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Gem merchants checking jade lots before putting their applications with the proposed prices in the tender boxes. PHOTO: MNA

Day 5 of Myanmar Gems Emporium fetches 38.53 m euros

THE 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium fetched 38.53 million euros on its fifth day, through the sale of 973 jade lots.

The fifth-day saw the sale of the first batch of 1,150 lots from numbers 1 to 1,150 at a floor price of 4,000 euros and above under the open tender

system and the participation of over 4,000 local and foreign gem merchants.

Gems merchants put their applications with the proposed prices in the tender boxes after checking the jade lots.

The 55th empo is displaying 6,795 polished and raw jade lots that are being sold under the

open tender system.

Besides over 40 booths of local businesspersons where jade and gems artefacts are on sale at reasonable prices, the expo also showcased jade, gem, amber and oyster wares crafted by students of the gems training school in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of Myanmar.

The tender winners of the jade lots from numbers 1,151 to 2,300 will be announced today, from numbers 2,301 to 3,450 on 26 June, from numbers 3,451 to 4,600 on 27 June, from numbers 4,601 to 5,750 on 28 June, from numbers 5,751 to 6,795 on 29 June. —Myo Myint (Myanmar News Agency) ■

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing departs for Thailand

ON the invitation of Royal Thai Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan, a delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla departed for Thailand from Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon.

Later, the delegation led by the Senior General arrived at Don Muang International Airport (Wing 6), where they were welcomed by Joint Chief of Staff Gen. Pongpaat Benyasri of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and wife and senior army officials, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than and Mili-

tary Attache Brig-Gen Khin Zaw.

During the trip, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing will meet Thailand army officials separately and will discuss cooperation and friendship between the two countries followed by visits to well-known places in Thailand.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla being welcomed at Don Mueang Army International Airport (Wing 6). **PHOTO: MNA**

Thai Performance Troupe entertains at Mandalay National Theatre

THE Thailand Traditional Performance event, in commemoration of 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Myanmar, was held on Saturday night at the National Theatre in Mandalay.

Present at the event were Mandalay Region Women's Committee patron Dr. Yu Yu May, Mandalay Mayor Dr. Ye Lwin and Mandalay Region cabinet members, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials as well as Minister for Culture of Thailand Mr. Vira Rojpojchanarat, officials from Thai Embassy in Myanmar, students of National University of Art and Culture (Mandalay) and art and performance enthusiasts.

In his greeting speech, Thailand Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Mr. Jukr Boon-Long said Masked Dance Performance of Thailand is going to be performed in commemoration of 70th anniversary of Thai-Myanmar

diplomatic relations and there are a lot of similar cultures between Myanmar and Thailand at the Rama Yana performance. He also expressed his wish to strengthen bilateral relationship between Myanmar and Thailand.

Then, Daw Khin Kyi Pyar rector of National University of

Art and Culture (Mandalay) also expressed her wish to develop bilateral friendship.

Then, the Rama Yana performance was jointly entertained by Performance Troupe members of Thailand Ministry of Culture and Myanmar Ministry of Culture.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■



Myanmar, Thailand troupes jointly perform Rama Yana **PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)**



Vice Chair (2) of NLD CEC Dr Zaw Myint Maung, CEC secretariat member U Nyan Win and CEC member Dr Myo Nyunt meet the press. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

NLD congress concludes

OUR actions need higher vision, broader views and honesty, stressed the chair of the second congress of the National League for Democracy at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon yesterday.

The Chair, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu, also called for bold decisions and true grit in the endeavours during the second day of the congress, which opened after paying tribute to the fallen martyrs, led by Bogoyoke Aung San, observing an eight-second silence in honour of all the persons, including monks, ordinary people and students who fell during the successive struggles for democracy.

The meeting elected central executive committee members and alternate central executive

committee members for vacant posts and sought the approval of the participants, and also reviewed the reports of region/state central committees. The NLD central executive committee gave its remarks.

After the congress, Vice Chair (2) of NLD CEC Dr Zaw Myint Maung, CEC secretariat member U Nyan Win and CEC member Dr Myo Nyunt held a press meet.

They elaborated on the political report, organisational report, future programmes of the party, election of CEC members and alternate CEC members, region/state central committee members and alternate members.

They also answered the questions raised by the media.—Zaw Gyi ■

Maha Thay Lar culture can be witnessed near Mandalay-Myotha road

PEOPLE interested in ancient history can observe the culture of Maha Thay Lar in Ywar Thit Village, Ngazun Township, in the Mandalay Region.

Earlier, the belief was that the region was under the influence of powerful Nats (spirits). Later, the Maha Thay Lar culture was revealed after historians and archaeologists discovered it.

The customs of Maha Thay Lar can be found in various regions, according to experts. The experts said that the Maha Thay Lar culture can be found at Lat Pan Chay Paw in the north of old Bagan, Htauk Ma Gone in Salingyi Township, Ngazun Township near Myotha, Kokho Khahla near Myingyan Township and Wundwin Township.

Most people who are interested in Maha Thay Lar culture are now able to visit the Ngazun



The Maha Thay Lar culture is said to be inherited from people of the Stone Age. **PHOTO: TAIN TAMAN**

Township near Mandalay-Myotha road. The Maha Thay Lar culture is said to be inherited from people of the Stone Age. They worshiped stones and stone flats which were positioned on earth in commemoration of their ancestors. Some believed the stones were their ancestors.

They also believed that if one died after worrying, they would be ghosts in the next life.—Tain Taman ■

ICT training centre opens for disabled

AN Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Training Centre, the first ever such centre for persons with disabilities in Myanmar, was opened in Yangon yesterday morning.

Jointly undertaken by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) and the Nippon Foundation of Japan, the centre serves as a coordinator for facilitating cooperation among the government, the people, social organisations, donors, and businesspersons towards generating job opportunities for the disabled and enabling them to stand on their own feet.

Speaking at the opening ceremony as the vice-chair of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Union Minister for SWRR Dr Win Myat Aye said ICT can train the disabled to become abled and provide the necessary help to them. An agreement was reached in Paris in 2016 for opening the ICT centre in Yangon, he said, adding the centre has started operations this month. He assured continuous efforts by the centre to stand tall among the ASEAN and Asian countries. The union minister suggested linking with international ex-



Union Minister for SWRR Dr Win Myat Aye visits information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Training Centre after its inauguration ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**

perts on the issue of disabled persons, inviting public participation and seeking advice.

Executive Director of Nippon Foundation Mr Yuji Mori explained the purpose of donating to the centre, and retired Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt recounted the efforts made to establish the centre under his leadership.

The Union Minister, deputy minister, Mr Yuji Mori and other officials formally opened the centre and unveiled the signboard.

The union minister accepted the necessary documents of the centre, which is now conducting instructor courses for the disabled with 14 participants.

H.I.S Travel Myanmar Co. Ltd. presented Ks600,000 for Rakhine State's development. The union minister and officials then accepted the donation and presented the certificate of honour.

Later, the union minister and delegation paid their respects and presented offertories to the abbot monk of a vipassana

monastery in Bago. They also attended the conclusion ceremony of a community-based tailoring course, jointly conducted by the Social Welfare Department and the education network of the monastery. After the officials presented the certificate of honour to the persons who donated sewing machines for the course, the union minister and delegation visited a prominent monk receiving treatment at the Sitagu eye hospital. They donated cash and kind to the monk and visited

other patients at the hospital, which is providing treatment free of charge.

In Phado, Kyauktada Township, they attended the opening ceremony of a primary school, built by Good Neighbourhood International. The deputy minister accepted the documents related to the school and gave back the certificate of honour to the donors. The MPs also accepted cash donated by the well-wishers.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Students compete in anti-drug, anti-illicit trafficking competitions

TALKS marking the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking that falls on 26 June 2018 was held at the Kyaukse assembly hall, Bahan Township, Yangon West District, on 24 June 2018.

At the ceremony, Chairman of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (Central) Police Maj Gen Soe Win (Retd) spoke about measures to prevent narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances abuse, national drug control policies and strategies of elimination of narcotic drugs production and usage, and then students competed in an impromptu talk competition in Myanmar and English languages for middle school and high school levels and poem reading competition for the primary level.



A school girl taking part in a contest marking the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. **PHOTO: BAHAN IPRD**

One of the winners gave the vote of thanks.

The ceremony came to an end with a concluding

speech by Police Maj Gen Soe Win (Retd).—Bahan IPRD ■

ASEAN CPA Certificate awarded to 290 public accountants

The certification ceremony of ASEAN Chartered Professional Accountant (ASEAN CPA) of the Myanmar Accountancy Council (MCA) was held at Polo Club, Western Club Restaurant, in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

During the ceremony, U Maw Than, Auditor General of the Union, spoke about 290 public accountants, who were officials recognised as ASEAN CPA and the plan to give opportunities to Myanmar accountants to serve their country. He also said that experienced accountants are the lifeline of the country, especially for the economy and finance, and all reliable ASEAN CPA certified accountants must do their duty through goodwill and ethics. Later, ASEAN CPA certificates were awarded to 290 public accountants.—MNA ■

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Efforts made to extend Ayeyawady dolphin protected areas between Htigyaing and Shwegu



Arrangements have been made by authorities to extend the Ayeyawady dolphin protected areas between Htigyaing and Shwegu areas, according to U Han Win, who is in charge of the Ayeyawady dolphin conservation team. A proposal to extend the protected area for Irrawaddy dolphins between Htigyaing and Shwegu areas has already been submitted to the respective union ministry, he said.

Ayeyawady dolphins are now classified as endangered species, according to the latest Red List of threatened species produced by the International Union for Conservation of Na-

ture (IUCN). To protect such mammals from the danger of extinction, the Department of Fisheries is speeding up its conservation activities, in co-operation with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The Ayeyawady dolphin protected area was established in late 2005 between Mandalay (Mingun) and Kyaukmyaung. Dolphins are mostly found in the protected area between Htigyaing and Shweku.

Regarding this plan, conservationists had already met with residents to elaborate upon the new arrangement. U Han Win said that the two protected areas are in Kachin State



and the Sagaing Region. The respective region/state authorities have the same opinion as the conservation team. After getting the green light from the fisheries department, the team submitted the proposal to the ministry. The new scheme is expected to be implemented soon. Between 9 and 16 June this year, three groups of the conserva-

tion team, including members of the fisheries department, the WCS and the relevant government departments made a field trip to 50 villages in the protected areas to meet and discuss the extension of protected areas. They asked for comments from over 1,000 residents. Following the previous establishment of protected areas between Mingun and Kyaukmyaung, the dolphin population was raised to 26 from 20.

The number of dolphins in the new target areas is 37. If the proposal is confirmed by the ministry, an office will be opened in the area to perform daily patrol and knowledge awareness campaigns, U Han Win added. According to the latest survey conducted by the fisheries department and the WCS in February 2018, there are 69 Ayeyawady dolphins between Mingun and Bhamo areas.

To raise the socio-economic status of residents, community-based tourism projects have now been implemented in seven villages from Mandalay (Mingun) to Kyaukmyaung protected areas, with good results. —Khine Hsat Wai ■

Ancient artefacts unearthed in Sagaing



Ancient artefacts found in Indaw Township, Sagaing Region. PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LINN (INDAW)

Ancient artefacts, including swords, earthen pots, a bracelet and some broken pieces of pots, were recently found in a village in Mawlu area, Indaw Township, in the Sagaing Region. Archaeological research will be carried out in the area by experts.

The artefacts found in a field in eastern Naungkot Village in Khonkha Village-tract included three iron swords, 13 iron knives, two earthen pots,

two earthen plates, two earthen bowls, one bracelet and 19 broken pieces of earthen pots.

The ancient objects were unearthed while villagers were ploughing the field located beside Naungkot-Kyaukove road, said Daw Khin San Win, owner of the field.

Following the report of 100-household leader U Tin Tun from Naungkot Village, members of the heritage conversation team from Mawlu

area, Khonkha Village-tract administrator U Hsan Htwe and officials from Naungkot Village confirmed the news that ancient artefacts had been found in the village, said Ko Chake, secretary of Mawlu heritage conservation team.

The Naungkot Village is located eight miles from Mawlu Town. The unearthed ancient objects are being kept in the home of the owner of the field. —Maung Chit Linn (Indaw) ■

Trawllergy driver dies in crash with freight train

A man was killed in a crash between a freight train and a trawllergy, a kind of farm truck, commonly used in villages, in Indaw Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region, on Sunday early morning, according to a police report.

The accident occurred at mile post No. 584/2 between Indaw and Selywa railway stations at 5.55 a.m. on 24 June, when the up-train, driven by U Than Soe with one other passenger onboard, heading from Mandalay to Myitkyina, collided with the trawllergy loaded with timber.

Owing to serious head wounds, Nay Lin Aung, driver of the trawllergy residing in Paybin Village in the same township, died on the spot. —Lu Aung (Katha) ■



Pigeon pea prices decline in the market due to fresh supplies. **PHOTO SUPPLIED**

Old pigeon peas selling well in market

Old pigeon peas (red grams) are selling better than fresh stocks, as fresh peas cannot compete with the quality of old stocks, according to the Agriculture and Market Information Agency.

The market for fresh pigeon peas is cooling, with zero trading being carried out on some days.

The price of pigeon peas increases during these days, while the mung bean price has been stable on the lower side. However, the prevailing price of pigeon peas cannot keep up with the high price after India's notification on the resumption of pulses importation.

Farmers are controlling fresh pigeon peas trading in the hopes of a high price. Therefore, the price of pigeon peas has not been fluctuating like mung beans. The proposed pigeon peas will be exported to India by August. Therefore, the pigeon

pea price is likely to go up, said the merchants. A ton of pigeon peas fetches over Ks500,000. The price increases at the depots of other regions. The current market price of pigeon peas is worth Ks15,600 per basket at Pakokku depot and Ks14,500 at Pyay depot.

In early May, the Indian government released official news that allowed for an import quota

of 150,000 tons of mung beans and green grams each and 200,000 tons of pigeon peas. Prior to India's pulses import policy changes, a tonne of mung beans was valued around Ks900,000 and pigeon peas fetched Ks800,000 per ton, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. —GNLM ■



A thriving pigeon pea plantation that enables farmers to earn increased income. **PHOTO: GNLM**

Imports surpass exports in bilateral trade with Thailand via Myawady border

Myanmar's imports surpassed its exports in bilateral border trade with Thailand through the Myawady gate in the current six-month interim fiscal year commencing this April, according to the latest statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

Between April and mid-June this year, the country exported marketable goods amounting to US\$15.742 million to Thailand, while its imports from the neighbour reached \$165 million.

This year saw an increase in the value of both exports and imports trade through the Myawady

border trade camp against last FY.

When compared with the same period last FY, this year showed a slight increase in the export value by \$4.098 million, while Myanmar's imports from Thailand rose by \$17.975 million.

Border trade between the two countries is conducted principally through seven cross-border gates, consisting of Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htikhee, Mawtaung and Maese. During the period, exports and imports from all Myanmar-Thailand borders topped \$295.678 mil-

lion, increasing by \$47.5 million compared to the same period last FY.

Myanmar predominantly imports a wide range of consumer products, food, soft drinks, cooking oil, plastic ware, and cosmetics, while marine products, agricultural commodities and other items are exported to the neighbouring country.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Thailand's investment in Myanmar was \$123.858 million last financial year.—Swe Nyein ■

UMFCCI to team up with international organisations for import substitution

By Nyein Nyein

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) will cooperate with international organisations to develop import substitution, said U Ye Min Aung, vice president of UMFCCI.

"Domestic products cannot keep up with imported goods. We need to track the standards, specifications, customs duty and quota plan. We will study how other countries such as Thailand, Viet Nam and China make import substitution policies. Having studied the know-how to develop import substitution in neighbouring countries, we have a plan to pursue it, focusing on the promotion of domestic production," said U Ye Min Aung.

Currently, the production of import-substitution enterprises is decreasing, as they cannot keep pace with imported products.

"In the washing powder industry, there were some four or five factories, and now only one has survived, while the remaining are forced to shut down their operations. This also harms employment opportunities for the local people. We need to discuss this anti-dumping practice with the government," U Ye Min Aung maintained. This being so, the development of small and medium enterprises is crucial to compete against the international market, create market share for domestic enterprises, get access to loan plans and share good opinions with the producers, he noted. ■

Goods worth \$4.25 billion imported in two-and-a-half months

The import value from 1 April to 15 June during the six-month interim period prior to the next 2018-2019 fiscal year was US\$4.25 billion, which increased \$427.59 million more than the last 2017-2018 FY.

In the same period, imports were worth \$3.82 billion.

During the past two-and-a-half months, consumer goods import showed a slight decrease in value compared to the last FY, while the value of capital goods and raw industrial goods import increased higher than last year. The import of capital goods such as auto

parts, vehicles, machines, steel, airplane parts was worth \$1.5 billion, which was up by \$162.7 million compared to the last FY.

The import of raw industrial goods such as petroleum-based products, plastic raw materials saw an increase of \$297 million in value against the last FY, with a total value of \$1.7 billion.

Meanwhile, the import of consumer products, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and palm oil imported into the country was valued \$910 million, a decrease of \$32.5 million compared to last FY. —Ko Htet ■

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Precursor chemicals, drugs destroyed in Muse

Officials destroyed 1390 plastic water containers and 2328 boxes of precursor chemicals along with drugs in NamHwal Village in Muse, Northern Shan State yesterday morning. The place which was destroyed was attended by Muse District Administrator U Hlaing Soe Thant, District Police Commander U Myo Nyunt and other officials. **PHOTO: IPRD**

Eminent Shwekyin monk passes away

THE joint Sasana-baing (joint-Sangha Raja) of the Shwekyin Gana, one of the most disciplined religious bodies of Buddhism in Myanmar, passed away at the age of 84, Vasa 64, at 3 a.m. in Mandalay yesterday.

The final rites of the eminent monk, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manita-siri Bhivamsa, will be held at Aye-yeik-nyein cemetery on 29 June.

The 84-year-old monk died while undergoing treatment at the cardiology ward of Mandalay People's Hospital.



He was the abbot of Mada-daya Thuhtaydan monastery in Maha Aungmyay Township, Mandalay.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Mass cycling event in Mandalay attracts amateur riders

UNDER the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Myanmar Cycling Federation and the Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department jointly organized a mass cycling activity in Mandalay yesterday morning.

The event was held with the aim of drawing public attention in cycling and ensuring national physical activities. Over 380 amateur cyclists including regional lawmakers, departmental officials, local people and students from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education participated in the event, the 24th during the past two years.

The race commenced at 5:30 am in front of the office of Mandalay City Development Committee, with a pistol shot announcing the start of the event by the principal of the Institute



Amateur riders take part in mass cycling event. **PHOTO: MDN**

of Sports and Physical Education U Myo Myint Aung. Donors distributed soft drinks to participants.

The mass cycling event

is being organized during the last week of every month as a community activity in Mandalay.—Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Rats destroy over 200 acres of paddy fields in Taikkyi

RODENTS on a rampage have destroyed about 220 acres of paddy fields belonging to 25 farmers in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region.

Township administrator

U Aung Kyaw Soe, accompanied by officials from the Department of Agriculture, went to the affected villages yesterday and organized an awareness campaign about

prevention of rats.

They also distributed pamphlets to the farmers and demonstrated how to wipe out the rats.—San Kalyar Khaing

Crime News

Officials seize narcotic drugs in Shan State, Kayin State

A security team from the Mabein police station has seized 800,000 opium pills and 1.72 Kilo of Heroin from a man named Nyi Than Win while searching a temporary hut in Kawtaw Village-tract, Mabein Township, in Shan State on Saturday afternoon.

Similarly, in Kawlapala Village, Hpa-an Township in Kayin State, the local police force seized 300 drugs from a vehicle driven by Nai Kyaw Myint, alias Nyi Nyi Oo, on 22 June.

Likewise on 23 June, of-

icials also searched a house owned by a driver, Nai Kyaw Myint, alias Nyi Nyi Oo, where they found 1,695 narcotic drugs.

Officials also seized 1.0015 kilograms of ice and 16,000 stimulant tablets, along with Ks40,000 and a mobile phone, from a vehicle driven by Aung Myo, alias Tun Myat, on Loi lem-Nam Hsang road, Loi lem Township, and all the suspects will be charged under the anti-narcotics and psychotropic substances law by the police force.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Nyi Than Win is seen together with seized drugs. **PHOTO: MNA**

Singapore spent \$12 million on US-N Korea summit

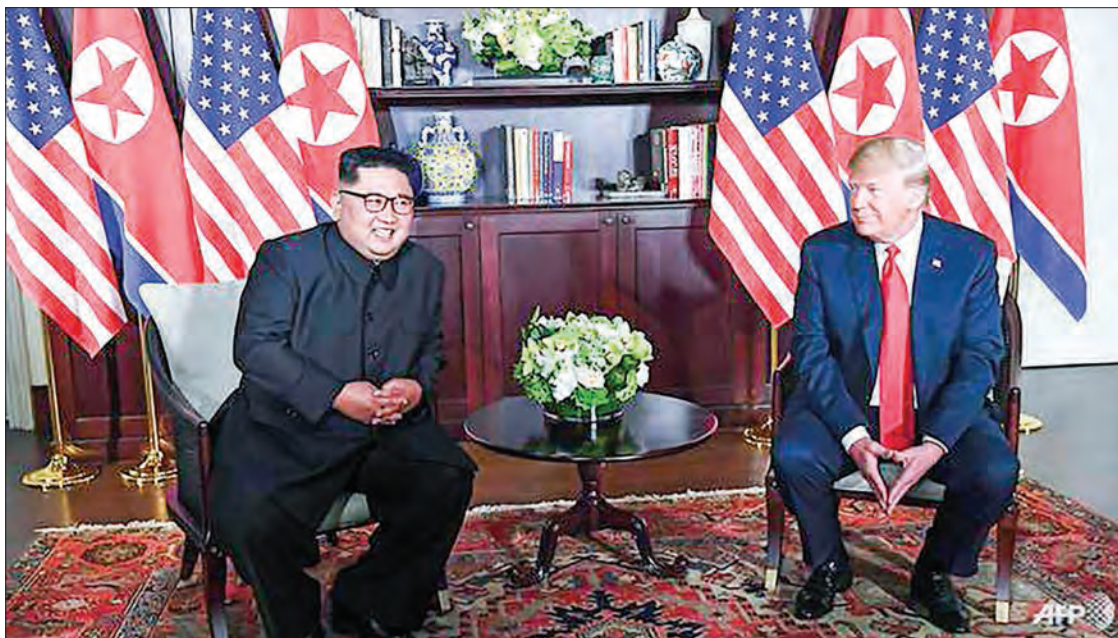
SINGAPORE — Singapore said on Sunday it spent Sg\$16.3 million (\$12 million) on the historic US-North Korea summit, adding it was less than initially anticipated after some in the city-state complained about the high cost.

US President Donald Trump and the North's leader Kim Jong Un met in Singapore on June 12 for talks aimed at ending a tense nuclear standoff.

The meeting was the culmination of a rapid detente between Pyongyang and Washington and saw Kim commit to working towards denuclearisation, although critics noted the summit agreement was vague and non-binding.

Singapore, an affluent financial hub, was seen as a good choice for the summit due to its warm ties with both the US and North Korea, and reputation for strict order.

But some Singaporeans thought welcoming the mercurial



US President Donald Trump and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un sit down for their historic US-North Korea summit, at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa island in Singapore on 12 June, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

leaders was more an annoyance than an honour, particularly when Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong estimated the tiny state would have to shell out Sg\$20 million

(\$14.7 million) to host the meeting. However in the end, the cost incurred by the government was about Sg\$16.3 million, the biggest part of which was spent on securi-

ty, said a ministry of foreign affairs spokesman in a statement.

It noted that Singapore had "supported the international efforts to achieve peace and sta-

bility on the Korean Peninsula".

Tightly-controlled Singapore rolled out a massive security operation for the meeting, deploying thousands of police, setting up road-blocks and banning flares and loudhailers near summit venues to prevent protests.

As well as the security operation, the Singapore government footed the bill for the delegation from the sanctions-hit North, including Kim's stay at the luxury St Regis hotel, according to the BBC.

They would have also had to pay a substantial amount for facilities for the huge number of journalists that covered the summit.

The clampdown was disruptive for many residents in the usually placid city-state of 5.6 million — although some observers said hosting the summit amounted to a PR coup that would ultimately benefit Singapore.—AFP ■

French delegation detained in Turkey during election

PARIS — A French delegation of Communist party members, including a senator, was detained in Turkey on Sunday while trying to observe parliamentary and presidential polls there, the party announced.

"Turkish authorities want to snuff out any criticism of the massive fraud underway," a Communist Party statement said, adding that senator Christine Prunaud was among those detained.

The state-run Turkish news agency Anadolu reported Sunday that around 10 Europeans faced legal action including three

French citizens, three Germans and four Italians allegedly for acting as election observers without accreditation.

One of the arrested French Communists, Hullyia Turan, told AFP that the group was arrested in Agri in the east at 1030 am (0730 GMT) and held all day in a police station until 5 pm when polling stations closed.

"They told us that we will not be prosecuted because our presence was not a crime," Turan said.

Turkey's main opposition party, the Republican People's Party (CHP), has expressed

alarm over the number of complaints of voting violations in the mainly Kurdish south east of the country.

Turks are voting in twin legislative and parliamentary elections which are seen as the toughest test President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has undergone at the ballot box.

Tens of thousands of Turkish citizens are responding to calls from the opposition to monitor the polls for a clean election and a delegation of observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is also in place.—AFP ■



People arrive at a polling station to vote in snap twin Turkish presidential and parliamentary elections in the Kurdish stronghold of Diyarbakir in southeastern Turkey on 24 June, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Trump adviser questions Abbas desire for peace with Israel

JERUSALEM — US President Donald Trump's adviser Jared Kushner on Sunday questioned the ability and willingness of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas to make concessions for a peace agreement with Israel.

Kushner's remarks, made in a rare interview with Palestinian newspaper Al Quds, came as he and special envoy Jason Greenblatt were in the region to advance efforts to renew the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The US duo have not met with Palestinian officials, who

froze all contact with US officials following the Trump administration's December recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"President Abbas says that he is committed to peace and I have no reason not to believe him," Kushner said. "However, I do question how much President Abbas has the ability to, or is willing to, lean into finishing a deal."

"He has his talking points which have not changed in the last 25 years. There has been no peace deal achieved in that time," Kushner said.

"To make a deal both sides

will have to take a leap and meet somewhere between their stated positions. I am not sure President Abbas has the ability to do that."

Kushner and Greenblatt met on Friday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss "advancing the diplomatic process, developments in the region and the security and humanitarian situations in Gaza", according to the premier's office.

They held a second meeting Saturday night "to continue their discussions," the White House said.

The visit comes after a flare-

up of hostilities between Israel and the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip.

Israel pounded Hamas targets in response to a barrage of rockets and mortar shells, while troops have killed over 130 Palestinians taking part in clashes on the fringes of demonstrations.

Speaking at his Sunday cabinet meeting, Netanyahu said the US officials "fully supported our position and actions to ensure the security of Israel and its civilians around Gaza".

The Palestinians have been infuriated by Trump's policies and see east Jerusalem as their

future capital, insisting the status of the disputed city is an issue to be negotiated between them and the Israelis.

Senior Palestinian official and chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said Sunday that Kushner's interview showed "there's nothing of substance" coming from the Trump Administration.

"Kushner represents a policy of dictation rather than negotiations. It is the Trump Administration that has walked away from the negotiations, from international law and UN resolutions," Erekat said.—AFP ■

Opposing corruption should be part of our culture

IN his inaugural speech at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw after he took office on 30 March 2018, President U Win Myint said, “We will abolish the red tape that burdens the people and eradicate corruption and bribery that plagues all levels of society as we work to strengthen the moral fibre of our people.”

While making efforts to strengthen the country’s weak judiciary system, the Union Government has stepped up its efforts to stamp out corruption, and the journey of fighting corruption has reached a certain level.

The anti-corruption commission was reformed to fight corruption effectively, because the Union Government is making anti-corruption a priority in its administration.

Freedom from corruption is the sine qua non for building a clean government and establishing good governance, and it is also connected to foreign investment and the image of our country.

The heads of departments concerned are obliged to carry out their duties honestly and to take responsibility for their actions.

According to the OECD Report-2013, 20 to 25 per cent of the project value of a government is lost due to corruption. The report estimated that the percentage of loss due to corruption can be higher in Myanmar.

Therefore, the newly-formed commission has a responsibility to prevent the loss of public funds due to corruption and malpractices.

The commission needs to openly report on possible interference by those in positions of authority in anti-corruption cases and any abuse of power in defending the accused.

The commission must find ways to increase the reach of anti-corruption investigations, such as forming sub-commissions in regions and states, collaborating with government departments or putting a person in charge, as part of the efforts to expand the works of the commission.

The heads of departments concerned are obliged to carry out their duties honestly and to take responsibility for their actions.

Opposing corruption should be more than a duty and become part of our culture. ■

Warming weather could reduce the nutritional value of rice

United Nations Environment Organization

HUNDREDS of millions of people in Asia rely on rice not only as a staple but as their main source of nutrition. But new research suggests the rice they eat will become less nutritious due to rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

The study found that rice exposed to elevated levels of carbon dioxide contains lower amounts of several important nutrients.

Currently, levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere average around 410 parts per million, up from 350 parts per million in the 1980s, largely due to the burning of fossil fuels. The researchers, a New York Times article explains, looked at how crops responded to levels of around 580 parts per million, which could prove tough to avoid this century without drastic changes.

The research involved exposing experimental rice fields in China and Japan to the same elevated levels of carbon dioxide that are expected to occur worldwide later this century.

What did the study find?

The scientists found that the chemical composition of a plant depends on the balance of the carbon dioxide it takes in from the air and the nutrients it absorbs from the soil. Upset this balance, and the plant can change in unexpected ways.

“A strong correlation between the impacts of elevated CO2 on vitamin content based



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

on the molecular fraction of nitrogen within the vitamin was observed,” says the study.

“Potential health risks associated with anticipated CO2-induced deficits of protein, minerals, and vitamins in rice were correlated to the lowest overall gross domestic product per capita for the highest rice-consuming countries, suggesting potential consequences for a global population of approximately 600 million,” it concludes.

“We used multiyear, multi-

location in situ FACE (free-air CO2 enrichment) experiments for 18 genetically diverse rice lines, including Japonica, Indica, and hybrids currently grown throughout Asia,” the authors write.

Challenges ahead

Rice is the primary food source for 3.5 billion people, and production will need to increase significantly by 2050 to meet global demand. One challenge is the likely scarcity of water for rice production due to competing demands for water, environmental degradation and the effects of climate change.

Another conundrum for policymakers is that rice also accounts for 9-11 per cent of global emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. This could be significant, given that for every one billion people added to the global population, an additional 100 million tons of rice needs to be produced every year.

Atmospheric methane (CH4) is recognized as one of the most

important greenhouse gases and may account for 20 per cent of anticipated global warming.

“We know that higher concentrations of atmospheric CO2 can lead to significant reductions in the amount of zinc, iron and protein in staple crops like rice,” says Montira Pongsiri, former Commissioner of the Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on Planetary Health. “Particularly in Asia-Pacific, this has important implications for nutritional security – in fact, this is a nutritional insecurity issue for Asia-Pacific communities.”

UN Environment’s rice work

In October 2017 UN Environment and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) signed a partnership agreement to promote climate-smart and innovative technologies for rice production in developing countries.

Furthermore, the proposed Global Environment Facility (GEF) programme Inclusive

Sustainable Rice Landscapes - securing multiple environmental benefits and improved farmer welfare is under development by a multi-stakeholder consortium led by UN Environment and the Food and Agriculture Organization, in partnership with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

“The programme builds on the efforts of the Sustainable Rice Platform – hosted by UN Environment, and its 87 institutional members to work with governments and value chain actors at landscape level to drive adoption of proven climate-smart best practices and innovative technologies to reduce the environment footprint of the sector, as well as to benefit farmers’ welfare,” says UN Environment ecosystems expert Max Zieren.

The above partners will host a side event during the GEF Assembly in Da Nang, Viet Nam, on 25 June to introduce this new multi-stakeholder initiative. ■

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Listen FIRST Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe

“ဦးစွာနားထောင်ပါ”

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 24th June, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 25th JUNE, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, scattered in Mandalay and Magway regions and Northern Shan state, fairly widespread in (Southern and Eastern) Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic and off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7 - 9) feet in Deltaic and off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (5 - 7) feet in Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate to strong Monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th JUNE, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th JUNE, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th JUNE, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 18:00 hour M.S.T.)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (31) miles northeast of Mawlaik), latitude 23.81°N, longitude 94.85°E, depth (121) kilometers about (44) miles southeast of Tamu seismological observatory was recorded at (17)hr (37)min (46)sec M.S.T. on 24th June, 2018.

Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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 works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real 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 news office

Full STEAM ahead for US youngsters learning the art of science

LOS ANGELES — In a room at the Marciano Art Foundation in Los Angeles, beyond a vast space where paintings and sculptures are displayed, around a dozen students gather at small tables.

Henry, 15, is hard at work developing a musical pedestrian crossing, using an innovative little device called MESH that attaches to household objects and turns them into switches for various connected devices. Henry and his classmates are taking part in STEAM learning — science, technology, engineering, art and math — an innovative artistic twist on the more traditional STEM education.

The pupils from south LA — a relatively deprived part of the city — are spending the morning in this hothouse of learning, a partnership with education organization Genesis to combat inequalities in arts and science education. The youngsters have been given a whistlestop tour of the tools in the cutting edge lab — from the industrial grade laser cutter and 3D printer pens to the 11-foot (3.35 meter)



Over the last 15 years the US has been jolted out of its complacency on science education, with its youngsters falling far below the academic standards of Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Finnish and Polish students. **PHOTO: AFP**

interactive touch wall.

They are tasked with dreaming up inventions that will make everyday life more convenient and fun, inspired by such innovations as the playable musical staircases seen occasionally at metro stations. “You have seven minutes,” Lauren Rodrigues, Genesis’s director of education, instructs the group, and the urgent murmur of focused teenagers spreads across the room as they rush to develop the next revolutionary recycling system,

garbage collection robot or some other neat innovation.

‘Start-up incubator’

“We want to function as a start-up incubator. Go very quickly and collaborate, that’s the future,” says Sheri Schlesinger, who founded Genesis five years ago. The non-profit aims to demystify the sciences by making them fun for children, including those from privileged backgrounds, would normally feel intimidated by the idea of Bunsen burners and complicated equa-

tions. “Seventy per cent of the jobs of the future, we haven’t invented yet, and STEAM is a critical component of innovative thinking,” says Schlesinger.

As automation increasingly does away with the need for unskilled human labor, Schlesinger warns that the days of washing dishes in a cafe or performing other menial chores to earn a living will soon be over. Over the last 15 years the US has been jolted out of its complacency on science education, with its young-

sters falling far below the academic standards of Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Finnish and Polish students. The American system has been playing catch-up, introducing federally-funded programs while private schools across the board have been equipping themselves with workshops boasting industrial machinery and the latest in robotic gadgetry. Around 500,000 children in the greater Los Angeles area live near or below the poverty line. “One hundred per cent of underserved kids have no access to a robust STEAM education. The opportunity this will provide for future jobs is staggering,” says Schlesinger.

The next big thing

The Marciano Art Foundation (MAF) was started up in 2012 by the Guess clothing company brothers Maurice and Paul Marciano. Paul recently stepped down from the fashion brand without admitting any wrongdoing after settling with five sexual misconduct accusers.—AFP ■

Chinese police arrest six for drug trafficking

KUNMING — Police in southwest China’s Yunnan Province apprehended six suspects for drug trafficking and seized 82 kilograms of drugs.

The police in Jinggu Dai and Yi Autonomous County, Pu’er City, received information in mid-May that drug dealers planned to traffick drugs from overseas into central China’s Hunan Province via Yunnan.

Police apprehended two suspects in a hotel on 24 May, and found 16 blocks of heroin and 23 bags of methamphetamines, weighing 36 kg in total from a truck parked at a garage in Lancang Lahu Autonomous County, Jinggu police said.

In the second operation on 16 June, they found 45.8 kg of methamphetamine in a rented apartment in the same county. Four more suspects were seized.

The six suspects have been detained and further investigation is under way.—Xinhua ■

PACIFIC HUNT ENERGY

Pacific Hunt Energy CSR Campaign Progresses in Sagaing Region

Pacific Hunt Energy has started an extensive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) campaign in Sagaing Region focusing on health, hygiene and education in cooperation with its local partner Young Investment Group. The aim of the campaign is to improve local learning facilities and to inspire children to learn. The campaign includes building of toilets and drilling water wells for seven local schools together with donations of educational supplies to approximately 2,000 students in eight schools, ranging from primary to high schools. Additional CSR efforts include wiring an emergency room and a donation of medical supplies to Mawlaik District Hospital, building a staff house for the local clinic in Pantha village, repair of school ceiling in Lawtha village, and afuel donation to support the examination period in Mawlaik High School. The total budget of Pacific Hunt Energy’s first CSR campaign on PSC C-1 exceeds 120,000,000MMK (One hundred twenty million MMK).

Pacific Hunt Energy is an independent oil and gas company registered in Canada. Pacific Hunt Energy was awarded onshore blocks PSC C-1 in Sagaing Region and PSC H in Bago Region as a result of the second Onshore Bidding Round in Myanmar in 2014. The Company began its first 2D seismic campaign on PSC C-1 in Myanmar in early 2018. Completion of the full PSC C-1 seismic program of 200 km is planned in the 2018- 2019 dry season.

For more information visit: www.pacifichuntenergy.com

Or contact us at: info@pacifichuntenergy.com

For feedback about our seismic or CSR campaigns please contact Pacific Hunt Energy Community Call Centre at: 09 401 146 388

Changing Trade Name of Pesticides

Aventine Limited would like to change the trade names of the following pesticides which are registered by Parijat Industries India Co.,Ltd to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar and would like to import and distribute.

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration no.
1.	Profit 50 EC	Armo Profit 50 EC	Profenofos 50 % EC	F2014-907
2.	Mortel 0.3 % GR	Armo Mortel 0.3 % GR	Fipronil 0.3 % GR	P2014-2140
3.	Star 5 EC	Armo Star 5 EC	Lambda Cyhalothrin 5 % EC	F2014-908
4.	Sultan 17.8 SL	Armo Sultan 17.8 SL	Imidacloprid 17.8 % SL	F2014-904
5.	Medal 25 % WG	Armo Medal 25 % WG	Thiamethoxam 25 % WG	F2016-906
6.	Tenchant 55 EC	Armo Tenchant 55 EC	Chlorpyrifos 50 % + Cypermethrin 5 % EC	F2014-909
7.	Emir 88 EC	Armo Emir 88 EC	Acetamiprid 16 + Cypermethrin 72 g/l EC	F2016-1158
8.	Victory Gold 407 SL	Armo Victory Gold 407 SL	Metalaxyl 7g/l + Mono & Dipotassium Phosphide 400 g/l SL	F2016-905
9.	Oriental 10 % SC	Armo Oriental 10 % SC	Bispyribac Sodium 10 % SC	P2013-1717
10.	Ace 20 % SP	Armo Ace 20 % SP	Acetamiprid 20 % SP	F2016-903
11.	Kamaal 45 % WP	Armo Kamaal 45 % WP	Imidacloprid 25 % + Thiram 20 % WP	F2013-1683
12.	Polestar 76 % WP	Armo Polestar 76 % WP	Carbendazim 12 % + Mancozeb 64 % WP	P2013-1684

And we would like to invite any objection for the above changing trade names within two weeks of the publication of this notice to the Joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogon, Insein.

Distributor: Aventine Limited

No. 126(A), Kabaraye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Italian coastguard tells rescue ships to call Libya for help

ROME — As Italy's new populist government cracked down on foreign NGO boats operating in the Mediterranean Saturday the Italian coastguard has followed suit telling boats in Libyan waters to "turn to" Libya when in distress.

According to the Italian media the national coastguard sent a message to rescue boats operating in the Mediterranean advising them that Italy would no longer be their first point of reference.

"From now on, under the Solas Convention (Safety of life at Sea), captains who are at sea in the area in front of Libya will have to turn to the Tripoli Centre and the Libyan Coast Guard for help."

The announcement came as Italy and Malta

once again locked horns over who should take charge of a German NGO boat, carrying over 200 migrants, currently stranded in the Mediterranean.

Both countries have staunchly refuse to let the ship into their ports.

The latest Italian message represents a change in policy from the coastguard which has often played an important role coordinating migrant rescue missions in the Mediterranean outside of its search and rescue area.

Under maritime rules, as coordinator it has the obligation to provide a safe port for migrants to disembark.

Italy's defence minister Elisabetta Trenta later said that the new stance did not mean Italy would shirk on its international

commitments.

"The government has taken a strong position," on immigration, she said in an interview with SkyTG24.

"But it is a position that will never deny migrants their rights. Italian navy and coastguard boats, when there is a need, will always save a migrant in difficulty."

"That's international law" she added. "It's what our navy and coastguard have always done."

Referring to the coastguard's announcement, Trenta said: "We are talking about the section of the sea that is close to Libya, which has been delimited and that we call the Search and Rescue area (SAR)."

"There the Libyan coastguard is in charge and has been trained by



The message represents a change in policy from the Italian coastguard which has often played an important role coordinating migrant rescue missions in the Mediterranean outside of its search and rescue area. **PHOTO: AFP**

our coastguard to carry out this task. It has all the skills and the means to do so," she said.

She added however that the Italian government was studying the possibility of providing "other means and equipment to strengthen the Libyan coastguard's activity"

"What is important is that the Libyans are able

to control their territory," she said

Trenta was speaking on the eve of a mini-summit in Brussels as tensions flare between EU nations over the issue of migration.

16 EU leaders are to meet to address the thorny issue of how the EU can tackle the renewed influx of migrants and refugees seeking a new life in Europe.

On Saturday French President Emmanuel Macron infuriated Rome by suggesting that Italy was not going through a "migration crisis."

Italy's two deputy prime ministers Luigi Di Maio and far-right Matteo Salvini responded by branding the French president "arrogant" and "completely out of touch with reality." —AFP ■

New tool to be launched to measure temperature of plants from space

LOS ANGELES — A new instrument will be launched to measure the temperature of plants on Earth to help monitor threats such as drought conditions, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has said.

The new instrument, called the ECOSystem Spaceborne Thermal Radiometer Experiment

on Space Station (ECOSTRESS), is scheduled to be launched on 29 June and installed on the International Space Station, and it will measure the changing temperatures of plants on Earth's surface, NASA said.

Over the next year, the instrument will use the space station's unique low Earth orbit to collect data

over multiple areas of land at different times of the day.

It will produce detailed images of the same areas which are as small as 40 by 70 meters, about the size of a small farm, every three to five days.

ECOSTRESS data will provide insight into plants' health and water intake and signs of mounting water stress — the begin-

ning of a drought, allowing farmers and others to develop a solution and plan accordingly.

Scientists have previously experimented with the use of electric leaf sensors to monitor a plant's water intake.

"When a plant is so stressed that it turns brown, it's often too late for it to recover," Simon

Hook, ECOSTRESS principal investigator at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), said in a press release.

"But measuring the temperature of the plant lets you see that a plant is stressed before it reaches that point," Hook said.

These temperature measurements are also considered an early indi-

cator of potential agricultural droughts, and give the agricultural community a chance to prepare and/or respond accordingly.

Also, ECOSTRESS data will be valuable for other studies that require temperature information, such as detecting and characterizing volcanoes, wildfires and heat waves, said NASA.—Xinhua ■

Scoping of EIA Study of M9 West Appraisal and Exploration Drilling in Block M9, Offshore Myanmar

PTTEP International Limited (PTTEPI), plans to conduct new drilling campaign in western part of Block M9 to discover gas resources and evaluate the feasibility of gas production in the future. The drilling campaign consists of 10 exploration wells in Block M9 which is located in the Gulf of Moattama, offshore Myanmar. It is approximately 300 km. away from Yangon and 230 km from Dawei. The tentative plan for commencement will be in early 2019.

Under the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, PTTEPI is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. PTTEPI has contracted third party EIA/SIA consultants International Environmental Management Co Ltd. (IEM) and Environmental Quality Management Co. Ltd (EQM). The consultants are currently undertaking Scoping of EIA Study to define project description, study area, potential environmental and social impacts and relevant stakeholders. The Scoping will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

More information about the proposed activity can be found on PTTEPI's website as follows: www.pttep.com

Questions and comments can also be submitted to PTTEPI in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: TinNilarSoe@pttep.com

EIA Study of Exploration Drilling Campaign in Onshore Block MOGE-3 by PTTEP SA

PTTEP South Asia Limited (PTTEP SA), successfully completed the Block MOGE-3 Seismic Acquisition in 2017. PTTEP SA is now planning to conduct a drilling campaign in order to explore petroleum potential in Block MOGE-3. This drilling campaign consists of 4 exploration drilling wells from 8 selected locations located in Thayet Township, Magway Region, Myanmar. The tentative plan for commencement of drilling will be end of 2018.

Regarding the Scoping Report which was submitted to Environmental Conservation Department (ECD), PTTEP SA with third party EIA/SIA consultants International Environmental Management Co Ltd. (IEM) and Environmental Quality Management Co. Ltd (EQM) are currently undertaking an EIA Study which includes associated stakeholder engagement. The EIA will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

More information about the proposed activity can be found on PTTEP SA's website as follows: www.pttep.com

Questions and comments can also be submitted to PTTEP SA in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: TinNilarSoe@pttep.com

Four students drown in southern India river

NEW DELHI — Rescuers fished out bodies of four engineering students from a river Sunday in India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh, police said.

The students drowned Saturday evening in the Krishna river near Vijayawada in Krishna district, about 42 km east of Amaravati, the main city of Andhra Pradesh.

"This morning rescuers fished out bodies of four

students who drowned last evening," a police official said. "Nearly 100 personnel, from disaster response force were involved in the search operations that went on through the night."

On Saturday four students of a private engineering college who had gone for a picnic to Ibrahimpatnam's Pavitra Sangama were washed away because of strong water currents in the river.—Xinhua ■

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Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 7-3, Marunouchi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:

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Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 25 June 2018
hh@kcyangon.com

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For **SUNTORY HOLDINGS LIMITED.**,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 25th June 2018
lmm@kcyangon.com

Nicaragua clashes leave eight dead including baby: rights group

MANAGUA — At least eight people including a baby were killed Saturday when pro-government forces clashed with opponents in Nicaragua, according to a rights group.

Seven people were killed in the capital Managua and one in Masaya and a baby was among the dead, said Georgina Ruiz, an activist with the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH).

The rights group says more than 200 people have been killed in protests that started just over two months ago demanding President Daniel Ortega step down.

Starting after midnight, police and paramilitary forces flooded six neighborhoods in the east of Managua, as well as the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN) where scores of students are holed up.

Among the dead were two students killed in the university area and two minors who died in Managua -- a 17-year-old and a baby who was shot in the head.

The baby was killed when his mother was taking him to a babysitter. "He was killed by a police gunshot. I saw them. They were police," the mother Kenia Navarrete told news channel Cien por Cien Noticias.

The government denied the charge, saying



A hooded student is pictured at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua after clashes with riot police and members of the Sandinista Youth. **PHOTO: AFP**

criminals in the university area were to blame.

UNAN is one of several student protest camps in Managua. About 450 students have been living there under plastic tarp tents and in class buildings, surrounded by empty bottles, old food and used rounds from their homemade mortars.

"Ortega's government continues to repress and kill young people," CENIDH said on Twitter.

According to Alvaro Leiva, secretary of the Nicaraguan Pro-Human Rights Association, the attack against the university was intended "to plant terror in the population" ahead of a march planned for Saturday afternoon in memory of victims of the violence.

Later Saturday organizers cancelled the march due to what they branded "indiscriminate" attacks by government forces. The organizing Civil Alliance opposition called for a 48-hour strike among social sectors and trade unions to press for Ortega's departure.

The Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference urged Ortega's government and the opposition to return to the negotiating table on Monday to discuss a proposal to bring elections forward from 2021 to March 2019, in a bid to end the crisis.

Ortega, 72, has not responded to the Catholic bishops' initiative, but has previously expressed his willingness to work toward democratization.

Talks between the government and the opposition Civic Alliance were suspended once again last Monday when the government failed to allow international human rights bodies to investigate the violence.

It eventually did so on Wednesday.

Protests erupted on 18 April against now-scrapped social security reforms, but have grown into demands for justice for those killed and the exit of Ortega and his wife and vice president Rosario Murillo.

Ortega, a former leftist guerrilla, led the country from 1979 to 1990 and then returned to the presidency in 2007. He is now serving his third consecutive term.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (1815/1816)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (1815/1816) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT 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
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In Central America, parents deported from US vow to return for children

MEXICO CITY — When Ever Sierra arrived back in his native Honduras, deported after trying to enter the US, his eight-month-old daughter's shoes were hanging from his backpack.

She was being held in a detention center in McAllen, Texas, along with her mother. Sierra planned to try again in a few days.

"On Sunday or Monday I'm going back," the 28-year-old mason told AFP. "I want to be with my family." Sierra had left the northern city of El Progreso on 2 January to pursue the American dream. With him were his wife, Iris Janeth, 26, and their daughter, then only two months old.

"It's about looking for a better future for our family," said the young man. Here, with 250 or 300 lempiras (\$10 to \$12) a day, you



A little shoe that belongs to his baby girl hangs from the backpack of Honduran immigrant Ever Sierra, 28, who was deported from the US and arrived in San Pedro Sula, 200 kilometres north of Tegucigalpa on 22 June 2018. PHOTO: AFP

can't do anything."

A month after their departure, on 3 February, while crossing the Piedras Negras River near the Mexican border, a US immigration patrol arrested

them. They were accompanied by Sierra's brother, Juan Carlos, his wife and their five-year-old son.

Family scattered

According to Sier-

ra, Iris Janeth and their daughter were taken to a juvenile detention center in McAllen; his sister-in-law was taken to a center in Miami, Florida; his brother was sent to the LaSalle

detention center in Texas; while he was sent to a center in neighboring Louisiana.

The separation of families trying to cross the border — the result of the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy for undocumented migrants — has led to more than 2,300 children being taken from their parents' custody.

The approach has generated such widespread outrage that Trump on Wednesday reversed course, ordering an end to the separations.

Sierra, a thin man of light complexion and sparse hair, arrived Friday on one of two flights bringing deportees from Louisiana to San Pedro Sula, the second-largest city of Honduras, 180 kilometers (110 miles) from the capital. The first flight carried 118

people, the second, 120.

"They brought us chained by the feet, hands and waist," complained Jose Miguel Sagotizado, a 32-year-old deportee. "They didn't take off our chains even to go to the bathroom."

"Trump is a racist," said Sagotizado, a solidly built man, his eyes flashing. "He's got the whole world against him."

'A great sadness'

Meantime, at the Guatemala City airport, an additional 108 deportees arrived, greeted by blaring marimba music piped in over loudspeakers to cheer them up. One of them, Benjamin Raymundo, 33, left his indigenous Q'anjob'al-speaking community in western Guatemala in April with his five-year-old son Roberto.—AFP ■

Spain's first 'stolen babies' case comes to trial

MADRID — A former doctor will go on trial on Tuesday in Madrid for allegedly stealing a newborn baby from her mother and giving her to another woman, a practice thought to have affected thousands of families during Spain's dictatorship.

Eduardo Vela, an 85-year-old former obstetrician at Madrid's San Ramon hospital, will become the first person in the dock over the "stolen babies" scandal, a dark chapter of the repressive Franco era that shook Spain when it eventually came to light in the 2000s. Vela is suspected of having taken part in the 1969 theft of Ines Madrigal, now aged 49. She accuses him of having forged her birth certificate so that her adoptive mother, who has since passed away, appeared as her biological parent.

When she turned 18, Madrigal's adoptive

mother told her she had been adopted. Then in 2010 she read an article about the "stolen babies" affair which described the hospital where she was born as a central point of child trafficking in the 1960s and 70s in the final years of the dictatorship. "I thought... my God, don't tell me that this is my case," Madrigal, a railway worker who now lives in the southeastern region of Murcia, told AFP ahead of the trial.

She did some digging and discovered that her birth certificate was falsified. "It was a huge blow," Madrigal said.

Historic trial

Vela will be tried for falsifying official documents, illegal adoption, unlawful detention and falsifying the registration of a birth. His lawyer Rafael Casas declined to comment when contacted by AFP.—AFP ■

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Dated 25th June 2018

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‘Game of Thrones’ Jon Snow to marry on-screen flame

LONDON—Actors Kit Harington and Rose Leslie, who played on-screen lovers Jon Snow and Ygritte in fantasy TV saga “Game of Thrones”, are to wed in Britain on Saturday.

The 31-year-old stars are reported to be tying the knot in northeastern Scotland, with co-stars Emilia Clarke, who played Daenerys Targaryen, and Peter Dinklage, who played Tyrion Lannister, arriving at nearby Aberdeen on Friday.

The couple, who met on set in 2012, announced the engagement in the Times newspaper last September, and the wedding date was submitted to the local registry office last month.

The ceremony is to be held at the remote Wardhill Castle in Aberdeenshire, which has been in Leslie’s family for 900 years, according to the Daily Mail.

She left the show in 2014, but



British actor Kit Harington and British actress Rose Leslie met on set of Game of Thrones in 2012. **PHOTO: AFP**

Harington’s iconic character has appeared in every episode.

Harington told L’Uomo Vogue that the on-screen romance contributed to the pair getting together, after filming in Iceland in 2012.

“The country is beautiful ...

the Northern Lights are magical ... it was there that I fell in love,” he said.

“If you’re already attracted to someone, and then they play your love interest in the show, it becomes very easy to fall in love.”—AFP ■

HBO website and comedian John Oliver censored in China

BEIJING—It was one Winnie the Pooh joke too far.

After mocking censors working over time to delete comparisons of President Xi Jinping with the cartoon bear, comedian John Oliver and now the website of TV giant HBO have fallen victim to China’s censorship machine.

Chinese authorities blocked HBO’s website in China, just days after Oliver took Xi to task, anti-censorship and monitoring group GreatFire.org said on Saturday.

HBO joins a long list of Western media outlets that have had their websites blocked in China including The New York Times, Facebook, and Twitter.

“China: the country responsible for huge technological advances but it still can’t seem to get pandas to f***,” Oliver opened the episode of “Last Week Tonight” that is causing the problems.

Those technological advanc-

es include draconian surveillance and censorship measures which appear to have made HBO and Oliver their latest victims.

Oliver’s name and that of the show he hosts were censored on China’s popular twitter like Weibo.

“Send failure” Weibo returned when AFP attempted to post Oliver’s name.

“Content is illegal!” the service said.

YouTube, which also airs “Last Week Tonight”, has long been blocked in China.

Oliver’s segment dug into Xi’s distaste at comparisons to the self-described “bear of very little brain” and introduced viewers to repressive changes underway in the world’s most populous country.

Chinese netizens have often compared Xi to A.A. Milne’s most famous creation, something that censors have been quick to purge inside the Great Firewall. —AFP ■

Sting lashes out at ‘coward’ leaders over migrants’ fate



“Democracy began here in Greece, you are showing us how to be civilised again”, said the British singer.. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON—British singer Sting lashed out against world leaders on Saturday calling them “cowards” for failing to resolve the refugee crisis, praising though the role of Greece.

“Thank God for Greece because you have shown the way,” said Sting, at an Amnesty International event in Athens ahead of his performance Saturday night.

“You have shown how to treat refugees when other people are building walls. When children are being taken from

their mothers and put in cages, you are acting with compassion and generosity and common-sense,” he said according to Athens News Agency.

Trump on Wednesday ordered an end to the family separations which have sparked domestic and global outrage but the fate of the more than 2,300 separated children has remained unclear.

“Because our so-called leaders, a sad parade of half-men, cowards, have not got the solutions. Democracy be-

gan here in Greece, you are showing us how to be civilised again”, Sting added.

Greece, with a population of 11 million, recorded 58,661 asylum applications last year, making it the EU member state with the highest number of asylum seekers per capita, according to official data.

French President Emmanuel Macron came out Saturday in support of financial sanctions against EU countries which refuse to accept migrants.

“We can not have countries that benefit hugely from EU solidarity and claim national self-interest when it comes to the issue of migrants,” he said at a press conference in Paris alongside Spain’s new Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

On the eve of a mini-summit about the divisive migration issue, the two leaders also declared support for the creation of closed reception centres where migrants would be held while their asylum claims are considered.—AFP ■

Tom Holland reveals ‘Spiderman 2’ title in social media gaffe

LOS ANGELES—Actors attached with Marvel have a way of letting out the secret details that the franchise strives to guard with all fierceness and “Avengers: Infinity War” star Tom Holland has done just the same.

The 22-year-old actor revealed the name of his next stand-alone, which is “Spider-Man: Far From Home” in a faux pas on Instagram. Holland, who was in Seattle to attend Ace Comic-Con, took to social media to update his fans. He said he knew nothing about the “Spider-Man...” sequel but had received the script for the movie.

“I wanted to apologise because there’s no real revelation coming out this weekend about ‘Spiderman 2’... I don’t know much about it. I’m a little confused as I died (referring to ‘Infinity War’).

“So, I don’t really know how it all comes into play. But I got the new script. I’m super excited to read it,” Holland said in the video.

But when the actor lifted his iPad and the fans got a quick glimpse into the title of the next “Spider-Man”. In April, Marvel boss Kevin Feig confirmed that the sequel will be shot in London. Actors Zendaya, Donald Glover, Jacob Batalon and Marisa Tomei are also expected to reprise their respective roles.

Jake Gyllenhaal is in talks to play the antagonist Mysterio.

Holland and co-star Mark Ruffalo often faced embarrassment when they gave out spoilers during the promotions of “Infinity War”. The Hulk actor has earlier even live-streamed first 15 minutes of “Thor: Ragnarok” on Instagram. —PTI ■



Actor Tom Holland. **PHOTO: PTI**

Japan researchers develop what could become world's 1st wood liquor

TOKYO — Researchers in Japan have developed a technique for making alcohol by fermenting wood, paving the way for the creation of the world's first wood liquor.

The safety of the product, which carries the distinctive aroma of the type of wood it is made from, as a drink is yet to be confirmed, but the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute hopes people will be toasting with it in the near future.

While bioethanol, also an alcohol made from wood, has long existed as a fuel, it is made using heat and sulfuric acid, making the product unsuitable for drinking.

The technique developed by the institute does not require the use of such a harmful substance or heating, which takes away the unique scent of the wood used.

Instead, the alcohol is made by adding water to the wood chips, grinding them with a food-processing machine until the content becomes a liquid, and adding enzymes and yeast to ferment it before it is distilled.

The final product of the two-week process is a liquid with an alcoholic content of 20 per cent and unique aroma of the ingredient wood.

"We can find a new appeal in trees if we can create a tasty alcoholic drink from them," said Yuichiro Otsuka, who developed the technique, adding, "It will help promote the forestry industry too."

Alcohol made from cedar has a refreshing smell, while that



Yuichiro Otsuka, a research fellow at the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, pours alcohol made by fermenting white birch in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, on June 6, 2018. His research team has developed a technique for making alcohol by fermenting wood. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

made from white birch has a fragrance found in whisky or brandy matured in wooden barrels for a long period. Cherry tree alcohol has a sweet scent.

The institute said it is still analyzing the content of the alcohol and will seek to commercialize the beverages by partnering with businesses.

Japan has one of the highest ratios of forest areas among developed countries, with two-

thirds of its land covered by forests, according to the Forestry Agency.

But the forestry industry has long suffered from labor shortages, falling demand and price competition as a result of cheaper imports.

Output by the industry stood at 466.2 billion yen (\$4.2 billion) in 2016, roughly 40 per cent of its peak at 1.16 trillion yen in 1980. —Kyodo News ■

Han Solo's 'Return of the Jedi' blaster sells for \$550,000

LAS VEGAS — In the wildly popular "Star Wars" films, Han Solo once told a lightsaber-wielding Luke Skywalker: "Hokey religions and ancient weapons are no match for a good blaster at your side, kid."

That was the case when one of the blaster pistol props used by Harrison Ford in "Return of the Jedi" (1983) went under the hammer, selling for \$550,000 — topping the \$450,000 previously fetched by Skywalker's lightsaber from the first two films.

"SOLD for \$550,000! An original Han Solo blaster used in Star Wars: Return of the Jedi!" Julien's Auctions announced on Twitter Saturday.

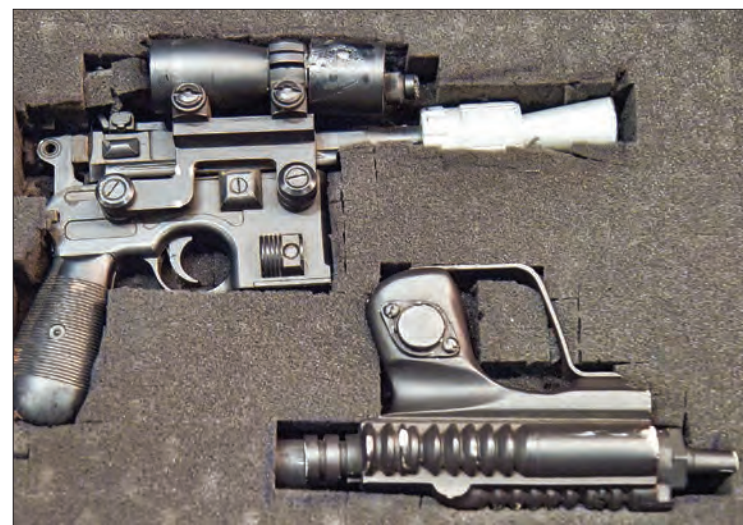
The faux weapon, mainly made of wood, had been put on display in New York by Julien's

Auctions last month after more than 30 years tucked away in the belongings of James Schoppe, art director of "Return of the Jedi".

Martin Nolan, the auction house's executive director, said Schoppe, an Oscar nominee for his work on the film, finally decided to part with Solo's gun and about 40 other items from the movie, including an Ewok axe and plans for Jabba the Hutt's ship.

The Ewok axe went for \$11,250, while another blaster prop from the film fetched \$90,624, according to Julien's Auctions.

But none of the props were a match for the space saga's much-loved droid: last year, an R2-D2 used in the making of several "Star Wars" films sold for \$2.76 million at auction in Los Angeles. —AFP ■



Han Solo's blaster, used by actor Harrison Ford in the filming of "Return of the Jedi," sold at auction for \$550,000. **PHOTO: AFP**

War, wine and wonders: hopefuls vie for place on UNESCO heritage list

MANAMA (BAHRAIN) — Inuit hunting grounds, World War I cemeteries, Art Deco heritage in Mumbai and Italy's wine-producing Prosecco hills are among 30 hopefuls in the running to join UNESCO's famous list as the World Heritage Committee meets from Sunday in Bahrain.

Delegates at the annual gathering will also debate adding locations including Kenya's Lake Turkana and Nepal's Kathmandu Valley to those sites considered "in danger", but could remove the Belize Barrier Reef from the risk list due to an oil activity ban.

The roster of contenders for this year's new additions spans



Lake Turkana in Kenya could be added to the List of World Heritage sites in Danger at an annual meeting in Bahrain. **PHOTO: AFP**

the globe from the Aasivissuit and Nipisat hunting grounds in the frozen expanses of Greenland to the sun-scorched Al-Ahsa Oasis in the deserts of Saudi Arabia.

Eye-catching — or lip-smacking — sites among them include the Prosecco Hills in northwest Italy where famed sparkling wine has been made for centuries, as well as the town of Zatec in the Czech Republic renowned for its hops.

In India, a collection of Victorian and Art Deco landmarks in bustling Mumbai is being billed as "the largest such conglomeration of these two genres of architecture in the world".

The push to include funeral and memorial sites in Belgium and France for those killed on World War I's Western Front has sparked debate over how to treat locations associated with recent conflicts. In an April report, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, which advises UNESCO, called for a further "period of reflection", despite locations including Hiroshima and Auschwitz already being on the list.

Getting on the World Heritage List could be a major boon for the nominees, as being deemed of "outstanding universal value" can boost tourist numbers and bring in funding. —AFP ■

England hat-trick hero Kane basks in World Cup rout

NIZHNIY NOVGOROD, (Russia) — Hat-trick hero Harry Kane says “it’s all coming together” for England at the World Cup after Gareth Southgate’s side sailed into the last 16 with a 6-1 rout of Panama on Sunday.

Kane’s treble and two goals from John Stones, with Jesse Lingard also on the scoresheet, meant England joined Belgium on six points at the top of Group G ahead of the match between the two teams on Thursday.

Kane said: “I’m very proud. Not many players get to score a hat-trick in the World Cup.

“We have to enjoy this. It’s not every day we get to go through after two games.”

He said his third goal, which came from a Ruben Loftus-Cheek shot that deflected off the English captain’s heel into the net, “was one of the luckiest of my career”.



England’s forward Harry Kane takes a penalty kick to score his team’s fifth goal during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group G football match between England and Panama at the Nizhny Novgorod Stadium in Nizhny Novgorod on 24 June, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

His five goals took him to the top of the World Cup Gold-

en Boot scoring chart with five goals in two games ahead of the

four scored by Cristiano Ronaldo and Romelu Lukaku.

“It’s going well, there’s still a long way to go, the most important thing is winning games,” Kane said.

“There’s a lot of good players behind me, hopefully I can take it into Thursday’s game.”

Earlier, Kane told BBC TV he was “proud of the boys”.

“We knew it was going to be tough but it’s all coming together. It’s a brilliant result, fantastic to be through and to do it in this way is great.”

The Tottenham Hotspur striker said England fans were justified in dreaming of winning the World Cup for the first time since 1966.

“We’re not getting too ahead of ourselves. We’ve got to keep it going but, yes, you have to believe. If you want to achieve anything in life you have to believe.

“We’ve got to stick together, stick to our game plan.” —AFP ■

Japan v Senegal draw keeps World Cup last-16 hopes alive

YEKATERINBURG, (Russia) — Keisuke Honda’s late goal earned Japan a deserved 2-2 draw against Senegal in Yekaterinburg on Sunday to keep alive both teams’ hopes of last-16 qualification from Group H. A lucky deflection off Sadio Mane put Senegal into an early lead, with Takashi Inui levelling. Against the run of play, teenager Moussa Wague put the Africans back in front only for Honda to fire into an open net and snatch a point. The stalemate leaves both sides on four points. Pointless Poland and Colombia meet later Sunday in Kazan with the last-16 spots determined next Thursday.—AFP ■



Japan’s defender Gen Shoji (R) vies with Senegal’s forward Mbaye Niang during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group H football match between Japan and Senegal at the Ekaterinburg Arena in Ekaterinburg on 24 June, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

We deserved to win, says Shan United coach

SHAN United Head Coach Marjan Sekulovski said that his team deserved to win. He was giving his comments after the match between Shan United and Yangon United that was played at Taunggyi Stadium on Saturday.

The match ended in a goalless draw. “I want to congratulate all my boys for the game against

Yangon United,” he said. “We played better than Yangon United FC and deserved to win. We had at least five clear chances but we did not score. In my opinion, Yan Naing Oo scored a regular goal but the assistant referee signalled it as offside. As this was our third game in seven days, and we travelled twice from Taunggyi -

Yangon - Taunggyi, some of the players were very tired, and it was difficult for them,” said Marjan Sekulovski. “Shan played very well. Shan United were apparently the better side, but all their efforts were not converted into goals. Luck was not in our favour,” said Khun Kuu Shar Lhu from Taunggyi, a Shan fan.—Lynn Thit(Tgi)

20:30 MST(25.6.2018)		
Uruguay		Russia
20:30 MST (25.6.2018)		
Saudi Arabia		Egypt
00:30 MST (26.6.2018)		
Spain		Morocco
00:30 MST (26.6.2018)		
IR Iran		Portugal
World Cup 2018 Results		
Germany	2 - 1	Sweden
England	6 - 1	Panama
Japan	2 - 2	Senegal