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72nd Independence Day to be celebrated nationwide with five national objectives



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the first coordination meeting of the Central Committee for Organizing 72nd Independence Day celebrations yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe, Chairman of Central Committee for organizing 72nd Independence Day celebrations attended the first coordination meeting of the committee held at the Union Government Office meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice President said that in order to hold the Independence Day nationwide with the five national objectives set by the government a 37-member Central Committee for holding the Independence Day was formed. Ten sub-committees will be formed under the Central Committee

as done in past years.

It'll be the 72nd year of independence on 4 January 2020 after Myanmar gain independent on 4 January 1948 freed from colonial rule and to become a sovereign state.

The independence gained under the effort and leadership of Bogyoke Aung San and unity of the entire ethnic people must be maintained as long as the world exists and all ethnic people need to strive together in unity toward the development of the union. Furthermore, future generations were to know about the lives, limbs, bloods and sweats spent to gain inde-

pendence, have a strong desire to protect and maintain it with their lives and keep up the patriotic spirit. It was for these reasons that Independence Day celebrations were held annually.

The five national objectives set for 72nd Independence Day ceremony-2020 and related events are: to safeguard and protect the non-disintegration of the Union and the non-disintegration of National Solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty by all ethnic people with their collective strength; to give priority to the rule of law and reform of justice sector as an important work process for the stability,

peace and development of the country; to work hard for emergence of a constitution that was the basic foundation of establishing a democratic federal union; creating a good environment to raise the capability and duty consciousness of the citizens toward establishing a democratic federal union; and emergence of a democratic federal union through Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

As per annually-held formalities, there will be morning and evening sessions. In the morning session ceremony for hoisting the national flag and ceremony for saluting the na-

tional flag will be held. In the evening session, a State-level event and a dinner party will be hosted. For all events and sessions, both Plan A and Plan B must be drawn up and prepared.

Independence Day events will be held in Union territory Nay Pyi Taw, States and Regions. Festive games and sports events will be held and public buildings will be illuminated in the evening. Such events were to be held in schools and sports grounds and public roads must not be used or closed for the event.

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World Sight Day observed in Magway

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and Magway Region Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo attended the World Sight Day 2019 event held at Magway town hall yesterday afternoon.

At the event the Union Minister said the second Thursday of October was designated as World Sight Day and World Health Organization (WHO) member countries were observing the day annually. Myanmar starts observing the day in 2000.

The theme of this year World Sight Day was "Vision First" urging all to give priority to vision, conduct test and obtain treatment when required. According to WHO estimate, the world had 246 million people who had vision impairment and 39 million had lost their vision or eye sight. 90 per cent of these people were from developing countries and 80 per cent of the vision problems were curable and preventable.

According to a survey conducted in 2017, 2.9 per cent of

Myanmar people who were 50 years old and above lost their vision and about 70 per cent were due to glaucoma. The aim was to provide effective treatment of cataract to prevent and reduce vision lost. WHO target was 3,000 cataract operations per one million and cataract operation in 2018 increased to 2,280 per million in Myanmar. Arrangements were also made to provide preliminary and specialist eye care services by training and producing more optometrists, ophthalmologists and opticians. Myanmar had also met WHO's Elimination Criteria for Trachoma and arrangements were made to conduct a survey in 2020 to announce the elimination of Trachoma in Myanmar. Training courses on Primary Eye Care and course to care for the eye were being increasingly conducted in states, regions and schools. All are urged to cooperate and participate enthusiastically in the aim of WHO to reduce and eliminate treatable eye diseases



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe, Magway Region Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo and dignitaries observe eye checking-up at the World Sight Day 2019 event in Magway yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

in 2020 and the public was urged to place emphasis on eye health, take tests and treatments said the Union Minister.

Next, Magway Region Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo also

delivered a speech. Afterwards, the Union Minister, Chief Minister and officials inspected the photo exhibit, eye test and inspection conducted.

Earlier in the day the Union

Minister, Magway Region Chief Minister and officials inspected the soon-to-be-opened five-storey building in Magway People's Hospital.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

YGN cabinet notifies stalled privatized cinemas to start performing



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivers the speech during the meeting with private business owners in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: TIN KO WIN (MPDB)**

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein held a meeting with private business owners yesterday concerning 11 cinemas that have yet to fulfill their part of the contract when they bought the state-owned cinemas from 1995 to 2013.

The coordination meeting was held at the regional cabinet office and the Chief Minister first addressed the meeting. He said the Privatization Commission sold a total of 13 state-owned cinemas but only two have been remodelled into functioning modern digital cinemas. He said this meeting intends to listen to what plans

the businesses that own the remaining 11 cinemas have in store to make the cinemas suitable for screening movies. He said the regional government is ready to provide necessary assistance but stressed the need for the cinema properties to be used for screening films.

Next, the director of MoI's Film Promotion Division, U Thein Naing, explained the national cinema status, developments for the film industry, cinemas sold by the Privatization Commission, and terms of the contract required to be fulfilled.

Following this, the owners

of the 11 non-performing cinemas explained their current status and the Chief Minister said project proposals for rebuilding the cinemas should be submitted by November. He also urged cinema owners not present at the meeting to contact the department as soon as possible.

With permission from the Privatization Commission, 94 state-owned cinemas were sold to private business owners between 1995 to 2013, with 13 cinemas located in Yangon Region.

Two of the cinemas were renovated into functioning digital cinemas within the past year,

including Bayintnaung Cinema in Tamway Township and Shwe Yadanar Cinema in East Dagon Myothit Township, on 8th January 2018 and 1st March 2019 respectively.

The remaining 11 non-performing cinemas are Yadanar-

pon and Shwe Mann cinemas in Sangyaung Township, Su Htoo Pan, Bayint, Myoma and Shwe Gon cinemas in Kyauktada Township, Thida Cinema in Kyimyindine Township, Padehtar Cinema in South Okkalapa Township, and Myint Cinema in Hmawbi Township.

Increased cooperation between the government and private businesses has increased the number of state-owned, privatized and self-owned cinemas equipped with digital systems to 68 cinemas, with 81 screens combined, in the Yangon Region. The nationwide number is currently 159 functioning cinemas with 182 screens combined. However, the number of cinemas and screens is still in high demand to keep up with the number of films produced.—Tin Ko Win (MPDB)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

With permission from the Privatization Commission, 94 state-owned cinemas were sold to private business owners between 1995 to 2013, with 13 cinemas located in Yangon Region.

72nd Independence Day to be celebrated nationwide with five national objectives

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Union level organizations and union ministerial departments are urged to prepare toward participating in all sports events that were held in commemoration of the Independence Day. Prizes awarded must be appropriate and sports events should include football, volleyball and other sports that the personnel are interested to participate in.

Furthermore prior to the Independence Day, talks, essay and poem competition and quiz competition were to be held based on the national objectives so that the people remember the efforts made toward gaining independence. The five national objectives were also to be displayed at designated places.

The Ministry of Information was to broadcast stories, historical songs and songs related to the country's Independence Day and ensure that articles and special commemorative articles are put in the



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



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint. **PHOTO: MNA**



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung. **PHOTO: MNA**

newspapers and journals. Guest lists for morning and evening sessions were to be submitted in a timely manner. Sub-committees are to coordinate and prepare the necessary and sub-committee wise expenditures were to be systematically spent according to financial regulations.

After holding 71st Independence Day ceremony and events on 4 January 2019, a coordination meeting was held to review the celebrations on 1 April 2019. 29 areas of improvements were discussed and decided at that meeting and sub-committees wise improvements and implementation must be carried out.

As it is a State-level event, sub-committees need to ensure that there are no shortcomings and weaknesses. Sub-committee wise works were to be implemented based on past year experiences. Central Committee members and officials from sub-committees are urged to openly discuss completed and

ongoing works, other requirements and difficulties said the Vice President.

Central Committee secretary and sub-committees members then explained about their respective works.

Afterwards, Central Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe coordinated on the explanations and discussions and concluded the meeting with a closing speech.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Maj-Gen Than Htut and Dr Tun Naing, senior military officers, Permanent Secretaries, heads of departments and officials. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Anti-Corruption Commission delegation attends SEA-PAC meeting



Anti-Corruption Commission delegation led by member U Zaw Win attends the 15th meeting of the South East Asia Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC) in Bangkok, from 9 to 10 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

AN Anti-Corruption Commission delegation led by ACC member U Zaw Win attended the 15th meeting of the South East Asia Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC) held at Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Bangkok, from 9 to 10 October. Delegations of 10 SEA-PAC

member nations attended the meeting where they discussed further cooperation among one another in combating corruption, sharing good customs, and setting action plans for 2020-2022. The Myanmar delegation explained the ACC's endeavors

in raising awareness on corruption, the formation of corruption prevention units (CPUs), collaborating with international organizations in capacity building initiatives, and matters relating to the ACC's investigation methods. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Border trade up \$1 bln in 2018-2019 FY

THE value of border trade reached over US\$10.21 billion between 1 October and 30 September in the 2018-2019 financial year, an increase of over \$1 billion compared with the previous FY, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar earned over \$9.21 billion from border trade in the 2017-2018 FY.

In the 2018-2019 FY, Myanmar registered \$7.2 billion in exports and \$3.2 billion in imports. Compared with the previous FY, export earnings rose by over \$1.04 billion, while the value of imports decreased by \$35 million.

Myanmar conducts border trade with China through the Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw, and Kengtung border checkpoints. The country carries out border trade with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee,

Mawtaung, and Maese border gates. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungdaw, while the country trades directly with India via the Tamu and Reed border gates.

Myanmar has opened 17 border trade camps along its border. Among them, Muse and Hteekhee border trade camps see the highest trade volume. Muse topped the list of border checkpoints with the highest trade value of \$4.99 billion, followed by Hteekhee (\$2.67 billion) and Myawady (\$967 million).

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, as well as forest products, minerals, fishery products, and manufactured goods, among other things, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer products. —Zwe (Translated by Hay Mar)

SG Min Aung Hlaing meets with Japanese defence chief, PM separately

A MYANMAR Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left Yangon International Airport on the morning of 8 October to make a goodwill visit to Japan at the invitation of Chief of Staff, Joint Staff of the Japan Self-Defence Forces General Koji Yamasaki.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation arrived at Haneda Airport in Tokyo, Japan in the evening and they were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Myint Thu, Colonel Ishiwata of Japan Defence Ministry, President of Nippon Foundation Mr Yohei Sasakawa, President of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Col Tin Soe and officials at the airport.

On the morning of 9 October Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was welcomed by Chief of Staff, Joint Staff of the Japan Self-Defence Forces General Koji Yamasaki with a guard of honor.

On arrival at the welcoming ceremony location, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party were cordially greeted by Chief of Staff, Joint Staff of the Japan Self-Defence Forces. Next, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services accepted the salute of Guard of Honour and then inspected the Guard of Honour.

Afterward, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe at the Prime Minister's office. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

es Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held a meeting with Chief of Staff, Joint Staff of the Japan Self-Defence Forces General Koji Yamasaki in the guest hall.

During the meeting increasing the existing friendship between the militaries of Myanmar and Japan, increasing cooperation in defence matters, sending of trainees, internal peace, world peace and protecting from and preventing natural disaster were cordially discussed and views exchanged.

Following this an official from Japan Self-Defence Forces explained about defence matters conducted by Japan Defence Ministry, status of conducting regional security mat-

ters, status of good relation and cooperation between Myanmar and Japan and responded to questions raised by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Chief of Staff, Joint Staff of the Japan Self-Defence Forces then hosted a luncheon for the Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services at Grand Hill Ichigaya Hotel.

In the afternoon Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called on Japan Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe at the Prime Minister's office.

At the meeting increasing cooperation between the two militaries, occurrence of terrorist acts in Rakhine State and



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts a gift from Joint Staff of the Japan Self-Defence Forces General Koji Yamasaki at the meeting. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Tatmadaw controlling the situation according to the law, status of Tatmadaw making a unilateral ceasefire and conducting peace meetings, cooperating in regional and world peace, status of increasing bilateral cooperation, assistant provided by Japan toward modernizing Myanmar Tatmadaw, a long history of friendly relation between the two militaries and status of increasing and strengthening this was cordially discussed.

After the meeting Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party went to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and met with Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Toshimitsu Motegi.

Matters relating to Rakhine State affairs and Japan's support and assistance to peace

process, history of armed organizations being established and differing situations, status of efforts made to resettle displaced persons to their places of origin, views on Indo-Pacific region security, facing regional threats, cooperation required among all countries toward establishing a world free of nuclear and high destructive arms, Myanmar Tatmadaw's cooperation toward independent commission of enquiry and responsibilities of all armed forces to protect the security of the country and the people were cordially discussed according to news released by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Newsletter: Early prevention of African Swine Fever

1. African Swine Fever used to be restricted to the African continent, but has spread to nations in Asia and Southeast Asia since August 2018. The virus manifested in a few border townships of East and North-east Shan State in August 2019. The Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department has been working round the clock to prevent the virus from spreading to other uncontaminated areas. You are advised to increase the biosecurity of your farms to prevent your livestock from contracting the virus. We advise everyone concerned to follow the guidelines below to safeguard their livestock from the African Swine Fever virus:
- Be extra vigilant in the biosecurity of pig farms.
 - Regularly spray pesticide and disinfect pig farms and meat markets.

- Do not feed domestic pigs leftovers from restaurants that are undercooked.
- Do not use equipment from other farms and restrict entry of personnel.
- Rear pigs only of the same age group together.
- Ensure quality temperature, humidity and breeze in pig farms.
- Purchase pigs from safe, reliable farms.
- Separate the pigs with those of your own farm until you are sure they are free of the virus.
- Do not purchase, sell or consume live pigs and pork-related products (e.g. pork jerky, bacon, sausages) from affected countries that have been illegally imported into Myanmar.

- Prevent wild pigs and domesticated ones from coming into contact.
- Do not dispose the carcass of pigs which have died from infection into rivers or lakes.
- If wild and domesticated pigs in your area suddenly die of unexplained causes, immediately contact your local administrator, Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department or the Myanmar Livestock Federation.
- Cooperate with relevant departments and organizations in implementing preventive measures and medical examinations.

Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

(Unofficial Translation)

SWRR Minister collects UN, ICRC support at ExCom sideline meetings

DURING his travel to Geneva, Switzerland, to attend the 70th plenary session of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye met with UN officials and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Meeting with UNHCR
On 8 October, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement met with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr Filippo Grandi. The Union Minister spoke of the importance of accepting and receiving displaced persons and preparations Myanmar has in place.

He also talked on how Myanmar’s government is implementing the recommendations on Rakhine State, the formation of ten working groups under UEHRD, collaborating with UNDP on the joint survey for Rakhine and possible areas for cooperating with UN agencies, ASEAN’s readiness to assist in the repatriation process and future processes, enacting



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye shakes hands with ICRC President Mr Peter Maurer. PHOTO: MNA

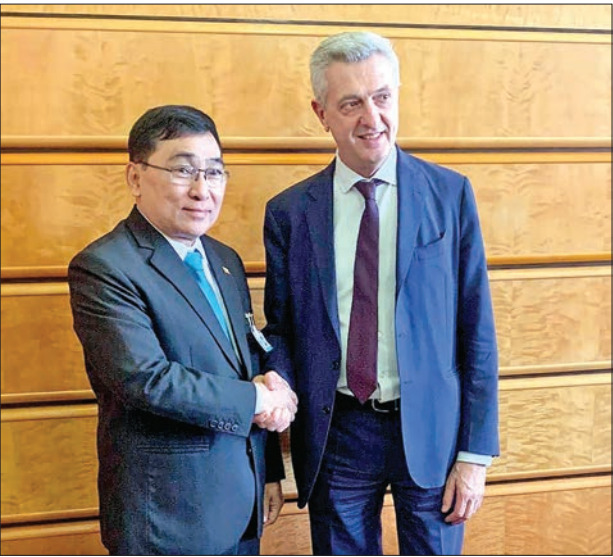
the national strategic plan to resettle IDPs and close down temporary camps, verifying citizenship and implementing freedom to travel.

Mr Grandi then said the first priority of Myanmar should be to provide true information and clarification at the refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar. He said the same should be done towards the IDPs in Rakhine State. He said there should also be increased cooperation between UNDP and UNHCR, as per the MoU, and suggested on processes that should be done for

the repatriation process to succeed.

Meeting with ICRC President

Dr Win Myat Aye met with ICRC President Mr Peter Maurer on 9 October where he expressed his gratitude to the Red Cross Movement for providing humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State. He said representatives from the Rakhine State cabinet and union ministries are discussing on ways to resolve the difficulty in providing humanitarian aid in Rakhine, adding that there have



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye shakes hands with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr Filippo Grandi. PHOTO: MNA

been positive results produced from the meeting.

The Union Minister said they will also cooperate with ICRC to provide aid in Kachin State. He said they will implement the national strategic plan to resettle IDPs and close down temporary camps in each state and region. He then gave the latest news on the repatriation process in Rakhine State.

The ICRC President first thanked the relevant state government and union ministries for working to resolve the difficulty of providing aid in Rakhine

State. He said ICRC has experts on reducing dangers from landmines and offered to sign an MoU with the SWRR Ministry on the matter. He also said ICRC stands ready to assist Rakhine’s repatriation process.

Meeting with UNDRR Special Rep

The Union Minister then met with Ms Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

(UNDRR).
He said Myanmar has been able to submit a report on the improved implementations of the Sendai Framework and expressed gratitude for the technological support necessary to establish the national information system essential for compiling the report and for monitoring the implementation process via online.

The Union Minister requested assistance in drafting an action plan for reducing losses from natural disasters in Mawlamyine, the city chosen for the Climate Change Resilient City Project.

Ms Mizutori said Myanmar deserves recognition for endeavoring to reduce damage from natural disasters. She said Myanmar’s efforts in Target E of the Sendai Framework is something to be proud of and expressed her delight in knowing that a national policy roadmap for reducing damage from natural disasters is under way. She promised to cooperate more with Myanmar in this regard.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Restoration of damaged Bagan stupas hundred percent complete

ON the evening of 24 August 2016, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake destroyed various heritage buildings in Bagan, MraukU, Sagaing and Magway with the Bagan heritage zone suffering the most damage. Field reports indicate 389 stupas were damaged in Bagan. The Ministry of Construction immediately performed emergency conservation plans with professional advice from home and abroad and with the assistance of other government departments, philanthropic organizations and the general public. All plans are now a hundred percent complete.

The damaged stupas were divided into three categories. Category one included 36 stupas given top priority for renovation, category two included 53 stupas, and category three included 300 stupas that received minor damage and ranked third in priority.

Acting on the advice of international and local experts, all stupas from the categories one and two and 76 from category three were renovated by professionals with the ministry’s supervision. The remaining 224 stupas of category three were renovated with support from donors and completed in April 2017.

The following table illustrates the renovation processes undertaken by the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, Department of Building and other organizations:

No.	Type	Number of damaged stupas	Completion		In progress	Remaining	Remark
			Complete renovation	Maintenance			
1.	Priority one	36	-	23	10	3	Cooperated with foreign/domestic experts and Ministry of Construction

2.	Priority two	53	-	43	5	5	Cooperated with foreign/domestic experts and Ministry of Construction
3.	Priority three (out of 300 stupas)	76	-	62	3	11	Cooperated with foreign/domestic experts and Ministry of Construction
4.	Priority three (out of 300 stupas)	224	224	-	-	-	Performed with individual donors
Total		389	224	128	18	19	

The department follows the suggestions from UNESCO, international and domestic experts, advisor team, expert team, and discussions of the technical coordination forum to meet international standards.

The department rebuilds heritage buildings into their original form with respect to their religious significance. The buildings are categorized by the amount of damage received, historical value, architectural remains, and time period.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum and collaborating organizations adheres to the advice from the national leader to not rush renovation and to preserve the original architecture of the buildings. So far, 352 stupas have been successfully renovated as of 30 September 2019, and the work is continuing to renovate the remaining 18.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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10 stations to be renovated on Yangon-Toungoo Railway Section

UNDER Phase 1 of the Yangon-Mandalay Railway upgrade project, the MR plans to renovate ten old stations on the Yangon-Toungoo section.
Bago, Nyaunglebin, and Pyu stations on the Yangon-Taungoo section; and, Toungoo, Yedashe, Pyinmana, Taze, Kyaukse, and Myohaung stations along the Toungoo-Mandalay route will be reconstructed under the project.
Also, 89 more stations will

be rebuilt under the Myanmar Railways (MR) upgrade project. Brick fencing will be installed and roads near stations will also be repaired. Level crossings will be shut down, and Myanmar Railways will negotiate with the related departments to build platforms and overpasses, said U Ba Myint, an official with the MR.
The quality and performance of MR in passenger services and freight transport

has declined since late 2007. In 1988-1989, MR had earned 95 per cent of income, 92 per cent in 2007-2008, and it had slightly decreased to 74 per cent in 2018-2019.
In a bid to stem the downward trend in income, MR needs to undertake a railway upgrade. The MR earns 58 per cent of its income from the Yangon-Mandalay route, and the railway's survival depends on upgrading

transportation services and facilities.
The MR has been operational for 133 years, and the Yangon-Mandalay train trip takes 15 hours at an average speed of 38 miles per hour. Upon completion of the project, it will take only 8 hours for trains to cover the distance between Yangon and Mandalay at 62 miles per hour.
—Nyi Pu
(Translated by La Wonn)

Number of tourists visiting Myanmar doubles

THE number of tourists visiting Myanmar has increased by nearly 450,000 this year compared to the same period last year.
The tourists visited Myanmar by air, sea, and via border gates.
The number of tourists entering Myanmar to work, visit, or both has increased to 1,218,891 this year from 776,048 for the same period in 2018, an increase of 442,843.

In 2019, 954,929 tourists came to Myanmar for a visit, while 263,962 tourists arrived in the country for work. During the same period in 2018, 526,248 tourists came to Myanmar for a visit, while 249,800 tourists came for work.
From January to August, 2019, China remained among the top tourist markets, with 457,069 arrivals, followed by South Korea with 754,489 arrivals, according to statistics from the

Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.
Due to the Rakhine issue, the number of Western tourists visiting Myanmar had declined by 40 per cent in 2018. In order to promote the tourism industry and attract more tourists, Myanmar has begun offering schemes such as visa exemptions and visas on arrival to visitors from Japan, South Korea, China, and India.
Visa exemptions were preliminarily granted to visitors

from Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and the Macao Special Administrative Region of China between 1 October, 2018 and 30 September, 2019, and Chinese citizens who entered Myanmar through airports got visas on arrival during the period.
Myanmar received 4.6 million tourists in 2015, 2.91 million in 2016, 3.44 million in 2017, and 3.55 million in 2018.—Aye Maung
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Fire breaks out on ferry near Myaungmya jetty; 1 dead, 3 injured



Firefighters putting out the fire on a passenger vessel in Myaungmya Township. PHOTO: AUNG MIN (MYAUNGMYA)

A FIRE broke out around 7:45 am on 10 October on a passenger vessel named Aung Chan-thar which was anchored near the Thaepone jetty in Myaungmya Township.
The fire was completely

put out around 8:15 am by a combined team led by District Administrator U Thaung Tin Htway, Township Administrator U Kyaw Swe, Deputy Inspector Kyaw Thet Tun from the District Police Force, and firefighters

from the Township Fire Services Department.
According to the police report, one man died in the fire, while three passengers, identified as Daw Tuu Tuu Mar, 55, Daw Win Win, 40, and Mg Shine

Ko Ko, 20, were injured and taken to the Myaungmya hospital. The Township Police is investigating the case. —Aung Min (Myaungmya)
(Translated by La Wonn)

Chili price doubles in Mandalay market due to high demand

THE price of chilies from Pyawbwe, Yamethin, Tatkon, and Kyaukse townships has doubled from the level recorded during the same period of last year, according to the Mandalay market.

Due to corresponding demand from Thailand and China, the price of chilies has currently risen to K5,500 per viss (one viss equals 1.6 kg) from K2,200 in the year-ago period. After the Thingyan festival, there was a large demand from Thailand and China for fresh chilies, said U Soe Win Myint from the Mandalay commodity depot.

“Chili growers are delighted with the chili plantation this year due to the high demand from foreign markets and the doubling

of price. Moreover, China and Thailand markets have begun to purchase fresh ripe chili at K6,000 per viss. At present, local businesses have started using modern packaging machines for dried chilis and cold storages for fresh chilies, in order to produce quality local products,” he added.

At present, the price of chili is ranging between K5,500 and K10,000 per viss. Not only growers, but also residents in Pyawbwe and Yamethin townships are planting chilies as the crop is flourishing in those regions. —Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)

(Translated by La Wonn)



Women processing in traditional way fresh chilli in Mandalay Region. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Yangon government to seize 80% plots formerly accorded farmland status

By Nyein Nyein

EIGHTY per cent of plots of land which were leased to companies to be developed into agricultural zones under the former government's rule will be seized by the Yangon Region government, and 20 per cent of the farmlands will be returned to companies, said U Than, the joint secretary of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

“The companies were authorized to develop agricultural zones on over 9,300 acres in East Dagon and Dagon Seikkan townships, but the plan failed. Therefore, the regional government will seize the land again to develop business and public housing zones on them,” he added.

“Over 9,300 acres of land in Dagon Seikkan and East Dagon townships was previously marked as an agricultural zone. The government granted permits to some companies to implement this, prior to urban projects. But, the project failed. The regional government will re-seize 80 per cent of the land to create industrial and housing zones, and 20 per cent will be given back to the companies,” said U Than.

“Eighty per cent of the plots will be re-seized and sold to foreign and local investors for the purpose of setting up industrial businesses and public housing. The lands that will be sold will have a grant deed,” said U Than.

“As the land is being sold by the regional government

after scrutiny, it will have full guarantee,” he added.

The land management committee formed by the Yangon Region government will sell over 500 plots of land in Hlinethayar, Shwepyitha, and four Dagon townships in Phase 1; over 180 plots from Myaungtagar Industrial Zone will be sold in Phase 2; and, over 9,000 acres, which were previously marked as agricultural land, in East Dagon and Dagon Seikkan townships will be put on sale in Phase 3.

Land-use applications for 500 land plots were sold on 7 October at the office complex of the General Administration Department (Eastern District), and the applications have to be submitted on 8 November.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

YRIC endorses five projects in manufacturing sector worth K1.24 bln, \$3.9 mln

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee has given the green light to four foreign projects from Hong Kong and one domestic enterprise, with an estimated capital of US\$3.9 million and K1.24 billion. The decision was taken during a meeting on 9 October.

The projects will be implemented in the manufacturing sector and they are expected to create over 3,000 jobs, according to a press release issued by the YRIC.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the largest share of foreign investments in Yangon Region, from enterprises engaged in the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and cutting, making, and packing (CMP) garments.

Since its establishment, the YRIC has approved more than 200 domestic and foreign projects in the manufacturing,

hotel services, and other services sectors from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, British Virgin Islands, and Seychelles.

Among the regions and states, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of investments, while Mandalay attracts 30 per cent. The other regions and states get only a small share of investments, according to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

To simplify the verification process of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions to local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million. —Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Automobile market expected to recover in post-Thadingyut period

A SIGNIFICANT fall in slip prices (import permits) and tax relief for transfer of car ownership are likely to boost the automobile market after the Thadingyut Festival, said car dealers.

The Road and Transport Administration Department (RTAD) has started issuing slips to owners of modified cars, with changed body coaches. There are over 360

cars whose body coach has been changed, as per RTAD data.

If more modified vehicles are de-registered at the RTAD, the slip price will continue to drop.

The RTAD has also urged the current owners of vehicles to get the ownership transferred in their name within one year, as the transfer of ownership of vehicles valued

below K100 million will attract a tax of just 3 per cent compared to 15 per cent earlier.

At present, cars valued at K10-30 million are seeing strong demand, according to the Yangon car market.

However, the automobile market may see some changes with the car import policy for 2020, said dealers.—Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



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Faithfully implement bilateral agreement to resolve Rakhine issue

In its efforts to narrow the gap between the regions and states in terms of socio-economic growth, the Union Government is giving priority to Chin, Rakhine, and Kayah states, which have lagged in development.

Rakhine State is not only behind in development, but also under the watch of the international community due to conflicts.

We fully share the concerns of the international community over the violence affecting communities in Rakhine State. The issue in Rakhine is one of the complex challenges faced by Myanmar on its path towards democracy.

In fact, the government's efforts to bring peace and stability predate the violent attacks by the ARSA terrorist group in 2016 and 2017 that triggered the current humanitarian crisis. Since assuming office in 2016, the elected civilian government has placed the highest priority on addressing the situation in Rakhine State.

As we work on the delicate and sensitive issue, deeply rooted since colonial times, we cannot examine or resolve any problem in isolation.

We need to look at the issues from a multi-dimensional perspective. We must listen to the voices of all communities.

Myanmar has reiterated several times its readiness to accept displaced persons currently residing in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. The agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh calls for the issuance of identity cards to the returnees.

Myanmar has reiterated several times its readiness to accept displaced persons currently residing in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. The agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh calls for the issuance of identity cards to the returnees.

To expedite repatriation, Myanmar delegations visited the camps in Cox's Bazar thrice to address the delay in repatriation. They also met with displaced persons and explained to them the benefits of holding NVCs.

The displaced persons in Cox's Bazar cannot be classified as stateless because some have been issued identity cards by the Myanmar Government. We can issue citizenship cards to those who qualify for citizenship under the existing law. Those who do not have any identity card will be issued NVCs immediately. They can proceed with the process of applying for a citizenship at the same time.

Many people have expressed their desire to return to Myanmar. The speedy repatriation of those who have long expressed their desire to return, including some 400 people of Hindu faith, should be allowed.

We call on Bangladesh to faithfully implement the bilateral agreement, which is the only feasible way to resolve the issue of displaced persons.



The Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness

By Arakan Sein

THE World Sight Day, observed annually on the second Thursday of October, is a global event meant to draw attention to blindness and vision impairment. It was originally initiated by the Sight First Campaign of Lions Club International Foundation in 2000 by the recommendation of the World Health Organization. The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)'s Council of Members held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with local hosts Night Savers from 7-8 October. This year's call to action: Vision First.

Globally, it is estimated that approximately 1.6 billion people live with some form of distance or near vision impairment. With regards to distance vision, 188.5 million have mild vision impairment, 217 million have moderate to severe vision impairment, and 36 million people are blind. This year we have a newly designed pack of implementation material outlining what the World Sight Day is, key messages and media guidelines. Here I would like to mention someone in passing: Helen Keller, who was born in 1880 and died in 1968 in the US. She was struck by an illness as a young child that left her both blind and deaf. But aided by her devoted teacher, Anne Sullivan, Keller is able to develop ways to communicate and becomes an author as well as an advocate. She was the first deaf-blind



person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. When Helen was 72 years old, her remarkable journey leads her to meet with the then President Dwight D. Eisenhower and was awarded Presidential Medal Fame.

Suffice to say that she was not only blind but also deaf, but she never gave up to pursue her career during her lifetime. Irrespective of your areas of focus in this World Sight Day — cataract, glaucoma, diabetes, eye care management — 'Vision First' works. You can use it to reach out to your work areas

or highlight support or funding that has helped you deliver quality eye care services.

When was the last time you got an eye exam? Your family, friends and colleagues? During this Day, you and your friends are strongly advised to take an eye exam — and urge others to do the same! We have data and evidence. We also have projections into the future — and an ageing world population, myopia and diabetic retinopathy are set to increase vision impairment in the coming decades. Eye care issues impact eye care group

and their well-being. What's the first thing you can do? Plan for an eye exam. Look around in your family especially those who are vulnerable: young, school-going children, the elderly, and those with diabetes. Vision 2020 is a global initiative that aims to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020. It was launched on 18 February, 1999 by the WHO together with more than 20 non-governmental organizations involved in eye care and prevention and management of blindness that comprise the International Agency

for the Prevention of Blindness.

Vision 2020 is a partnership that provides guidance, technical and source support to countries that have formally adopted its agenda.

Mission

The mission of Vision 2020 global initiative is to eliminate the main causes of all preventable and treatable blindness as a public issue by the year 2020.

Objectives

Vision 2020 : the right to sight accomplishes its mission

as it attains the three major objectives:

- Raise the profile, among the key audiences, of the causes of avoidable blindness and the solutions that will help to eliminate the problem.
- Identify and secure the necessary resources around the world in order to provide an increased level of prevention and treatment programs.
- Facilitate the planning, development and implementation of three core Vision 2020 strategies by national programs.

Core strategies

- Disease control: Facilitate the implementation of specific programs to control and treat the major causes of blindness.
- Human Resource Development: Support the training of Ophthalmologists and other eye care personnel to provide eye care services.
- Infrastructure and appropriate technology development: Assist to improve infrastructure and technology to make eye care more available and accessible.

In conclusion, I would like to urge authorities concerned to focus more on the middle regions of our country to fight against eye diseases such as trachoma, cataract, refractive errors, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and eye care management.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 10th October, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 11 October, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Chin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan (North and South), Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing and Yangon Regions. 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 Eastern and Southern Myanmar.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 October, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 October, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay and Neighbouring Area for 11 October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

UNSG 's Message on International Day of the Girl Child

TODAY, more than 1 billion girls younger than 18 are poised to take on the future. Every day, they are challenging stereotypes and breaking barriers. Girls are organizing and leading movements to tackle issues such as child marriage, education inequality, violence and the climate crisis. As the theme of this year's observance underscores, they are proving to be unscripted and unstoppable.

On this International Day, we celebrate achievements by, with and for girls since the adoption of the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action – a comprehensive policy agenda for the empowerment of women and girls. Across nearly 25 years, we have seen more girls attending and completing school, fewer getting married or becoming mothers while still children themselves, and more gaining the skills they need to excel in the workplace.

It is no longer acceptable for girls to have to scale-back their dreams or be made to believe they were unreachable in the first place. Yet many are still held back by harmful gender norms that influence everything they do: if, when

and whom they marry, whether they attend and complete school, access health services or earn a living, and so much else. Two hundred million girls and women are subjected to female genital mutilation. Three of four victims of human trafficking are women and girls. Conflicts trap millions in violence, uncertainty and despair.

To ensure that all girls can reach their potential, we need concerted efforts and investments in their health, safety and 21st-century skills. Every year of secondary schooling a girl receives boosts her earning power by as much as 25 per cent. If all girls and boys complete secondary education, 420 million people could be lifted out of poverty. The benefits unfold across generations.

We need to uphold the equal rights, voices and influence of girls in our families, communities and nations. Girls can be powerful agents of change, and nothing should keep them from participating fully in all areas of life.

Source: United Nations Information Centre, Yangon.



PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE SG'S ENVOY ON YOUTH.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

N. Korea warns it may restart nuke, ICBM tests, raps U.N. statement

BEIJING — North Korea warned Thursday that it may restart nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests, saying a recent U.N. statement condemning the nation's missile launches reflects U.S. intentions.

In a statement carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency, an unnamed spokesperson of North Korea's Foreign Ministry also lashed out at the United States for having broken up working-level negotiations earlier this month.

The spokesperson then claimed that the United States

had egged six European countries on to issue the statement at the U.N. Security Council after North Korea test-fired what it calls a new type of submarine-launched ballistic missile on Oct. 2.

The "unfair" treatment by the Security Council is "prompting us to reconsider the steps that we have taken to build trust with the United States," the spokesperson said.

After the closed-door session in New York on Tuesday, the six European countries including Britain, France and Germany released the statement say-



This picture taken and released on July 4, 2017 shows North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un inspecting the test-fire of the intercontinental ballistic missile Hwasong-14. **PHOTO: AFP**

ing North Korea's provocative action has hampered stability in East Asia. They also said such action constitutes a "clear violation of Security Council reso-

lutions" banning North Korea's development of nuclear and missile technologies.

The United States did not join the statement as it is eager

to explore dialogue with North Korea on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, sources familiar with the matter said.—*Kyodo News* ■

Democrat Biden calls for Trump's impeachment



Democratic presidential candidate, former Vice President Joe Biden speaks during a campaign event on October 9, 2019 in Manchester, New Hampshire. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON — Democratic White House hopeful Joe Biden called Wednesday for President Donald Trump's impeachment, saying he'd "betrayed" the United States, but Trump dug in, predicting that the Supreme Court would have to resolve the fight.

"To preserve our constitution, our democracy, our basic integrity, he should be impeached," Biden told supporters at a rally in New Hampshire, adding his voice to that of other Democratic contenders.

"He's shooting holes in the constitution, and we cannot let him get away with it," added

Biden.

Trump, however, showed no sign of buckling under pressure from the Democratic party probe into his alleged bid to damage Biden by strong-arming Ukraine to investigate the former vice president.

Having threatened a constitutional crisis by refusing to cooperate with the congressional investigation, Trump predicted that the row would end up "being a big Supreme Court case."

He told reporters in the White House that his Republican party was being "treated very badly."

Democrats accuse Trump of stonewalling and obstruction.

"No one is above the law, not even President Trump," the Democratic majority leader in the House, Steny Hoyer, said Wednesday.

Impeachment becomes campaign message

On Twitter, which Trump is using to bombard the public with conspiracy theories about a "deep state" aiming to eject him, the president argued that the whistleblower behind the impeachment case had been shown to be partisan and inaccurate.—*AFP* ■

Apple pulls Hong Kong app used by protesters after China warning

HONG KONG — Apple on Thursday removed a Hong Kong map application used by pro-democracy protesters, saying it endangered police, after China warned the US tech giant to drop the app.

According to a statement published by the makers of HKmap.live, Apple said "your app has been used in ways that endanger law enforcement and residents in Hong Kong".

The financial hub has been gripped by protests for four months, and there have been regular clashes between hardcore demonstrators and police.

Apple's withdrawal of the application from its App Store

follows an accusation from China's state media that the app "obviously helps rioters".

An opinion piece in the People's Daily, the mouthpiece of the ruling Communist Party, said on Wednesday: "Nobody wants to drag Apple into the lingering unrest in Hong Kong. But people have reason to assume that Apple is mixing business with politics, and even illegal acts."

"Apple has to think about the consequences of its unwise and reckless decision."

HKmap.live published the App Store Review's statement on its Telegram channel, which has more than 70,000 subscribers.—*AFP* ■



Masked protesters gather outside the High Court premises in support of activist Edward Leung, jailed for taking part in the 2016 Mongkok riots, during an appeal hearing for his period of sentence in Hong Kong on October 9, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

OPEC oil production drops after attacks on Saudi installations

PARIS — The OPEC oil cartel saw its crude production fall in September, mostly due to production falling in Saudi Arabia following attacks on its oil infrastructure, according to its monthly oil report released on Thursday.

The Organization for the Petroleum Exporting Countries said its production fell to an average of 28.49 million barrels per day (mbd) in September, a drop of nearly 1.32 mbd, according to secondary sources.

Production by Saudi Arabia, the cartel's biggest producer and the world's top exporter, fell by

1.28 mbd to just over 8.56 mbd.

September 14 attacks on Saudi state-owned Aramco facilities in Abqaiq and Khurais initially halved the kingdom's crude output and sent global energy markets into a tailspin.

Abqaiq is the world's largest oil processing facility and Khurais is a major oil field.

The attacks were claimed by Yemen's Huthi rebels. Saudi leads a military coalition against the Iran-backed Huthis, which have carried out dozens of cross-border drone and missile attacks on Saudi targets, including oil facilities.

Washington has concluded that the strikes were launched from Iranian soil and that cruise missiles were used. Tehran denies its involvement.

OPEC also once again trimmed its forecast for the growth in global oil demand, to 0.98 mbd from 1.02 mbd, although that was due to downward revisions to demand in the first half of the year.

Also revised lower was demand for petrol and diesel in the United States.

The cartel held its forecast for demand growth next year steady at 1.08 mbd.—AFP ■



US energy prices fell again in September and are down nearly 5% over the past year, holding down CPI. PHOTO: AFP

Weak fuel prices keep US consumer inflation steady September

WASHINGTON — Tumbling energy costs kept US consumer inflation in check last month, blunting upward pressures in prices for housing and medical care, according to government data released Thursday.

As a result, the Consumer Price Index held steady in September, pausing following recent gains despite historically low unemployment and rising wages.

The latest figures were unlikely to shift views among Federal Reserve policymakers, many of whom fear the world's largest economy is increasingly vulnerable. The Fed later this month is expected to cut interest rates for the third time in 2019.

Compared to August, the CPI, which tracks costs for household goods and services, was flat as energy prices continued their

recent decline, falling another 1.4 per cent, including a 2.4 per cent drop in gasoline. Over the last 12 months, CPI rose 1.7 per cent, the same as in August, as energy prices are down 4.5 per cent. Even when volatile food and fuel prices are stripped out, core CPI rose just 0.1 per cent for the month, below economists' expectations. Compared to September of last year, the core measure was up 2.4 per cent, also the same as August — which had been the biggest increase since July 2018 and a level not exceeded in a decade. That measure was held down by a steep 1.6 per cent drop in used car prices, but economist Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics said they are expected to rebound, a repeat of what happened at this time last year.—AFP ■



Attacks on Saudi oil installations caused a sharp, but short-lived drop in oil production. PHOTO: AFP

Equity markets tread water as trade talks loom

LONDON — Global stock markets struggled for direction on Thursday with investors cautious as they sifted through conflicting reports about upcoming China-US trade talks.

Hong Kong, Tokyo and Shanghai rose on tentative hopes of a breakthrough, while European markets were mixed and Wall Street also tread water.

"Asia stocks perked up overnight on news of a potential trade talk breakthrough but European markets were more reserved," said City Index analyst Fiona Cincotta.

Choppy

On Wall Street, the DJIA index was lower at the opening bell in "choppy": trading, said analysts at Charles Schwab.

"The resumed trade talks

between the US and China are garnering attention, though headlines regarding the progress are mixed," they said.

Investors have been broadly upbeat in recent weeks that the meeting in Washington between top-level representatives would

see at least some progress.

However, with the much-anticipated gathering due to start within hours, Hong Kong's South

China Morning Post reported pre-meeting discussions had not made any progress on key areas such as forced technology transfers, and that the meet would be cut in half to just one day.

Tensions were already showing this week after the US unveiled restrictions on 28 Chinese entities over human rights violations in Xinjiang and imposed visa restrictions on some officials, while a report said the White House was considering curtailing American investment in the country.

Sources were reported as saying China had narrowed the issues it was willing to discuss as it felt in a stronger position owing to Donald Trump facing an impeachment inquiry at home and a weakening economy.—AFP ■



Top-level trade talks are the main point of focus. PHOTO: AFP

Tourists rail against Hanoi 'train street' ban



It might look pretty, but it's still a working railway and every so often tourists have to scramble out of the way of an oncoming train. **PHOTO: AFP**

HANOI — Selfie-snapping tourists railed against the closure of Hanoi's 'train street' on Thursday after police blocked off the Instagram-famous tracks for safety reasons.

The narrow railway corridor in central Hanoi has become a hotspot among visitors seeking the perfect holiday snap on the tracks — often dodging trains that rumble through daily.

But Hanoi authorities said this week they would block people from the tracks to avoid accidents, and police on Thursday erected barricades to keep out disappointed visitors.

"I'm very frustrated because today I can't go in and take a picture," Malaysian tourist Mustaza bin Mustapha told AFP, vowing to come back later. Dozens of other tourists were turned away, though some managed to get onto still-open sections of the railway,

moving out of the way as an afternoon train chugged past.

Built by former colonial rulers, the railway once shipped goods and people across France's former Indochina colony and remains in use today by communist Vietnam's state-run railway company.

The stretch of the tracks was once known as a rough part of town, occupied by drug users and squatters until their recent discovery by camera-wielding holidaymakers who have splashed images of the area across social media. Cafe owners complained that business would be hurt thanks to the new regulations, and that tourists always moved out of the way for oncoming trains. "There has never been any regretful accidents here," said Le Tuan Anh, who runs a cafe from his home along the tracks. —AFP ■

California turns off power to millions to prevent wildfires

LOS ANGELES — Rolling blackouts set to affect millions of Californians began Wednesday as a utility company started switching off power to an unprecedented number of households in the face of hot, windy weather that raises the risk of wildfires.

Pacific Gas & Electric, which announced the deliberate outage, is working to prevent a repeat of a catastrophe last November in which faulty power lines it owned were determined to have sparked California's deadliest wildfire in modern history.

California governor Gavin Newsom said the "frustration that Californians feel as they deal with the impacts of these power outages is warranted," but that safety was the main concern.

"Our first priority is to protect people and to ensure that communities are safe," he added in a statement.

In last year's inferno, 86 people died and a town called Paradise was virtually destroyed. PG&E has been found responsible for dozens of other wildfires in recent years, too.

This is peak wildfire season in California.

"Extremely critical" fire conditions were expected in parts of northern California Wednesday, and in southern California around Los Angeles county Thursday, the National Weather Service said.

PG&E said the severe weather incident prompting its precautionary shutoffs — hot, dry conditions and winds gusting at up to 70 mph (110 kph) — was expected to last through midday Thursday in northern and central California. —AFP ■



A burnt car and a gas station remain visible on 11 November, 2018 after the "Camp" fire tore through the region near Pulga, east of Paradise, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

Malaysia finds hornbill 'ivory' in massive wildlife seizure

KUALA LUMPUR — Almost 800 animal parts including a huge stash of hornbill "ivory", pangolin scales and deer's antlers, have been seized in a raid on Borneo island, officials in Malaysia said on Thursday.

Borneo's vast jungles are home to a kaleidoscope of rare creatures but they are frequently targeted by poachers who sell their parts to collectors and for use in traditional medicine, particularly in China.

The island is shared between Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

Officials uncovered the huge haul on Saturday in a raid on a house in Kapit in Malaysia's Sarawak state, and a 56-year-old



Hornbill 'ivory' is becoming increasingly popular in China, where it is made into ornaments and jewellery. **PHOTO: AFP**

man was arrested, senior forestry official Zolkipli Mohamad Aton told AFP.

It included 148 helmet-like blocks of reddish keratin that is found on the front of the skulls of colourful hornbill birds.

Although it is different to

ivory from elephant tusks, the material is commonly known as hornbill "ivory" and is in growing demand in China, where it is carved into luxury ornaments, statues and jewellery.

The rest of the stash included hornbill feathers, scales from pangolins — known as "scaly anteaters" — peacock feathers, porcupine quills, and deer antlers, Zolkipli said, adding it was the biggest such seizure in Sarawak for 16 years.

He said the suspect could be a supplier of animal parts to syndicates exporting them to markets such as China, Hong Kong and Vietnam, and was facing jail for breaking wildlife protection laws. —AFP ■

Back from the dead: Some corals regrow after 'fatal' warming

WASHINGTON — For the first time ever, scientists have found corals that were thought to have been killed by heat stress have recovered, a glimmer of hope for the world's climate change-threatened reefs.

The chance discovery, made by Diego K. Kersting from the Freie University of Berlin and the University of Barcelona during diving expeditions in the Spanish Mediterranean, was reported in the journal *Science Advances* on Wednesday. Kersting and co-author Cristina Linares have been carrying out long-term monitoring of 243 colonies of the endangered reef-builder coral *Cladocora caespitosa* since 2002, allowing them to describe in previous papers recurring warming-related

mass mortalities. "At some point, we saw living polyps in these colonies, which we thought were completely dead," Kersting told AFP, adding it was a "big surprise."

Coral are made up of hundreds to thousands of tiny creatures called polyps that secrete a hard outer skeleton of calcium carbonate (limestone) and attach themselves to the ocean floor.

Heat waves kill these animals — by either essentially roasting them alive or causing them to eject the symbiotic algae that live within them and provide them nutrients, thus leading to coral bleaching. A quarter of the coral cover of Spain's Columbretes Islands was lost to a particularly extreme heat wave in 2003. —AFP ■



Nepali traders waiting for their containers to arrive from Gyirong queue up with identity papers at the Rasuwagadhi-Gyirong border crossing on 24 July 2019. After twin quakes in 2015 destroyed the Kodari trading route, this has become the biggest trading route between the two countries. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Nepal eagerly awaits Chinese train to end trade dependence on India

RASUWAGADHI — At the international border point of Rasuwagadhi, or Rasuwa Fort, where Nepal fought two wars in the late 18th century with Tibetan forces and Chinese reinforcements, people now impatiently await what many here believe will conquer constraints posed by the Himalayas on Nepal-China trade relations: the Qinghai-Tibet railway.

They see the train as Nepal's path to freedom from trade dependence on India, a neighbor about whom Nepal harbors suspicions despite being geographically, culturally and socially closer to it than with China.

“This train will put to an end India's dadagiri (bullying),” said Chowang Sangbo, 54, who operates a modest lodge at Timure village near the ruins of the historic fort, a major gateway for the traders of Nepal and Tibet since ancient times.

By “dadagiri,” Sangbo is referring to the Indian trade blockade that started in September 2015 and ended in February the following year. It wasn't the first time India, which accounts for 65 per cent of Nepal's total imports and 57 per cent of exports, blockaded its northern neighbor.

Back then, Nepal had barely started limping

back to normalcy after a massive earthquake, its biggest in eight decades, killed nearly 9,000 people and demolished or damaged about a million houses.

Squeezed by a blockade resulting from India's displeasure with Nepal's Constitution adopted in 2015, this small, landlocked nation — described by its 18th century founder Prithvi Narayan Shah as a yam between two boulders — was forced to look up to the other boulder, China, which currently accounts for just 13 per cent of Nepal's imports mainly because connectivity is hindered by the Himalayas.—Kyodo News ■

Ecuador oil output hit as protests worsen

QUITO — Protesters in Ecuador fought a running battle with security forces Wednesday in a second day of violent demonstrations over a fuel price hike that forced the government to suspend most of the country's deliveries of crude.

The violence broke out as thousands of people representing indigenous groups, farmers, students and labor unions marched on a square in Quito's historic center near the government headquarters.

Masked demonstra-

tors threw Molotov cocktails and paving stones. Clouds of tear gas and palls of black smoke from burning tires rose over the colonial downtown area, a UNESCO world heritage site.

After clashes broke out in the area Tuesday, the government of President Lenin Moreno posted security forces to keep the march from reaching the plaza.

Protesters on Wednesday broke off from the main procession and hurled

rocks at riot police, who fought back with volleys of tear gas and water cannon.

Several people were injured in the clashes.

The protesters are demanding that Moreno reinstate fuel subsidies that were rescinded after \$4.2 billion in loans was agreed with the IMF.

“Without a doubt, this is going to be solved very soon,” Moreno said in a video broadcast on state television following the day's violence.—AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (7 / 2019-2020)

1. Open tenders for 2019-2020 fiscal year are invited for supply of the following respective items in US Dollar / Myanmar Kyats.			
Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	MOC/L-001(19-20)	14" HFERW API 5L Grade X-46 MS 3 LPE Coated Line Pipe (8,860 MTR & 10" HFERW API 5L Grade X-42 MS 3 LPE Coated Line Pipe (104,700) MTR	Ks
(b)	MOC/L-002(19-20)	Ball Valves & Pipe Fittings (1) Lot	Ks
(c)	MOC/L-003(19-20)	Welding Electrode (2) Items	Ks
(d)	MOC/L-004(19-20)	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve & Closure Patches (1) Lot	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-066(19-20)	5 Ton Cargo Truck (4 x 2) (5) Unit	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-067(19-20)	Skid Mounted Cutting Pot (5M3) with Cement Rack (2) Sets	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-068(19-20)	300000 Gals HSD Tank & Foundation (1) Lot	Ks
(h)	DMP/L-069(19-20)	Water Transfer Pump / Submersible Pump / Diaphragm Pump (7) Items	Ks
(i)	DMP/L-070(19-20)	Telecommunication Equipment (5) Items	Ks
(j)	DMP/L-072(19-20)	Electrical Materials for Nyaung Oo Guest House Upgrading (21) Items	Ks
(k)	DMP/L-073(19-20)	Casing Packer (2) Sets	Ks
(l)	DMP/L-074(19-20)	Gear Box with Cranks for Sucker Rod Pumping Unit (3) Items	Ks
(m)	IFB/005(19-20)	Cement Additives (4) Items	US\$
2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 10 October 2019 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.			
3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 14:00 pm on 13 November 2019 .			
4. Tender Closing Date & Time 13-11-2019, 14:00 pm			
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise Ph No. + 95 67 - 411206			

ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာ့သစ်ကော့ပေးလီမိတက် (MYTCL) မုံရွာမြို့မှ အသုံးမလိုတော့သည့် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ပစ္စည်းများအား ပစ္စည်းအစုအပုံအလိုက် ခွဲခြားသတ်မှတ် ထားရှိသဖြင့် မျက်မြင်အခြေအနေအတိုင်း ဈေးပြိုင်ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း ရောင်းချပါမည်။

ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်

- Empty Drums
- Battery
- Used filter
- Scrap Iron (in drum)
- Scrap Iron (chips/pieces/parts)
- Scrap Tyres
- Hoses
- Heavy Equipment Machines (15)

ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်းနှင့် ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံများကို မြန်မာ့သစ်ကော့ပေးလီမိတက်ရုံး (Mine Site) တွင် ဝယ်ယူရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။

၂။ ပစ္စည်းများကြည့်ရှုရန် နေ့၊ အချိန်နှင့် နေရာ (၁၇-၁၀-၂၀၁၉) မှ (၂၅-၁၀-၂၀၁၉) ထိ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း၊ MYTCL ရုံး၊ Mine Site

၃။ ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်းနှင့် နေရာ (၂၈-၁၀-၂၀၁၉) နေ့၊ ညနေ ၄ နာရီ၊ MYTCL ရုံး၊ Mine Site

၄။ ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်းနှင့် နေရာ (၂၉-၁၀-၂၀၁၉) နေ့၊ MYTCL ရုံး၊ Mine Site

၅။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များသိရှိလိုပါက၊ အောက်ပါ တယ်လီဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်း စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

(၁) ၀၉ ၇၇၀၁၃၆၄၈၂ MYTCL မုံရွာမြို့။

(၂) ၀၉ ၇၇၀၁၃၆၄၈၅

မှတ်ချက်။ ။ ပစ္စည်းများ လာရောက်ကြည့်ရှုသူများသည် ဘေးအန္တရာယ်အကာ အကွယ်ပစ္စည်း (PPE) ဘောင်းဘီရှည်၊ အင်္ကျီလက်ရှည်၊ Safety Boot နှင့် Helmet များ ဝတ်ဆင်လာရမည်။

လေလံရောင်းချရေးကော်မတီ
မြန်မာ့သစ်ကော့ပေးလီမိတက်

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY.NO. (025N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY.NO. (025N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V WOOHYUN GREEN

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V WOOHYUN GREEN VOY.NO. (1909) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-10-2019 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES
SINGAPORE PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Indonesia's top security minister injured in attack: police

JAKARTA — Indonesia's chief security minister Wiranto was injured in a stabbing attack Thursday by a suspected Islamic militant, police said.

National police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said a man wielding a "sharp weapon" stabbed Wiranto, one of his guards and a local police chief while the minister was getting out of his car during a visit to Pandeglang, a regency west of Jakarta.

Wiranto, who goes by one name, suffered two stab wounds in his abdomen, Dedi told a news conference, adding he was flown to an army hospital in Jakarta after receiving emergency treatment at a local hospital.



FILE PHOTO: Wiranto takes oath at an inauguration ceremony. **PHOTO: AFP**

"His wounds are quite deep but he is in stable condition," Firmansyah, direc-

tor of the hospital where the emergency medical treatment was provided, told the Jakar-

ta-based private television network Kompas TV.

The local police chief was injured in his back, while the guard suffered a chest injury.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo visited Wiranto at the army hospital.

Speaking to reporters after the visit, Jokowi said Wiranto was "stabbed with a knife by a terrorist. He is now undergoing surgery."

The president added that he ordered the security apparatus to conduct a full investigation and take stern actions against the perpetrators and their network. "Only with our joint efforts, can we eradicate

terrorism and radicalism from our beloved country," he said.

Security guards intervened and detained the attacker at the scene as well as a hijab-clad woman identified as his wife who was accompanying him.

Dedi said that the perpetrator, identified as Syahril Alamsyah alias Abu Rara, 31, from the North Sumatra provincial capital of Medan was "allegedly exposed to the radical group Islamic State."

The police identified the woman as Fitri Andriana, 21, from the town of Brebes in Central Java Province. —Kyodo News ■



Bangladeshi economist and Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bangladesh arrest warrant for Nobel laureate Yunus

DHAKA — Bangladeshi economist and Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has been issued with an arrest warrant after failing to appear at a hearing over the sacking of workers at a company he heads, officials said Thursday.

A judge at a court in Dhaka issued the order Wednesday as sacked workers from Grameen Communications (GC) lodged a complaint saying they were fired because they set up a trade union, court clerk M. Nuruzzaman told AFP.

Yunus, who is chairman of GC, did not attend the hearing as he was abroad. The chief executive officer and a senior manager at the company appeared at the court and secured bail, Nuruzzaman said.

"He (Yunus) left Bangladesh before receiving any summons for appearing before the court. As soon as he returns, an appropriate legal step shall be taken," Yunus's lawyer Kazi Ershadul Alam told AFP.

The 79-year-old former economics professor who founded the pioneering poverty-busting micro lender Grameen Bank, has been at odds with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina since 2007 when he made a brief foray into the country's highly polarised politics.

In 2011, he was sacked as the head of Grameen Bank, in a move widely believed to have been orchestrated by Hasina. He challenged his sacking in the highest court, but lost.

Yunus set up the Bank, which co-won the Nobel with him in 2006, in 1983 to make collateral-free micro loans to millions of rural entrepreneurs. The bank is now run by managers appointed by Hasina.

Hasina has accused him of "sucking blood" from the poor amid allegations the bank charges interest rates of more than 20 percent, and suggested he was responsible for the World Bank pulling a \$1.2 billion loan for a mega bridge project. —AFP ■

Japan student uses invisible ink to ace ninja report

TOKYO — A Japanese student aced an assignment on ninja culture by making her own invisible ink from soybeans in a stealthy move that impressed her professor.

Eimi Haga, a member of Mie University's ninja club, turned in an essay on a visit to a museum about the nimble assassins with an attached message to heat it before reading.

"I knew that I needed to take it home and put it above a stove," said Yuji Yamada, who teaches

Japanese history, including ninja culture.

"She replicated what is written in records of ninja art. She strived to prove what was written actually works and went through a trial-and-error process. I was impressed," he said.

When the characters of Haga's essay revealed themselves in the heat, Yamada — who had promised his students extra marks for creativity — decided to award her an A.

Haga, 19, made the ink by

soaking soybeans overnight and then squeezing them into a paste.

She told AFP she had tested three different kinds of paper for the optimum effect.

"If the paper is too thin, it burns when heated. If it's too thick, it doesn't absorb the ink very well," she said.

"I usually use pens and PC to write things. It's been a while since I took a brush to write with an invisible ink," she said. —AFP ■



By learning about ninja... we can apply their knowledge and their ways to the modern society,' Haga's teacher said. **PHOTO: AFP**

Erdogan threatens EU with refugee influx if criticises Syria operation

ANKARA — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned the EU on Thursday that Ankara would allow millions of refugees to head to Europe if the bloc criticised Turkey's military offensive in Syria.

"Hey EU, wake up. I say it again: if you try to frame our operation there as an invasion, our task is simple: we will open the doors and send 3.6 million migrants to you," Erdogan said in a speech to parliament.

Turkey launched an operation into Syrian territory on Wednesday, aimed at combating Kurdish militants tied to insurgents in its own territory.

Erdogan said 109 "terrorists" had been killed so far in the operation. "We have a message to those who were forced to join the YPG (Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units) ranks: If you leave now... our arms are wide open," he said.

Turkey currently hosts 3.6

million refugees from the eight-year conflict in Syria — the highest number in the world.

Under a 2016 agreement with the EU, Turkey agreed to prevent refugees from leaving towards Europe in exchange for six billion euros and visa-free travel for its own citizens.

But it has frequently criticised Brussels for being slow in providing the money and not doing more to help with the broader refugee problem.—AFP



Turkish-backed Syrian rebel fighters head to an area near the Syrian-Turkish border north of Aleppo on 8 October 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**



Arab and Kurdish civilians flee following Turkish bombardment in Syria's northeastern town of Ras al-Ain. **PHOTO: AFP**

Syria Kurds battle Turkish invasion

QAMISHLI (Syria) — Syria's Kurds battled to hold off a Turkish invasion on Thursday after air strikes and shelling launched a long-threatened operation that could reshape the country and trigger a humanitarian crisis.

US President Donald Trump tried to justify the de facto green light he gifted his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan for an assault seen as a blatant betrayal of Washington's erstwhile Kurdish allies. Syrian Kurdish forces lost 11,000 personnel and played a key role in the years-long battle to eliminate the "caliphate" the Islamic State group had set up in the region. In scenes all too familiar since the start of Syria's war more than eight years ago, thousands of civilians were seen fleeing their homes on Thursday, in vehicles or on foot with their belongings on their backs. The broad offensive — which Erdogan dubbed "Operation Peace

Spring" — drew international outrage and warnings, including from within Trump's own camp, and will be discussed in an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council later on Thursday. After launching the assault with air strikes and intense artillery fire, the Turkish military and its Syrian proxies crossed the border into Kurdish-controlled areas. Turkey was yet to unleash its full military might however, with the Syrian Democratic Forces — the autonomous Kurds' de facto army — holding off two incursion attempts.

Incursions

The first one was conducted late Wednesday against Tal Abyad, one of the main Kurdish-controlled towns in the area where Ankara wants to set up a buffer zone stretching some 30 kilometres (20 miles) into Syria.—AFP ■

Police clash with protesters demanding Honduran leader resign

TEGUCIGALPA (Honduras) — Honduran police used teargas against protesters demanding the resignation of President Juan Orlando Hernandez Wednesday in Tegucigalpa, hours after a march by thousands of the leader's supporters.

The clash comes after a US prosecutor alleged last week that Hernandez took millions in bribes from drug lords, including jailed Mexican kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, during a trial for Hernandez's brother.

About a thousand protesters gathered in Tegucigalpa's central

park shouting slogans against the president, when dozens of police officers arrived and tried to force them to disperse. Some of the protesters fought back, attacking police with stones from under a cloud of teargas.

The anti-Hernandez demonstration was called by a coalition of civil society groups and took place just hours after a march in which more than 6,000 Hernandez supporters were estimated to have participated, according to journalists. Many of the supporters chanted "Viva JOH (Juan Orlando Hernandez)!" and "He's

not alone."

Honduras has been rocked by the allegations against Hernandez — who has long presented himself as a champion in the campaign against drug trafficking.

"The Honduran people are good and have been with me in good times and in bad times" Hernandez said in a speech to his supporters. A country of 9.4 million plagued by gangs, poverty and corruption, Honduras has witnessed recent violent protests over the president's controversial health and education decrees.—AFP ■



Anti-government protesters march toward the presidential palace during the "March of Torches" to demand the resignation of Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez, in Tegucigalpa. **PHOTO: ORLANDO SIERRA #AFP**

At least 20 Boko Haram militants surrender to Nigerian troops

ABUJA — At least 20 Boko Haram militants surrendered to Nigerian troops following various clearance operations in the country's northeast region, according to local security officials

on Thursday.

Among them, 15 high-profile militants laid down their arms during an operation by the army and the government-backed militia, the Civilian Joint Task Force

(CJTF), at Pulka village in the Gwoza area of the northeastern state of Borno, said Bashir Kaka, a CJTF leader. Kaka said some of the Boko Haram leaders who surrendered during the operation

on Wednesday were among those earlier declared wanted by the army. A chief driver of the Boko Haram terror group was also arrested during the operation, he said. Aminu Iliyasu, a spokesman

of the army in Borno, told Xinhua that five additional militants had surrendered to troops in Gamboru Ngala and Dikwa local government areas of the state in similar operations.—Xinhua

World Billiards Championship 2019: Nay Thway Oo enters quarterfinals

MYANMAR billiards star Nay Thway Oo reached the quarter-final stage of the World Billiards Championship 2019, which is being held in Melbourne, Australia, by beating Robby Foldvari of Australia yesterday in the group stage match.

In the last 16 matches of the World Billiards Championship, Myanmar's Nay Thway Oo beat Robby Foldvari of Australia by a narrow 448-439. The win was the result of efforts made by Nay Thway Oo, who passed the group stage with flying colors.

Nay Thway Oo beat Phil Davis of England 527-183 on 8

October.

He also beat Simon Scerri of Australia by 570-296 in another group stage match on 8 October.

On 9 October, Nay Thway Oo beat Gary Norman of England by 740-129.

Having chalked up victories at each step, Nay Thway Oo will now face England's David Causier in the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, another Myanmar billiards player, Kyaw Naing Oo, bowed out from the tourney after suffering a loss to Australian Micheal Pearson in the last 24 stage.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar billiards player Nay Thway Oo seen at the World Billiards Championship 2019 in Melbourne, Australia. The tournament started on 8 October. **PHOTO: WORLD BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Euro 2020 hopefuls England must tighten up at the back, says Alexander-Arnold



FILE PHOTO: Liverpool defender Trent Alexander-Arnold opens the scoring at Chelsea on 22 September. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON — Trent Alexander-Arnold says England must improve their defensive record if they are to stand any chance of winning Euro 2020.

Gareth Southgate's side can assure themselves of a place in next year's finals if they beat the Czech Republic in their Group A qualifier in Prague on Friday.

England are firm favourites to advance after a perfect start to the qualification campaign, including a 5-0 win over their next opponents at Wembley in March. England have a wealth of attacking options including Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling and Jadon Sancho but have had defensive problems in recent

matches.

A 5-3 win over Kosovo at Southampton last month did little to paper over cracks that showed when the Netherlands won 3-1 in the Nations League semi-final in June.

Individual errors accounted for many of the goals shipped across those two games as Southgate continues to strive for a settled back four.

"If we want to be regarded as one of the best teams in Europe and go far in the Euros, and try and win the competition, our clean sheets and goals conceded must be fewer," Liverpool full-back Alexander-Arnold said.

"We have to concede fewer

goals. As defenders, as a team and as a unit we know where to improve and where to work on.

"Some games, it just happens. We will analyse what went wrong and try and make sure it does not happen again."

Champions League-winning right-back Alexander-Arnold will battle with Kieran Trippier for a place in Southgate's team. James Maddison has withdrawn from the England squad for the two Euro 2020 qualifiers due to illness.

The Leicester midfielder, 22, has made an impressive start to the Premier League campaign and was in strong contention to make a senior debut.—AFP ■

U-12 boys' state, region football tourney to be held in Yangon

WITH the aim of identifying fresh young talent and innovative amateur footballers across Myanmar, the MFF U-12 Boys' States and Regions Tournament 2019 will be held from 19 to 31 October on the artificial turf of the National Football Stadium in Yangon, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The tourney is being jointly supervised by the Ministry of Education, the Basic Education Department, and the MFF.

Seventeen U-12 teams will compete in the tourney: Yangon Region team, Taninthayi Region team, Bago Region team, Ayeyawady Region team, Mandalay Region team, Magway Region team, Sagaing Region team, Mon State team, Rakh-

ine State team, Kachin State team, Chin State team, Kayah State team, Eastern Shan State team, Northern Shan State team, Southern Shan State team, Kayah State team, and Nay Pyi Taw team.

The Magway Region team is the defending champion. It won the 2018 edition of the tournament.

Players competing in the tourney need to be 12 years old or younger, and should have been born between 1.1.2007 and 31.12.2009, according to the football federation. All players need to have their age verified by medical teams, it added.

The fixtures for the tourney will be released by the Myanmar Football Federation soon, said officials.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



The champions of the MFF U-12 Boys' States and Regions Tournament 2018, the Magway Region team, are seen celebrating their victory on 14 December, 2018. **PHOTO: MFF**