106/2018, to carry out the functions and duties embodied in the Competition Law, which was enacted in 2015. The Commerce Minister fulfils the role of the chairman of the commission, and its members include representatives from the Union Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Industry, UMFCCI, economists, and lawyers. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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IBTT opens bulk terminal to provide port services

A bulk terminal at Thilawa Special Economic Zone in southern Yangon was opened on 7th September offering the handling of the bulk cargoes (grain, feed, Agri inputs, construction materials and other any possible bulk cargoes) in Thilawa port area.

The International Bulk Terminal (Thilawa) (IBTT) is a joint venture between Lluvia Limited (joint venture with Mitsubishi Corporation and Capital Diamond Star Group-CDSG), Kamigumi Co Ltd and JOIN Corporation, and provides services for cargo handling such as stevedoring, loading, discharging, storage, bagging, and fumigation for the handling cargoes. IBTT will aim to serve the Development of Myanmar’s food industry by providing 24/7 services.

It has a jetty 230 meters in length, 25 metres in width, with a 11-metre draft, which has a



The bulk terminal at Thilawa Special Economic Zone in southern Yangon offering the handling of the bulk cargoes in Thilawa port area. PHOTO: IBTT

designed capacity to accommodate vessels up to 200 metres LOA and 60,000 DWT (Dead Weight Tonnage).

For storage, IBTT boasts a silo capacity of total 40,000 Metric Ton, and a 5,400 square metre warehouse (which roughly equates to about 20,000 Metric

Ton for feed material. Soya Bean Meal).

IBTT, which has started operation in May this year, has already completed the discharging of three wheat flour vessels of 20,000-25,000 Metric Ton, with total volume of 70,000 Metric Ton.

The discharge of each of these vessels completed within less than 5 days of operation. IBTT is planning to handle more varieties of bulk cargoes with efficient and higher quality services, to contribute towards Myanmar’s economic growth. —GNLM ■

Number of traditional bamboo blind makers declines in Amarapura Township

THE number of traditional bamboo blind-making businesses in Myintaw village of Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, where the handicraft has been practiced for over 30 decades, has begun to dwindle of late.

“I have been in the bamboo roll-up business for 30 years. Now, labor wages and raw material costs have become higher. Earlier, the Shweli bamboo variety used to make bamboo blinds cost K30,000, and now, the price has risen to K50,000. There are fewer practitioners in the industry now,” said Daw Kyi Hla, a bamboo roll-up manufacturer from Myintaw village. “We make bamboo blinds for sun shades and bamboo fish traps. Some bamboo fish traps are made with woven cane, and some are fashioned out of string and bamboo. Woven cane



Women making bamboo blinds in Myintaw village, Amarapura. PHOTO : TIN ZAR HLAING (IPRD)

is much better than rope. The price of cane has also increased by K5,000,” said U Myo San, a bamboo roll-up maker.

“Over 300 bamboo blinds and 200 bamboo fish traps

are sold every year. A single 10-square-foot bamboo blind fetches K50,000, while a bamboo fish trap (18 x 12 feet) is priced at K33,000. Bamboo blinds enjoy a high demand in June-August.

The blinds are marketed in Amarapura Township and Mandalay city,” according to the bamboo blind-making businesses. —Tin Zar Hlaing (IPRTD) ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Narcotic drug seized in Shan, Kachin states

A combined team of Tatmadaw personnel and the members of Maipashou local police station

confiscated 657 kilos of caffeine in two bags on 7th September morning on and near a Vigo

car driven by Kya Bo who fled with the car from the arrest of security forces between Kenglat village and Tarlay town two days ago.

The car was finally found between Kyaka and Kawmeikhone villages of Namt Khim village-tract in Kenglat Town, and the driver, identified as Kya Bo, is still at large.

Moreover, the Anti-Narcotic Task Force and the combined team in Bamaw Township stopped a Wish car, driven by

Sam Aung,25, near Wanekham Village on Lwalkyal-Momauk motorway near the Momauk Township, on 7 September morning. The driver and another suspect, identified as Labanyaw, 24, were arrested with 730 kilogram of heroin and a handphone.

The Myanmar Police Force have filed lawsuits against all the suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—MNA ■ (Translated by Aung Khin)



Suspects: Sam Aung and Labanyaw seen with seized narcotic drugs. PHOTO:MNA

Freeze factories cleared to export fish to EU market

THE authorities have granted permission to 25 cold-storage factories to export fish to the EU market so far, according to the Fisheries Department.

However, the factories will be struck off the list, if they fail to export fish within six months, it stated.

There are more than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar, of which 23 have been allowed to export fish caught in the wild to the EU in June, and two more factories from Yangon Region and Rakhine State have been granted permissions recently, according to the Fish Inspection and Quality Control Division under the Fisheries Department.

The wild-caught fish are being sent to the UK, Italy, France, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Sweden, Greece, Belgium, and Germany markets.

Earlier, only fish caught in the wild were permitted to be exported to the EU market. As exports of Myanmar farmed fish to the European Union have now been allowed, breeders are undertaking necessary measures to ensure Myanmar fishery products meet the rules and regulations of the EU market, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).



Workers processing fish for export at a marine product factory. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

To ensure food safety, the European market requires suppliers to obtain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP) certificates. Myanmar has only a small number of entrepreneurs who hold those certificates. Hence, fish breeders are preparing for the certifications.

To meet EU import standards, fishery products must be sourced only from hatcheries

that are compliant with Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP). The MFF is working with fish farmers, processors, and the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation to develop the GAQP system.

Processors can screen fishery products for food safety at ISO-accredited laboratories under the Fisheries Department.

“Earlier, breeders did not understand GAQP. Now, they are

acquainted with this practice, and some breeders are trying to implement GAQP to export their products to more foreign markets. Some businessmen are practising mixed farming with fish and other livestock, such as broiler chickens and pigs. This kind of farming has been rejected by some foreign countries. To penetrate the global market, GAQP is a must for breeders,” said Dr. Toe Nanda Tin, the vice president of the MFF.

The federation has also asked the government to tackle problems faced in the export of farm-raised fish and prawns through G2G pacts, and ensure smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports.

According to the MFF, integrated poultry and fish farming cannot ensure food safety, which is a requirement for export. Therefore, the federation has asked for the formulation of a law to restrict that kind of mixed farming. Fish farming must be conducted on a large-scale to get access to Project Bank loans, according to the MFF.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country. Myanmar exports fishery products to 40 foreign countries, including countries in the European Union, China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, and Thailand.

In the 2017-2018FY, around 568,227 tons of fishery products, worth US\$717.7 million, were exported, according to MFF statistics. Myanmar shipped fishery products worth \$674 million to other countries during October-August in the current fiscal year, as per Commerce Ministry data.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

SEZs rake in investments of over \$223.6 mln as of 5 Sept in current FY

OVER 110 enterprises invested US\$223.6 million in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), under the Special Economic Zone Law, as of 5 September in the current fiscal year, according to figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Singapore topped the list of foreign investors, accounting for more than 37 per cent of the overall investment, followed by Japan and Thailand. FDI also flowed into the SEZs from the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, the UK, the UAE, Malaysia, Austria, Taiwan, Panama, China, Brunei, Viet Nam, Australia, France, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

Currently, 74 businesses are operating in the Thilawa SEZ, and 18 businesses are beginning to export goods. The SEZ is employing over 20,000 workers, including permanent and construction workers, ac-

cording to the management committee.

The Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Limited’s annual report for 2017-2018 stated that 97 per cent of Thilawa Zone A and 61 per cent of Zone B have been sold. Over 60 per cent of businesses in Thilawa are domestic-oriented manufacturing enterprises, while 40 per cent are export-oriented manufacturers, according to a press statement issued by the company in June this year.

A company exporting at least 75 per cent of the production in value is registered as a Free Zone investor, and is exempt from paying corporate tax for 7 years from the time it starts commercial operations. Companies such as logistics, which support export-oriented manufacturing, can also be free zone companies. Domestic-oriented manufacturing companies are regarded as promotion

zone companies and they are eligible for a five-year holiday on corporate tax.

There are other tax incentives for free zone and promotion zone investors on importation of capital goods, raw materials, and merchandise, and consigned goods and vehicles. Further details about the tax system are available on <http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm>.

While the manufacturing sector has absorbed the largest share of foreign investments, FDI has also flowed into the trading, services, transportation and logistics, real estate, and hotel sectors in the past.

Myanmar is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones — Thilawa, Kyaukpadaung, and Dawei. Out of the three, Thilawa is leading with better infrastructure and successful businesses. — Ko Htet ■ (Translated by EMM)

Winners of Business Model Competition 2019 awarded

PRIZE awarding ceremony for Myanmar Business Model Competition 2019 was held at the Function Hall of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) Office Tower in Yangon yesterday morning.

The ceremony started with a welcoming remark by UMFCCI Vice President Dr Myo Thet and a remark by CIESF representative Mr Ken Matsu-mura. Next the winners of the competition were announced and prizes presented.

First prize winner was Bagan Trade.com team with Aung Kyaw Nyein and Khin Myat Htwe. Second prize winner was Burmah Games team with Naing Lin Kyaw and Zye Pyae. The two third prize winners were Rangoon Wheels team with Htet Hpone Myat Naing and Aye Nyein Chan Thu and Capsule 360 team with Myat Lynn Thu and Ye Yint Min

Thwin.

Afterward, Khin Myat Htwe of Bagan Trade.com team said words of thank on behalf of the competing teams.

UMFCCI organized the competition with the support of CIESF. The aim of the competition was to nurture a new young generation of Myanmar corporate entrepreneur and at the same time to discover new potential businesses in Myanmar. The competition was opened to all who are under the age of 32, and the contestants participated as a team, with 2 to 3 members per team. A total of 75 teams participated in the competition.

The top two teams of the competition were selected to represent Myanmar at the Mekong Business Challenge 2020 to be held in March next year. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Blood donation ceremony held to mark 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

BLOOD donation ceremony marking 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was held at National Blood bank in Yangon at 9 am yesterday.

At the event, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Saurabh Kumar delivered his key note speech.

Then, Deputy Director General Dr Daw Thida Aung talked about the benefits of donating

blood and Joint Secretary of Committee on 150th Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, U Soe Win explained about the donation.

About 250 people donated blood.

The 150th Birthday Celebration of Mahatma Gandhi will be held at Thein Phyu Stadium on September 28th.— Ye Ye Myint ■

(Transl. by Alphonsus)



People donating blood to mark the 150th Birthday Celebration of Mahatma Gandhi at National Blood Bank in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: YE YE MYINT**

Muse 105th-Mile trade zone becomes active again



Number of trucks parking at the Muse 105th-Mile trade zone. **PHOTO: THANT ZIN (MUSE)**

TRADE is slowly coming back to life again along the Mandalay-Muse route after a complete halt last month resulting from the armed conflicts between the government troops and the ethnic armed groups of the Northern Alliance.

As the armed conflicts stopped and stability returns, traffic resumes on the Mandalay-Muse Union Highway, and

the Muse 105th-Mile trade zone becomes active again. Although trade has not become normal yet, the road is alive once more with private cars, passenger coaches and trucks large and small plying on it daily. From 50 to 100 trucks carrying fruits, live cattle, rice, aquatic products, rubber, chilled meat, beans and so on are entering the trade zone every day at present. Before the

battles took place, an average of 180 trucks entered the zone every day. Exports from China including machinery, motorcycles, solar panels, steel pipes, tiles, bicycles, mobile phones, chemical fertilizers are also arriving at the zone. Beforehand, from 250 to 300 trucks from China came to the zone, but now the number has fallen to over 160, according to officials of the

trade zone.

During the fruit harvesting seasons, the number of trucks arriving at the zone from both sides of the border even reached 12000. Trucks are charging from K 50 to K 55 per viss, depending on the type of goods. Normally a 22-wheel truck fetches about K 4 million for one Muse-Yangon run. As for one Muse-Mandalay trip, the regular charge is K 1.7 million. Cars coming from Muse charge more than the cars going to Muse, according to local traders.

During the skirmishes, agents and freight-handling workers faced a lot of hardships, as all the operations came to a halt during the time, according to the zone staff.

“Not a single car even entered the zone for nearly 20 days. So we had no income then. Not only us (agents), but also companies, brokerages, entrepreneurs, truck owners, drivers, company staff and workers faced hardships. Besides, shopkeepers and

vendors relying on those people also had a hard time. But now, the situation has improved, as cars from both sides of the border have returned,” said an agent.

“There was no work and income for my men (freight handlers) during the time. Fortunately, they could breathe again thanks to the rice and cooking oil provided by welfare organizations. But now battles have died down, and trade resumes. So my men have regular income once again,” said U Hla Htay Win, a supervisor of freight handling yard.

“I have been driving up and down on this road for nearly ten years. I was forced to halt my work during the time battles occurred. Now, the saturation has returned to normal. First, I made contacts with my counterparts, and then come back again together with them in a convoy of trucks,” said Ko Min Thu, a truck driver.—Thant Zin (Muse) ■ (Translated by TMT)

Schools reopen in Kyaikmayaw as flood water recedes

ALL the schools have reopened in Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State, on 7th September as the water level of Attayan river have returned to normal.

About 20 schools were temporarily closed in the first week of this month as the river burst its banks for the second time in this monsoon and flooded nearby areas.

The Township Education Office is also arranging substitute classes at these schools.— Cho Myat Myat Htwe (Kyaikmaraw) ■ (Translated by Aung Khin)



Children take their way back to schools after flood waters recede in Kyaikmayaw. **PHOTO: CHO MYAT MYAT HTWE (KYAIKMAYAW)**

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Clay pots find new market along Shweli River

EARTHEN pots are now available in the villages located on the banks along the Shweli, a river serving as a boundary between Katha District of Sagaing Region and northern Shan State.

Once, villagers of the area had to buy clay pots they used mostly as drinking water containers in a place that is far from their homes. As the road was rough and the journey was long, and the earthen pots were fragile, many never reached the destination intact, according to the residents.

“Like in other rural areas of the country, the earthen

pots have been an essential household item of the villages of the area. So, families faced hardships to get an earthen pot, particularly for storing drinking water.

But thanks to the efforts of the clay pot producers and distributors of the lower parts of Sagaing Region, who are now providing door-to-door sales at the villages, residents of the area do not need to worry about the commodity anymore,” said a resident housewife.

“They come to us from far-away places in families, and are making long stays at our villages

in selling their pots right at our doorsteps. See, how, prudent and venturesome are they in earning their living,” lauded a resident. “If they stay at their home waiting for customers, they cannot enjoy brisk sales. Now they are selling a lot through door-to-door services. It is the fruits of their hard work. In fact, what they are doing is a win-win situation for both of us,” another villager said.

Nowadays, earthen pot makers are facing a shrinking market, as more and more people in villages and towns are relying on bottled water, and using the 20-litre plastic bottles as house-



Myanmar traditional earthen pots. PHOTO: NGWE OHE

hold drinking water containers instead of clay pots. But some Myanmar people still prefer earthen pots which can naturally keep the water cool and clean. — Ngwe Ohe ■
(Translation: TMT)

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

E-bike grumbles echo in the Bavarian Alps

LENGGRIES (Germany) — Robert Werner and his wife Ursula usually make time to say a friendly hello to hikers as they ride their gently whirring e-bikes up trails in the Bavarian Alps.

But more often than not, their greetings are met with frowns.

“The first thing they look at when they see us are our bikes,” says hotelier Robert, 46, of his electric-powered bicycle.

“If we have an engine, they respect us less.” While the Werners are convinced of the virtues of e-bikes which have pedals but also an electric motor that can assist the rider’s pedal power, others are less enthusiastic about the new revolution in cycling.

On their e-bikes, the couple powers up the 800-metre (2,600-foot) ascent to the summit of Herzogstand mountain in half an hour – without breaking a sweat.

Many purists believe exploits into nature should be powered by muesli bars, not the electricity grid, and regard the assisted cycling boom as another hi-tech intrusion into the great outdoors.

The presence of e-bikes on Alpine trails and mountain paths has become a subject of controversy. Complaints by hikers have appeared in the German media often accusing e-bike enthusiasts of whizzing up and down the paths, posing a risk of collision, while others point to environmental concerns.

“Electric bicycles allow more people to access the paths,” in-

cluding those that previously saw little use, said Friedl Kroenauer, 59, of environmental group BUND Naturschutz.

“This causes soil erosion, for example.”

Two-wheeled boom

For Kroenauer, who has a breathtaking view of Germany’s highest peaks from his office, those who scale the region’s mountains on e-bikes are cheating themselves.

“Getting to the top of a mountain is something you have to earn,” he insisted. “You have to feel that you have worked your muscles, you have to be exhausted.

“Electric mountain bikes make this notion of effort disappear,” added the hobby sportsman, a fan of walking and traditional cycling.

Despite similar criticisms from other outdoor purists, more and more people in Germany and elsewhere are using electric mountain bikes to reach summits.

In 2018, Germans bought nearly one million e-bikes, a quarter of them mountain bikes, according to a report by Germany’s bicycle industry association, ZIV.

German bike manufacturers such as Haibike, Cube or Prophete, as well as motor and battery producer Bosch, have enjoyed the boom.

“The bicycle industry, and in particular the electric bicycle industry, is extremely important for Germany,” said David Eisenberger, communications manager for the ZIV association.

“It creates thousands of jobs — directly and indirectly, in tourism for example.” — AFP ■



Ursula and Robert Werner are convinced of the virtues of e-bikes, but not everyone agrees. PHOTO: AFP

Study reveals how duckweed adapts to water pollution

BEIJING — An international team of researchers have found how a type of duckweed copes with water pollution.

Researchers from the Shanghai Jiaotong University, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Rutgers University-New Brunswick in the U.S. and Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences used a new approach called “long-read, whole-genome sequencing” to study the genome of Spirodela polyrhiza, a species of small and fast-going duckweed found worldwide.

According to the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the researchers found that the immune system of Spirodela polyrhiza adapts to polluted environments in a way that differs from land plants.

The new DNA sequencing approach helps researchers identify genes that are responsible for the aquatic plant’s protection against a wide range of harmful microbes and pests, including waterborne

fungi and bacteria.

The researchers said that the new gene sequencing approach is a major step forward for analyzing the entire genomes in plants.

The study could help lead to the use of aquatic plants for bioreactors that recycle wastes and to make drugs and other products, treat agricultural and industrial wastewater and make biofuels, said the researchers.

Genome sequencing involves cutting DNA into pieces, reading the fragments and then using a computer to patch the sequence together.

DNA carries genetic blueprint in a double-stranded string of molecular “letters” called nucleotides or base pairs which form links across the two strands to hold DNA together. Short-read sequencing technologies cut DNA into “words” that are about 100 base-pairs long. Long-read sequencing, by comparison, cuts DNA into words that are thousands of letters long, revealing some parts of the genome like never before. — Xinhua ■

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Consumer rights

WHEN we speak of consumer rights, we must also consider the interests of producers, apart from the legal protection provided to users. Normally, a consumer pays for what he wants, be it a service or a product. Manufacturers, distributors, and service providers sell their products or services at a price fixed by them, depending on the quality they claim or guarantee.

A business will run smooth, if the consumer feels that the good or service he receives is worth paying for. He would buy more or come again, if he is satisfied with the product or service he gets for the price he has paid.

However, the parameters of 'satisfactory quality' are harder to define. Legally, we can define 'satisfactory' as what an ordinary

person would be happy with, given the price and condition, and all the information that is easily available. There are regulations and a legal framework that protect consumers when they buy goods and services. This means they have rights by law, which a seller or service provider cannot amend.

First of all comes safety since consumers should be able to assume that the products they buy are reasonably safe for their intended purpose, when used as directed.

Next is correct information. A consumer has the right to be informed properly, as he needs to have sufficient information to weigh alternatives and to guard against false and misleading claims of the advertising industry.

Then, there is the right to choose, which means selecting from competing goods

and services that offer alternatives in terms of price, quality, and service. Additionally, consumers must be free from market monopolization and have the right to express and share their experiences.

Next comes the right to be heard. Consumer voices must be heard, especially by the government. In this regard, Myanmar has already enacted the Consumer Protection Law on 15 March this year to ensure that all these rights are under the protection of a legal framework.

A product must have a noticeable label providing required information, including the ingredients it contains, its weight or other measurements, shelf life, manufacturing date, expiry date, side effects, scope of benefits, and guarantees.

If a consumer believes that one of these "rights" has been violated and he has been harmed as a result, he can file a complaint against the manufacturer or the seller. Here, swift and effective response from the authorities concerned is of vital importance. In addition, the authorities must undertake field tours and conduct surprise checks on manufacturers and service organizations and their products, and initiate legal action, if they find any violation of the law, fraud, false claim or presentation, or guarantee. In this way, a safer and more responsible business environment will emerge in the country.

■ ■ ■



U Ye Myat Thu.

REGIONAL leaders made the decision to establish the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) at a summit in April last year. Being a member to the network, Myanmar pledged to establish Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay as smart cities.

Mandalay is receiving enthusiastic support from its residence for transforming into a smart city. The following is an interview with U Ye Myat Thu, member of the Mandalay City Development Committee and head of the Mandalay Smart City Project, on the transformational progress.

Q: Can you first tell us what a smart city comprises of?

A: We want to change Mandalay into a smart city in order to make public services better. The people are now using smartphones and using services through them. This calls for the city development committees to utilize technology when providing services to the public.

So, by working to make public services better a smart city is formed. Smart cities are not just about technology; they're about comfort too. The main point is helping the public.

When Singapore was assuming the duty of ASEAN Chair, they chose 26 cities from the region to establish the ASEAN Smart Cities Network. While the general rule was choosing three cities for each country, some countries, like Singapore, only had one city to put in the list.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor Dr Myo Aung requested for three cities in Myanmar at the national

level and they picked Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay. They also appointed leaders for each of the three smart cities.

The three of us have attended a workshop in Singapore. We discussed the ASEAN Smart Cities framework there and handled schemes. The workshop gave us three aims. They are to raise the living standards of the people, create an efficient business environment, and protect the natural environment.

This also includes urban systems, public affairs services, public security, cybersecurity, travel and transportation, and maintaining clean surroundings. When we use technology to implement these topics then we are labelled as a smart city.

Mandalay already has some public services provided with modern technology. For example, we have installed sensors under the roads to manage traffic and prevent jams. The sensors record the license plates and colour of the vehicle and we can use that information if they pass a red light or an accident occurs.

Similarly, we also use GPS for city waste management and water distribution and as they constitute what a smart city does, we become listed as a smart city.

Q: What sectors have your prioritized in this quest to implement Mandalay into a smart city and what future priority tasks are in consideration?

A: Actually, implementing a smart city is a never ending process. That is because providing services to people living in the city never ends.

There are also new and better technology emerging all the time. We have plans to launch Mandalay Smart Pay in the future for online transactions. We also have plans for energy management to cope with the changes to the electric meter.

The number of vehicles in Mandalay has increased in the last decade so we are trying to cope with that and prevent traffic jams. We are trying to implement a plan so that cars don't need to line up at the toll gate. There were also changes to processes for paving roads.

The main thing is making what we normally do for the public even better. Mandalay has its landmarks and we will preserve

them. You can say public cooperation is one of our landmarks as well.

Q: We understand the smart city initiative aims to make the people's lives better. Are you cooperating on anything with international or regional organizations?

A: Some people picture technology from the James Bond films or some aspect of luxury when they think of smart cities. But that's not the case. We are trying to make a better social system that caters to the advancements of technology.

We're also in the ASEAN Smart Cities Network. ASEAN has its differences and similarities, such as land issues for example. But since we cooperate with each other we manage to share.

the concept of 'green city' that's trending over the world?

A: It's in our three objectives for a smart city. We plant trees to make the environment greener and we relocate trees instead of cutting them down. Energy management is also included in the green concept. We will strive for minimum wastage, proper use of electricity and ample production.

Going green isn't just limited to an abundance of trees. It includes society not harming the natural world and helping it prosper.

Q: We have another question concerning smart cities. Mandalay contains a lot of royal traditions and heritage, so how will you preserve them?

A: It's not just the old palace, we also have the ancient city of

We have a Safe City Project in Mandalay. We've installed CCTVs and have police monitoring from a control room.

ASCN was invited to an expo in Washington, US, last July and they witnessed technology and met with entrepreneurs. There is cooperation with Japan, South Korea and Australia.

We three leaders of the smart city movement for Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay attend these international events and cooperate with each other as well. For example, we're working together on zip codes.

Q: Are there any challenges on this path?

A: It's natural for there to be a reaction to change. Sometimes people have difficulty accepting technology replacing a process or something in the area. For example, when we installed the GPS devices people tried to sabotage them by pouring water into them or short-circuiting them. There are also things we've prepared for that never happened.

Q: When we talk about smart cities, how do you tie in

as well. We are doing all we can to preserve them. We don't alter the names and take care of what is left.

Q: The people have been acknowledging the city development committee's accomplishments. Do you have any new plans for them?

A: All our committee members are trying their best and are always in contact with the public throughout that process. That's why the public is involved in a lot of our work.

Q: We hear you are working on a new address system. When will that change be implemented and how far have you progressed?

A: Mandalay's address system has always been great. When we were kids, an inner city mail reached its destination in 24 hours and took one to two days to reach rural areas. You could easily send money and items through the postal system.

The road system is also good. You can clearly tell where you're going from the street names that go East to West and South to North. The house numbers are also well organized.

Later on, some people sold the circular houses in half and the city changed as it expanded. People are using online services now and they have to mention the closest hotel or restaurant as guides when giving addresses. They cannot reach you with just the address and building number

By Shin Min

any more. This is why we are making a new address system. It will help make services better for the people and will be implemented soon.

Q: Reducing crime is also an integral part of making a city developed. While it doesn't directly concern the city development groups, have you included any projects to reduce crime in the smart city?

A: We have a Safe City Project in Mandalay. We've installed CCTVs and have police monitoring from a control room. We're planning to have it operate without human input. Then there's street lamps. We find that there is a correlation between the availability of street lamps and crime rates.

Q: Is there anything else you wish to tell the public?

A: I want the people to know that we are incorporating technology in public services and it makes the services better. That is why the city development committee are trying to make these services better.

For example, in paving roads we will transition from using old rocks to newer rocks mixed with cement. The main thing is making things better while adapting to change. We must all work together to make a liveable city that doesn't harm the natural environment.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

■ ■ ■



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 8th September, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 9th September, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region and Northern Shan State, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Eastern Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Naypyitaw, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8-12) feet off and along Rakhine Coast and about (6-8)feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Northern Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 09th September, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 09th September, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 09th September, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar



Mandalay Hill is known for its abundance of pagodas and monasteries. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Mugabe's body may return next week as burial tensions emerge

HARARE — Robert Mugabe's nephew said Sunday that a delegation was expected to leave Zimbabwe on Monday to collect the hero-turned-despot's body from Singapore where he died two days ago.

Mugabe, a guerilla leader who swept to power after Zimbabwe's independence from Britain and went on to rule for 37 years, died on Friday, aged 95.

His health took a hit after he was ousted by the military in November 2017, ending his increasingly tyrannical rule. He had been travelling to Singapore for treatment since April.

"I can't give an authoritative day, all I know is people are leaving tomorrow Monday to go and pick up the body," Leo Mugabe told AFP. "So assuming they get there on Tuesday and the body is ready, logically you would think they should land here on Wednesday," he said, adding that a list of accompanying family members was being finalised.

Once praised as a liberator who rid Zimbabwe of white minority rule, Mugabe soon turned to repression and fear to govern.

He is widely remembered



Mugabe's family and the presidency appear to disagree on whether the former president will be buried in his rural homestead Zvimba or in a shrine in Harare. **PHOTO: AFP**

for crushing political dissent and ruining the economy, prompting mixed reactions to his passing.

At Sacred Heart Cathedral, Mugabe's parish in the capital Harare, the priest encouraged congregants to pray for their founding leader. "I know some of us may have different feelings about it, but it's our duty to pray for one another," Father Justin Jagaja told AFP. President Emmerson Mnangagwa declared a period of "national mourning" on Friday, without providing further detail.

The government is expected

to announce when Mugabe's body will be returned to Zimbabwe and provide details of the funeral in coming days.

Burial tensions

Mugabe's family and Mnangagwa appear to disagree on whether the former president will be buried in his rural homestead Zvimba in a ceremony involving local chiefs, or at the National Heroes Acre — a hilltop shrine in Harare commemorating guerrillas killed during the liberation struggle.— AFP ■

Amid fears of higher Dorian death toll, islanders vie to leave

MARSH HARBOUR (Bahamas) — Bahamians scrambled to escape the islands hardest-hit by Dorian, which has killed at least 43 people, while the storm wreaked "havoc" farther north in Canada after making landfall near Halifax Saturday.

Even as some Bahamians began to reunite with their loved ones, the death toll — 35 so far in the Abaco Islands and eight in Grand Bahama — was likely to climb "significantly," according to Prime Minister Hubert Minnis.

A loosely coordinated armada of passenger planes, helicopters and both private and govern-

ment boats and ships — including redirected cruise liners — converged in the Bahamas on the horribly battered Abacos to help with evacuations, both to Nassau and to the US mainland.

Evacuees began flowing out of the region as a cruise ship carrying 1,400 people docked Saturday in Riviera Beach, Florida, CNN reported. All had documents to enter the United States.

The Coast Guard said all Bahamian ports had now reopened and it had deployed nine cutters to the islands. Six of its MH-60 Jayhawk helicopters had so far rescued 290 people.— AFP ■



The storm left a trail of destruction across the Abaco Islands, with Marsh Harbour hard hit. **PHOTO: AFP**

AFP photographer wins top photojournalism award

PERPIGNAN (France) — Agence France-Press (AFP) photographer Guillermo Arias on Saturday won the top prize at photojournalism's biggest annual festival for his coverage of migrants from Central America.

Arias, who is from Mexico, scooped the Visa d'Or for News, the most prestigious award handed out at the "Visa Pour L'Image" festival in Perpignan, southwestern France.

Arias held off strong compe-

tition from photographers from The New York Times, Reuters and The Washington Post. It is the third time in the last five years that an AFP photographer has won the award. "I am very moved, very honoured, to be rewarded by the most prestigious photojournalism festival in the world," Arias said after the awards ceremony.

"The most important thing is to give visibility to this problem of migrants, which is universal," he added.— AFP ■



AFP's Guillermo Arias has won the top prize at photojournalism's biggest annual festival for his coverage of migrants in central America. **PHOTO: AFP**

China aims to build cutting-edge platform for infectious disease research

BEIJING — Chinese scientists are making efforts to build a cutting-edge platform for the research on pathogenic microbial infection and the development of infectious disease prevention and control products.

The research will benefit not only China but also other countries, scientists with the Key Laboratory of Pathogenic Microbiology and Immunology of the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) told dozens of foreign journalists who visited the lab recently.

The Information Office of

the State Council recently organized journalists from foreign media to visit the Institute of Zoology and the Institute of Microbiology of CAS.

Hou Jianguo, vice president of CAS, introduced the achievements made by the academy in major scientific projects, education and international cooperation.

Zhou Qi, director of the Institute of Zoology, shared with the journalists about his team's exploration in the field of stem cell research.

Gao Fu, head of the CAS Key

Laboratory of Pathogenic Microbiology and Immunology, said his team's research will also contribute to developing countries, especially countries in Africa.

"As the director-general for China CDC (Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention), at the moment, I organized a lot of activities in Africa for disease control and prevention, especially for some emerging and re-emerging viruses. And MAR (multiple antibiotic resistance) is a very important question to be addressed worldwide," Gao said.— Xinhua ■

Japan ex-empress undergoes breast cancer surgery

TOKYO — Japan's former empress Michiko "safely" underwent surgery on Sunday after the 84-year-old was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer, the Imperial Household Agency said.

Michiko's husband Akihito formally stepped down as em-

peror in April, the first abdication for 200 years in the world's oldest monarchy.

Her operation began Sunday morning "as scheduled" at the University of Tokyo Hospital, the agency official said.

"It ended safely and (she) went back to her room," the of-

ficial told AFP, adding that further details would be announced later.

Akihito and daughter Sayako Kuroda, a former princess who left the royal household to marry a commoner, visited the hospital to see Michiko before the operation.— AFP ■

Stripped-back auto show mirrors German car industry gloom

FRANKFURT AM MAIN—Frankfurt's biennial International Auto Show (IAA) opens its doors to the public Thursday, but major foreign carmakers are staying away while climate demonstrators march outside -- forming a microcosm of the industry's woes.

"There have never been so many cancellations by carmakers," said Ferdinand Dudenhoeffer of the Centre for Automotive Research (CAR).

"The IAA is turning into a trade fair packed with problems," he added, in the image of the German manufacturers who host it.

Giants like Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler, BMW and Volkswagen are seeing their engineering advantage and profit margins eroded—even as the global economic outlook



Major foreign carmakers are shunning Frankfurt's International Auto Show this year, but climate protestors plan to attend. **PHOTO: AFP**

darkens.

The potential blow of US tariffs on European auto im-

ports hangs over many carmakers, who have already suffered from an escalating Washing-

ton-Beijing trade confrontation due to their American factories. —AFP ■

iPhone to share the spotlight with services at Apple's big event



Apple CEO Tim Cook, seen at the 2018 iPhone launch event, is expected to unveil new handsets but also speak about content and services that are increasingly important to the tech giant. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAN FRANCISCO—The iPhone will be front and center at Apple's upcoming media presentation even as the California tech giant steps up its efforts in content and services for its devices.

In its trademark, tight-lipped style, Apple disclosed little about its plans for Tuesday's event at its headquarters in the Silicon Valley city of Cupertino.

For years now, Apple has hosted events in the fall to launch new iPhone models ahead of the holiday shopping season. Speculation is that Apple will introduce three upgraded

iPhones, including "Pro" models, and a successor to its more affordable iPhone XR, as premium handset prices hover around \$1,000. Some analysts say services, subscriptions and online content will share the stage with the company's glitzy hardware as Apple seeks to shift its focus.

"I think it is going to be the first year the event is going to also be about services," Creative Strategies analyst Carolina Milanesi said. "We might get to see what Apple looks like as a company when they are talking about services and hardware as one product." —AFP ■

Smooth succession: Jack Ma eases out of a thriving Alibaba

SHANGHAI—Jack Ma steps down next week as chairman of Alibaba, but the start-up he built into an online retail behemoth is expected to keep thriving into a new era thanks to a culture of innovation he helped nurture.

A former English teacher whose often playful image shattered the stereotype of the drab Chinese executive, Ma officially leaves on Tuesday (Sep 10), his 55th birthday.

Ma plans to put his vast fortune - among China's biggest at US\$41 billion - into initiatives serving his first love,

education, following the footsteps of a fellow tech innovator he admires: Bill Gates.

The departure of charismatic founders from big tech companies typically causes hand-wringing and wobbling share prices, but not at Alibaba.

The company's operational reins have for a couple of years now been in the hands of a respected team of executives who have kept it on e-commerce's cutting-edge.

Ma was Alibaba's driving force and a frequently irreverent ambassador for the com-

pany, known for stunts like a Michael Jackson-inspired dance at an Alibaba anniver-

sary celebration two years ago and starring in his own kung fu short film. —AFP ■



Jack Ma is a former English teacher whose often playful image shattered the stereotype of the drab Chinese executive. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS In BRIEF

U.N. body creates database to crack down on illicit N. Korea trade

NEW YORK —The International Maritime Organization has started creating a searchable database that will show ships subject to U.N. sanctions, as part of efforts to crack down on illicit North Korean trade, people with knowledge of the matter said Saturday.

The database, containing information on those ships, such as their names and numbers to be given by the U.N. specialized agency, will be used by its some 170 member counties. —Kyodo ■

Fuel supplies restored to debt-ridden Air India

NEW DELHI—Fuel supplies have been restored to debt-ridden Air India at six airports following government-mediated talks, after a two-and-half-week suspension by oil companies over the late payment of dues, local media reported.

Fuel supplies were suspended on Aug 22 amid reports that the national flag carrier owed three state-run oil firms more than 45 billion rupees (US\$630 million). —AFP ■

Indonesia nickel-ore export U-turn throws up investor red flag: Analysts

JAKARTA—Indonesia's surprise plan to roll out a nickel-ore export ban two years early could scare foreign investors away from Southeast Asia's biggest economy, analysts say, as it cements a reputation for policy flip-flops.

Nickel prices soared this week on supply concerns after Indonesia, the world's top producer, announced the ban would start next year instead of 2022 in a bid to process more minerals at home.

Ending exports of bauxite, used to make aluminium, and copper concentrates is still slated for 2022. —AFP ■

Million turn out for Pope Francis Madagascar mass

ANTANANARIVO (Madagascar)—An estimated one million people gathered at Madagascar's Soamandrakizay stadium in the capital on Sunday to hear Pope Francis say mass on the second leg of his three-nation African tour. The massive crowd had waited patiently, stretching into the distance from the early hours, to see the first pontiff to visit the Indian Ocean island nation in 30 years. "Organisers estimate there are around one million people," a Vatican spokesman said.

Some described it as the biggest public gathering in Madagascar's history. Many people wore pope-emblazoned white and yellow caps — the colours of the Vatican, and they cheered as the pope-mobile made its way through wind-swept clouds of red dust picked up from the stadium floor. During the homily, the Argentine pontiff urged them "to build history in fraternity and solidarity" and "in complete respect



Pope Francis rides through the Androhibe Soamandrakizay diocesan grounds to lead mass. PHOTO: AFP

for the earth and its gifts, as opposed to any form of exploitation".

He spoke out against "practices that lead to the culture of privilege and exclusion" and criticised those who consider family "the decisive criterion for what

we consider right and good".

"How hard it is to follow him (Jesus) if we seek to identify the kingdom of heaven with our personal agenda or... abuse the name of God or of religion to justify acts of violence, segregation

and even murder".

In Madagascar — home to 25 million people — the vast majority live in poverty on an income of less than two dollars a day. More than half its young people are jobless. —AFP ■

OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia replaces energy minister with king's son

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia's King Salman on Sunday replaced the energy minister with one of his sons, state media said, in a major shakeup as the OPEC kingpin reels from low oil prices.

The appointment of Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, half-brother to de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, marks the first time a royal family member has been put in charge of the all-important energy ministry.

He replaces veteran official Khalid al-Falih

as the world's top crude exporter accelerates preparations for a much-anticipated stock listing of state-owned oil giant Aramco, expected to be the world's biggest.

"Khalid al-Falih has been removed from his position," the official Saudi Press Agency said, citing a royal decree.

"His royal highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman is appointed minister of energy."

Since his appointment as oil minister in 2016, Falih has been the face of Saudi energy

policy but the veteran technocrat had seen his portfolio shrink in recent weeks.

His ouster comes just days after he was removed as chairman of Aramco and replaced by Yasir al-Rumayyan, governor of the kingdom's vast Public Investment Fund.

Falih's powers were diminished last month when the world's top oil exporter announced the creation of a new ministry of industry and mineral resources, separating it from his energy ministry. —AFP ■

'Orderly' foreign troop withdrawal sought from Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan, China and Afghanistan on Saturday called for withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan in an orderly manner, as the US and Taliban move closer to a potential deal. The request follows a wave of insurgent attacks that sparked concerns of a hasty US pullout.

"We shared the view that the withdrawal of foreign troops should be conducted in an orderly and responsible manner in order to ensure smooth transition," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told a press conference in Islamabad with his Pakistani and Afghan counterparts.

Kabul has been terrorized by deadly bombings even after Washington and the insurgents reached an agreement "in principle" that would see the US pull



Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi (c), Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (l) and Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani (r) expressed hope that direct talks between the Kabul government and Taliban begin soon. PHOTO: AFP

thousands of troops from Afghanistan in return for various Taliban security promises. But there is increasing unease about the deal, which Afghans fear will lead to a

return of the Islamist extremist Taliban to power.

Former United States ambassadors to Afghanistan on Tuesday warned against a ma-

jor troop withdrawal without a comprehensive peace accord, but Secretary of Defense Mark Esper on Saturday sought to allay fears that Washington was looking for a quick exit.

Until now, the Taliban have refused to talk to the Afghan administration of President Ashraf Ghani, whom they view as a US stooge. But the prospective US withdrawal deal with the Taliban is expected to require "intra-Afghan" talks between the insurgents and Kabul.

"Pakistan and China look forward to a reconciliation between the Afghan government and the Taliban for peaceful negotiations," Yi said after China, Pakistan and Afghanistan held their third round of trilateral dialogue. —AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Top UK minister quits in new Brexit blow to PM Johnson

LONDON—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson received a fresh blow Saturday when senior minister Amber Rudd quit her work and pensions post in protest at his handling of the Brexit crisis.

Her resignation caps a miserable week for Johnson as he tries to steer his splintered country through its biggest political crisis since World War II.

Rudd was a moderate member of former prime minister Theresa May's government whose endorsement Johnson coveted during his successful UK leadership challenge in July.

But she said Saturday that she could no longer endorse Johnson's approach to negotiations with Brussels—or handling of domestic politics.—AFP ■

Outrage as neo-Nazi elected town council leader in Germany

BERLIN—The unanimous election of a neo-Nazi politician in Germany as the head of a town council, thanks to votes from rival party members, has sparked outrage among senior political figures.

Stefan Jagsch of the far right-wing extremist National Democratic Party (NDP) became the council leader for Waldsiedlung, in the district of Altenstadt, 30 kilometres (18 miles) north-east of Frankfurt, on Thursday. Jagsch was appointed with help from local members of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), plus opposition groups Social Democratic Party (SPD) and Free Democratic Party (FDP), prompting calls for the decision to be reversed.

"The SPD has a very clear position: we do not co-operate with Nazis! Never!" the party's general secretary Lars Klingbeil tweeted Saturday.—AFP ■

NEWS
In BRIEF

Two die, 13 critical after Sri Lanka faith healing

COLOMBO—Two people died from heat exhaustion after attending a mass open air faith healing session in northeast Sri Lanka which left 13 others fighting for their lives, police said Sunday.

Around 10,000 people, some of whom were seriously ill, had gathered at a school to listen to a man who claimed he could use “powers of the gods and the Buddha” to cure the sick. Police in the town of Horowupotana, 260 kilometres (162 miles) north-east of Colombo said 18 people were taken to hospital, with 13 in a critical condition.—AFP ■

In bombshell, Trump says calls off secret Afghan peace summit

WASHINGTON—US President Donald Trump said Saturday he had called off a secret summit with the Taliban and Afghanistan’s leader, abruptly slamming the door on a year of diplomacy to end America’s longest war.

In a weekend bombshell, Trump said that he had planned previously unknown talks with the two sides Sunday in Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland, but that the Taliban’s persistent, grisly campaign of violence made them untrustworthy partners. “Unbeknownst to almost everyone, the major Taliban leaders and, separately, the President of Afghanistan, were going to secretly meet with me at Camp David on Sunday,” Trump said in a tweet.

“Unfortunately, in



In this file photo taken on April 27, 2016 Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump (R) takes the stage after being introduced by former US Ambassador to Iraq and Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington. PHOTO: AFP

order to build false leverage, they admitted to an attack in Kabul that killed one of our great great soldiers, and 11 other people. I immediately cancelled the meeting and called off peace negotiations.”

“What kind of people would kill so many in order

to seemingly strengthen their bargaining position? They didn’t, they only made it worse!” Trump said.

A US soldier and another service member from Romania were killed in a car bombing Thursday in Kabul - the latest major attack claimed by the Taliban even as they negotiated with a US envoy. If realized, the summit would have been the latest high-profile, high-stakes diplomacy by the mogul-turned-president, who is fond of dramatic gestures. Instead, his announcement by tweet ended a painstaking diplomatic process led for nearly a year by Zalmay Khalilzad, the Afghan-born veteran US diplomat who has been meeting with the Taliban in Qatar. Afghanistan’s internationally recognized president, Ashraf Ghani, had been outspoken in his criticism of the shape of the withdrawal agreement with the Taliban, who have refused to negotiate with his government.

Withdrawal plans in question

Khalilzad had said in Kabul that he had reached an agreement in principle with the Taliban. According to parts of the draft deal that had been made public, the Pentagon would pull about 5,000 of the roughly 13,000 US troops from five bases across Afghanistan by early next year.—AFP ■

Central Beijing locked down for overnight army parade rehearsal

BEIJING—The centre of Beijing was under lockdown early Sunday for a nighttime parade rehearsal by the Chinese military which is preparing for Oct 1 ceremonies to mark Communist China’s 70th anniversary.

The enormous Avenue of Eternal Peace, which leads to Tiananmen Square and runs east-west, was

closed to traffic for about a dozen kilometres to allow troops to parade around Tiananmen Square, the symbolic heart of Chinese power. It is where Mao Zedong in 1949 proclaimed the founding of the People’s Republic of China.

The official news agency Xinhua said about 90,000 people were “involved in the rehearsal and related

supporting services”, and organisers said the run-through “reached the expected results”.

Areas around the Avenue of Eternal Peace were gradually closed to traffic from late Saturday afternoon and were expected to stay off limits until Sunday morning, causing traffic jams. Security forces blocked access to residences with views of the avenue, ordering several foreign media outlets in the area to leave their offices for the weekend.

“We warmly celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China,” proclaimed immense signs being transported by trucks heading towards Tiananmen Square.—AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (247E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (247E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 09-09-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

Pakistan denies use of airspace to Indian president

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan on Saturday said it had denied India’s President Ram Nath Kovind permission to fly through its airspace — access to



Indian Border Security Force personnel walk along a fence at the India-Pakistan border on the outskirts of Amritsar, India, on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP

which is usually granted — due to New Delhi’s recent “behaviour”. The decision comes at a time of high tension between the two nuclear-armed South

Asian neighbours over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir.

“The decision has been taken in view of India’s behaviour,” Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said in a statement.

“The Indian President had sought permission to use Pakistan’s airspace to travel to Iceland, but we decided not to permit him,” Qureshi added, without giving further details.

Pakistan had closed its airspace to Indian traf-

fic in February after a suicide bomb attack killed dozens of Indian troops in Kashmir ratcheted up tensions between the two neighbours and prompted tit-for-tat aerial dogfights.

It reopened its skies for all civilian traffic in July, ending months of restrictions that had affected major international routes.

Saturday’s decision came a day after Pakistan marked Defence Day, which commemorates a brief 1965 war with India over Kashmir.—AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1016 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1016 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 09-09-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

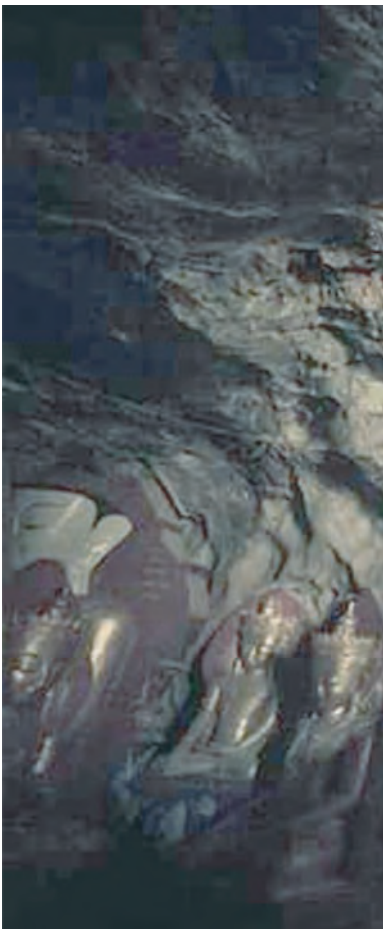
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Ancient Buddha Statues in the Tha Ye Cave. **PHOTO: THIHA LULIN**



Ancient **Tha Ye Cave** near **Kalaw**

By Thiha Lulin



Ancient Buddha statues at the entrance of the cave. **PHOTO: THIHA LULIN**

IN my Kalaw trip, I went to an interesting and secluded limestone cave with an ancient pagoda. The ancient pagoda and the cave were in a place about 11 miles away from Kalaw Town. The interest in the place was

raised after a group went there to find a suitable location for a movie scene. There were some posting on social media sites as an un-maintained pagoda requiring maintenance and renovation. Hopefully it would be a systematic maintenance and renovation



A Reclining Buddha statue placed in a hole at the side of a mountain. **PHOTO: THIHA LULIN**



A stupa seen in the cave. PHOTO: THIHA LULIN

that retains the ancient works.

Tha Ye Cave

The name of the cave Tha Ye was written as Tha Ye (ghost) but some pronounced it Ta Ye. But hearing the name for the first time could make



Guardian Lion statues and entrance of the covered passage. PHOTO: THIHA LULIN

you shiver with fear for thinking there must be ghosts in the cave.

The cave was close to a village, Tha Ye Village, and may be that was why it was called Tha Ye Cave. People who had repaired or maintained the pagoda in the earlier days had put up a sign with the village name as such and thus the name remains as it is. The cave was a natural one and except for some Buddha images and the pagoda near the mouth of it, the inner part

of the cave had Speleothems or cave formations typically seen in limestone caves. Those cave formations were of much interest for me. The Buddha images were considered to be several hundred years old. Buddha images renovated and maintained during the period 2005 to 2010 were seen at the ascent to the cave mouth. The cave mouth can be reached by walking along the narrow pathway winding along the side of the mountain. There were some Buddha images placed

in places where the pathway widens due to cavities in the mountain side. As the mouth of the natural cave was hidden by the Buddha images it was thanks to a monk from a monastery along the way that we were able to find it.

Birds and probably bats were in the cave so if I went there alone, the place would be scary and look as though it was haunted. The cave was said to be quite long as the end couldn't be reached even after walking in for an hour. Some also say the cave is the brother cave of to Pindaya Shwe U Min cave with the Pindaya cave considered as the sister cave. The pagoda festival was held for a day only.

How to reach it

As there isn't much visitor, the way to the place was not well know. Going along

car as the road would be full of mud bogging down any car trying to go over it.

My trip there

In my trip there, my curiosity and interest was raised on seeing the two lion statue at the foot of the mountain where there was an old covered path to the cave. I was a bit worried that the climb may be tiring but reached the mouth of the cave after a short climb. There were many Buddha images of various sizes that were obviously of ancient styles. There were many more after entering a bit into the cave but deeper inside the cave, it was just a natural limestone cave.

If a person asked me whether it was worthwhile to visit the place, I would say it'll depend on the person who was putting up the question. Some may say "Is this all?"

the Aungban-Pindaya Road from Kalaw and passing the big garbage dump in Aungban will bring you to Hnin Shwe Yi fuel station. There's a small earth road beside the fuel station and we drive along it for about 10 minutes checking with every farmers we found along the way to ensure that we were on the right way. In the open season, a small and medium-size car can be driven along the earth road. But during the raining season, the place wouldn't be accessible by

after seeing the place while some will say it is an invaluable place with ancient images and a natural cave.

I only have cautionary word for renovation and maintenance. Opinions and advice of archaeologist and experts should be obtained so that the original styles and made of the images were not altered.

May all visitors to the place have a safe and happy trip to Tha Ye Cave.

Translated by Handytips

■■■

Meeting futsal powerhouses good, helped team gain experience: U Htay Myint

AFTER the Myanmar national futsal team suffered two consecutive losses at the Belt and Road Cup CFA International Tournament 2019 at the Qingbaijiang Sports Centre in Chengdu City, China, the team's head coach, U Htay Myint, said taking on international futsal powerhouses was a good experience for Myanmar players.

Myanmar lost 2-0 to Mexico yesterday, and was defeated 3-2 by China on 7 September at the Qingbaijiang Sports Centre in Chengdu City.

U Htay Myint said both Mexico and China were very strong teams.

"My boys gave their best in the tourney and gained a lot of

experience. Although we lost the matches, we gained precious experience for the ASEAN Futsal Championship. And, I also want to point out that the losses were due to my team being tired from the long trip, and from playing matches on consecutive days in the tourney," said U Htay Myint.

"We planned to go to China on 5 September, but we could leave only on 6 September due to the airport road closure as part of safety measures. Thus, we arrived in China on the night of 6 September, which was the night before the match with China. On the morning of 7 September, we played against China and took on Mexico on 8 September," he added.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



The head coach of the Myanmar national futsal team, U Htay Myint, seen at the team's match against Mexico yesterday in the Belt and Road Cup CFA International Tournament 2019 in Chengdu City, China. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**

Myanmar vs Japan World Cup Qualifier: MFF arranges 50 buses for fans

THE Myanmar Football Federation has arranged with the Yangon Bus Service (YBS) to provide 50 buses for fans, free of charge, after the Group F qualifier match between Myanmar and Japan for the FIFA World Cup 2022 today.

The service will be supervised by the Yangon Region Transport Authority, and is

aimed at smooth transportation for football fans. As the match, to be held at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon today, will finish around 9 p.m., fans may face difficulties returning home, said officials.

Therefore, 10 buses have been arranged to take fans from Thuwunna Stadium to Sule Pagoda, 10 buses from the stadium

to Dagon University, 10 buses to 71 Bus Gate, 10 buses to Aung Mingala High Way Bus Station, and 10 more to Thamine Junction, officials added.

Fans of both Myanmar and Japan are looking forward to the match, as it will take the winning team a step closer to realizing their World Cup dream. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

2022 World Cup Qualifier: MRTV, MRTV Sports to broadcast Myanmar, Japan match live

THE match between Myanmar and Japan in the qualifier for the FIFA World Cup 2022, scheduled at 6.50 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time today at the Thuwunna stadium in Yangon, will

be broadcast live by the MRTV and MRTV Sports channels.

Myanmar Radio will also air the match commentary at the same time. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Buttler gives England hope of great escape against Australia

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)— Jos Buttler led a defiant rearguard action as England fought desperately to draw the fourth Test against Australia at Old Trafford on Sunday and keep the Ashes alive.

England were 166-6 at tea on the final day in a match in which a win for Australia would see the holders retain the Ashes at 2-1 up with one to play in a five-Test series.

Buttler, England's last recognised batsman, was 30 not out, with the usually free-flowing run-scorer having faced 96 balls, while Craig Overton was unbeaten on 12 off 47 deliveries. Any thoughts of England chasing down an imposing victory target of 383 had long since evaporated.

Instead, with a new ball available to Australia 11 overs after tea, the question was whether they could hold out for a draw,

which would leave the series all square ahead of next week's finale at the Oval in London. England, resuming on their overnight 18-2, got through the first hour without losing a wicket. But when Ben Stokes, whose superb 135 not out had sealed a stunning win at Headingley, fell for just one shortly before lunch, the home side

were floundering at 74-4.

England started the day with makeshift opener Joe Denly 10 not out and Jason Roy eight not out after Pat Cummins had taken two wickets in two balls on Saturday, including Joe Root for a golden duck, the England captain's third nought in five innings.—AFP ■



Jos Buttler battles to save England's Ashes hopes on the final day of the fourth Test against Australia. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cool Leclerc delivers Ferrari Monza triumph

MONZA (Italy) — Charles Leclerc secured Ferrari's first victory at their home Italian Grand Prix since 2010 on Sunday when he resisted race-long pressure from both Mercedes rivals to claim his second successive Formula One triumph.

The 21-year-old Monegasque, who dedicated his maiden win last Sunday to the memory of his late friend Anthoine Hubert, who was killed in an F2 race a day earlier, was exultant as a vast army of 'tifosi' in an estimated crowd of more than 150,000 celebrated deliriously.

"What a race!" said an exhausted Leclerc. "I have never felt so tired in a race. It was so difficult. For me, it is a dream to win here like this in front of the 'tifosi' — thanks to everyone!"

Leclerc came home narrowly ahead of second-placed Valtteri Bottas and his Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton, who pursued the victor for most of the race until his tyres let him down. After a late pit stop, Ham-

ilton then claimed the fastest lap of the race.

Leclerc's Ferrari team-mate Sebastian Vettel endured a torrid and disappointing day, finishing 13th after spinning off and taking a penalty for rejoining in a dangerous fashion.

Hamilton apologised to Mercedes and said his tyres "had gone off the cliff.... I'm sorry I wasn't able to pull it off," he said. The defending five-time champion now leads his Mercedes team-mate Bottas by 63 points in the drivers' championship.

Daniel Ricciardo came home fourth ahead of his Renault team-mate Nico Hulkenberg, Red Bull new boy Alex Albon, Sergio Perez of Force India and Max Verstappen, who finished eighth after starting from 19th in the second Red Bull.

Local hero Antonio Giovinazzi came home ninth for Alfa Romeo ahead of Lando Norris of McLaren, who continued his impressive rookie season.—AFP ■