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VP U Myint Swe attends reception to mark 70th Founding Anniversary of PRC

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe addressed a reception to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) held at the Myanmar International Convention Center-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay were welcomed on arrival by Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai and officials.

Next the Vice President and wife together with the Chinese Ambassador observed the photo exhibit of Belt and Road Initiative and China-Myanmar

Economic Corridor.

The ceremony started off with the playing of the song commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the PRC followed by attendees of the event saluting the flags as national anthems of the Republic of Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China were played. Afterwards the Chinese Ambassador delivered a message of greetings.

Vice President U Myint Swe then delivered a speech speaking of being honored for attending the event as the main guest on behalf of the government of

Myanmar. The Vice President expressed his appreciation to the government and peoples of the PRC and the Chinese Ambassador. The Vice President spoke of his happiness in the recent appointment of Ambassador Mr Chen Hai and trusted that the ambassador would work closely hand in hand with the Myanmar government towards the continued development of bilateral relations.

From the time the PRC was established seven decades ago and especially during the last 40 years when reforms and the open door policy were practiced



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at reception to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) at Myanmar International Convention Center-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

it was an honor to see the rapid social and economic developments of the PRC. Furthermore due to the efforts made during the past 70 years, more than 700 million of PRC's population was freed from poverty. It has now become a country with the most rapid economic development in the world and had become the second biggest economically powerful country in the world. It was seen happily as the most successful country. During these years the PRC's economy developed significantly.

In 1952, the PRC's GDP was at about US\$ 30 billion and by 2018 it had increased tremendously to US\$ 13.61 trillion. In 1978, China's GDP stands at 11th in the world and from 2010 to now it had established itself as the second most economically powerful country.

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VP U Myint Swe attends reception to mark 70th Founding Anniversary of PRC

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The PRC successfully implemented the Chinese Dream of National Rejuvenation and was believed to continue achieving more successes.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1950, the pauk-phaw relations existed. In 2020 the 70th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations will be commemorated in both countries. During this 70 year period, through mutual exchanges and close cooperation, significant progress was seen in politics, economics, culture, education and other sectors.

At the moment the bilateral relations has increased to all round strategic friendly relations level. In accord with the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence deeper and closer cooperation and friendly relations were established.

The PRC was Myanmar's biggest trading partner country and it was the country with the second biggest investment in Myanmar. Close cooperation and friendly relations have been maintained and PRC being the biggest trading partner and investor played an important role in Myanmar-China bilateral relation. High level visits of leaders continue to raise the mutual respect and trust between the

two countries.

The Vice President spoke of attending the 16th China-ASEAN Expo, Business and Investment Summit held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region last week where views were exchanged with PRC officials on increasing bilateral and regional economic development work processes. PRC President Xi Jinping was honored for reviving and re-introducing the old Silk Road program. The current bilateral relations and cooperation would continue to thrive and grow in the future under the Belt and Road Initiative and Myanmar-China Economic Corridor program.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing in April 2019. The forum raised the existing friendly bilateral relations to the next level and created opportunities to raise cooperation even further. Through signing of three agreements "Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement," "China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Cooperation Plan (2019-2030)" and "Agreement on Formulation of the Five-Year Development Program for Economic and Trade Cooperation" the momentum of bilateral cooperation has been raised further.



Vice President U Myint Swe and wife, and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai cut commemorative cake at the event to mark the 70th Founding of the People's Republic of China yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRC President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative was expected and trusted to bring forth positive developments to Myanmar and mutual benefits.

The PRC was appreciated for continuously providing assistance in education, health, social, rural development, poverty alleviation and the peace process of Myanmar. The PRC was providing positive assistance and support towards Myanmar government's effort in resolving the Rakhine State issue and this was highly valued and appreciated. It was hoped that Myanmar would continue receiving such understanding

and support from the PRC in the future.

The Vice President spoke of continuing and raising the bilateral relations and cooperation together on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the PRC.

Afterwards, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife, and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai cut the cake to commemorate the 70th Founding of the People's Republic of China and posed for commemorative group photos.

Later Vice President U Myint Swe and wife and attendees were hosted to a dinner by the Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen

Hai.

The ceremony was also attended by Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, former President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Union Ministers and their wives, Union Civil Service Board Chairman and wife, the Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai, Ambassadors, diplomats and invited guests—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 41/2019



Meeting 41/2019 of Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MEETING 41/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Com-

mittee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee

secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe and members who were representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. —MNA (Translated by TTN)

Union Attorney-General meets Landesa Country Director

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received a delegation from the Landesa organization led by Country Director Dr Mark West at his office yesterday.

During the meeting, both sides openly discussed the duties of the UAG office, projects relating to rule of law and social justice, working for coherence between laws related to land management

and their practical implementation, drafting the national land bill and improving the land management system, acquiring cooperation and technical assistance from Landesa in amending land laws, and conducting workshops to ensure inclusivity and public suggestions are directed to drafting the national land bill.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with Country Director Dr Mark West in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Infrastructure projects, private sector cooperation prioritized for tourism development

VICE PRESIDENT U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of National Tourism Development Central (NTDC) Committee addressed meeting number 2/2019 of the central committee held at the Mingala Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by central committee members Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, States/Regions Chief Ministers, States/Regions ministers, departmental heads, travel sector experts and representatives of travel organizations.

At the meeting the Vice President said the meeting was the second meeting after forming the NTDC Committee, Tourism Work Committees and Region Work Committees according to the Myanmar Tourism Law enacted on 17 September 2018. The aim of this meeting was to discuss, implement and coordinate the decisions made at the first meeting as well matters for the government and private sector to conduct.

During the present government's term, it can be seen that investment increased due to changes and political and economic reforms resulting in increased job opportunities for the people. To develop the Myanmar tourism sector the government was also increasing the working rights of the private sector and inviting local and foreign investments. As the government was striving and implementing towards creating job opportunities and developing the private sector, States and Regions were urged to give priority to projects on constructing and developing basic tourism infrastructures and cooperate hand in hand with the government and the private sector. As the tourism sector developed in Myanmar, more jobs will be created for the Myanmar people while increasing their living standards as well.

The Ministry of Hotels and



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the meeting of National Tourism Development Central (NTDC) Committee at Mingala Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Tourism has established the Myanmar Tourism Master Plan 2013-2020 as a guide to future works. It was learnt that the ministry was cooperating with the World Tourism Organization and development partner organization Luxembourg Development Agency to draw up projects for the 2020 to 2025 period. Tourism required cooperation with all sectors and cooperation between private entities and relevant departments was required. State/Region governments were also learnt to be coordinating and drawing up region wise tourism master projects that would increase local participation.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism on its part was also raising Myanmar's travel image through implementing the Digital Marketing system for tourism sector development, participating in international travel and tourism exhibitions, inviting news media to produce video/audio to inform international travellers on visiting a peaceful and stable Myanmar, produc-

ing and distributing pamphlets, produce DVDs and increasing advertisements through Myanmar embassies, arranging and inviting FAM (familiarization) Trips and appointing travel ambassadors.

Investment in tourism plays a vital role in creating the country's economic development and sharing the benefits of the tourism sector to local people was very important. Regional

ellers to enjoy natural beauties, upgrading local airport buildings etc. were urged to be conducted through government (public) and private cooperation. In doing this not only short term profit but long term benefits also need to be considered together.

Available travel resources need to be used as the main opportunity to develop the country's economy. The Vice President urged and invited the

for well-known international audio/video media personnel, travel bloggers, celebrities and travel agencies; holding of tourism development festivals and Community Based Tourism (CBT) etc.

Next, Central Committee joint secretary explained to the Central Committee and obtained the Central Committee's approval about status of implementing decisions made at Central Committee meeting 1/2019; reorganizing and reforming of tourism work committee and regional work committee members; allowance and grants earmarked for regional work committee member travel experts and representatives of private travel organizations; formation of sports tourism steering committee and food tourism steering committee and status of implementing tourism works.

Following this, the Vice President took a commemorative group photo with meeting attendees.

After the group photo session the meeting was continued where central committee member Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Dr Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, U Thant Sin Maung, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, States/Regions Chief Ministers, departmental heads, experts on travel sector and representatives of travel organizations joined in the discussions.

The Vice President coordinated on the discussion s made and concluded the meeting. - MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

“Our travel resources need to be utilized to their full potential to develop the country's economy”
Vice President U Henry Van Thio

tourism work committees, relevant ministerial departments, state/region government members and private organizations were urged to coordinate and cooperate.

When thinking of attracting tourists travelling for various reasons services were required to be provided towards travel for leisure and relaxation, business travel, adventure travel, travel for gaining knowledge, travel for taking health care treatment, travel for sporting activities, nature based travel, travel for food etc.

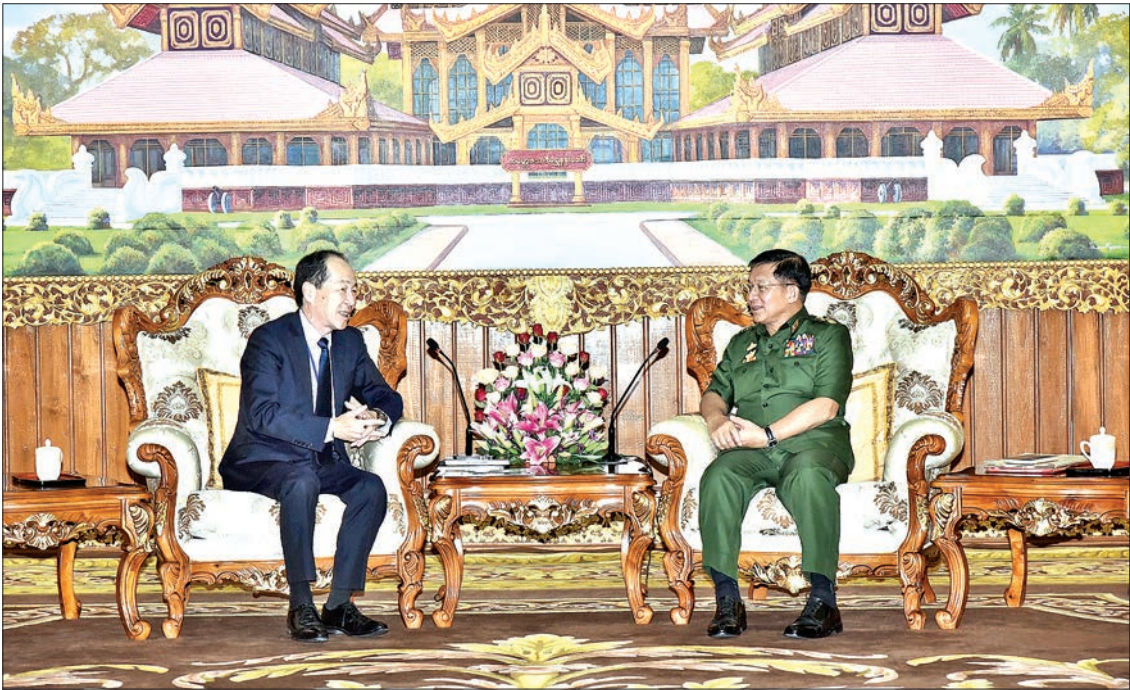
Development of travel infrastructure, establishing new travel destinations, arranging train and boat voyages for trav-

participants of the meeting to discuss issues and challenges faced in conducting travel sector development and provide suggestions. Not only the Hotels and Tourism Ministry but related ministerial departments and tourism stakeholders were urged to strive together towards sustainable development of Myanmar's tourism sector, said the Vice President.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung discussed the Digital Marketing system for tourism sector development; usage of offline platforms; displaying exhibits representing Myanmar at international travel shows, arranging FAM Trips to Myanmar

With the government striving towards creating jobs and developing the private sector, States and Regions are urged to give priority to projects that focus on constructing and developing basic tourism infrastructure ...

Vice President U Henry Van Thio



Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief receives Japanese Ambassador

THE Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, held a meeting with Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama and his dele-

gation at the Bayinnaing Guest Hall yesterday.

The two sides discussed strengthening friendly relations between both countries and their Defence Forces, Myanmar's internal peace process, and exchanging trainees between the two militaries, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE**

Information Ministry aims to boost public relations with mobile libraries

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint held a meeting with the heads of the Information and Public Relations Department from across the states and regions in his office, in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Union Minister first mentioned that Daw Khin Kyi Foundation handed over their mobile libraries, machinery and books with a ceremony the other day. He reiterated from the speech he gave on that day by saying that the Ministry of Information (MoI) will endeavour to meet the level of trust put into the handover. He said they must maintain the implemented mechanisms and expand the mobile library services to greater heights.

The Union Minister said a unique aspect of IPRD is it interacts directly with the public.

He said that aspect was concealed in the former years as the IPRD was only known for its libraries and public interaction was limited to photo displays of government processes on notice boards.

But now, the IPRD offices across the nation must be transformed into thriving community centres that truly interact with the public, said the Union Minister. He said community centres need to become an indispensable part of every town and village and the successful public talks must focus more on relevant topics of public interest. He said more than two thousand public talks have been organized and many more should be on the way.

Next, IPRD Director-General U Ye Naing explained the work progress of the state and region offices. This was followed by the



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at the meeting with the heads of the Information and Public Relations Department from the states and regions in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

subnational IPRD heads briefing on their respective local affairs. Afterwards, Deputy Minis-

ter U Aung Hla Tun provided additional discussions, after which the Union Minister concluded

the meeting with a closing address.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives dignitaries from int'l organizations separately

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received officials from Korea Disabled People's

Development Institute (KODDI), World Bank and Embassy of Switzerland separately at Maykhalar Hall of his ministry yesterday.

During the meeting with Director-General Dr Choi Woongseon from KODDI, they discussed matters related to collaboration

with KODDI for the establishment of national level rehabilitation and development centre, raising capacity of persons with disabilities in disaster response and creating job opportunities for disable persons, and signing a memorandum of understanding for bilateral cooperation.

Similarly, in the meeting with programme leader of World Bank Mr Mark Astin, they discussed matters related to projects being implemented by the World Bank in Myanmar; making investment schemes and future work plans, providing aid for disastrous floods in Myanmar; cooperation between World Bank and disaster management committees of Myanmar; Ayeyawady Integrated River Basin Management Projects being conducted with WB's loan and

project to construct embankments along the river basin.

Afterward, in the meeting with Mr Giacomo Solari, Deputy Head of Mission at Swiss Embassy in Myanmar, they discussed landmine awareness activities cooperated with other organizations including governments of Switzerland, New Zealand and Norway, arranging training courses in internal and external, planning for resettlement of internally displaced persons in the whole country and drawing up the national-level strategy for closing IDP camps and signing a memorandum of understanding between the ministry and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.—MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with guests in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker attends parliamentary speakers meetings in Nur-Sultan

A DELEGATION led by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than left for Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on 22 September to attend the 4th Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments, which took place from 23 to 24 September.

The invitation to the meeting was sent by Mr Nurtan Nigmatulin, Speaker of Kazakhstan's Lower House - Mazhilis, Mr Vyacheslav Volodin, Speaker of Russia's Lower House - the State Duma, and Mr Moon Hee-sang, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and delegation departed from Yangon International Airport and arrived at the Nur-sultan Nazarbayev International Airport at 7:35 pm local standard time on 22 September. They were welcomed by Kazakhstan's Deputy Speaker of Parliament

Mr Vladimir Bozhko and other officials.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than met with the Deputy Speaker of the State Duma, Ms Olga Yepifanova, at 1:15 pm standard time on 23 September, where they discussed Myanmar-Russia bilateral relations and closer co-operation between parliaments.

Next, the Myanmar delegation visited the National Museum and the Palace of Peace and Accord. Mr Nurtan Nigmatulin hosted a welcoming reception for the visiting delegations at the Palace Saltanat Saraly later in the evening.

On 24 September the next day, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and delegation attended the 4th Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments at the Congress Hall of the Palace of Independence.

After the opening ceremony,



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets with the Deputy Chairman of the State Duma, Ms Olga Yepifanova on 23 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

the attending delegation leaders delivered their addresses during the Plenary Session.

During his address, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said Asia and Europe were both vast continents that depended on

each other and as such, it would be imperative to work together in trade, training and other sectors to achieve greater development and prosperity.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and delegation departed

from Nur-Sultan on 25 September and landed in Yangon around 2:45 pm the next day. They were welcomed by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and officials. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and attendees pose for a documentary photo at the 4th Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments in Nur-Sultan. **PHOTO: MNA**

Central Bank of Myanmar Governor receives People's Bank of China Kunming Branch's deputy governor

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung received People's Bank of China Kunming Branch Deputy Governor Mr Jing Wei at Gangaw Hall of CBM in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed banking sector cooperation between the two countries and settlement through

interbank transactions for cross-border trading. —MNA
(Translated by TTN)

CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung poses for a photo with a delegation led by People's Bank of China Kunming Branch Deputy Governor Mr Jing Wei in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



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RTAD to issue Form D slips for old modified vehicles; allow owners to replace them

By Nyein Nyein

THE Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD) is planning to issue Form D slips to owners of old, modified vehicles so they can import new vehicles to replace them, according to U Lian Cin Mang, also known as Ngam Khai Pa Pa, the director of the department.

“Vehicle modification is not allowed under the vehicle law. Modification refers to changing the body of vehicles which are to be registered. Under the law, requests for registering such vehicles are rejected,” said U Lian Cin Mang.

In accordance with Section 18 (e) of the 2015 Vehicle Law, the authorities are sending modified vehicles to the police for de-registration.

“We have found some vehicles which have been modified without permission from the authorities. We will take legal action against the owners of those vehicles under Section 18(e) of the vehicle law, and cancel the vehicle’s registration. In 2018, we had issued an order with respect to vehicle modifications. We also submitted a report to the ministry, suggesting severe action such as de-registration and



U Lian Cin Mang, Director of Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD) delivers the speech at the meeting. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

cancellation of number plates of modified vehicles. We also began handing over such vehicles to the police station. Four or five months ago, the police stations housing the vehicles ran out of space. So, the police are not accepting modified vehicles at the stations. Therefore, we are keeping the vehicles in the office compound,” he added.

The RTAD, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, will release some announcements beginning 1 October with respect to a permanent ban on vehicle modifications and issuance of Form D slips to owners of modified vehicles so they can import vehicles

in place of the old, de-registered vehicles.

“When we cancel the registration of vehicles, it is mostly the owners who suffer. We have de-registered modified vehicles in accordance with the vehicle law. We have submitted these issues to the authorities. The vehicle associations from Yangon and Mandalay have also reported this matter to the authorities.

So, the officials have begun tackling these issues for people who actually suffer losses as the modified vehicles have to be de-registered.

Now, owners of modified vehicles will be issued Form D slips so they can import new

vehicles,” said the director of the RTAD.

The department has already asked the vehicle owners to get in touch with it.

“If we find modified vehicles, we will issue Form D slips after de-registering them,” said U Lian Cin Mang.

According to official statistics from the RTAD, the department has found 362 modified vehicles.

Currently, more than 1.09 million vehicles are registered across the country, and over 540,000, or half of them are registered in Yangon.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Andaman sea trips for pre-high season start in Kawthoung District

THE opening ceremony of the Andaman sea trips for the 2019-2020 pre-high season in Kawthoung District was held on 26 September morning at the viewpoint in Bayint Naung Hill in Kawthoung Town.

U Nay Oo, the Kawthoung District Administrator, U Tin Myint, the chairman of the Township Development Affairs Committee, U Zaw Lin Tun, the Township Administrator, U Arkar Tun, the Assistant Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Kawthoung District, and officials from the related departments and tour agencies attended the event.

As part of the event, the Marine Police Force and the Fire Services Department jointly performed search and rescue drills using speed boats, and the guests awarded honor prizes to them.

There are 30 untouched islands featured in the archipelago trips in Kawthoung District. Of them, visitors can make day trips



Travellers visit with boats along Kawthoung’s spectacular stretch of coast. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KWATHOUNG)

to nine islands, and night trips to seven islands. At present, 12 hotels and resorts are offering their services in the area, and 28 tour agencies are operating 60 speed boats for visitors.

In the 2018-2019 high season, more than 350,000 domestic

and international visitors visited the islands in Kawthoung District, according to the Assistant Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Kawthoung District.

Most visitors enjoy swimming, rowing, diving, snorkeling,

and taking photographs of the coral reefs around the islands. In addition, they can explore pearl farms and observe the lifestyles of the Salon ethic people. —Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Myanmar, New Zealand sign bilateral Air Services Agreement

by U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications and Mr Stephen Marshall, Ambassador of New Zealand to Myanmar.

The signing ceremony held at the DCA in Yangon was also attended by officials from the DCA and the Embassy of New Zealand in Yangon, and representatives from Myanmar National Airlines and Myanmar Airways International.—MNA ■

(Translated by GNLM)



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo and Ambassador of New Zealand Mr Stephen Marshall participate in a signing ceremony for exchange of notes for air services between Myanmar and New Zealand in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

JMM to produce 180,000 tpa coated steel products

import-substitute steel products would also ensure a better future for Myanmar industry, said Dr Sebastian Langendorf, the CEO of JMM. The JMM production line will include a galvanizing line of approximately 180,000 tpa capacity and a color-coating line of approximately 90,000 tpa capacity.

The factory has created about 300 jobs at present, and is

expected to generate about 500 jobs, depending on the demand for products.

JMM was founded in 2017 as a joint venture between JFE Steel, Meranti Steel, JFE Shoji, Marubeni-Itochu, and HANWA.

The joint venture has received a total investment of US\$85 million.—Zarni Maung ■

(Translated by GNLM)



Photo shows JFE Meranti Myanmar (JMM) factory in Thilawa Special Economic Zone. **PHOTO: AYE MIN THU**

[illegible]

Myanmar-India border trade reaches \$194.6 mln

of Commerce. Between 1 October and 13 September, Myanmar exported commodities worth \$171.3 million to India, and imported goods worth \$23.317 million.

The two countries conduct border trade mainly through

the Tamu, Reed, and Thantlang cross-border trade camps. A major part of bilateral imports and exports are delivered through ships.

India mainly exports medicines, oil cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton

Its imports from Myanmar include areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves, and fruits and vegetables, besides human hair, and fishery and for-

est products. Myanmar's trade with China, India, Thailand, and Bangladesh through the border checkpoints has reached \$9.6 billion, including \$6.7 billion in exports and \$2.89 billion in imports.—Zwe ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Service, infrastructure and Myanmar's travel industry

THE hotel and travel industry has always been a major source of employment in any nation, which is why governments around the world put big emphasis on developing their tourism sector and attracting more global travellers.

There were 1.2 billion people travelling across borders in 2016 and World Travellers Association predicts that number

might increase to 1.6 billion by 2020, with 123 million coming into Southeast Asia.

The travel business is heavily service oriented and involves business aspects that deal with guest accommodation, catering, touring, souvenirs, entertainment and so on.

Developing the tourism sector is just as important for Myanmar, and we need to first ensure the proper infrastructure for travelling and communications along with stable financial management.

Now is the time to promote tourism in our nation, but we still have to face the challenges and restraints of weak policies and laws, frail cooperation between related government departments, insufficient basic infrastructure and management,...

ful of airlines connecting internationally, an outdated financial system, and issues regarding clean food and water, according to experts.

Myanmar had to struggle in developing its tourism sector in the past years while simultaneously setting policies with foresight to elevate the market. This has produced nice results in the form of increased influx of travellers from China and South Korea. We also see news of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism implementing their strategic plan to nurture a capable workforce that will meet the needs of the developing tourism sector.

The Myanmar Tourism Master Plan predicts 7.5 million globetrotters entering the nation in 2020. We believe that the number one priority to engage them is to offer the best services that meet international standards. If we can satisfy the requirements for developing our tourism sector, then we can be sure it will bring in wealth into our economy and jobs for our people.



Let's pave our roads with plastic wastes

By Khin Maung Myint



A process that creates plastic pellets from bottles and bags and melts them into asphalt makes for stronger roads and less waste.

tions are some what spared from the dangers of the toxic gases. The asphalt concrete roads are more durable and smoother than the tarred roads. Thus asphalt concrete roads are more environmentally friendly and are of better quality than the tarred roads.

Today, thanks to the innovators, the paving of roads using the plastic wastes are becoming more popular. This trend will definitely contribute towards the control of plastic pollution that is plaguing the world and affecting our ecosystems and are impacting on our environments. Humans and every living thing are suffering from the menaces of the plastic pollution and this innovation came as a great blessing for all of us.

Different methods of plastic road constructions

That being mentioned, let us have a glimpse of how the plastic wastes are turned into road paving materials. Plastic roads are either built entirely of plastic or are composites of plastic mixed into asphalt concrete. The plastic composite asphalt concrete road is different from the standard roads in the respect that the latter is constructed with cement concrete or asphalt concrete. Before the

invention of the entirely plastic roads, the plastic composite roads, which incorporate plastic waste into the asphalt concrete mix have existed in Australia, Indonesia, India, the United Kingdom, the United States and some other countries. They demonstrate characteristics superior to regular asphalt concrete roads; specifically, they show better wear resistance. The implementation of plastics in road constructions also opens a new option for recycling the used consumer plastics.

The idea of a road made entirely with plastic was first hatched in Netherlands. Road engineers in Netherland came up with that idea. After thorough experimenting some towns in that country become the first ones in the world, where some roads are constructed with recycled single-use plastic wastes. Netherland is a country where the bicycles are mostly used by all walks of life; from the Prime Minister down to the lowest levels commute around the city by bicycles. So they first built a bicycle path entirely made of recycled plastic wastes as an experiment. When that proved to be viable they are now planning to build highways with the same technology.

The innovative and unique

concept of building roads made of plastic only, would definitely contribute to solving the overwhelming problem of plastic pollution. The idea of plastic roads was conceived by looking at the problems that municipalities, provinces, regional water authorities and contractors had to deal with on a daily basis. They include societal problems such as plastic waste, extreme rain and snow, consolidation of the subsoil, an increasing need for mobility, as well as the increasingly stringent requirements for future roads.

Unlike other methods of road construction, plastic only roads are constructed by using the prefabricated pallet-like plastic sections that can be assembled like the pieces in a game of LEGO. The plastic pallets have hollowed spaces that can be utilized for storing water; to accommodate electrical and telephone cables, and pipes; thus they serve multipurpose.

Advantages of plastic roads

The advantages of the plastic roads built entirely with recycled consumer single-use plastic wastes are:-

- It is a lightweight prefabricated construction that can be built pretty much the LEGO way, it is four times lighter

than a traditional road structure.

- Faster construction (months shorter) and less maintenance time.
- Higher quality and a longer lifespan. It is homogeneous and prefabricated; the lifespan is two to three times longer than a traditional road paving.
- Little to no maintenance required. The material is virtually impervious to conditions such as the weather and weeds.
- The innovation is considerably more sustainable. The goal is to make the plastic road out of 100 percent recycled plastic and to make it fully reusable.
- Double use of space. The hollow space in the design can be used to store water or as space for cables and pipes.
- The possibility of constant traffic safety and water drainage.
- Everything on and around the road can be prefabricated including road markings and guardrails.
- It is scalable. The concept offers opportunities for further innovation. Examples include solar heated roads, light poles, and traffic loop sensors.
- A great added advantage is

the contribution to the global social problem of plastic waste in an innovative and sustainable way.

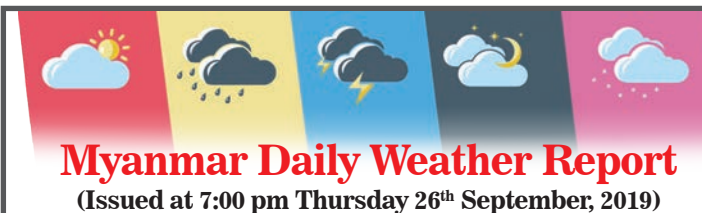
Furthermore, the advantages these plastic roads have over their asphalt counterparts are numerous. The recycled plastic replaces a large portion of the bitumen in asphalt, which has very high carbon concentrations. This fact alone made the plastic roads more desirable. Water, the main cause of potholes, does not penetrate it as easily as with traditional asphalt mixes and it is also more heat resistant. They do not release plastic particles into the environment – unlike some so-called eco-roads that end up doing more harm than good.

Conclusion

Consumer plastic wastes represent a serious problem that is damaging the environment and many species on Earth. Globally, more than 40 species of fish are known to consume plastic; eventually, that plastic reaches the humans' dinner plates. Around 420 million tons of plastic is produced each year, and most of this plastic ends up polluting ecosystems around the world. As the toll of plastic pollution on wildlife becomes more apparent, countries, companies, and individuals are working to curb that problem. Thus utilizing those consumer plastic wastes in road constructions is one of the viable solutions.

Currently a town in Eastern Cape, South Africa is only weeks away from completion of a construction project - the first entirely plastic road for that country. We should also start considering to adopt that road construction technique in our country too. As a starter Mandalay would be the right choice, because plastic roads are smarter and smart cities around the world are starting to build their roads with recycled plastic. For that reason Mandalay has great potentials for the introduction of plastic roads. So, why shouldn't Mandalay be the pioneer in plastic roads in Myanmar?

Reference:-
- *Smart Cities: From Plastic Pollution to Plastic Roads - interestingengineering.com*



BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 27 September, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Southern shan, Chin and Kayah states, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Eastern Shan State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Northern Shan and Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfall in Nay Pyi Taw. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 September, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 September, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 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

Call
Thin Thin May,

● 09251022355
● 09974424848

Arrival of foreign visitors to Myanmar according to figures provided by Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

| Sr | Subject | 2018 (From Jan- uary to Au- gust) | 2019 (From Janu- ary to August) | Increase / De- crease | Percent- age |
|----|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Arrival by air | 835557 | 1120132 | 284575 | +34% |
| 2 | Arrival by cruise ship | 7009 | 6143 | -866 | -12% |
| 3 | Arrival at bor- der gate and travel into the country | 27222 | 79667 | 52445 | +193% |
| | Arrival by visa | 869788 | 1205942 | 336154 | +39% |
| 4 | Visit border only | 1390139 | 1608197 | 218004 | +16% |
| | Total | 2259981 | 2814139 | 554158 | +25% |

Comparison of visitor arrival by nationality

| No. | Country/Region | 2018 (Up to Au- gust) | 2019 (Up to August) | difference | Percent- age |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1 2 | <u>North America</u> | 48311 | 49305 | 994 | 2% |
| | USA | 41097 | 42282 | 1185 | 3% |
| | Canada | 7214 | 7023 | -191 | -3% |
| | <u>Other Americas</u> | 6985 | 6567 | -418 | -6% |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | <u>West Europe</u> | 113544 | 111514 | -2030 | -2% |
| | France | 27518 | 26922 | -596 | -2% |
| | U.K | 24199 | 21787 | -2412 | -10% |
| | Germany | 16843 | 16627 | -215 | -1% |
| | Italy | 9689 | 11503 | 1814 | 19% |
| | Switzerland | 5724 | 5090 | -634 | -11% |
| | Netherlands | 5985 | 6000 | 15 | 0% |
| | Belgium | 3422 | 3209 | -213 | -8% |
| | Austria | 1970 | 2161 | 191 | 10% |
| | Spain | 6891 | 7946 | 1055 | 15% |
| 10 | Others | 11303 | 10269 | -1034 | -9% |
| 1 2 | <u>East Europe</u> | 10996 | 10733 | -263 | -2% |
| | Russia | 3253 | 3013 | -240 | -7% |
| | Others | 7743 | 7720 | -23 | 0% |
| | <u>Africa</u> | 2798 | 2782 | -16 | -1% |
| | <u>Middle East</u> | 3422 | 3535 | 113 | 3% |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 | <u>Asia</u> | 664323 | 1003526 | 339203 | 51% |
| | China | 174924 | 457069 | 282145 | 161% |
| | Thailand | 193845 | 176150 | -17695 | -9% |
| | Korea | 42535 | 75489 | 32954 | 77% |
| | Japan | 65478 | 81273 | 15795 | 24% |
| | Singapore | 36217 | 35288 | -929 | -3% |
| | Viet Nam | 35202 | 34311 | -891 | -3% |
| | India | 28567 | 29558 | 991 | 3% |
| | Malaysia | 30300 | 27568 | -2732 | -9% |
| | Taiwan | 23341 | 25198 | 1857 | 8% |
| | Hong Kong | 92 | 21119 | 21027 | |
| | Macau | 2 | 1664 | 1662 | |
| | Philippines | 10979 | 11544 | 565 | 5% |
| 13 | Others | 22841 | 27295 | 4454 | 20% |
| 1 2 3 | <u>Oceania</u> | 19409 | 17980 | -1429 | -7% |
| | Australia | 16710 | 15533 | -1177 | -7% |
| | New Zealand | 2539 | 2348 | -191 | -8% |
| | Others | 160 | 99 | -61 | -38% |
| | Total | 869788 | 1205942 | 336154 | 39% |

Remarks. Visa entries only

Two Gov’t officials face corruption charges involving hydropower projects

THE Anti-Corruption Commission probed into a corruption report on Director-General U Chit Toe of the Department of Hydropower Implementation and Director U Min Khine of the Design and Printing Sub-Department.

The ACC discovered that U Chit Toe intentionally overlooked delay damages worth Euro 225,930.69 when issuing a taking over certificate for a company handling phase three of the design and construction of underground works of Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project.

The commission also found U Chit Toe to have hired his department’s piece-work labourers instead of the workers of the company that won the tender for two processes of Shweli-3 hydropower project. In addition, he solicited K71.5 million

for paying the department labourers. Concerning U Min Khine, the ACC found that he solicited a total of K 30 million from different related companies as payment for signing a contract above the previously agreed upon price for the hydropower designs he was managing, ensuring FSR processes would operate smoothly, and for trips abroad.

The ACC has found both men had abused their position and authority and opened cases against them under Section 56 of The Anti-Corruption Law in No. 1 Police Station of Zabuthiri Township and Payargon Police Station of Ottara-thiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, and also in Pyigyidagun Township Police Station of Mandalay Region yesterday. —MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

South Korea mayor dumps tonne of trash on beach for clean-up day

SEOUL — A South Korean mayor who dumped a tonne of trash on a clean beach to give environmental campaigners something to pick up has said sorry for his deception.

Officials trucked in litter and waste that had already been collected from rubbish-strewn coasts, and scattered it all over the pristine sand of southwest Jindo.

The following day hundreds of volunteers scoured the shores and bagged up the garbage as part of an event to mark International Coastal Cleanup Day, a global event aimed at countering the scourge of sea-borne waste.

“We brought in waste styrofoam and other coastal trash gathered from nearby areas so the 600 participants could carry out clean-



Waste litters beaches all over the world, but one South Korean mayor found there wasn’t enough on his local coastline, so he trucked in a tonne of rubbish for volunteers to pick up. **PHOTO : AFP**

up activities,” said Lee Dong-jin, Jindo county mayor, in a statement. His office apologised for causing trouble and said the event was meant to “raise awareness about the seriousness of coastal waste”.

Lee said all the litter had been retrieved and taken care of “100 per cent”. He said none had entered the ocean and

there had been “no secondary pollution”.

International Coastal Cleanup Day — which this year fell on September 21 — is one of the largest global movements for oceanic preservation.

Volunteers in around 100 countries took part this year, with beaches in Thailand, Hawaii, Israel and the Philippines also included.—AFP ■

Croc-spotting drone patrol takes off Down Under

CAIRNS — Australia’s rugged crocodile country could become safer thanks to world-first drones which were given a test flight Thursday. Australia’s rugged crocodile country

could become safer thanks to world-first drones which were given a test flight Thursday.

The high-tech drones known as “croc spotters” were tested near Cairns,

Queensland, patrolling along riverbeds and detecting animals as they went.

Armed with what designers say is a world-first artificial intelligence algorithm, they can iden-

tify the reptiles in creeks, rivers and beaches.

Despite the animals’ formidable reputation, attacks from freshwater and saltwater crocodiles on humans are relatively

rare in Australia.

But five attacks in Queensland’s touristic north in 2017-2018, including two fatal attacks, and unusual sightings more than 40 kilometres inland

had authorities concerned.

The technological solution came from adapting newly developed shark-spotting drones to detect a different kind of apex predator.—AFP ■



A file photo dated 15 May, 2007 shows that former French President Jacques Chirac gestures before his handover ceremony in Paris, France. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Former French President Chirac dies at 86

PARIS — Former French President Jacques Chirac died Thursday in Paris at the age of 86, French media reported.

Chirac was elected to the presidency twice, in 1995 and 2002, after serving as prime min-

ister twice and mayor of Paris.

Chirac steered the country into the single European currency, and was also a stalwart opponent of the United States-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. —Kyodo News ■

67 injured as shallow tremor rocks Mirpur, Jhelum and adjoining areas

MIRPUR — At least 67 individuals suffered minor injuries in Azad Jammu and Kashmir's Mirpur city after a shallow tremor hit Mirpur on Thursday. Additionally, Radio Pakistan reported that tremors were also felt in Jhelum and adjoining areas.

According to the medical superintendent of Divisional Headquarters Hospital in Mir-

pur, Dr Farooq Noor, the injuries occurred in Thothal, Kalyal and a katchi abadi in F1 sector of Mirpur.

An AFP reporter in Mirpur described the ground shaking, while Pakistan's top meteorologist, Muhammad Riaz, said the epicentre of the 4.4-magnitude tremor was 12 kilometres deep.

"It's hell. I am running to

save my life," Mohammad Bilal, told AFP moments after the tremor. "I thought most of the building would have tumbled down," said Sagheer Ahmad. "Allah is very kind to us." City residents huddled in the streets, some still barefoot, others reciting verses from the Quran. Some patients were also evacuated from a nearby hospital.—AFP ■

Aleppo film-maker vows to continue showing reality of Syria

LONDON — A Syrian film-maker whose documentary on the siege of Aleppo brought a Cannes audience to tears has said she wants to show the world the reality of her country.

Waad al-Kateab's powerful and intimate film "For Sama" is a love letter to her infant daughter, documenting the desperate

conditions she and her husband were living through, in case they didn't survive.

Charting five years of her life from student protester to wife and young mother in Syria's battle-ravaged second city, it won an emotional standing ovation at the

Cannes film festival in May.

For Kateab, the film is more than the story of one family's struggle.

"It's a realistic depiction of everything that's happening now in the country," she told AFP on Wednesday in London, where the documentary is touring.—AFP ■

Race against time to finish Brazil's particle accelerator

BRASILIA — Brazilian scientists are racing against time to finish building a particle accelerator the size of the Maracana football stadium before government funds run out or it is superseded by rival technology.

The fourth-generation synchrotron, called Sirius, is in the final stage of construction and will be used to make advances in medicine, health, energy and the environment.

Work on the gigantic particle accelerator in Campinas, some 90 kilometers (55 miles) from Sao

Paulo, began in 2015.

Six synchrotron light beams are expected to be operational in 2020 — short of the 13 scientists had hoped for, but sufficient for testing to start.

"Time is very important in science," said Harry Westfahl Jr, scientific director at the Brazilian Synchrotron Light Laboratory (LNLS). "If we could run (the accelerator) today, it would be without a doubt the most efficient synchrotron in the world.

"If it is a decade from now, it will be an excellent synchro-

tron, but not the most competitive one." The particle accelerator measures 518 metres (1,700 feet) in circumference and is expected to cost a total of \$585 million.

So far, the LNLS has received only 30 per cent of the funds for this year from the Ministry of Science and Technology. Funding for scientific research was squeezed under previous governments, but the cuts have deepened since President Jair Bolsonaro took power in January and the future money flow for Sirius is in doubt.—AFP



A man works on a particle accelerator at the Sirius campus. **PHOTO: AFP**



The bottles unearthed in prehistoric children's graves were used to wean infants, experts believe. **PHOTO: AFP**

From the mouths of babes: bottles that weaned prehistoric infants

TOKYO — Archaeologists have uncovered the first evidence that our prehistoric ancestors in Europe weaned their infants much the way we do now, using specialised baby bottles to feed them animal milk.

The discovery casts rare light on childhood and child-rearing in ancient humans — an area that experts say has long been overlooked.

"This is the first direct evidence for what babies and infants were eating and drinking in prehistory," Julie Dunne, the study's lead author and a biomolecular archaeologist at the University of Bristol, told AFP.

The research, published

Thursday in the journal Nature, focuses on three bowls found in children's graves in Iron and Bronze Age burial grounds in modern-day Bavaria.

Two came from a cemetery complex dating to between 800 and 450 BC, and a third from a site dating between 1200 and 800 BC.

The bowls had narrow spouts and in some cases were shaped to look like animals, details that led archaeologists to suspect they were used as bottles to feed children.

To test the theory they extracted samples from inside the vessels and carried out careful chemical analysis.—AFP ■

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British PM faces mounting pressure as parliament reconvenes

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson faced enormous pressure as the parliament re-opened Wednesday after the Supreme Court ruled his act to suspend the parliament for five weeks was unlawful.

Johnson faced MPs in the House of Commons hours after the opening of the parliament as both the main opposition Labour Party and the Scottish Nationalist Party called for him to resign.

Johnson, for his part, accused opposition politicians of attempting to sabotage Britain's exit from the European Union (EU).

Politicians on the Conservative benches gave Johnson a lengthy and prolonged applause, cheering their support for the embattled prime minister.

Johnson said when he prorogued parliament he was following the same process as his Downing Street predecessors.

He said: "I think the (Supreme) court was wrong to pro-



Britain's Attorney General Geoffrey Cox (Front) speaks at the House of Commons in London, Britain, on 25 September, 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

nounce on what is essentially a political question at a time of great national controversy."

"This parliament must stand aside and let the government get Brexit done or bring about a vote of no confidence and face the day of reckoning,"

the prime minister added.

Earlier Wednesday, Attorney General Geoffrey Cox defended the legal advice he had given to Johnson and his advisors about the right to suspend parliament.

Cox, who had also faced

calls to resign, told the MP: "The Government accept the judgment and accept that they lost the case. At all times, the Government acted in good faith and in the belief that their approach was both lawful and constitutional."—Xinhua ■

Netanyahu faces tough odds in forming Israeli government

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched into what could prove to be an impossible mission to form a new government Thursday after the president tasked him with doing so following deadlocked elections.

The mandate from President Reuven Rivlin on Wednesday night gave Netanyahu a temporary victory, but he must now cobble together a coalition without a clear path to a majority.

He will attempt to do so while facing potential corruption charges pending a hearing scheduled for October 2-3, and there are warnings that Israel could soon find itself headed to yet another election — a third since April.

When accepting the mandate, Netanyahu again called on his main opponent Benny



Israeli President Reuven Rivlin gives veteran incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu the potentially impossible task of forming a majority coalition while battling the looming threat of corruption charges. **PHOTO: AFP**

Gantz to join him in a unity government, but his challenger dismissed the premier's negotiating tactics so far as unserious.

Gantz says he should be

prime minister under a unity government since his centrist Blue and White party finished as the largest, while also insisting he will not serve in a govern-

ment with a premier facing a serious indictment.

Blue and White has sought to convince members of Netanyahu's right-wing Likud to replace him as leader and form a unity government together, but there is no sign for now of that happening.

The situation has led Netanyahu's critics to accuse him of effectively holding the country hostage, arguing that a unity coalition would be possible if he would step down.

But Netanyahu points out he has the support of more smaller parties in parliament than Gantz and has vowed not to abandon them in coalition talks.

He has given no indication he would willingly give up the post he has held for more than 13 years in all, a tenure that has made him Israel's longest-serving prime minister. —AFP ■

In Syria, a vast underground hideout housed rebel base

DAMASCUS — Tunnels run for hundreds of metres, connecting caves strewn with mattresses that formed what the Syrian army and its Russian allies say was a vast rebel underground network.

The road leading to the entrance of the tunnels in Lataminah in northwestern Syria is lined with the charred shells of cars and armoured vehicles.

According to the Russian

army, which organised a press tour of the site for dozens of journalists, the network of caves dug into a rocky outcrop could shelter up to 5,000 people.

"We think this network was

dug about four years ago with sophisticated machinery, of a kind which is not available in Syria," a Syrian army colonel said as he led reporters into the tunnels, escorted by Russian demining experts. —AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Chemical plant fire in northern France threatens Seine

CAEN (France) — Thick black smoke billowed over the northern French town of Rouen on Thursday after a spectacular fire broke out at a chemical factory, leading authorities to close schools and warn about possible pollution of the nearby Seine river. Two hundred firefighters and sixty fire vehicles were battling the blaze that erupted at around 2:30 am at a storage facility owned by a manufacturer of industrial lubricants and fuel additives. "Let's not panic about this situation, but we need to be very careful," Interior Minister Christophe Castaner told RTL radio, adding that "there is nothing to make us believe there is a risk from the smoke."

Schools and creches nearby would remain shut, he said, while local authorities have asked people living near the factory to stay at home and everyone else to avoid unnecessary journeys. "The smoke is really striking and wherever you are in Rouen you can see it," Marina Andre, a 25-year-old who works in a bar near the factory, told AFP.—AFP ■

Trump calls impeachment inquiry a "disgraceful thing" after release of Ukraine phone call transcript

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump said Wednesday House Democrats' decision to launch a formal impeachment inquiry into him was a "disgraceful thing," shortly after the White House released a memo of a phone conversation between the president and his Ukrainian counterpart.

Speaking to reporters in New York, Trump said the impeachment inquiry was "the single greatest witch hunt in American history."

"It's a disgraceful thing," the president said. "The letter was a great letter, meaning the letter revealing the call." The White House earlier in the day released a rough transcript of the phone call on July 25 between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.—Xinhua ■

Huawei founder hints at problems with access to western finance

SHENZHEN — The founder of embattled tech giant Huawei said Thursday that the firm’s financing from western banks was not “very smooth”, but insisted the group would resume growth in 2022 despite biting US sanctions.

Amid a broad trade war with Beijing, Washington added the Chinese tech giant to a commerce department “blacklist” in May, imperilling the firm’s access to critical US components and software.

Speaking at a panel discussion organised by the company at its headquarters in Shenzhen, southern China, CEO and founder Ren Zhengfei admitted the US sanctions had affected Huawei’s financing.

“In the past we used to get financing from western banks, now the western bank financing pipeline has slowly been not so smooth,” Ren said.

“So we’ve changed to trying domestic banks,” he told the audience.

Huawei planned to raise up to 30 billion yuan (\$4 billion) in its first domestic bond issues, Chinese business news magazine Caixin reported earlier this month.

Ren said Thursday he was not sure of the precise figure.

The tech giant is the world leader in high-speed 5G mobile communications equipment and a top smartphone producer.

The firm is ramping up production of its 5G base stations, Ren said.

“A large number of western companies have already received our products that don’t have US components in them,” Ren told academics and reporters at the forum, saying he believed customers had faith in Huawei as a supplier. Ren said operations remained at full-throttle, but added “there will be no huge increase” in business next year.—AFP ■

Japan ministers, businesses hail trade pact with US

TOKYO — Japanese government ministers and business leaders on Thursday hailed the newly reached bilateral trade agreement with the United States that will cut tariffs on industrial and farm products.

The deal “has great significance as it ruled out protectionist steps that could distort global supply chains,” Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Isshu Sugawara told reporters.

Under the agreement, reached between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Donald Trump on Wednesday in New York, Japan secured an assurance that it will remain exempt from higher US auto

tariffs. “It will contribute to the stable development of Japan-U.S. trade, centering on the auto industry,” Sugawara said. The two countries will continue negotiations to eliminate US tariffs on Japanese cars and auto parts.

Akio Toyoda, president of Toyota Motor Corp. who heads the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, also welcomed the pact. “The environment for free and fair trade in the auto sector will be maintained and reinforced,” Toyoda told a meeting of the industry body, which was attended by Sugawara.

“Every (Japanese) automaker continues to make efforts to be the best



Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Isshu Sugawara. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

auto manufacturer in every country,” Toyoda also said at a press conference later in the day.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Taku Eto said he hopes the trade deal will help increase Japanese beef exports to the United States as it expanded the low-tariff quota for Japanese beef.

In a reprieve for Japanese rice farmers in what is a politically sensitive area, the agreement did not include a tariff-free quota for American rice that would cause an influx of cheaper products. “Now producers can feel safe,” said Toru Nakaya, president of the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives.—Kyodo News ■

ADB lowers S Korea’s 2019 growth outlook to 2.1 pct

SEOUL — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered South Korea’s 2019 growth outlook to 2.1 per cent, according to South Korean Finance Ministry.

The revised forecast was down from 2.4 per

cent estimated in July, citing the deepening of the global trade dispute and economic slowdown in major economies, the Ministry of Economy and Finance said.

The 2020 growth forecast for the South Korean

economy was also cut from 2.5 per cent to 2.4 per cent.

The country’s real gross domestic product (GDP), adjusted for inflation, expanded 1.0 per cent in the second quarter from three months earlier, after unexpectedly dimin-

ishing 0.4 per cent in the first quarter.

The Bank of Korea (BOK) slashed this year’s growth outlook for the economy from 2.5 per cent to 2.2 per cent in July. The central bank cut its target rate from 1.75 per cent to

1.50 per cent in the month.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also lowered this year’s growth forecast for the economy from 2.4 per cent to 2.1 per cent last week.—Xinhua ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (024N/S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (024N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-09-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
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Bank Holiday
All Banks will be closed on 1st (Tuesday) October 2019 “BANK HOLIDAY” under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO PROVIDE PROJECT ASSURANCE SERVICES FOR LANDMARK PROJECT AND INTERNATIONAL HOTEL PROJECT
1. Myanma Railways has signed Build Operate Transfer (BOT) concession agreements with Meeyahta Development Limited (MDL) and Peninsula Yangon Limited (PYL) on 23rd July 2016 to implement International Hotel Project and Landmark Project respectively, which are located at No. 372, Bogoyoke Aung San Road, Pabedan Township, Yangon Region.
2. To enable monitoring and controlling of the projects implementation as stated above, the Project Management Unit (PMU)/ Project Assurance Committee (PAC) was formed.
3. The Myanma Railways (MR) would like to invite reputable local and/ or international Project Assurance Services Company (PASC) to assist PMU/ PAC and to undertake Project Assurance activities. The objectives of Project Assurance activities are to monitor validity and viability of the projects in terms of progress to date and prediction of project outcome. The Quality (specification), Time (schedule) and Cost always have to be bounded to ensure ongoing viability.
4. The PASC is responsible to the Myanma Railways (Owner of the projects, shall be called Project Owner hereon) for the above stated projects. The projects have been started from (1/11/2018) and the construction period is expected to be four years and any Extension of Time (EOT) granted thereon. The Project Assurance activities are required to be carried out for the rest of the construction period including EOT (if any).
5. EOI Documents and Background information of the proposed Project Assurance Services Company (PASC) could be obtained from the Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Phone; +95 1 291985, 291994 with effect from 23rd September 2019 (Monday) during office hours.
6. The completed proposed EOI Documents shall be submitted at above mentioned address not later than 14:00 hours on 28th October 2019 (Monday). (Submission by mail, Email or Courier Services shall NOT be entertained.)
7. Enquiries can be made by contacting U Kyaw Moe Zaw, Deputy General Manager (Supply), Tel +95 9 5191309 / +95 1 291994 or U Aung Thu Latt, General Manager (Lower Myanmar), Tel +95 9 5009653 / +95 1 298594.
Managing Director
Myanma Railways

Trump whistleblower complaint ‘very troubling’, say lawmakers

NEW YORK — A whistleblower report that has prompted an impeachment inquiry into Donald Trump contains “very troubling” allegations, US lawmakers have said, after the president dismissed the case against him as a “joke.”

Democrats have accused Trump of a “mafia-style shake-down” of his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky by urging a probe into his rival Joe Biden — prompting the complaint by an anonymous US intelligence official earlier in September.

That document has now been declassified, Republican Congressman and House Intelligence Committee member Chris Stewart said late on Wednesday, and CNN reported that it could be released as soon as Thursday morning.

Top Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer told reporters the complaint was “very troubling” — an assessment echoed by Republican Senator Ben Sasse, who said that “there’s obviously lots that’s very troubling



US President Donald Trump insisted he exerted “no pressure” on Kiev — a claim echoed by Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky, who appeared side-by-side with Trump at a long-planned meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. **PHOTO: AFP**

there.”

Trump struck an uncharacteristically subdued tone on Wednesday at his first news conference since Democrats launched an official impeachment

inquiry. “They are getting hit hard on this witch hunt because when they look at the information, it’s a joke,” said the president.

A more defiant Trump had earlier insisted he exerted “no

pressure” on Kiev — a claim echoed by Zelensky, who appeared side-by-side with the US leader at a long-planned meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.—AFP ■

US military struggles to weed out soldiers with far-right ties

WASHINGTON — The arrest of a US soldier with far-right sympathies who is suspected of plotting an attack on American soil to spark “chaos” has highlighted a challenge for the Pentagon: purging its ranks of extremists.

Jarrett Smith, a private in the US Army based at Fort Riley in Kansas, was arrested and charged in federal court with one count of distributing information related to explosives after offering a detailed explanation to an

undercover FBI agent.

Smith also expressed interest in targeting members of the leftist group Antifa and heading to Ukraine to fight with a far-right paramilitary group, the FBI says.

But he is hardly the first

US soldier to reveal far-right or ultra-nationalist leanings — and some fear the US military is being used as a training ground by extremist groups.

“Everything old is new again,” says Brian Levin, a professor of criminal justice at California State University, San Bernardino, and the director of the school’s Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism.

“There is a renewed effort within part of the white supremacist world to focus on the military because they have such valuable skills,” he added, pointing to Smith’s case. The links between the far-right and the US armed forces first came to light in the 1980s when Vietnam veteran Louis Beam came home, joined the Ku Klux Klan and had links to the Order, an underground neo-Nazi group that called for the overthrow of the US government.—AFP ■



The Pentagon says it has a “multi-level approach” to weed out recruits with potential far-right sympathies, but the task is complex. **PHOTO: AFP**

US authorities seize five tons of cocaine from submarine

WASHINGTON — A homemade submarine carrying more than five tons of cocaine was intercepted in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of South America, the US Coast Guard said.

The 39-foot-long (12 meter)

vessel had previously been detected by maritime surveillance, according to a statement published Tuesday. The Coast Guard boarded the self-propelled submersible on September 1 in international waters with the aid

of the Colombian navy, the statement added. On board, the Coast Guard discovered about 5.4 tons of cocaine, with a market value of more than \$165 million.

Four suspected drug smugglers were arrested during the

operation. Along with planes and swift boats, South American drug cartels — particularly from Colombia — use somewhat rudimentary submarines to transport drugs to Mexico and on to the United States.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran seizes 8.8 tonnes of narcotics destined for Europe

TEHRAN — Iran has seized 8.8 tonnes of narcotics destined for Europe and uncovered one of the country’s largest trafficking rings, police said Thursday.

“This huge narcotics shipment, which was hidden in a petrol tanker and reached here via Iran’s eastern border, was supposed to be offloaded and then smuggled to European countries,” state television reported from the northwestern city of Urmia, not far from the Turkish border. —AFP ■

Clerics force cancellation of Beirut gay pride opening

BEIRUT — The opening concert of Beirut gay pride week was cancelled under pressure from religious institutions in Lebanon, organisers said.

Members of the LGBT community enjoy comparatively more freedom in Lebanon than in most other Middle East countries but still have no rights and face constant harassment.

The first gay pride event in Beirut was held in 2017 but consisted mostly of conferences and workshops, whereas the opening of this year’s edition was due to be a concert at one of the capital’s best known venues.—AFP ■

Student lay dead in New Zealand university dorm for two months

CHRISTCHURCH — A teenager lay dead in his campus dorm room for up to two months, a New Zealand university said Thursday, with the young man’s body only discovered after fellow residents complained of the smell.

The remains of the first year University of Canterbury student were so badly decomposed that specialist disaster investigators were brought in to identify them.

“Clearly there’s been quite a big failure here,” New Zealand Education Minister Chris Hipkins said. “And if that means that things need to change to make sure this sort of thing doesn’t happen again in the future, then we will do that.”—AFP ■

US Congress moving of HK rights bill “gross interference”: China

HONG KONG — China on Thursday expressed dismay and threatened repercussions after US congressional committees passed a Hong Kong human rights bill that paves the way for possible US sanctions on the territory.

The foreign relations committees in both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act separately Wednesday.

If enacted, it would empower the US government to bar entry of officials involved in oppression and to freeze their assets in the United States. It would also require the secretary of state to regularly verify whether Hong Kong is sufficiently autonomous to justify special treatment by the United States for bilateral agreements and programs.

“This act confuses black and white in disregard of facts,” Chi-



A Chinese flag flies in Hong Kong. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

nese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in a statement. “China expresses strong indignation and firm opposition to that.”

He called the act “a gross interference in China’s domestic affairs, which fully reveals the ill intentions of some people in the United States to mess up Hong

Kong and contain China’s development.”

Geng warned the United States to immediately stop advancing the bill to avoid further damaging the China-US relations. “Any attempt by the US to harm China’s interests will be met with forceful fightback.”

— Kyodo News ■

Indonesia braces for more violence after law-change protests

JAKARTA — Hundreds of Indonesians gathered in several major centres across the archipelago Thursday as authorities braced for more violent opposition to a major overhaul of the criminal code.

The unrest was sparked by a proposed bill that includes dozens of law changes -- from criminalising pre-marital sex and restricting sales of contraceptives, to making it illegal to insult the president.

Officials said Thursday hundreds of students were arrested after a night of street battles in downtown Jakarta between molotov-cocktail throwing protesters and riot police.

Police shot tear gas into crowds of mostly high schoolers

in the centre of the capital, while a mass of students stormed and occupied the local parliament building in Padang city on Sumatra island.

Fresh rallies were expected Thursday as people began gathering in Jakarta and Sumatra’s Aceh province.

The demonstrations across the Southeast Asian archipelago are among the biggest since mass street protests in 1998 brought down the three-decade Suharto dictatorship.

There has also been a backlash against a separate bill that critics fear would dilute the powers of Indonesia’s corruption-fighting agency — known as the KPK — including its ability to wire-tap graft suspects.—AFP ■



A building goes up in flames in Jakarta as a protester hurls rocks at police during violent demonstrations against the government’s proposed change to the criminal code. PHOTO: AFP

Little hope for peace as Afghans prepare for weekend vote

KABUL — Afghans go to the polls Saturday to vote in a presidential election that few expect will have much effect in bringing peace to the war-torn country.

With the Taliban threatening violence against anyone who participates, and concern that the widespread fraud which blighted previous elections will resurface, analysts fear a low turnout will seriously undermine the result.

“The security threats, coupled with a trust issue in the election’s transparency, may

translate into a very low turnout,” Afghanistan analyst Ahmad Saeedi told AFP ahead of the vote.

“That would undermine the legitimacy of the election process and any future government that may come out of it.”

The stakes are high.

Whatever the turnout, Afghans are choosing a leader who will almost certainly have to negotiate with the Taliban at some point — even though the hardline Islamist group is doing everything it can to undermine

the process.

Eighteen names were originally on the ballot, but the poll is considered a two-horse race between current President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, the country’s chief executive.

Both claimed victory in the 2014 election — a vote so tainted by fraud and violence that it led to a constitutional crisis and forced then-US President Barack Obama to push for a compromise that saw Abdullah awarded the subordinate role.—AFP ■



Afghan presidential candidates Abdullah Abdullah (left) and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar take part in a presidential debate at Tolo News TV station in Kabul. Current President Ashraf Ghani faced derision when he declined to participate. PHOTO: AFP

M6.5 quake in eastern Indonesia claims 20 lives

JAKARTA — A magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck eastern Indonesia on Thursday morning, killing at least 20 people and injuring over 100 others, authorities said.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Agus Wibowo said many of the casualties in Maluku Province were caused by building collapses. The number of displaced people has reached about 2,000.

The 8:46 a.m. quake occurred just off Seram, the prov-

ince’s largest and main island, at a depth of 18 kilometers, according to the US Geological Survey, which monitors global seismic activity.

The temblor posed no tsunami risks, Indonesia’s Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysical Agency said. But local media reported that hundreds of people fled to higher ground in Ambon, the provincial capital on nearby Ambon Island, for fear of tsunami.—Kyodo News ■

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Women's Football Invitational Cup: Myanmar to face Brazil

AT the invitation of the Chinese Football Association, the Myanmar women's national football team will compete in the Four Nations Women's Football Invitational Cup, which will be held from 4 to 12 November in Chongqing, China, according to a statement issued by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar will gain much experience, as it will face Brazil, which is placed 10th in FIFA ranking, during the tourney, according to officials.

The Brazil women's team finished the 1999 World Cup in the third place, and was ranked second in 2007, losing to Germany in the final by 2-0. Brazil also won the silver medal twice

in the Olympic Games — in 2004 and 2008.

Currently, team Myanmar is placed 46th in FIFA ranking. During the tourney, Myanmar will play three world-level teams: Brazil, host China, and New Zealand.

Host China team is 16th in FIFA ranking, and is one of the strongest women's football teams in Asia.

New Zealand team's FIFA ranking is 23, and the team had even qualified for the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup, which was held in China.

The competition with world class teams will help prepare team Myanmar for the upcoming 2019 South East Asian Games,



The Brazil women's national football team pose for a group photo at an international football match.

PHOTO: FIFA

which will be held from 25 November to 9 December at the Bi-

nan Football Stadium in Laguna, the Philippines, according to the

Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Shan United defender Nanda Kyaw (red jersey) receiving the award for the Best Player in the Myanmar National League for August and September. PHOTO: MNL

Shan United bags MNL awards for August, September

SHAN United, the defending champion of the Myanmar National League (MNL) 2019, has taken the awards for the best player and coach, declared by the organizing committee of the league for the months of August and September.

Nanda Kyaw, the left side defender of the team, has been declared the best player, and head coach U Aung Naing has been deemed the best coach for the month of August and September by the MNL.

An awards ceremony was held for the team on 24 September, before the General Aung San Shield final match between Shan United and Yangon United.

U Aung Naing got a cash award of K100,000, while Nanda Kyaw received K150,000.

Under U Aung Naing, the team won all four matches it played in August and September.

Shan United defender Nanda Kyaw scored two goals for the team and made the best four goal assists to his teammates during the period.

After winning the 2019 edition of the Myanmar National League this month, Shan United has been recorded as the very first team to win the MNL Championship title with an undefeated result in history.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Salah, Egypt fall out again after vote in FIFA awards goes astray

CAIRO: Egypt's football association has asked FIFA for clarification after its vote for national icon Mohamed Salah was dropped from the final tally for the world's best player award.

The results are based on the votes of national coaches, team captains and members of the press in selecting their top three players of the year.

When FIFA released its results, Egypt was curiously absent from the final vote count.

In comments online blame was aimed at Egypt's football federation for failing to ensure Salah would be given the max-

imum chance in all votes, although he eventually finished fourth, 20 votes behind winner Lionel Messi.

Salah hinted at his disappointment through his social media activity, changing his Twitter bio to say he only plays for Liverpool and removing any mention of his affiliation to Egypt.

To add insult to injury, Hany Daniel, the Egyptian journalist in the voting, picked Senegalese forward Sadio Mane, Salah's Liverpool team-mate, ahead of the Egyptian striker who he relegated to third place behind Cristiano Ronaldo.

Messi won with 46 votes while Salah scored only 26 in fourth. Salah posted a conciliatory tweet after saying "no matter how much they try to change my love for you and your people", referring to Egypt, "they won't be able to".

Hours after the controversy, the Egyptian Football Association said it had asked FIFA for an explanation about why its vote "was not approved".

The statement released late Tuesday said the association had sent its votes officially to FIFA on August 15 and they were registered on August 19.—AFP ■



Salah hinted at his disappointment through his social media activity. PHOTO: AFP