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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 17 October 2019

## State Counsellor to pay official visit to Japan

At the invitation of the Government of Japan, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will pay an official visit to Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito in the near future.—MNA

## State Counsellor addresses 2019 Conference on Implementing Development of Universities



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the 2019 Conference on Implementing Development of Universities in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.  
**PHOTO: MNA**

THE 2019 Conference on Implementing Development of Universities was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In her speech, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, “The government is fully and consistently implementing policies and projects that are appropriate with and essential for building a democratic federal union from various sectors. In this regard, it is required to develop outstanding experts and technicians who are the human resources of the country. Development of human resources, including the young generation, is a vital need for the future of the country. They will have to perform state duties in

the future. Therefore, the government is striving for harmonious development of basic and higher education, and for promoting the country’s education up to the international level.”

She added, “The Ministry of Education is implementing the National Education Strategy (2016-2021) for the emergence of quality education in the country. In this aspect, education conferences are aimed to support this sector. The ministry is carrying out the plans adopted from the 11 papers submitted in the education conference last year.”

A total of 16 papers on higher education sector and related fields have been submitted to identify the prioritized plan for implementation in 2019-2020.

She also said that these papers were good enough to develop future plans that could bring in fruitful results.

The State Counsellor remarked that education was a lifelong process, and that it was a necessary investment for socio-economic development of the country, and added that human resource was very important for the development of the country in the 21st century.

She added, “The government will encourage research works, inventions and vocational training courses in developing the country’s education up to the global standard. Quality assurance will be required in the development of national education.

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# Absence of hunger will bring health, educational, economic development: Vice President



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the opening speech at the ceremony to mark World Food Day 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Union Government commemorated World Food Day with an exhibition at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivered the opening speech at the ceremony, which was attended by union ministers, the Union Attorney-General, deputy ministers, MPs from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, ambassadors, representatives from UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), its related agencies, INGOs and NGOs, and department officials.

## VP's speech

In his speech the Vice President first said it was an honor to deliver the address at the World Food Day event, which was being held annually on 16 October. He said the FAO designated themes each year, which aims for food security and bringing an end to hunger, and this year's theme was "Our Actions Are Our Future, Healthy Diets for A #ZeroHunger World".

While the world has been working hard to meet those two goals in the past decade, there had been no significant results and the malnourished populations continue to rise, said the Vice President. FAO stated there were over 800 million people in that demographic, meaning one in nine people were underfed and starving. This was caused not only by insufficient production, but also by a lack of edible quality food.

The Vice President said unhealthy food was the main cause of diseases and deaths in the world and this was the reason

it was necessary to quickly implement sustainable production of healthy food for every person.

## Newer tech brings ups & downs

Technological advancements were changing the way people live, behave and make dietary decisions and more people were choosing to consume calorie-rich GMOs and meat over seasonal crops, fruits and food containing fibre, said the Vice President. He said the global dietary trend in urban districts was to eat ready-made food purchased from 24-hour marts and restaurants.

He said climate change and

global energy needs as well as feed the growing population. The FAO commented that this route carried negative connotations for producing wholesome, healthy foods and preserving the environment, said the Vice President.

## Myanmar's plans for food security

He said as Myanmar was mainly an agricultural nation, it planted over 60 varieties of crops according to the season throughout the year. He said the Union Government had set in place a strategic plan to develop agriculture in order to realize a sufficient food production system that was

... enacted laws related to the use of fertilizers and pesticides need to be properly enforced and farmers must be continuously given necessary information and training to prevent overuse of both materials.

the onset of increasing natural disasters were damaging agricultural businesses in rural districts, which caused their income to be insufficient to purchase fresh meat and nutrient-rich food. This also affected the production rate of agricultural and livestock products, said the Vice President.

According to the FAO, humans used to cultivate over 6,000 varieties of crops as food but now only 9 varieties were being cultivated to meet 66 per cent of the global crop production in modern times. Efforts were made to boost the production of wheat, maize and rice, the three main crops aimed to fulfill 50% of the

both safe and nutritional. He said this consisted of the four pillars for good administration, increased production, market connectivity, and competitive edge.

The Vice President said Myanmar was able to produce sufficient rice, the staple food, other crops for domestic consumption and exported the surplus. He said enacted laws related to the use of fertilizers and pesticides need to be properly enforced and farmers must be continuously given necessary information and training to prevent overuse of both materials.

The Vice President said they also need encouragement for the use of excellent crop va-

rieties and livestock and fishery breeds to produce high quality food at increased rates. He said proper training must be given to effectively implement the trio of Good Agricultural Practice (GAP), Good Animal Husbandry Practice (GAHP), and Good Aquaculture Practice (GAQP).

He said they were also resolving complications to the agriculture and livestock sectors caused by climate change and its subsequent natural disasters. He said crops were especially affected by floods in the monsoon season every year. He said effective support must be given to farmers in order to protect their livelihoods and prevent any losses from incurring.

## Protecting the backbone of agriculture

The Vice President said changes in global technology, global warming and climate change all bring some form of negative consequences on rural districts, the main drivers of the agricultural sector. He said this caused both loss of crops and inferior quality which led to reduced socioeconomic standards and hunger. The Vice President said it was necessary to work hard towards the production of food safe for consumption, and the development of living standards in rural areas and the region as a whole to properly feed the growing population and nurture the future generation into healthy and able bodied citizens. He said such a monumental task required the assistance of the FAO and the effective implementation of government policies by government departments and public cooper-

ation. The Vice President said only an absence of hunger can bring about nutritional sufficiency, robust health, elevate education and drive socioeconomic development. He said it was the duty of every global citizen to realize the objectives laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. He said that while Myanmar was receiving international assistance to meet the second SDG goal, it should be remembered that the Myanmar people must be the main drivers for change.

On behalf of the entire Myanmar population and the Union Government, the Vice President expressed gratitude towards the FAO for providing valuable technical and financial assistance in the agricultural, livestock and rural development sectors.

The Vice President concluded his speech with a sincere wish for the government, private sector and general public to work hand in hand, while fulfilling their individual duties, to provide a safe and nutritional production of food for the 9 billion people, and growing, around the world.

After the Vice President's speech, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win gave an address on the 2019 World Food Day event and FAO Representative in Myanmar Ms Xiaojie Fan read a message from the FAO Director-General. This was followed by a commemorative video on the 2019 World Food Day.

Afterwards, Vice President U Henry Van Thio took documentary photos with attendees and toured the exhibits at the event.

—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)





State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photo together with senior officials at the 2019 Conference on Implementing Development of Universities at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

# State Counsellor addresses 2019 Conference on Implementing Development of Universities

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This system can upgrade national education level and learning process. It is also required to focus on promoting the quality of technicians, academic management, and the leaders of schools, training centers and universities.”

She also said that research works were very crucial for the higher education sector. Teachers and students of higher education need to do their research works consistently in their respective subjects. Findings from these works should be useful for economic, social, physical and mental developments. The research works and projects should be qualitative, rather than quantitative.

She also urged to prioritize subjects and topics which were appropriate for the requirements of the country, and she also reiterated the need for assistance of private sector in research works.

The State Counsellor continued, “The higher education sector has a role not only to support socio-economic development of the country, but also to nurture decent citizens and global people who have humane attitude. The sector also needs to generate human resources which were necessary for business organizations and industries and which have the qualities of wisdom and good attitude. Only decent citizens could build up a peaceful and united country. These people would eventually become citizens of a humane global society.”

She also suggested that the students need to be trained for multi-sectoral developments in-

side or outside the classrooms without limiting their learning only in the classroom, instead they should be trained to be in sync with their environment, region and country.

In order to create good learning environments, she also advised to encourage the young persons for improving their reading habits, and also to organize literary contests, literary talks and sport competitions. She said it was necessary to work towards training and producing young persons with nationalistic spirit, who value and practice respect for human rights in accordance with good citizenship and democratic practices. The State Counsellor suggested technological and vocational subjects were crucial for implementing pragmatic education reforms. Likewise, it was important to preserve languages, cultures and customs of ethnic people, and to support these works. As development of each region was fundamental to the prosperity of whole country, the education development programme must be effectively implemented in respect of regional resources.

She also stressed the importance of a new generation of dynamic and intelligent youths which could play a pivotal role for multi-sectoral development of the country, internal peace, building a genuine union and a democratic federal union. In this regard, a quality education could generate such valuable human resources.

She also expressed that the 2019 Conference on Implementing Development of Universities

could find ways to implement a quality education that was necessary for the country, and advised the results from the conference could be helpful to wipe out disparity and instability, and to work for the rule of law, justice, peace and freedom.

The State Counsellor emphasized the need of collaborative efforts, rather than the popular notion of leadership training, in all sectors, including politics and education. Only these collaborative efforts could turn out success. Many conferences on leadership role were noticed at home and abroad, with the emphasis on the leadership role.

She also remarked that it became popular to match the term ‘leader’ with the words of young, women, ethnic, political and economic, and then asked about the role of the ‘follower’.

The State Counsellor highlighted the essence of ‘teamwork’, and the value of leaders who can really lead the team with their genuine capacities for this role to benefit the country and people.

The State Counsellor urged for development of collaborative attitude without concentrating on a single leadership role to correct personal deficiencies and to use one’s good qualities for the benefits of others.

She finally advised all the participants to focus the conference on the sense of collaborative attitude, rather than personal or organizational leadership role.

Then, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi presented a detailed briefing about multi-sectoral development

programmes at the universities, followed by a presentation by Dr Zaw Wai Soe, chairman of Myanmar Rectors’ Committee, on their coordination with universities.

Then documentary photos of the State Counsellor together with senior officials were taken.

During the conference, the following papers were presented: Country Director Dr Richard Sunderland from the Myanmar British Council read out his paper ‘National Institute for Higher Education Development (NIHED) project’, Senior Program Manager Mr.Oleksandr Shtokvych from the Central European University ‘Towards University Autonomy in Myanmar: Policies, Planning and Implementation’, Retired Rector Dr Htin Zaw Soe from the University of Community Health (Magway) ‘Completion of Myanmar Universities’ Research Conference 2019, Its Advantages and Disadvantages’, Rector Dr Soe Win from Monywa University of Economics ‘Financial System and Development at Myanmar Universities’, Director General Dr Thein Win from the Department Higher Education ‘Widespread Use of e-payment System at Universities, Degree Colleges and Colleges’, Rector Dr Mie Mie Thet Thwin from University of Computer Studies, Yangon ‘Processes and Coordination of ICT Working Committee’, Rector Saw Pyone Naing from Sagaing University of Education ‘Extending Two-Year Courses to Four-Year Education Specialization Degrees at the Universities of Education’, Rector Dr Kyi Shwin from the University of Foreign Language-

es ‘Good Practice Guidelines of University Governance and Management’, Deputy Rector Dr Aung Naing Soe of Mandalay University of Distance ‘Reform of UDE Intensive Courses’, and Associated Professor Dr Myo Min from Chemistry Department of University of West Yangon ‘Social Problems of Teachers in Higher Education Sector and Solving Ways’.

The event was attended Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Thura U Aung Ko, U Thant Sin Maung, U Thein Swe, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Auditor General U Maw Than, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board U Win Thein, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, chairman of National Education Commission, permanent secretaries, directors general, rectors, deputy rectors, professors, headmasters/mistresses, responsible officials from the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science, and National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Committee, authors of research paper, teacher and student representatives from University Unions, officials and invited guests.

The conference will continue on 17 October, and the eight authors will present the eight papers for the multi-sectoral development of Myanmar universities.

There are 174 universities under the management of eight ministries, and 164 universities are the members of Myanmar Rectors’ Committee.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



# Senior General receives Russian Federation Deputy Defence Minister

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Russian Federation Deputy Minister for Defence Colonel General Alexander V Fomin at the Bayintnaung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to promoting bilateral relations and friendship between the two armed forces, the annual Inter-

national Army Games in Russia and participation of the Myanmar Tatmadaw in the games.

They also discussed matters related to promoting cooperation in economic and other sectors including training sector, and making mutual friendship visits, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Russian Federation Deputy Minister for Defence Colonel General Alexander V Fomin in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

# Union Information Minister attends launching ceremony of ASEAN-Korea Train tour

THE launching ceremony of the ASEAN-Korea Train tour was held at Seoul Station in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, at 8 am local time yesterday, with the participation of representatives

from ASEAN member countries and dignitaries in various sectors of ROK.

The ceremony was also attended by Minister for the SMEs and Startups Mrs Park

Young-sun, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Chair of the Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy Mr Joo Hyung Chul, Secretary-General of the ASEAN Korea Centre

Mr Lee Hyuk, Ambassador of ASEAN-Korea Mission Mr Lim Sungnam, Executive Director of 2019 ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit Preparatory Office Mr Suh Jeong-in, Mayor of Yeongdong-gun County Mr Park Se Bok and officials, the deputy ministers and ambassadors from ASEAN member countries, Myanmar Ambassador to ROK U Thant Sin, Secretary-General of ASEAN-China Centre (ACC) Mr Chen Dehai, Secretary General of ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC) Mr Masataka Fujita, and Director at the ASEAN Secretariat Mr Tran Dong Phuong.

At the opening ceremony, the Minister of the SMEs and Startups and the Chair of the Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy explained about the tour, objectives and expectations from ASEAN-Korea cooperation.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint expressed thanks for inviting to the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations and the 2019 ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit.

He also remarked ASEAN and ROK has seen closer ties year after year since a unique partnership was first established 30 years ago, while development of cooperation has been a significant success for the two regions.

The Union Minister also said that the New Southern Policy initiated by President Moon Jae-in could increase cooperation due to its three pillars of People, Prosperity and Peace, aimed at better ties in multi sectors.

The Union Minister added the train tour could lead to deeper and lasting cooperation, partner relations, mutual under-

standings, exchange of culture and knowledge among people and a goal of a more peaceful and prosperous destination.

He said all the participants, including common public, businesspersons and those who represent for technology, arts and media industries have been ready to take the train, showing all-inclusiveness, connectivity and equality to promote peace and prosperity of ASEAN and Korea regions.

He also concluded they were excited to start the tour which will be filled with meaningful programmes, and extended thanks to the ASEAN-Korea Centre and the organizers of the tour.

The ASEAN-Korea Train tour is organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of ROK and the ASEAN-Korea Centre, with the aims to promote partner relations of the two region, to hold the 2019 ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit and the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations.

The Train tour is organized to strengthen regional cooperation based on cultural and economic relations of people from ASEAN and Korea, with the participation of 200 persons, including senior government officials from the 10 ASEAN member countries, ROK, the People's Republic of China and Japan, as well as representatives of artistes and youth.

Along the ways through Gyeongju, Busan, Suncheon and Gwangju cities, the train is set to stop at significant places, art museums and cultural heritages of tourist destinations in the RoK, before returning to Seoul.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint attends the launching ceremony for the ASEAN-Korea Train tour at Seoul Station in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Participants pose for a group photo during the ASEAN-Korea Train tour in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



# President of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

AT the invitation of U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Her Excellency Mrs Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The goodwill delegation led by Mrs Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, was welcomed by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union

Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Director-General U Min Thein of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepalese Ambassador Mr Bhim Krishna Udas, Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Lin and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal Mrs Bidya Devi Bhandari walks past the Honour Guard as she arrives at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



## SWRR Union Minister receives former member of the Advisory Board for CIRRS

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr Win Myat Aye, received a delegation led by Mr Roelof Meyer, former member of the Advisory Board for the Committee for

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye shakes hands with former member of the Advisory Board for CIRRS Mr Roelof Meyer, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State (CIRRS) and former Defence Minister of South Africa, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Mr Roelof Meyer first explained the implementation of social cohesion processes between the communities in Rakhine State, which is one of the various recommendations.

The Union Minister replied that social cohesion is important for proliferating peace, stability and development in Rakhine State.

He also stressed the importance of continued cooperation needed for these social cohesion activities, which will require long-term planning.

The meeting then discussed matters related to implementing peaceful coexistence between the communities in Rakhine State, which would be instrumental in building trust between them and assist in the government's repatriation process of displaced people in Bangladesh. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo meets with Japan Patent Office Commissioner

DEPUTY Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, who was in Japan and attending Myanmar IP Seminar from 14 to 17 October in Tokyo, met with Japan Patent Office Commissioner Mr Matsunaga at the commissioner's office in Tokyo, Japan yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to arrangement for establishing a patent office in Myanmar, conducting training by Japan Patent Office for those whose duty is to scrutinize the applicants, and aiding Myanmar patent depart-

ment by sending experts. They then observed the operation producers in the office.

In the evening, the Deputy Minister met with Mr Lwasaki, the Director-General of Japan Patent Office, and discussed matters related to advantages of using information technology for patent procedures and confidentiality of documents. The Deputy Minister then studied the procedures for examining patent.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo holds talks with Japan Patent Office Commissioner Mr Matsunaga at the Commissioner's Office in Tokyo, Japan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# Eastern part of Yangon railway to reopen on 17 October

THE eastern part of the Yangon railway — from Danyingon-Mingaladon to Paywatseikgone — will be partially reopened on 17 October to ensure smooth transportation for the public, according to officials.

Starting from 21 December, 2018, work has been on to upgrade the Yangon circular rail network, resulting in the closure of some railroads.

The road section that will be reopened includes Okkalapa, Waibargi, Mingaladon, Mingaladon market, Kyaikkalai, and Gaw Gwin (Golf Course) stations, and there are about 4,000 daily commuters on that section.

Simultaneously, a 2.5-mile stretch on the Danyingon-Pay-

watseikgone railroad will be partially closed for upgrade. Therefore, train schedules may change slightly, and passengers will be notified through railway stations.

The fare will remain unchanged at K100 for a 15-mile trip and K200 for journeys of above 15 miles.

The upgrade project has been divided into two parts. The Shwetaung Company is conducting the upgrade work on the eastern part of the Yangon railway, while the A1 Company is working on the western part.

The western part from Insein to Kyimyindine railway stations, spanning 5.5 miles, and the eastern part from Danyingon to Paywatseikgone,

spanning 7.25 miles, have been undergoing a simultaneous upgrade since 21 December, 2018.

After upgrading the Yangon Circular Railway, the Myanmar Railways (MR) will be able to offer its services to triple the current number of passengers and cut an hour off the travel time on the entire Yangon circular rail network, said U Zaw Lwin, the traffic manager for the No.7 division of MR.

"At present, the Yangon circular rail is providing transportation services to 80,000 commuters. Once the upgrade is finished, it would accommodate triple the number of passengers than the current figure. There is a 15-minute gap between trains at present, and sometimes the

gap widens to 45 minutes, causing difficulties to daily commuters. After the upgrade, the gap will narrow to 10-12 minutes between trains. The maximum speed for trains is 40 km per hour but trains operate at a speed of 32 km/hr. It is estimated that train speed will increase to 60 km/hr after the upgrade. It takes 2 hours and 50 minutes to complete the whole route and the upgrade will cut travel time to 1 hour and 50 minutes," said U Zaw Lwin.

The Yangon circular railway upgrade is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2019, according to the Myanmar Railways. —Pwint Thit Sar/ Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

# Mountain Bike Challenge 2019 to be held in Kawthoung

KAWTHOUNG Town will host the Mountain Bike Challenge 2019 with the cooperation of the Kawthoung District Sports and Physical Education Department and the Kawthoung Cycling Club (KTCC) on 19 October.

Cyclists and bike lovers from Dawei, Myeik, and Kawthoung districts have been invited to participate in the mountain bike competition. The competition has been divided into two categories — for challengers above 40 years old and players under 40 years of age. The first, second, and third place winners from each category will be awarded and cyclists who arrive at the finish point within an hour and 30 minutes will be awarded finisher prizes. The objectives of



Cyclists participate in mountain bike competition in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region. Mountain Bike Challenge 2019 will be held on 19 October 2019. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**

the competition are to encourage young bike lovers and strengthen ties between cyclists in three

districts. The mountain bike competition will be held annually in those towns alternately, according

to the organizers. —Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by La Wonn)

# 400 wells to be established for irrigation in Yinmabin District

THE Yinmabin District Irrigation Water Utilization Management Department (IWUMD) will dig 400 wells in the villages of Yinmabin and Salingyi townships in Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region, in the 2019-2020 fiscal year to provide water to local growers, according to U Maung Maung Than, the head of the department.

With a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the department will drill 150 feet deep and 4 inches wide wells for villages in Yinmabin District, outside of the flood zone.

"Those wells will be constructed near spillways, rivers, and brooks with the purpose of delivering sufficient water for agriculture. Currently, the Agriculture Department, Agriculture Land Management and Statistics Department, Rural Development Department, related departments, and residents are discussing the project and sites," added U Maung Maung Than.

In the 2019-2020 FY, a total of 400 wells, including 200 wells in Yinmabin Township and 200 wells in Salingyi Township, will



A tube-well being sunk in Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region.

**PHOTO: THAN HTAY AUNG (KANI)**

be built under the supervision of the Yinmabin District Irrigation Water Utilization Management

Department. —Than Htay Aung (Kani)

(Translated by La Wonn)



# EOIs invited for construction of nine staff buildings in Chin State

EXPRESSIONS of Interest (EOIs) have been invited for the construction of nine staff quarters in eight townships of Chin State in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, according to the Chin State Urban and Housing Development Department.

Tenders have been invited for one three-storey building in Hakha town, two two-storey buildings in Tiddim, and one two-storey building each in Falan, Mindat, Matupi, Htantalan, Kanpatlat, and Loilenpi towns.

Companies submitting a bid will be screened according to standard norms and procedures, starting with the cost estimate from blueprints and material take offs. Companies will have to forward a copy of their registration and profile to the tender evaluation team. Companies applying for more than one project must

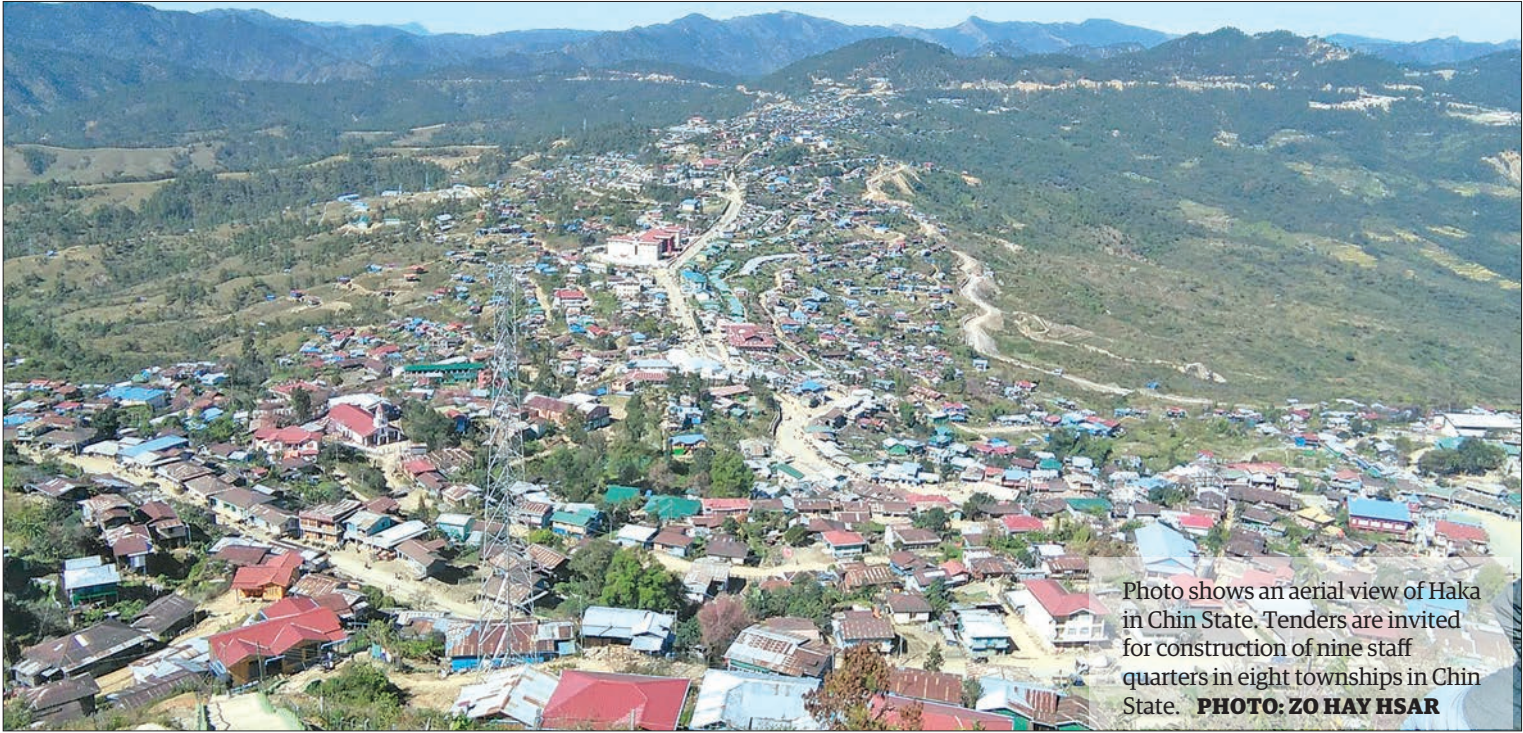


Photo shows an aerial view of Hakha in Chin State. Tenders are invited for construction of nine staff quarters in eight townships in Chin State. **PHOTO: ZO HAY HSAR**

make a tender deposit for each project as per the prescribed rate, according to an announcement from the Chin State Urban and Housing Development Department. Sale of tender forms began on 7 October, and they need to be submitted to the director of the Chin State Urban and Housing Development Department by 15 November. —Zo Hay Hsar (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Maritime trade dropped \$1.9 bln in previous fiscal

THE value of Myanmar's maritime trade for the period between 1 October and 30 September in the 2018-2019 fiscal year totaled US\$24.76 billion, a decline of over \$1.9 billion compared with the year-ago period, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the previous fiscal, maritime exports were valued at \$9.76 billion, while imports were registered at \$15 billion. Compared to the same period in the 2017-2018 fiscal, imports were lower by \$1.35 billion, while

exports registered a drop of \$568 million.

During the same period, the value of trade through the border gates was estimated at \$10.2 billion, an increase of \$1 billion amid tight confiscation of illegal, untaxed goods and trade suspension by Myanmar's main trade partner, China, while border trade with Thailand rose dramatically.

Meanwhile, the country's total external trade crossed \$34.97 billion, which was lower than the \$35.89 billion recorded

in the year-ago period. Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. The Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade, and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — Mon Mon (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Fishery exports cross \$730 mln

EXPORT earnings from the fisheries sector during the period between 1 October and 30 September in the 2018-2019 financial year reached US\$731.9 million, an increase of \$24.8 million from the year-ago period, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

In the previous fiscal, the export volume of fishery products crossed 540,000 metric tonnes, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The value of fishery exports has risen, but the price offered is much lower than that during the same period in the previous fiscal, said an official from the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar exports fisheries products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets in 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union. Earlier, only fish caught in the wild were allowed to be exported to the EU market. At present, Myanmar is exporting farmed fish, prawns, and crabs to the EU.

Saudi Arabia's suspension of fish imports from Myanmar, beginning April last year, has affected rohu fish suppliers. Myanmar keeps only 25 per cent of rohu fish for local consumption and exports the remaining 75 per cent to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, as well as Bangladesh.

Myanmar's exports to Saudi Arabia account for 30 per cent of its farm-raised fish exports and 40

per cent of rohu exports.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation is making concerted efforts to increase fishery export earnings by developing fish farming lakes which meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques.

There are over 247,000 acres of fish farms and 240,000 prawn breeding farms across the country. Myanmar exported 340,000 tonnes of fishery products worth \$530 million in the 2013-2014 FY, 330,000 tonnes worth \$480 million in the 2014-2015 FY, 360,000 tons worth \$500 million in the 2015-2016 FY, 430,000 tonnes worth \$600 million in the 2016-2017 FY, and 560,000 tons worth \$700 million in the 2017-2018 FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

MFF Vice President Dr. Toe Nandar Tin said the federation has asked the government to tackle problems faced in the export of farm-raised fish and prawns through G2G pacts and ensure smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports.

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Two-day real estate expo to showcase apartments worth K20 mln this month

By Nyein Nyein

A real estate expo will be held from 18 to 20 October at the Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall and will feature apartment units worth K20 million, besides affordable housing and luxury condominiums located across the city.

The main organizer of the expo is online real estate site ShweProperty.com, and the expo is aimed at bringing buyers and sellers on a single platform.

Plots of land, resident offices, and houses will also be featured at the expo. The featured properties will be from

from Sanchaung, Kyimyintdine, Yankin, Tarmwe, Hline, Mayagon, Kamayut, Insein, South Dagon, North Dagon, North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Thingyankyun, Mingala Taung Nyunt, Kyauktada, Ahlon, Tharkayta, and Dawbon townships. Installment payment plans without down payment will be offered at the expo. Buyers would have the option of purchasing affordable apartments for a daily payment of K180,000. There would also be the option of a 5- to 25-year long-term payment plan, linked with a bank home loan scheme. Buyers facing difficulty in making

the down payment can negotiate with the real estate agent. Those paying cash down will be offered a special discount. Interested buyers would be able to apply for a home loan scheme at the expo. In order to apply, they would have to present their national registration card, census, ward certificate, job and salary certificate, and bank statement.

Brand new cars will also be showcased at the expo. Parquet and tile floorings, security doors, and home security cameras will also be featured at the two-day event.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



## Ensuring safety from lightning strikes, gales in late monsoon season

SINCE the monsoon retreated in late September, news of lightning strikes which kill cattle and people indiscriminately has been appearing in the newspapers.

Besides, incidents in which houses have been damaged or destroyed by gale-force winds have been reported almost daily in the newspapers since late September.

It has been found that most of the victims killed by lightning strikes were farmers and they were struck by lightning while working in the fields.

Four people were killed by lightning strike on 14 October.

Two were killed in Twantay, Yangon Region, and two more in Zalun, Ayeyawady Region.

People must stay indoors because thunderstorm activity is likely to continue this month as cumulus clouds usually appear in early and late monsoon seasons.

Apart from thunderstorms, high speed winds are likely to hit areas where cumulus clouds form this month.

With the formation of cumulus clouds in the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon season, there has been an increase in the number of lightning strikes, hailstorms, and gale-force winds.

Flash floods kill people and animals every year, and twisters are also common.

The number of deaths caused by lightning strikes has also increased, reaching over 100 in some years. The death toll is expected to continue rising year by year.

Most parts of the country have experienced lightning and strong winds during the day due to high temperatures. However, there are ways in which people can protect themselves and reduce the risk of death.

We must switch off electrical appliances, such as televisions and mobile phones, during rainstorms accompanied by thunder and lightning.

Gale-force winds, which tend to follow heavy rainfall, hit parts of Myanmar every year, destroying homes and toppling trees.

Rain accompanied by thunderstorm and gales is expected over many areas, especially in the Ayeyawady region and adjoining areas, such as Yangon and Bago regions, and coastal areas as cumulus clouds have formed over the areas.

As the weather is transitioning from monsoon to winter and cumulus clouds have formed in Southeast Asian countries, we can expect more lightning strikes rather than a gradual increase as the world warms up due to climate change.

■ ■ ■

... we can expect more lightning strikes rather than a gradual increase as the world warms up due to climate change.

## Are you malnourished? Quite possibly

By Kundhavi Kadiresan

THE word 'malnutrition' tends to invoke images of starving children in refugee camps, fleeing conflict or drought in lands far-away. While that image does reflect a reality of hunger, it does not solely define malnutrition nor those who suffer from it.

Certainly with more than 820 million hungry people in the world, most of them living in our Asia-Pacific region, undernourishment is definitely a huge problem and one that has stubbornly vexed attempts to crack.

But there are other malnutrition phantoms in our midst and these are probably lurking closer to your own home than you might realize. Waistlines of men and women have been expanding in recent decades and there are now more than two billion overweight adults in

What we eat, of course, defines how well-nourished (or malnourished) we are. In other words, it's not simply quantity (as in how much we eat) that's causing the malnourishment, it's more to do with what we're eating - or not eating.

the world - while 670 million of them are obese. More than 120 million children and teens are also defined as obese.

What we eat, of course, defines how well-nourished (or malnourished) we are. In other words, it's not simply quantity (as in how much we eat) that's causing the malnourishment, it's more to do with what we're eating - or not eating. Simply put, the world is facing a triple burden of malnutrition - from undernourishment, micronutrient deficiencies (lack of vitamins and minerals) and from becoming overweight or obese.

There are, of course, reasons (and excuses) for the weight gain. Lifestyles and diets have changed. Increased urbanization indirectly contributes to it as does the pressure of everyday life - and the reliance on processed, fast food. Indeed, in many countries of the Asia-Pa-



Ms Kundhavi Kadiresan observes the usage of yellow sticky traps at a Farmer Field School site of FAO in Central Dry Zone of Myanmar. (©FAO 2019)

might be deemed too expensive - so they eat whatever is available - often fried street foods.

### Paying the price of a poor diet and amending our ways

As with most excesses, there is a human and monetary price to pay for all of this. Diets have become so unhealthy, that when combined with sedentary lifestyles, they rank as the world's primary risk factor for disability and death from non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, some cancers and cardiovascular diseases.

Apart from the human costs, the financial toll of malnutrition in all its forms - undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, as well as overweight and obesity - is estimated at USD 3.5 trillion per year.

As one example, in the Republic of Korea, the city of Seoul is tackling rising obesity through a number of initiatives including certifying "smart meals" with lower levels of fat and salt at restaurants, child care centres and even pre-packed meals in convenience stores.

So, it's clear, we have both a personal and collective best interest in changing our ways. But where to start and who leads?



Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are vital to reducing hunger and poverty. Fish farming (aquaculture) contains 57% of the total area of inland fish ponds in the Ayeyawady Delta. PHOTO: MNA

and should, make about the foods we eat. But governments, farmers and the private sector have equally important roles. Governments can improve food systems by implementing policies that place a higher priority on nutritious foods. As one example, in the Republic of Korea, the city of Seoul is tackling rising obesity through a number of initiatives including certifying "smart meals" with lower levels of fat and salt at restaurants, child care centres and even pre-packed meals in convenience stores so that youth can identify

a healthier option. And young people are key to turning this around - so parents, teachers and other mentors are vital to instilling healthy diets at a young age.

The private sector - food manufacturers, retailers, etc. - can improve the nutritional quality of their products and promote them as such to the public. Farmers can plant a wider variety of nutritious foods like fruits, vegetables, legumes and nuts. The diversification should even improve the farmer's livelihood and help make his or her family more food secure in the process.

So we all have a role to play, particularly as the world has pledged to end malnutrition in all forms by 2030 as one of the key Sustainable Development Goals.

On 16 October this year countries worldwide will or-

## One more political party applies for registration

REGISTRATION of political parties are being scrutinized by the Union Election Commission (UEC), United Nationalities Democracy Party (UNDP) came to UEC to register itself as a political party on 16 October 2019.—MNA



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 17 October, 2019:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States, scattered in Taninthayi Region and Northern 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 isolated rain or thundershowers in Mandalay Region, Shan and Rakhine States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 October, 2019:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 October, 2019:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 October, 2019:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

## 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](mailto: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



## Over 17,400 Yaba pills seized in three townships

POLICE seized over 17,400 stimulant tablets in total in three townships on Tuesday.

According to the news released by the Myanmar Police Force, 7600 stimulant tablets were seized during a surprise check in Moehnyin, 3,843 tablets in Monywa from a house and 6,000 tablets in Myeik.

In the Moehnyin case, the police also arrested two sus-

pects namely Kyaw Soe who was riding the motorcycle and Soe Win who was on board when the search carried out by the police.

In the Monywa case, the police searched the house owned by Pyhone Wai Thant (9) Ko Phone acting on a tip-off and seized the tablets together with 11 g of stimulant powder and K510,000.

The police also detained Aung Phyto Khant, Nyan Lin Aung and Nay Myo Tun who were found at the house.

Those suspects who involved in the cases have been charged under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—GNLM

(Translated by Ba Htoo Kyaw)



Suspects named Nay Myo Tun, Nyan Lin Aung, Aung Phyto Khant and Phone Wai Thant (a.k.a) Ko Phone seen with drugs. **PHOTO: MPF**

## NASA unveils new spacesuits for lunar landing

WASHINGTON — The U.S. space agency NASA unveiled on Tuesday the next-generation spacesuits to be used in its Artemis program that will send the first woman and next man to the Lunar South Pole by 2024.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine showcased the ground prototypes of two spacesuits designed for lunar exploration: one for exploring the Moon's

surface, known as the Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit (xEMU), and one for launch and re-entry aboard the agency's new Orion spacecraft, known as the Orion Crew Survival System.

The xEMU, a red, white and blue suit, is composed of the pressure garment and a life-supporting backpack, and it can protect the astronauts from radiation, temperature extremes,

and micrometeoroids, according to NASA.

One of its advantages compared with previous ones goes to its better mobility. At Tuesday's launch event, a female NASA engineer who wore the xEMU for demonstration played deep squat, full arms spinning and delicate fingers movement with much ease.

The suit's advanced mobility enables them to accomplish much more complex tasks on the Moon's surface.

Those bearings allow full rotation of the arm from shoulder to wrist, bending and rotating at the hips, increased bending at the knees and hiking-style boots with flexible soles, according to NASA.

The xEMU has a rear-entry hatch, so astronauts can climb into it from the back of the suit, allowing the shoulder elements of the hard upper torso to be closer together than the suits currently in use, thus enabling a better fit while reducing shoulder injury risks.—XINHUA



Advanced Space Suit Engineer Kristine Davis displays the Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit (xEMU) spacesuit at NASA headquarters in Washington D.C., the United States, on Oct. 15, 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Scientists explain how brains turn pain up or down

WASHINGTON — Pain perception is essential for survival, but how much something hurts can sometimes be amplified or suppressed: for example, soldiers who sustain an injury in battle often recall not feeling anything at the time.

A new study published in Cell Reports on Tuesday honed in on the brain circuitry responsible for upgrading or downgrading these pain signals, likening the mechanism to how a home thermostat controls room temperature.

Yarimar Carrasquillo, the paper's senior author and a scientist for the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), told AFP the region responsible was the central amygdala, which according to her work appeared to play a dual role.

Studying mice, Carrasquillo and her colleagues found that the activity in neurons that express protein kinase C-delta amplified pain, while neurons that express somatostatin inhibited the chain

of activity in the nerves required to communicate pain.

The central amygdala isn't completely responsible for pain itself: if it were removed entirely, then "the 'ouch' of things, or the protective pain, would remain intact," said Carrasquillo. "It seems to be sitting there waiting for something to happen," for example responding to stress or anxiety that amplifies pain, or being forced to focus on a task that diverts your attention and reduces pain.—AFP

## Germany calls crisis meet over Shell North Sea platforms

BERLIN — Germany said Wednesday it had called a special meeting of international partners this week to pressure Royal Dutch Shell to remove old rigs containing crude oil in the North Sea.

An environment ministry spokesman said Berlin had convened signatory countries of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) on Friday in London.

"Germany finds it absolutely unacceptable that these crude oil quantities remain in these structures," said the spokesman, Stephan Gabriel Haupe, citing a "danger for the environment".

"That is why we have made

our objections to this known."

He said the participants at the special meeting -- the first of its kind -- would "insist" Shell dismantle the rigs.

The OSPAR convention groups Belgium, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Britain along with Luxembourg and Switzerland.

Greenpeace campaigners on Monday boarded Shell's Brent Alpha and Bravo platforms, which lie northeast of Scotland's Shetland Islands and are no longer operational, to protest what Greenpeace said were threats to the environment.—AFP



Germany called a special meeting of international partners this week to pressure Royal Dutch Shell to remove old rigs containing crude oil in the North Sea. **PHOTO: AFP**

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## Indonesian police foil planned bombings ahead of Jokowi's swearing-in

JAKARTA — Indonesian counterterrorism police have foiled a series of planned suicide bombings in some cities ahead of next Sunday's swearing-in of President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, who was re-elected for his second term in the 17 April presidential election.

National Police Spokesman Dedi Prasetyo told a press conference Tuesday that at least four suicide bombers had been prepared for the attacks using "high-explosive bombs made of various substances," including a potent toxin called abrin.

Abrin, found in the seeds of rosary pea, has been classified as biological select agent by the US government that could pose a severe threat to public health

and safety.

"These bombs are different from those usually assembled by terrorist groups. These ones are more dangerous with less than 0.7 micrograms of abrin being able to kill 100 people," Dedi said.

Since last month, counterterrorism police Detachment 88 has arrested 27 terrorist suspects, including a couple who stabbed Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Wiranto and a local police chief last week, across the country, from Sumatra to Bali.

"They are targeting police personnel and government officials," the police spokesman said.

All of the suspects are members of Jamaah Ansharut



Indonesian President Joko Widodo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Daulah, or JAD, a Muslim militant network linked to Islamic State. JAD was banned by the government in 2018, a year after the US State Department declared it a terrorist organization. — Kyodo News ■

## Japan searching for reportedly capsized N Korea boat in Sea of Japan

NIIGATA — A fishing boat believed to be North Korean may have capsized in the Sea of Japan on Wednesday, throwing its crew into the waters off Ishikawa Prefecture, the Japan Coast Guard said.

The coast guard and the Fisheries Agency are searching for the boat but have yet to find the vessel or its crew, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a press conference. It is not immediately known how many crew members were aboard the vessel.

The coast guard said it received a call around 10:10 a.m. Wednesday that a wooden fishing boat believed to be North Korean

overturned and its crew were thrown into the sea, about 320 kilometers northwest of Suzu, Ishikawa Prefecture.

The location is near the Yamatotai area within Japan's exclusive economic zone that has fertile waters for squid and other types of fish.

According to Suga, a fishing boat likely from North Korea told a Fisheries Agency patrol ship by radio that another fishing boat operating in the distance had capsized.

The area has seen a rise in illegal fishing by North Korean and Chinese ships, and Japanese authorities have been stepping up their patrols. — Kyodo News ■

## China threatens "countermeasures" against Hong Kong bill in US

HONG KONG — China on Wednesday expressed strong opposition to the passing of a human rights bill by the US House of Representatives in support of anti-government protests in Hong Kong, threatening "strong countermeasures" in response.

The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, adopted Tuesday, would require the US secretary of state to regularly certify whether Hong Kong is sufficiently autonomous to justify special treatment by

the United States for bilateral agreements and programs.

The House "is disregarding and distorting facts by referring to serious criminal offenses such as arson, smashing of shops and violence against police officers as an issue of human rights and democracy," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang in a statement.

The measure would not only harm China's interests and Sino-US relations but will also seriously damage US interests,

Geng said, adding that "China will definitely take strong countermeasures in response" if it becomes law.

Four months after its introduction in June, the bill passed the House unanimously. With bipartisan support, it is expected to clear the Senate but still must be signed by the president, or vetoed.

The bill also compels the president to ensure individuals responsible for human rights violations in the former British

colony are identified and sanctioned.

While reiterating that Hong Kong affairs are "purely China's internal affairs," Geng said the House approval of the bill "fully exposes the shocking hypocrisy of some in the US on human rights and democracy and their malicious intention to undermine Hong Kong's prosperity and stability to contain China's development."

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong government expressed regret over the passage of Hong Kong-related bills and resolutions.

In a statement, the government reiterated that it has strictly exercised a high degree of autonomy in accordance with the Basic Law, the mini-constitution in effect since the former British colony was returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

The government "attaches great importance to human rights and freedoms and is determined to safeguard them," it said, while adding that police used "appropriate force" when handling protesters.

"Foreign legislatures should not interfere in any form in the internal affairs of" Hong Kong, it added.

Government leader Carrie Lam told a press conference that the act is "totally unjustified and unwarranted." — Kyodo News ■

## Another quake of 5.5 magnitude shakes southern Philippines

MANILA — Another earthquake of 5.5 magnitude struck Sultan Kudarat province in the southern Philippines on Wednesday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

It was the second earthquake that shook Mindanao island.

The second earthquake, which struck at 8:09 pm local time, hit at a depth of 5 km, 16 km southeast of Columbio town in Kudarat province.

The institute said the first inland quake, which struck at 7:37 pm local time, hit at a depth of 15 km, about 22 km southeast of Tulunan town.

No injuries or damage have been reported. But the institute said they are checking if the first quake that rattled North Cotabato caused any damage or injuries.

The first quake with a magnitude of 6.3, which was tectonic in origin, was also felt in Kidapawan City, Tupi in South Cotabato province, Alabel in Sarangani province, T'boli also in South Cotabato, General Santos City, Cagayan de Oro City, Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental province, Dipolog City and Bislig City.

The first tremor is expected to cause damage and aftershocks, the institute said. However, it said the second quake will not cause any damage or generate aftershocks. — Xinhua ■



**FILE PHOTO:** Protesters gather before a march to the West Kowloon railway station, where high-speed trains depart for the Chinese mainland, during a demonstration against a proposed extradition bill in Hong Kong on 7 July, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**



# No-deal Brexit poses 'significant' border risks: UK audit office

LONDON — British government efforts to minimise border chaos should the UK leave the EU without a negotiated deal face “significant risks” that are largely outside its control, an audit said Wednesday.

The government's own worst-case scenario assumes trade flows across the Channel slowing by 45 to 65 percent and taking up to a year to recover in full.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has created a task force to make sure these do not cause food and medicine shipment disruptions that his government fears could spark riots on the street.

The National Audit Office (NOA) said Wednesday that government departments “have done a great



The government's own worst-case scenario assumes trade flows across the Channel slowing by 45 to 65 per cent and taking up to a year to recover in full. PHOTO: AFP

deal to prepare”.

But “despite their efforts, significant risks remain which may have consequences for the public and businesses”, NOA head Gareth Davies said in the office's updated pre-

paredness report.

“The most significant risks to the smooth operation of the border remain and resolving them is now, to some extent, out of government's control,” the report said.

Britain conducts most of its trade with the 27 EU countries through a handful of ports — the one in southeast England's Dover running to Calais in France being the most significant.—AFP ■

# China's GDP growth slows to 6% in third quarter: AFP poll

BEIJING — China's economy expanded at its slowest rate in nearly three decades during the third quarter, held back by cooling domestic demand and a protracted US trade war, according to an AFP survey of analysts.

Gross domestic product (GDP) figures due on Friday are expected to show that the Chinese economy expanded 6.0 per cent in July-September, compared with 6.2 per cent in the second quarter, the poll of 13 economists predicted.

The reading would mark the worst quarterly figure since 1992 but be within the government's target range of 6.0-6.5 per

cent for the whole year. The economy grew at 6.6 per cent in 2018.

Beijing has stepped up support for the economy with major tax and rate cuts and has scrapped foreign investment restrictions in its stock market.

In its latest measure to shore up growth, the central bank said Wednesday it was pumping 200 billion yuan (\$28 billion) into the financial system through its medium-term lending facility to banks, which is designed to maintain liquidity in the market.

But the efforts have not been enough to offset the blow from softening demand at home.—AFP ■

# US consumers hit the brakes in September

WASHINGTON — American consumers tightened their purse strings unexpectedly last month, breaking a seven-month winning streak, government data showed Wednesday.

Shoppers took home fewer autos and spent less on gasoline, groceries and building supplies while buying less online as well, according to the Commerce Department.

The September slump meant momentum waned at the end of the third quar-

ter and could be a worrying development for the world's largest economy.

The American consumer is almost single-handedly sustaining the US expansion as the economy in the rest of the world slows and President Donald Trump's trade wars eat into US exports, business investment, manufacturing and agriculture.

The September dip in sales looked bigger after August's numbers were revised upward, however.

Compared to August, total retail sales fell 0.3 per cent to \$525.6 billion, the first decline since February. Economists had instead expected a 0.3 per cent increase, as shoppers moved to buy at lower prices ahead of looming tariff increases on Chinese goods. Compared to September of last year, sales were up 4.1 per cent. Sales of autos and parts slumped 0.9 per cent while gasoline stations were down 0.7 per cent.—AFP ■



Shoppers took home fewer autos and spent less on gasoline, groceries and building supplies while buying less online as well, according to the Commerce Department. PHOTO:AFP

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## Announcement

Hospitality Consult Myanmar Company Limited hereby announces, that it intends to give notice of an extraordinary general meeting to approve the reduction of its capital in accordance with the notice and documents filed with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

## International Foundation For Electoral Systems (IFES)

Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Technology Equipment in Myanmar (RFQ-20-002)  
Issuance of RFQ - October 3, 2019  
RFQ Closes - October 18, 2019 at 17:00 Washington DC time

Links to Download the RFQ-20-002 are as follows:

<https://www.ifes.org/content/provision-technology-equipment>  
[https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/call-for-proposals/RFQ-20-002-IFES\\_Myanmar-Provision\\_of\\_Technology\\_Equipment.pdf](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/call-for-proposals/RFQ-20-002-IFES_Myanmar-Provision_of_Technology_Equipment.pdf)

## International Foundation For Electoral Systems (IFES)

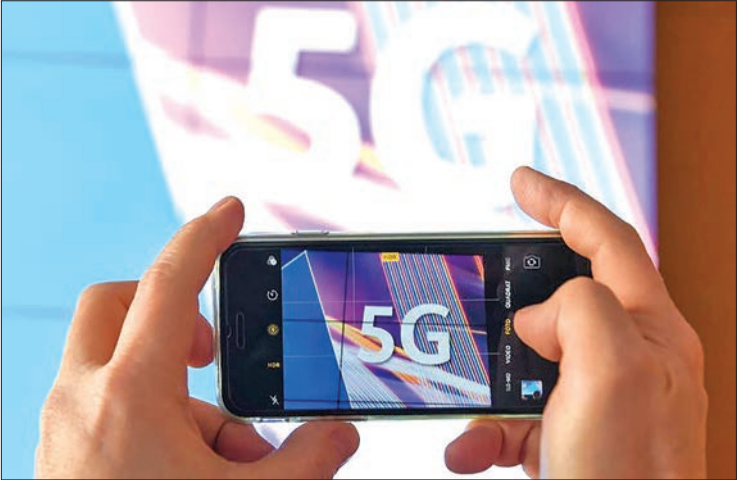
Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Provision of Printer Equipment in Myanmar (RFQ-20-005)  
Issuance of RFQ - October 9, 2019  
RFQ Closes - October 28, 2019 at 17:00 Washington DC time

Links to Download the RFQ-20-005 are as follows:

<https://www.ifes.org/content/provision-printer-equipment-myanmar>  
[https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/call-for-proposals/RFQ-20-005-IFES\\_Myanmar-Provision\\_of\\_Printer\\_Equipment.pdf](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/call-for-proposals/RFQ-20-005-IFES_Myanmar-Provision_of_Printer_Equipment.pdf)



# Huawei says nine-month revenue up despite US pressure



A journalist takes pictures of a projection screen prior to the start of Germany’s auction for the construction of an ultra-fast 5G mobile network in Mainz on 19 March. **PHOTO: AFP**

SHANGHAI — Chinese tech giant Huawei said on Wednesday that its revenue for the first nine months of the year grew by almost a quarter despite a US campaign to isolate the company globally.

Huawei’s revenues jumped 24.4 percent on-year to 610.8 billion yuan (\$86.2 billion) and its profit margin increased 8.7 per

cent, it announced.

Huawei, based in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, is the world’s leading supplier of telecoms networking equipment and the number-two global smartphone vendor.

But it has been under pressure this year as US officials lobbied allies worldwide to avoid the company’s telecom gear over

security concerns, amid a wider trade conflict between the two economic superpowers.

In May, Washington said it would blacklist Huawei from the US market and from buying crucial US components, though it has twice extended the company 90-day reprieves, the latest coming in August. The United States has expressed concern that Huawei equipment could contain security loopholes that allow China to spy on global communications traffic. The company has repeatedly denied the accusation.

“Huawei has maintained its focus on (information and communications technology) infrastructure and smart devices, and continued to boost the efficiency and quality of its operations,” a company statement said.

“This contributed to increased operational and organisational stability and solidified the company’s performance in the first three quarters of 2019.” —AFP ■

# Turkey’s Halkbank says US sanctions case punishment for Syria operation

ISTANBUL — Turkey’s state-run Halkbank on Wednesday denied any wrong-doing after US prosecutors charged it with a scheme to evade sanctions on Iran, saying the case was introduced to punish Turkey for its military operation in Syria.

The US Department of Justice said Tuesday it had charged the bank with six counts of fraud, money laundering, and sanctions offences — arguing Halkbank was guilty of “illegally giving Iran access to billions of dollars’ worth of funds”.

The case comes at an extremely sensitive time between Washington and Ankara, with the US slapping sanctions on Turkey on Monday over its military offensive against Kurdish fighters in northeastern Syria.

The charges “were filed as part of the sanctions introduced against our country by the US government in response to Op-



The US Department of Justice said it had charged Turkey’s Halkbank with six counts of fraud, money laundering, and sanctions offenses. **PHOTO: AFP**

eration Peace Spring, heroically launched by the Turkish Army to secure our borders and establish peace in the region,” Halkbank said in a statement.

US prosecutors say Halkbank was involved in a massive gold-for-oil scheme that allowed around \$20 billion of illegal Iranian money to be deposited with it between 2012 and 2016.

Iran’s government used the money — much of it from oil and gas sales — to buy gold, the prosecutors allege.—AFP ■

**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**  
**M.V PRESIDIO VOY.NO. (027W)**  
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PRESIDIO VOY.NO. (027W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE., LTD.**  
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**  
**M.V ZEA CHALLENGER**  
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ZEA CHALLENGER VOY.NO. (02210) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-2 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

**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**  
**M.V BLUE LOTUS**  
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLUE LOTUS VOY.NO. (BL 09-19) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-7 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

**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**  
**M.V HTK UNITY**  
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HTK UNITY VOY.NO. (16/2019) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of T.M.I.T 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: 2301928

**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**  
**M.V EOLUS**  
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EOLUS VOY. NO. (1908) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-10-2019 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 ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD**  
Phone No: 2301928

**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**  
**M.V NEW VICTORY VOY.NO. (03/2019)**  
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NEW VICTORY VOY.NO. (03/2019) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of T.M.I.T 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 MAGELLANIC EAGLE MARITIME**  
Phone No: 2301191, 2301178



# No sign of Brexit breakthrough with time running out

LONDON — British and European negotiators on Sunday played down hopes of a rapid breakthrough in their last-ditch bid to strike an amicable Brexit divorce deal.

Intense talks continue in Brussels, but European diplomats say the two sides are still far apart on how to manage trade and customs on the island of Ireland.

And EU negotiators also want British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to promise to maintain a level playing field in business regulation after Brexit, in order to ease the path to a future free trade deal.

The last planned European Council summit before Britain is due to leave the bloc on 31



British and EU negotiators played down hopes of breakthrough in their bid to strike Brexit deal. **PHOTO: AFP**

October opens on Thursday, and diplomats see little hope

that there will be a treaty ready for them to sign. "A lot of work

remains to be done," EU negotiator Michel Barnier told the

bloc's ambassadors. For once, a British spokesman in Brussels echoed him: "There is still a significant amount of work to be done. Technical-level talks will continue tomorrow."

London and Brussels are trying to achieve in a few days what they had failed to do in the more than three years since Britons first voted to leave the European Union after nearly 50 years — agree the terms of Britain's departure.

Ongoing technical talks are variously described as "intense" or "constructive", but no-one familiar with the closed-door process would point to progress on issues like Northern Ireland's place in or out of the EU customs zone.—AFP ■



Demonstrators clash with riot police in Quito, as thousands march against President Lenin Moreno's decision to slash fuel subsidies. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Protests against fuel hikes leave 6 dead, 1,507 injured in Ecuador: gov't

QUITO — More than 10 days of anti-government protests sparked by fuel hikes left six people dead and 1,507 people injured in Ecuador, the government said on Tuesday.

A total of 1,330 people were arrested for protest-related crimes, such as vandalism, Interior Minister Maria Paula Romo said at a joint press conference with General Commander of the National Police Nelson Villegas.

A wave of protests took place

on 3-13 October, following an 1 October presidential decree that eliminated fuel subsidies and pushed up the price of gasoline and diesel, and public transit fares.

Of the 1,330 people arrested, 57 are foreign nationals, most of whom were released within 24 hours, said the minister.

As a result of the protests, 1,507 people were treated at public health facilities, including 435 police officers.—Xinhua

## Syria troops fight Turkish forces alongside Kurds: monitor

BEIRUT — The Syrian army deployed alongside Kurdish forces on the front line in northern Syria Wednesday but their new-found cooperation saw no let-up in the week-old Turkish invasion, a monitor said.

In a rare scene in Syria's eight-year-old civil war, government troops and Kurdish fighters were "fighting together" against Turkey's Syrian proxies northeast of the town of Ain Issa, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The Britain-based monitor reported "violent clashes" near the M4 highway — a key east-west artery that links the Kurdish heartland in the northeast with Syria's second city Aleppo and the Mediterranean coast beyond.

Under the deal announced on Sunday after President Donald Trump ordered the withdrawal of US troops, government troops have returned to key Kurdish-held areas for the first time in years.

Syrian soldiers have been

sent to Manbij, Tal Tamr, Ain Issa and Tabqa in their most significant deployment since the army started withdrawing from Kurdish-majority areas in 2012.

Russia's special envoy on Syria, Alexander Lavrentyev, said Turkish and Syrian officials were in contact to avoid clashes which "would simply be

unacceptable". But two Syrian soldiers were killed near Ain Issa on Tuesday in shelling by Turkey's Syrian proxies — mostly former rebels paid and equipped by Ankara, the Observatory said.

On Monday, artillery fire by the Syrian former rebels killed another soldier in the flashpoint city of Manbij, it added.—AFP ■



Syrian government troops have returned to a string of Kurdish-held areas for the first time in years under a weekend deal to fight Turkey's invasion together. **PHOTO: AFP**

## US destroys former base in northern Syria

DAMASCUS — The US-led warplanes struck a former US base in northern Syrian on Wednesday, state news agency SANA reported.

The United States destroyed the base in the town

of Kharab near the city of Ayn al-Arab in the northern countryside of Aleppo province, said the report.

The base was one of the military positions the United States had been holding in northern

Syria ahead of US withdrawal from areas in northern Syria, which came in tandem with a Turkish military assault against the Kurdish forces in that region.

Meanwhile, the Russian

state TV said the Syrian army has taken control of military bases in northeast Syria that were abandoned by US forces.

On 9 October, Turkey and local rebel groups started an assault to eliminate Kurdish

forces in northern Syria in order to end what Turkey perceives as the threat of "terrorist and separatist" groups on its southern border and to impose a safe zone to host millions of Syrian refugees.—Xinhua ■



# Trump impeachment probe claims 'dramatic progress'

WASHINGTON — The leader of the impeachment investigation of President Donald Trump said Tuesday that witnesses had provided substantial support for allegations that Trump illegally tried to force Ukraine to investigate his political rival Joe Biden.

While the White House and Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani refused to turn over subpoenaed documents on the Ukraine affair to Congress, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said five witnesses had backed up allegations of misuse of power that could underpin formal impeachment charges.

Witnesses have supplied information showing that Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine leader Volodymyr Zelensky, in

which Trump appeared to tie military aid to getting dirt on Biden from Kiev, was planned in advance and then followed up, Schiff said. "We've made dramatic progress in answering some of the questions surrounding that July phone call... in which the president of the United States sought to coerce a vulnerable ally into conducting what can best be described as sham investigations involving his opponent," Schiff told reporters. "We have learned that call was not in isolation. There was a great deal of preparatory work that was done before the call. There was a lot of follow-up work done after the call," he said.

## Ukraine pressure like a 'drug deal'

Schiff spoke a day after



**FILE PHOTO:** White House and Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani refused to turn over subpoenaed documents on the Ukraine affair to Congress. **PHOTO: AFP**

former White House Russia expert Fiona Hill reportedly told Congressional investigators in closed-door testimony that several high-level aides reported the Trump-Zelensky phone call to a White House lawyer as possible wrongdoing by the president.

Hill said her own boss, then-national security advisor John Bolton, characterized Trump's pressure on Zelensky together with Giuliani and White

House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney as akin to a narcotics transaction. "I am not part of whatever drug deal Rudy and Mulvaney are cooking up," Bolton said, according to Hill's testimony as reported by the New York Times.

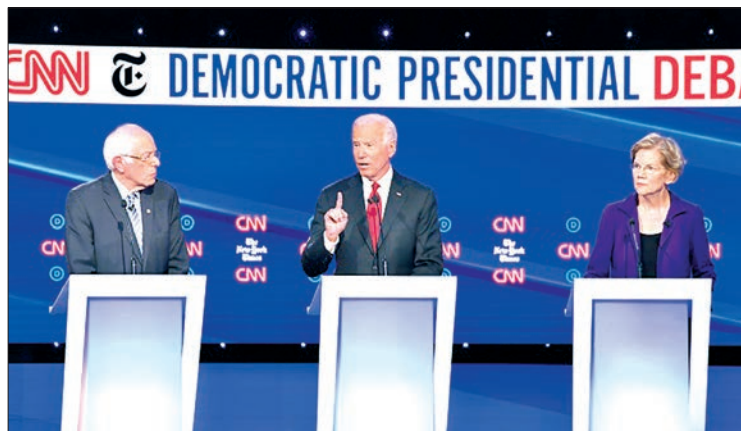
Hill said Bolton also warned that Giuliani, who is reportedly under federal investigation over his Ukraine dealings, is "a hand grenade who's going to blow everyone up."—AFP ■

# Rising star Warren weathers attacks at Democratic White House debate

WESTERVILLE — Surging White House hopeful Elizabeth Warren faced a barrage of attacks from fellow Democrats at the party's fourth 2020 debate Tuesday, cementing her status as a front-runner in the race to challenge Donald Trump.

The president himself loomed large as the dozen Democratic contenders trained their fire on him, calling for his impeachment and assailing a Syria troop pullout that Joe Biden slammed as "shameful."

"The impeachment must go forward," thundered Warren, the progressive senator who is neck and neck with former vice president Biden at the head of the 2020 nomination race — a stance



Liberal Bernie Sanders, former vice president Joe Biden and progressive Elizabeth Warren are vying to challenge Donald Trump for White House in 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

loudly echoed by her fellow Democrats on stage.

Washington's impeachment brawl has dominated US politics

for weeks, centered on Trump's effort to press Ukraine to dig up dirt on Biden. Dragged into the scandal, Biden made clear

he believes Trump should be impeached — and pushed back hard on the president's charge he himself intervened in Ukraine to protect his son Hunter.

"My son did nothing wrong. I did nothing wrong," Biden said, when asked about his son's employment with a Ukrainian company, which even some Democrats say held the appearance of a conflict of interest.

The Ukraine scandal thrust Biden into the spotlight, while 78-year-old liberal Senator Bernie Sanders — the other heavyweight in the race — was under pressure to project fortitude two weeks after being sidelined by a mild heart attack.—AFP ■

## NEWS In BRIEF

### Erdogan says won't meet Pence, Pompeo on Ankara visit

ANKARA — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday he would not meet with US Vice President Mike Pence during his visit to Ankara to discuss Turkey's military operation in Syria.

"I am standing tall. I will not meet with them," he told Sky News, referring to Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

"They will meet with their counterparts. I will speak when Trump comes," he said.—AFP ■

### Austrian man held in Dutch cellar family case

THE HAGUE — Dutch police were holding an Austrian man after the discovery of a father and his adult children who were believed to have stayed hidden in a remote farmhouse for years, officials said Wednesday.

The mystery surrounding the case in the village of Ruinerwold in the northern province of Drenthe also deepened with reports that one of the children had been active on social media this year. Police said they discovered a father and five children aged between 18 and 25 on Monday and arrested a 58-year-old man — not the father — for failing to cooperate. They initially spoke of six children but later revised the number down.

The Austrian foreign ministry confirmed that a Austrian national from Vienna was being held in relation to the case, but said the man did not want to have contact with Austrian officials.

Ministry spokesman Peter Guschelbauer told AFP said they did not know the exact grounds for his arrest. Dutch authorities said all others in the cellar case were Dutch, Guschelbauer added.

Dutch and Austrian media said the man was known as "Josef, the Austrian" and the one holding the group in the cellar, renting the house and planting vegetables for them in the garden. According to media reports, the family had spent years "waiting for the end of time", with Ruinerwold's mayor telling journalists "I have never come anything like this before."—AFP ■

# Iran president's brother starts 5-year jail term: report



Hassan Rouhani's brother Hossein Fereydoun, seen here with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, was a key adviser to the Iranian president before his arrest. **PHOTO: AFP**

TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's brother entered prison Wednesday to begin a five-year sentence after he was convicted of corruption, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported, citing his lawyer.

Hossein Fereydoun, who served as an aide to the president, was arrested in July 2017 and put on trial in February this year on allegations of financial vi-

olations. In a final ruling, his sentence was reduced to five years from seven and he was ordered to pay a fine as well as bribes he was convicted of receiving, the judiciary said on 1 October. His lawyer said he entered Tehran's Evin prison on Wednesday. "This morning Mr Fereydoun together with myself were present at the prosecutor's office," Hossein Saripati said, quoted by ISNA.—AFP ■





The Myanmar U-22 men's national football team head coach Velizar Popov (right) overseeing a team practice. **PHOTO: MFF**

## Draw result not important, but preparation is crucial: Myanmar U-22 head coach Popov

THE head coach of the Myanmar U-22 national football team, Velizar Popov, said that the team's draw result for the upcoming men's football event of the 30th SEA Games is not very important, but good preparation is vital for the upcoming tourney.

The draw result for the eleven ASEAN countries came out on 15 October in Pascal City, the Philippines.

After the drawing ceremony, Popov said that if team Myanmar has prepared well, it will not

need to worry about the performance or result while competing against opponents.

He also said that he is only focusing on the best strategic play for getting every win, and he does not care about the draw result as drawing opposing teams is just a starting point for every team.

The head coach said he would make team Myanmar ready for shaping a good result, and he will also pay respect to all opponent teams.

Popov also said that the

opening match between Myanmar and Malaysia is the focus for him and he will try his best to make sure the team reaches the next stage of the tourney.

Myanmar has been placed in Group A with host Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Timor Leste for the tourney.

Meanwhile, defending champion Thailand has been pooled with a tough Group B, comprising Indonesia, Viet Nam, Singapore, Laos, and Brunei.

—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Quarterfinals of inter-ministries football tourney begin in Nay Pyi Taw

THE quarterfinal matches for the inter-ministries football tournament began yesterday at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

Yesterday's quarterfinal match drew the interest of local people as the football team from the Union Attorney General's Office played against the football team from the Ministry for Electricity and Energy. The match took place at Training Center I of the stadium. In another match, the football team from the Ministry of Home Affairs played against the football team of the Ministry of Defense at Training Center III of the stadium.

The team from the Union Attorney General's Office beat the team from the Ministry for Electricity and Energy by 3-2,

and the team from the Ministry of Defense beat the team from the Ministry of Home Affairs by 6-5 in a penalty kick-off result.

The quarterfinal matches that will be played today include Ministry of Health and Sports vs Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation at Training Center I of the Wunna Theikdi Stadium and another match between the teams from the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee at Training Center III of the Wunna Theikdi Stadium.

Fans have been invited to watch the matches free of charge, according to officials.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



A player from the football team of the Ministry of Defense (white) tries to take the ball past players from the football team of the Ministry of Home Affairs (blue) during the quarterfinals yesterday of the inter-ministries football tournament at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium training ground in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Tokyo Olympics marathon and walks could be moved to Sapporo over heat fears

LAUSANNE (Switzerland) — The marathon and race walks at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics could be moved from the Japanese capital to Sapporo where temperatures will be “significantly lower”, the International Olympic Committee said on Wednesday.

The IOC is proposing the move because temperatures in Tokyo during the July 24-August 9 Games could reach into the high 30s Celsius.

In Sapporo, more than 800 kilometres (500 miles) further north, they would be five to six degrees cooler during the day.

“Athletes' health and well-being are always at the heart of our concerns,” IOC President Thomas Bach said in a statement.

“The new far-reaching proposals to move the marathon and race walking events show how seriously we take such concerns.

“The Olympic Games are the platform where athletes can give ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ performances, and these measures ensure they have the conditions to give their best.”

The plan to change the location of the events has yet to be rubberstamped.

The initiative will need the backing of all of the major stakeholders, notably the host city Tokyo, the national Olympic committees and the relevant broadcasters. The IOC Coordination Commission for Tokyo 2020 will dedicate a special session in its meeting in Tokyo at the end of the month to measures to deal with the heat.

When Tokyo last hosted the Olympics in 1964 the marathon — won by the great Ethiopian Abebe Bikila — was run at 1:00pm but that was in the month of October, not August as will be the case next year.—AFP ■

## MFF grassroots football festival held in Pathein

A grassroots football festival and the opening ceremony for a U-14 youth football tourney were held yesterday at the Kyauktine stadium in Pathein, under the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation, the Myanmar National League, and the Sports and Physical Education Department.

Government officials and executives from the Myanmar Football Federation also attended the opening ceremony and spoke words of encouragement to the youths participating in the festival.

Afterwards, officials kicked a ball into the nets to open the U-14 youth football tourney,

which will be held in Pathein from 17 October. Then, 400 footballs were donated to children, and officials posed for a group photo with the children, and ceremony concluded. Grassroots football festivals are being organized to use the power of soccer to educate, inspire, and mobilize youth in Myanmar to overcome health challenges, live productive lives, and be agents for change in Myanmar's communities.

Grassroots festivals have also been held in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyaing, Taunggyi, and Bago, with the hopes of improving youths' skills and health.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■