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Myanmar Hluttaw delegation leaves for ROK on goodwill visit



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat seen off by dignitaries at Yangon International Airport in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A MYANMAR Hluttaw goodwill delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat left Yangon for the Republic of Korea at 11: 15 pm yesterday at the invitation of ROK's National Assembly Speaker Mr Moon Hee-sang.

They were seen off by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint and Hluttaw representatives, Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa and officials from the Hluttaw office at the Yangon

International Airport.

U T Khun Myat is accompanied by Pyithu Hluttaw Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee Chairman U Tin Htwe, Pyithu Hluttaw Electricity and Energy Development Committee Chairman U Kyi Moe Naing and Py-

ithu Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Implementation Committee members U Kyin Wan and U Tun Kyaw and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office. — MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin briefs AUMM on Myanmar's cooperation with ASEAN to facilitate repatriation process

THE Alternate Leader of Myanmar Delegation to the 74th UNGA and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin apprised the United Nations Secretary General and ASEAN Foreign Ministers on Myanmar's cooperation with ASEAN in addressing the issue of Rakhine at the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting (AUMM) held on 28 September 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. The President of the seventy-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Chef de Cabinet to the Secretary-General and UN high-level officials also attended the meeting.

The Union Minister made the brief intervention in response to United Nations Secretary General's remarks calling for ASEAN to take an active and effective role in resolving the massive displacement of people from Rakhine State and the root causes of the problem at the Meeting.

In his response, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin explained that the issue of Rakhine is one of the complex challenges faced by Myanmar on its nascent transition to democracy and

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Meeting 43/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 43/2019

MEETING 43/2019 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 Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) 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 Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

— MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

International Rubber Conference 2019 discusses boosting this industry



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu addresses the opening ceremony of the International Rubber Conference 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



The International Rubber Conference 2019 was organized at Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with the aims to promote the market of its products.

The opening ceremony of conference was attended by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, the deputy ministers, members of Hluttaw Affairs committees, agriculture ministers from State/Region governments, Permanent Secretaries, directors-general, departmental officials, Secretary of the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries Mr Nguyen Ngoc Bich, General Secretary of International Rubber Research and Development Board Dr Abdul Aziz, the representatives from member countries of these associations, members of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association and rubber experts from local and foreign organizations.

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu

made an opening remark at the ceremony, with saying the sustainable development in natural rubber plantation to avoid degradations of forests, biodiversity and ecosystem.

He also said to support the under-20-acres rubber planters who contribute over 90 per cent of rubber plantation in the country.

The Union Minister also suggested to increase the export substitution for rubber products to expand market for rubber planters and create more job opportunities while the demand is surging in tires for motorbikes and automobiles.

He also advised to adopt policies for sustainable development of this industry, establish rubber boards as in the countries with thriving rubber plantation, generate human resources, cooperate with local and international organizations, support in production of high-quality rubber, providing assistance to small-scaled rubber planters, conduct training courses, disseminate knowledge and carry out researches continuously.

He also highlighted the importance of upgrading research facilities and laboratories, growing high-yield and locally adapted rubber varieties, and establishment of research plantation.

U Aung Myint Htoo, the chairman of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, discussed the production and market situation, followed by the extended greetings of Secretary of IRRDB Dr Abdul Aziz.

After the opening ceremony, the Union Ministers and the dignitaries looked around the booths in the event. The two-day conference will be organized till 2 October, with reading 85 papers by rubber experts from Myanmar, China, India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Malaysia, Nigeria, Indonesia and Cambodia.

Myanmar joined ANRPC and became a member of IRRDB in December 2018 as the Department of Agriculture sought to promote rubber industry and cooperate with these members countries from expanding market to doing research. —MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

World Maritime Day commemorated in Yangon

YANGON commemorated World Maritime Day at Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel yesterday morning with Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, U Kyaw Myo, delivering speech on the occasion.

Organized by the International Maritime Organization, the commemoration is held annually in all member nations to promote vessel safety and security and also to raise awareness on preserving the marine environment, said the Deputy Minister.

The theme for 2019's World Maritime Day, an official United Nations day, is, 'Empowering Women in the Maritime Community'. As such, it aims to reduce gender discrimination in all lines of work related to maritime travel and the fishery sector.

The Deputy Minister said

ships in Myanmar's waters are already being managed by women who have graduated from the World Maritime University and International Maritime Law Institute.

He said there are 1.2 million people working on ships across the globe yet women make up only 2 per cent of that number. Furthermore, 94 per cent work on cruise ships and the remaining 6 per cent work on cargo ships. There will soon be more opportunities for Myanmar's women to legally work on ships, said the Deputy Minister.

Next, Dr Jose Thomas Matheickal and officials from IMO delivered opening remarks and MTTC Asia's Chairman, Prof Jin Yongxing, delivered an address. This was followed by a slideshow presentation Myanmar's maritime sector. —MNA

■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo presents a gift to MTTC Asia's Chairman Prof Jin Yongxing at the ceremony in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin briefs AUMM on Myanmar’s cooperation with ASEAN to facilitate repatriation process

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the government is striving through a holistic approach for long term stability and sustainable development in the State. The government is now focusing on expediting repatriation and creating a conducive condition for the returnees and the local ethnic peoples in cooperation with ASEAN, UN and the development partners.

The Union Minister informed that Myanmar has been working closely with ASEAN Secretary General’s Secretariat team and the AHA Centre in facilitating the repatriation process. The ASEAN-ERAT Team has come up with its Preliminary Needs Assessment report in May 2019 with three recommendations in identifying the areas of cooperation. Myanmar and ASEAN have put in place a Technical Working Group which is now focussing on implementation of the three recommendations.

He added that the meeting that ASEAN had also joined the Myanmar High-level delegation’s visit to Cox’s Bazaar to explain the displaced persons to explain about the arrangements made for their return. He assured that his work of ASEAN AHA team will not substitute but complement and reinforce the ongoing work of the UNHCR and UNDP. He also informed that ASEAN ERAT team was also present together with Myanmar officials at the reception centre



Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin. PHOTO: MNA

in Rakhine State on the agreed date of the repatriation on 22 August 2019. Unfortunately, no one was sent back from Bangladesh on that day. But there were over 230 peoples who have come back voluntarily with their own arrangements and are resuming their normal lives in safe and secure condition.

The Union Minister also pointed out that there are many obstacles, including destructive movements of ARSA in the Cox’s Bazaar camps hindering repatriation and exploiting the plights of displaced persons for their political agenda.

Smooth and successful repatriation requires genuine

... there are many obstacles, including destructive movements of ARSA in the Cox’s Bazaar camps hindering repatriation and exploiting the plights of displaced persons for their political agenda.

political will and committed efforts as well as strict adherence to the signed Agreements. He reaffirmed that Myanmar is fully committed to take back the verified returnees based on the bilateral Agreements signed with Bangladesh and the trilateral agree-

ment signed with UNHCR and UNDP. The Union Minister added that Myanmar has been making efforts in creating conducive environment for voluntary, safe and dignified return of verified displaced persons in cooperation with ASEAN, UN

and our bilateral partners. As it is a migrant-related issue involving the two neighbors, bilateral mean is the only viable way to resolve the issue. The international community ignores the need to address the main obstacles for repatriation which is the threat of ARSA terror group to those wishing to return. Recently, the DW TV reported the dangerous movements of ARSA in the Cox’s Bazaar Camp. Bangladesh must not allow ARSA’s activities on its soil which can become a security threat to not only to Myanmar but also to Bangladesh and beyond. There is an urgent need to create a safe environment for the displaced persons in Cox’s Bazaar to express their free will to return.

The Union Minister also informed the meeting that the recent tripartite meeting held in New York has agreed to set up an informal working group meeting among the Ambassadors of Myanmar and China in Dhaka and Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh to discuss about repatriation. If one wishes to make Rakhine a secure and stable environment for the returnees, the government’s capacity to provide security and basic services for all communities must be strengthened not weakened. To that end, he concluded by welcoming the constructive support of partners willing to help with sincerity in resolving the problem. —MNA

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Head of Asia, Pacific Public Sector Operations at EIB

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Ms Angela Marcarino Paris, Head of Asia and Pacific Public Sector Operations at European Investment Bank, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they openly discussed matters related to the rule of law and justice project, legal reforms to attract, foreign investment in Myanmar, legal affairs needed

for EIB’s loan for Myanmar and technical assistance provided to Myanmar and internal procedures. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with Ms Angela Marcarino Paris, Head of Asia and Pacific Public Sector Operations at European Investment Bank, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister U Soe Win receives outgoing Czech Ambassador



Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win meets outgoing Ambassador of the Czech Republic Mr Jaroslav Dolecek at the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win received outgoing Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Myanmar, Mr Jaroslav Dolecek,

who is leaving Myanmar after completion of his tour of duty in Myanmar at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they

cordially discussed matters related to banking, tax reform and development of Myanmar. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

UMFCCI, US-ASEAN Business Council delegation meet in Yangon



Members from Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and US-ASEAN Business Council delegation hold a meeting in UMFCCI office in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and US-ASEAN Business Council delegation held a meeting in UMFCCI office yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting the visiting delegation discussed about cooperating to increase US investment in Myanmar; increasing job opportunities, development of basic infrastructures, to be on par with the emerging market and industrial development.

US-ASEAN Business Council President & CEO Mr Alexander C Feldman said the main

point was to increase investment. The delegation was made up of many US companies and efforts will be made toward increasing trade and cooperation he added.

The discussion also covers the delegation's desire for rapid development of telecommunication, insurance and wholesale sectors in Myanmar.

US businesses were to participate more in Myanmar's digital technology, auto industry, small and medium enterprises sectors.

US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Scot Marciel accom-

panied US-ASEAN Business Council delegation consisting of business persons and representatives of Abbott, Amazon, Bower Group Asia, Chervon, Chubb, Coca-Cola, Diageo, Ford, Google, Jhpiego, MasterCard and Visa to the meeting.

From UMFCCI side UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win, Vice Presidents, central executive committee members, executive committee members, local business persons and representatives were in attendance.

—UMFCCI (Translated by Zaw Min)

Filming of Aung San movie commences in Yangon

CREW of Aung San movie started shooting at the National Museum on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday morning.

On the first day, Thiha Thana (Sihasana) or Lion throne was on camera by setting up lighting for the shots from various angles for the opening of this film.

Director Lu Min of the film said, "We start Aung San movie filming today by shooting the Lion Throne for the opening of the film. As this is the original throne, we will try to convey the message of ethical ruling of ancient Myanmar kings."

No actors performed on the opening day of the shooting.

The director also said, "It took times to begin shooting of this film. We faced many challenges, but we are determined to work for the film till the final production. The next shootings will be taken in Yangon University."

On 1 October, the shootings will take place in Yangon University, especially at the Bago Hall where Bogoyoke Aung San stayed as a

university student.

The following filming will move to Mandalay and Inwa to present about the period of Bo Min Yaung, the grandfather of Bogoyoke Aung San, during the colonial time. The childhood life of Bogoyoke Aung San will be shot in Natmauk and Yenangyoung townships in central Myanmar.

It is expected to finalize the good quality film in five months.

Led by Director Academy Lu Min, the crew of production for this film includes members of story/script compilation sub committees, Casting Director Alinkar Kyawswa Academy Artist Soe Moe, Production Designer Academy U Tun Aung Zaw, Art Director Academy Soe Kyaw San.

Casts in the film are Kyaw Kyaw Myo for the character of Bogoyoke Aung San, Nant Zarchi Lin for Daw Khin Kyi, Academy Yan Aung, Academy Ye Aung, Academy Min Oo, Academy Khant Si Thu, Nai Nai, Nyo Min Lwin, Pyay Zin, Moe Hay Ko and other supporting actors.— MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Aung San movie being shot at the National Museum on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Indonesian inmate dies in Kawthoung Prison

An Indonesian citizen who was serving a jail term in the Kawthoung Prison died on 29 September while undergoing treatment at a local hospital, prison officials said yesterday.

Zuel Phard Li, 34, passed

away on Sunday evening while receiving treatment for haemorrhoids at the Kawthoung People's Hospital.

He had been jailed for fishing illegally in Myanmar's territorial waters.— Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

Need to raise tourism promotion budget to increase national revenue: Yangon govt

By Nyein Nyein

TO increase the revenue of the nation, a bigger budget needs to be allocated for tourism promotion activities, according to Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, the Yangon Region Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs and the deputy chairman of the regional tourism committee.

“Tourism revenue can contribute to the economic development of the country. Therefore, we need a somewhat bigger budget to promote the tourism industry. If the Ministry forwards a project proposal which clearly states the budget spending in each sector in the industry, the Hluttaw can screen the proposal to debate and approve it. This way, the tourism sector can improve. However, the current budget allocation for the tourism sector is extremely low,” she said.

“The tourism sector can create job opportunities and also earn revenue for the country. When the budget was allocated, only a small amount went to the sector,” she added.

“More than 1 million tourists enter the country per year. We



A tourist couple visiting Myanmar's national landmark Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

can earn around US\$1.3 billion. But, budget spending in this sector is less than 1 per cent of the national income,” said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo.

“To boost the tourism sector, good customer service is first priority. We are working with 11 associates to set ratings of ho-

tels, motels, and restaurants,” she said.

“Myanmar has many tourist sites. However, good customer service is important to attract tourists. We need to make sure they feel comfortable and get a good service. Skilled labour is also needed to provide healthy

and clean service to customers in hotels and restaurants. The 11 associates are preparing to set the ratings of hotels and restaurants to ensure food safety,” said the minister.

Mostly, Chinese tourists have entered the country this year. Over 740,000 travellers vis-

ited Yangon in the seven months till July, an increase of 100,000 compared to the year-ago period, according to U Naing Win, the director of the Yangon Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Earlier, the hotels and tourism sector was regulated by the Union government. Under the Myanmar Tourism Law 2018, the sector has been decentralized and more power given to the regional and state governments, said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein is the chairman of the regional tourism committee. The members of the committee include officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Union of Myanmar Travel Association, Civil Society Organizations, and Non-Governmental Organizations, including the Union of Myanmar Travel Association. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Ease of Doing Business 2020: Myanmar among top 20 improvers

MYANMAR has been ranked as one of the top 20 improvers in Doing Business 2020 by the World Bank, based on the number of reforms and the degree by which the country's ease of doing business score has improved.

Myanmar implemented five initiatives that enhanced its business environment. The city of Yangon imposed stronger construction quality controls by introducing stricter qualification requirements for architects and engineers, and invested in its water and sanitation infrastructure. Additionally, Myanmar launched an online company registry platform, merging several procedures and reducing the need for in-person interaction. The country also made property registration faster by streamlining deed registration and appraisal. In addition, Myanmar courts started publishing performance measurement reports, and a new company law strengthened minority investor protection by mandating greater disclosure

of transactions with interested parties, increasing director liability and requiring greater corporate transparency, the World Bank stated.

Doing Business has selected economies that have implemented reforms to make it easier to do business in three or more of the 10 areas included in this year's ease of doing business score.

Doing Business has also sorted economies on the basis of the increase in their ease of doing business score due to reforms from the previous year.

“The list of top-20 improvers does not fully reflect an economy's attractiveness for businesses, and is based purely on the improvements across 10 different regulatory areas. The choice of the most improved economies is determined by the largest improvements in the ease of doing business score among those with at least three reforms,” the World Bank stated.

The list of the best performing or best ranked economies

will be disclosed at the Doing Business 2020 launch on 24 October.

In Doing Business 2019 rankings, Myanmar had been placed a lowly 171 among 190 countries.

To improve the ease of doing business ranking and provide precise answers to the tricky questions posed by the World Bank, Myanmar held coordination meetings for the public and private sectors at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Last year, the World Bank determined a country's ease of doing business rank based on 11 indicators: starting a business, obtaining construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, resolving insolvency, and managing labour, all of which are incorporated into those indicators in 2018.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Lower imports drag down trade deficit to \$1.1 bln

A fall in imports over the past eleven-and-a-half months of the current financial year has helped narrow Myanmar's trade deficit to US\$1.1 billion, a significant drop from a trade gap of \$3.23 billion registered in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October, 2018 and 20 September, 2019, Myanmar's external trade decreased to \$34 billion from \$34.5 billion recorded in the same period of the previous FY.

In the October-September period, exports were estimated at \$16.45 billion and imports were valued at \$17.5 billion. Compared to the previous fiscal, exports have increased by \$792 million, while imports have fallen by \$1.3 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and

finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, CMP raw materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are rising, the country's reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening.

The government is trying to cut the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports.

Myanmar's trade deficit was pegged at \$1.3 billion in the last mini-budget period, \$3.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$5.3 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization.—Mon Mon ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Municipal water supply only meant for household use in Yangon: YCDC

By Nyein Nyein

THE WATER supplied by the municipal authorities in Yangon Region is only meant for household use, and not for drinking, said U Sein Ohn, a member of the No 9 water supply and water distribution team, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

“Our water supply department does not supply water for drinking purposes; the water is only meant for household use. So, the water we provide is merely for domestic use. We don’t say we are supplying drinking water,” he added.

“Although we are supplying water for domestic use, people can boil the water, if they wish to use it for drinking. We have also been drinking municipal water

our entire life — for more than 60 years,” said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

To implement a public private partnership (PPP) system for water distribution in Yangon, private companies were invited to submit expressions of interest (EOIs) on 27 August, according to the tender committee of the YCDC.

Local and foreign or joint venture companies need to submit their proposals to the water supply and water distribution team by 28 October. Late proposals will not be considered. The tender committee will invite qualified companies after scrutinizing the proposals.

Currently, the YCDC is facing great difficulties in terms of wastage of water as well as insufficient number of staff. So,

the authorities have decided to invite private companies to conduct the water distribution business in the Yangon City Area, said U Maung Maung Soe.

“The water meter charges for Yangon region collected by the YCDC do not cover the cost of production. There are two types of costs: fixed costs and operation costs. The fixed costs are concerned with the installation of the pipelines. The current rate for water is much lower than the actual cost because the government is subsidizing water supply for the sake of the general public. You can compare this problem with the production and supply of electricity. The higher the water or electric supply, the greater the loss the government suffers,” said the Yangon Mayor.

Although the YCDC is fac-

ing losses in water distribution, it has not increased the water meter charges so far. Currently, the committee is launching an awareness campaign on the systematic installation of water meters, and curbing wastage of water and illegal tapping of water from pipelines.

At present, the YCDC is charging K88 per unit of water for residential use and K110 per unit for commercial use. One unit equals 220 gallons. Water rates in Yangon are still low compared to Mandalay.

Although the committee is supplying more than 200 million gallons a day from Hlawga, Gyo-byu, Phugyi, and Ngamoeyeik reservoirs, almost half of the water supply is getting wasted or lost during distribution.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Farmers get over K220 mln as farmland, crop compensation

COMPENSATION was awarded to farmers affected by the Bago River Bridge project (Darpein-Thabyu) during a ceremony held recently at the meeting room of the Township General Adminis-

tration Department, Hlegu Township, northern Yangon District.

At the ceremony, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thein Tan, regional representative Daw Myat Marla

Tun, Township Administrator U Htay Aung, Bridge Management Department Deputy Director U Myint Win, and Township City Development Affairs Committee Assistant Director U Khin Oo disbursed

over K220 million to 39 farmers as compensation for 50.34 acres of farmland acquired for the project and loss of crops. —Naing Lin (Hlegu)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Tourist arrivals up at Tachilek border checkpoint



Foreign travellers are seen near a border gate in Myanmar. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF HOTEL AND TOURISM

THE TACHILEK border gate registered 26,322 tourist arrivals between 20 and 26 September, according to official data. Tourists entered Myanmar through the gate for day trips and overnight stays.

Tachilek has well-known destinations for day visits, such as the Tarlat market, Bayint-naung statue, Maha Myat Muni Pagoda, Wankaung market,

Koemyoshin spirit house, replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Padaung village, Myanmar monasteries, and Chinese temples. The Lantaung day trips include the Mailing monastery, ancient pagodas, temples, and ethnic villages.

Overnight travellers visited famous pagodas, temples, monasteries, markets, villages, and other destinations in Mongphyat

and Kengtung townships, such as the Maha Myat Muni pagoda, Wat Inn monastery, Yat Taw Mu, and Koetset waterfall in Kentung. Afterwards, they travelled on to Heho-Yangon-Mandalay-Lashio on domestic flights.

A total of 870,576 tourists entered Myanmar through the border gates, and 46,500 tourists entered the country on free visas, according to data recorded

between 1 January and 26 September.

A large number of foreign travellers are visiting Myanmar through the international entrances and border checkpoints to enjoy its natural scenery, visit tourist destinations, and explore the lifestyles of the ethnic people. —MOHT

(Translated by La Wonn)

Indonesian police fire tear gas at protesters approaching parliament

JAKARTA— Protesters clashed with police Monday evening in Indonesia's capital Jakarta while attempting to reach the parliament building, with the police firing tear gas to disperse them.

The protesters say proposed revisions of the Criminal Code would undermine civil liberties, while an amendment to a law on the Corruption Eradication Commission would reduce its authority and independence.

Thousands of protesters, including university students, high school students and laborers, threw stones at police officers near blocked streets leading to the parliament.

Several train stations and

roads were closed for security reasons.

The massive protests that started last Monday in cities across the nation are the biggest since 1998, when a student-led movement toppled then-President Suharto.

In response to the protests, the government and parliament have agreed to delay discussion of a bill to revise the Criminal Code, while President Joko Widodo has agreed to consider taking executive action to block the amended Corruption Eradication Commission Law passed by parliament from taking effect.

The bill proposes to punish extramarital sex by up to



Students clash with Police as they try to enter the House of Representative building during a demonstration in Jakarta, on Monday, 23 September 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

one year in jail, cohabitation by up to six months in prison and "obscene acts" in public by up

to six months in prison. It also covers abortions, blasphemy, pornography, the spreading of

Marxist-Leninist teachings, and "insults" to the president or vice present.

The changes to the anti-graft body would limit its ability to authorize wiretaps and subject it to oversight that many fear would lead to interference.

Since its founding in 2002, the body has pursued investigations leading to convictions of high-profile figures including a House speaker and dozens of parliament members, ministers, governors and top business leaders.

Several previous attempts to weaken it through proposed legislation failed due to strong public opposition. — Kyodo News ■

Top Iran general says destroying Israel 'achievable goal'

TEHRAN (Iran) — The commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Monday that destroying arch-rival Israel has become an "achievable goal" thanks to his country's technological advances.

"This sinister regime must be wiped off the map and this is no longer... a dream (but) it is an achievable goal," Major General Hossein Salami said, quoted by the Guards' Sepah news site.

Four decades on from Iran's Islamic revolution, "we have managed to obtain the capacity to destroy the imposter Zionist regime", he said.

Salami's comments, while not unusual for Iranian officials, come amid particularly heightened international tensions over Iran's nuclear programme and a series of incidents that have raised fears of a confrontation between Tehran and its other main regional rival, Riyadh.

The United States, which withdrew from a landmark nuclear deal between Iran and world powers in 2018, has imposed a campaign of "maximum pressure" — with vocal support from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The comments by the commander of Iran's ideological army were given prominent coverage by the Tasnim and Fars news agencies, close to ultra-conservative political factions.

The official IRNA agency also carried his remarks, but



Major General Hossein Salami heads Iran's Revolutionary Guards. **PHOTO: AFP**

placed more emphasis on his assertion that Iran was growing stronger and would finally beat its foes despite "hostility" towards it.

In contrast, foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi in a tweet wished "Happy (Jewish) New Year to our Jewish compatriots and to all true followers of great prophet Moses (PBUH)", an acronym for 'peace be upon him.'

Mousavi's greeting was written in Persian, English and Hebrew.

Iran only has a few thousand Jews left compared to between 80,000 and 100,000 before its 1979 revolution.

The country has been consistently hostile towards Israel since its revolution, and Tehran openly supports anti-Israeli armed groups including Palestinian Hamas and Lebanon's

Hezbollah.

'Cancerous tumour'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an outspoken opponent of any rapprochement between Tehran and the West, has charged that "Iran calls for Israel's destruction and they work for its destruction each day, every day, relentlessly".

He welcomed his ally US President Donald Trump's decision in May 2018 to pull out of the landmark nuclear accord between Tehran and world powers, arguing the deal would "enable Iran to threaten Israel's survival".

Israel considers Iran its archfoe and has carried out hundreds of strikes in neighbouring Syria against what it says are military targets of Iran and its Lebanese military ally Hezbollah.—AFP ■

Yemen rebels free 290 prisoners in move hailed by UN, ICRC

SANAA (Yemen) — Yemen's Huthi rebels have freed 290 prisoners, including dozens of survivors from a Saudi-led coalition strike on a detention centre earlier this month, the ICRC said Monday.

The International Committee of the Red Cross hailed the move as "a positive step that will hopefully revive the release, transfer and repatriation of conflict-related detainees" under a deal struck last year between the rebels and Yemen's government.

The Huthis recently announced the capture of hundreds of Yemeni loyalist forces in an August offensive near the Saudi border, but they were not among those freed on Monday. The United Nations' special envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, welcomed the initiative to "unilaterally release detainees". "I hope this step will

lead to further initiatives that will facilitate the exchange of all the conflict-related detainees as per the Stockholm Agreement," Griffiths said, referring to the 2018 accord. He called on all parties to work together to speed up the release of prisoners, saying they and their families had "endured profound pain and suffering."

In a statement, he urged the parties to meet at the "nearest opportunity" to resume discussions on future exchanges. The Huthis' own announcement on the prisoner release said there were 350 in the group, including three Saudis.

"We have presented to the United Nations a unilateral initiative to release 350 prisoners," Abdel Kader Mortaza, the Huthi official in charge of prisoner affairs, said at a press conference in Sanaa.—AFP ■

Thai gov't determined to solve traffic problems by building metros: PM

BANGKOK — Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Monday presided over the opening ceremony of a metro line extension in Bangkok and emphasized the role of metro in solving the city's severe traffic congestion.

During his speech at the official opening ceremony of the Blue Line Extension from Wat Mangkon to Lak Song, Prayut said the government is devoted to solving Bangkok's traffic congestion by implementing major

infrastructure projects, especially metros.

The prime minister said it is written in the 20-year National Strategy that the government has to upgrade the traffic condition in Bangkok and the Bangkok metropolitan region to improve the city's competitiveness and facilitate transport for commuters.

The Blue Line extension is one urgent project of the government, he said.—Xinhua ■

Equality cannot go hand in hand with prejudice

THE United Nations comprising 194 countries has been founded to provide impartial solutions to international issues and promote peace within each nation but the current stance and some actions it has taken towards Myanmar are raising serious questions. It seems to be especially preoccupied with the Rakhine State issue and are applying pressure in more ways than one.

The reports of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) (Darusman reports), the establishment of the Independent Investigative Mechanism (IIM), the jurisdiction of the International Criminal

Court (ICC) over the issue in Rakhine State and the Rosenthal report regarding the involvement of the UN in Myanmar are just some of the methods used to put pressure on Myanmar.

At the high-level General Debate on the fifth day of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe said the UN should work together to maintain the sovereignty of every nation and perform better quality work. He said they need to avoid double standards and exceptionalism.

The Union Government respects human rights and basic freedoms and has pledged to create a society that is peaceful, prosperous and free of fear. They are also striving to reduce poverty, establish quality educa-

tion, combat climate change, handle the democratic transition, amend the constitution, build peace, work to achieve national reconciliation and to resolve the Rakhine State issue.

In this overall process, some processes are ongoing and some have produced tangible results that are visible upon close inspection. A lot of nations have given their acknowledgements because the Myanmar government was able to make effective implementations within a short span of time. Nations that are friends to Myanmar and its citizens are showering their sincere good wishes, earnest assistance and constructive cooperation with our country.

The UN cannot ignore the growing acknowledgements of other countries upon Myanmar's development and transition. The multiple accusative reports on Myanmar are not based on solid facts and only incorporate partial information that only serve their own agendas. They are ultimately biased in both nature and summarization. These political pressures, arising from discriminatory monitoring and prejudiced objectives, do not help to solve any issues but merely interfere with the sovereignty of a nation.

We invite the world to offer constructive cooperation in order to firmly plant the roots of democracy in Myanmar. We value friendship and sincere bilateral relations with all other countries but as a sovereign nation and UN member state, we accept fairness and shun intimidation.

■ ■ ■

The UN cannot ignore the growing acknowledgements of other countries upon Myanmar's development and transition. The multiple accusative reports on Myanmar are not based on solid facts and only incorporate partial information that only serve their own agendas.

Is the much anticipated Mini Ice Age a possibility?

By Khin Maung Myint

If nearly half the Earth is freezing, the weather patterns would become erratic and nothing could be predicted correctly in the normal way.

WHILE the world is currently faced with the threats of the global warming, extreme hot weathers, and extensive melting of the glaciers, the coming of a “mini ice age” that is expected to take place in over a decade or so from now may sound baffling. That idea is hard to believe for a layperson like me. However, curiosity made me do an ad hoc research, though not thorough, but just enough to learn more about that prediction. In fact it was to surf the Internet for informations, which are readily and abundantly available there.

I would like to write briefly about the mini ice ages that our planet had been subjected to in the past. As this is not a scientific paper, I will keep it as simple as I can by not going into technical details. It was back in the sixth century and lasted 125 years. In AD 536, the first of three massive

volcanic eruptions ushered in a mini ice age that affected Europe and Central Asia and lasted till AD 660.

Only very recently, the scientists came to the conclusion that one of the key events that led to it was the massive eruptions of volcanoes somewhere in the southern hemisphere. The scientists were able to identify three significant volcanic eruptions in the years 536, 540 and 547 from their studies. Such huge volcanic eruptions fling so much ash and debris into the atmosphere that sunlight is partially blocked out, which can cool the earth to the point of freezing up rivers, creeks, streams, lakes, ponds and even seas and oceans.

Solar activity and the “mini ice age”

The Sun may be 93 million miles away, but activities there

have consequences on Earth. That is why scientists are keen to study the changes in the Sun's activity. The Sun's activity varies on an 11-year cycle, typically taking about five and a half years to move from the quieter period of solar minimum, to the more turbulent solar maximum.

Solar minimum is a period of least solar activity of the Sun. During such times, sunspot and solar flare activities diminish, and often do not occur for days at a time. Solar minimum is not gen-

erally correlated with changes in climate, but recent studies have shown a correlation with regional weather patterns. Here, it should be noted that it is not the weather causing the solar minima, but the other way round.

Solar minimum and maximum are the two extremes of the Sun. At a solar maximum the Sun is covered with sunspots, solar flares erupt, and the Sun hurls billion-ton clouds of electrified gas into space. Sky watchers may see more auroras, and space agencies

must monitor radiation storms for astronaut protection. Power outages, satellite malfunctions, communication disruptions, and GPS receiver malfunctions are just a few of the things that can happen during a solar maximum. Where as, a solar minimum has fewer sunspots and solar flares subside. It is characterized by a period of decreased solar activity with few or no sunspots. Sometimes, days or weeks go by without a spot. The two phenomena contradict one another.

During 2008–09, NASA scientists noted that the Sun is undergoing a “deep solar minimum”. It was said that there were no sunspots observed on 266 of 366 days, which was 73% of that period. Prompted by these numbers, some observers suggested that the solar cycle had hit bottom in 2008. Sunspot counts for 2009 dropped even lower. As of 14 Sep-

tember 2009, there were no sunspots on 206 of the year's 257 days (80%). That was the quietest sun in a century. These observations by solar physicists confirmed that we are experiencing a very deep solar minimum.

The last mini ice age known as the “Little Ice Age” occurred between 1300 and 1870 and caused temperatures in northern Europe and North America to fall dramatically. Sometime during that period rivers, streams, lakes and ponds froze, the sea ice extended far out from the coastlines during the winters. The prolonged cold weather (1645-1715), known as the “Maunder Minimum”, where a reduction in the number of sunspots, or in other words a diminished solar activity, was identified as the cause by the solar scientists.

SEE PAGE-10

IN RECENT years, the WHO South-East Asia Region has made dramatic progress in advancing public health and well-being. Its newly updated Flagship Priorities will fast-track that trajectory

In public health, as in other pursuits, moving successfully from A to B requires a sound strategy backed by firm resolve. It also requires a clear sense of what 'A' and 'B' are and why moving between them is more important than, say, going from A to D.

Sound complex? Allow me to explain, and to do so with reference to a single, compelling example – our Region's own.

Back in 2014, Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region, in consultation with WHO, identified a set of seven 'Flagship Priority Programmes' (later to become eight) that would define Member States' focus, and which would most efficiently advance health and well-being across the Region.

From working towards universal health coverage to scaling up emergency risk management, the Priorities were ambitious, but reflected where the Region was and where progress was most needed. They also reflected the conviction that health and well-being is a right for all, and that advancing it is crucial

Poised for progress: How the WHO South-East Asia Region's updated Flagship Priorities will accelerate its winning trajectory

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh (WHO)



Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh

opment Goal Agenda has now been finished. Emergency risk management proceeds apace, while the battle to eliminate diseases on the verge of elimination is being won. The drive to End TB has gathered unprecedented momentum.

Owing to the Flagship Priorities' success, and to chart the path ahead, the Region's Member States have now launched 'version 2.0' at the recently concluded Regional Committee in New Delhi, India. As with the Priorities' first iteration, each Priority will be pursued with vigor, and as per the Region's quest to sustain its achievements, accelerate progress and harness the full power of innovation.

So what are the updated Priorities?

To start with, alongside eliminating measles, all Member States are now working to eliminate rubella by 2023. In pursuing that outcome, a dual approach that strengthens routine immunization and deploys mass immu-

nization campaigns will be taken, with a specific focus on increasing vaccination coverage at the subnational level. All gaps must be filled, and all people reached.

On NCDs, the Region's Member States will more emphatically focus on controlling them through effective management, especially via frontline services. To further prevent NCDs in the first place, Member States and WHO will tackle air pollution and push back against rising alcohol consumption. As before, cost-effective 'best buys' will be harnessed to maximum effect.

Having achieved all MDG targets, the Region will now accelerate reductions in maternal, neonatal and under-five mortality. Crucial to its success will be addressing indirect causes of the problems, from anemia to low birth weight, at the same time as addressing neglected sexual and reproductive health issues.

We will likewise continue our progress on universal health coverage (UHC), with a focus on

human resources for health and essential medicines. A key part of doing that will be improving countries' data and equity analysis to ensure they know who is missing out and why and can make appropriate interventions.

Then comes AMR, one of the Region's – and the world's – most significant hazards. In similar fashion to UHC, data collection and analysis will be vital to strengthening national capacity to prevent and combat the problem. So too will Member States' resolve to make full use of the One Health approach as national action plans are implemented.

On emergency risk management, the Region will further accelerate its progress, including by ensuring the preparedness stream of the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund is adequately funded, all national action plans for health security are implemented, and the Region achieves full IHR compliance.

Significantly, the Region is now fixed on eliminating ne-

glected tropical diseases such as kala-azar, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, trachoma and yaws. This is alongside its resolve to defeat other diseases on the verge of elimination, including malaria and mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.

Finally, Member States will continue to accelerate efforts to End TB by 2030 by rolling out a series of key initiatives. This includes the Region's new action plan to address latent TB, as well as the ongoing quest to harness high-impact, cutting-edge innovations, from diagnostics to treatment therapies.

We do indeed have our work cut out. But while version 2.0 of the Flagship Priorities is bold, each of the Priorities can – and must – be achieved. WHO is committed to helping Member States do that, and to ensuring our journey from A to B and now on to C is rapid and lasting, and benefits all people across our broad and very diverse Region. In public health, as in other pursuits, accelerated progress is possible. But only if we are poised to make it.

■ ■ ■

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

The Office of the President issued Press Release No 37/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 28 September.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 28 September.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 2 October issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. —GNLM

Union Supreme Court sits to hear cases

UNION Supreme Court sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning with Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court judges to hear five special civil appeal cases. — MNA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 30th September, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and East central Bay and cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 1 October, 2019: Weather will be partly cloudy in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Chin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region and Southern Shan State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. 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 continuation of rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 October, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Permanent Secretary U Soe Han delivers a speech at the inauguration ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (43/2019) in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

MoFA opens Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (43/2019)

THE inauguration Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (43/2019) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at Wunzinminyarzar Hall of the Ministry in Yangon at 10:00 am yesterday, with an opening remarks delivered by U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Present on the occasion

were retired Myanmar Ambassadors, Directors-General and responsible officials of the departments under the Ministry, senior diplomats, professors and instructors as well as trainees. The 12-week long part-time certificate course comprises the subjects related to diplomacy, negotiation skills, international law, international

al conferencing, international relations and economics. Basis Diplomatic Skills Course has been conducted since the year 2000, mainly for those who have to engage in international relations from private and public sectors and those who want to learn more on those subjects. And it usually runs twice a year. — MNA

Is the much anticipated Mini Ice Age a possibility?

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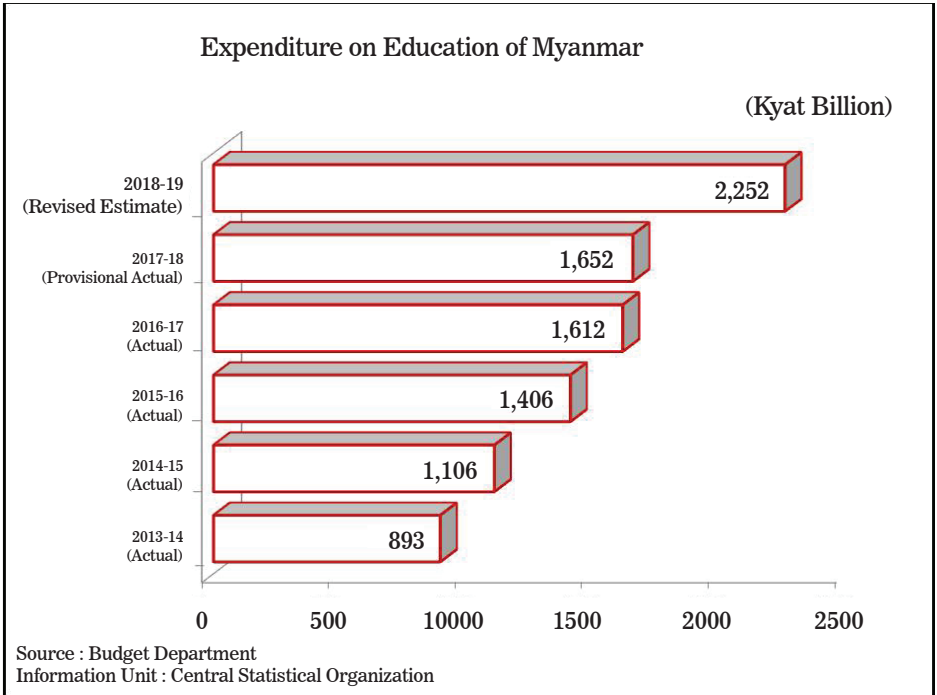
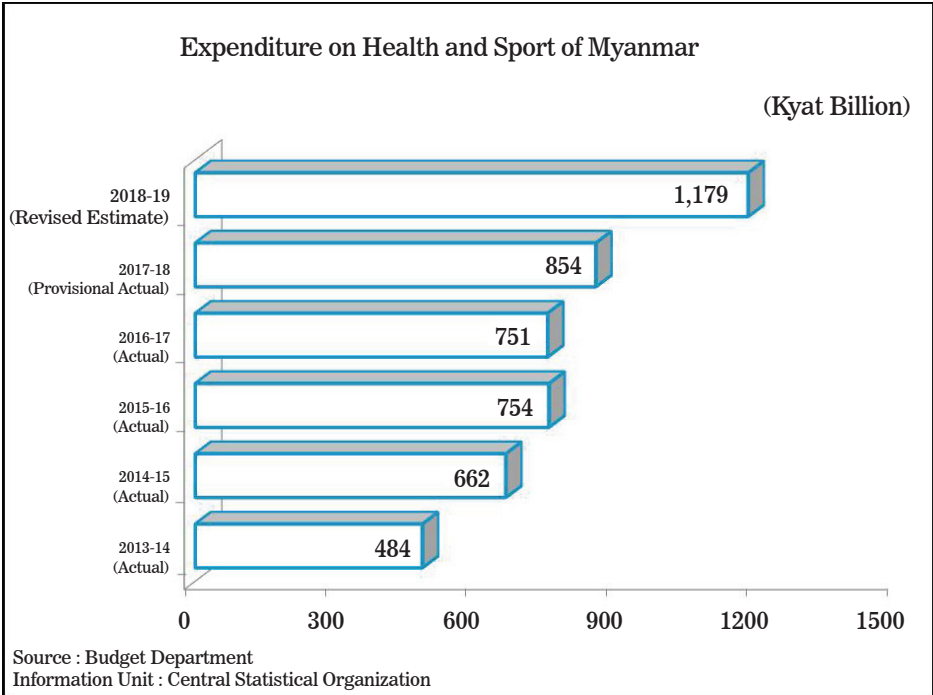
According to them, another “Maunder Minimum” could hit Earth again in the 2030s, the first such event to occur since the early 1700s. New experiments on the Sun’s solar cycle carried out at Northumbria University suggest solar activity will see a “significant” drop, causing temperatures on Earth to plummet. Such periods were thought to be driven by convecting waves of fluids deep within the Sun. But new research suggests a second force, or “wave”, is also causing them. Two waves, operating at different layers in the Sun’s interior, are now believed to drive the solar activity. When these waves are de-synchronized, temperatures on Earth will fall. Both waves fluctuate between the northern and southern hemispheres of the Sun. When the waves stay in phase we see high levels of solar activity such as sunspots, and when out of phase we see

low activity. Such events are in no way linked to climate change, with fluctuations in solar activity having a far smaller impact than global warming. Thus it can be assumed that Maunder Minimum is not caused by the climate change. **Possibility of another “mini ice age”** If the scientists’ prediction should prove to be true it would mean a return to freezing temperatures last seen 370 years ago. During that period the River Thames froze to such an extent that regular “frost fairs” were held during the winter, with market stalls and ice skating a common sight on the river. During the winter of 1683-84 the river was frozen solid for two months to a thickness of 28cm, according to historical records. Solid ice was also reported extending for miles off the coasts around England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. According to a media report

in 2015, solar scientists predicted that the earth is heading for another mini ice age within 15 years. Research has predicted a new solar “Maunder Minimum” to take place in the 2030s. Solar researchers at the University of Northumbria have created a new model of the sun’s activity which they claim produces “unprecedentedly accurate predictions”. They said fluid movements within the sun will converge in the 2030s. Thus, the earth is 15 only years from a period of low solar activity similar to that last seen in the 17th century during the “Little Ice Age”, when the River Thames froze. Solar scientists are adamant that this will lead to a situation known as “Maunder Minimum”. Maunder Minimum, indicating low sunspot activity, was the name given to the period between 1645 and 1715, when Europe and North America experienced very cold winters. This phenomenon is also known as the “prolonged sunspot minimum”, when sun-

spots became exceedingly rare, as was noted by solar observers during the last mini ice age. The term “Maunder Minimum” was named after the prominent solar astronomers Annie Russell Maunder (1868–1947) and her husband, Edward Walter Maunder (1851–1928). **Conclusion** Having mentioned that, I would like to analyze the situation as conclusion to this article. Some may think that, with the cold spells about to be brought on by the looming ‘Maunder Minimum’, there would be some sort of relief from the ravages of the climate change we are facing now. From the past experiences of the “Little Ice Age” that hit Europe and North America, that wouldn’t be the case. In the higher latitudes, there would be a big freeze up. That would affect seriously on the agriculture and the pastures and grazing grounds for the animals would be under ice or thick lay-

ers of snow. The wildlife and the domestic animals could starve to death. There would be shortage of foods and famine among humans that could be widespread. Such conditions would impact the populace in those places directly. As for us, in the Tropics, we may find some solace from the cooler weather conditions, which would be a great relief from the scorching heat. However, I am a bit sceptical that would be the case either. If nearly half the Earth is freezing, the weather patterns would become erratic and nothing could be predicted correctly in the normal way. Anything can happen to us, but as a lay person, I cannot say what or how. So, let us be prepared for the worst and hope for the best. **Reference:-** 1. Solar minimum - Wikipedia 2. Little Ice Age - Wikipedia



Albania's endangered Jewish museum reopens

BERAT (Albania) — Albania's sole Jewish history museum reopened in southern Berat on Sunday thanks to a businessman who rescued it from the brink of closure.

The small "Solomon Museum", which tells the remarkable story of how Albania's Jewish population was saved and even grew during the Holocaust, was the project of a local professor, Simon Vrusho.

Vrusho opened the tiny museum in 2018 and funded it with his pension and small donations left in a box by the door.

When the 75-year-old died in February, the future of the exhibit looked uncertain.

But after reading an AFP report about it, French-Albanian businessman Gazmend Toska decided to finance the museum and move it to a larger site in the city, where scores of people gathered Sunday for the opening.

"It was deeply moving to see the response to AFP's coverage

of this museum," Toska, 58, told an audience at the museum's new home in Berat's oldest quarter.

France's ambassador to Albania, Christina Vasak, praised "a beautiful story of rebirth".

Vrusho, himself an Orthodox Christian, spent years collecting documents, photos and memories bearing witness to a Jewish community that first arrived in Berat in the 16th century from Spain.

"Memories need to have their own home," the retired professor, a wiry man with warm eyes, told AFP shortly before he passed away.

'Unimaginably humane'

At the heart of the exhibit are stories and photos of more than 60 Muslim and Christian families in Berat who hid Jews in their homes and basements during World War II.

They were "deeply, unimaginably humane" people, said Vrusho, whose own image, carved into a relief, now hangs in the new



Visitors attend the opening ceremony of the renovated Solomon Jewish history museum in the Albanian city of Berat, on 29 September 2019. PHOTO: AFP

museum. Thanks to these quiet acts of bravery around the country, the Balkan state is the only Nazi-occupied territory whose Jewish population increased during World War II, from several hundred before the conflict to more than 2,000 afterwards. Buried during Albania's communist era, it is a chapter of history that has only recently become more widely known.

Today, the country's Jewish

population is miniscule at fewer than 100.

But the history is increasingly a source of pride in Albania, where the government holds annual events on Holocaust Remembrance Day and devotes an exhibit to the history in Tirana's national museum.

Vrusho's museum was, however, the only standalone centre dedicated to the sweep of Jewish history in that corner of South-

eastern Europe.

His widow Angilina, 65, who will be the museum's new director, hailed the collection as "a tree of memory watered with the love of all those who have contributed to its survival".

At the ceremony, historian Yzedim Hima praised the museum for bearing a special message: "not about the atrocities of a war, but people's love for other people." —AFP ■

Controversy in South Africa over shipment to Kuwaiti abattoir

PORT ELIZABETH (South Africa) — Animal rights activists in South Africa are trying to stop over 60,000 goats, sheep and cows being shipped to a Kuwaiti abattoir, saying many of them would die en route.

An inspection of the Al Shuweikh vessel revealed miserable and cramped conditions, the National Council of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to

Animals (NSPCA) said.

"Disease, overcrowding, pneumonia, motion sickness, physical trauma and injuries, and stress creates the perfect environment for excruciating suffering and many animals will die in transit," it warned.

The Kuwaiti-flagged vessel is docked in the southeastern port of East London.

The animals will be packed

like sardines and "not be able to lie down or rest," NSPCA spokeswoman Meg Wilson told AFP.

An online petition against the shipment has gathered 77,000 signatures so far.

The NSPCA also conducted two inspections at a farm where the sheep are being raised which it said revealed abysmal conditions.

"The sheep were fighting for food, there was no shelter, including in the hospital pens, some animals looked underfed with ocular and nasal discharge. Some were blind, limping and bruised all over their bodies," Wilson said.

Authorities in the Eastern Cape province, where East London is located, said they were not aware that a ship was due to leave for Kuwait shortly carrying live animals.

However, they added that all vessels had to meet "strict requirements" for animal welfare, agrarian reform ministry spokesman Ayongezwa Lungisa said. —AFP ■



The file photo shows a shepherd boy herds sheep near South African former president Nelson Mandela's former home in Qunu on 12 December 2013. PHOTO: AFP

500 Spain hotels 'to close immediately' after Thomas Cook fall: industry

MADRID (Spain) — Hundreds of hotels in Spain are facing imminent closure over the collapse of British travel giant Thomas Cook, the head of the Spanish hotel federation warned on Monday.

"There are 500 hotels which are going to close immediately due to the collapse of Thomas Cook and the situation could get worse if the government doesn't take immediate action," Juan Molas, head of Spain's Confederation of Hotels and Tourist Accommodation, told business daily Cinco Dias.

And the sum in unpaid bills left by the demise of the tour operator would be much higher than the initial estimate of 200 million euros (\$220 million), said Molas, whose organisation represents 15,000 businesses.

"It will be much more. The amount for only eight chains is close to 100 million."

Of those hotels facing immediate closure, 100 were exclusively dependent on Thomas Cook,

he said, while the rest counted on the firm for between 30 and 70 percent of their clients.

One hotel in Fuerteventura, the second largest of the Canary Islands, had recently undergone a 20-million-euro upgrade and was now faced with 700 rooms "which are going to be empty from October 7" and 200 employees it would be forced to dismiss.

Worst hit are those in the Canaries and the Balearic Islands, where 40 percent of hotels are affected.

The industry has put together an emergency plan to be presented to Tourism Minister Reyes Maroto at the next Spanish tourism board meeting on October 7 which will also address the urgent question of air links with the Canary Islands.

Industry experts fear the impact there could be even more devastating than elsewhere as the resort is very popular as a winter destination among tourists from northern Europe. —AFP ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

KABUSHIKI KAISHA HITACHI SEISAKUSHO (d.b.a. Hitachi, Ltd.), a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 6-6, Marunouchi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

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In respect of “Machines, machine tools, power-operated tools; motors and engines, except for land vehicles; machine coupling and transmission components, except for land vehicles; agricultural implements, other than hand-operated hand tools; incubators for eggs; automatic vending machines; metalworking machines and tools; mining machines and apparatus; excavators; rubber tracks being parts of crawlers on construction machines; rubber tracks being parts of crawlers on loading-unloading machines and apparatus; rubber tracks being parts of crawlers on mining machines; rubber tracks being parts of crawlers on agricultural machines; mineworking machines; cranes [lifting and hoisting apparatus]; diggers [machines]; road rollers; bulldozers; shovels, mechanical; elevators [lifts]; moving staircases [escalators]; moving sidewalks; conveyors [machines]; chemical processing machines and apparatus; printing machines; inking apparatus for printing machines; industrial inkjet printing machines; semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems; motors, other than for land vehicles; engines, other than for land vehicles; pumps [machines]; compressors [machines]; washing machines [laundry]; dishwashers; vacuum cleaners; waste compacting machines and apparatus for industrial purposes; waste crushing machines for industrial purposes; 3D printers; starters for motors and engines; alternators; generators of electricity; emergency power generators; kitchen machines, electric; industrial robots” included in **International Class 07**;

“Scientific, nautical, surveying, photographic, cinematographic, optical, weighing, measuring, signalling, checking (supervision), life-saving and teaching apparatus and instruments; apparatus and instruments for conducting, switching, transforming, accumulating, regulating or controlling electricity; electronic components; apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound or images; magnetic data carriers, recording discs; mechanisms for coin-operated apparatus; cash registers, calculating machines, data processing equipment and computers; fire-extinguishing apparatus; humanoid robots for use in industrial environments, construction environments, offices, homes, apartments, shops, hotels, exhibitions, and amusement parks for guiding, watching, conveying and checking; apparatus and instruments for chemical and physical laboratories; measuring apparatus and instruments; automatic control apparatus; materials testing apparatus; electrical power distribution and control apparatus; electric batteries; electric, magnetic and electromagnetic measuring apparatus and meters; sensors; electric wires and cables; spectacles, contact lenses; electrical communication apparatus and instruments, including telephone sets, telephone exchange apparatus, teletypewriters, telegraph apparatus and facsimile machines; broadcasting apparatus, including digital receivers, digital recorders, television receivers, television cameras, television transmitters, radio receivers and transmitters, radio communication apparatus and radar apparatus, radio antennae; televisions, LCD televisions, plasma televisions; plasma displays; plasma monitors; projectors, home cinema projectors; remote control telemetry apparatus, vehicle telemetry; loudspeakers, public address systems, jukeboxes, tape recorders and players, record players, video cameras, DVD cameras, video tape and DVD players, video recorders; antennae; microphones; metronomes; phonograph records, DVDs and video tapes, compact discs, CD-ROMs, floppy discs, magnetic tapes and cards; electronic, magnetic and ultrasonic apparatus and instruments for scientific purposes; electron microscopes; electrostatic copying and photo-copying machines; scanners; computers, computer peripheral equipment, hard disk drives, computer memories, computer network servers, computer programs, computer software, computer software for artificial intelligence applications; computer software platforms; data storage apparatus, desk-top computers, microprocessors, data processing apparatus, word processors, computer print-out apparatus, data in electronic, magnetic and optical form; electronic publications (downloadable); digital files; digital files (downloadable); digital images and films; digital images and films (downloadable); digital sound recordings; digital sound recordings (downloadable); electric calculators; cathode ray tubes; X-ray tubes (not for medical use); semiconductor elements; integrated circuits; integrated circuit chips; inlets, namely integrated circuit chips with external antenna and tags in which integrated circuit chips are embedded; reading devices for integrated circuit chips; artificial earth satellites; luminous and mechanical road signs; railway signalling apparatus; fire alarms; anti-theft warning apparatus; cinematographic films; photographic slides and transparencies; coin counting and sorting apparatus; time recording apparatus; punched card machines; voting machines; apparatus to check mail franking; divers' apparatus; electric automatic door openers and closers; vehicle driving training simulators; sports training simulators; control apparatus for electric motors and generators; transformers, rectifiers, inverters, rotary converters, switches, circuit breakers, relays, capacitors, coils and resistors, all being electrical; fibre-optic cables; liquid crystal display devices, magnets; biometric instruments and equipment; biometric scanners; computer log in systems; PC log in systems; access control systems; door access control systems; automated teller machines (ATMs); authentication and identification equipment and systems; electric timer switches; electronic thermometers; automatic barriers, passenger gates; telecommunication machines and apparatus; navigational instruments; Global Positioning System [GPS] apparatus; laboratory apparatus and instruments; parts and fittings for the aforesaid goods” included in **International Class 09**;

“Surgical, medical, dental and veterinary apparatus and instruments; artificial limbs, eyes and teeth; orthopaedic articles; suture materials; therapeutic and assistive devices adapted for the disabled; massage apparatus; apparatus, devices and articles for nursing infants; sexual activity apparatus, devices and articles; medical apparatus and instruments; X-ray apparatus for medical purposes; apparatus for use in medical analysis; arterial blood pressure measuring apparatus; diagnostic apparatus for medical purposes; heart rate monitoring apparatus; body composition monitors; radiological apparatus for medical purposes; apparatus for DNA and RNA testing for medical purposes” included in **International Class 10**;

“Apparatus and installations for lighting, heating, cooling, steam generating, cooking, drying, ventilating, water supply and sanitary purposes; furnaces, other than for laboratory use; nuclear reactors; boilers, other than parts of machines; air conditioners; chiller; air conditioners for industrial purposes; freezing machines and apparatus for industrial purposes; laundry dryers, electric, for industrial purposes; cooking apparatus and installations; electric lamps and other lighting apparatus; household electrothermic appliances; water purifying apparatus and machines; water purification installations; garbage incinerators” included in **International Class 11**;

“Vehicles; apparatus for locomotion by land, air or water; engines for land vehicles; motors for land vehicles; gearing for land vehicles; mechanical elements for land vehicles; motors, electric, for land vehicles; aircraft and their parts and fittings; civilian drones; camera drones; delivery drones; railway rolling stock and their parts and fittings; automobiles and their parts and fittings” included in **International Class 12**;

“Business consulting services; business information analysis; business risk management services; compilation of information onto computer databases; compilation and/or use of models, algorithms or simulations for analysing and testing business or commercial concepts, prototypes, data or information; compilation and/or use of models, algorithms or simulations for analysing and testing business or commercial concepts, prototypes, data or information derived from the Internet of Things (IoT); compilation of business prototypes; provision of business and/or commercial reports; business project management services; provision of subscription services to computer servers, databases, websites and software resources; subscription services to computer servers, databases, websites and software resources for use in business analysis, business strategy development, data analysis and big data; business services relating to the fields of data analysis and big data; services for the analysis of big data; database administration in the field of big data; business organizational and/or operational consulting services on the basis of data analysis; any of the aforesaid services provided online from a computer database, information network and/or the Internet; advisory and/or consultancy services relating to the aforesaid services” included in **International Class 35**;

“Building construction; repair; installation services; construction; construction information; construction consultancy; installation, maintenance and repair of computer hardware; installation and repair of air-conditioning apparatus; freezing equipment installation and repair; maintenance of building equipment; repair or maintenance of railway rolling stock; repair or maintenance of loading-unloading machines and apparatus; office machines and equipment installation, maintenance and repair; burner maintenance and repair; repair or maintenance of boilers; pump repair and maintenance; repair and maintenance of compressors; repair or maintenance of telecommunication machines and apparatus; repair or maintenance of construction machines and apparatus; repair or maintenance of consumer electrical appliances; repair or maintenance of electric motors; repair or maintenance of power distribution or control machines and apparatus; repair or maintenance of power generators; repair or maintenance of laboratory apparatus and instruments; repair or maintenance of measuring and testing machines and instruments; repair or maintenance of medical machines and apparatus; repair or maintenance of printing or bookbinding machines and apparatus; repair or maintenance of chemical processing machines and apparatus; repair or maintenance of mining machines and apparatus; repair or maintenance of chemical plants; repair or maintenance of nuclear power plants; rental of construction equipment; rental of mining machines and apparatus” included in **International Class 37**;

“Transport; packaging and storage of goods; travel arrangement; railway transport; car transport; car sharing services; bus transport; providing road and traffic information; traffic information; providing driving directions for travel purposes; GPS navigation services; vehicle-driving services; providing information relating to vehicle driving services; boat transport; air transport; transport brokerage; transportation information; transportation logistics; hauling; portorage; delivery of goods; storage; physical storage of electronically stored data or documents; storage information; arranging of passenger transportation services for others via an online application; distribution of energy; information and advisory services in relation to the distribution of energy; distribution of gas; electricity distribution; water supply and distribution services; distribution of heat; rental of warehouses; car parking; operating parking lots; rental of Loading-unloading machines and apparatus; car rental” included in **International Class 39**; and

“Scientific and technological services and research and design relating thereto; scientific research; industrial design; industrial analysis and research services; laboratory services; multimedia design services; design and development of computer hardware and software; providing meteorological information; architectural design; surveying, land and geological surveys or research; research and prospecting; designing of machines, apparatus, and instruments (including their parts) or systems composed of such machines, apparatus and instruments; designing; computer services; computer software design, computer programming, installation, maintenance and repair of computer software; computer services of the nature of Software as a Service (SaaS), namely hosting computer software and software-utilising services for access by, or downloading by, or use by, others; computer services of the nature of Platform as a Service (PaaS); cloud computing services; technological consultation and advisory services; provision of technical information and explanations relating to specification, function, performance, operation etc, of computers, automobiles, medical or scientific equipment and other machines that require high levels of personal knowledge, skill or experience on the part of their operators in order to attain the intended accuracy in their operation; testing, screening, inspection and research of pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and/or foodstuffs; research services relating to building construction and/or city planning; testing and research in relation to prevention of pollution and environmental matters, testing and research in relation to electricity and the electrical industry; engineering; testing and research in relation to civil engineering; testing, inspection and research services in relation to agriculture, livestock breeding, fisheries and marine product industries, testing and research in relation to machines, apparatus and instruments; rental of measuring apparatus and instruments; rental of computers; rental of central processing units, data carriers, hard disk drives, data storage equipment, computer peripheral equipment, magnetic data carriers; rental of laboratory apparatus and instruments, rental of ultrasonic diagnostic equipment, rental of drawing instruments; civil engineering; advisory, consultancy and information services relating to the aforesaid services” included in **International Class 42**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Htoo Htoo, *H.G.P*
For **KABUSHIKI KAISHA HITACHI SEISAKUSHO (d.b.a. Hitachi, Ltd.)**,
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
hh@kcyangon.com

Dated **1st October 2019**



Dieselgate is now ‘part of the group’s history’. **PHOTO: AFP**

Volkswagen faces first mammoth diesel lawsuit on home turf

BRAUNSCHWEIG (Germany) — A case pitting hundreds of thousands of owners of manipulated diesel cars demanding compensation opened against German car behemoth Volkswagen Monday, four years after the country’s largest post-war industrial scandal erupted.

Around 450,000 people have joined a first-of-its-kind grouped proceeding, introduced by lawmakers after the “dieselgate” emissions cheating scandal broke in 2015.

The first hearing in what is likely to be a grinding, years-long trial began at 10 am (0800 GMT) in Brunswick, around 30 kilometres (19 miles) from VW headquarters in the northern city of Wolfsburg. The second is planned for November 18.

Consumer rights group VZBV, represent-

ing the plaintiffs, says the German carmaker deliberately harmed buyers by installing motor control software that allowed vehicles to pollute far more on the road than under lab conditions.

“I would like Volkswagen to reimburse the purchase price” said Andreas Sarcletti, a customer who had made the trip from nearby Hanover, “but I’m worried the trial is going to last a very long time.”

Uwe Reinicke, who bought a manipulated vehicle in 2011, said “I don’t think it’s right, the way Volkswagen treated us.”

“VW ought to finally, properly admit that they lied,” he added.

The trial is Germany’s largest so far in the tentacular diesel scandal, which last week saw VW chief executive Herbert Diess charged with market manipulation over his role.—AFP ■

Trade Mark

Call

Thin Thin May,
09251022355,
09974424848.

For Rent - Office & Factory

Total Land

(2.01 acres)

Factory Area

(3,156 sq-m)

Three Storey Office Building

(1,710 sq-m)

Location

- Zaygabar Compound,
Mingalardon Industrial Zone,

Contact

- 95-95070114, 95-9790695087

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(2/2019)

Open tenders are invited for service of the following operations in United States Dollars.

Sr. No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	OS-001 (2019-2020)	24 th Yadana Offshore Domestic Gas Pipeline Free Span Survey	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 15-11-2019, 16:30 Hrs

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 16th October, 2019 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No.44 Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Public Apology

On
CIVIC Cosmetic Products

To

Re-X Products Co., Ltd
2 Nonthaburi 20, SEC 1,
Bankkasor Mueang Nanthaburi District,
11000, Thailand,

We, **Mr. Thet Naing Win** and **Ms. Win Sandar Myint**, the Owners of ‘**Ngwe La Min Shop**’ No. (C124/125), 2nd Floor Shwe Pyae Sone Market, Mingalar Market, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Tonwship, Yangon, Myanmar, are truly sorry about our misconduct (buying, selling, distributing and using) towards imitation ‘CIVIC’ cosmetic products/ CIVIC trademark owned by **Re-X Products Co., Ltd**, Thailand.

We now well understand the IP right of **Re-X Products Co., Ltd**, Thailand and hereby apologize and agree to undertake to refrain from: placing orders, order to manufacture, buying, importing, exporting, selling, distributing and more generally dealing/trading in counterfeit “CIVIC” products and further stop dealing with counterfeit ‘CIVIC’ Products in the future.

We regret for our unintentional actions that may have caused damages to Re-X Products., Ltd. Thailand.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (248E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (248E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-10-2019 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

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MANDARIN FORTUNE

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MANDARIN FORTUNE VOY. NO. (19125) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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 GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING & LOGISTICS SERVICES CO LTD

Phone No: 2301185

British PM on defensive again over groping claim

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom) — Britain's Boris Johnson is known for his colourful love life but the accusation he grabbed a young woman's thigh when he was a magazine editor risks a scandal as he seeks to unite his party over Brexit.

The prime minister, who is attending his Conservative party's conference in Manchester, northwest England, is accused of giving a female journalist's leg "a squeeze" while at a private lunch 20 years ago.

Johnson never comments on his personal life but his spokesman issued a clear denial — an acknowledgement that the claim is more serious than gossip about his affairs. It follows accusations that Johnson gave special access to a US businesswoman with whom he is alleged to have

had a relationship when he was mayor of London. He denies any impropriety, but it is yet another headache after his defeats in parliament and the courts over his pledge to leave the EU on 31 October, come what may.

Powerful men

In an article published in The Sunday Times, journalist Charlotte Edwardes described a boozy lunch in the offices of The Spectator magazine around two decades ago, when Johnson was editor. She was sitting next to him and wrote that "under the table I feel Johnson's hand on my thigh. He gives it a squeeze".

"His hand is high up my leg and he has enough inner flesh beneath his fingers to make me sit suddenly upright."

She said a woman she spoke

with after the dinner, who was sitting on Johnson's other side, said the same thing happened to her.

Johnson was married at the time to his second wife. They are now divorced and he currently lives with his girlfriend Carrie Symonds.

Downing Street said Edwardes' claim was "untrue", and the prime minister himself denied it in a television interview, while refusing to comment further. But health minister Matt Hancock said he knew Edwardes well, and "I entirely trust what she has to say".

Former Conservative minister Justine Greening, who is now an independent MP, said the claim was "deeply concerning".

It went "to the heart of this question about character and integrity of people in public life



Johnson refuses to talk about his private life, including reports about his girlfriend Carrie Symonds. **PHOTO: AFP**

and what standards the electorate have a right to expect," she told BBC radio. The allegation comes two years after defence minister Michael Fallon quit following revelations he tried to kiss

a journalist. Opposition Labour lawmaker Dawn Butler added: "What is it about powerful men feeling entitled to harass women? Boris Johnson has serious questions to answer." —AFP ■

China holds ceremony to mark Martyrs' Day



in
Picture

A ceremony presenting flower baskets to deceased national heroes on the Martyrs' Day is held at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China, on 30 September 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Death toll in east India's rain-related incidents reaches over 25

NEW DELHI — Over 25 people have died in more than last 48 hours in rain-related incidents in India's eastern state of Bihar, media reported on Monday.

Heavy rainfall in several parts of the state has affected roads, railways, air traffic, healthcare facilities and schools.

According to the state-run broadcaster, Patna district administration has ordered the closure of all schools till Tues-

day. Several teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been deployed in affected areas of the state.

It is also reported that the state government has established a State Emergency Operation Centre to coordinate with the rescue and relief work.

India Meteorological Department on Monday predicted heavy rainfall at isolated places in Bihar. —Xinhua ■

JCB increasing rate of credit card issuance, topping 1 mln in Viet Nam

HO CHI MINH CITY — Major Japanese credit card issuer JCB Co. topped 1 million in the number of its cardholders in Viet Nam this month, broadening its customer base with perks and discount services.

The number of its credit cards issued in the first half of this year surged 92 per cent from a year earlier, with the market share in Southeast Asia's emerging economy reaching over 10 per cent, according to Kimihisa Imada, president of JCB International Co., the company's group arm to oversee businesses outside Japan.

Although the JCB brand still lags far behind Visa and

Mastercard in terms of market dominance, the number of JCB credit cards newly issued in Viet Nam in 2018 increased 41 per cent from the previous year, with the total transaction value jumping 41 per cent.

JCB International is capturing cashless payment demand from consumers as it offers privileges and discounts through partnerships with airlines, retailers, restaurants and shopping malls, Imada said in an interview with NNA on 20 September.

The Tokyo-based unit also provides various types of credit cards specifically targeted at and designed for wealthy individuals and the younger generation.

Since its entry into Viet Nam in 2011, the Japanese brand took five years to gain 500,000 cardholders, but three years for an additional 500,000, said Tomoaki Yamaguchi, chief representative of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City representative offices under JCB International (Thailand) Co.

"We will keep the pace (of business expansion) and aim to achieve a 20 per cent market share in 2020," Yamaguchi added.

The overseas business unit plans to increase the number of its banking partners in Viet Nam from the present 11 to 15 next year, according to Yamaguchi. — Kyodo News ■



Kimihisa Imada (c), president of JCB International Co., poses with Tomoaki Yamaguchi (r), chief representative of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City representative offices of JCB International (Thailand) Co., and Ryuji Ishikawa, deputy chief representative of the Ho Chi Minh City office, after an interview with NNA at the Ho Chi Minh City office on 20 September 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

World leaders pay final tribute to France's Chirac

PARIS (France) — Dozens of world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, on Monday paid their final respects to France's ex-president Jacques Chirac as the country held a national day of mourning for its charismatic former head of state.

Putin and other world leaders joined President Emmanuel Macron for a funeral service at the Saint-Sulpice church in the French capital, a day after 7,000 people queued to view Chirac's coffin.

Chirac's death on Thursday aged 86 prompted a flood of tributes to a man whose high-profile political career spanned four decades, capped by 12 years as president from 1995 to 2007.

But it also sparked questions about how much the consummate political operator actually achieved during his long spell in office and again threw the spotlight on a 2011 conviction for graft over his time as Paris mayor.

Chirac's coffin, draped in a French flag, was carried into the

church by his former bodyguards while onlookers applauded outside.

Other world leaders attending included Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, EU commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker and former US leader Bill Clinton. The national day of mourning Monday will later see a minute of silence observed in all public institutions and schools.

The tributes will continue through Wednesday, when the France rugby team will don black armbands in a sign of mourning for Chirac during their World Cup clash with the United States in the Japanese city of Fukuoka.

'A true intellectual'

After a private service for his family at the Invalides memorial complex, Chirac's coffin was driven under military escort through the streets of Paris to Saint-Sulpice. Thousands of people had braved wet weather and hours of waiting Sunday to view Chirac's coffin at the Invalides military hospital and museum in



The funeral service was held at the Saint-Sulpice church in central Paris. PHOTO: AFP

Paris. Perhaps the former French leader's most significant action on the international stage was his opposition to the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. On Sunday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo sent belated condolences, saying he "worked tirelessly to uphold

the values and ideals that we share with France."

Putin worked intensely with the Chirac in the first phase of his own presidency and the pair were notably united in their opposition to the invasion. In unusually gushing comments in an inter-

view with The Financial Times in June, Putin said Chirac was the modern world leader who had impressed him the most. "He is a true intellectual, a real professor, a very level-headed man as well as very interesting," Putin said. —AFP ■

Trump: I want to meet my accuser

WASHINGTON (United States) — US President Donald Trump said on Sunday he wants and deserves to meet the anonymous whistleblower at the center of the fast-moving scandal that has triggered an impeachment probe against him.

The whistleblower, who could testify soon before Congress, fears for their safety if their identity is revealed, according to a lawyers' letter released by CBS News.

Battling the deepest crisis of his presidency, Trump in a series of tweets railed against accusations that he should be impeached for urging Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate Joe Biden, his potential 2020 White House challenger. "Like every American, I deserve to meet my accuser, especially when this accuser, the so-called 'Whistleblower,' represented a perfect conversation with a foreign leader in a totally inaccurate and fraudulent way," Trump said.

Trump accused top Democratic lawmaker Adam Schiff of lying to Congress last week about what Trump said to Zelensky in the July phone call.

"He wrote down and read terrible things, then said it was



Donald Trump is accused of pressing Kiev to investigate his potential rival for the White House in 2020, Joe Biden. PHOTO: AFP

from the mouth of the President of the United States. I want Schiff questioned at the highest level for Fraud & Treason," he wrote.

Trump's Republican aides have sought to turn the tables on Democrats pushing for his impeachment, insisting that the president was the true "whistle-blower" as he had asked Ukraine to investigate Biden and his son for corruption.

"This individual is a saboteur trying to undermine a democratically elected government," Trump advisor Stephen Miller insisted on "Fox News Sunday."

"Getting to the bottom of a corruption scandal in Ukraine is in the American national interest."

Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani — who has emerged as his point man in the Ukraine scandal — led the charge along with Miller in combative Sunday talk show appearances.

Brandishing what he said were affidavits incriminating Biden's son Hunter over his work at a Ukrainian company, Giuliani said Trump was duty bound to raise the issue with Kiev.

"If he hadn't asked them to investigate Biden, he would have violated the constitution," Giuliani told ABC's "This Week," charging that "Donald Trump was framed by the Democrats." —AFP ■

Austria's Kurz faces tricky search for partners despite victory

VIENNA (Austria) — The 33-year-old leader of Austria's centre-right People's Party Sebastian Kurz faces the start of a tough search for possible coalition partners Monday, despite resounding success in parliamentary elections.

His OeVP party won a clear victory with around 37 per cent in Sunday's vote, a marked improvement on its performance in 2017. The result means Kurz will have the responsibility of sounding out other parties — which may be an uphill task.

"We will of course talk to all parties.... to see with which parties we could have a stable government," Kurz told the national public radio on Monday, adding this could stretch for more

than the two months it took him last time to form a pact with the far-right.

But that government collapsed in May after his junior coalition partner, the anti-immigration Freedom Party (FPÖ), was engulfed in the so-called "Ibiza-gate" corruption scandal which led to the resignation of its leader Heinz-Christian Strache.

In the week before the vote, the FPÖ was hit by further allegations of expenses abuse by Strache and suffered a worse than expected loss, down almost 10 percent from 2017 to around 16 percent, according to projected results.

The OeVP-FPÖ alliance — hailed as a model by nationalists across Europe, including Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban — now seems unlikely to be repeated as FPÖ leaders say they would prefer to lick their wounds in opposition.

Dejected current FPÖ leader Norbert Hofer says steps towards the "reconstruction" of the party will be announced in the coming days, while the influential Strache, who led the party for 14 years, could be expelled if the expenses allegations turn out to be true. —AFP ■



Sebastian Kurz must start looking for coalition partners. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar U-19 women’s football team to play friendly against Viet Nam

THE Myanmar U-19 women’s football team will play friendly matches against Viet Nam in preparation for the AFC U-19 Women’s Championship 2019, which is scheduled to be held in Mandalay.

The chief coach of the team, Daw Thet Htar Win, said that the Myanmar U-19 team will undergo training from 6 to 19 October at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. As part of the training, the team will play four friendly matches — two against local teams and two against the Viet Nam U-19 women’s team.

The two matches against Viet Nam are scheduled on 11 and 13 October. Team Myanmar will play against ISPE on 16 October and the Mandalay Football Academy’s U-14 team.

For the AFC U-19 Women’s Championship 2019, Myanmar



The Myanmar U-19 women’s football team will train at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium from 6 to 19 October. **PHOTO: MFF**

has been placed in Group B with China PR, South Korea, and Japan. Group A includes host Thailand, North Korea, Australia, and Viet Nam. At the group stage, Myanmar will play

against Japan on 28 October, China PR on 31 October, and South Korea on 3 November at the IPE Chonburi Stadium at Chonburi City in Thailand.

Two teams each from

Groups A and B will advance to the semi-finals, which will take place on 6 November.

The final and third place matches will take place on 9 November. — Kyaw Khin

Sudan's first ever women's club football league begins

KHARTOUM (Sudan) — Sudan's first ever women's club football league kicked off Monday, with two teams clashing at a Khartoum stadium as crowds of fans and diplomats cheered.

The championship, which involves 21 clubs, would have seemed unlikely just months ago when long time Islamist ruler Omar al-Bashir was in power.

The first club match was played between Tahadi and Di-faain in the capital on Monday. Matches are also scheduled for Madani, Al-Obeid and Kadugli.

“Civilian rule, Civilian rule,” chanted the crowd as the first match between the two teams began.

Crowds clapped and whistled, with many also chanting “Kandaka, Kandaka,” referring to ancient Nubian queens.

—AFP■



Spurs’ head coach Mauricio Pochettino has plenty to think about as his side prepare to face Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Pochettino ‘happy with squad’ ahead of Bayern Champions League clash

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino said he was “so happy” with his squad as they prepare to face Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Tuesday after a turbulent few weeks.

Spurs have struggled to find consistency this season after an unsettling summer transfer window during which key players including Christian Eriksen were linked with moves that never materialised.

Last week’s League Cup exit to fourth-tier Colchester was a low point and Pochettino blamed that setback on “different agendas in

the squad”.

But their 2-1 victory against Southampton on Saturday lifted them to fifth in the Premier League table and helped calm nerves.

Spurs let slip a 2-0 lead in their Champions League opener against Olympiakos to draw 2-2 but Pochettino pointed out that they also started sluggishly last year. “Last season after three games we had only one point. No one believed in us, and after we got to the final of the Champions League (where they lost against Liverpool),” he said at his pre-match press conference on Monday.—AFP■

WLC: ‘Fearless Tiger’ lethwei fight planned on Friday

A lethwei contest titled ‘Fearless Tiger’ is being organized on Friday in Mandalay by the World Lethwei Championship (WLC).

The event will include local and international fighters, and will start at 5 p.m. on 4 October at the Mandalay Thiri Indoor Stadium in Mandalay.

The event will feature eight bouts, including a women’s bout.

The main bout of the event is scheduled to take place between Myanmar’s Thway Thit Win Hlaing and Germany’s Burutlek Petchyindee Academy in the light middleweight (67 to 71 kg) class. Thway Thit Win Hlaing, 25, is 170 cm tall and has recorded 42 wins, one loss, and 29 draws, while Burutlek Petchyindee Academy, 25, is 175cm tall and has 81 wins, 19 losses, 3 draws to his credit.

The co-main bout will feature Myanmar’s Nicola Barke vs Hungary’s Bianka Balajt in the light welterweight (60 to 63.5kg) class. Nicola Barke, 26, is 172cm tall and has five wins and one loss in her kitty.

In the featherweight (54 to 57kg) class, Myanmar’s Mite Yine will take on Viet Nam’s Nguyen Thakh Trung, while Myanmar’s Shuklaine Min will face Cambo-

dia’s Thun Chantak in the light welterweight (60 to 63.5kg) class.

Myanmar’s Thway Thit Maung will also meet with Morocco’s Omar Elouers in the light welterweight (60 to 63.5kg) class.

There will be three bouts featuring Myanmar lethwei fighters: Hein Tun Aung will meet with

Auk Chin Lay in the lightweight (57 to 60kg) class, Hein Tun Aung will take on Auk Chin Lay in the lightweight (57 to 60kg) class, and Thein Soe will fight Soe Win Than in the bantamweight (51 to 54kg) class. The event will be broadcast live on CANAL+ Myanmar FG. — Kyaw Khin



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