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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 16 August 2018

Request to the people

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Request to the People
4th Waxing of Wagaung 1380 ME
15 August 2018

1. The Complaint Department (Phone and Fax 067-3409117) in the Office of the

President, paying heed to information from the people, is carrying out tasks regularly including scrutinizing reports, complaints and appeals submitted to the State leaders to ascertain their authenticity after registering them, transferring the authentic letters to the departments concerned for further scrutiny and for acknowledging receipt of these letters, submitting reports from departments to the State leaders, monitoring the cases which have not yet been sent back to the department within a set time frame and giving notice to the departments concerned, responding to these letters with findings, and status of action being taken.

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State Counsellor receives Independent Commission of Enquiry

Formation of a dedicated secretariat to assist Commission's works discussed

STATE Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Ambassador Rosario Manalo, Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry and its members, U Mya Thein, Ambassador Kenzo Oshima and Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at 14:00 hrs.

During the meeting, matters related to the work plan of the Commission, Terms of Reference and the formation of a dedicated secretariat to assist the Commission's works were discussed.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SEE PAGE 3



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry Ambassador Rosario Manalo in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor to pay working visit to Singapore in near future

AT the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a working visit to Singapore in the near future. —MNA

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw gives nod to US\$ 40.5 million loan from Asian Development Bank

THE matter sent by the President regarding the US\$ 40.5 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for funding projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation was accepted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in yesterday's ninth-day meeting of the Hluttaw's ninth regular session.

U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, elaborated on the loan, saying that the project has to conform with the 12-point national economic policy and at the same time support the ministry's projects as well as state and region's projects. He said a feasibility study was conducted on the loan whereby an approval was received from the Development Support Coordination Group and after which, the matter was sent to the union government to consider acquiring the loan. He added that the country's foreign debt statistic is included in the government's yearly and half-year debt report. The Deputy Minister requested the Hluttaw to accept the matter.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw also explained the matter to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Controversial land management bill approved

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also discussed the bill amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law (2017), which garnered opposing views from the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2 said regardless of whether a new law is enacted or an existing law is amended, if the contents of the law are carefully compiled then it will prevent those in authority from exploiting parts of the law for their convenience, and will permit the law to carry out its intended purpose.

The reports on the bill from both the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw were then discussed by U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency, Daw Naw Chris Tun (a) Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7, U Kyi Win of Ayeyawady Region constituency 12, U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10, Dr. Aung Khin of PyinOoLwin constituency, U Sai Lone San Khet of Shan State

constituency 7, Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10 and Dr. Kun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11.

After much deliberation, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that the bill has been accepted. **MPs discuss report on Basic Education Department construction projects**

Hluttaw representatives then discussed Report No. 6/2018 from the Joint Public Accounts Committee concerning the construction projects of the Department of Basic Education, under the Ministry of Education, carried out in fiscal year 2017-2018.

Dr. Aung Khin of PyinOoLwin constituency said that after scrutinizing the Department of Basic Education's approved projects for fiscal year 2017-

2018, it was found that 251 projects out of the entire ministry's 2,700 projects have been completed. It was also found that some states and regions were able to fully pay for the completed projects while some state and regions could not. There were also unnecessary delays in call for tender evaluation and contract signing processes, resulting in a pushback of the department's construction projects' completion dates to November.

Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency said the Tender Evaluation Committee should be reformed into a more transparent, responsible and accountable committee after considering the committee's weaknesses, shortcomings and wrong decisions it had made this year. She added

that the Tender Committee's grading system should also be reevaluated and there should be rules and regulations in place to ensure construction equipment and materials meet the proper standards, and to act against those that lower the standard quality for personal benefits. The Tender Committee is solely held responsible for the companies that have passed its evaluation procedures and to be held accountable so that the tender process can be smoother and more efficient, said Daw Cho Cho. She added that she agreed with the Joint Public Accounts Committee's report.

The report was also discussed by Dr. Hla Moe of Aungmyethazan constituency, Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency, U Tin Tun Naing of Seikkyi-Khanaungto constituency, U Win Win of Minbu constituency, U Kyaw Tint of Tatkon constituency, Daw Thandar of Einme constituency, Dr. Thet Thet Khaing of Dagon constituency, U Sai Tun Sein of Mongpyin constituency, U Tun Wai of Phaungpyin constituency, U Sai Oo Khem of Hsenwi constituency, U Myo Zaw Oo of Lewe constituency, U Than Soe Aung of Pyinmana constituency, U Win Myint Oo (a) U Nay Myo of Nyaungshwe constituency, U Zaw Hein of Taninthayi Region constituency 7, U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency, U Tin Ko Ko Oo (a) Atut of Bilin constituency and U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency 5. —Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing ■

Civil Services Academy discusses branch of studies

THE advisory group and board of studies of the Civil Services Academy (CSA), Central Institute of Civil Service, Union Civil Service Board, held coordination meeting No.4/2018 at the meeting hall of the Union Civil Service Board yesterday. During the meeting, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board Dr. Win Thein delivered a speech and officials discussed topics relating to the education and teaching processes of the Civil Services Academy.

Present at the meeting were members of the Union Civil Service Board and responsible officials. —Myanmar News Agency



Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board Dr. Win Thein addresses the coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Thailand Labour Minister arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

A DELEGATION led by Thailand Labour Minister Pol. Gen. Adul Sangsingkeo arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to attend a ministerial meeting to discuss labour issues between Myanmar and Thailand.

The delegation was welcomed by the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Labour, under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, and his entourage. The discussion will be held today at

the meeting hall of the ministry.

Today's meeting will focus on issues of protection and promotion of opportunities for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, ensuring the legal rights of Myanmar workers who went to Thailand via MoU based system, maintaining the continued success of the MoU system, cooperation of the Joint Working Group from both countries, and recruiting Myanmar fisherman in Thailand. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Ambassador Rosario Manalo, Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry, and members of the Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Independent Commission of Enquiry

FROM PAGE 1

The Government of Myanmar had announced the establishment of the Independent

Commission of Enquiry on 30 July 2018 as part of the Government's initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine

State. The Commission is composed of four members: two international and two national members.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe holds talks with Independent Commission of Enquiry



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe meets with Ambassador Rosario Manalo, Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry, and members of the Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe received the Independent Commission of Enquiry at the meeting hall of his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister from the Office of the President U Min Thu, Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin, Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry Ambassador Rosario

Manalo and commission members U Mya Thein, Ambassador Kenzo Oshima and Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet.

In the afternoon, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe hosted a luncheon for the delegation at Shwe San Eain Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA ■

First elephant museum to open in Yangon Zoo

THE first elephant museum in Myanmar will be opened in the museum of natural history in Yangon's Zoological Gardens at the end of this year, said U Thein Toe, Director of Yangon Region Forestry Department.

"We are planning to add the museum in the natural history museum's building," said Director Thein Toe. "This is the first elephant museum. We don't have an exact date yet but we

are working to open it as soon as we can. The museum will aim to instill a sense of conservation in the people for the increasingly endangered elephants."

Plans for the elephant museum began as early as 2017 and is supported by the museum of natural history in Yangon Zoo, the Department of Conservation of the Natural Environment and Wildlife, the Forestry Department, Myanma Timber Enter-

prise and other related agencies, with main contributions from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

U Saw Linn Htet, WWF Media Officer, said they will bear the cost for the project from their funds, with the ministry taking care of everything else that is needed.

The elephant museum will occupy a 30x80 feet room in the natural history museum. —Thi Thi Min

Request to the people

FROM PAGE-1

These matters are being informed to the public with great care and seriousness regularly.

2. However, it has been found that some members of the public have tried to hand deliver their letters of grievances, complaints and advice to the State leaders during their trips; when they did not get a chance to deliver personally, some threw the letters and things to the State leaders, heightening public anxiety for the security of the State leaders and leading to increasing criticisms.
3. Hence, the public is requested to give their letters and reports to the Complaints Acceptance Team formed by the Office of the President which will be a part of the entourage of the State leaders during their trips, and the letters will be registered and submitted to the State leaders.
4. Those who want to report their grievances to the State leaders are requested to cooperate with the authorities concerned with full understanding for security of the State leaders and the smooth and comfortable conclusion of their trips.

Sagaing Region to get seven school-cum shelters

NATIONAL NATURAL Disaster Management Committee announced yesterday that it will construct seven school-cum shelters in Sagaing Region as the region experiences floods every year.

The announcement came at the ceremony to hand over the documents for construction of the buildings at the cost of K1.186 billion to the Sagaing Region Government yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Dr. Win Myat Aye, Vice Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee and Union Minister for Social Welfare,

Relief and Resettlement, handed over the documents to Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing.

The regional government will build three shelters in Kalay Township, one in Homalin Township, one in Phaungpyin Township, one in Khamti Township and one in Mawleik Township.

Sagaing Region Government is also planning to raise the bank of the Chindwin River in the region by 15,000 feet to prevent floods.

The move is aimed at responding quickly to disasters including floods.—Myanmar



Vice Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee and Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye accepts the documents to Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing. **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.

Floods destroy fish breeding ponds

By May Thet Hnin

FLOODS since mid-July have drastically affected fish and shrimp farming ponds in Bago and Yangon regions and Kayin State, according to Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Over 1,300 acres of fish breeding ponds in Bago, 35 acres in Nyaunglebin townships in Bago Region, over 1,044 acres in Kungyangon, 64 acres in Kawhmu and some shrimp ponds in Kyauktan townships were flooded. Additionally, Kayin State saw inundated 800 acres of ponds. Damage in Mon State has not been confirmed yet. Besides, high tide these days,

exact data of flooded fish and shrimp breeding lakes near coastal areas have not been released yet.

Fish breeders are battered by damage of their fish ponds caused by last month's flood. Nearly 300,000 acres of farmlands were also damaged. Aquafeed processing industry, which depends on farm by-products is also affected, said U Win Kyaing, general secretary of Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Fish breeding ponds are mostly found in Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon regions. Those ponds are at risk as heavy rainfall is forecasted for August and September, he

maintained.

Fish breeders upgrade the bank level of the ponds every year, but damage occurs when there are unusual rainfalls.

"Various sizes of fish are harvested. Breeders are struggling with high aquafeed price when fish prices are on the low side. Some are preparing to shift their businesses from fish breeding to paddy cultivation", said U Saw Myint Swe, chair of Yangon Region Fisheries Federation.

In 2015, around 35,000 acres of fish ponds in Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago regions and 58,000 acres of shrimp breeding ponds in

Rakhine State were flooded, causing losses worth Ks50 billion. The flooding in 2016 was not as worse as that of 2015. Last year, the country did not face any flood disaster.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology's forecast at 11:30am on 15 August, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk Town, the Thanlwin River at Hpa-an, the Ngawun River at Ngathaingchaung Township and Thabaung Town and Toe River at Maubin Town are above the danger level. The department warned local people living near rivers and lowland areas in the above towns to remain on alert. ■

Tour group visits Myanmar by motor vehicles, bikes

A LARGE number of tourists are visiting Myanmar, after entering the country through international and cross-border gateways, to visit Myanmar's unique natural locations, along with eco-tourism and archaeological sites.

Tourists are arriving by air, sea and road. Moreover, tourists are also coming to Myanmar by motor vehicles, motorbikes and bicycles to observe its many traditions, customs and lifestyles.

A total of 19 Thai citizens visited Myanmar by seven motor vehicles and two motorbikes, after crossing over the Myawady border gate.

Their travel tour was arranged by Khaing Lin Tun Co., Ltd., under the supervision of the



Tourists visiting the country by motorbikes to observe its many traditions, customs and lifestyles. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Their trips started on 27 July and ended on 6 August. Their travel route included Myawady, Bago, Ngapali, MraukU, Shitthaung, Koe Thaung, Magway, Bagan,

Mandalay, Kalaw, Inle, Namsan, Kengtung and Tachilek.

The Thai tourists left the country on 6 August and headed back to Thailand, crossing at the Tachilek border gate.

Moreover, two Swiss citizens visited Myanmar by two motorbikes, after crossing over the Tamu border gate on 8 August. Their travel tour was arranged by Bright View Travels & Tours Co., Ltd., under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. They also visited significant places from Tamu, Kalay, Monywa, Mandalay, Kyaikto and Myawady. They left the country, heading to Mae-sot, Thailand through Myawady border gate on 12 August.

Although this is a rainy season, most of the tourists visit Myanmar through border gates using their own vehicles and motorbikes to visit significant regions in Myanmar. —GNLM ■

Nyaungshwe Sawbwa's attires cleansed, chemically conserved

THE DEPARTMENT of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, chemically cleansed the dresses of Shan Sawbwa (Chieftain) from Nyaung Shwe Haw Nann (palace). Nyaungshwe Haw Nann has now been turned into Nyaungshwe Cultural Museum and to date, 44 dresses of the Shan Sawbwa had been cleansed and sent back to the cultural museum for display on 12 August.

The Department of Ar-

chaeology, National Museum and Library have bought some machines and chemicals to cleanse and conserve a total of 138 dresses from Nyaungshwe Cultural Museum. The department brought 69 dresses to Yangon on 2 March for cleansing. After cleaning 44 dresses, the department sent it back to the museum on 12 August. The remaining 25 dresses will take more time for cleaning because those dresses are gold embroidered. After cleansing those remaining 25 dresses, the

department will send it all back to the museum, said Daw Nang Lao Ngin, Director of the National Museum (Yangon).

The cleansed dresses will be shown in custom-made cupboards with glasses, instead of normal cupboards with glass doors. The custom made cupboards contain air purifier, pest control and air conditioning to control the humidity and preserve the dresses.

This is the first time old dresses are being cleansed using the chemical method to pre-

serve them. The particular data and information of the dresses were systematically recorded and sent to a laboratory at the Yangon National Museum, where experts conducted the cleaning work, said U Kyaw Shin Naung, Assistant Director of the National Museum (Yangon).

This dress cleansing project was conducted for the first time in Myanmar with funds allocated from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Shan State government. —Nay Myo Thurein ■

Government support needed for SME development

By Nyein Nyein

THE GOVERNMENT'S support is crucial for development of small and medium-sized enterprises for development of human resources, technical assistance and exploring external market, stated the B4B Insights Forum's first quarter report.

The report pointed out that Myanmar's SME sector lacks real time information and data. There are nearly 200,000 registered SMEs in Myanmar, but registration by electronic means can facilitate working procedures. There is competition between illegal foreign businesses and local micro enterprises. Tax payers are making only a small profit after calculating profit margin, while businesses with tax noncompliance are reaping greater profits.

Raw materials are imported



A man drying clay pots in the sun. Informal businesses face hurdles accessing financial support. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

from foreign countries, which adds additional cost in production. Therefore, supporting industry is required for SMEs. Additionally, they lack technique to manufacture value-added prod-

ucts. Lack of market information leads to high input and production cost for small businesses, resulting in losing market share in a highly competitive market.

Besides, development of

start-up businesses and SMEs is moving slowly due to inadequate government support for SME sector. Some start-up businesses burdened are with tax although their profit is not

ensured. Therefore, some small businesses are running their trade without seeking registration, concerned over tax burden. As a result, a number of informal businesses is increasing, making them face hardships in accessing financial support. A small number of staff in the Internal Revenue Department causes delay in processing.

The report also called for market analysis, establishing supporting industry, upgrading payment system under public-private partnership together with related organizations, tax-exemption for start-up businesses for the first three years and increasing employment and building capacity of staff in the internal revenue departments. Additionally, gaps in the existing law cause barriers and challenges for SME sector, mentioned the report. ■

UMFCCI submits Q1 report to government

By May Thet Hnin

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) has submitted its first quarter report, including 12 points, to the government with a view for business recovery within one year.

The suggestion report is to prioritize infrastructure development, macroeconomics and establish transparency capital, promote technical and vocational education for human resource development, implement modifications to ensure responsibility and accountability of state-owned enterprises, create job opportunities for locals and Myanmar's migrant workers to return home and enhance the agriculture and livestock sector. In addition, UMFCCI requested

the government to formulate specific laws and policies to foreign investment, improve the effectiveness of monetary and fiscal policy, develop time-saving system for tax collection, increase revenue, ensure public service, maintain public recreation areas and cultural heritages, implement effective intellectual property law and encourage domestic market to penetrate into regional as well as global markets. Private sector is the main driving force for Myanmar's economic growth. With an aim to dealing with barriers and challenges faced by private businesses, UMFCCI is holding B4B Insight Forum once every three months and conducts reports to be submitted to related organizations.

The 1st B4B Insights Forum

was held in May. Banking and financing, retail, construction, services, industrial enterprises, agriculture and trade sectors were discussed. In a bid to realize needs for business development, current economic climate and outlook in coming twelve months, Business Sentiment Survey collected from 1,464 enterprises was also reported at that forum. The 2nd B4B Insights Forum hosted by UMFCCI will take place on 25 and 26 August and there will be panel discussion of various sectors: tourism, logistics service, industrial enterprises, motor vehicle business, food chain, garment business on Cutting-Making and Packaging basis, power supply and distribution, health, information technology, and currency exchange. ■

Over 1200 companies registered through MyCO website in two weeks

By Nyein Nyein

OVER 1200 companies successfully registered through MyCO system from 1 to 13 August, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

According to Myanmar Companies Law 2017, registration and re-registration of companies through MyCO website commenced on 1 August. As of 13 August, 420 new companies and 842 old ones respectively made registration and re-registration through MyCO system.

The MyCO electronic registry system experienced higher than expected traffic, with users experiencing difficulties, such as delays in accessing the website, not being able to submit information, and missing data when entering information.

The DICA's technical team worked together with experts and staff from the Ministry of Planning and Finance. Having dealt with a server error,

the MyCO system with on-line payment re-commenced electronic filing services on 6 August, said U Aung Naing Oo, Director-General of the DICA.

"We have resolved the server error and MyCO registry system is no longer experiencing issues and smoothly running", he said.

The DICA has already announced the processing stages of MyCO registry system to the public. For any difficulty or issue, users can contact phone numbers 01-657891, 01-658103 (extension 103/104/105).

There are over 60,000 registered companies, according to data of the DICA. All companies are required to re-register electronically online through Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) system, or in person at the offices of the DICA, using the prescribed forms for re-registration, by 31 January 2019. Those companies which fail to re-register within the set period will be deleted from the list. ■

Myanmar export to Japan surpasses import from April to June

MYANMAR'S export to Japan outperformed its import from April to June, with exports worth US\$317.3 million and imports valued at \$199.5 million, according to trade data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Bilateral trade between Myanmar and its development donor Japan is worth \$516.9 million.

Myanmar exports garments, fishery products, rice, rubber and other agro products to Japan while it imports machines and related equipment, electronic appliances, fertilizers, chemical products, medicines, automobiles, and other products.

Japan-listed three enterprises brought in foreign direct investments of \$85 million in the

three months, according to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

In addition to this, Japan makes up nearly 30 per cent of total FDI in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, with an estimated value of \$441 million, since its establishment in 2014-2015 fiscal year. — GNLM ■

Community, family mourn victims of Aug-25 Hindus massacre by ARSA



Hindu community attend vigil for 113 Hindus who were killed by ARSA terrorists in 2017 in Maungta. **PHOTO: MYO THU HEIN**

GRIEF-STRICKEN Hindu community in Maungta, Rakhine State, held a prayer session yesterday for 113 Hindus who were killed in the August-25 ARSA terrorists attack in 2017.

The vigil held at the camp for displaced Hindus in Maungta was opened with three times recitations of holy verses.

U Ni Maung, religious leader of Hindus, explained the pur-

pose of holding the religious ceremony. Next, Hindu priests and families of the victims prayed for Hindus who were killed by ARSA terrorists.

The ceremony was also attended by heads of the Maungta District and Township Police Forces, head of the Maungta Township General Administration Department, Hindu priests, people from Hindu communities from Sittway, Buthidaung and

Maungta, invited personnel and officials. "We are still feeling sorrows for Hindus who are victims of the massacre in August last year," said U Ni Maung, "That's why, we are holding this vigil for them."

The Hindu religious leader also expressed the thanks to Hindus Federation which sponsored the 1st anniversary prayer session for the victims.—Yama Nya, Myo Thu Hein ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol along border

MYANMAR and Bangladesh border guard police forces conducted a coordinated patrol along the border between post No. 40 and 41 on Tuesday, according to the Police Information Department.

The 15-member Myanmar police troop was led by Police Deputy Superintendent Aung Kyaw Kyaw of No. 1 Border Police Force at Ngayantchaung station in Maungta Township while the 15-member Bangladesh troop was led by Officer Naib Subedar Md. Sultan Ahmad of Gorijonbuniya Station

of the No. 34 BGB.

Similarly, a eight-member troop of border police led by Police Deputy Superintendent Tun Tun of No.2 Border Police Force in Ngakhuya station conducted a coordinated patrol with two water crafts along the Naf River on the same day. The troop in two water crafts met with 10 Bangladesh's troops in two water crafts at the middle of the Naf River near the mouth of Sa-baeyin Creek and patrolled together along the river at 10 am, according to the Police Information Department.—GNLM ■



Border guard police forces patrolling along the border. **PHOTO: POLICE FORCE DEPARTMENT**

Stimulant tablets seized at Yangon International Airport

ON 14 August at 10:30pm, a special anti-narcotic task force and airport security arrested Aung Myo Min (a) Nga Min after a scan at Terminal-1 Inline Reject X-Ray Machine raised suspicions.

A thorough search revealed 13,200 stimulant tablets, hidden in eleven pairs of women's velvet shoes and between twenty batik fabric folds, from a package

brought by Aung Myo Min, 30. The package was prepared by Ma Mya Mya Win, 52, who was contacted by Khin Mar Lar (a) Molly, 41, to transport the stimulant tablets to Malaysia with Aung Myo Min. A case has been opened against them in accordance with the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. — Police Information Department ■



Three suspects and seized stimulant tables. **PHOTO: POLICE FORCE**

Drugs worth K12 billion seized from 2 May to 13 August in Rakhine State

Over 4.1 million of amphetamine tablets, 0.0035 kilos of crashing amphetamine tablets and over 13 kilos of marijuana worth over K12 billion in total seized in Rakhine State from 2 May to 13 August this year and 132 traffickers were arrested in related 94 cases.

Over 11.3 million amphetamine tablets, over 2.5 kilos of crashing amphetamine tablets, 0.1549 kilo of marijuana were

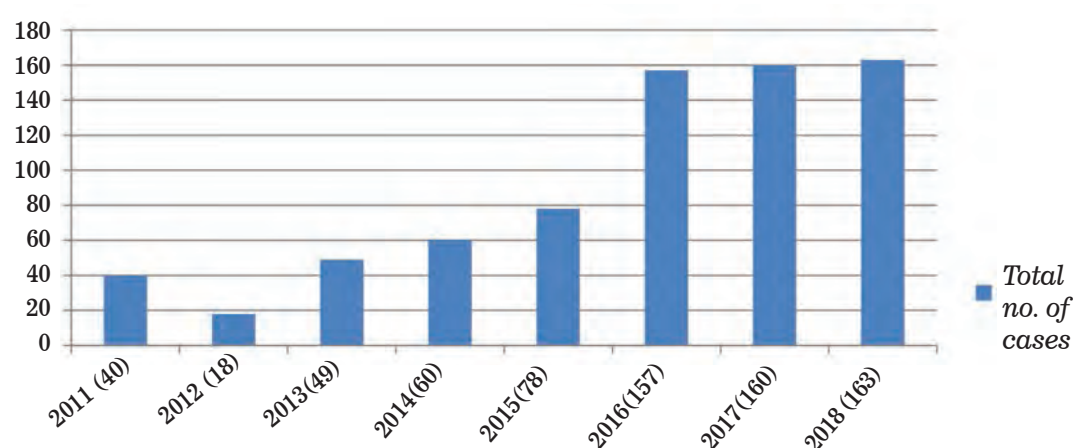
seized from 1 January to 14 August this year in Maungta, Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships in Rakhine State, and 128 drug traffickers were arrested in related 84 cases.

From 2011 to 13 August, 2018, illegal drugs including stimulant tablets, crashing amphetamine tablets, marijuana, buprenorphine, Alprazolam, diazepam tablets, diazepam injection, mor-

phine injection, Lutigesic, Zoliumcarpa zolarn, Catmint, Fantanyl and Ephedrine worth over K196 billion in Rakhine State, and 1,143 drug traffickers were arrested in related 725 cases.

Similarly, from 2011 to 1 May, 2018, illegal drugs worth of K183 billion in Rakhine State, and 1,011 drug traffickers were arrested in related 631 cases. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Graph showing yearly drug raids and seizures in Rakhine State from 2011 to 14 August 2018



Cambodia's election body confirms ruling party won all seats



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (C) smiles after casting his vote in the general election in Kandal Province on July 29, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Cambodia's ruling party won all parliamentary seats in last month's general election that lacked any serious challengers, the country's election authority confirmed Wednesday.

In announcing the official results of July 29 election, the National Election Commission said the Cambodian People's Party won 4,889,113 votes of the total 6,362,241 valid votes, meaning it swept all 125 seats in the National Assembly.

The remaining votes were shared among other 19 small, lesser-known parties.

The Cambodia National Rescue Party, which narrowly lost the previous election held in 2013, was forcibly dissolved last year.

The CPP, led by Prime Minister Hun Sen, said the day after the election that it had won all 125 seats.

On Tuesday, Hun Sen posted on Facebook that 83 percent of registered voters cast ballots in the election.

However, Sam Rainsy, a former leader of the CNRP who called for a boycott of the election, alleged Wednesday that 2 million votes were manipulated

by the NEC, with those ballots being given to the CPP.

Without counting that redistribution, the actual voter turnout only came to only 59 percent, he added.

Speaking to garment workers Wednesday in Phnom Penh, Hun Sen, who is set to extend his 33-year rule for another five years, said the new government will be formed one day after the first post-election National Assembly session convenes on September 5.

He said his party is ready to welcome leaders from other parties to serve as advisers or

vice ministers, and to create a culture of dialogue with other parties for the betterment of Cambodia.

Hun Sen, however, offered no olive branch to any member of the dissolved CNRP.

Many CNRP leaders are traveling around the globe trying to lobby foreign governments to put pressure on Hun Sen to reinstate the CNRP.

They also demand the release of Kem Sokha, former president of the CNRP who was arrested last year on charges of treason. —Kyodo News ■

Japan phone service providers to be required to unlock used smartphones

TOKYO — Japan plans to require mobile phone service providers to unlock second-hand smartphones, enabling them to be used on any network, government sources said Wednesday.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications is looking to require the country's three largest carriers — NTT Docomo Inc., KDDI Corp., and SoftBank Corp. — to remove so-called SIM locks, which limit use of smartphones to a specific network, on used devices starting next July, the sources said.

The move is aimed at giving consumers the ability to more freely choose between carriers, and is expected to boost the popularity of mobile virtual network operators that offer cheaper alternatives to the major carriers, which together hold nearly 90 percent of the domestic market.

In 2015, the ministry began requiring carriers to unlock smartphones several months after purchase, but had not set similar rules for second-hand devices. —Kyodo News ■



Undated file photo shows a man using his smartphone. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Toddler found after missing for 3 days on western Japan island

YAMAGUCHI, Japan — A 2-year-old boy who went missing three days ago was found uninjured Wednesday morning not far from where he was last seen on a western Japan island, police said.

Yoshiki Fujimoto of Hofu, Yamaguchi Prefecture, was found by a search volunteer on a mountain in the town of Suo-Oshima on Yashirojima, according to the police. The site was only 560 meters from his great-grandfather's house where he had been visiting for the summer.

The volunteer, Haruo Obata, had been calling out Yoshiki's name at around 6:30 a.m. when he heard a voice reply, "I'm here." The 78-year-old found the boy barefooted and sitting near a stream, and wrapped him in a towel before carrying him down to his family. "It had been three days and I had pretty much lost hope, so when he opened his eyes and looked at me, I was overcome with emotion," Yoshiki's mother Mio said. "I was so scared, though Yoshiki must have been even more scared."

"I am glad a precious life has been saved," said Obata, who came from Oita Prefecture to join the search that began Tuesday. The volunteer said it became clear Yoshiki was in good condition when the boy eagerly ate the candy offered to him.

A doctor who conducted a checkup said that while Yoshiki has no notable injuries, he



The site near which Yoshiki Fujimoto of Hofu, Yamaguchi Prefecture, was found unhurt after going missing for three days on Suo-Oshima island in the western Japan prefecture, on August 15, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

showed symptoms of dehydration and should be hospitalized for the remainder of the week.

"I was surprised to find him in good health. I think he has a strong capacity for survival," said the doctor, Yoshimasa Takenoshita. Yoshiki arrived at his great-grandfather's home on Sunday morning with his family, and went missing after heading for a beach about 400 meters away with his grandfather Masanori and three-year-old brother. He was wearing a T-shirt, swimming trunks and sandals.

After about 100 meters, Yoshiki tried to return to the house on his own but subsequently disappeared, the police said. He turned two years old while he was missing as his birthday was on Monday. "I would like to thank the police, rescuers and local people," said Masanori. "I apologize as it was

I who took my eyes off him."

Mio said the family plans to belatedly celebrate Yoshiki's birthday with a cake made of ice cream, one of his favorite foods.

The area where Yoshiki was found, located above a tangerine orchard, was somewhere not many local people would go, a man living nearby said. Some 140 police and rescue personnel had been mobilized to search for the boy. The weather was stable in the area for most of the period he was missing, with the lowest temperature at 24 C and the highest at 34 C. It rained intermittently on Wednesday morning, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

"A toddler who just turned two spending three days alone is just unthinkable," said Shin-ichi Nishino, 44, a nurse and head of a nonprofit organization supporting childrearing in Osaka. **Kyodo News ■**

Improving disaster preparedness

HEAVY rain is expected to hit Mon State and northern Taninthayi Region with 95 per cent degree of certainty, north-eastern Bago Region and Kayin State with 80 to 90 percent degree of certainty, central Bago Region, Kayah State, western Ayeyawady Region, north-western Kachin State, western Sagaing Region and Yangon with 20 to 40 percent degree of certainty.

Meanwhile, the low pressure over the Bay of Bengal and monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. It means some parts of Myanmar will be under heavy rain fall these days.

We experienced in the past torrential rain that caused landslides in hilly areas. To guard against the onslaught of natural disasters, we need to learn the lessons of the past.

Severe landslides occurred in Chin State in 2015 and in Kayah State in 2017 causing heavy damages. Small landslides hit Shan State this rainy season leaving some fatalities.

It is difficult to predict exactly when and where such disasters will hit, even though such torrential rain hit every year in the hilly regions which are vulnerable to landslides.

Whether rains will cause landslides depends on the local terrain and soil conditions. The soil in hilly areas has a tendency to crumble easily when it becomes saturated, and the capital city is particularly vulnerable to landslides.

In hilly areas, people living on mountain slopes are at risk of landslides when torrential rains fall.

As part of the preparedness, it is important to carry out landslide drills for ensuring an immediate emergency response which includes creating a precise and strong system.

Are people who live in landslide-prone areas being properly informed of potential dangers? Local authorities must monitor how residents respond to their alerts and take the necessary steps to improve it.

The readiness for effective action, administrative management and preparedness are as important as tackling the aftermath of a disaster.

These processes were related to protecting human life and property, and if the country suffered a disaster, effective connections and organizations would play a vital role.

Effective response is needed for the implementation process. At the same time, we should not forget that the media also plays an important role in raising awareness of preparedness for disasters.

The most important thing is for the ministries concerned to join hands for preparedness to be able to reduce the impact of these unpredictable disasters.

It is also crucial that residents in disaster-prone areas be made fully aware of what could happen when their neighborhood is hit by violent weather — and for them to be able to respond appropriately in emergencies.

As part of the preparedness, it is important to carry out landslide drills for ensuring an immediate emergency response which includes creating a precise and strong system.

By Khin Yadanar

IN large factories and assembly production lines, human resource management can improve the competitive ability of the business, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). The quality of labourers is a measuring standard for an international trademark.

In Myanmar, factories are being overseen and labour laws being implemented under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. The ministry has laid down more detailed regulations about the duties and obligations of both the employers and employees, aiming to boost the workforce productivity and labour rights.

Working hours

Working hours within a workday must be established and arranged so that workers do not work longer than five hours at a stretch without receiving a rest of at least 30 minutes. No matter how the schedule is arranged, the workday composed of periods of work and intervals may be amended depending on the nature of the enterprise and in accordance with the applicable labour laws by negotiations and upon mutual agreement between the employer and the employee.

Public holidays

Sundays shall be designated as the weekly rest day; alternately, depending on the nature of the enterprise, the employer and the employee may upon



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

mutual agreement designate any other day of the week as the weekly rest day. Wages for the rest day shall be enjoyed in accordance with applicable labour laws.

Wages/salaries and medical care

Salary shall be paid to employees who are working at a factory with under 1000 workers within seven days, and to those with over 1000 workers within the first 10 days of the month.



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Abiding by worksite regulations

... has laid down more detailed regulations about the duties and obligations of both the employers and employees, aiming to boost the workforce productivity and labour rights.

If not satisfactory, complaints can be filed with relevant labour offices nearby. Wages/salaries shall be paid in accordance with the agreement between the employer and the employee. Depending on the performance, the wages/salaries may upon mutual agreement between the employer and the employee be amended from time to time. Employees covered by the Social Security Law are entitled to medical treatment, in accordance with the rules and



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

regulations of the State.

Overtime work

Depending on the nature of the enterprise, the employer and employee may mutually agree on the employee working overtime, in accordance with applicable labour laws. The payment for overtime shall be computed in line with the formula prescribed by rules and regulations. Overtime hours for workers in factories are regulated under a directive: for workers who do not engage in continuous work, overtime hours shall not exceed 20 hours per week. Adult male workers in factories engaged in continuous work begin accruing overtime at twice the ordinary wage rate after working more than 48 hours in a week.

Termination of employment

An employment contract must include provisions on resigning and termination of service as well as termination of agreement. If an employee desires to resign from the job, he or she shall inform the employer 30 days in advance with sound reason. If an employer desires to terminate the employment, he or she shall inform the employee 30 days in advance with sound reason. When a worker is terminated from employment, the employer must pay severance on the basis of his or her last salary.

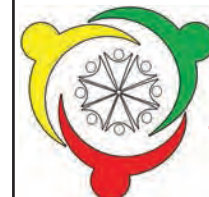
Children's working hours

In factories, children 13 years of age may work more than eight hours in any day. No child shall be required to work in the worst forms of labour, including in hazardous conditions, conditions harmful to his/her health, conditions deterring his/her education, and in such a way his/her moral and dignity would be affected. Among persons aged 16 and 17 years of age, those who have completed relevant vocational trainings, who know and abide by directives relating to occupational safety and health, and those who are certified by a registered medical practitioner, shall be allowed to work in the trades which are safe and which do not affect the development and moral of such persons.

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung



Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons



Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13th September

The entire public needs to participate,
Trafficking in persons to eliminate...

2018 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day's Objectives

- ❖ To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combating human trafficking as a national duty;
- ❖ To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- ❖ To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- ❖ To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders – government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 15-8-2018)

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observations today, the water level of Shwegyin River at Shwegyin is observed as about (1½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised that people who have settled near the river banks and low lying areas at Shwegyin Township, to take precautionary measures.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 15 August, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30)hrs MST today, the depression over the Northwest Bay of Bengal has crossed to Coastal Odisha near Bhubaneswar (India). Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 16 AUGUST, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in (Northern and Southern) Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Wave height will be about (9 - 12) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 AUGUST, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 AUGUST, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 AUGUST, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been repeatedly photographed with Apple products including the iPhone and iPad. **PHOTO: AFP**

Erdogan says Turkey to 'boycott' US electronic goods

ISTANBUL (Turkey) — President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday said Turkey would boycott US electronic goods in retaliation for punitive sanctions by Washington against Ankara over the detention of an American pastor.

"We will boycott US electronic goods," Erdogan said in a televised speech, raising the stakes in a spat that has seen the Turkish lira plunge to record lows.

"If (the United States) have the iPhone, there's Samsung on the other side," he said, referring to US giant Apple's iconic phone and the top South Korean brand.

"We (also) have our Venus and Vestel," he said about homegrown Turkish electronics brands. Relations between the two NATO allies have plummeted in one of their worst crises

in decades after the detention of US pastor Andrew Brunson on terror-related charges, sending the Turkish lira into free fall against the dollar. Erdogan has been repeatedly photographed with Apple products including the iPhone and iPad. He also made his now famous speech on the night of the July 2016 failed coup calling citizens out into the street through Facetime, an iPhone app.

The lira's plunge — which had been ongoing for weeks — was turned into a rout on Friday when US President Donald Trump tweeted that Washington was doubling aluminium and steel tariffs for Turkey. Turkish Airlines also announced on Twitter that it would join a campaign circulating on social media with a hashtag #ABDyeReklamVerme (don't give ads to America). "We, as

the Turkish Airlines, stand by our state and our people. Necessary instructions on the issue have been issued to our agencies," Yahya Ustun, spokesman for the country's flag-carrier, wrote on Twitter. Erdogan said Turkey was facing an "economic attack" and a "bigger, deeper operation" but showed no sign of making concessions to the United States.

"They don't hesitate to use the economy as a weapon," he said. "What do you want to do? What do you want to achieve," he added, referring to the US.

Erdogan admitted the Turkish economy had problems — including a widening current account deficit and inflation of almost 16 percent but added: "Thanks to God, our economy is functioning like clockwork." —AFP ■

Taliban capture northern base as Afghan forces fight in Ghazni

MAZAR-I-SHARIF — Taliban fighters overran a northern Afghan army base, officials said on Tuesday, killing at least 14 soldiers with dozens feared captured in a stinging blow to security forces already struggling to push insurgents from eastern Ghazni, reports AFP.

The fall of the base in Ghormach district of volatile Faryab province came with security forces—who have struggled to hold back the Taliban since NATO combat troops pulled out in 2014 — already stretched by the days of fighting in Ghazni, a strategic provincial capital two hours from Kabul.

Militants gained control of the base after days of heavy fighting, according to army spokesman for northern Afghanistan Mohammad Hanif Rezaee.

He said around 100 soldiers were on the base when it was first attacked on Sunday.

"It is a tragedy that the base fell to the enemy. Some soldiers were killed, some captured and some fled to nearby hills," Rezaee told AFP.

Faryab MP Hashim Otaq said that 14 soldiers were killed and about 40 others were captured by Taliban fighters in the base, known as Chenaya.

Tahir Rehmani—head of Faryab's provincial council—said the base fell after the soldiers begged for reinforce-

ments and air support from Kabul but were ultimately ignored.

"They were too busy with Ghazni," said Rehmani.

The city, which the Taliban first assaulted late Thursday, remains in government hands, officials have said.

But the insurgents appeared entrenched there Tuesday, according to residents who said they were burning buildings, killing civilians and firing on security forces conducting a clearing operation.

Afghan security forces, beset by killings, desertions and under intense pressure, have been struggling to beat back insurgents since US-led NATO troops ended their combat mission in December 2014.

The attack on Ghazni is the largest tactical onslaught by the Taliban since an unprecedented truce in June brought fighting between security forces and the Taliban to a brief stop, providing battle-worn Afghans some welcome relief.

Analysts have said the insurgents may be seeking to demonstrate strength as they come under increasing pressure since the ceasefire to join peace talks.

Fears were growing of civilian casualties in Ghazni as Afghan security forces backed by US airpower struggled to push the Taliban out on the fifth day of fighting.—AFP ■

Tonga PM challenges Pacific leaders to weight-loss competition

WELLINGTON (New Zealand) — The prime minister of Tonga has challenged fellow Pacific leaders to a year-long weight-loss competition to combat soaring obesity levels in the region.

The Pacific has the highest obesity rates in the world and Tonga leader Akilisi Pohiva said politicians needed to lead from the front to help curb the problem.

"We should all get together for a weight-loss competition, for an entire year," he told the *Samoa Observer* in an interview published this week.

"So when we meet the fol-

lowing year we will weigh in again and see who has lost the most. "It is not about who loses the most kilos but in order to shake off the weight, you must eat light and having that healthy mentality will go a long way."

While Pohiva's proposal was light-hearted, he said the issue of obesity was a serious problem for the region that led to non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. According to World Health Organisation data released in 2015, nine of the 10 most obese nations in the world are in the Pacific.

Official statistics show non-communicable diseases account for about 75 per cent of all deaths in the area, and diabetes rates exceed 40 per cent in some island nations. Islanders' diets used to be dominated by fish, coconuts and fruit but are now heavily reliant on fatty imported meats, rice, and processed snack foods laden with sugar and fat. People in the Pacific have also long viewed copious amounts of food as a sign of prosperity, leading to an attitude that bigger is better. Pohiva, who did not disclose his own weight but has a trim physique, said the problems

were well known and had been discussed extensively — but it was time for Pacific leaders to act. "(It) has everything to do with our eating habits and our lifestyle and it is a complex issue when it comes to our Pacific people," he said.

"And with Pacific Island leaders, we meet and talk and talk about this issue, yet initiatives on this issue is not making an impact, it doesn't seem to work." He said he would propose his weight-loss challenge at next month's Pacific Island Forum Leaders' Summit in Nauru.—AFP ■

Saudi state carrier hit by system failure ahead of hajj

RIYADH (Saudi Arabia) — Saudi Arabian Airlines says a system failure has resulted in disruption of flights, as the kingdom prepares to host the annual hajj pilgrimage. "Saudi Arabian Airlines (Saudia) informs its valued guests about flight delays across the network due to an unforeseen system issue," the state-owned carrier said late Tuesday. "As a result there are delays on some Saudia flights... the airline is taking all necessary measures to resolve the matter as quickly as possible."—AFP ■



Russian President Vladimir Putin. PHOTO: TASS

Putin says ready to meet Kim Jong Un — KCNA

TOKYO — Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was ready for a personal meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the KCNA news agency reported, citing a congratulatory telegram from the Russian leader on the occasion of the Liberation Day, marked by the two Koreas on Wednesday.

“I assure you that I am ready to meet you in the near future to discuss pressing issues of bilateral relations and important regional problems,” the agency quoted the telegram as saying.

Putin also said the relations between the two states keep developing in a “friendly and constructive manner.”

He expressed hope that Moscow and Pyongyang would “consistently develop mutual-

ly beneficial cooperation, including the implementation of the three-party program involving Russia, North Korea and South Korea.”

The Liberation Day, celebrated annually on 15 August, marks Korea’s independence from the 1910-45 Japanese colonial rule.

Earlier, Putin has invited Kim Jong Un to visit Russia. According to the Russian leader, his North Korean counterpart could attend the Eastern Economic Forum due in the Far Eastern Russian city of Vladivostok in September, or pay a separate visit. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in early July that Kim Jong Un is yet to confirm his participation in the forum and meeting with Putin. —Tass ■

Congresswoman-elect kidnapped in Mexico

PACHUCA (Mexico) — An incoming member of Mexico’s Congress was kidnapped at gunpoint on Tuesday, an official said, the latest violent episode surrounding the 1 July elections, the bloodiest in the country’s history.

Azucena Rodriguez Zamora, who was elected to the lower house of Congress for the eastern state of Veracruz, was driving on a highway in the neighboring state of Hidalgo when gunmen in another car opened fire on her vehicle, said a police source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The car flipped over, injuring two people who were traveling with Rodriguez. The gunmen then pulled her from the car and abducted her, said

the source. It is the second such kidnapping in Hidalgo in recent days. On 6 August, the mayor of the town of Naupan, in Puebla state, was found dead after being abducted at gunpoint on a Hidalgo highway. At least 152 politicians were murdered in the run-up to Mexico’s elections, according to the consulting firm Etellekt.

The murders — mostly of local-level politicians, the most frequent targets for Mexico’s powerful drug cartels — were recorded between September, when candidate registration opened, and election day. It is by far the most violent election on record in Mexico. The country also registered a record number of murders across the board last year: 28,711. —AFP ■

Search for survivors after deadly Italy bridge collapse

GENOA (Italy) — Italian rescuers searched through the night on Wednesday for any survivors under the shattered remains of a motorway bridge in Genoa as investigators probed what could have caused such a catastrophic collapse.

More than 30 people were killed on Tuesday when a vast span of the Morandi bridge collapsed during a heavy rainstorm, sending about 35 cars and several trucks plunging 45-metres (150 feet) onto railway tracks below.

Rescuers spent the night within the tangled remains of the bridge under floodlights and there are fears the toll could rise in what the Italian government has called an “immense tragedy”.

The collapse came as the bridge was undergoing maintenance work and as the Liguria region, where Genoa is situated, experienced torrential rainfall.

“Unfortunately there are around 30 dead and many injured in a serious condition,” Interior Minister Matteo Salvini

said on Wednesday, vowing that those responsible would “pay, pay everything, and pay dearly”.

On Wednesday morning, sources in the interior ministry quoted by Italian media estimated that the death toll had risen to 35, including three children aged from eight to 12 years old. Sixteen people are also wounded, including 12 in serious condition.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella said a “catastrophe” had hit Genoa and the whole of Italy.

“Italians have the right to modern and efficient infrastructure that accompanies them safely through their everyday lives,” Mattarella said in a statement.

‘Not giving up hope’

Rescuers scoured through the wreckage, strewn among shrubland and train tracks, as rescue helicopters winched survivors on stretchers from the ruined bridge.

Between firefighters police and other emergency service,

around a thousand people have been mobilised in the rescue effort, according to the Civil Protection service.

“We’re not giving up hope, we’ve already saved a dozen people from under the rubble,” a fire official, Emanuele Giffi, told AFP.

“We’re going to work round the clock until the last victim is secured.”

As cars and trucks tumbled off the bridge, Afifi Idriss, 39, a Moroccan lorry driver, just managed to come to a halt in time.

“I saw the green lorry in front of me stop and then reverse so I stopped too, locked the truck and ran,” he told AFP.

The green lorry was still on the bridge late evening, stopped just short of the now yawning gap. The incident — the deadliest of its kind in Europe since 2001 — is the latest in a string of bridge collapses in Italy, a country prone to damage from seismic activity but where infrastructure generally is showing the effects of a faltering economy. —AFP ■



This handout picture provided by the Italian police (Polizia di Stato) on 14 August, 2018 shows a collapsed section of a viaduct on the A10 motorway in Genoa. PHOTO: AFP

Number of pedestrians’ injured by car outside UK parliament

LONDON — A “number of pedestrians” were injured when a car crashed into barriers outside Britain’s Houses of Parliament on Tuesday, with armed police swooping in to arrest the driver, Scotland Yard said.

“The male driver of the car was detained by officers at the scene,” the police statement said. “A number of pedestrians

have been injured.”

None of the injuries are believed to be “life-threatening”, said police, who were yet to say if they suspected terrorism.

London Ambulance said they had treated two people at the scene for non-serious injuries and taken them to hospital.

Armed police immediately surrounded the silver car after it

crashed at 7.37am (06:37 GMT), pointing guns at the driver as he was removed from the vehicle, according to footage posted on Twitter.

Later images showed police holding the man, dressed in jeans and a black puffer jacket, in handcuffs as roads and Underground stations around parliament were sealed off. —AFP ■

India to send manned mission to space by 2022: Modi

NEW DELHI (India) — India will send a manned mission into space by 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Wednesday in a speech to the nation.

“India will send into space — a man or a woman — by 2022, before that if possible,” Modi said in a marathon address at the Red Fort in New Delhi for the country’s Independence Day.

The astronaut would be “carrying the national flag,” Modi said.

The conservative prime minister said that India would be only the fourth country — after Russia, the United States and China — to launch its



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures while delivering his speech as part of India’s 72nd Independence Day celebrations, which marks the 71st anniversary of the end of British colonial rule, at the Red Fort in New Delhi on 15 August, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

own manned space mission.

Stepping up its rivalry with China, India has in-

vested heavily in its space programme in the past decade.

It is aiming to send

an unmanned mission to the moon in January 2019, the Indian Space Research Organisation announced last week.

The Chandrayaan-2 orbiter will aim to put a craft with a rover onto the moon’s surface to collect data. Design changes to the craft forced the space body to push the launch back from this year.

Chandrayaan-1, launched in 2008, orbited the moon and sent a probe to the surface which made a controlled crash landing.

India also launched an orbiter to Mars in 2013 which is still operational and in 2017 launched a record 104 satellites in one blast-off.—AFP ■

Moon says Pyongyang summit to be ‘bold step’ towards ending war

SEOUL (South Korea) — South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Wednesday his visit to Pyongyang next month will be a “bold step” towards formally ending the decades-old war with the nuclear-armed North.

The two Koreas agreed earlier this week to hold a third meeting between Moon and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in September as a rapid diplomatic thaw builds on the peninsula following their first summit in April.

Moon’s trip to the North Korean capital will be the first visit by a South Korean head of state to Pyongyang since 2007.

The leaders will “take a bold step towards declaring an end to the war and a peace treaty”, Moon said at a ceremony marking the 73rd anniversary of liberation from Japanese colonial rule in 1945.

The 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, leaving the two neighbours technically still in a state of conflict.

The signatories to the armistice included the

US-led United Nations Command — that fought alongside the South’s troops — as well as China and North Korea.

Declaring an end to the war was one of the agreements at the groundbreaking April summit, but little progress has been made with the United States and North Korea at loggerheads over Pyongyang’s denuclearisation.

The US State Department said on Tuesday that while Washington supports “a peace regime”, its prime goal was ending North Korea’s nuclear and missile

programmes. “Our main focus is on the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula,” State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert told reporters.

China welcomed the September summit Wednesday, saying it believed the talks “will help promote the denuclearisation of the peninsula”.

Moon brokered the historic summit between US President Donald Trump and Kim in Singapore in June where the two leaders signed a vague agreement on denuclearisation.

“Deeply-rooted dis-

trust” must be removed for each side to carry out the agreements, Moon said, but added the two Koreas must lead the current diplomacy on the peninsula.

“An improvement in inter-Korean ties is not a collateral benefit to better relations between the US and the North,” he said.

The dovish South Korean leader offered his vision for economic cooperation with the North once the peninsula is denuclearised, stressing that true liberation will only be achieved by ending the division.—AFP ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date : 15th August, 2018

Invitation for Bids

IDA, Credit No : 5727-MM

Contract Title : **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Sagaing (1) For National Electrification Project**

Reference No : MOEE-NEP/C1-W1/18

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Sagaing(1)**

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Sagaing (1) in the following locations**

The number and identification of lots comprising this bidding process is:

Lot 1: Sagaing District	- 18 villages
Lot 2: Shwebo/ Kanbalu District	- 24 villages
Lot 3: Shwebo District	- 52 villages
Lot 4: Shwebo/ Kanbalu District	- 49 villages
Lot 5: Shwebo District	- 56 villages
Lot 6: Shwebo District	- 46 villages
Lot 7: Shwebo District	- 128 villages
Lot 8: Katha District	- 51 villages
Lot 9: Katha District	- 58 villages

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank’s *Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* (“Procurement Guidelines”), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office(National Electrification Project), Project Manager and nep.pmoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [09:30 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 28th September, 2018, (10:00 am) - Myanmar Time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below.

7. All bids must be accompanied by “Bid-Security”

8. The address (es) referred to above is(are):

Attention: **Project Manager**
Project Management Office
(National Electrification Project)
Office Building No.27,
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: **Nay Pyi Taw**
ZIP Code: **095**
Country: **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
Telephone: **+95 67 3431175**
Facsimile number: **+95 673431176**
Electronic mail address: nep.pmoep@gmail.com

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

1. MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDERS IN US DOLLARS. PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| (a) DATE & TIME | - (23-8-2018) (09:00)A.M
EX-SITE HARDWOOD LOG ONLY
(24-8-2018) (09:00)A.M
YANGON & EX-SITE TEAK/HARDWOOD (LOG AND CONVERSION)
(27-8-2018) (12:00) Noon
YANGON TEAK LOG ONLY |
| (b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME | - TEAK LOGS ABOUT (1513) TONS
- TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (489) TONS
IN, KANYIN, SAGAWA, YAMANE, HNAW, THITYAR,
INGYIN ABOUT (10012) TONS
- HARDWOOD LOGS (2017-2018 EXTRACTION YEAR)
- TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON. |
| (c) PLACE | |

2. FOR FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WEB-SITE (www.myanmar-timber.com.mm).
Contacts; Office Ph:01528771,
E-mail; marketing1ppy@gmail.com

OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE
MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
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New Caledonia protects huge swathe of coral reefs

NOUMEA — New Caledonia agreed on Tuesday to tougher protections around a huge swathe of some of the world's last near-pristine coral reefs, in a move conservationists hailed as a major breakthrough.

The Pacific nation, a French overseas territory, is home to a rich array of wildlife including 2.5 million seabirds and over 9,300 marine species, such as dugongs — marine mammals related to manatees — and nesting green sea turtles, many of which thrive in and around remote zones off the island nation's coast.

The archipelago boasts some of the world's healthiest reefs, including Astrolabe, Petrie, Chesterfield and Bellona, which are considered exceptional examples of coral ecosystems.

After years of work, the New Caledonia government Tuesday voted to set up marine protected areas (MPAs) surrounding the reefs, and to strengthen an existing one around Entrecasteaux, which is already a UNESCO



Tougher protections in New Caledonia in the South Pacific are designed to protect near-pristine coral reefs. **PHOTO: AFP**

World Heritage site.

The move will see 28,000 square kilometres (10,810 square miles) of waters safeguarded from commercial and industrial fishing and other exploitation, helping conserve habitats and allow marine life to feed and reproduce undisturbed.

Tourist activity around the reefs is also set to be more rigorously controlled.

According to the South

Pacific Tourism Organisation, New Caledonia had 27,000 visits in the first three months of the year, making up around six percent of trips to the South Pacific region.

"This is the kind of leadership we need to see in coral reef conservation and we applaud it," said John Tanzer, the head of oceans for WWF International.

"With good management, these marine pro-

TECTED areas will help maintain fish populations and ecosystem health that will build the reef's resilience to the impacts of climate change in future."

Christophe Chevillon, head of the Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy in New Caledonia, which helped draft the plans, said it would elevate the territory as a global leader in ocean protection, but more could still be done.—AFP ■

Brace for extra-warm weather through 2022: study

PARIS—Manmade global warming and a natural surge in Earth's surface temperature will join forces to make the next five years exceptionally hot, according to a study published on Tuesday.

The double whammy of climate change and so-called natural variability more than doubles the likelihood of "extreme warm events" in ocean surface waters, creating a dangerous breeding ground for hurricanes and typhoons, they reported in *Nature Communications*.

"This warm phase is reinforcing long-term climate change," lead author Florian Sevellec, a climate scientist at the University of Brest in France, told AFP. "This particular phase is expected to continue for at least five years." Earth's average surface temperature has always fluctuated.

Over the last million years, it vacillated roughly every 100,000 years between ice ages and balmy periods warmer than today.

Over the last 11,000 years, those variations have become extremely modest, allowing our species to flourish.

Manmade climate

change — caused by billions of tonnes of greenhouse gases injected into the atmosphere, mainly over the last century — has come on top of those small shifts, and today threatens to overwhelm them.

Teasing apart the influence of carbon pollution and natural variation has long bedevilled scientists trying to quantify the impact of climate change on cyclones, droughts, floods and other forms of extreme weather.

Natural warming v. manmade change

Sevellec and his colleagues tackled the problem in a different way.

First, they focused on the natural fluctuations that — for most climate scientists — are "noise" obscuring the climate change fingerprint.

Second, they used a streamlined statistical approach rather than the comprehensive climate models that generate most long-term forecasts.

"We developed a system for predicting inter-annual" — or short-term — "natural variations in climate," Sevellec said. — AFP ■

Pacific Ocean "flushing" may release more carbon into air: study

WASHINGTON — Researchers from Oregon State University found that a "flushing" of the deep Pacific Ocean made more carbon dioxide out of the deep sea and into the atmosphere

after the last ice age.

A study published on Monday in the journal *Nature Geoscience* showed compelling evidence for how it happened and warned it could happen again, poten-

tially magnifying and accelerating human-caused climate change. The flushing was caused by the acceleration of water circulation patterns that begin around Antarctica, sinking and mov-

ing northward at great depth a few miles below the surface, according to the study.

It continued all the way to Alaska, where it rises, turned back southward, and flowed back to

Antarctica where it mixed back up to the sea surface.

Du Jianghui, the paper's lead author at Oregon State said it took a long time for the water's round trip journey in the abyss,

almost 1,000 years.

Du and his colleagues found that flow slowed down during glacial maximums but sped up during deglaciation, as the Earth warmed.—Xinhua ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO. (1829-1830)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO. (1829-1830) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-8-2018 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 PORT KLANG VOY. NO. (002N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PORT KLANG VOY. NO. (002N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of T.M.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 VASI SHIPPING LINE PTE
LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (1819/1820)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (1819/1820) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Michael Angarano joins 'This Is Us'

LOS ANGELES — Michael Angarano is on-board the cast of "This Is Us".

The "I'm Dying Up Here" actor will play Jack's brother, Nicky, in season three of the NBC hit drama, *Deadline* reported. Angarano will be a recurring character.

In the show, Jack (played by Milo Ventimiglia) has not revealed much about his brother's death, but it is known that the two served together in Viet Nam.

The character was introduced in the episode "Brothers" in a flashback, and was seen again in a group photo of the two in Vietnam alongside other servicemen. Jack told his sons Randall and Kevin that Nicky was killed in the war.

The upcoming installment of the Emmy-winning series will explore that time in Jack's life, the showrunners have confirmed, as well as Kevin's visit to the country, which was teased in the finale to the second season.

"This Is Us" returns on 25 September.—PTI ■

Vienna topples Melbourne in 'most liveable city' ranking

VIENNA—Austria's capital Vienna has beaten Melbourne to be ranked the "world's most liveable city" in a new annual survey released on Monday, ending the southern Australian city's seven-year reign.

It is the first time a European metropolis has topped the annual chart compiled by the *Economist Intelligence Unit* which identifies the best urban playgrounds to live and work in.

Each year 140 cities are given scores out of 100 on a range of factors such as living standards, crime, transport infrastructure, access to education and health-care, as well as political and economic stability.

Vienna scored a "near-ideal" 99.1, beating Melbourne into second place on 98.4. Japan's Osaka took third place.

Australia and Canada dominated the top ten, each boasting three cities. Australia had Melbourne, Sydney (5th) and Adelaide (10th) while Canada had Calgary (4th), Vancouver (6th) and Toronto (joint 7th).

"Those that score best tend to be mid-sized cities in wealthier countries," researchers said in their report.



Vienna has been ranked the world's most liveable city in a new survey. PHOTO: AFP

They noted that several cities in the top ten had relatively low population densities which fostered "a range of recreational activities without leading to high crime levels or overburdened infrastructure".

The Australian and Canadian cities in the top ten, for example, had an average of 3.2 and 4 people per square kilometre respectively, compared to a global average of 58.

Japan, which alongside Osaka boasted Tokyo in the top ten (joint 7th), is the glaring exception to that rule with a nationwide urban average of 347 people per square kilometre but cities famed for their transport networks and living standards.

Copenhagen was the only other European city in the top ten at 9th place.—AFP ■

Hato Bus still helping tourists discover Tokyo after 70 years

TOKYO — Tokyo bus tour operator Hato Bus Co celebrated its 70th anniversary on Tuesday, with its unique tours around the capital continuing to attract many visitors from around the country and overseas.

Known for its yellow buses marked with its logo dove, or "hato" in Japanese, the company

has long offered a variety of courses, ranging from conventional tours to famous tourist spots including Tokyo Tower and the Asakusa area to a more quirky night tour to Japanese bars with male companions, known as host clubs, in the Shinjuku area.

The Tokyo sightseeing tours have so far attracted more than 50 million people.

"Even in places which people usually just pass, there are new things to discover if you visit with tour guides," said a Hato Bus official.

The predecessor of the company was established in 1948 when Tokyo was rebuilding after World War II. It started regular sightseeing tours with a mere five

tour guides in 1949, and the business has dramatically evolved over the following decades.

Now with about 160 guides, the company attracted some 890,000 people to its Tokyo sightseeing tours in the year through this June and is now gearing up for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in 2020.

"There is no doubt (the Olympics) will be a big opportunity, and we hope to receive a boost from it," the official said.

Helped by the previous Tokyo Olympics in 1964, the company's Tokyo sightseeing tour business reached its height by drawing about 1.23 million people the following year, with many going on tours covering venues of the games.

It introduced its trademark yellow buses from 1979 to attract people's attention, but the business deteriorated and remained low in the 1990s following the burst of Japan's economic bubble. The number of tourists for its Tokyo sightseeing tours stood at around 520,000 in 2001.—Kyodo News ■



Tourists get ready to board a multilingual sightseeing bus known as Hato Bus at a stop in front of JR Tokyo Station on 10 August, 2018. The guided bus service, dedicated to Tokyo and its vicinity, marks its 70th anniversary on 14 August. PHOTO: Kyodo News

Gregory Peck's grandson to play Spock in new 'Star Trek'



Ethan Peck—known for ABC sitcom "10 Things I Hate About You"—will be unveiled in the second season of "Star Trek: Discovery". PHOTO: AFP

LOS ANGELES — Actor Ethan Peck — whose grandfather was Hollywood legend Gregory Peck — has been cast as iconic half-Vulcan science officer Spock in CBS's "Star Trek: Discovery".

The hiring sees the relatively obscure 32-year-old boldly go where stars Zachary Quinto and — most famously — Leonard Nimoy have gone before.

"Through 52 years of televi-

sion and film, a parallel universe and a mirror universe, Mr Spock remains the only member of the original bridge crew to span every era of 'Star Trek,'" executive producer Alex Kurtzman said in a statement.

"The great Leonard Nimoy, then the brilliant Zachary Quinto, brought incomparable humanity to a character forever torn between logic and emotion."

The show launched in 1966 with a five-year mission "to boldly go where no man has gone before," and became a multi-billion-dollar cultural phenomenon, adored by fans the world over.

Nimoy was introduced as Spock in the original series, as the first officer to Captain James T Kirk (William Shatner), and both Nimoy and Quinto took on the role in the 2009-16 rebooted trilogy.

"We searched for months for an actor who would, like them, bring his own interpretation to the role," Kurtzman added. — AFP ■

Earth's oldest known evolved rocks result of asteroids

SYDNEY — The oldest evolved rocks on Earth are the consequence of asteroids colliding with the Earth 4 billion years ago, according to research released by Australia's Curtin University on Tuesday.

The study suggests that the rocks, part of the Acasta Gneiss Complex in northwest Canada, are the result of asteroids smashing into the Earth and melting its crust, allowing evolved, or granitic, rocks to form.

What led scientists to suggest that they were formed in this way is firstly that the composition of the rocks is different from the those typical of the Earth's an-

cient crust.

"The only known evolved rocks from the Hadean eon are those in northwest Canada, which have chemical compositions clearly distinct from those that dominate ancient continental crust worldwide, suggesting they were formed in a different way," research co-author Professor Phil Bland said.

Secondly, the rocks were melted at very low pressures, equivalent to the uppermost few kilometers of crust, meaning the event happened closer to the Earth's surface.

"The melting of these rocks at such shallow levels is most

easily explained by meteorite impacts, which would have supplied the energy to attain the extreme temperatures required for melting," lead researcher Dr Tim Johnson said.

This period, around 4 billion years ago, was dominated by a barrage of asteroid impacts that would have caused widespread melting and recycling of the Earth's surface.

"Consequently, there are almost no rocks preserved from Earth's formative Hadean eon," Bland said.

Meaning these rocks are rare survivors from a very different time on Earth.—Xinhua ■



Damage at a factory after a rock exploded in the sky in Siberia.
PHOTO: AFP

Solar-powered aircraft beats world flight endurance record by flying for 25 days without fuels

NEWYORK — Airbus announced the successful landing of its solar-powered aircraft Zephyr S after it flew for over 25 days, setting a new world record of flight endurance without refuelling.

Zephyr S took off on 11 July in Arizona, the United States, and

stayed aloft at over 70,000 feet (about 21.33 kilometres) for 25 days, 23 hours and 57 minutes, surpassing the old record of 14 days, 22 minutes and eight seconds set by an earlier Zephyr program variant.

"We will in the coming days

check all engineering data and outputs and start the preparation of additional flights planned for the second half of this year from our new operating site at the Wyndham airfield in Western Australia," said Jana Rosenmann, head of Unmanned Aerial

Systems at Airbus. Zephyr is a High Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS) which runs exclusively on solar power. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) harnesses the sun's rays, filling a capability gap complementary to satellites, UAVs and manned aircraft to provide persistent local satellite-like services.

It endures like a satellite, focuses like an aircraft and is cheaper than either of them.

According to Airbus, the aircraft is manufactured from carbon fiber and weighs only 75 kilograms. It has a wingspan of 25 metres, and the wings are covered in solar panels which charge the craft's lithium-sulphur batteries and enable prolonged stratospheric flight.

The Zephyr program seeks to bring new see, sense and connect capabilities to both commercial and military customers, offering potential solutions for disaster management, surveillance and communications.—Xinhua ■



Airbus unveiled its pioneering solar-powered drone last month. Called the Zephyr S, the aerospace giant presented the 'pseudo-satellite' to crowds gathered at Britain's Farnborough airshow. **PHOTO: AFP**

Artificial breeding efforts increase rare Chinese monal population

CHENGDU — Researchers in southwest China's Sichuan Province have hatched five Chinese monal chicks, a rare species of pheasant, increasing the number of artificially-bred Chinese monals to a global total of 16.

With highly iridescent plumage, the Chinese monal is one of the largest pheasants in the world. The species is listed as 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and is under China's highest national-level protection.

There are less than 3,000 wild Chinese monals in the world, which mainly live in mountainous areas, at an altitude of 3,000 meters above sea level in the northwest parts of Sichuan, and Qinghai and Gansu provinces and Tibet Autonomous Region.

"The Chinese monal is one of the most difficult species to breed in captivity," said Zhou Caiquan, deputy director of the Sichuan (Baoping) Protection and Research Center of Chinese Monal.

"Wild Chinese monals are hard to tame. Some birds still avoid people even after decades in captivity. Furthermore, mating and hatching eggs in cages also prove challenging," Zhou added.

Five artificially-bred female Chinese monals in the center laid 16 eggs during the breeding season between April and June, and five of them have been successfully hatched.—Xinhua ■

Chemicals in vegetables can prevent colon cancer in mice

WASHINGTON — A study published on Tuesday in the journal *Immunity* revealed how vegetables like kale, cabbage and broccoli help to maintain a healthy gut and prevent colon cancer.

Researchers from the Francis Crick Institute showed that mice fed on a diet rich in indole-3-carbinol (I3C), a chemical produced when people digest

vegetables from the Brassica genus, were protected from gut inflammation and then colon cancer.

This study offered the first concrete evidence that I3C in the diet can activate a protein called the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR), an environmental sensor that passes signals to immune cells and epithelial cells in the gut

lining to protect us from inflammatory responses to the trillions of bacteria that live in the gut.

"We studied genetically modified mice that cannot produce or activate AhR in their guts, and found that they readily developed gut inflammation which progressed to colon cancer," said the paper's first author Amina Metidji from the Francis

Crick Institute. "However, when we fed them a diet enriched with I3C, they did not develop inflammation or cancer," said Metidji.

Also, when mice whose cancer was already developing were switched to the I3C-enriched diet, they ended up with significantly fewer tumors and they were more benign, according to the study.—Xinhua ■

Honda says Melbourne club talked him out of retirement



Japanese football player Keisuke Honda (L) poses for a photo with Melbourne Victory's manager Kevin Muscat after signing to play with Melbourne Victory in Australia's A-League, in Melbourne on 15 August, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

MELBOURNE(Australia) — Japanese superstar Keisuke Honda revealed on Wednesday he planned to retire after the World Cup but decided to keep playing after being inspired by Melbourne Victory coach Kevin Muscat.

The former AC Milan striker, one of the highest profile names in Asian football, has signed for the reigning A-League champions for the 2018/19 season.

"I was thinking to quit my career after the World Cup but lucky this club made me a great offer that changed my mind," he said at his welcome press conference, which was packed with Japanese media.

"I changed my mind after I spoke to Kevin directly. 'He said to me he really wants to succeed as a club ... he's an ambitious person and I'm an ambitious person as well, so I was inspired by him. That was

a big meeting for me.

"I'm excited. I'm so glad I can try a new challenge in my career."

The talismanic 32-year-old, who retired from international football after Japan's heartbreaking World Cup in Russia, had been a free agent since departing Mexican club Pachuca.

Honda shot to fame at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa when his goals helped Japan reach the last 16. He netted 37 times in 98 appearances for his country and was the first Japanese player to score at three World Cups (2010, 2014, 2018).

Instantly recognisable with his spiky, bleach-blond hair, he spent four seasons at AC Milan and has also played for VVV-Venlo in Holland and CSKA Moscow.

He will juggle his stint in Melbourne with duties as general manager of Cambodia's struggling national team, after he was unveiled in that role at the weekend.

Honda plans to speak regularly with the Cambodian players by videoconference and spend as much time there as possible around the Australian football season.

Muscat was adamant it won't compromise his commitment to the Victory.

"The long and the short of it is that first and foremost his priorities are here with Melbourne Victory and the situation will no way compromise any of our games or training," Muscat said.—AFP ■



France international Steven Nzonzi. **PHOTO: AFP**

France midfielder Nzonzi seals Roma transfer

PARIS—France international Steven Nzonzi, a World Cup winner in Russia, completed his switch to Roma from Sevilla on Tuesday after signing a four-year deal with the Italian side.

The 29-year-old midfielder was greeted by dozens of Roma supporters as he arrived at the airport in the Italian capital, before the club posted images of the player having a medical.

Roma paid an initial fee of 26.65 million euros (30 million euros) for Nzonzi, who featured in five of France's seven games at the World Cup, including an appearance off the bench in the 4-2 win over Croatia in the final.

"I feel very happy to be here, and to be a new Roma player," Nzonzi told the club's official website.

"I really felt that the club wanted me to come. I will give my best on the pitch, and hopefully be a very good player for this team.

"I always want to improve – regardless of age, the most important thing is to give your best and work hard. I want to do that, to become a better player and help the team with my play and experience."

Nzonzi joined Sevilla from English club Stoke in 2015, and was part of the team that beat Liverpool 3-1 in the Europa League final in 2016.

"Steven is a footballer with a mix of physical and technical qualities that we think will really add to the players that we already have here," said Roma sporting director Monchi, who left a similar role at Sevilla for Italy last year.

"With his arrival, we have even more quality and competition in midfield."

Roma, who finished third in Serie A last season and reached the semi-finals of the Champions League, begin the new campaign away to Torino on Sunday.—AFP ■

Messi to skip Argentina friendlies - reports

BUENOS AIRES — Captain Lionel Messi will miss Argentina's next four friendly matches, according to local press reports on Tuesday.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner previously retired from the national side after their 2016 Copa America final defeat by Chile before returning to help them qualify for this year's World Cup. The two-time world champions will face Guatemala in Los Angeles on 7 September and Colombia in New York four days later, before two friendlies later in the year against as-yet unnamed opponents.

"Messi will not return this year and there are doubts about his future," proclaimed Argentinian daily Clarin. News website Infobae said: "He will take a rest period, but that doesn't mean he's quitting." "It is the coach who will say, when the time comes, what the situation is concerning Messi," a team spokesman told AFP.

Lionel Scaloni has been in temporary charge of Argentina since Jorge Sampaoli left after their disastrous World Cup tournament in Russia, where they were beaten 4-3 in the last 16 by France after an embarrassing 3-0 group-stage loss to Croatia.—AFP ■



Messi endured a difficult World Cup as Argentina were dumped out by France in the last 16. **PHOTO: AFP**

Youth football tournament launches in Bago

UNDER the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), an opening ceremony for MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2018, sponsored by the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT), was held in Bago on Tuesday.

The ceremony was attended by governmental officials, authorities from

MFF, former Myanmar footballers, invited guests, youth footballers, their instructors and football coaches.

As part of the opening ceremony, children under the age of 14 kicked footballs onto the football ground.

They then took photos together with officials.

The MPT U-14 Football Tournamen-

ment 2018 is being held in Bago with a total of 12 teams participating, divided into four groups, each consisting three teams, said an official from MFF.

Similar tournaments were hosted in Mandalay and Monywa with the aim of promoting football awareness and skills for children under 14.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■